

**MORE
PICTURES
ON NEXT
PAGE**



many thanks
for your support

Our Sponsors

- AerWay®
- Bannerman
- City of Mississauga
- Creative Irrigation Solutions Inc.
- Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.
- G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd.
- Master's Turf Supply Ltd.
- Plant Products Co. Ltd.
- Plant Science, Inc.
- Turf Care Products Canada
- Vanden Bussche Irrigation

Our Exhibitors

- Automated Watering Solutions Inc.
- Bannerman
- Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.
- G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd.
- Guelph Turfgrass Institute
- Healthy Lawn Care Products/
So Beneficial
- Hy-Grade Precast Concrete Ltd.
- John Deere Landscapes
- Mar-Co Clay Products Inc.
- Master's Turf Supply Ltd.
- O'Neil's Farm Equipment (1971) Ltd.
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture
and Food
- Plant Products Co. Ltd.
- Reist Industries Inc.
- Rittenhouse
- Simplistic Lines Inc.
- Speare Seeds
- Turf Care Products Canada
- Vanden Bussche Irrigation
- World Class Athleticsurfaces
Canada Inc.



Dan Ferrone with STA Director Jane Arnett-Rivers.

Dan shared some interesting figures on why the organizers and media prefer synthetic turf. Maintenance by the stadium staff is lower and of course predictable with ST. When there is a game or function change, the cost is around \$25,000 to convert the field from ST to NST. Installing new grass to a stadium is around \$800,000 versus synthetic turf which is approximately \$1.2 million.

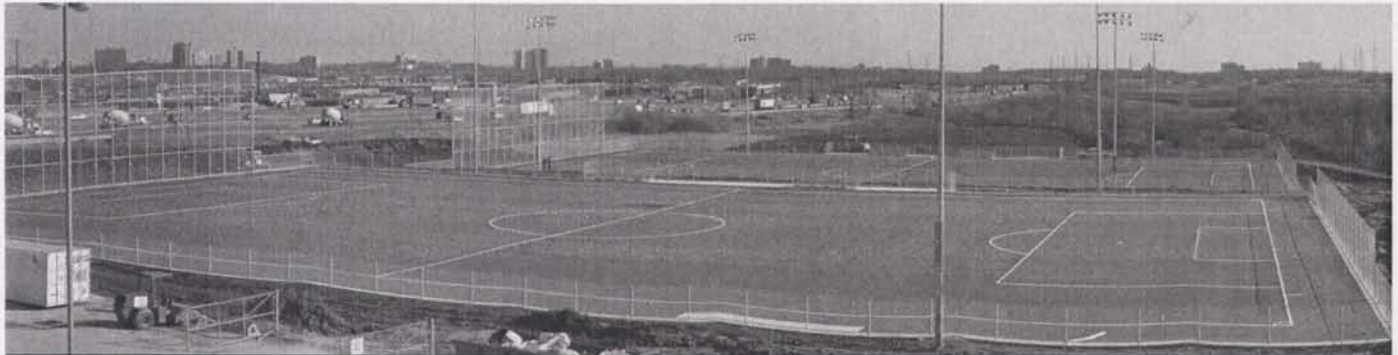
The media, especially TV, like ST for many reasons. The game is cleaner, clearer and faster for the cameras to follow and transmit. Advertisements on the turf main-

tain their "new" condition and are worth in excess of \$30,000 for the end zone and \$50,000 for the centre play area. The clarity of the colours in logos is important with that type of price tag and on ST, rain and play will not have a negative effect.

Dan ended his very humorous talk with a tribute to John Candy, the movie star comedian who, Dan said, with his charisma, warmth and gentlemanly approach to the Canadian Football League and its players, brought a new dimension to the pleasures of playing and watching football in Canada. ♦ — Andrew Gaydon

FIELD DAY
PICTURES
CONTINUED





View overlooking the installation of the Iceland Artificial Turf Facilities. Photo Credit: Stefan Szczepanski, City of Mississauga

Artificial Turf: An Alternative to Natural Sports Turf? You Decide!

