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# Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SUMMER 2010.

In football, everything is complicated by the presence of the opposite team. ~Jean Paul Sartre



Cape Town Stadium, South Africa  
Roger Bosch, MediaClubSouthAfrica.com



## WHAT'S ONLINE

[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

### STA Membership Directory

Network with your peers!

### Michael J. Bladon Educational Link

The complete digital archives of the Sports Turf Manager as well as full subscriber access to Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Centre.

### Turf Trades Employment Board

Advertising a position? Searching for a job? We've got you covered.

### Shop for Resource Publications

The Athletic Field Construction Manual & Understanding Turf Management.

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### REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

**4 The President's Desk & New Members.** It's confirmed, our 23rd Annual Field Day is booked for September 23 in Cambridge. Mark your calendar!

**7 Event Calendar.** Don't miss the GTI's Research Field Day on August 19.

**8 STA Member & Facility Profile.** Meet Tim Haagsma, Manager of Grounds, Fleet and Waste Management at York University.

**17 Winning the Turf War.** Synthetic or natural? The discussion continues.

Deadline for Autumn 2010 Sports Turf Manager: September 17.

## Sports Turf Manager

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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

BY PAUL GILLEN

**W**elcome to the summer edition of the Sports Turf Manager. Like many of you, I am enjoying the very early spring/summer weather and the additional time outdoors. We completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> offering of the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course during the first week of May at the University of Guelph. Special thanks to Dr. Eric Lyons for updating the material and presenting the course on behalf of STA. There were 22 students this year and their enthusiasm and participation was refreshing to watch.



**Award Presentation.** Eric Lyons receives the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Award of Merit at the Annual Expo and Awards Presentation, May 3, University of Guelph.

Your association representatives have been busy with the POSA committee developing a course for synthetic turf applications. While the details have yet to be finalized, everything from the decision and selection process to contracting criteria to maintenance requirements and training will be addressed. Check our website for updates.

By the time you receive this, the Summer Operational Forum will have just taken place June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hespeler Memorial Arena in

Cambridge. This year's theme of "Ac-

cessibility in Ontario's Parks and Open Spaces" is timely

and should be of interest to everyone in light of the recently passed legislation. We'd like to thank the excellent variety of speakers who provided indepth knowledge on the accessibility issues that we will all have to be aware of moving forward with compliance. If you missed the event, read the article provided by Variety Village's Director of Access and Awareness Archie Allison on page 13.

July is Smart Irrigation Month and thus an opportune time to get updated on this constantly evolving topic, especially in light of numerous municipal water restrictions and usage issues. This issue's cover article on rainwater harvesting by Chris Davies provides a solid background as to why the usage of non potable water is a key step for future sustainability.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual STA Field Day has been confirmed for Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Cambridge. Reserve the date and plan to participate. More details will be coming out shortly so watch for them online.

We have been included in a Sports Turf Managers Association committee to examine and define the role for STMA in the international sports turf marketplace. It's exciting to be associated with the high caliber of expertise that has been assembled for this study. Stay tuned for updates on our progress. And finally, stay cool – and safe – this summer. Talk to you in September.

## Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban

"As we move into the first full year under the pesticide ban here in Ontario, it's been interesting to follow the editorials and letters to the editor (in Maclean's magazine and the National Post in particular) condemning the 'weed infestations' on the sports fields that children are playing on, and looking at the longer term implications that the loss of 'turf' will mean in the future. In this issue, we've included excerpts from a panel discussion held at this year's OTS. Representatives from the cities of Waterloo, Oshawa and Mississauga analyzed the impact of the ban thus far in their region. On the research front, OMAFRA's Pam Charbonneau discusses recent findings on the effectiveness of an iron chelate herbicide for broadleaf weed control." *By Paul Gillen*

## NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Fairley, Town of Oakville, ON

Brett Mosley, City of Barrie, ON

Kevin Holmes, Toronto, ON  
The MBTW Group

Gary Durnan, Town of Ajax, ON

Al Kuronen, City of Welland, ON

Dan Cossette, Paul Donnelly, Joe Imbesi  
Barry Pyper, City of Ottawa, ON

Bernard McGovern, Linden, AB  
Certified Irrigation Design Consultants Inc.



STA President Paul Gillen and the "kids."

## What do you think?

It's year two of Ontario's pesticide ban legislation. We are asking you, our members, to comment and provide feedback on the remedial methods that have been successful in keeping your facilities "safe and playable." Send us an email to [info@sportsturfassociation.com](mailto:info@sportsturfassociation.com) (Subject: Pesticides Ban). We'll post your replies online.



Book September 23rd now and we'll see you in Cambridge this fall.

## STA Field Day 2010

Sports turf managers from across the province will come together where the Grand and Speed Rivers converge for the STA's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Field Day on Sept. 23. Located off Highway 401 just west of Toronto, Cambridge boasts a mix of urban and rural settings. A vibrant industrial, cultural and tourism services hub, the city has recreational amenities that include 12 community centres, 4 public libraries and 1,000 acres of parks with 141 sports fields.

