

## Sports Turf Manager

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# President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

The spring of 2011 will long be remembered for the excessive rain and cool temperatures. I know that we are all playing catch up with our mowing and spring fertilizer applications. I hope we can now look forward to a moderate summer with respect to both moisture and heat.

As we get into the summer regimes, we thought it would be prudent to include a reminder about heat stress and sun safety. With all of the pressures to get things done, it's too easy to overlook some of the basics of a safe working environment. In this edition, we are also publishing three additional highlight articles from the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium to keep you abreast of the latest research. Your association is committed to providing you with the most up-to date information available for best management practices. If there is something that you want more information on, contact us and we'll do our best to get it for you.



STA President Paul Gillen and the "kids."

The association has a busy summer schedule planned. By the time you read this, we will have completed the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Operational Forum, hosted this year by the City of St. Catharines. The theme was "The New Face of Parks and Open Spaces."

Our expansion into eastern Canada will be highlighted with the Atlantic Field Day on July

21<sup>st</sup> in Moncton, NB. An excellent speaker program has been arranged and the day includes practical 'on-the-field' training and a tailgate trade show component. STA member Gord Horsman has been instrumental in bringing all of this together and there will be something of interest for everyone. If you are reading this in the Maritimes, we encourage you to come out and participate. Visit [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com) for information and registration details.

Finally, a reminder to mark Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar for the STA Fall Field Day. This year it is being hosted by the Town of Oakville, always a popular venue, and we have arranged a first-rate program with top-notch speakers. See you there!

## Member Feedback: Grass Clippings

With all of the disproportionate grass growth and weather interference with normal cutting schedules this spring, is anyone out there using drags behind their mowers to scatter the clippings? I see a lot of unsightly clumps laying on sports fields and golf course fairways during my travels. It seems to me that a simple drag of chain link fence would clear these up, or is it not considered a problem? Email your thoughts to [info@sportsturfassociation.com](mailto:info@sportsturfassociation.com) (Subject: Clippings) and we'll publish your replies online.