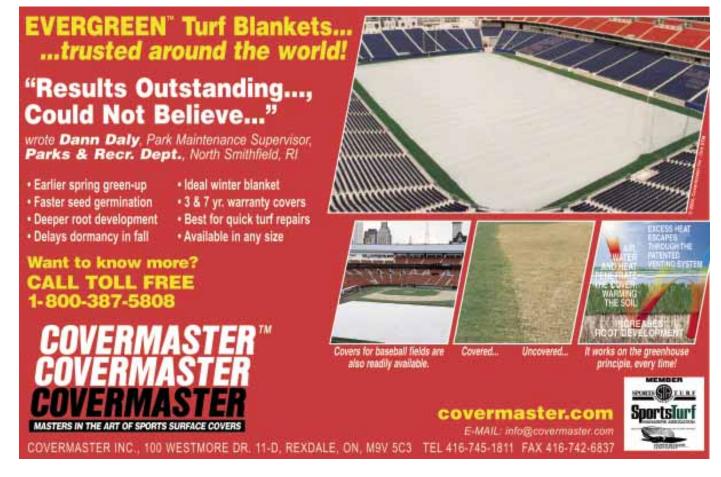
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# SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Volume 20, Issue 3, ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION INC. 328 Victoria Rd. S., RR 2, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8 Tel: (519) 763-9431, Fax: (519) 766-1704 E-mail: info@sportsturfassociation.com Web: www.sportsturfassociation.com

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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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Murray Cameron, Andrew Gaydon, Paul Turner & Lee Huether

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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 – Gord Dol

Wow! What a summer. We went from an extremely wet fall in 2006 to this year being one of the driest seasons on record.

e recently held our 20th Annual Field Day. Attendance was again at an all time high with a great program of speakers and a first class venue. Thanks to the Field Day Committee for a job well done and to the City of Hamilton for hosting this event. A special thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors for their time and generosity in making this day possible. We will very shortly be planning for our 2008 event and as always, your ideas are most welcome.

Please note in this issue the press release for the new Parks and Open Spaces Authority. This collaboration by the Sports Turf Association, the Ontario Parks Association and the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association brings together three very professional organizations to better serve the needs of all members in the areas of certification and professional recognition and development.

This being our 20th anniversary year, we are continuing with profiles of past presidents. This issue will feature Paul Turner and Andrew Gaydon.



Our membership roster is now online. Lee sent out instructions a while ago on how our members can access all this information. If you have any questions, please call her at our office.

Nominations for the R.W. Sheard Scholarship are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is November 1st.

Winter is fast approaching. The grass will not be green for much longer! Enjoy the fall colours and temperatures. •

Above: STA past and present directors gathered at the recent Field Day. Back row, left to right: Don Bridgman, Andrew Gaydon, Dave Chapman, Gord Dol, Bob Kennedy and Dave Smith. Front row, left to right: Jane Arnett-Rivers, Paul Turner, Everett Nieuwkoop, Jim Galbraith, Bob Sheard and Mike Bladon.

# **EVENT CALENDAR**

#### November 1

Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Application Deadline Info: (519) 763-9431 www.sportsturfassociation.com

# February 19 & 20

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



# December 5 & 6

Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Facilities Operational Forum & Annual General Meeting Newmarket, ON Info: (416) 426-7062 www.orfa.com

# January 8-10

Landscape Ontario Congress Toronto, ON Info: 1-800-265-5656 www.locongress.com

## January 16-18

Ontario Golf Superintendents'
Association Ontario Golf Course
Management Conference
& Trade Show
Toronto, ON
Info: 1-877-824-6472
www.golfsupers.on.ca

# January 28 - February 22

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

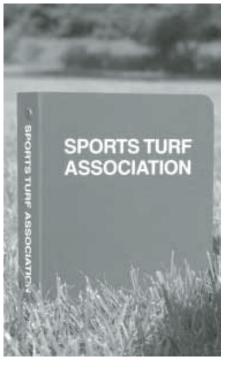
# February 6 & 7

Ontario Parks Association
52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Educational Conference
& Explorations Trade Show (Feb. 6)
Hamilton, ON
Info: 1-866-560-7783
www.opassoc.on.ca

# We've Gone 21st Century in Our 20th Year! Membership Roster Online.

AS PART OF OUR 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tuneup, the STA website is being revised and updated. You won't notice much of a change in our look however; the real improvement is in the approach, not the appearance. We've moved to a Content Management System which provides for easier design and maintenance, more frequent updates, and greater functionality.

In our first phase we introduced a 'Members Only' section. Until this year, the STA Membership Roster was brought up-to-to date by means of annual printed inserts. This has been replaced by a web-based version. The little green binder is now obsolete. The new adaptation offers personal updating, instant retrieval and information that is always current. If electronic isn't your preference, the roster is still available in the form of a print document, upon request. Follow the instructions emailed to you and register online today!