The Field Day Committee is in the midst of applying the finishing touches to this year's program. For topnotch turf education and the opportunity to network with peers and industry suppliers, plan to join us at the Hespeler Optimist Park/Memorial Arena/Beehive Hall. Visit [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com) for all the details as they become available.

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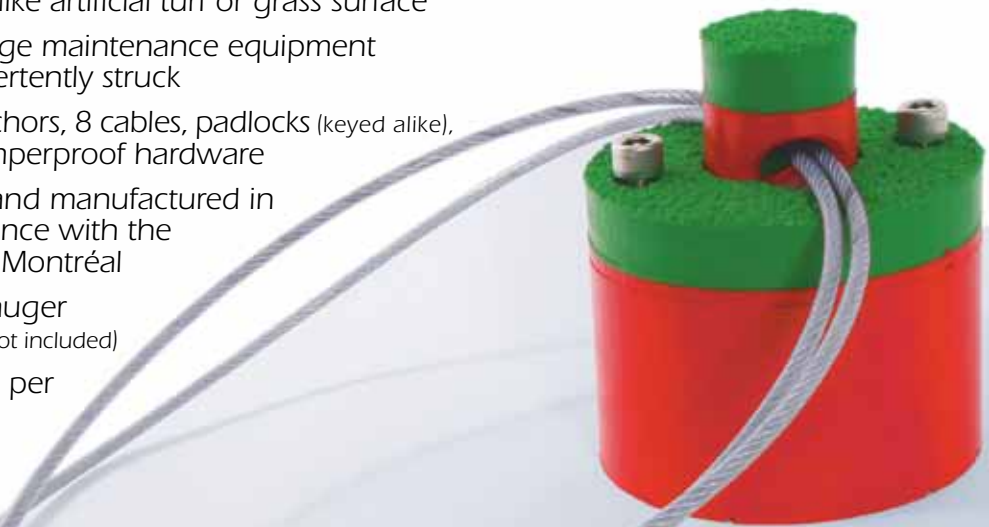
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Optimist Park, 2010 Field Day Location



Previous Field Day Images

# Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

**July 1.** Implementation of the HST. Info: [www.cra.gc.ca/harmonization](http://www.cra.gc.ca/harmonization)

**August 19.** Guelph Turfgrass Institute Research Field Day  
Guelph, ON, [www.guelphurfgrass.ca](http://www.guelphurfgrass.ca)

**September 20.** Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Annual Fundraising  
Golf Tournament, Bayview Golf & Country Club, Thornhill, ON, [www.otrf.ca](http://www.otrf.ca)

**September 23. Note new date & location! STA 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Field Day**  
Cambridge, ON, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com), 519-763-9431

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

## QUOTABLE QUOTE....

The way of the world is meeting people through other people. ~ Robert Kerrigan

## POSA UPDATE

[www.POSAlliance.ca](http://www.POSAlliance.ca)

The Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) continues to move forward strengthening parks and open space practitioners through professional development, recognition and advocacy.

With the offering in May of the core course components of the Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program Level I, we anticipate the soon-to-be-received applications for the first recipients of this coalition certificate program. Check the criteria to determine if you are eligible at [www.POSAlliance.ca](http://www.POSAlliance.ca).

It will only be a matter of time before we recognize recipients of Level II given the many opportunities for educational credits available from both the Alliance and its partner associations. Check the Alliance and partner websites for education and professional development opportunities which provide the necessary educational credits, such as the recent Summer Operational Forum.



Additional Alliance workshops addressing the topics synthetic turf and understanding the supervisory role are under development. We'll keep you posted as the particulars are confirmed!

## Partner Websites

VISIT US ONLINE AT....

- [www.ontarioparksassociation.ca](http://www.ontarioparksassociation.ca)
- [www.orfa.com](http://www.orfa.com)
- [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

# Member & Facility Profiles

THE SPORTS TURF MANAGER VISITS YORK UNIVERSITY

## Up Front With STA Member Tim Haagsma

**What is your role with York University?** I'm Manager of Grounds, Fleet and Waste Management.

**What kind of team do you work with?** I have 3 supervisors that report directly to me. Under them, there are 39 full time unionized staff, 3 part time staff and 14 summer students.

**What are you and your team responsible for?** I am responsible for the maintenance of the grounds (roughly 550 acres), including 6 sportsfields and 4 baseball diamonds, as well as all waste management at the university. I am also responsible for the procurement and maintenance of the fleet to support these services.



**Tim Haagsma.** Manager of Grounds, Fleet & Waste Management, York University

**What is the biggest challenge in your job?** Budget cuts! We are constantly working on ways to increase productivity and efficiencies while balancing harmonious labour relations. Additionally, the intensification of our campus landscapes (converting from large areas of turf to elaborate plantings) is a major challenge. Upper administrators do not understand the additional workload involved with this. Finally, the elimination of pesticides to help control weed problems, especially on our turf and gardens, has been a significant setback.

**What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?** Completing a project on time and on budget!

**What is the biggest misconception about your job?** That it's easy! Ha! This is a good question! I guess it would be that I like to sit around in my office all day; meanwhile, I much prefer to be out in the field.

