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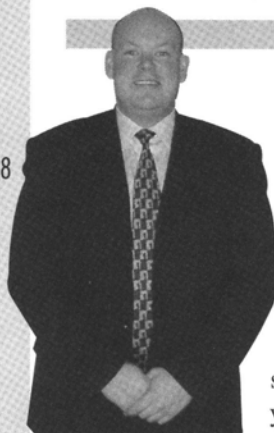
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**STA OFFICE HOURS**

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through 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.

The President's Desk

PAUL TURNER



Gearing down...

Hello to all our members! Can someone please tell me where the summer went? It seems like just yesterday that we were gearing up for spring and now we are gearing down for the fall season. Autumn is a great time of year. In my mind, the grass never looks better and there isn't a finer time to spend a day on the links than when the trees are turning colour.

16th Annual Field Day

Well, we did it again. This year's field day at the University of Toronto @ Scarborough was our best yet! Attendance was the highest ever with over 105 turf professionals registered. We also had a great turn out from our suppliers with 16 companies exhibiting their products.

Without the support of our generous sponsors the day wouldn't be possible. Our thanks to each and every one of you.

We must also express our appreciation to our speakers. Rob McMulkin helped us out when we were in a bit of a bind when Larry Noon was unable to attend. Rob, thanks for stepping in at the last minute and starting off a great morning.

Our second speaker was Dave Motley and I thought he made a tremendous presentation with some amazing statistics. Dave, thanks from the committee.

Gary Supp from Turf Care was the final morning speaker. Unfortunately for Gary, we had some technical difficulties so the full effect of his PowerPoint presentation was not felt but it was an enlightening session, packed with great material.

The last speaker of the day was the colourful Jack Eggens. Jack entertained the large crowd on the field with some hands-on tips regarding turf maintenance and cultural practices. Thanks to all of our speakers for sharing their time and

expertise with us.

I would also like to thank the Field Day Committee and, of course, Lee Huether for doing an outstanding job with the planning and organization of the event.

We Were There!

The STA had representation in Stratford at the Communities in Bloom National Symposium on Parks and Grounds thanks to STA Directors Rick Lane and Jane Arnett-Rivers who were invited speakers.

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium

We have some new and exciting information regarding the OTS. In 2004, we are off to the Falls. Yes, that's correct, the new show location is Niagara Falls at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel and Conference Centre, January 19-21st. This promises to be a great new location for the event. The Falls area has lots of entertainment, restaurants and, of course, one of Ontario's finest casinos.

We welcome a new partner this year. The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association joins the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario, the Sports Turf Association and the University of Guelph in providing the most comprehensive turf show in the province. So come on out and let's have a great time! See you there.

The STA Annual General Meeting is being held during the symposium on the morning of January 21st from 7.30 to 9.00 a.m. Please come and join us for breakfast.

Nominations for the Board of Directors will also be held at the AGM. If you would like to get involved, please come and participate. The Slate of Nominees and the Invitation to the Annual General Meeting will be mailed soon so keep an eye out for this correspondence. Best wishes for the autumn season. ♦

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Heads to the Falls

JOIN US FOR ONTARIO'S PREMIER TURF CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Executive Committee is pleased to announce that OTS 2004, Ontario's premier educational turf symposium and trade show, will be hosted at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls (www.sheratononthefalls.com).

The Sheraton on the Falls is Niagara's foremost four diamond resort hotel – and the only hotel across from the Falls offering spectacular views. Luxurious rooms and suites, an indoor swimming pool, the Fallsview Spa and Fitness Centre and the award-winning Penthouse Fallsview dining room are all part of this exciting 20-acre complex.

All under one roof, conference attendees will be able to enjoy shops and restaurants, including the Hard Rock Café, Planet Hollywood, the Rainforest Café, the MGM Studios Plaza, as well as the spectacular Casino Niagara. In addition, the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will be held during the Niagara Falls Festival of Lights, a spectacular lighting of parks along the river as well as a nightly light show highlighting the Falls.

The Niagara Butterfly Conservatory, Niagara Parks Greenhouses, estate

wineries and factory outlet shopping are all a short drive from the hotel. The hotel complex and surrounding area holds a wide range of attractions for symposium delegates and their families.

Sheraton on the Falls provides comfortable meeting rooms and a spacious exhibit area. The education program has been enhanced this year in recognition of the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association joining the Nursery Sod Growers Association, Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario and the Sports Turf Association in sponsoring the symposium.

A facilities management session focusing on the logistics of managing special event programming will be added to the existing golf, lawn care, sod production and sports turf management sessions covering the latest in scientific research, practical turf management, legislation, technology, human resource management and much more.

