

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for better, safer Sports Turf

SEPTEMBER 1998

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame

Grand Opening: June 4, 1998

On Thursday, June 4, my wife and I travelled to St. Mary's, Ontario to witness the opening of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and the initial induction of 17 women baseball players. These ladies represent "Canada's best kept secret for 45 years," and those who attended received a thunderous ovation.

The women, all from western Canada, are those who are left of 64 Canadians who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The league began during the Second World War in 1943 and finished in 1954, playing games in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These ladies are now in their 70s and 80s. Those who couldn't attend were either too sick to travel or unable to be located. Many have died.

Also inducted into the Hall posthumously were Sylvan "Ron" Roncetti and George "Knotty" Lee, two who inspired

many children who yearned to play baseball. Lee spent more than 40 years as a player, manager, and league organizer. Roncetti also played, coached, and was the founder of the Toronto Leaside Baseball Association.

The opening was blessed with fine weather. A large tent was erected on the 32 acre site and an enormous crowd attended. The baseball field itself was sodded a few days before and although no screen or lights were in place yet, it was very professional looking (see the accompanying figures on page 2). These will be added as monies become available.

Part of the credit for construction of the field goes to Gordon Dol, one of our directors, Ron Martin, also a member of the Sports Turf Association, and of course, the designer Arthur Lierman, Landscape Architect, who has spent countless volunteer hours on the project.

Souvenirs were available from the museum (yet to be completed) and two RCMP officers handed out 125 year anniversary pins. The afternoon finished with the singing of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and a barbecue. The ladies inducted were treated to flowers and a banquet at the local golf club. A poster was also available honouring them.

The reason for locating the Hall of Fame in St. Mary's, Ontario, is that the first recorded baseball game in Canada was in Beachville, west of Woodstock, on June 4, 1838 (please see the Field Day article for additional information). ◆

— Michael Bladon

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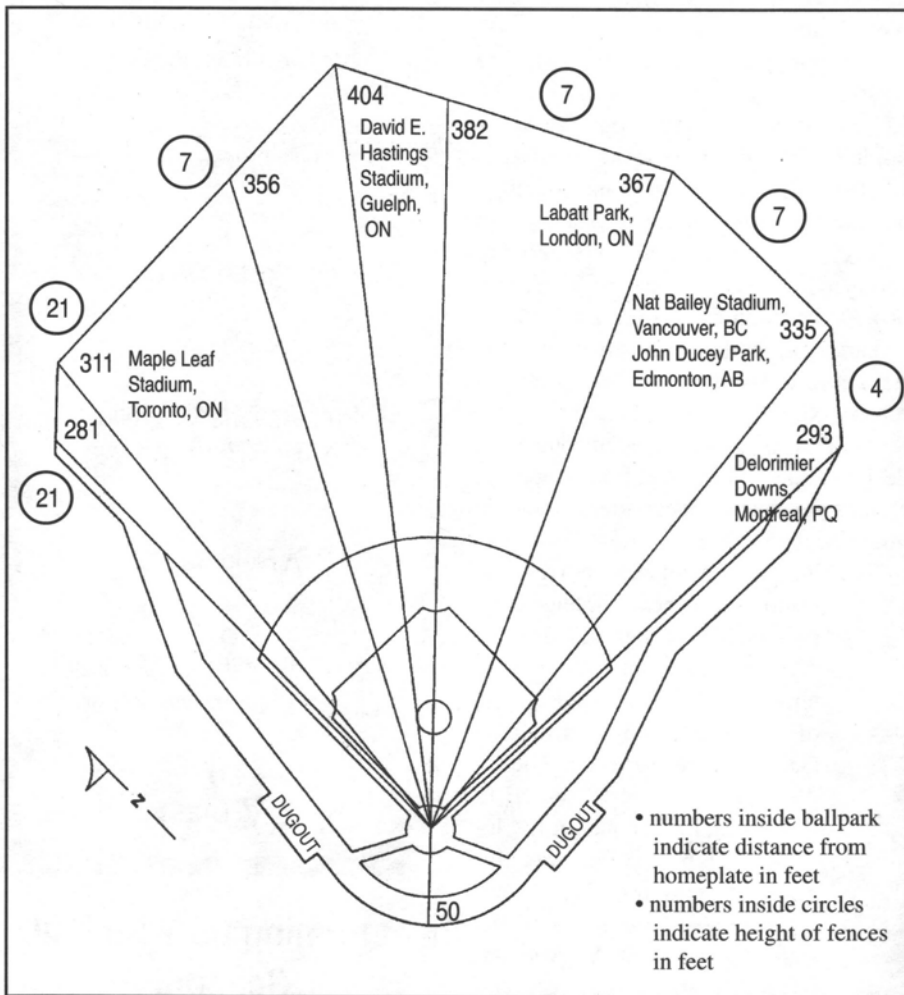
Firming up Your Fall Schedule?

