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wrote **Dann Daly**, Park Maintenance Supervisor,  
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## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Volume 19, Issue 4, ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the  
**SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION INC.**  
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### SPORTS TURF MANAGER

is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$60/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

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### CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 40031883

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to the STA at 328 Victoria Rd. South, RR 2, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8.



### 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

GORDON DOL



## *Will the Rain Ever End?*

**W**inter is fast approaching. The time has come when we all can sit back (a little) and reflect on another busy season in sports turf. And certainly, the talk of the industry has been the extremely wet fall. The month of September saw 18 rain days. October had 21 days of rain, and November was not much better until the end of the month. Combining the rainy days with the subsequent ones needed to dry out did not leave much time to get work done. Furthermore, with all the wet conditions, any field that was used continually will likely be in the condition referred to as a MUD BOWL.

### Gearing Up For Winter Activities

At this time of year, many families are constructing their backyard rinks in hopes of a cold winter. In addition to being a long-held Canadian tradition, backyard rinks also serve to keep kids occupied instead of spending hours in front of the TV (and what parent doesn't relish that idea!). Arenas are also a buzz of activity with hockey, figure skating and endless hours of public skating scheduled. What is also good to see is that a number of municipalities are installing outdoor rinks complete with cover and boards. These facilities are being well used for ball hockey, etc. in the warm season and skating and hockey when ice conditions permit.

### OTS 2007

With winter approaching, there is another event that everyone in the sports turf industry should be planning to attend. The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium once again promises to be the premier turf event of the year. Another great slate of speakers has been confirmed. Mark February 19 & 20, 2007 on your calendars and I'll see you at the University of Guelph.

During the OTS, the Sports Turf Association will also be hosting our Annual General Meeting. All members are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend. You will receive your invitation early in the new year. The AGM will be held Tuesday, February 20 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of Johnson Hall. Note that over the past year we have restruc-

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Mark your calendars. OTS 2007 will be February 19 & 20, 2007 at the University of Guelph. This year's theme is *Keeping it Green*.

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tured the STA scholarship program. Applications have been received and the recipient will be announced at the AGM. Lastly, we are now accepting nominations for various board positions. You will have recently received a nomination form by mail. If you would like to be part of a great team, please contact Lee Huether or any board member for more information. Deadline for nominations is December 22, 2006.

### Celebrating Two Decades

In 2007, your Sports Turf Association will be 20 years-old. Plans are now underway to commemorate this event. Stay tuned, we will keep you posted. We hope that all members, past and present, will join us as we celebrate this anniversary year.

On behalf of the STA Board, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. ♦





## COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### January 9-11

*Landscape Ontario  
Congress 2007, featuring Fencecraft*  
Toronto, ON  
Info: [www.locongress.com](http://www.locongress.com)

### January 17-19

*Ontario Golf Superintendents'  
Association  
Ontario Golf Course Management  
Conference & Trade Show*  
Info: (519) 767-3341  
[www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca)

### January 17-20

*Sports Turf Managers Association (US)  
18th Annual Conference & Exhibition*  
San Antonio, TX  
Info: [www.sportsturfmanager.org](http://www.sportsturfmanager.org)

### January 29-February 23, 2007

*University of Guelph  
Turf Managers' Short Course*  
Guelph, ON  
Info: (519) 767-5000  
[www.open.uoguelph.ca/turfmanager](http://www.open.uoguelph.ca/turfmanager)

### February 5-9

*Turfgrass Producers International  
Midwinter Conference and Field Day*  
Queensland, Australia  
Info: (847) 649-5555  
[www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org)

### February 6-8

*Ontario Parks Association  
Annual Educational Seminar  
& Explorations Trade Show*  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Info: (905) 864-6182  
[www.opassoc.on](http://www.opassoc.on)

### February 19-20

*Ontario Turfgrass Symposium  
Keeping it Green*  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON  
Info: (519) 767-5000  
[www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS](http://www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS)

### February 20

*Sports Turf Association  
Annual General Meeting*  
@ the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON  
Info: (519) 763-9431  
[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

### February 19-24

*GCSAA Education Conference and  
February 22-24  
Golf Industry Show*  
Anaheim, CA  
Info: [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

### February 23-28

*Western Canada Turfgrass Association  
44th Annual Conference & Show*  
Victoria, BC  
Info: [www.wctaturf.com](http://www.wctaturf.com)

### March 2-6

*Canadian Golf Superintendents  
Association's  
58th Annual International Turfgrass  
Conference & Trade Show*  
in co-operation with the Quebec Golf  
Superintendents Association  
Montreal, QC  
Info: [www.golfsupers.com](http://www.golfsupers.com)



**Spring 2007: Encore Presentation!**  
*STA Proactive Water Use for Sports  
Turf Management: Implications of  
Municipal Water Restrictions*  
Watch for details!

