

Rerum
Cognoscere
Causas



Our roots run 25 years deep.

January 7, 1987

Dear :

In discussion with a few colleagues, there seems to be sufficient interest to indicate the possibility of forming a "Sports Turf Association for Ontario".

We would like to have a brainstorming session to discuss this opportunity with various professionals and associations. With the increased use of existing facilities plus the high cost to insure against injury, we see a need for an organization that would cover field sports at all levels.

The session will be held at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre Board Room on February 11, 1987, at 2:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend, please reply to Mike J. Bladon, Grounds Department, no later than January 31, or telephone 519-824-4120, Extension 3460.

Sincerely,

M. J. Bladon
Assistant Head
Grounds Department

We had our cake and ate it too at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, held within days of the actual 25th anniversary of that historic gathering at the University of Guelph when the roots of the Sports Turf Association were established.

Sports Turf Association Seeks Safer Playing Fields

The newly formed Sports Turf Association is dedicated to safer and better playing fields, says Mike Bladon, interim chairman of the fledgling association. The organization will collect and disseminate educational, practical and scientific insights related to safer and better turf, and develop and co-ordinate co-operative projects in education and research. It will also work closely with existing organizations that have an interest in better sports fields or public turf facilities, says Bladon.

After several months of informal discussions among turf users and managers, a steering committee was formed at a recent meeting at the University of Guelph and with constituting in attendance represented a broad spectrum of the turf industry in Ontario: golf course superintendents, sports facility managers, consultants, the international Lawn Institute, university researchers, parks experts, government officials, sod producers and grounds maintenance personnel.

Of particular concern to many of those at the meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to those using athletic facilities, school yards and parks.

RAIDERS ANNOUNCE MOVE FROM COLISEUM

Al Davis, the owner of the Los Angeles Raiders, has never been afraid to fight the National Football League or local governments when it comes to the success of his team. He beat the NFL and he beat the city of Oakland and he is about to beat the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission.

When his team completes its ten-year contract with the Coliseum in 1991, Davis is moving the Raiders to their own stadium to be constructed in Inwood, a city 25 miles northeast of central Los Angeles. For more than a year, Davis has been battling with the Coliseum Commission over details that are important to the profitability of an NFL franchise. Agreements he thought had been reached with previous commissions have been

tract does opening up the possibility that Davis will move the practice facility and headquarters to Inwood. The team also holds practice camps in Oxnard, CA.

SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED IN CANADA

After numerous organizational meetings at the University of Guelph, Ontario, the Sports Turf Association (of Canada) became reality this summer. Michael Bladon of the University of Guelph has been elected president. The organization is busy planning its first annual conference and publishing its first newsletter.

objective of the new group, to improve the safety and athletic facilities by collecting scientific, educational knowledge. Cooperative research projects will be solutions to turf problems

STA is open to anyone safe sports turf. "We in the turf industry in its Bladon, "including professional sports, golf clubs, community colleges and sod producers." STA the sports of field hockey, soccer, rugby, softball, golf. Bladon invites interested to contact him, 185 Guelph, Ontario 20.

contributed more than \$3 million to renovate the stadium to keep the event in the city. Construction is scheduled to begin in November. The city wants to have most of the renovation completed by the 1988 series. CBS Sports will broadcast the event for the first time next year which will increase the national exposure of the event.

City officials estimate the event contributes more than \$12 million to the local economy each year. The Kansas City Royals AAA farm club also plays its home games at the stadium.

LANDMARK PURCHASES PALM BEACH POLO CLUB

Landmark Land Company, Inc., developer of PGA West and La Quinta Golf and Tennis Resort in La Quinta, CA, has purchased the Palm Beach Polo & Country Club in Wellington, FL. The posh polo club includes 11 polo fields, two 18-hole golf courses, 17 tennis courts and a championship croquet field.

In the past, Landmark has built its own golf course/real estate developments. The only other established property Landmark has purchased is Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, CA. The company is already planning improvements to Palm Beach Polo & Country Club. "The first thing they did when they completed the purchase," says golf course superintendent James Branstrom, "was increase my budget by 20 percent." Gould Inc., the previous owner, had been trying to sell the club for almost two years. "We had been putting off buying some equipment," admits Branstrom. "Now we can get back to business."

Landmark's courses are famous for major tour events, both PGA and LPGA. The two courses at Palm Beach, one designed by professional golfer Jerry Pate and the other by golf course architect George Fazio, will probably follow the Landmark tournament tradition.

ST. LOUIS SOCCER PARK HOSTS OLYMPIC MATCH

The United States National Soccer Team will play an Olympic Qualification Match against Finland at St. Louis Soccer Park.



STA/CGSA Conference, 1989

1989

1987

COLLEGE

ularity and sponsor National Col (NCAA) and the steps to im-

Forums for the Raiders. Before the Coliseum could close its amended deal with Davis

The College World Series has been held in Rosenblatt Stadium. The College World Series by renovating city-owned Rosenblatt Stadium.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

The Agenda

Sports Turf Association of Ontario Discussion Meeting

February 11, 1987
Arboretum Centre
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario

- Welcome and Introductions
- 'A Sports Turf Association of Ontario' Opening Remarks:
Pat Tucker and
Mike Bladon, Grounds Department,
University of Guelph
- Discussion
 - Do we see a need for a Sports Turf Association?
 - If so, what would be the objectives of such an association?
 - Who should be members?
 - Should there be an affiliation with another group?
 - Who would volunteer to form an interim executive?
- An Action for the Future
 - Interim executive
 - Meeting time and place
- Adjournment

It Was Resolved

- All those at the meeting following the opening remarks were in agreement that a Sports Turf Association is needed now, and that it not, be limited to Ontario.
- The objectives/goals of the association are to be similar to the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)
 - Disseminate available information to Sports Managers
 - Research
 - Education: field days and seminars
 - Develop standards and guidelines for safety aspects
- There should be different membership categories and keep as broad as possible
- Suggestion of affiliation with STMA. Also an offer from CGCSA to dispense information through their magazine *Greenmaster* and to join them at their conference in Toronto in March 1988. Sod producers also very interested in working together.
- A volunteer Steering Committee was formed consisting of Mike Bladon, Annette Anderson, Uwe Sehmerau, Bruce Calhoun, and Bob Allen.
- Action for the future to use a Steering Committee to do ground work and present a report. The report to include all aspects of the formation of the association.

Conference

The first Sports Turf Association conference was presented in cooperation with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, March 9, 1988 during the Canadian Turfgrass Conference. With 100 people in attendance, the event, which was to become an annual one, was firmly established. This conference has through the years, morphed into the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) that we know today, presented by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, the Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario, the Sports Turf Association, and the Centre for Open Learning and Educational Support, University of Guelph.

Our roots run deep and 2012 marks this quarter-century milestone. We salute all those who envisioned the Sports Turf Association 25 years ago, who through their dedication, determination and much hard work not only brought the association to fruition but established a foundation for sustainability. And the countless others who followed, with service on the board of directors, on committees, providing educational presentations, writing articles, sponsoring, exhibiting, advertising, and just spreading the word. And those who participated in the professional development and educational events and supported the association with their membership. We acknowledge you.

1999

2000

2001

2003

For twenty-five years the Sports Turf Association has been dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf.

That commitment continues.



2012

OTS 2012 attracted nearly 500 delegates, speakers and sponsors to participate in more than 30 sessions of general and focused streams of education. Details for OTS 2013 will be available later this summer.