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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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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Murray Cameron, Andrew Gaydon,
Paul Turner & Lee Huether

PUBLISHER

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

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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 – Gord Dol

Summer is finally here and the business of managing your sports fields is well under way.

An important part of maintaining good quality fields is managing your irrigation systems. We recently held our second water workshop at the Region of Halton Council Chambers. The theme was *Proactive Water Management for Sports Turf Managers* with 50+ sports turf managers and industry professionals in attendance to learn from a great slate of speakers. Thanks to the Water Workshop Committee for a job well done. Thanks also to the Region of Halton for providing a superb venue. All in all, it was a great day. Please see articles from the speakers in this issue.

It is now time to turn our focus to the fall field day. This year, the field day will be held at the Westoby Ice Surface/Olympic Sports Park in Dundas on September 13th. Last year's event showcased an impressive program with record attendance. This year's field day promises to be yet another memorable one. Mark your calendars! We want to see everyone there.

Invoices for membership fees have been sent out. Your prompt attention to these would be greatly appreciated.

This year, instead of sending out the printed membership roster, we are placing it online, readily available to our mem-

bers. We are also in the process of updating our website and making it more user friendly. This will ultimately save significant time and money.

Included with this issue is the first newsletter from the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. The OTRF is always looking for donations for turf research. With increased field use pressures and the movement toward reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides, the need for good research has never been more important.

Finally, with the heat of the summer upon us, please ensure that you protect yourself from the sun and that you and your staff drink plenty of water. Have a great summer! ♦

Above: President Gord Dol (far left) with speakers at STA's spring water workshop. Left to right: Gord Dol/President STA, Robert Edmondson/Director Watershed Management Services, Conservation Halton, Pam Charbonneau/Turfgrass Specialist, OMAFRA, Rob Witherspoon/Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Gregory Snaith/President, EnviroIrrigation Engineering Inc., Wayne Galliher/Water/Wastewater Outreach Coordinator, Regional Municipality of Halton. Absent: Peter Crockett/Commissioner of Planning and Public Works, Regional Municipality of Halton, Jean Gandubert, CAO, Oakville Soccer Club.

EVENT CALENDAR

August 16

12:00 noon to 8 p.m.

Guelph Turfgrass Institute 20th Anniversary Public Open House

A casual drop in event celebrating the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. An opportunity to tour the research plots, ornamental grass display garden and the annual flower trial garden. Other special events and entertainment are planned. Admission is free and all are welcome.

August 20

Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Fundraising Golf Tournament, Georgian Bay Club Collingwood, ON

Info: (519) 824-4120 x 56149



September 13

Sports Turf Association 20th Annual Field Day Westoby Ice Surface/Olympic Sports Park, Dundas, ON

Info: (519) 763-9431
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November 1

Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Application Deadline

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NEW MEMBERS



Duncan Manser, City of Peterborough, ON

Jeff Dobbie & Simon Hames, Town of Oakville, ON

Kevin Check, City of Welland, ON

Paul Ingham, Town of Markham, ON

Stephen Hewgill & Chris Nelson, Plant Science, Inc., Barrie, ON

Jason Inwood, Ken Paveley & Nancy Stein,

Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., Bond Head, ON

Jody Leis, Grower's Choice, Kitchener, ON

Tra Dubois & Jay Warnick, World Class Athletic Surfaces, USA



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.

Autumn 2007 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by August 24, 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.



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UPCOMING 20TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY

THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION RETURNS TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON – HOST OF OUR 20TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

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Overlooking the waters of Lake Ontario and extending up over the protective circle of the Niagara Escarpment lies the City of Hamilton, host of the Sports Turf Association's 20th Annual Field Day. The City welcomed us in 1995 for this annual event and we are pleased to return in this our 20th anniversary year. Since that time, the City and five surrounding municipalities, Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook and Stoney Creek, have merged to form a new amalgamated City of Hamilton. Our venue is the Westoby Ice Surface/Olympic Sports Park in Dundas.

