

Joint ORFA/STA Seminar a Success

On Wednesday, October 11, 2000 a joint educational workshop was held at the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex. The event represented yet another step in a proposed partnership between the Sports Turf Association and the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association.

Terry Piche chaired the event and introduced new ORFA President John Archibald and Executive Director John Milton to participants. Both spoke about the pending partnership and mentioned the benefits and their thoughts for the future as being extremely helpful to both parties.

The day went well with considerable information both imparted and exchanged between speakers and the audience. Four main topics were discussed. During the morning session, Michael Bladon covered "Risk Management" and Jane Arnett-Rivers and Dwayne McAllister spoke on "Maintenance of Athletic Fields and Putting Them to Bed for the Winter." There was a lively exchange of ideas during the latter workshop.

There were two excellent sessions in the afternoon, the first by Gordon Dol of Dol Turf Restoration Ltd. who dealt with "Sports Field Drainage, Irrigation and General Construction." The final speaker



STA President Jane Arnett-Rivers talks to workshop participants about maintaining athletic fields and preparing them for winter.

of the day was Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA Turfgrass Specialist, who gave a very professional talk covering all the "Basics of Sports Turf Management."

Several exhibitors had booths displaying their wares. Olympia, who manufactures the ice making equivalent of the Zamboni, donated several gifts to be included in a draw conducted by Terry Piche at the end of the afternoon.

The workshop attracted approximately 45 people for the day, some from as far away as Nepean, Ontario. Altogether a worthwhile event for all concerned and a great start for future information sharing between these two associations. ♦

— Michael Bladon



Ontario Turfgrass Symposium

Education & Trade Show

January 3-5, 2001, Toronto, ON

When registering for the OTS, be sure to indicate you are a member of the Sports Turf Association, a sponsoring association of the symposium. On your registration form please Sports Turf Association to ensure your membership credit is directed to us!

Save more money on the registration fees of others from your facility/organization who are not members of the STA. Non-members registered **at the same time** as a member qualify for the same lower association rates. Send the registration in the same envelope, fax it at the same time, or make just one phone call to register.

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Volume 13, Issue 4
ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the
SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
328 Victoria Road South, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8
Tel: (519) 763-9431, Fax: (519) 766-1704
E-mail: sta@gti.uoguelph.ca
Web: www.gti.uoguelph.ca/sta

2000 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Jane Arnett-Rivers

PAST PRESIDENT

Christopher Mark

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Turner

TREASURER

Harold Van Gool

SECRETARY

Bob Sheard

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Lee Huether

DIRECTORS

Michael Bladon, Bill Campbell, Gordon Dol,
Roy Forfar, Andrew Gaydon, Rick Lane

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$25/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

EDITOR

Michael Bladon

PUBLISHER

New Paradigm Communications
R.R. #8, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5W4
Tel. (519) 371-6818, Fax: (519) 371-5789
E-mail: jblack@inetsonic.com

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL

SALES AGREEMENT No. 1461370

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to the STA at 328 Victoria Rd. South, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8.

STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. At other times, a message may be left on the voice mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may be reached at any time by faxing (519) 766-1704 or via e-mail.

Turf News Briefs

INTERESTING GRASS CLIPS • CONGRATULATIONS



Splendour in the Grass

Atlanta's Garden House Dance Company is giving free performances of *Mowing* in the city's parks, reports The Journal-Constitution. "Four dancers will partner with non-motorized push-mowers in a seductive paean to the summer ritual of lawn care. The dancers will waltz with their lightweight mowers, lift them, even play them as instruments, all the while carving continually changing patterns into a 38-by-38 foot expanse of grass. By the time it's over, the grass is cut."



— *The Globe & Mail, September 13, 2000*

Frankengrass

Recent notes about genetically altered grass include:

- Grasses that have different colours or contain a luminescent gene that would make them glow in the dark are being studied by Monsanto, Scotts Co. and the Biotechnology Centre of Rutgers University.