The three-day program is scheduled for January 19-21, 2004. To receive an exhibitor or delegate package, please contact the Office of Open Learning at the University of Guelph at 519-767-5000 or info@open.uoguelph.ca. ♦

Register now for the industry event of the year!

2004 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium

**Educational Conference & Trade Show, January 19-21, 2004
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Visit www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS for details...

Odds and Ends

10th Anniversary Celebrated

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre building on August 20, 2003. Present for the festivities were building namesake Mac Frost, his wife Beth and other family members, research tour participants, and representatives from industry, government and the university. Congratulations!

Quotes of the Month

Grass is the forgiveness of nature – her constant benediction. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. *Brian Ingalls*

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

-*Albert Camus*

STA Membership Plaques

Display membership plaques are available in executive engraved walnut. Just \$50 plus S&H. To order, contact Lee Huether at the STA office.

Winter 2003 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by October 31, 2003.

Editorial Content

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

Voice Your Opinion!

We appreciate all member feedback. To make this process easier, we have a form on our website, www.sportsturfassociation.com, under the "newsletter" link called *Feedback*. Check it out!

Coming Events

CHECK OUT WWW.SPORTSTURFASSOCIATION.COM FOR UPDATES...

October 22-23, 2003

Landscape Ontario
Garden Expo, Toronto, ON
Information: (905) 875-1805
www.landscapeontario.com

November 18-20, 2003

Irrigation Association 24th Annual
International Irrigation Show
San Diego, CA
Information: www.irrigation.org/ia_show.htm

January 6-8, 2004

Ontario Golf Course Management
Conference and Trade Show
Toronto, ON
Information: (905) 602-8873 x 222

January 13-15, 2004

Landscape Ontario Congress
Toronto, ON
Information: (905) 875-1805
www.locongress.com

JANUARY 19-21, 2004

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
Niagara Falls, ON
Information: (519) 767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots
see opposite page for details

January 21-25, 2004

Sports Turf Managers Association
(USA) Annual Conference & Exhibition
San Diego, CA
Information: (712) 322-7862
www.sportsturfmanager.com

February 17-21, 2004

Turfgrass Producers
International Midwinter
Conference and Exhibition
Santa Barbara, California
Information: (847) 705-9898
www.TurfGrassSod.org

February 21-25, 2004

Western Canada Turfgrass Association
41st Annual Conference & Show
Victoria, BC
Information: (604) 467-2564
www.wctaturf.com

March 3-7, 2004

Canada Blooms
Toronto, ON
Information: (416) 447-8655,
1-800-730-1020
www.canadablooms.com

March 24-25, 2004

Ontario Parks Association
48th Annual Educational Seminar
and Explorations Trade Show
Hamilton, ON
Information: (905) 524-3535
www.opassoc.on.ca

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To Crown or not to Crown...

R.W. SHEARD, Ph.D., P.Ag.

Most designers of a sports field will specify a crown on the finished surface of the field. The crown or slope from the side line to centre field may range from 0.5 to 1.5 percent. James B. Beard, in his text, *Turfgrass, Science and Culture*, recommends up to 2.5% slope. This author has read reports of fields in the UK where the crown is so great that the ball sitting on the side line is not visible to the player standing on the opposite side line.

The reason most often given for having a crown on the field is that it improves drainage by removing surface water through runoff. For runoff to occur, rainfall intensity (mm/hour) must exceed the infiltration rate of the soil surface. The infiltration rate is increased by (1) increasing the sand content of the soil, (2) reducing the density of the soil, that is decreasing compaction, (3) increasing the slope and (4) increasing density of the vegetative cover.

Maximum runoff will occur on a paved surface where the infiltration rate is zero. Minimum runoff will occur on a sand-based root zone with a dense blue grass stand where the sand, even without the vegetative cover, is selected to provide an infiltration rate greater than the rainfall intensities observed in 90% of the summer storms in Ontario. Most sports fields fall between these two extremes.

Achieving Low Infiltration Rates

Factors which might contribute to lower infiltration rates are high clay contents, low permeability, compaction, thatch, and low turf density. Compaction and thatch may be controlled by adequate coring. Low turf density can be improved by overseeding and adequate nitrogen fertilization.

Grass has been accepted, second to forest with a dense undergrowth, as the most effective vegetative cover to prevent soil and water loss. A summary of 10 experiments conducted over 70 years ago showed an average water loss due to surface runoff from grass of 10 mm per year on soils ranging from sandy loam to clay and slopes ranging from 2.0 to 16.5%.