Check out our extensive list of Coming Events on page 12 of this issue of Sports Turf Manager.



Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame

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Top: Construction in progress at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame ballpark.
Above: Actual dimensions of the diamond.

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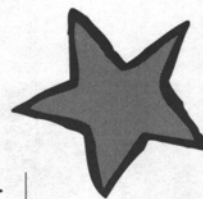
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Letters



**ATTENTION
ADVERTISERS**

Institute of Groundsmanship

I am writing to introduce you to the Institute of Groundsmanship, an organization located in England that carries out a similar role to the Sports Turf Association.

You will find enclosed a sample of our membership and promotional information, together with a copy of our monthly magazine, *The Groundsman*, which goes to members and subscribers.

In addition to providing membership services, consultancies, training, and education facilities, we also run a number of exhibitions—the largest of which is called SALTEX, and it is the industry's main event.

Our Institute has recently been expanded to include the previous Association of Landscape Management and now encompasses the entire grounds management industry, with membership categories for professionals,

clubs, the trade, and the education sector.

We believe that there would be merit in considering some form of direct association with similar organizations around the world, and we would therefore be most interested in the views of the Sports Turf Association.

— Patrick Gosset, Chief Executive,
The Institute of Groundsmanship

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Proceedings

I enjoy reading your magazine (*Sports Turf Manager*). Congratulations on your 10 year anniversary last year.

I was writing to see if the Association published the proceedings of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in 1997. If so, would it be possible to purchase a copy?

— David Howard, Agronomist,
New Zealand Sports Turf Institute

Editor's Reply: The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium no longer produces proceedings from the conference due to lack of interest. Glad you enjoy Sports Turf Manager!



If you are looking for a specific market for your products, advertise in *Sports Turf Manager*. Published four times a year, this newsletter has a national and international distribution with the majority of the membership residing in Ontario. 1998 advertising rates are as follows:

- business card size \$40.00
- 1/4 page ad \$80.00
- 1/2 page ad \$160.00
- 1/4 and 1/2 page ads are available in either a vertical or horizontal page placement.

For more information, contact Lee Huether at the STA office, (519) 763-9431, or Joy Black at New Paradigm Communications, (519) 371-6818.

**Content deadline for the December issue of Sports Turf Manager
October 16, 1998**

"If we want to change a situation, we first have to change ourselves. And to change ourselves effectively, we first have to change our perceptions."

Association Membership Dues

Is Your Cheque in the Mail?

The constitution and by-laws of the Sports Turf Association state *fees shall be due and payable on or before May 1st of the fiscal year* (Article IV, Section 3). If you have not already done so, please ensure you are a member in good standing by remitting your fees today!

PLEASE NOTE

The articles written within do not necessarily reflect the views of the Sports Turf Association.

Congratulations

To STA member Robert Kennedy who recently received the *Citizen of the Year Award* during a special celebration in Thorold. In addition to his many credits, Robert has volunteered as a fundraiser for the St. Catharines General Hospital and was chairman of the Green Ribbon Trail Committee.

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CHRISTOPHER MARK
The President's Desk



Hello to all members. I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe summer with friends and family. We sure cannot complain, it was one of the nicest on record—for vacations, but it was pretty dry on the fields if you did not have some form of irrigation.

Since my last correspondence, we have updated and revised our STA stationary, envelopes, member application, membership directory, and folder, all of which reflect our new logo. The package looks fantastic, very professional, and we hope you like it. For consistency, all future STA material will display our new colours and logo.

Over the last few months our Executive Manager, Lee Huether, has been very busy keeping the affairs of the Association on track. She has recruited and signed up new members, assisting with organizing the recent Field Day, reprinted the membership directory and the "Constructing the Sportsfield" brochure, ensured that our new publication "A Sports Field Checklist" has been distributed to everyone, and paid the bills! Lee keeps us on an even keel.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who attended our Field Day on August 18, 1998, at the GTI. It was a tremendous success, and I extend special appreciation to Michael Bladon who organized the day and Paul Turner for being our chair. Thanks also to Gord Dol for sponsoring the lunch, as well as our loyal suppliers who once again did everything they could to support our Association.

Some really exciting news is that the STA has partnered with Canada Blooms on their 1st Annual Symposium on Parks, Grounds, and Open Spaces in Winnipeg from September 24-25. This is a great opportunity for us and gives our Association national exposure. We are pleased to be sending Dr. Bob Sheard to the seminar to speak on the design and construction of sports fields.

