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Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2010.

I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars. ~Walt Whitman



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REGULAR COLUMNS & DEPARTMENTS

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- 8 Association News.** Meet your 2010-11 board and join us in congratulating Honorary Member Jane Arnett. The Sports Turf Manager has gone fully digital!
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Stay tuned for details on our September Annual Fall Field Day!

WHAT'S ONLINE

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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.

President's Desk

PAUL GILLEN TAKES THE HELM

This is the first issue of the New Year and spring, we hope, is just around the corner. As per usual, the 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) was a great success with an accomplished line-up of speakers dealing with a variety of timely topics relevant to the "new" pesticide-free environment. This edition includes follow-up articles on two of the presentations. Our thanks to the sponsors, the OTS committee, and the speakers for their time and energy in making this such a valuable program.

The Annual General Meeting of your association was held on February 17 in conjunction with the OTS. The new Board of Directors is pictured on page 8. We said goodbye and thank you to board member Grant Mckeich and welcome new board members Ken Pavely, Ben Tymchyshyn and Dennis Wale.

Gord Dol stepped down and becomes past president. During his four years at the helm, Gord's energy and leadership was invaluable in redefining our strategic direction (including a new mission statement) and keeping pace with the evolving and ever changing conditions of our industry. He also presided over the publishing of the Athletic Field Construction Manual as well as the introduction of the Level 1 Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course. It was during his tenure that STA became the first international affiliate to be recognized by the Sports Turf Managers Association in the US. We're all pleased that Gord will continue with the board, albeit in a different capacity, and we look forward to his guidance and mentoring.

We also said goodbye to long-time board member and past president Jane Arnett. Jane's well deserved promotion and additional responsibilities at the Town of Oakville have resulted in time constraints that compromised her ability to participate on the board. In recognition of all of her efforts on behalf of the STA, Jane was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Thanks, Jane, for everything that you've done for the association – we will certainly miss you.

As we move forward in a new decade, your Sports Turf Manager publication has been upgraded to full colour throughout. We hope you like the new look and always welcome your comments and suggestions. As well, STM is now fully digitized and available online via the STA website.

This spring, the board reviewed the STA Scholarship Program and we have made a few revisions to the application criteria. One change is that the deadline for submissions is now May 1 to coincide better with other scholastic programs. More details can be found on page 7 in this issue.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course at the University of Guelph starting May 3, the Summer Operational Forum with the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) at Cambridge June 23, and the 23rd Annual STA Field Day in September. Visit our website for more details as they become available.

Lastly, a reminder that your 2010 membership invoices have been mailed out. Please support your association and arrange to have the renewals back to us as soon as possible. Until next issue, remember two key words – SAFE and PLAYABLE.

“We are faced with yet another challenging year. On the positive side, winter in most parts of the country was milder than normal which should result in less turf damage going into the spring. However, the general lack of snowfall may result in moisture conditions that are less than optimal. Let’s hope that spring rainfall and warm temperatures give the grass, as well as construction projects, a strong start to the summer. For those of us in Ontario and BC, the harmonized sales tax commences July 1. This will add as much as 8% to previously exempt goods and services. While the impact of this initiative will be positive for manufacturing and small business, it will add significantly to our industry costs, particularly in the areas of utilities and insurance. The full impact may not be experienced until next year, but already constrained budgets are getting another hit beyond our control. Vigilance and due diligence are going to be tested again this year. The economy, generally, seems to be improving and this is positive for the revenue side of our industry. However, as federal stimulus money begins to run out toward the end of the year, we need to be aware of how this will affect us going forward.” *By Paul Gillen*

NEW MEMBERS

Steven James Arnprior, ON
James Landscaping Co. Ltd.

Matt Fokkens Fort Erie, ON
Niagara Christian Community of Schools

Bernie Henderson Elginburg, ON
Unity Sod Farm Ltd.

Tom Gerlich Williamstown, ON
CMAC Services

Jay Barner Parksville, BC
Island Sport Turf

Todd Cox Mississauga, ON
Centaur Products Inc.