**Above:** The little green binder was first introduced to STA members in 1995.

# WELCOME TO THE STA!

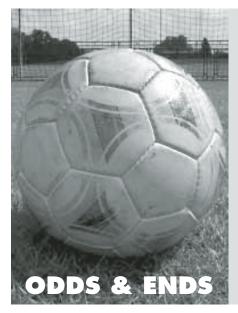
#### Alex McLeod

DryJect Ontario, St. Catharines, ON

#### **Brian Macklin**

Parc Downsview Park, Toronto, ON





# **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.

#### Winter 2007 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by November 9, 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.



# ONTARIO TURF NEWS

# **GTI Open House**

A public open house (see above photo) was held on August 16 at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute & Environmental Research Centre to celebrate the 20-year partnership between the Ontario turfgrass industry, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the University of Guelph. The open house featured lawn care demonstrations, flower-arranging workshops, turfgrass and environmental research presentations, and tours of the Guelph Trial Garden, which showcases flowers and plants that grow best in southwestern Ontario. The event concluded with turfgrass researcher Dr. Eric Lyon's famous pulled pork on a bun followed by a performance by GTI Director Rob Witherspoon's bluegrass band, the Speed River Valley Mountain Boys.

# Turf Managers' Short Course 2008

Turf managers and their staff having been attending the Turf Managers' Short Course (TMSC) as a source of training and credentials for over 30 years. This four week program makes use of an impressive combination of University faculty and industry professionals to facilitate discussion regarding the latest research and maintenance issues encountered by turf professionals. Turfgrass performance, resource planning and environmental stresses are some of the many areas covered.

Come to the University of Guelph and get the training you need to succeed. The TMSC runs from January 28 to February 22. Call 519.767.5000 or visit our website at www.open.uoguelph.ca/turfmanager for more information. This program fills up fast so please register early!

# **Get Ready for OTS 2008!**

THE ONTARIO Turfgrass Symposium is returning to Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph, Tuesday, February 19 and Wednesday,

> February 20, 2008. Speakers from both industry and academia will provide valuable insight regarding many turf topics. This, the 17th annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, provides del-

egates the opportunity to participate in informative and engaging sessions reflecting the many important trends in turf management.

Golf course staff, sports turf/recreation and lawn care professionals and sod growers can all benefit from the variety of topics, including: new dandelion biocontrol, induced resistance to turfgrass diseases, grey-water recycling and managing sports field energy consumption.

OTS is a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues in the turf industry - exchanging ideas and practices that promote premium turf health. Attend OTS and discover what is happening in turf in Ontario, across the country and internationally.

Please visit the conference website at www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots or call 519.767.5000 for more information as it becomes available. We'll have more details in our winter newsletter.



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The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation and the University of Guelph are conducting a study on:

# The Economic Profile of the Ontario Turfgrass Industry

This study will raise awareness about the importance of the turfgrass industry to the economic livelihood of the province and the country.

Sometime in October, we will be sending a survey to you. Your participation will be crucial to this research. If you have any questions please contact:

Kate Tsiplova (519) 824-4120 x 58343, ktsiplov@uoguelph.ca or Katerina Jordan (519) 824-4120 x 56615, kjordan@uoguelph.ca

# STA Scholarship Nov. 1 Deadline

THE STA ESTABLISHED a Scholarship Program in 1993 and has since awarded 26 scholarships. In the past, we provided scholarships in two specific programs of study: the University of Guelph's Turf Managers' Short Course and the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture. To continue to encourage, support and provide leadership to those considering a career in the sports turf industry, the STA restructured its Scholarship Program in 2006, expanding it to include additional programs of study. The Robert W. Sheard Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 may be awarded annually.

The Scholarship Program is funded through STA membership fees. The award is intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.

For those currently furthering their education, we encourage you to apply. More information and applications can be found online or obtained from the STA office.

# Your Behind-the-Scenes Partner in Making Sports Turf Healthy and Safe



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# PARKS & OPEN SPACES AUTHORITY

PROVIDING NEEDED SERVICES TO PARKS AND SPORTS TURF PROFESSIONALS



he Ontario Parks Association, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and Sports Turf Association announced recently that they have joined together to form the Parks and Open Spaces Authority. This group replaces a previous Parks and Public Spaces *Training and Development Authority.* 

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Parks Association (OPA), Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) and Sports Turf Association (STA) have given direction for the associations to jointly provide needed services to professionals in the parks and sports turf profession. It gives us great pride to announce the start of a joint venture between the STA, ORFA and the OPA. These three associations have developed a collaboration to better serve the needs of all memberships.