- In its Ohio research laboratories, Scotts, the world's largest maker of lawn and turf products, is field-testing varieties of "low-mow" lawn grass that will grow more slowly. Other strains could be bred

to have improved drought resistance or to flourish in the winter. Scotts is also working on a genetically modified grass that can withstand the most potent weed-killers to remain healthy and green.

— *The Globe & Mail, Social Studies, Michael Kesterton, August 30, 2000*

Editor's Note: For more information on GMOs in Turf, be sure to attend Dr. Steve Bowley's seminar on January 4, 2001 at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

OPA/ORFA Update

Our congratulations to STA member John Howard on his appointment as Executive Director of the Ontario Parks Association. John adds another dimension to a very strong career with parks and horticultural services both in the public and private sector.

Congratulations are also in order for Terry Piche who steps down as President of the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association to assume the position of Technical Director. John Archibald will carry out the role of acting President. Best wishes to all!

DEADLINE: JANUARY 14
Content for March issue

STA New Members

Welcome to the STA

Steve Halbert
Operations Supervisor
Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.
Thornhill, ON

John R. King
Partner and Contracts Manager
Strybos Associates Ltd
Landscape Architects
Mississauga, ON

David C. Smith
Turfgrass Consultant
DCS Agronomic Services
Gravenhurst, ON

Gary Supp
Contractor Products Manager
Turf Care Products Canada Ltd.
Newmarket, ON

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. — *Henry Ford*

TURF PRIDE™ Granular Fertilizer

PLANT PRODUCTS turf
Plant Products Co. Ltd.

with **K POWER**

Potassium Nitrate

& **multicote**
controlled release fertilizer

call us for more information

Plant Products Co. Ltd. • 314 Orenda Road • Brampton • ON L6T 1G1
1.800.387.2449



The President's Desk

JANE ARNETT-RIVERS

Depending on the work you have been carrying out this fall, the weather has been spectacular. We have been installing tile drain on one of our Little League diamonds and the sunshine and absence of rain seem to have been custom ordered. Now that the trenching, back filling and sodding are complete, precipitation can begin!

Hope your fall renovations are moving along smoothly – surely the prolonged higher temperatures have helped extend timelines of work that needs completion prior to frost. We will be using 'turf tarps' again this year on some of our goal mouths and centre field areas to extend the seeding season. I'm writing this column in mid-November and we are still waiting for cooler temperatures to arrive to use them. Turf tarps worked very well for us last year, both in the fall prolonging our seeding window and in the spring accelerating germination. If you have any questions about turf tarps, please contact us.

Your Association, in cooperation with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, organized a workshop in East Gwillimbury in October. Many thanks to Terry Piche for facilitating a very informative day. Mike Bladon, Dwayne McAllister, Gord Dol, Pam Charbonneau and myself covered a wide range of topics: safety and liability, what's new in maintenance, soils, pesticides, irrigation and drainage. The day was a success and we received a great deal of positive feedback. We trust this will be the first of such workshops to take place outside the Greater Toronto Area. If you have any questions about this or future workshops, please contact Lee Huether at (519) 763 9431, sta@gti.uoguelph.ca or Terry Piche at (705) 864-1215, tpiche@onlink.net. The Sports Turf Association is looking forward to more partnerships with ORFA.

Another milestone for our Association – Dr. Bob Sheard's book will soon be available. I am fortunate to have read parts of *Understanding Turf Management* and can say this is a valuable and comprehensive text. It is instrumental as a reference on countless topics and will have a permanent spot on my desk. Much gratitude goes out to the sponsors of *Understanding Turf Management*, Bannerman, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. and Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products, NuGro Corporation and Rain Bird International, Inc. Their support will allow the cost to remain accessible to all, something Dr. Sheard was adamant about. Congratulations and thank you on this accomplishment, Bob. Your hard work will assist us in making informed decisions about our playing surfaces over the coming years. To purchase the book, contact Lee at the Sports Turf Association office.

My thanks to our Past President Chris Mark for his ongoing efforts in responding to Bill C-388. A complete report will be submitted by Chris on behalf of the Association. Chris continues to represent the STA with accurate and highly knowledgeable information. Thank you for your continued dedication to professionalism in this industry.