## GET ON THE LIST!

Contact the STA office if you have an event you'd like to advertise in the *Sports Turf Manager*.



# Ontario Turf Industry News

STA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY • OTRF STRIVING TO MAKE THE GTI A WORLD CLASS RESEARCH FACILITY IN 5 YEARS...

## The Sports Turf Association Celebrates 20 Years in 2007

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987, when, at a 'brain storming' session held at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to turf. Twenty years later the STA continues to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development.

## Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) Fall Information Session

Despite a rainy day in October for an outside tour, the OTRF hosted an information session and visit of the turf plots at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Invited guests to the roundtable forum included representatives from turf related associations such as Landscape Ontario, National Golf Course Owners, Sports Turf, Ontario Golf Superintendents and the Golf Association of



Ontario. Dr. Rene Van Acker, recently appointed Chair of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph, joined the discussions to learn of the history of OTRF and its mandate.

Ron Schiedel, President of OTRF, explained the OTRF mission statement which is to direct and promote turf research for the benefit of the turfgrass industry and the general public. University of Guelph turf researchers, Dr. Tom Hsiang, Dr. Eric Lyons and Dr. Katerina Jordan were on hand to showcase their research. These expert turf specialists provided a united voice that spoke volumes of enthusiasm to the future of not only turf research but research at Canada's top turf research facility, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Following the presentations during a roundtable dialogue, association leaders and the OTRF Board exchanged ideas on how to take the OTRF to the next level. With a long term goal in place, the OTRF can be instrumental in making the GTI a world class turf research facility in the next five years. Subsequently, with both industry and end user financial support, the OTRF would continue to fund cutting edge research at one of North America's largest turf research institutes. ♦



## ODDS & ENDS

### STA Membership Plaques

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

### Spring 2007 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by February 23, 2007.

### 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.



## New Members WELCOME TO THE STA!

### Janis Bortolotti

EZflow Canada  
McGregor, ON

### John Gormley

St. Francis Xavier University  
Antigonish, NS

### Gino Turchiaro

Earthco Soil Mixtures Inc.  
Concord, ON

### Nick Farrell

Tartan Turf Industries Inc.  
Delson, QC

### Ian Ferguson (student)

University of Guelph, ON

### Katerina Serlemitsos Jordan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Turfgrass  
Science and Nematology  
University of Guelph, ON

### Rick Brouwer

York Region District School Board  
Richmond Hill, ON

### Randy Travaglini

Travis Reid  
City of Sault Ste. Marie, ON

### Stella Williams

Town of Kirkland Lake, ON

### Steven Piche

Turf Care Products Canada  
Newmarket, ON

### John Howard

City of Owen Sound, ON

### Steve Halbert

I C Improvements Inc.  
Stoney Creek, ON

### Kevan Moxam

Pamela Cranston  
City of Greater Sudbury, ON



The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) is scheduled for February 19 and 20, 2007 at the University of Guelph. This year's theme, *Keeping it Green*, reflects the many critical cultural, environmental and maintenance issues influencing the turf industry. The conference will once again be held at Rozanski Hall at the centre of the beautiful University of Guelph campus. Delegates have the opportunity to participate in a learning environment that provides informative and engaging sessions on a variety of turf related topics. Speakers from both industry and research will offer insight relating to important and current topics in turf care, government legislation and environmental issues. Delegates at this year's conference will learn how to use current management options for pests and diseases, techniques to meet the needs of staff, the implication of bylaws and legislation on turf care, plus many other industry related topics. This year, OTS also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of both the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Sports Turf Association. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and network with colleagues and professionals in the turf industry. For symposium details, please visit [www.open.uoguelph.ca/](http://www.open.uoguelph.ca/)

## SPORTS TURF RELATED SESSIONS

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

#### M5 1:30 – 2:00 Selling a Concept to Council

*Chris Mark and Jane Arnett-Rivers, Town of Oakville*

From the moment it sounds interesting to the time of installation, there is a process. Buy-in from top to bottom is required and there are many ways to insure your enthusiasm is contagious. Understand the steps required to get a central irrigation system approved, tenders issued, awarded and installed.

#### M6 2:00 – 2:30 Alcohol Consumption on Sports Fields: Responsibility and Liability

*Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association*

What can be done about drinking in the stands and sidelines? Is the answer policy or proactive policing? Learn how staff can be empowered to effectively deal with alcohol consumption breaches and how one engages local police.



