

Sports Turf Manager

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President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

Welcome to the summer edition of the Sports Turf Manager. Like many of you, I am enjoying the very early spring/summer weather and the additional time outdoors. We completed the 2nd offering of the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course during the first week of May at the University of Guelph. Special thanks to Dr. Eric Lyons for updating the material and presenting the course on behalf of STA. There were 22 students this year and their enthusiasm and participation was refreshing to watch.



Award Presentation. Eric Lyons receives the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Award of Merit at the Annual Expo and Awards Presentation, May 3, University of Guelph.

Your association representatives have been busy with the POSA committee developing a course for synthetic turf applications. While the details have yet to be finalized, everything from the decision and selection process to contracting criteria to maintenance requirements and training will be addressed. Check our website for updates.

By the time you receive this, the Summer Operational Forum will have just taken place June 23rd at the Hespeler Memorial Arena in

Cambridge. This year's theme of "Ac-

cessibility in Ontario's Parks and Open Spaces" is timely

and should be of interest to everyone in light of the recently passed legislation. We'd like to thank the excellent variety of speakers who provided indepth knowledge on the accessibility issues that we will all have to be aware of moving forward with compliance. If you missed the event, read the article provided by Variety Village's Director of Access and Awareness Archie Allison on page 13.

July is Smart Irrigation Month and thus an opportune time to get updated on this constantly evolving topic, especially in light of numerous municipal water restrictions and usage issues. This issue's cover article on rainwater harvesting by Chris Davies provides a solid background as to why the usage of non potable water is a key step for future sustainability.

The 23rd Annual STA Field Day has been confirmed for Thursday, September 23rd, in Cambridge. Reserve the date and plan to participate. More details will be coming out shortly so watch for them online.

We have been included in a Sports Turf Managers Association committee to examine and define the role for STMA in the international sports turf marketplace. It's exciting to be associated with the high caliber of expertise that has been assembled for this study. Stay tuned for updates on our progress. And finally, stay cool – and safe – this summer. Talk to you in September.