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# Sports Turf Manager

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**In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard.** ~Theodore Roosevelt



## WHAT'S ONLINE

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

### 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 Turf-grass Information Centre.

### STA Membership Directory

Is your contact information current? Your email address must be registered to login to the "Members Only" section.

### Members Only Section

Coming Soon: Call for nominations and details of our AGM.

### Shop for Resource Publications

The Athletic Field Construction Manual & Understanding Turf Management.

## Inside this issue...

### REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

**4 The President's Desk & New Members.** A recap of successful summer events with a look forward to a busy fall – and an early reminder for OTS 2012.

**7 Event Calendar.** POSA is hosting our 2nd synthetic turf session Nov. 10.

**17 Facility & STA Member Profile.** Glen Abbey Recreation Facility in Oakville and Dwayne McAllister, Oakville's Supervisor of Sports Fields and IPM.

**26 Industry News.** POSA update and turf outreach to rural communities.

Deadline for Winter 2011 Sports Turf Manager: November 4.

## Sports Turf Manager

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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

BY PAUL GILLEN

**W**OW – that is the only way that I can describe the inaugural Atlantic Sports Turf Field Day in Moncton on July 21. The organization and hospitality were first class, the presentations were thorough and down to earth, the weather cooperated, and the sponsors and suppliers stepped up with a genuine show of support. Special thanks to our host, Gord Horsman and the City of Moncton; to our moderator, Bob Daniels; to our presenters Eric Lyons, Katerina Jordan, Gord Dol and George Bannerman; and to the suppliers – you all made this a day to remember. Be sure to see Bob Daniels' recap ahead in this issue.

Speaking of field days, as I pen this message the Annual Ontario Sports Turf Field Day is coming up on September 22 and this year, it's being hosted by the City of Oakville. Our thanks to hosts Jane Arnett and Dwayne McAllister and all the industry suppliers who will be onsite to discuss the latest in equipment and technology. We have a great program of guest speakers and timely subjects including crime and the sports turf manager, water conservation, alternative weed control in a pesticide-free environment, and fertilizer technologies. Look for highlights in this and subsequent issues of the Sports Turf Manager.

[Have you thought of playing a more active role in the STA? Being a director is a rewarding volunteer effort – not to mention a great networking opportunity. Watch for the call for nominations.](#)

We received three applications for the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship this year. Each was impressive and made the selection process difficult, but the committee decided to give the 2011 award to R. Guy Mackie. See his essay that was submitted as part of the application on page 23 of this issue. The quality of the applications this year inspires real confidence for the future of this industry. The award will be presented at the Fall Field Day.

The POSA Summer Operational Forum was held this year in the City of St. Catharines. This forum addressed a variety of occupational health and safety issues as they relate to sports field and parks maintenance employees – management as well as staff. Our featured guest speaker was Debbie Whitehouse, Senior Director Guest Relations, Gardens & Nature, for the Niagara Parks Commission. A synopsis of her presentation can be found on pages 26-29.

We are pleased to advise that we will again be offering a synthetic turf workshop in cooperation with our POSA partners. This year's event will be held in Oshawa on November 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of everything that goes into the selection, budgeting, construction and maintenance of a synthetic turf field. Complete details are available at [www.POSAlliance.ca](http://www.POSAlliance.ca). Just a reminder, too, that the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will again be held at the University of Guelph on February 22 & 23, 2012. The brochure will be available later this fall. Watch for it!

It's been a busy year, but extremely rewarding. We work in a great industry with really good people. I hope to see you out to at least one of the events in the coming months.



## Congratulations Guy Mackie, 2011 Scholarship Winner!

**GUELPH, ONTARIO.** The Sports Turf Association is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2011 Robert W. Sheard Scholarship. R. Guy Mackie is a graduate of the University of Guelph's Turf Managers' Short Course, the Landscape Technology Program at Humber College, and is a Certified Irrigation Technician. He is Assistant Foreperson, Sites and Fleet Services, with the Waterloo Regional District School Board. The award was presented to Guy at the STA's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day held September 22 in Oakville.

As part of the application process, candidates are required to submit an essay on a sports turf-related topic of their choice. Read Guy's candid essay "Sports Turf Management in a School Board Environment: The Challenges" on pages 23-25.

**THE STA ROBERT W. SHEARD SCHOLARSHIP.** In order to encourage, support and provide leadership to those considering a career in the sports turf industry, the STA established a scholarship program in 1993 and has now awarded 29 scholarships. The scholarship program is funded through STA membership fees and is intended to assist with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses. For scholarship policies, application requirements and an application form, visit [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com). Deadline for submissions for the 2012 award is May 1.



### *Speaking of Atlantic Canada*

STA President Paul Gillen enjoys a lobster boil at the speakers dinner hosted by the Horsman's. Full coverage from our 1st Atlantic Field Day, held July 21 in Moncton, can be found on pages 9-11. Feedback has been nothing but positive and we're looking at increasing our eastern exposure in coming years. Stay tuned...



### *Scholarship Winner Guy Mackie*

STA President Paul Gillen (left) presents Guy Mackie with the 2011 Robert W. Sheard Scholarship at the recent Fall Field Day in Oakville.

## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

**Steve Naumoff**  
Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., Bond Head, ON

**Robert Mullane**  
Halifax Regional Municipality, NS

**Sean Bradbury**  
Zander Sod Co. Limited, Kettleby, ON

**Ray Walsh**  
City of Saint John, NB

**Paul Proulx**  
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## Odds & Ends...

### **STA MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES**

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### **SPORTS TURF MANAGER (STM) ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES**

We keep professionals updated on leading research, STA programs and activities, and industry information and events. Because of its highly specific turf-related readership base, STM has proven to be a successful venue for industry advertisers. Contact us!