It's OTS time again. If you have not received your registration brochure, contact the University of Guelph's Office of Open Learning at (519) 767-5000, www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots. Remember to tick the STA box when registering – this is vital both for fiscal and statistical reasons. This brings me to the Municipal Challenge. Two teams are still needed to step up to the plate and vie for the trophy in Jeopardy. Last year was a fast paced, full of laughs session. Gather your team, cover your knowledge base with equipment, turf, pesticides, soil, irrigation and drainage, and let either Lee or myself (phone

(905) 847-9181) know your hat is in the ring. No stress, just fun.

As STA members, you are cordially invited to join our Annual General Meeting and luncheon during the OTS. The invitation is included with this issue of *Sports Turf Manager*. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the Board, hear what is happening in the Association, and attend nominations. I sincerely hope you will attend on Wednesday, January 3rd beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please join us.

Lastly, I have spent the better part of this message thanking associates. This is the last edition of the *Sports Turf Manager* for the year, so I will close by thanking all members of the Association and the Board. Much has been accomplished this year. I cannot imagine any of the tasks coming to fruition without the support of members, suppliers and most importantly the dedicated group of people on the Board, including Lee Huether our Executive Manager. How many times have I deferred to Lee in this message for information? Congratulations to all who contribute and keep this Association what it is. It is an honour to be a part of such a professional, dedicated and productive group. Wishing you all the best in the year to come. ♦

Seasons Greetings

from the staff
and board of
the STA



Have a safe and happy holiday
and enjoy the New Year!
We hope to see you January
3-5 at the Ontario Turfgrass
Symposium in Toronto!

Laboratory Diagnosis of Turfgrass Diseases

MARILYN DYKSTRA, LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Turf grasses are attacked by a number of diseases and pests which can cause rapid deterioration in the health, appearance and uniformity of turf. To minimize problems caused by diseases and pests, it is important to have the problem diagnosed as quickly as possible.

Diagnosing turf problems is not always an easy task. Most infectious turf diseases are caused by fungi which, unlike insect or weed problems, are microscopic and not visible to the naked eye. As a result we must base our diagnosis on symptoms – the response of the turf to the disease-causing agent. To further complicate matters, symptoms caused by a particular pathogen may resemble those caused by other diseases or environmental stresses and will vary depending on the type of grass, cultural practices and environmental conditions. In these situations, a laboratory diagnosis can prove useful to the turf manager.

In the laboratory, trained diagnosticians are able to examine turf samples microscopically and use other laboratory tests to detect and identify or rule out pathogens. Based on microscopic features of the fungi, they are able to distinguish between those diseases which produce similar symptoms.

Laboratory diagnosis of turf grass problems is available through the Laboratory Services Division at the University of Guelph. Diagnoses are based on microscopic examination of the sample with follow-up culturing if required. The fees for diagnosis are \$50 and a 24-hour turna-

round time for a preliminary diagnosis is guaranteed.

Given that laboratory staff do not have the opportunity to view the problem in the field, it is critical that samples submitted be representative of the problem and that they be received in as fresh a condition as possible, accompanied by complete background information. Following are important considerations when submitting samples for disease diagnosis;

How to Sample

1. A 10-15 cm square of turf is required. The sample should include the foliage, thatch and roots of the grass. A collection of small (loonie) size pieces of grass is not suitable.

2. Sample from areas which have recently developed symptoms. Diseased and dead grass can very quickly be overgrown by secondary fungi, which mask the primary pathogen and symptoms.

3. If symptoms are general, sample from areas with intermediate symptoms; little can be determined from grass which is completely dead.

4. If patches of grass are affected, sample from the edge of a recently developed patch and include healthy, newly affected and severely affected grass.

5. For rings or "frog-eye" symptoms, sample across the ring and include healthy, newly affected and severely infected grass.

6. Sample BEFORE you treat with fun-



gicide. Fungicides destroy physical evidence of the pathogen and inhibit its growth, making pathogen detection very difficult.