A 14-year study in hurricane prone Missouri on a silt loam soil with a 3.7% slope showed an average yearly loss of 50 mm from bluegrass sod. These experiments were conducted prior to the understanding of the importance of nitrogen for increasing the density of grass stands. Furthermore, the maintenance program in these studies was probably hay or simulated pasture, not the density associated with a closely mowed sports field.

The Bottom Line

What does this all mean? That drainage by surface runoff from a properly maintained sports field in Ontario, crowned or not crowned, is insignificant. Crowning the field will not cure a potential drainage problem.

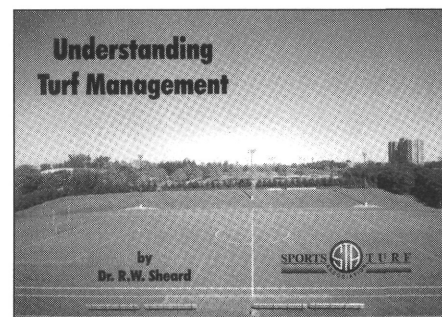
An internal drainage system for a sports field is the answer. It must be designed to meet the 10-year average rainfall intensity. In many cases this will require various types of drain installation such as tile drains, slit drains, a combination of the two, or a sand-based root zone.

Raindrops from a storm having an intensity of 25 mm per hour or less are going to be held near or at the point of contact with the soil. The soil will require an infiltration rate of 25 mm per hour to absorb the water. Storms of this intensity seldom occur more than once or twice per season and the intensity may last for less than an hour.

Since rain will not run off a well managed field and must permeate directly to deeper depths, during the rain the soil pores at the surface will become increasingly filled with water. This water

acts as a lubricant allowing soil particles to slide into closer arrangements under traffic conditions. The result is compaction. Therefore for a well managed field to perform satisfactorily, adequate internal drainage must be provided. A crown will not help this drainage role.

There is, however, a reason for placing a crown on a field. This occurs at the time of construction. If the subgrade is crowned at a 0.5% slope, surface water will not pool on the newly graded surface. Thus, following a summer thunderstorm, construction work can recommence sooner than where the field is graded level. Carrying this slope through to final grading of the surface will often result in more timely seeding. ♦



Understanding Turf Management by Dr. Sheard

Available from the STA

A practical manual for the management of safer, natural turf facilities for outdoor sports. The concepts are applicable for any turf manager, from golf course superintendents to the parks supervisor, whether maintaining golf greens, sports fields or race tracks for thoroughbreds.

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Cover Story Continued... 16th Annual STA Field Day

CONTRIBUTORS: GORD VAN DYK, ROY FORFAR, JANE ARNETT-RIVERS AND STEPHEN TOLLEY

playability and games are refereed by Ontario Soccer Association volunteers. A charity game involving former and current NHL players also raises funds.

The fields are rested for three days prior to the tournament since most multi-use facilities will see 8-10 games per day. Media representation and support is key for recognition of sponsors and promoting the tournament. During the games, a website is maintained for parents and friends to follow the teams' progress. The Robbie Tournament will surpass the \$1 million donation mark to cystic fibrosis in 2004, a remarkable achievement.

Partnering with Municipalities

Dave Motley, Oakville Soccer Club
(Roy Forfar)

Dave Motley was born in the land of the free and exported to the land of the brave, Jane Arnett-Rivers said jokingly as she introduced him – turf managers are a brave lot in southern Ontario!

Dave is past president of the Oakville Soccer Group. His day job is a Director with GWL Realty Advisors Inc. Dave has enjoyed a lot of soccer history. At the age of four, he was a ball boy for Sheffield United and he is also a past member of the Recreational Advisory Committee for the Town of Ajax.

The Oakville Soccer Group recently partnered with the Town of Oakville to build the Pineland Soccer Fields complex.

This cost-sharing experience brought with it expectations from both the soccer groups and the town, particularly with respect to the importance of permitting abilities on an irrigated sand field, which ultimately come down to maintenance and construction issues.

Club Background

The not-for-profit Oakville Club is the largest in North America with 9,700 players – a logistical nightmare to deal with. The club started in 1972 with 1,200 members and by 1990 had grown to 3,785 members. From 1990 to 2001, membership went through the roof reaching close to 10,000 members, which means major field use and the need to build, build, build and renovate.

Sponsorship is a crucial component to the club's success. When the kids reach 18 years of age, many dream of landing a scholarship to play in the US. To date, 40 have been given scholarships. When they return, most work as coaches for the younger kids (8, 9 and 10-year olds) and they love it. This is accomplished through a Mentor Coach Program created by the Soccer Association.

There are 520 house league teams and 260 games per week. Also, there can be 30 rep teams in town at any one time. This

brings in a fair bit of revenue to local businesses with respect to fuel, food and lodging.

