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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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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

Spring is here, and it's time to get back to the business of sports turf management.

This year's Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was again a great success with a first class slate of speakers and a great venue. The OTS is and continues to be the premier turf education forum in Ontario. Many thanks to the OTS Committee for another job well done. Look inside in this and future editions for 2009 OTS highlight articles.

The STA's Annual General Meeting and board elections were held February 18th during the symposium. We would like to welcome Bruce Carman from the Country Day School, Jason Inwood from the City of Vaughan, and Tennessee Propedo from the City of Hamilton to the Board of Directors. We also say good-bye and thank-you to Cam Beneteau, Paul Cooper and Rob Field who chose not to stand for re-election. A photo of your 2009 Board of Directors is in this issue.

Along with the other formalities of the AGM, a motion was brought forward to reduce the number of board members required for a quorum from 2/3 to 1/2 attendance. With everyone's hectic work and personal lives, meetings are challenging to schedule, and it has been getting increasingly difficult to obtain a quorum. This motion, which was passed, follows along the same lines as many similar industry organizations.

As I write this, Environment Minister John Gerretsen has just announced that Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban will take effect on Earth Day, April 22, 2009. Visit www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban for the details. Questions should be directed to the ministry's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923 or 416-325-4000.

The STA has coordinated presentations by Violet van Wassenaer, Pesticides Regulatory Scientist with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, together with Pam Charbonneau, Turfgrass Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, for the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) Summer Opera-

tional Forum in June at Lakeview Park, Oshawa, Ontario. Violet will further update us on what, where, when and how pesticides can be used and Pam will outline a holistic approach using cultural best practices and the use of allowed pesticides to maximize turf quality and minimize pest damage.



Above: Gord Dol/President (left) expresses appreciation to Rob Field for his contribution to and support of the association. Rob, who served as director in 2007 & 2008, continues to assist with the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course.

While on the topic of POSA, the first offering of the new Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program – Level 1 will be in April at the University of Guelph. See inside for further details on both of these educational initiatives.

At the OTS, I once again had the pleasure of presenting Kevin Falls, President of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, with our annual donation. The OTRF funded and recently released the *2007 Economic Profile of the Ontario Turfgrass Industry*. There are more details in this issue and on the OTRF website at www.otrf.ca. Have a safe sports turf season! ♦

EVENT CALENDAR

April 26-May 1

Ontario Recreation Facilities Association 54th Annual Professional Development Program
University of Guelph, ON
www.orfa.com

April 27-30

POSA Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program – Level 1, Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course
University of Guelph, ON
Info: 519.763.9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

June 24

POSA 3rd Annual Summer Operational Forum
Oshawa, ON
Info: 519.763.9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

★ SEPTEMBER TBA ★

**Sports Turf Association
22nd Annual Field Day**
Watch for details!

www.sportsturfassociation.com

September 14

Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Fundraising Golf Tournament
The National Golf Club of Canada
Woodbridge, ON
www.otrf.ca

September 28 to October 1

POSA Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program – Level 1 Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course
Petawawa, ON
Info: 519.763.9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

★ NOVEMBER 1 ★

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

Parks & Open Space Alliance 2009 Educational Opportunities

Parks & Open Space Professional Training Program – Level 1: April 27-30

The first offering of the Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program – Level 1 in its entirety is at the University of Guelph from Monday, April 27 to Thursday, April 30 during the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Professional Development Program.

The program consists of three, four-day courses: Parks Maintenance and Operations; Parks Equipment Safety Operation and the STA's *Sports Turf Management and Maintenance*. It has been designed for seasonal workers as well as full-time parks and open space personnel.

For further details & registration information on any of these sessions, visit www.sportsturfassociation.com and click on the POSA link in the left sidebar.

In order to successfully complete the program, participants must also have a minimum Grade 12 education; be a member of the OPA, the ORFA or the STA; maintain current WHMIS and Standard First Aid training; and have a minimum 24 months related practical work experi-

ence affirmed by an immediate supervisor.