Richard Reed Orangeville, ON
LawnLife

Tom Margetts New Hamburg, ON
Innovative Agronomics Inc.

Phil Mete Caledonia, ON
Haldimand County

**Dan Coote, Warren Hoselton, Roger Macklin,
Doug Smith, Ernie Strong**
City of Toronto, ON



The Presidents. Gord Dol (left), now past president, hands over the STA gavel to incoming president Paul Gillen at our AGM in February.

What do you think?

While working with the committee last year on the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course, I was reminded yet again of the wealth of knowledge and experience that we have within our membership. As an association, I think that we do a fair job of sharing and transferring these assets (Field Day, OTS, etc.), but I would like to see it expanded even more. This magazine and the website are well read and provide an excellent communication base, so let’s expand them to include some dialogue on issues that are timely, relevant and interesting. Let me initiate this by asking for your input on the following – how will the new HST impact your costs and budgets? Share your outlook and reaction by emailing info@sportsturfassociation.com (Subject: HST). We’ll post your replies online.

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STA SCHOLARSHIP May 1 Application Deadline

The Sports Turf Association (STA) established a scholarship program in 1993. The STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship (\$1,000) is funded through STA membership fees and is intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.



The STA is dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. If you or someone you know could benefit from the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship, please submit an application. Scholarship policies, criteria and an application form can be found online at www.sportsturfassociation.com.

Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

May 1. STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Deadline.

Info & application: www.sportsturfassociation.com, 519-763-9431

May 2-7. Ontario Recreation Facilities Association 55th Annual Professional Development Program. University of Guelph, ON, www.orfa.com

May 3-6. STA Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course.

University of Guelph, ON, www.sportsturfassociation.com, 519-763-9431

June 23. Parks and Open Space Alliance Summer Operational Forum.

Cambridge, ON, www.POSAlliance.ca, see page 30 for further details

August 19. Guelph Turfgrass Institute Research Field Day.
Guelph, ON, www.guelphurfgrass.ca

September. STA 23rd Annual Field Day.

Details: www.sportsturfassociation.com, 519-763-9431

September 20. Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament. Bayview Golf & Country Club, Thornhill, ON, www.otrf.ca

If you have an industry-related event you'd like publicized, contact Lee at 519-763-9431, info@sportsturfassociation.com.

Association News

JANE ARNETT AWARDED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Your Board Officers & Directors

MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION elected the 2010/2011 officers and directors at our annual meeting held during the recent Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Newly elected president is Paul Gillen of AerWay. Gord Dol/Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., president from 2006-2009, now serves as the immediate past president. Andrew Gaydon/Vanden Bussche Irrigation continues as secretary of the association. Returning to the board are directors Dave Chapman/City of Toronto, Bob Kennedy/Sports Turf Management Solutions, and Paul Turner/G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. Joining the board are directors Ken Pavely/Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., Ben Tymchyshyn/MMM Group and Dennis Wale/City of Brantford.

Others currently serving the association are Rick Lane of the City of St. Catharines/treasurer, and directors Murray Cameron/City of Guelph, Bruce Carman/The Country Day School, Bill Clausen/University of Guelph, Jason Inwood/Town of Vaughan and Tennessee Propedo/City of Hamilton. Jane Arnett/Town of Oakville retired from the board in 2009 and Grant Mckeich/Town of East Gwillimbury did not stand for reelection. "This is an exciting time for the STA as we look to grow into the future. We are fortunate to have very knowledgeable and dedicated people serving on the board. I look forward to working with them and learning from them as we work hard to fulfill the needs and mandates of our membership," said incoming President Paul Gillen.



2010/2011 STA Board of Directors. Front left to right: Lee Huether, Paul Gillen. Middle L-R: Andrew Gaydon, Paul Turner, Murray Cameron, Ben Tymchyshyn. Back L-R: Jason Inwood, Ken Pavely, Bill Clausen, Rick Lane, Bob Kennedy, Gord Dol. Absent from photo: Bruce Carman, Dave Chapman, Tennessee Propedo, Dennis Wale.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE

VIVACIOUS, INTELLIGENT, charming, dedicated – the dictionary lacks the words to adequately describe Jane Arnett.