Feature speaker is Pamela Sherratt, Sports Turf Extension Specialist at the Ohio State University, a position she has

held since 1999. Her areas of research include athletic field stability and reinforcement, sand selection for athletic fields, cool season grass traits, wear tolerance, establishment speed, over-seeding options, rhizomatous tall fescues and other newer grass varieties. In extension, Pam disseminates sports turf research to the industry in a variety of ways including the development and implementation of the Buckeye Sports Turf Program to keep sports field managers abreast of current topics important in the management of athletic fields (<http://buckeyeturf.osu.edu/>).

We welcomed record attendance in 2006 and anticipate that we'll continue the trend in 2007. Delegates will again be provided the opportunity to meet with industry suppliers to view displays and request equipment demonstrations.

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987 when, at a 'brain storming' session at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at

Feature speaker is Pamela Sherratt, Sports Turf Extension Specialist at Ohio State University. See you this fall in Hamilton!

that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic fields where they relate to sports turf. Twenty years later the STA continues to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development. Stay tuned for complete event details as they become available.



1998 Field Day



1988 Field Day



2006 Field Day

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EDITORIAL CONTINUED...

PHOSPHORUS & NITROGEN WILL BE THE KEY ISSUES SCRUTINIZED

...issue. Currently the provincial government is focusing its resources on large livestock operations and manure applications. The *Nutrient Management Act* regulations are being reinforced by the *Source Water Protection Act* which brings the water quality issue from the farm to the athletic field level.

From the water standpoint, phosphorus and nitrogen will be the key issues. Movement of these two nutrients from the point of application, either internally through the drainage system or externally through runoff, will be the point where opponents will focus their energies.

Such scrutiny of phosphorus and nitrogen use is already occurring in the U.S.A. where some areas are banning phosphorus use on turf and where only phosphorus-free fertilizers are allowed. Manitoba has restrictions on the use of phosphorus

Does runoff really occur from a sports turf surface, on what slopes, at what rainfall intensity, attached to particles or in solution? Can bioherbicides keep weeds at bay?

adjacent to water bodies and is considering a total ban of phosphorus use on all turf. While phosphorus is generally considered to be immobile in soil there are indications that at very high levels of phosphorus in the soil there is a potential for phosphorus to remain soluble and move into the drainage system in an organic phosphorus form.

Under agricultural conditions, the major system of phosphorus movement to water bodies is on soil particles eroding from the surface. The likelihood of such movement occurring with turf is highly improbable, although there are turf managers who will argue a field must be crowned to induce surface drainage which could result in soil particle transport.

Nitrogen may stimulate interest through two reactions in the soil. The first

reaction is the leaching of nitrate nitrogen to the ground water and the potential for "blue baby syndrome" where concentrations in the water of greater than 10 ppm are recorded. The second reaction is the conversion of nitrate nitrogen to nitrous oxide gases which are evolved to the atmosphere where they have a profound effect on global warming, being 300 times more effective than carbon dioxide. Fortunately this reaction only occurs under waterlogged conditions.

What can an individual turf manager do to counteract these issues? **Be Proactive.**

The fertilizer industry is already showing signs of being proactive. A major home fertilizer retailer is advertising an environmentally friendly, zero phosphorus lawn fertilizer.

The turf manager should lobby researchers to become active in investigating these problems. Entice them to generate information to fend off concerns. Entice them to make their information general public knowledge before the issue of fertilizer, another chemical, is raised. Does phosphorus truly move in the organic form and if so to what degree? Does runoff really occur from a sports turf surface, on what slopes, at what rainfall intensity, attached to particles or in solution? What is the level of nitrous oxide emission from a turf surface? Is irrigation water being used most efficiently? Can bioherbicides maintain a weed-free turf?

Keep a paper trail. Every sports field should have record of the particle size analysis, a once only measurement unless the field is rebuilt. A phosphorus and potassium soil test should be taken at least every third year and the application of these two nutrients be discontinued if the test so indicates. Records of the actual yearly amount of nutrients applied should be kept. When the nutrient auditor comes calling you will be in a better position to justify your operation and to prevent any restrictions or penalties.

Start today, for tomorrow will soon be yesterday, and a day too late. ♦

We're Going 21st Century in Our 20th Year!

AS PART OF OUR 20th anniversary tune-up, 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're moving to a Content Management System which will provide for easier design and maintenance, more frequent updates, and greater functionality.