7. Include as much background information as possible with the sample. Include distribution and severity of symptoms, when the problem first developed, weather conditions, etc. Be sure to include your complete address and telephone and fax numbers. Submission forms are available from Laboratory Services Division, but information sent in letter form is also acceptable.

8. Wrap samples in newspaper and then in plastic and place in a sturdy box. Never add water as this will encourage deterioration in transit. Deliver the sample to the laboratory in person or send it by courier to: Turfgrass Diagnostic Service, Laboratory Services Division, 95 Stone Rd. West, Guelph, ON N1H 8J7. Tel: (519) 767-6258. Fax: (519) 767-6240. Email: mdykstra@lsd.uoguelph.ca. ♦

Marilyn Dykstra is a diagnostic plant pathologist and specializes in turf grass disease diagnostics at the Laboratory Services Division, University of Guelph. For information on diagnostic services for other plant problems, contact the Pest Diagnostic Clinic at (519) 767-6256 or visit the PDC website at www.uoguelph.ca/pdc.

Editor's note: This article is to clarify the misinformation published in Volume 13, Issue 3 of the *Sports Turf Manager*. We apologize and regret any inconvenience it may have caused.



Red and grey clay products designed for baseball, cricket and tennis, along with groundskeeping tools and accessories.

MAR-CO CLAY PRODUCTS INC.

Box 67, Hwy. 86, Wallenstein, ON N0B 2S0
Tel. 519-669-3657 Fax: 519-669-8799

PICKSEED®
good things growing ...

PICKSEED Canada Inc.
Box 304
Lindsay, ON K9V 4S3
1-800-661-4769
FAX (705) 878-9249

Charles Pick
Lindsay, ON
Car: 705-879-0293

Doug MacMillan
Lindsay, ON
Car: 705-328-6663

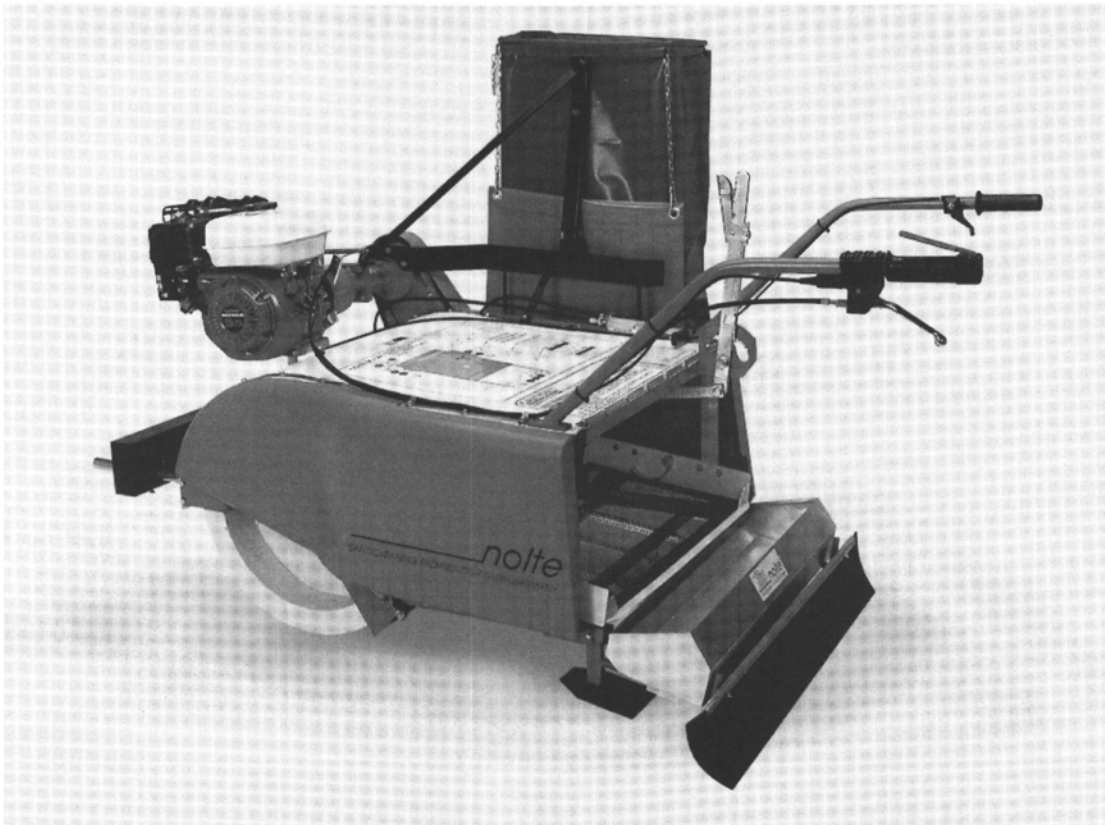
Larry White
London, ON
Car: 519-649-8777