#### **Areas of Focus**

On July 12, 2007, selected representatives from all three associations met and developed strategies for meeting these needs. The committee will be known as the Parks and Open Spaces Authority (POSA) and have confirmed that the following areas of concentration will form the focus of immediate committee activities: issues/awareness and alert bulletins; resources and publications; certification and professional recognition; professional development; and other opportunities and partnerships

POSA presently consists of nine professionals, three members from each associa-

tion. Committee members will represent POSA and have been given the responsibility to develop strategies and to follow through on this project. POSA is bipartisan and its main objective is to serve all three memberships in professional development.

#### **POSA's Mission**

Coalition dedicated to strengthening practitioners through professional development, recognition and advocacy

# Values

Professional Development: provides education and resources that meets industry needs.

Recognition: acknowledges professional competency.

Advocacy: supports and represents leadership within the profession.

We are excited about each POSA member's commitment and trust that all association members will support and assist them in this new adventure.

#### **Members**

- Jane Arnett-Rivers, Town of Oakville
- Bill Clausen, University of Guelph
- Tom Mathews, City of Toronto
- Stu Young, City of Mississauga
- Terry Piche, ORFA
- Mark Reinert, Town of Petawawa
- Marc Roy, City of Timmins
- Jeff Stewart, Town of Ajax
- Rob Field, Plant Science, Inc.

# **SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS**

The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (ORFA) is a not-for-profit provincial recreation organization with over 4,000 card bearing members. Membership within ORFA includes representatives from municipalities, educational institutions, government agencies, First Nations, community recreation boards, private recreation facilities and business and industry. The association provides a variety of services to its members including professional development activities, networking, regional information workshops, access to a recreation Facilities Library, formal recognition through professional designation and registration programs, trade shows and exhibits, a job search service, publications and resource information.

Ontario Parks Association (OPA) is committed to civic beautification, the advancement, protection and conservation of parks, open space and the environment as we practice Protecting Tomorrow Today® in the province of Ontario. OPA, a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1936, offers services emphasizing quality and accessible education and professional development, networking, information, communication and advocacy for persons participating in the parks services.

The Sports Turf Association (STA) is a not-for-profit professional association celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007. The association was conceived in 1987 when a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to sports turf. Two decades later, the STA continues to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development, encouraging and supporting research and the communication of research results and the interaction with allied organizations.



# PAUL TURNER G.C. DUKE EQUIPMENT LTD.

# 1. You were president of the Sports Turf Association from 2002-2003. What was your role in the turfgrass industry at that time? Are you still involved in the industry? How?

I have been involved in the turf industry for over 20 years; the last 15 have been with G.C. Duke Equipment and I was with George Bannerman for three years prior to that. I have always been on the sales side of the industry and look forward to many more years of selling.

# 2. What is the biggest challenge in your job?

Selling is not the easiest game in town. We are constantly searching and travelling looking for new tools and products that will hopefully make the turfgrass professional's job easier and more productive

# 3. What is the most satisfying part, what made the job worthwhile for you?

I really enjoy the group of people who are involved in the industry. They are, in general, very easy to get along with and over the years I have developed some good friendships.

# 4. What is the biggest misconception about your job?

People think that the life of a salesman is easy. I think they might be surprised if they ever came over to this side; there are lots of headaches and stresses which come along with quotas and budgets, lots of long days and believe me trade shows are not what they think!!

# 5. What is your educational/employment background?

All my education is from the across the pond in the UK. After completing school, I attended a small college in the quaint Town of Evesham where I completed my apprenticeship in the horticultural engineering field.

# 7. What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

I love to play golf but the number of rounds played seems to keep decreasing with each year. Sports are a favourite of mine and I keep close tabs on soccer and rugby in the UK. We are also kept busy in



# 6. Tell us about your family.

The Turner Clan are all back in the UK. We do try to meet up every year or two in a country that is convenient for all of us. I will be getting married in the later part of 2007 to a great lady (Amy Carter) and she has two children, Samantha (13) and Steven (11). We all currently live in Burlington, Ontario.

the hockey season with resident shuttle services to and from the arena for games and practices.

**Above:** Past Presidents Andrew Gaydon (left) and Paul Turner at the recent STA Field Day in Dundas. As part of our 20th anniversary coverage, we are profiling STA's past presidents.

# 8. How has the industry changed and in what direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

The industry has gone through some serious changes over the last 20 years. The reduction of pesticides has probably most influenced my business. The increase in weed populations meant the death of the reel mower in parks systems, so the now common rotary mower has changed the way grass is cut. With less spraying, you now require more cultural practices so more seeders, aerators, top dressers, etc. are sold. As we move into the total ban phase, what will happen now? For all of us who remember the Ottawa debacle from many years ago and Waterloo not too long ago, what are our cities going to look like in the next 5-10 years? Are people going to accept or revolt against local politicians when their town or city is reduced to a giant weed and dandelion patch? Only time will tell!