**What is your educational/employment background?** I received my B.Sc. (Agr) with a major in entomology and minor in international agriculture from the University of Guelph in 1988 and started to work at York University in the Grounds Department the same year. I worked my way up from groundskeeper to lead hand and then horticulturalist prior to becoming manager in 2003.

**Tell us about your family.** I'm married to Julie and live in King City happily maintaining my two acres of solitude!

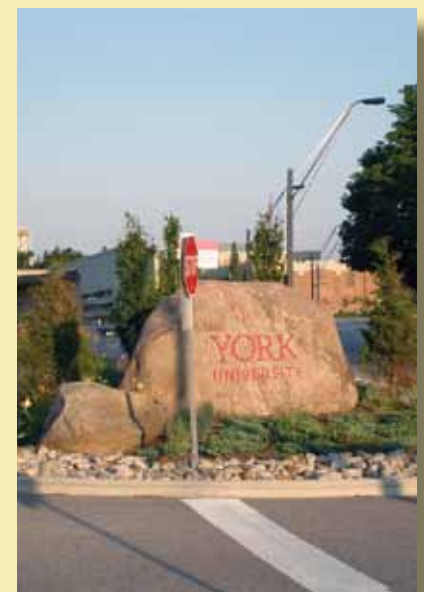
**What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace?** Believe it or not, gardening is one of my favourite past times. I am an avid cyclist and love to get away on fishing trips – the more remote the better!

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

I have seen many changes over the years, especially the shift away from pesticide usage, as well as a major increase in liability concerns. I would like to hope that we will end up with a more sustainable vision in the future for how we maintain our landscape.

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

Easy access to information for our local turfgrass industry.



If you are interested in being featured in this column, please contact Lee Huether at the STA office.



Photos courtesy of John Wilson.

## YORK UNIVERSITY, KEELE CAMPUS, TORONTO

**What types of sports fields are on site?** Five playing fields, including one event stadium, as well as four baseball diamonds.

**How many employees are involved with turf care at this facility?** 30.

**How many acres of turf are maintained at this facility?** 180. **How many acres of sports turf?** 25. **What percentage of this acreage is irrigated?** 10% of the total maintained.

**What is the primary type of turfgrass?** Generally Kentucky bluegrass, though we overseed our sportsfields with the following mix: 50% IQ perennial ryegrass, 25% Accent perennial ryegrass and 25% Goalkeeper 2 perennial ryegrass. Our general turfgrass overseed mix is currently 40% perennial ryegrass, 30% creeping red fescue and 30% Kentucky bluegrass.


**Is yearly overseeding part of your maintenance program?** For sure!  
**How many times do you fertilize?** General campus, twice/year. Sportsfields, four times/year. **Do you aerate? Topdress?** Yes to both.

**Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of this facility?** No, although the sportsfields are rented out as a revenue generating strategy.

**How many hours per year are the fields permitted?** This is dependent on the particular field and the activity being proposed. In general, I would estimate each field is used approximately 600 hours, with 300 hours on our main event field. **Who permits them?** The Athletics Department.

**Are the fields ever closed during the season to give them a rest?** Generally, each field is closed for approximately six weeks to allow major renovations on a rotational basis.

**How much input do you have in the amount and timing of use?** This decision is made by the Athletics Department, in consultation with me. Generally they understand when I explain to them that the quality of the field is in direct correlation with the use (or overuse) of the field.




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## The Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting For Water Conservation

Chris Davies, President, Flow Source Inc.

### FOCUS ON WATER Continued from our front cover.

#### What is Rainwater Harvesting?

Rainwater harvesting is the gathering, or accumulating and storing, of rainwater. This can be done in many ways ranging from small residential barrels to large industrial systems. Rainwater is used worldwide for drinking water, domestic water, water for livestock, and water for irrigation. In Canada, we have some restrictions regarding its use. Currently we are allowed to use rainwater internally in a home or business to flush toilets, and externally for irrigation and general cleaning. Many

committees and focus groups are working with the Canadian Building Code to adapt further uses such as laundry and potentially someday, showers and dishwashing.

#### Why Use Rainwater Harvesting?

Rainwater usage has increased steadily due to the shortage of freshwater and the cost of municipal water treatment. Many have chosen to use non potable water for applications where potable water is not required. Water shortage concerns across North America have become more public in the last few years. The common water bans for irrigating lawns and washing vehicles continue throughout municipalities across Canada during summer months and more severe circumstances are now being seen.

In 2006, the town of Tofino, British Columbia, had to force their community's

businesses to shut down due to water shortages. Water was being used from a backup reservoir and a boiling water alert was issued due to water quality. In 2007, groundwater levels in southwestern New Brunswick reached such a low that the Environment Minister had to issue water conservation recommendations so that local wells did not become completely depleted. The 2007-2008 drought in Georgia saw Lake Lanier reach new record lows dropping approximately 20 feet below the norm. All of these figures are indications that the two largest users of water in the world (United States and Canada respectively) need to make water conservation a priority.

This growing concern has broadened the focus to look at the costs of providing treated water to homeowners and businesses. In January 2008, a study for Ontario's