NOLTE

BC1000 SAND CLEANER



The perfect sand cleaner for sports and games.
Wherever clean sand is necessary – simple operation.



Clean sand is particularly important for health and hygiene. Rubbish must be removed, the sand must be vented to prevent decay below the surface. Remove rubbish and dangerous materials such as glass and other sharp objects quickly and easily. Motor driven requiring little effort in cleaning sand areas of up to 2000 m² in just one hour. Screened out refuse is collected in a rubbish bag fitted to the side of the unit.



1184 PLAINS ROAD EAST
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO L7S 1W6

Burlington Area: 905-637-5216
Toronto Area: 905-338-2404
All Other Ontario Areas: 800-883-0761
Fax: 905-637-2009

Soccer Stalemate

PAUL S. HENDREN AND COLIN JOSE • CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER



With more participants registered in soccer rather than Canada's passion, ice hockey, one would assume that soccer grounds, like the infinite number of hockey arenas, would be similarly scattered across Canada.

International David Jack played at Ulster Stadium in 1926 and when he returned home he told the Athletic News that the Toronto based soccer stadium had one of the best enclosures that he ever played on. Today, Ulster Stadium, like many other vintage parks, has been redeveloped for housing. Toronto's Maple Leaf Stadium, a baseball park, attracted 23,137 patrons in 1968 for a game between Inter-Milan and Olympiakos and during the same year, a few blocks away at Exhibition Stadium, Glasgow Celtic and AC Milan attracted over 30,000 for a friendly.

Varsity Stadium, known for years as the home to Canadian soccer hosted one of the most memorable matches in recent history. In 1972, Santos played Bologna with a capacity crowd bursting every inch of Varsity Stadium. Thousands of fans who were unable to gain entrance scaled the northern wall and lined the touchlines to get a glimpse of Pele in his famous white shirt. As recently as November 2000, Canada versus Mexico played to a 0-0 tie in front of 6,500 fans.

In 1981, Exhibition Stadium hosted the North American Soccer League's Soccer Bowl and 36,971 turned out to see Chicago upset the mighty New York Cosmos resulting in many revellers from the windy

city spilling out into Toronto's downtown core. In Vancouver, Empire Stadium, site of the famous Roger Bannister-John Landy sub-four-minute mile, quickly established itself as one of North America's premier soccer grounds attracting large boisterous audiences for Whitecaps games. Empire Stadium, like Callister Park in Winnipeg and Delormier Stadium in Montreal has since been reduced to rubble unable to avoid redevelopment.

Montreal's Olympic Stadium attracted 71,617 for the 1976 Olympic soccer final and the Montreal Manic frequently drew over 40,000 to the same venue during their banner season in the North American Soccer League in 1981. Many large stadia in Canada, however, have been ruined for soccer with the introduction of synthetic playing surfaces. A trend that appears to

have been reversed over the past decade south of the border.

Cold Reality

With more participants registered in soccer rather than Canada's passion, hockey, one would assume that soccer grounds, like the infinite number of hockey arenas, would similarly be scattered across Canada's expansive landscape from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Nothing can be further from the truth and the cold reality is that Canadian soccer is now faced with a stadium crisis. Canada's small fleet of soccer facilities are either too old, too decrepit, too small, too cavernous or just too inappropriate to house big soccer events.