**Above:** Overseeding plots at the GTI (part of Evan Elford's research strategy, overseeding for weed management).

#### M7 2:30 – 3:00 Overseeding for Weed Management

*Evan Elford, University of Guelph*

Over 115 municipalities in Canada have restricted or banned the use of herbicides leaving managers with few options for weed control. Detailed research results will be presented which span the 2005/2006 growing seasons. It will examine various rates and timings of perennial ryegrass overseeding into Kentucky bluegrass athletic turf for weed suppression. IPM 0.66

#### M8 3:00 – 3:30 Sports Field Assessment

*Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph*

Many factors affect our ability to provide safe, playable athletic fields to the public. Athletic field assessment can identify the strengths and weaknesses of current management practices and identify potential causes of future problems. Discover ways in which fields can be assessed to maximize the benefit to the turfgrass manager. IPM 0.66



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**T1 9:00 – 9:30 Responsibility for Specification Compliance**

*Ian Haras, City of Guelph, Chris Davies, Frederick McGuire Consultants, Steve Macartney, Raintree Irrigation*

During a sports field construction or irrigation installation, exactly who is responsible for changes, installation quality and product standards? Who is responsible for producing accurate and professional as-builts? Hear three very different perspectives on contract work.

**T2 9:30 – 10:30 Full Contact Sports: When Urban Growth Catches Up To Existing Sport Fields**

*Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, Kelly Williams, Town of East Gwillimbury, Mike Burgess, Burgess and Associates*

Dealing with foul balls in the neighbour's backyard? Understanding how to negotiate peace when sports fields disrupt home-

owners' backyards, including proactive measures of what works and what doesn't will be discussed. In addition, how to effectively and properly deal with trespassing on municipal sports fields as determined by the Trespass to Property Act will be presented.

**T3 11:00 – 12:00 Reciprocal Agreements Between Municipalities and School Boards**

*Bob Kennedy, Sports Turf Management Solutions*

Reciprocal agreements for use of sports fields between municipalities and school boards have been in place in Ontario for over 50 years. Both parties have benefited from these agreements. Budgetary constraints experienced by school boards are jeopardizing these agreements as school boards lack the funds to properly repair fields. Explore and identify opportunities that can create a win-win situation for both parties.



## REGISTRATION

**EARLY BIRD: DECEMBER 21, 2006**

**Discounts.** It is important be aware that as an STA member in good standing, you qualify for lower association rates. Secondly, others from your facility/organization who are not STA members qualify for the lower association rates when registered with a member. Send the registration in the same envelope, fax it at the same time, or make just one phone call to register.

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# COVER STORY CONTINUED... OUTDOOR ICE RINKS

MIKE BRYSON, RECREATION FACILITY PERSONNEL, CALGARY, ALBERTA

## Parking

Many communities forget about parking for their patrons. If there isn't enough parking, people will park on side streets and this will make local residents angry.

## Rink Orientation

The rink should be set so that the long axis runs north-south. This will minimize the amount of melting that occurs when the sun reflects off the boards.

## Surface Preparation

- If it's grass, cut it as short as possible.
- If it's a hard surface, clean off all gum, oil and dirt.
- Before applying water, fill cracks around the base of the boards with paper towels, strips of rags or other filler material.
- When the weather starts getting cold, start freezing the ground with a sprinkler. This will form a good frost to minimize melting during warmer weather.
- If there is snow on the ground, pack it down and use it for your base. The white snow will reduce the amount of heat the ground will absorb from the sun and it will give your ice a whiter appearance throughout the season. This will also cut down on painting costs.

## Flooding

The correct way to flood is to apply water in small amounts through a hose or spray nozzle so the water freezes on the

surface and ice is built up slowly. Several fine sprays should be applied before proceeding to a heavier spray. If the weather is cold enough, i.e., 0° F to 10° F, spraying can likely be continuous as the first coat will be frozen almost immediately. However, in warmer weather, additional sprays should not be applied until the previous one is thoroughly frozen.

Once the ground has been completely sealed, the water will not run off. Then leveling of the ice can begin using a heavier spray. Repeat the previous procedure, applying as many coats as necessary to build up a level ice surface. Care must be taken during this leveling process to ensure the low spots are filled in gradually, as shell (shale) ice may result if too much water is applied at once. If some spots are particularly low, it may be best to apply water only to those spots until they are built up close to level.

During the flooding process, a number of precautions must be taken with the hose:

- Keep the hose on dry ice; if the hose is dragged over wet ice it will push water with it and ridges will be formed.
- Keep the hose moving so the warmer water running through the hose does not melt the hose into the ice.
- Ensure connections are tight and the hose does not leak.
- Do not leave a running hose unattended on the ice surface.