Another World Cup has come and gone, once again with record numbers of spectators watching the event. It never ceases to amaze me here in Canada that TSN, who seems to carry every match, can report overall large increases in viewership

and soccer at the minor league level continues to grow at a seemingly exponential rate, yet professional soccer in this country has never prospered. It certainly is not from a lack of enthusiasm, dedication, and effort at the level of the Canadian Soccer Association. People such as Terry Quinn, C.S.A. President, are terrific ambassadors and proponents for the game in this country. One has only to tour the fabulous facilities that the Ontario Soccer Association has built in Vaughan, Ontario, to see that soccer is a huge sport in this country.

Throughout the World Cup, the fields looked to be in great condition. If we ever hope to host a World Cup the next time it comes to North America (2006 or 2010), we need to build more *natural* grass fields. Unfortunately, institutions such as the University of Guelph are contemplating an artificial surface next to Alumni Stadium, and I heard that the University of Western Ontario was also thinking about an artificial surface for J.W. Little Stadium. When institutions of higher learning are placing increased revenues and perceived lower operating costs over the safety of their athletes and students using the facilities, I really believe that we are failing to get the message across. If such "logic" continues, we will never have a shot at hosting the World Cup, since one of its primary requirements is that all games must be played on *natural grass*. Why? Participant safety is the primary reason.

We have the ability to grow excellent quality turf for professional and varsity athletes. Heck, we can even grow turf on pallets and roll them in and out of stadiums. But many people are still madly in love with allowing their players to virtually play and be ultimately injured on synthetic playing surfaces. I wonder who allowed the word turf to be associated with artificial turf, it would be more appropriately named artificial asphalt or concrete.

I wish everyone much success with their fall renovation programs. Make plans now to join us at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in early January 1999.

Wishing you better, safer (and natural!) sports turf. ◆

— Christopher Mark

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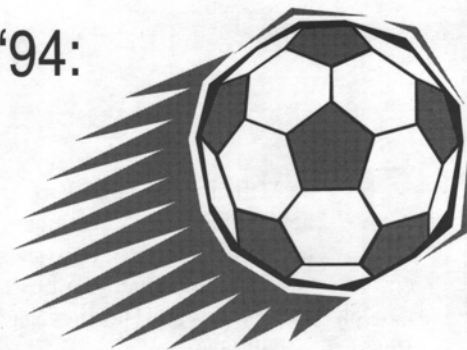
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Preparations for World Cup '94: A Retrospective

DR. JAMES WATSON



The following is the first article in a two-part series by Dr. James Watson, Vice President of The Toro Company, based on Dr. Watson's keynote address at the 1996 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. We find the information to be particularly relevant, especially with respect to Chris Mark's "bid" to host the next World Cup (see the President's Message on the preceding page).

Preparation

Preparation for an event like the World Cup begins after the host country is selected some four to six years before the Games are to be played. Site selection depends upon size and configuration of the stadium; length and width of the playing field; access to the stadium from airports, train depots, bus stations, and highways; and local civic, financial, and volunteer support. Then, some 18-24 months before the Games begin, security, media outlets for world-wide radio and television broadcasts, housing facilities, electrical outlets (often additional power must be brought in), and broadcast towers must be provided. Planning for field conditioning also must get underway. This, of course, begins with planning and design.

- Seedbed preparation: reserve and starter fertilizers, settling procedures, and grading.
- Irrigation system design including pipe sizes, sprinkler heads, water taps (including size of inlet pipes), gallons (litres) per minute available, pressure at inlet, and type of backflow prevention valve and its location.
- Location of goal sleeves and posts, players' benches, coaches' boxes, space for cameras and photographers, and security.
- Electrical outlets.

In short, design blueprints and specifications included the many and varied details that such documents require for bidding and installation. In addition, specifications detailing the kinds and amounts of materials included soil texture, depth, methods for grading, seedbed preparation, and qualifications of the sod—how it was to be cut, trucked, delivered, and installed.

Specifications also included type, grade, analysis, and amounts of fertilizers to be incorporated at various stages of seedbed preparation and maintenance over a given period of time. In the case of the Meadowlands, the contractor was employed to maintain the field throughout the scheduled games. *And* to dismantle and remove the field within three days of the last game—the Eastern semi-final game.