STEFAN SZCZEPANSKI AND SUSAN MENTIS, CITY OF MISSISSAUGA • ANNUAL FIELD DAY COVERAGE CONTINUED

The science of sports turf, whether sand-based or natural grass, continues to be a topic for study and innovation. When it comes to meeting the needs of sports programs, whether it be professional, institutional or municipal based, sports fields require the services and involvement of both designers and sports turf managers to provide the appropriate facility for the intended uses. What does it all come down to? What's the bottom line? That depends on who and what your interests are.

Those involved in the development and delivery of sports turf programs may have varying opinions and contrasting preferences on what is important to the success of a sports turf field:

1. The financial planners want a field that pays for itself.
2. The buyers want a field that is fiscally accountable.

3. The programmers want a field that they can permit to its limit.
4. The user groups want a field that performs at all times as if it were new.
5. The sports turf managers want a field that can perform and respond under maximum use.

The goals of a sports turf program can be both numerous and contrasting based on personal interests but, the bottom line is performance and with the "sports turf" moniker, expectations are always "high."

The new generation of in-fill artificial turf products are giving providers of sports turf facilities new options in high performance. Does this mean sports turf will eventually be replaced by artificial turf? Probably not. Most of us have heard the saying, "use the right tool for the job."

In planning a sports turf facility, whether artificial or natural, the objectives are the same. The questions arise in the

assessment of the business case and the costs benefit analysis.


Do the benefits outweigh the costs after assessing? You decide!

The City of Mississauga Community Services Department has recently invested both time and resources to research and investigate the process of implementing and constructing artificial turf facilities. The first season of operations for two soccer fields is underway at Iceland, Park 357. Some of the factors and key values that were integral to the business case investigation for this project included such notable items as:

Capital Costs

- A natural sand-based turf soccer field can cost up to \$500,000.
- An artificial turf installation can amount to two times the cost of a natural turf field.

→ page 15



Box 171
Harriston, Ontario
N0G 1Z0
Phone (519) 338-3840
Fax (519) 338-2510

Edward J. Seifried
J. Robert Dippel

SEEDS

www.rittenhouse.ca

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New & Used equipment ◆ Component Parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Accessories and Tools ◆ Breakdowns & Manuals
---	---

Extensive line of Midwest Rakes



St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2R 6P9
1-800-461-1041
sales@rittenhouse.ca



"NEW FOR 2004"
**Lesco
Ride On
Spreader**

Celebrating 90 Years



DOL TURF RESTORATION LTD.

Turf Drainage Solutions • Aerification (All Types)
Top Dressing • Overseeding • Automated Laser
Fine Grading of Tee Decks & Sports Fields • Golf
Course Renovations • Sports Field Construction
& Reconstruction

and official distributors of

MOOVIT™ Synthetic Turf Surfaces
Permaline™ • SportGrass™

P.O. Box 240, 2785 County Road 27
Bond Head, Ontario L0G 1B0

Tel: 905-778-1222 • Toll Free: 1-800-794-9664

Mobile: 416-728-2371 • Fax: 905-778-1333

Email: gdol@dolturfrestoration.on.ca

MEMBER: STA, OGSA & ORFA

Your Sports Turf Specialists

Press Release

EVERGREEN™ Turf Blanket Ideal for Quick Repairs As Well

Widely used as a winter turf blanket to protect grass against winter kill and desiccation, EVERGREEN™ by Covermaster is equally effective to make turf repairs on sports fields.

Heavy wear areas such as goal mouths on soccer fields, between hash marks on football fields or around players' benches can be quickly repaired with EVERGREEN™.

It works by creating a greenhouse effect, allowing grass to breathe and retaining the right amount of heat and moisture. It actually enhances and accelerates the process of seed germination or it will rapidly establish newly sodded areas. Deeper, healthier root development is a key factor when you use EVERGREEN™.

The cover is also used to secure early spring green-up on baseball fields and the like. And because EVERGREEN™ is super light in weight, even large size covers are easily handled.