On the West Coast, considered a hotbed for soccer due to its moderate climate, there is little doubt that ... *continued page 8*

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">DOL</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">TURF RESTORATION LTD.</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf Drainage Solutions • Aeration (All Types) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Dressing • Overseeding • Automated Laser Fine Grading • Golf Course Renovations • Sports Field Construction & Reconstruction • SportGrass™ <p style="text-align: center;">6393 County Rd. 27, Innisfil, ON L9S 4V4 Tel: (705) 458-2851 Fax: (705) 458-2849 Mobile: (416) 717-0012 Toll Free: 1-800-794-9664 e-mail: gdol@dolturfrestoration.on.ca</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMBER S.T.A., O.R.F.A., O.G.S.A.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SPORTS TURF SPECIALISTS</p>	 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Professional Equipment for the Golf & Sports Turf Industry</h3> <p>Pro Turf has a wide range of top quality professional equipment available for rental services, including topdressers, aerators, overseeders, tractors, loaders, mericrusher, fertilizer spreaders and grading boxes. Regardless of the scope or size of the project, Pro Turf Equipment Rentals Ltd. can provide you with everything you need to complete the job successfully.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Helping You Tame Your Turf Problems call 1-800-794-9664</p>
---	--

Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, British Columbia; situated overlooking the Rocky Mountains has an unmatched charm. During the hey days of the Canadian Soccer League it was the favourite destination for most players but even with its expanded capacity of 6,800 it is limited in size restricting its use for top international games.

Former national team coach, Bob Lenarduzzi, now one of Canada's top soccer broadcasters, is of the opinion that British Columbia will never again see big soccer events and he proclaimed that: "I think it is a disgrace that when you consider the size of Canada and we don't have one appropriate national soccer stadium."

Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton was targeted to be Canadian soccer's saviour throughout the nineties and leading to the next millennium. A near capacity crowd jammed into the 60,000-seat facility to cheer on the mighty Brazilians before they embarked on their World Cup campaign in 1994. Commonwealth Stadium was the place to be and huge partisan Canadian crowds were expected when the men wearing the Maple Leaf touched down in Edmonton. The bubble quickly burst with extremely poor gates turned out for subsequent international friendlies and Olympic qualifying leaving Canadian national team head coach Holger Osieck with an empty feeling. Osieck, who assisted Franz Beckenbauer with the German national team in 1990, is not used to stadia with more empty seats than pay-

ing customers and he has been very critical of the Commonwealth as a venue for the national team.

In Manitoba, there was a glimmer of hope from the recently held Pan American Games. A small little intimate Soccer Park was erected outside of Winnipeg that was believed to lead to greater things. Unfortunately, the legacy of the Soccer Park lasted just a few weeks as the portable bleachers were quickly dismantled in Lego-like speed and shipped off to a distant auto race. The residuals that remain would only be suitable for a local amateur soccer team.

In La Belle Province, the Montreal Impact's (in North America's sanctioned second division) experiment of hosting both outdoor and indoor soccer at Center Claude Robillard has been impressive but the outdoor stadium's small capacity of 8,000, its intrusive running track and postage sized playing surface makes it less than ideal. Talk of converting the 20,000 seat Molson's Stadium in the city centre with a more soccer friendly playing surface and the Quebec Soccer Federation's scheme of erecting a large portable stadium on the grounds of the Olympic site using bleachers from the Montreal Grand Prix have never graduated from the drawing board.

Hogtown Headaches

The worst scenario comes from Canada's largest urban centre affectionately known to locals as Hogtown. Originally



The Canadian Soccer Association has officially applied to FIFA to stage the 2010 World Cup. They believe that Canada's army of CFL stadia can easily be retrofitted for the event regardless of the fact that all stadia will be committed to a full football schedule during summer months.

built in a charming period in the 1920s, Varsity Stadium's ideal capacity of just 20,000, its rectangular shape and intimate sight lines has served Canadian soccer well over the decades. Waiting for its date with the wrecking ball the East grandstand is now unfit for human habitation and the stadium capacity has been drastically reduced to a mere 9,000. After the grand old lady is converted to student housing for the University of Toronto next year what is left for soccer fans in Canada's most populated area are two municipal multi use stadia that are not even close to being suitable for big league soccer.