All three courses will again be offered in Petawawa from Monday, September 28 to Thursday, October 1, 2009.



Summer Operational Forum Wednesday, June 24

See you at Jubilee Pavilion, Lakeview Park, Oshawa. Sessions include:

- Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban
- Horticulture for Municipal Parks
- Understanding Security Needs and Regulations

Outdoor Program

- Beach Maintenance Best Practices
- Soccer Pitch Maintenance Best Practices

Indoor Program

- Understanding Your Parks Budget
- Recycling and Waste Management
- Scuba Divers Can Place You at Risk

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE



ODDS & ENDS

STA Membership Plaques

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

Summer 2009 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by May 15, 2009.

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 Turfgrass Industry Economic Profile Results Are In

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (www.otrf.ca) has released a detailed report of the economic size of the Ontario turfgrass industry incorporating data collected from the sports turf industry. This commissioned study measures the scale and the breadth of the industry both in physical terms (acreage, employment) as well as in economic terms (gross revenue, expenditures on operating and equipment). The Ontario turfgrass industry consists of diverse segments, such

Operating expenses well exceeded equipment expenditures with payroll of \$129 million topping the largest expenditure item. The area of maintained turfgrass by municipalities has doubled in the last 25 years with an estimated 93,000 acres of turfgrass in municipalities of over 5,000 residents. To maintain these parks and fields, approximately 73,000 full and seasonal workers were employed in the surveyed year of 2007. Overall, the completed economic study shows that the financial

According to the 2007 Economic Profile of the Ontario Turfgrass Industry:

The Ontario turfgrass industry maintained 390,000 acres of turfgrass in 2007 while generating \$2.6 billion in revenue to the economy. The industry also provided 33,000 full time jobs while spending an additional \$1.75 billion on operating and equipment expenditures.

as golf courses, municipal parks and sports fields, sod farms, and lawn care companies. Surveyed industry professionals and selected turfgrass industry segments, along with other data sources, provided an in-depth analysis of the value of Ontario turfgrass industry. The results of this study emphasize its importance to the economy of Ontario.

What does this economic study mean to the sports turf industry? Survey results reveal that turfgrass from sports fields to parkland contributes significantly to the overall turfgrass economy. Municipal expenditures associated with maintaining turfgrass totaled over \$205 million in 2007.

value of turfgrass in sports fields and municipal parks is significantly increasing and providing Ontario with increased employment and revenue.

Strategic growth is expected in all industry segments with population growth, urbanization and retirement trends to benefit the industry over the next five to ten years. The report indicates that some of the impediments to industry growth include water use policies, cost of labour and availability of qualified labour. ♦

George Morris Centre Economist: *"This well researched study provides a defensible and conservative measure of the Ontario turfgrass segment."*



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the STA!

Jeff Moak

SGLC Property Services, Ajax, ON

Francois Hebert

DSSS Design Solutions
for Sports Surfaces, Montreal, QC

Rob Sarson

University of Toronto (Scarborough)
Scarborough, ON

Jason Inwood

City of Vaughan, ON

Darren Gill & Peter Oksanen

FieldTurf, Montreal, QC

Jeff Maki

JMT Sports Field Mixes
A Division of Jeff Maki Trucking
Sprucedale, ON

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Industry News

Turf Care Exclusive Distributor of Progressive Turf Equipment

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Please call Paul Cooper at 905-715-6797 for more information or visit us at www.turfcare.ca.

KEEPING TO TRADITION, OTS 2009 IN GUELPH ANOTHER SUCCESS

The 18th Annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) was held at the University of Guelph, February 18 & 19, 2009, offering leading edge seminars to hundreds of delegates. The OTS is a two-day conference that allows turf experts from both academia and industry to share insight and research regarding best practices for turf care.