For samples and complete information, call Covermaster Inc. at 800-387-5808, fax 416-742-6837 or visit covermaster.com. ♦

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

Usage

- A continuing debate surrounds the number of allowable events before a natural turf field will show signs of wear. Defining season length by geographic climates, event numbers can vary between 224 in Mississauga, Ontario to 360 in British Columbia. Some proponents of sports turf fields say the number should be as low as 100.
- A properly constructed artificial turf field will have no restrictions on numbers of allowable events. Even tournaments, which are typically allocated over many fields to lessen the impact, can be played on one field.

Seasonal Implications

- The natural turf season is governed by the turf growing period. The prime season in Mississauga is sixteen weeks, essentially June to September.
- The artificial turf season includes the same prime season, however, the seasonal advantages lie in the ability to also operate during the shoulder seasons in early spring and prior to the first snowfall. This extends the season for the field to 28 weeks of unlimited use.
- It is also possible to use the artificial turf field during the winter months as the field will not freeze solid and the snow can be removed from the surface for play.

Operating Costs

- Operating costs for natural turf fields will vary from operator to operator as will the degree of maintenance, materials and the required equipment. Annual maintenance costs for a natural sand-based sports turf can vary between \$11,000 and \$30,000.
- Annual maintenance costs on an artificial turf field can run around \$3,000.
- Annual irrigation costs associated with natural turf can also vary from \$5,000 to \$7,000 depending on the climate and scheduling.
- Artificial turf irrigation costs are eliminated.
- Natural turf life cycle repairs are unknown and can occur through innocent mis-use or mis-management.

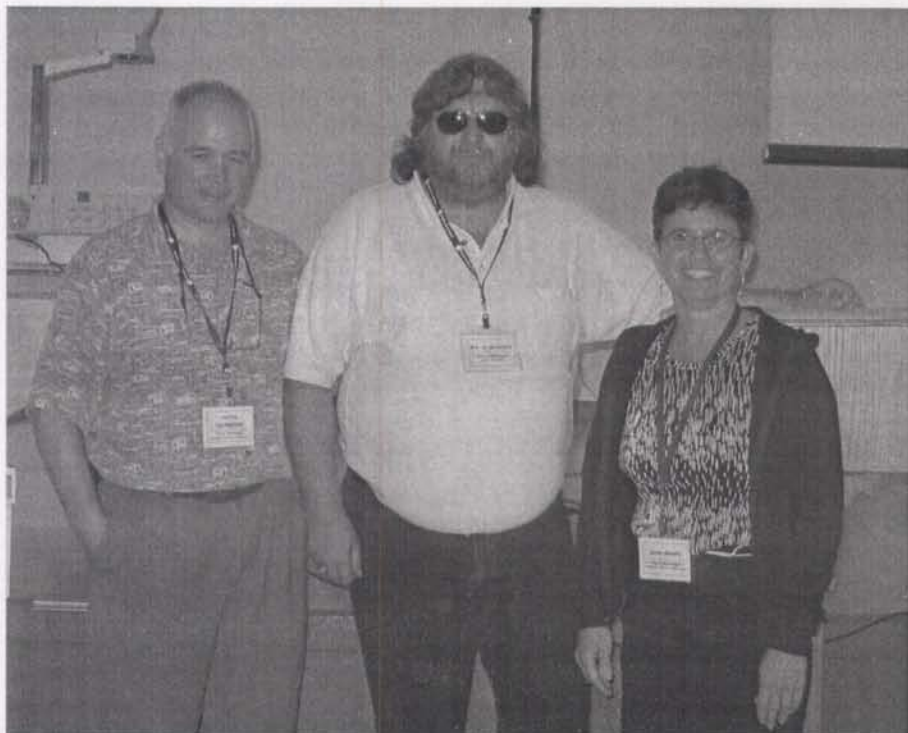
- Artificial turf products are designed and manufactured to consistently perform.

Performance

- Durability of natural turf fields rely greatly on the results of proper management, maintenance procedures and weather. Field closures and program cancellations can occur.

turf event numbers translates to a moderate use ratio of three to one fields.

