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Celebrating 25 Years!

THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION & THE GUELPH TURFGRASS INSTITUTE BOTH TURN 25 IN 2012

SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987 when, at a 'brainstorming' session held at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to sports turf. Twenty-five years later we continue to promote better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs.



Strategic meeting at Bow Lake, August 16, 1988.
From left to right: Geoff Corlett, Michael Bladon,
Annette Anderson, Robert Allen & Ron Dubyk.

GUELPH TURFGRASS INSTITUTE

The initial idea for the creation of the GTI came from discussions amongst University of Guelph faculty after they had collaborated to host the International Turfgrass Research Conference at Guelph in 1981. Formally created by the University of Guelph Senate as a centre for excellence in turfgrass and related research, education and information, the GTI quickly garnered the support of the turfgrass industry through a fundraising campaign led by the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. Sparked by a major donation from golf course owners Mac and Beth Frost, the campaign raised over one million dollars to fund construction of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre, that was officially opened in the summer of 1993. True to its original mandate, the GTI continues to serve as a focus for turfgrass research, education and information, not just for scientists and students at the University of Guelph, but for the entire Ontario and Canadian turfgrass industries.