Toronto's top professional soccer club, the Toronto Lynx, has identified the pending problem and they are busy striking a working committee to examine stadium options. It appears that all stadium initiatives have been put on hold until the decision is made regarding Toronto's bid for the 2008 Olympics. Insiders believe that the spin-doctors at Toronto's Olympic bid have underestimated the magnitude of Olympic soccer and they have not made adequate provisions for new soccer stadia. A decision that concerns Kevan Pipe of the CSA who pleaded with the committee to spread the wealth by erecting or retrofitting stadia from coast to coast. The experiment of soccer indoors at the Skydome was never repeated and the fuzzy concrete playing surface has never been a favourite of international teams.



Capital Idea

Frank Clair Stadium, situated in the nation's capital, has been sitting in mothballs for several years uncertain of its fate. It appears that the stadium's destiny has been turned over to the regional government who recently assumed full control of its operation. Built in 1967, with a capacity of 30,000, Frank Clair Stadium's cantilevered roofs, doubledecker stand and rectangular shape shares many of the same characteristics of many football grounds across the United Kingdom. The stadium is fully equipped with a 150-seat press box and the first row of seats is as close as five metres to the touchlines.

With the Francophone Games scheduled for the national capital region in 2001 the stadium will undergo a significant facelift including installing a natural turf grass field. Initially there were serious discussions about installing Fieldturf, another Canadian innovation, but the Canadian Soccer Association has made it clear that a natural playing surface is their preference given FIFA's policy about playing surfaces. Kevan Pipe is a strong believer that Frank Clair Stadium has tremendous

potential to be a first rate soccer facility and a saviour for the national team program.

Coveting the Cup

Despite its obvious stadium shortcomings, the Canadian Soccer Association made the bold announcement in 1997 that it has officially applied to FIFA to stage the 2010 World Cup. CSA Chief Operating Officer Kevan Pipe is a strong believer that Canada's army of large grid-iron Canadian Football League stadia can be easily retrofitted for soccer's global spectacle. Pipe's scheme will include Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton, Ottawa's Frank Clair Stadium, McMahon Stadium in Calgary, Taylor Field in Regina, Winnipeg Stadium, BC Place, Skydome in Toronto and Olympic Stadium in Montreal. All stadia with tremendous potential to house soccer but fully committed to their primary grid-iron football tenants throughout the summer months.

Located deep in the archives of the Canadian Soccer Association's headquarters sits detailed plans for a mid sized soccer specific stadium that were drawn

up in the early nineties. Occasionally Kevan Pipe pulls the plans out for a quick review wishing that his national federation had an infinite bank account to payroll such projects. It is a crime that Canada's national soccer body is unable to get into bed with the gifted architects who have been recruited from right under their noses to display their immense talents abroad.

Many pundits in the Canadian soccer community are painfully aware of the widening gap between our stadium wish list and our stadium reality. Indeed renowned author Simon Inglis' comments are apropos and without proper stadia, top-flight soccer in the Great White North will never engender passion or support. ♦

— *Panstadia International Quarterly Report*,
Volume 6, Number 3, January 2000

Paul S. Hendren, a member of the Professional Soccer Reporter's Association, is a feature writer with Canadian based *Inside Soccer Magazine*. Colin Jose, a regular contributor to *World Soccer Magazine*, has written several books including *Keeping Score: Canadian Encyclopaedia of Soccer and NASL - A Complete Record of the North American Soccer League*.

For perfect diamonds Edge it & Groom it



With its adjustable guide shoe, the Bannerman **Diamond Edger** is surprisingly easy-to-use. Its three-inch blade depth and reversible, 20-inch concave disc work together to quickly eliminate ridging. Debris is spiraled into the infield for fast and easy clean-up.

The **Diamond-Master**® (pictured) and **Ballpark-6**® groomers will give your community ball diamonds a surface just like the professional teams demand, and reduce the time, effort and labour required to do the job.