The STA constitution and by-laws state that an Honorary Membership may be granted to an individual, nominated by the membership, and approved by the STA Board, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the sports turf industry. Jane fully satisfies that requirement.

Andrew Gaydon, long-time association member, director and board secretary, introduced the honoree at our recent AGM as "very professional, very hard working and very good for the STA," adding, "and don't have a detailed discussion with her unless you know your facts!"

There have been only six recipients of the prestigious award in the STA's twenty-three year history. Jane joins the ranks of James Boyce (1989), Norman Rothwell (1989), Clayton Switzer (1992), Robert Sheard (1998), Michael Bladon (2000) and Christopher Mark (2005).

A Driving Force With The STA

Jane joined the STA in 1991 and within three years illustrated her full dedication to the association by being elected to the board. Her service on various committees of the board and enthusiasm as a director made her an obvious choice for vice-president in 1998, then to serve as president in 2000 and past-president in 2002. She continued to serve as a director until 2009 when a new, more demanding position with the Town >>



Honorary Life Member. Jane Arnett and Andrew Gaydon at the recent AGM.

ARNETT TRIBUTE... of Oakville cut short her time to dedicate to the association.

During her 18 years as a member, Jane served for one or more terms as a member of the OTS Program Committee, the Field Day Committee, and the Editorial Committees for the Sports Turf Manager, Understanding Turf Management and Athletic Field Construction Manual. To each she contributed her valuable practical knowledge on “how it is actually done on the job.” In addition, she authored several articles for the Sports Turf Manager. To make the various initiatives of the board a success, Jane also became

a charming, determined, sometimes fearsome, and very successful, recruiter of sponsorship funds.

A formidable advocate of the STA, Jane excelled in her efforts to make the organization a part of the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA). Because she saw a need for STA involvement in the alliance to better serve the STA membership and the industry, she served as the STA representative on the POSA committee during its initial development. As part of her initiatives on behalf of STA, she furthered the education mandate of the STA by acting as coordinator of the new Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course, assigning the STA with the appropriate responsibility for the educational segment in turf management.

Professional Success

Jane commenced her career with the Town of Oakville as a cemetery operator in 1987; quickly became a lead hand in parks maintenance, and by 1991 she was Supervisor of Parks with district wide responsibilities. In 2007, recognizing her expertise in turf management, Jane was promoted to Manager of Parks Maintenance with responsibility for turf maintenance, sports turf maintenance and winter control operations on a town-wide basis. In early 2010, in recognition of her overall leadership skills, abilities and talent in all phases of park maintenance, Jane was appointed Senior Manager of Parks Operations.

On the Homefront

Over the years, along with managing her career goals and providing dedicated and outstanding service to the STA, Jane has lead a busy family life, raising two boys, Jake and Adam. Jake is completing his degree in Business Administration at Wilfred Laurier University and Adam is an accomplished analyst at Scotia Capital in Investment Banking and Mergers & Acquisitions. Adam has recently been accepted to the MBA program at Oxford University beginning in October. Jane is extremely proud of their accomplishments.

Jane did not recognize any glass ceiling for women in the male-dominated world of sports turf management. Instead, she is a true inspiration. Congratulations, Jane, and much success in all of your future ventures (somehow, I'm sure you'll do just fine!).