In our first phase we've introduced a 'Members Only' section. Until this year, the STA Membership Roster has been brought up-to-date by means of annual printed inserts. This will be replaced by a web-based version. The little green binder is now obsolete. The new adaptation will offer personal updating, instant retrieval and information that is always current. You'll also be able to search entries by name, affiliation and location. If electronic isn't your preference, the roster will still be made available in the form of a print document, upon request. Watch your inbox and mailbox for all the details!

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



NEW BOOK RELEASED ON TURF

TURF RESOURCE CENTRE PUBLISHES *FACTS ABOUT ARTIFICIAL TURF & NATURAL GRASS*

EAST DUNDEE, IL. *Facts About Artificial Turf and Natural Grass* was published by the Turf Resource Center to help decision-makers and the general public make informed judgments regarding the installation of artificial turf or natural grass in their communities. The 30-page booklet is based upon information from some of the industry's most highly respected research scientists, sports field managers, contractors and other professionals.

Written in an easy-to-read format, *Facts About Artificial Turf and Natural Grass* provides answers to questions that key decision-makers must address when considering the possible short and long-term health, safety, fiscal and environmental consequences that artificial turf may unexpectedly present. Throughout each chapter are commonly heard "myths"

about artificial turf and natural grass, followed by scientifically documented "facts" and reliable information.

The booklet's first chapter addresses what decision-makers need to know about synthetic turf and natural grass before making a selection in their communities. Subsequent chapters discuss topics such as "Financial Considerations," "Wear and Durability" and "Environmental Health Effects." Each chapter presents credible information

about the differences in synthetic turf and natural grass with a comparison of advantages, benefits and disadvantages. Case studies, detailed references and in-depth scientifically-documented information by

renowned scientists address true costs, environmental issues, safety and other valid considerations.

A downloadable and printable version of the book and an order form is now available at www.turfresourcecenter.org. Individuals, organizations, educators and associations can request 10 or more **free** hardcopies of the booklet by paying a minimal shipping & handling fee, subject to approval of the Turf Resource Center. For more information, contact the Turf Resource

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THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION HAS MANY PRIME ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CALL US!

The advertisement for Simplistic Lines Inc. features a central image of a soccer player in mid-air, kicking a ball. To the right, there is a smaller image of a field marking machine. In the bottom right corner, there is a stack of several white plastic containers of field marking paint. The background is a light, textured surface.

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STA Member Profile

Jane Arnett-Rivers, City of Oakville, STA Past President

1. You were president of the Sports Turf Association from 2000-2001. What was your role in the turfgrass industry at that time? Are you still involved in the industry? How?

At that time I was Supervisor of Parks – West Area, Town of Oakville. This included sports fields, grass cutting, horticulture, trails, and sanitation for the west side of Oakville. I believe we had 7 irrigated fields. I am currently Manager of Parks Maintenance, Town of Oakville. My portfolio has a broad scope: geese, rats, turf, sports fields, boulevards, budgets – projected and current, equipment, environmental issues, design, special events and festivals, washrooms, garbage, water retention ponds, grass cutting and irrigation.

2. What was the biggest challenge in your job at that time?

I believe we were just entering into the unknown world of *Pesticide Free*. It was all very doom and gloom. It is amazing that we have survived and adapted to the moratorium in Oakville. The moratorium forced us, as an operation, to look at what we do and how we do it. It also pushed us into researching best practices and planning ahead to get the funding we required to carry out those best practices. Equipment changed: reel mowers were not cutting it any more (no pun intended) and mowing heights had to be raised. Topdressing and overseeding which used to be a tool to level a field suddenly became a cultural practice for healthy turf. A happy medium would have been nice – the cold turkey approach from preventative pesticide applications to nothing was very tough for a few years – but, here we

are, still cutting and improving what we can, when we can.

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

Watching staff catch the passion for what they are doing. Of course the aesthetics of our job are what most people appreciate but anyone who works in this industry knows that aesthetics are short lived if you don't work smart and hard. Staff who truly care about what they do will find new and innovative ways to carry out their jobs so they get satisfaction. It is great to be a part of such a team and facilitate what THEY need to make us all look good.