"Feedback from delegates suggested that sessions were very informative and engaging. These lectures allow for new ideas to be taken back to the workplace for discussion and implementation," says Steve Fleischauer, Manager of Program



Development, Office of Open Learning.

Delegates from a variety of provinces were in attendance to gain practical and applied knowledge from over 25 training sessions.

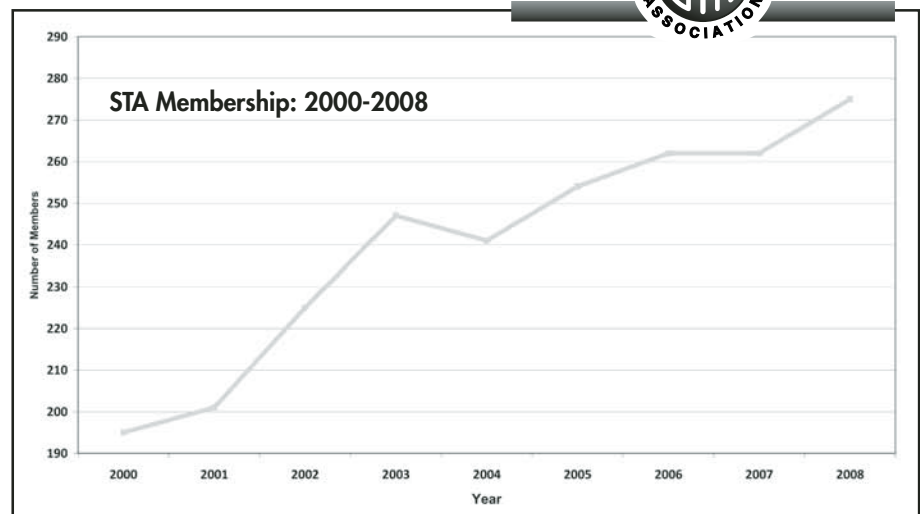
"This year's topics generated a lot of discussion," commented Paul Turner, OTS

Executive Chair. "This kind of training opportunity can really have a huge impact on the skill set of turf industry management and staff."

Details for OTS 2010 will be available later this year. Interested individuals are invited to visit www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

STA Membership Trends

On December 31, 2008 membership in the STA numbered 275. A historical graph of our membership numbers since Y2K illustrates the slow, steady growth we continue to experience. 56% of our membership was from the municipal sector, 27% were industry suppliers of products/services, and 11% were from the college/university and public/private school board sector. 53% were initial members and 47% additional members from the same municipality/organization/company. 91% of our members are in Ontario with 4% in the western provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, 3% are in Quebec, and 1% in the eastern provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland/Labrador. 1% of our membership is international, based in the USA.



NATURAL GRASS & ARTIFICIAL TURF: SEPARATING MYTHS & FACTS

Latest Release From The Turf Resource Center

Natural Grass and Artificial Turf: Separating Myths and Facts is the newest booklet published by The Turf Resource Center to help decision makers and the general public make informed decisions regarding the installation of natural grass or artificial turf in their communities. The 32-page booklet is based upon information from some of the industry's most highly respected research scientists, sports field managers, contractors and other professionals.

the NFL club's playing surfaces of natural grass compared to artificial turf. A total of 1,511 active NFL players from all 32 teams voluntarily completed a survey form. Their professional opinions should be of significant interest to any decision maker before selecting a natural grass or artificial turf installation in their community.

Subsequent chapters discuss "Cost Analysis of Various Types of Sports Fields," "Problems with Wear, Durability and Maintenance Studies," "Safety and



Throughout the booklet, readers will find commonly heard myths followed by scientifically documented facts about artificial turf and natural grass. The book points out, "While there are situations when artificial turf might be appropriate, scientific research documents the significant environmental, health and safety benefits of natural grass should logically be the first consideration."