- Comparing the maximum number of events of a natural turf field to the "maximum capacity" of an artificial turf, translates to a use ratio of five to one fields.
- Assuming a 12 year lifespan before a major reconstruction of a natural or



From left to right: Stefan Szczepanski, Murray Glassford and Susan Mentis.

- Artificial turf fields remove any inconsistencies with field performance. There is a reduced focus on management and maintenance. Fields provide a consistent quality playing surface even under extreme impacts of heavy use and poor weather.

Efficiencies

- The City of Mississauga has determined a natural turf sports field can sustain 224 events per year based on City practice of program allocation, sports turf management and maintenance practices.
- Adopting a "conservative" approach to permitting an artificial turf field, the City of Mississauga has set a benchmark of 616 events per year. Comparing the maximum number of events of a natural turf field to the "conservative" artificial

artificial turf and the capital and operating cost requirements for each field, the costs per event comparison can be calculated as \$427 per event on natural turf versus \$246 per event on artificial turf.

Infill artificial turf products in the sports turf industry are still a relatively new technology. Research has shown that the oldest field in North America to use this technology is no more than seven years. Manufacturers continue to promote research and development and improve the technology with performance being imperative. The principle is right and exactly what the sports turf industry strives to achieve. Will artificial turf replace natural sports turf? The jury is out – you decide! ♦

STA Member Profile

Murray Glassford • Manager, NE Parks Maintenance • Community Services Department • City of Mississauga

Murray Glassford and the City of Mississauga were the hosts of the Sports Turf Association's 17th Annual Field Day on Thursday, September 16, 2004. We were among the first to visit the newly renovated Mississauga Valley Community Centre, one of four facilities improved and renewed under the City's Redevelopment Project. We are pleased to profile both Murray and the Mississauga Valley Community Park in this issue of our newsletter.

What is your role with the City of Mississauga?

As manager, I am responsible for the day-to-day maintenance activities of the outdoor parkland setting and monitoring current and capital budgets, addressing resident and internal concerns, and that catch-all "all other duties as assigned."

What kind of team do you work with?

I have three supervisors as direct reports, with 32 full time staff and up to 70 temporary and student labourers and volunteers. I also am included on the NE Management Team – Community Centres/Arenas, Community Development and Parks; internal Department Teams – Park Planning & Development for NE Projects, IT Development, Health & Safety; external Department Teams – LitterNot, Graffiti, CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).

What are you and your team responsible for?

We are responsible for providing safe and clean parkland facilities for the residents of Mississauga including horticulture

displays; sports field turf and facilities; maintaining playgrounds, play areas, pathway systems, park furnishings; litter and graffiti removal; general turf and natural areas; and winter maintenance programs.

What is the biggest challenge in your job?

At times I feel like a juggler. It's a challenge to empower staff, provide resources, co-ordinate, set schedules, meet deadlines, follow policy and procedures, add in the occasional special request, educate the public and control spending, all at the same time.

What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Everything is made worthwhile when I go to a hort display or a sports field and see the quality of care and personal attention, knowing that the staff has made every effort in making the area safe and clean.

What is the biggest misconception about your job?

The biggest misconception is that we can provide additional services, re-direct funds, and improve standards while cutting our own budget funding, as if money was no problem!!!!

What is your educational/employment background?

I started working summers in my grandfather's potato patch and on my uncle's farm. Graduated from Humber College in the hort program and started working with the City of Mississauga in the Forestry Section. I have spent the last 19 years in a management position. Looking to retirement in 2008.

Tell us about your family.

I live in Mississauga with my wife Cheryl. Besides our 4 adult children we have two dogs, Emma (Retriever) and Harley (German Shepard), and four very tolerant cats, Bear, Buster, Baxter and Miss Allie.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace?

I enjoy motor cycling, golf, playing with model trains, collecting sports cards and watching TV with my favourite beverage, not all the time but as time allows. I would say my claim to fame would be that I have been involved in minor hockey (Mississauga North Stars AA) for the past 18 years.