By Bob Sheard

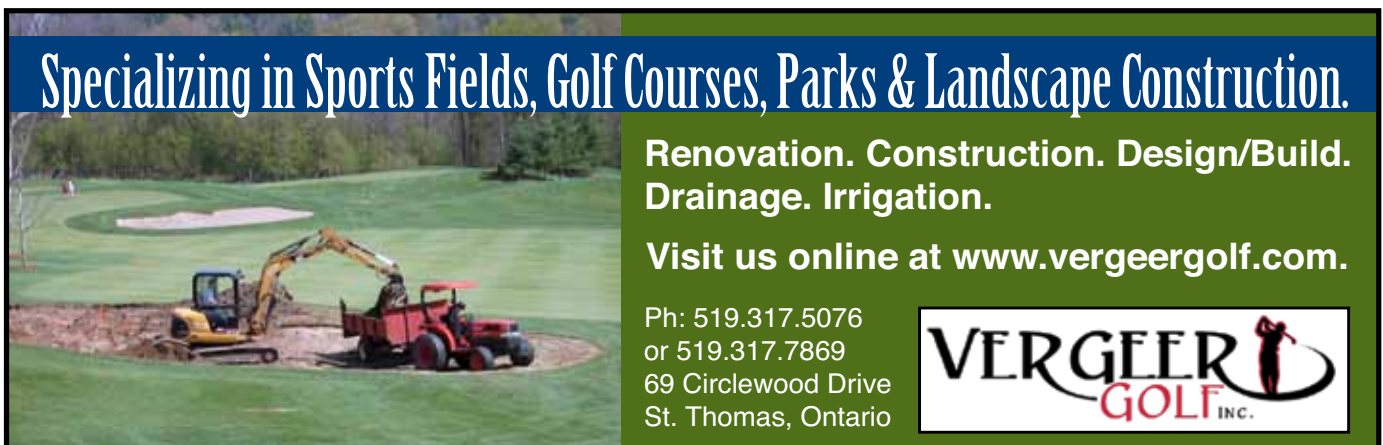
Odds & Ends

SUMMER 2010 DEADLINE

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by May 28.

EDITORIAL CONTENT

Opinions expressed in articles published in the “Sports Turf Manager” are those of the author and not necessarily those of the STA.




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Association News

JOINING THE RANKS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST TURF DATABASE

Sports Turf Manager Magazine Now Completely Digitized

GUELPH, ON. Members of the Sports Turf Association and the greater turfgrass industry now have access to the complete back files of the Sports Turf Manager (STM) and its predecessor the Sports Turf Newsletter through a partnership between the STA and Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center (TIC).

In the past, STM readers could search the cumulative index on the STA website for article citations, or subscribers to the TIC's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) could search for articles but would obtain only the abstract. In either case they would have to physically obtain the article themselves. Digitization provides a much more usable tool, removing the step of having to go and find a particular issue of STM, assuming readers even had access to it. Through the new online digitized archive, which can be accessed at <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/stnew/>, readers can browse year-by-year or search by term to retrieve PDF files of articles.

The addition of the full content of the publication is the result of the cooperation and dedication of TIC and MSU staff and students, involving more than 87 issues of the magazine, 1,300 pages of material, manually splitting nearly 1,400 PDFs, harvesting the citations for more than 400 turfgrass-related citations and linking more than 900 citations to the PDFs. As part of the ongoing cooperative project, as new issues are produced, materials will be scanned and made available six months following the date of publication.

STA members continue to enjoy complete subscriber access to the Turfgrass Information File, the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world, via the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link. Login to www.sportsturfassociation.com and follow the link under the "Members Only" section.



TURFGRASS INFO CENTRE

THE TURFGRASS Information Center, a unit of the Michigan State University Libraries, was founded in 1984 to both continue building the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection and begin construction of what became the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). TGIF has since become the largest online database serving turfgrass science and management, with worldwide coverage of all sectors of the turfgrass industry. With the arrival of the James B. Beard Turfgrass Library Collection in 2003, TIC also became a centre for scholarship and study of turfgrass science. Since that time, additional focus on building and hosting digital archives has become a primary activity of TIC. For further information on the Center, the Noer or Beard Collections, the digital collections, or TGIF, please begin at TIC's website: <http://tic.msu.edu>.

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From the Annual Report '09. For the complete document visit http://tic.msu.edu/TIC_Annual_Report_2009.pdf

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