It's helpful to have a second person, who can manage the excess hose. If you are alone, the hose can be difficult to drag around. A way to minimize the workload is to wrap nylon rope around the hose and secure it with duct tape. This allows the hose to slide more easily; it also keeps the hose above the ice and eliminates melting. When most of the rink is level and covered with an adequate surface of ice, skating can be allowed. Skating will create a whitening effect on the ice surface, either in place of or in addition to actually painting the ice. *It's extremely important that there is adequate ice at this point to ensure safety of your patrons.*

## Ice Maintenance

The first step in preparing the ice for the re-flooding is to sweep the snow and chippings away from the boards as the scraper will not get all of the snow away from the boards. If this snow is left, it will build up and form a concave and rough edge. The rest of the ice surface should be scraped using a steel scraper. For flooding during the operational day, use a barrel flooder containing water heated to approximately 135° F. Cold water does not work as well in barrel flooders as they tend to freeze up. At the end of the operating day, the ice surface should be inspected. If necessary, a heavier flood should be completed with a hose. If the weather is very cold, care must be taken to not get

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too much water on at one time as it will run and freeze in a ripple. Also, in severely cold weather the ice will crack if flooded with too much water. A very light spraying should overcome this problem. A warm water application will prevent cracking, melt the remaining snow on the ice and spread over a greater distance. Some ice makers suggest that when the temperature is less than 0°F the ice should not be flooded as too much cracking will result. How often a rink should be flooded will depend on usage. Some rinks will need to be flooded at the end of every day, while others may require flooding only once per week. ♦

— *Edge, Volume 7, Number 3, November/December 2004, Ice Skating Institute*

RFP conducts courses in natural ice making as well as many other recreation facility maintenance topics. For more information, go to [www.aarfp.com](http://www.aarfp.com).

## COMMON ICE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	POSSIBLE REPAIR
Shell or shale ice	Heavy flooding; leaving ponds of water that freeze on top and run away underneath.	Scrape away and fill with wet snow, or gradually build up with warm water.
Frost boils	Excessive water in the soil freezes and expands causing the ice to heave and crack. Excess water boils out through the cracks and freezes.	Cut out the boil, fill with wet snow and gradually build up with warm water.
Cracked ice	Cold temperatures.	Fill with slush and flood.
Ice chipping	Brittle ice from severe cold weather.	Flood with warm water.
Pebble or rough ice	Too much snow on ice; flooding while snowing; scrapers are not flat or not sharp enough; using too little water; if it ripples, you are using too much water.	Make sure the ice is clear of all snow before flooding. Repair and sharpen scraper and blades or use warmer water. Make sure you apply the correct amounts of water.
Spring deterioration	Warm weather or painted lines absorbing the sun's rays either from direct exposure or from the reflection off the boards.	Do not allow skating. Place snow on melting areas, as a thicker layer of ice will help prevent melting in warm weather. Also try to bank snow up against the outside of the boards throughout the season; this will have an insulating effect in the warm weather.
Low spots on ice	Excessive use in goal crease, behind net, at players' boxes, etc.	Flood with a pail of water in the evening after the patrons have left.





## RIDEAU CANAL SKATEWAY FACTSHEET • THE WORLD'S LARGEST NATURALLY FROZEN ICE RINK

**E**ach winter, the National Capital Commission (NCC) transforms the Rideau Canal, a historic waterway, into the world's largest skating rink! Hundreds of thousands of skaters and outdoor enthusiasts from all over Canada and the world come to enjoy this unique 7.8-kilometre ice surface winding through the heart of Canada's Capital. The 2005-2006 season marked the 36<sup>th</sup> season of skating. The season was officially launched on January 7, 2006, and closed on March 10, 2006.

### History of the Skateway

The first skating season dates back to the winter of 1970-1971. The idea to clear the Skateway originated with Douglas Fullerton, Chairman of the NCC from

1969 to 1973. On January 18, 1971, he sent a crew to the frozen Rideau Canal with hand shovels to clear the five-km ice surface between the National Arts Centre (NAC) and the Bronson overpass. Witnessing the success of this initiative, the NCC committed to pursue this unique winter tradition and it has extended the ice surface of the Rideau Canal Skateway to 7.8 kilometres. The Skateway is now known as one of Canada's world-class attractions. According to a 2003 survey, 98% of users are satisfied with the Skateway and 75% stated the Skateway was somewhat important in their decision to visit the Capital Region in winter.

The Rideau Canal stretches 202 kilometres from Ottawa to Kingston, and was constructed between 1826 and 1832 by

thousands of Irish and French Canadian labourers under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel John By.

The Rideau Canal Skateway is a skating rink, and much more. During the month of February, the Skateway serves as centre stage for Winterlude, the Capital's internationally renowned festival and North America's unique winter celebration. The 29<sup>th</sup> edition of this winter festival will take place on the weekends of February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

### Guinness Recognition

In July 2005, Guinness World Records™ of London, England confirmed that the Rideau Canal Skateway in Canada's Capital Region is indeed the 'Largest Naturally Frozen Ice Rink in the