A downloadable version of *Natural Grass and Artificial Turf: Separating Myths and Facts* is available at www.TurfResourceCenter.org. Also posted is an order form to request 10 or more free hardcopies of the booklet with a nominal charge for shipping and handling, subject to approval of The Turf Resource Center. For more information, contact The Turf Resource Center at 847-649-5555.

A total of 1,511 active NFL players from all 32 teams voluntarily completed the survey. Their professional opinions should be of significant interest to any decision maker before selecting a sports field surface.

Natural Grass and Artificial Turf: Separating Myths and Facts has an easy-to-read format, providing answers to questions that decision makers must address as their decisions have significant short and long-term health and safety, fiscal and environmental impacts on the constituents within their communities.

The booklet's first chapter presents findings from the National Football League Players Association survey that determined their experiences and thoughts concerning

Human Health Issues," "Environmental and Cultural Benefits," and "Safety and Health Questions to be Asked." Each chapter presents credible information about the differences in natural grass and synthetic turf, with a comparison of advantages, benefits and disadvantages. Case studies, detailed references and in-depth scientifically-documented information by renowned scientists present the true costs, environmental, safety and other differences between these surfaces.



STA 2009-2010 BOARD

The Sports Turf Association elected its 2009/2010 officers and directors at the Annual General Meeting held during the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium on February 18. Front left to right: Paul Turner, Lee Huether (Executive Manager), Paul Gillen, Andrew Gaydon. Middle left to right: Gord Dol, Grant Mckeich, Bruce Carman, Rick Lane, Jason Inwood. Back left to right: Murray Cameron, Bob Kennedy, Bill Clausen. Absent from photo: Jane Arnett-Rivers, Dave Chapman, Tennessee Propedo. See Gord Dol's column on page 3 for further details.



TAKING CHARGE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

URBAN FERTILIZER COUNCIL EDUCATES ON RESPONSIBLE FERTILIZER USE

Protecting the environment is a priority for Canadians. The fertilizer industry wants to show them how they can do that and at the same time enjoy bountiful gardens, healthy green yards and sports fields. The Canadian Fertilizer Institute and the companies that sell plant nutrient products designed for use around residences, parks and golf courses have created the Urban Fertilizer Council to help homeowners and turf management professionals understand how to look after their properties safely and properly.

The Council's emphasis is on promoting stewardship of the environment and providing homeowners, park managers, groundskeepers and municipal leaders with science-based information so they can make decisions on the best kind of fertilizer to use and other landscaping practices, says Clyde Graham, Vice-President of the Canadian Fertilizer Institute.

"We all have a responsibility to protect our environment and our waterways," Graham says. "Almost everything we do and the choices we make can affect the world we live in. Fertilizer use is no exception. Using fertilizer to create healthy lawns and parks is consistent with protecting the environment."

In the ongoing debate about protecting the health of backyards, parks and golf courses, professional turf managers often

find themselves looking for handy and reliable information to counter critics of fertilizer use.

There are plenty of sources of science-based data that turf managers can turn to. The Urban Fertilizer Council aims to make it easier to quickly access the kind of information they need when fielding queries about their use of fertilizers on city green spaces or responding to calls for banning lawn and garden fertilizers.

The Council was formed by companies that supply lawn fertilizers with the intention of proactively communicating to consumers about the responsible use of fertilizers and protecting the urban environment as well as lakes and rivers. It sees turf managers as key players in delivering the message about responsible fertilizer use because their job puts them at the centre of the debate and their education and

experience is connected with how best to care for green spaces.

The message for turf managers to deliver can be as simple as educating homeowners to follow directions on fertilizer bags and providing tips on spreading fertilizer that so it won't harm the environment.

The Council's approach is built around the Canadian Fertilizer Institute's trademarked *Right Product@Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place* system. Originally developed in connection with agricultural practices, the basic principles of the 4Rs applies to anyone using fertilizer. In other words, having the right fertilizer for what the soil on your property needs, applying it as directed when plants can absorb it and keeping it on the intended lawn or garden are guiding principles to follow.