41 Kelfield Street, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 5A3
CANADA 1-800-325-4871 USA 1-800-665-2696
Email info@sportsturfmagic.com www.sportsturfmagic.com

Bannerman

THE HOME OF SPORTSTURF MAGIC

Winter Priorities: A Course of Action

DEREK WALDER • TECHNICAL EDITOR • INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP PANEL OF SPECIALISTS



Question to the Expert: What should our priorities be during the winter months when there is not a lot to do on the ground? Can you advise on a course of action?

— D.E. of Essex

Answer

All machinery and equipment should be kept in a good state of readiness, so that if required it can be used immediately. Essential to achieving this is that all machinery and equipment is maintained at all times. During the winter months however, some machinery is used very little or not at all and this gives the time to carry out such duties that may have been difficult during the busy season.

Fertilizer Distributors

- Ensure that the hopper and all moving parts are thoroughly cleaned and where necessary oiled or lubricated. Ensure that no trace of fertilizers has been overlooked as this will cause rapid corrosion.

- Check the calibration of the distributor before spring.

- Any spare parts required should be ordered. If there is not a manufacturer's handbook, now is the time to contact the supplier and ask for one.

Grass Cutting Equipment

- If your grass cutting equipment requires an overhaul get in contact with your regular service company. Make a list yourself of what is required and give it to them. Always ask for an estimate before work commences so there are no 'shocks' when the machinery and the invoice come back.

- Check the machinery is in a reasonable state of repair, with attention being given to the cutting cylinders, bedknives and rotary knives, and belts and chains.

- If you have experienced any problems during the season with the engine then this should be corrected and your service company advised.

- If your machinery does not have to go away then ensure that all cylinders are loosened off the bedknife and oiled or sprayed with WD-40®. Disconnect the

spark plug from the engine and replace with a new one before next season.

- Check back on your requirements for spares during the last season and if the budget allows order basic spares such as drive belts or chains, spark plugs, cables and any nuts and bolts that proved to be troublesome. It is better to have a small stock of essential items ready at hand, this alleviates the 'down time' during the busy season.

- For storage purposes during the winter months try and store all machinery off the ground and on wooden slats or pallets.

Turf Cultivation Equipment

- Spiking machines which are used throughout the winter period when weather conditions are suitable should always be kept in working order. Worn or damaged tines should be replaced and again a small stock of spare tines should be available.

- Scarifiers should receive the same treatment as grass cutting equipment with the added check of tines, whether steel or spring tines. As with the other machinery, spare tines should be available and changed if broken or worn.

- On all machinery with engines, empty the fuel from the tanks when storing, remove batteries and ensure they are kept fully charged. Always ensure that the top of the plates are not exposed.

- Pneumatic tires are best slightly deflated and any machines with springs on them should be stored with the load taken off the springs. 'V'-belts are best removed and stored in a cool dark place.

- Any overseeding equipment should be checked thoroughly as this is going to be one of the first machines to be used in the spring. Many of these machines have rub-

ber belts or rollers and these should be checked to ensure they are not perished or split. Those machines that have nylon disks or rollers should also be checked for chips or splits.

Tractors

- It should be best practice that tractors and any other vehicles are checked daily, weekly and monthly, according to the manufacturer's handbook, however when there is more time available then some of the more mundane tasks such as cleaning down the engines with an appropriate engine cleaner and checking nuts and bolts can be carried out.

- Remember that you rely on your machinery to get your job done and to make life easier for you so ensure that it is always maintained well and that basic 'spares' are kept in stock.

Theft

- While on the subject of machinery, it is a wise move to list all of your machinery details: make, name, colour, serial number, engine number and any other details from the manufacturers' plates on the machines.

- In the case of theft, and this is a growing problem, especially in unattended buildings in isolated areas, these details will be invaluable to the police and insurance companies.

- The winter months are especially vulnerable and the thieves' best friend, when it is dark and most of us finish work earlier than in the summer months. ♦

— *The Groundsman*, Volume 52,
Number 12, December 1999

PLEASE NOTE

The opinions expressed in articles published in *Sports Turf Manager* are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Sports Turf Association, unless otherwise indicated.