What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

I think that it is important that the "landscape" industry continue to promote itself as a key component or a resource in the protection of our environment and improvement in the quality of life. Without landscapes, natural or man made, we would be living in who knows what!

What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a STA member?

Being a part of STA allows me to keep in touch with a number of venues (educational, business contacts, equipment and products and personal ideas) necessary to do my job and plan for the future. The sharing of information, research and development of programs or facilities is the key to more successes than failures. We can all learn something from each other; it's all in how we use these tools. STA provides the contacts to the tools. ♦

Facility Profile: Mississauga Valley Community Park

Name, location of facility.

Mississauga Valley Community Park, 1275 Mississauga Valley Boulevard, Mississauga, Ontario.

General information regarding the facility.

The park is located in the centre of the city; it is 57.5 acres in size and serves one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Mississauga. Facilities within the park include the Community Centre with one ice surface, a swimming/wave pool, fitness facilities with gym, public meeting/party rooms, a public library, and a Region of Peel Daycare facility. The Mississauga Gymnastics facility is also located on this site. Outdoor facilities include a four court bocce facility, a picnic shelter with picnic areas capable of seating up to 1000 users, a water play area, two children's play grounds and a series of woodlot/valley pathway systems linking the area to schools, businesses and parks.

What types of sports fields are on site?

The sport fields include one senior lit and irrigated natural turf soccer field; one lit and irrigated sand-based football field; one lit and irrigated sand-based baseball diamond; one lit and irrigated sand-based soft ball diamond; and one natural multi-purpose ball diamond.

How many employees are involved with turf care at this facility?

The parkland area is maintained by two full time staff, one seasonal (30 hours/week) worker, three student (17 hours/week) labourers and one fall (7 hours/week) labourer, with some assistance from the inside staff.

General Field Information

Permitting. Fields are permitted through our Athletics Section based on 16 games per week (2 per week day/evening and 4 per weekend day) to the groups. They set game schedules. This is an agreed to standard.

Maintenance Season. Maintenance starts mid-May to early June and ends at the end of September.

Types of Use. Permitted for games only, no practices, exceptions being soft-shoe football practices.

Rest Periods. No play scheduled for Fridays, but not always followed by the groups.

Field Conditions. Groups are requested to be responsible for canceling games on "rain-out" fields.

Maintenance

The following is a sample of the required yearly maintenance standards using IPM principals for turf growth required for the lit and irrigated fields.

Lining. One time every two weeks with paint mixture, additional lining requests are charged back to the groups.

Grass Cutting. The turf is cut twice per week at a height of 3".

Aerating. Up to five times per year, core and/or slit operations are used to decrease down time

Fertilizing. Up to five times per year.

Topdressing. At least one time per year with appropriate sand/soil mixtures.

Overseeding. A minimum of one time per year with 85% perennial rye. High wear areas are sodded in the fall with #1 nursery sod.

Dethatching. Done as required.

Litter. Groups are required to clean-up after games and lock the facility.

Irrigation. Fields are not watered on *Water-less Wednesday*, a water conservation program by the Region of Peel.

Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides?

The City of Mississauga adopted a "selective" spray policy about 10 years ago. The "cosmetic" spraying of fields is not acceptable. Staff are able to use spot spraying to control any weed infestations. Only when the safety of the players and/or the possible loss of the field are questioned would a full spraying of the field turf be allowed.

Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of this facility? In what manner?

The Athletics Section meets annually with sport groups to review and update users on past and future needs and concerns. A manager or supervisor may be required to attend, however in most cases, any concerns are brought back to management to address. Our Planning Section is responsible for developing the standards, design and construction of new fields. Input is sought from staff and the sports groups. Any "special" improvements above our standards requested by the group are placed back on the group to pay for or be responsible for the additional maintenance. Clay pitcher mounds are one example. ♦