The Urban Fertilizer Council believes that voluntary nutrient management programs based on sound science, expert advice and public education are the best approach. Applying too much fertilizer is simply wasteful and can harm the soil or cause losses to the environment. At the same time, too little fertilizer can leave plants and crops stunted for a lack of nutrients. But used in the right way, fertilizers keep lawns, parks, sports fields and golf courses green and healthy.

Let's focus on the facts: healthy grass produces oxygen and consumes carbon dioxide that contributes to greenhouse gases. Green spaces help absorb excess heat in urban areas and prevent soil runoff that clogs waterways. A good lawn or park absorbs rainwater and filters it through the soil rather than letting it run straight into water courses.

It's also important to tell the public that fertilizers are safe. As the Canadian Fertilizer Institute notes, "Air is about 78% nitrogen, but most plants can't use it directly. Nitrogen fertilizers, which are manufactured from the nitrogen in the atmosphere, supply this nutrient in a form that plants can easily use. Phosphorus comes from fossil remains found in phosphate rock, and potash fertilizers come from ancient seabed deposits."

Handy sources of information include: Urban Fertilizer Council, www.cfi.ca/urbanfertilizer.asp; Canadian Fertilizer Institute, www.cfi.ca; International Plant Nutrition Institute www.ipni.net. ♦



PREPARING FOR THE 2010 IAAF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

DR. R.W. DANIELS, PROFESSOR (RETIRED), DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Continued From the Front Cover. ... rectangular turf area, between the infield and eight lane perimeter track where athletes stand and get a proper footing for throwing the javelin, etc. This area has to be “hard” to provide proper traction for individual athletes and prevent slippage.

Additional event locations for the horizontal jumps (long jump and triple jump) will be constructed between the track and the spectator seating to avoid narrowing the width of the infield in order to comply with FIFA rules for international soccer matches. In the event that the owners may want to install artificial turf at a later date, the sub-base was prepared with this in mind.

Another feature incorporated into the design were provisions to hold future outdoor concerts. In preparation, appropriate electrical cables were placed under the infield to minimize future obstructions on the surface of the infield. In addition to meeting IAAF specifications, the established turfgrass playing surface of the infield must have the capability of holding 10,000 concert spectators as well as those sitting in the stands.

Fields Already in Place

Specifications for the infield conform very closely to those of a category 1 field as specified in the *Athletic Field Construction Manual* published by the Sports Turf Association (Ontario). Prior to the construction of this infield, a recreational complex known as the Moncton Sportplexe was built in 2000 consisting of six soccer fields and ten ball fields constructed of a similar all sand base. Additional and similar all sand-based soccer fields were later built at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick and St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

In the construction of each successive field, knowledge gained from previous projects was used in refining and upgrading the specifications and construction techniques. Seasonal usage of these fields has been monitored throughout the years and in all instances, individual fields have exceeded the expectations of all involved. Most impressive has been the number of seasonal hours of play that each field has had while still maintaining an acceptable cover of turf.

During periods when turf has been injured, the playing surface recovered quickly and seldom if ever has an activity been cancelled due to heavy rain. Some of these fields have recorded over 400 hours of usage per year and still maintained a satisfactory turf cover. Being situated on college campuses, these hours of play have been condensed to a relatively short time period (September to late November). This time period coincides with seasonal heavy rainfall. Simply put, because of the relatively short period of use, we do not know the limitations of these fields in terms of maximum number of playable hours per year.

One additional point that cannot be over-emphasized is the importance of quality control when selecting materials and during construction. Experience has shown clearly that an improperly constructed field can never be improved to the level of original specifications after it has been built. In overseeing quality control, only individuals knowledgeable in both the science and art of agronomy and athletic field construction should be in-



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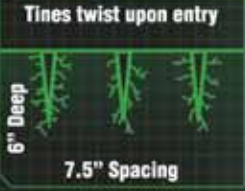
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