4. What is the biggest misconception about your job?

The term *off season*. Can someone explain that one to me and maybe tell me when it is?

5. What is your educational/employment background?

Education was a long time ago: Sheridan College, Environmental Horticulture, some ODH courses, some OMD courses. Employment covers quite a scope. Many years on a weedwhipper, in the standard garden centre, with RBG as a gardener, assisting in writing a horticultural therapy manual, cemetery operations, turf leadhand, operations supervisor and currently manager of parks maintenance. 25 years and counting! Yikes!

6. Tell us about your family.

My husband runs the Town of Oakville Greenhouse Operation. Can you imagine our household in May? Two sons: one

graduated Business from Wilfred Laurier and is living the dream in Toronto; the other is about to enter Wilfred Laurier for Honours Economics (I am sure he will be soon living the dream as well). Between lacrosse, hockey and motocross, they have kept Tim and I hopping for many years. We are looking forward to the empty nest syndrome for a while.

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

To date, hobbies and pastimes have been raising two boys. Now I would like to say kayaking and travel. Tim prefers wilderness so there will be some trade-offs, I am sure.

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

The greatest change that I have experienced is how to deal with a seasonal work force: the liability of retraining every year is high. Retaining seasonal staff is difficult. These positions are key ones that carry great responsibility with them. Of course the pesticide issue also governs so much of what we plant, how we plant, what we do and how we do it in all aspects of parks operations. Finally, and most recently, is our successful entry into the weather-based central irrigation world. This has had a similar impact to our operation as changing from reel to rotary mowers did. Forget about the rain falling, it's the moisture you are losing that counts. It rounds out the holistic approach we are taking towards our parks. Internships? I would love to see more in our industry.


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

Networking. I get to sit at a table with seasoned professionals and have answers to most of my questions in an instant. The *Sports Turf Manager*, Field Day and Ontario Turfgrass Symposium are all amazing sources for what you need to know about this ever changing industry. It's a tight group that looks out for each other and loves to share information. I can sincerely say I would not be as successful without the support of the STA.

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

Every term seems to have had its issue. For me, the financial sustainability of the association was in jeopardy. My advice is to identify THE issue and go for it. You can't do everything, so pick one, get lots of help and FIX IT! ♦

Adjacent: Past Presidents Jane Arnett-Rivers and Chris Mark, City of Oakville. Chris was profiled in the Summer 2005 issue.



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Turf Industry Press Releases

G.C. DUKE EQUIPMENT NAMED DEALER OF THE YEAR • HUNTER'S NEW IRRIGATION ACCESSORY



Jacobsen Names G.C. Duke Equipment, Ltd. Dealer of the Year

Jacobsen, a Textron Company, named G.C. Duke Equipment, Ltd. of Burlington, Ontario, as Dealer of the Year during the company's annual dealer meeting held in conjunction with the GCSAA show in Anaheim, California.

This annual award is presented to recognize outstanding performance in sales and customer service. G.C. Duke Equipment has been a three-time winner of this award since becoming a Jacobsen dealer in 1999.

The Burlington based head office of G.C. Duke Equipment is one of the largest Jacobsen dealers worldwide. Nolan Duke and Dick Raycroft accepted the prestigious award on behalf of G.C. Duke's 60 employees from Jacobsen President Dan Wilkinson and Vice-President Ralph Nicotera.

Above: From L to R: Dick Marconi (Founder of Marconi Car Museum), Nolan Duke (President, G.C. Duke Equipment), Dick Raycroft (VP/Sales – Duke), David Legg (Regional Sales Manager, Jacobsen), Dan Wilkinson (President, Jacobsen).

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istics of each valve zone's plant type, soil type, slope, shade and irrigation system and then measures key climatic conditions and uses them to adjust irrigation to suit your local evapotranspiration. By taking into account the rate at which water is consumed by weather and environmental conditions, the ET System will initiate a new schedule to replenish only the water that is actually needed for your sprinkler system, plants and soil conditions. The result: the optimum system for saving water (up to 30% over a conventional irrigation system) and creating healthier landscapes. ♦



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