Turf Care Agronomics

• South-Western Ontario/Niagara

Duncan Brewer
905.536.0357
duncanb@turfcare.ca

• Mid-Western Ontario

Craig McCutcheon
519.421.6593
craigm@turfcare.ca

• Greater Toronto Area

Mark Scenna
416.458.2396
marks@turfcare.ca

• Eastern and Northern Ontario

Bill Martel
705.627.3590
billm@turfcare.ca



TURF CARE

Turf Care Products Canada

200 Pony Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 7B6
Tel: 905-836-0988 • Fax: 905-836-6442 • www.turfcare.ca



Coming Events

November 14-16

The Irrigation Association 25th Annual International Irrigation Show, Tampa, FL, Info: (703) 536-7080, www.irrigation.org

November 16-18

New York State Turfgrass Association/New York Golf Course Owners Association Turf & Grounds Exposition Rochester, NY, Info: (518) 783-1229, www.nysta.org

January 6-11, 2005

56th Annual Canadian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Toronto, ON, Info: (905) 602-8873, www.golfsupers.com

January 11-13, 2005

Landscape Ontario Congress 2005 featuring Fencecraft 2005, Toronto, ON, Info: 1-800-265-5656, www.hort-trades.com

January 19-23, 2005

Sports Turf Managers Association (USA) Annual Conference & Exhibition, Phoenix, AZ, Info: (712) 322-7862, www.sportsturfmanager.com

January 31 - February 25, 2005

Guelph Turfgrass Institute Turf Managers' Short Course Guelph, ON, Info: (519) 767-5000

February 21-22, 2005

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Info: (519) 767-5000, www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots



February 27-28, March 1-2, 2005

Western Canada Turfgrass Association 42nd Annual Conference & Show, Penticton, BC, Info: (604) 467-2564, www.wctaturf.com



Visit us online at www.sportsturfassociation.com

We offer a number of electronic member services including an directory of all *Sports Turf Manager* articles from 1987 to the present. Go to the "newsletter" link and click on "cumulative index." We also have a library of Q&A articles and sports field checklists.



SUPPLIERS OF TOP QUALITY BENT AND BLUE GRASSES WITHOUT NETTING

(416) 364-5700
TOLL FREE 1-877-727-2100
www.zandersod.com



8400 Huntington Rd.
R.R. 1, Woodbridge, ON
1-877-856-7333
or 905-856-7333

Since 1956

Make the Switch to Quality

Quality Seeds for Sod Growers, Golf Courses, Sports Facilities, Municipalities & Landscape Contractors

www.qualityseeds.ca

District Sales Managers

Peter Coon, Cell: 705-715-3760
John Konecny, Cell: 905-376-7044
Larry White, Cell: 519-636-8327

PICKSEED®
good things growing ...

PICKSEED Canada Inc.
Box 304, Lindsay
Ontario K9V 4S3

1-800-661-4769

FAX (705) 878-9249

Doug MacMillan
Lindsay, ON
Cell: 705-878-6426

George Hall
Tillsonburg, ON
Cell: 519-281-3251



EQUIPMENT LTD.
ISO 9002 REGISTERED

Paul Turner
Sales Representative

Cellular: (416) 566-0211

1184 PLAINS ROAD EAST, BURLINGTON, ON L7S 1W6
Burlington (905) 637-5216 Toronto (905) 338-2404
1-800-883-0761 • Fax: (905) 637-2009 • www.gcduke.com

"The ART of Sports Field Marking"



SIMPLISTIC
LINES INC.



FIELD MARKING PAINTS AND APPLICATORS

R.R.#5 Stratford On Canada N5A 6S6

Tel. 519.348.0653 • Fax: 519.348.0654

www.simplisticlines.com



Supreme-Green™ **TURF COVER**

The multi-purpose turf cover ideal for natural turf environments such as baseball, soccer and football fields, etc.

BENEFITS

- accelerated seed germination • encourages root development • early spring green-up
- delays dormancy in fall • winter protection: reduces frost and ice damage • turf repairs
- available in any size

Coverttech
Fabricating Inc.

Buy Direct From the Manufacturer!

Call 1-800-837-8961

www.coverttechfab.com • sales@coverttechfab.com