Parking is a problem, but the town and association are working together to renovate old baseball diamonds which have become weed-infested dust bowls. This helps to lesson 3:00 a.m. calls regarding parking tickets!

Building Partnerships

Soccer clubs need the fields and the town needs their support. Soccer brings in cash and money talks! This is the way



to get things done from the municipality and get the job done properly. If there is no co-operation, it leads to confrontations, animosity and stalemates. First and foremost, a common ground and personal

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contacts need to be established. Then issues such as assessing how to better utilize the fields and deal with vandalism are discussed. Other things done through partnering include widening and lengthening fields, installation of irrigation and lighting, and the creation of six new mini fields and expanded parking through the removal old ball diamonds which had become obsolete.

There have also been cases of bad partnerships. Dave mentioned spending two years working with a principal, the school board and the town to renovate a small field (one that 10-12 year olds play on). The Parent Association in this affluent area partnered with the Soccer Association and \$7,500 was kicked in for irrigation. The town participated and the field was rebuilt with an agreement to permit usage 4-5 nights a week. This never happened. The irrigation system was not used most of the time, the field fell into a state of disrepair, and the partnership was absolved with the school board.

On the flip side of the coin, here is a recent example of a very successful partnership. A major problem in building new fields is lighting. It is best to put it in before any homes or other buildings are constructed. There is a new complex to be built by 2012. The Association managed to raise funds and have the lights put in as of 2002, thus avoiding interference from the Residents' Association in the future. The Soccer Association lent the Town money to proceed and this money was to be repaid over the next two years by the Town recouping funds through development charges like

building permits, etc. The loan has been repaid. The project was done in 2002, not 2012, and illustrates a great example of partnership.

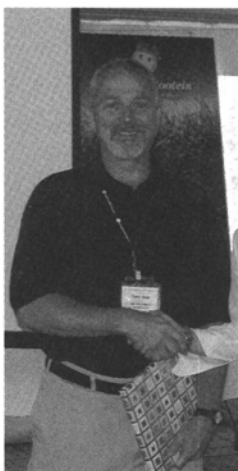
Looking Ahead

Between now and 2005, there are five fields proposed. Keys to the future include open dialogue, mutual involvement and respect for each others requirements and the process. For example, if there is one hour of rain four hours before a game is to be played, then the game is off. This is the only way to preserve good fields. It certainly does not always get followed, but we all try.

We, as a club, only want to play. Municipalities only want to maintain what they have. We strive to work together – even if this means keeping off the fields on rainy days!

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Gary Supp, Irrigation Sales Manager,
Turf Care Products Canada
(Jane Arnett-Rivers)



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a user group tonight! Get out there early, identify the problem, and repair it. With a Central Irrigation System, this situation will be detected, flagged, and you will be notified – long before there is expensive turf damage, or worse, an injury occurs.

Now put yourself in early August. It has been dry for weeks and you get a call hearing those nasty words, WATER BAN IN EFFECT, aaahhhh. This is tantamount to cancelling today's plans to visit each site and shut down systems. Until now, the time spent to shut down systems and start them up again was frustrating. But with a Central Irrigation System, all can be done in minutes from one location.

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All together this spells effective watering for optimum plant health, responsible watering through environmental stewardship, and a control of the systems by the turf manager unprecedented until now. The jewel for most of us? Time, it frees up time.

For a thorough discussion of central irrigation systems, see Supp's article on page 17.



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Sports Turf Maintenance Practices
An afternoon with Dr. Jack Eggens
(Stephen Tolley)

A retired professor from the University of Guelph, Dr. Jack Eggens is very well known for his expertise in turf

management. He spoke to a group of eager turf enthusiasts about sports turf cultural practices. He enlightened us through his wit and humour and above all, his knowledge of the subject.

After a very nice lunch break, we took a walk down to the sports fields where we began the second half of our day. We were broken up into several small groups and asked to do a field assessment. After we critiqued the field (to death), we gathered around Jack where he questioned us on our findings.

After an intense discussion about the field and its current condition, Jack led us in the direction of what we should be looking for and in the proper order. This discussion moved onto the many facets of cultural practices, schedules, maintenance programs and other main components associated with turf management.

One main point that should be noted is that when overseeding, Jack recommends 20 pounds per thousand of perennial rye grass (ha, ha, ha). There goes this year's budget!

Another notable quote of his: "If it's already working for you, stick with it!"

Overall, a very worthwhile afternoon for everyone. Thanks, Jack!

And thanks to all participants, speakers, exhibitors and sponsors. See you next year! ♦



Field Day Photo Gallery

Turn the page for a glimpse of the action-packed day and visit www.sportsturfassociation.com for more photos.

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Field Day Photo Gallery



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