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

Being a member opens you up to a great network of people from all across the province and other parts of Canada. As this networking grows, people not only share valid information but friendships are also made along the way.

# 10. What would your advice be for current and future presidents of the STA?

I think we need to stay focused on what our membership wants to see and hear. I believe we should continue to grow the profile of the association with some strategic alliances. I would also like to see us work closely with the University of Guelph to see if we can continue on with some of the great things that Dr. Bob Sheard has done and see if we can find another visionary like him who can help sustain the sports turf profession.

# ANDREW GAYDON **VANDEN BUSSCHE IRRIGATION**

# 1. You were president of the Sports Turf Association from 2004-2005. What was your role in the turfgrass industry at that time? Are you still involved in the industry? How?

In 1993, Marc Vanden Bussche started the golf and turf divisions for his company, which his father had started 40 years earlier for the agricultural industry. Vanden Bussche Irrigation (VBI) is a well known name and I was proud to be invited to manage this exciting new opportunity. Having been a manager of a nursery supply company before that, I knew the potential for turf irrigation in the growing Ontario. VBI is a design, consult and supply company to all types of irrigation and watering systems. Turf grass, whether on golf courses or sports fields, is a very important part of the irrigation industry as in Canada today.

# 2. What is the biggest challenge in your iob?

The biggest challenge in our industry is finding qualified and experienced people to advise our customer base, who are usually experienced, qualified and demanding. Most of our customers are grass experts and rely on us to give good irrigation advice. VBI tries to employ the best people and guarantee them a full-

time professional career. We have a good reputation for "looking after" and therefore retaining our staff. Training is a very large part of an employer's responsibility and this helps to occupy and improve staff. Another challenge that we have in the turf irrigation industry is that there are so many good products available to assist the user and owner to improve efficiency, reduce water use, and improve the quality of turf, however, there is so much pressure on the installer to "go cheap" and "do it like we have always done it," that these innovative products are usually overlooked.

# 3. What is the most satisfying part, what made the job worthwhile for you?

Working with VBI allows me to be involved with and contribute to all aspects of the commercial, municipal and agricultural industries. The turf industry (as well as specializing in irrigation) is to me very satisfying because it's ever changing and improving. Sports turf has become a necessary part of our lives either to play sports on or just to enjoy sitting on the sidelines with a picnic. Membership in the STA has allowed me to rub shoulders with people who really know - and they say "knowledge is power."

# 4. What is your educational/employment background?

Before Vanden Bussche and Canada, I was educated in England with an Agricultural Engineer Degree and then went to Central Africa where I was farming sugar cane and citrus fruit for three years. While there, I did a great deal of travelling around this fascinating and marvelous continent. All irrigation was flood irrigation, which is







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Brampton, Ontario 905-793-7000 or 1-800-387-2449 Fax 905-793-9632 • plantprod.com extravagant and wasteful but in areas of the world that lack engineered products, this is the only option. On returning to England, I was involved with the marketing of combine harvesters, a big jump from sugar cane, however for 12 years I had the opportunity to travel all over Europe and experience and witness all types of farming. In 1985, I emigrated to Canada with my family to work for Massey Ferguson. I had quite a shock when within three months of my arrival, they announced that they were closing their operations in Canada.

# 5. Tell us about your family.

I have two children, a son (28) and a daughter (26) both married and living within two miles of me in the beautiful City of Burlington, so I am very lucky.

# 6. What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

We are a family who all enjoy the game of rugby and my son, son-in-law and I all

play with enthusiasm, although I struggle to walk for 3-4 days after each game (the youngsters, on the other hand, can manage all levels of sports). We also enjoy casual cycling and southern Ontario has many excellent cycle paths to enjoy. When possible and when the Canadian season allows, I enjoy gardening.

# 7. How has the industry changed and in what direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards? What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?

Membership in the STA has allowed me to keep abreast with the turf industry and pass this information onto my peers and customers. The turf and irrigation industry has dramatically changed over the last 10-20 years through education and innovation. We are much more aware and responsible about saving our precious water and therefore reduce the waste through better irrigation. Waste can happen through over watering or through poor

sprinkler choice and setting. We still have a long way to go as many property owners are motivated by green turf rather than healthy turf. The publishing of the *Athletic Field Construction Manual* will help to guide users to a better understanding of their fields and their corresponding maintenance. •

# **CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

Contact Lee Huether at the STA office if you are interested in contributing to the Sports Turf Manager. We appreciate feature-length articles, column ideas and newsworthy items. Updates on innovative research or equipment are also welcomed (as well as photographs). This is a great way to both support your professional association and enhance your resume! Note that annual advertisers are allowed to publish one news release per year.





TURF CARE