### **STM 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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STA Fall Field Day, Glen Abbey, Oakville, Ontario

# Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

**November 10. Parks & Open Space Alliance (POSA) Introduction to Synthetic Turf & Maintenance.** Civic Recreation Complex, Oshawa, ON, [www.POSAlliance.ca](http://www.POSAlliance.ca)

**2012. The Sports Turf Association Celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** 1987 to 2012!

**January 10-12.** Landscape Ontario Congress. Toronto, ON, [www.locongress.com](http://www.locongress.com)

**January 10-14.** Sports Turf Managers Association 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition. Long Beach, CA, [www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)

**Note: STA members can register at STMA rates!**

**January 18-20.** Ontario Golf Superintendents Association Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show. Niagara Falls, ON, [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca)

**January 21-24.** Western Canada Turfgrass Association 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Trade Show, Victoria, BC, [www.wctaturf.com](http://www.wctaturf.com)

**January 30 to February 24.** University of Guelph Turf Managers' Short Course Guelph, ON, [www.tmsc.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.tmsc.open.uoguelph.ca)

**February 5-9.** Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Canadian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Calgary, AB, [www.golfsupers.com](http://www.golfsupers.com)

**February 22 & 23. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium "Grow Your Knowledge."** University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, [www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca)

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

## TURF TRADES

### Employment Bulletin Board

Are you advertising a position? Are you searching for a job? Target your audience or refine your search with Turf Trades, an online resource for all staffing levels and areas of the sports turf industry. Employment Bulletin Board ads run for 60 days with an additional 30 days available at 1/2 the price. Cost including HST is \$84.75 for STA members and \$113 for non-members for the initial 60 day period. Payment by cheque (Canada only), American Express, MasterCard or Visa must accompany the job description. Jobs will be posted in a standard page format.



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# STA Atlantic Field Day

MORE THAN 100 PROFESSIONALS "MET US IN MONCTON" JULY 21!



## An Energizing Inaugural Event.

**THE CATCHPHRASE FOR THE EVENT** was "Meet Us in Moncton" and the invitation was well received! More than 100 turfgrass industry professionals gathered at the geographic centre of the Maritimes for the Atlantic Sports Turf Field Day on July 21. The response was remarkable and the enthusiasm energizing for our inaugural eastern event.

### A HANDFUL OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE:

- "Qualified presenters with research-based material."
- "Practical information that is easy to apply."
- "Highlights of major issues affecting turf maintenance and the importance of the turf manager."

>> Turn the page for photos and a summary of the day by Chair Bob Daniels.

MANY THANKS TO  
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# ATLANTIC SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY SUMMARY

The turf industry in eastern Canada reached another milestone on July 21 when the first Atlantic Sports Turf Field Day was held in Moncton, New Brunswick. The event was presented by the Sports Turf Association, in cooperation with the City of Moncton, and marked the first time that such an event was held in this region. A measure of just how successful this day was is that in excess of 100 individuals representing the sports turf industry were in attendance and participated in the events.



Throughout the years, several methods have been and are still used presently to provide education to sports turf managers. These have consisted primarily of specific week-long training sessions offered through the Office of Continuing Education at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and a sports turf session component, first at the Regional Turf Conference held in Saint John, NB, for several years, and thereafter via a combined session with the Annual Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association meetings. Another learning opportunity was held in conjunction with the annual meeting and educational symposium sponsored by Plant Health Atlantic in Sussex, NB. While all of these were both successful and beneficial, the recent field day was the first time that a session specific to sports turf managers was held in Atlantic Canada.

The commitment and efforts of the two main organizers were the driving forces behind this event. The Sports Turf Association provided leadership in or-

ganization, speaker selection, advertising, promotion and registration, while the City of Moncton provided an ideal setting as host. Due to its central location, Moncton made the event accessible to a wide range of participants enabling most to make it a day trip substantially decreasing the cost.

The support and promotional assistance of Plant Health Atlantic, the numerous provincial associations who serve the industry, and Mike Jiggins, editor *Turf & Recreation* magazine, greatly contributed to the success of this event. Gordon Horsman, City of Moncton, and his staff did an outstanding job in having the sports facilities in excellent condition, providing individual tours to specific sport fields and ensuring that all events went smoothly. The attendance by Tab Buckner of the Western Canada Turfgrass Association gave us an east-to-west coast perspective.

Those who made the day most successful however were the 79 individuals who registered for the event and participated attentively in the educational sessions both in the morning, held inside, and the onsite

outdoor afternoon sessions. Suppliers of the turf industry also heavily supported this event, with 25 individuals representing 14 industry related suppliers participating in the successful tailgate trade show.

The day began with official opening remarks by Paul Gillen, President of the Sport Turf Association. Paul welcomed all attendees and expressed his commitment that the STA would like to continue its support with future sessions if interest by local practitioners remained keen.

The first speaker was Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph, who focused on using fertilizers correctly and in doing so, reducing the need for pesticides. This was accomplished by providing a review on the role of each nutrient and the consequences of providing individual nutrients to turfgrass throughout the growing season. As all cultural practices significantly affect the overall health of turfgrass, such practices as correct mowing and seasonal aerations were incorporated into proper seasonal fertilizer usage. His position that a healthy turf results in a reduced usage of pesticides



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