Special Situations

There are a number of special and unexpected situations that occur and develop before and during the games and often between games. Emergency situations arise that must be handled quickly and expeditiously. Suffice it to say that responses from all parties must be decisive and implemented immediately. For

many, there is no room for delay or time to discuss. Among those that involve planning a year or so in advance are:

- Contracting for sod. Should be done at least one year in advance. This includes sod for modification, rebuilding, and emergency replacement. We specified sod must be mature, at least one year old at the time of harvest.
- Determination of scheduled events.
- Evaluation of facility personnel (their capabilities and training).
- Determination of availability of facility crew for key maintenance programs during period of time games are played.
- Irrigation system performance—the type and its capability.
- Number and location of quick coupling valves.
- Evaluation of the type, number, and condition of facility equipment.
- Availability of *back up* and *rental* equipment and time required to get it to the stadium.
- List of emergency supplies and materials that will be needed and that the facility must provide. Includes fertilizers, pesticides, iron and other trace elements, topdressing material, seed, paint, and dye.
- Availability of rain tarps which also may substitute for warming the soil.

These are only a few of the details that must be planned and organized well in advance of the year the Games are scheduled.

Because the games are played in June and July, and because most stadia must host various events including other sporting events and concerts to support the facility financially, it is likely to be spring before final field preparation can begin. This was the case of USA World Cup '94. Other than planning, actual work did not begin until April on any of the fields.

Emergency Situations

Anything that may damage the turfgrass usually happens either just before, during, or after a game. Some of the situations I remember are:

- Forty horses prancing around Foxboro Field just *inside* the field boundaries. Most of the game had been played in light rainfall and the field was *wet*. Severe cupping resulted!
 - Syringing hot spots just before a game, at half time, and between rehearsals.
 - Replacement of severely damaged areas in the goal zones a few days before the Games.
 - Graduation ceremonies eight days before the opening game. Some 10,000 square yards of sod had to be replaced.
 - 2,000 dancers and entertainers moving in repetitive patterns in practice just before the opening games.
- The rule of thumb is to be prepared for *any* possible situation!◆

11th Annual STA Field Day

MICHAEL BLADON

The 11th annual Sports Turf Association Field Day was held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute on August 18. A large crowd was treated to an interesting group of speakers, a tasty lunch, and finally, a bus tour of the University of Guelph playing fields and Hastings Stadium, home of the Guelph Royals baseball team.

Field Day proceedings were chaired by Paul Turner, Director of the Sports Turf Association. Chris Mark, STA President, began the morning by announcing the two STA scholarship winners, Perry Davie and Duncan Graham. He then thanked the suppliers for not only their participation, but also for their support of the Field Day in the form of donations and gifts in kind—all were much appreciated and helped to keep costs to a minimum. Lastly, he thanked Dr. Ken Carey of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute for his assistance with computer problems and for setting up email and a website for the Association.

'98 Ontario Summer Games

The first speaker of the day was Tim Mau, General Manager of the '98 Ontario Summer Games held from August 13-16 in Guelph, Ontario. His talk focused on the logistics involved in organizing such a major event.



- A bid was put in for the Games in 1996.
- In March, 1997, the City of Guelph was awarded the venue.
- Funding came from a grant from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture, and Recreation, the City of Guelph, gifts in kind, and from many corporations. A total of \$1 million dollars was raised for the four day event.
- Office space was donated in a mall at an estimated cost of \$60,000 for seven months.
- Tim Mau had two co-chairs and an office manager.
- Some 1,800 volunteers, approximately 1,400 athletes (ages 14-17), and 1,500 coaches and officials participated in the Games. Each athlete was charged a \$60 entry fee.

Committees

1) Volunteer committee: service organizations (including sports associations) were approached because of their expertise in the field. One company even gave their staff time off if they volunteered for the Games.

2) Administrative committee: responsible for entering computer data on the athletes as they registered; faxes and other general office activities; and volunteer assignments. The latter was difficult because organizations were slow to report in with the names of volunteers recruited.

3) Finance committee

4) Student services (University of Guelph): they were indicated as a partner when the bid for the Games was entered. They were responsible for food, water, accommodations, and transportation. Food services included the supply of breakfast and dinner menus for 3,000 people and the organizing and delivery of box lunches to competitors at numerous scattered venues. Deliveries were all tied to Game's schedules so that athletes, coaches, and officials would receive their meals during gaps in competition between 11 am and 2 pm.



Left: Chair Paul Turner presides over the morning session. Above: The 11th annual Field Day was held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

5) Souvenirs committee: souvenirs were available from the University Bookstore. Based on previous Games experience (the City of London had a surplus of memorabilia in 1994), companies who supplied the souvenirs were given a 24 hour turn-around notice. Orders placed in the morning were delivered the next day. Only 100 items were kept on hand at a time and only 20 T-shirts were left at the end of the Games.

6) Protocol committee: responsible for the opening and closing ceremonies, both of which were spectacular, and a reception held at the River Run Civic Centre. Dancers who took part in the ceremonies came from all parts of Ontario, and the stage was brought in on a transport truck at a cost of \$10,000.

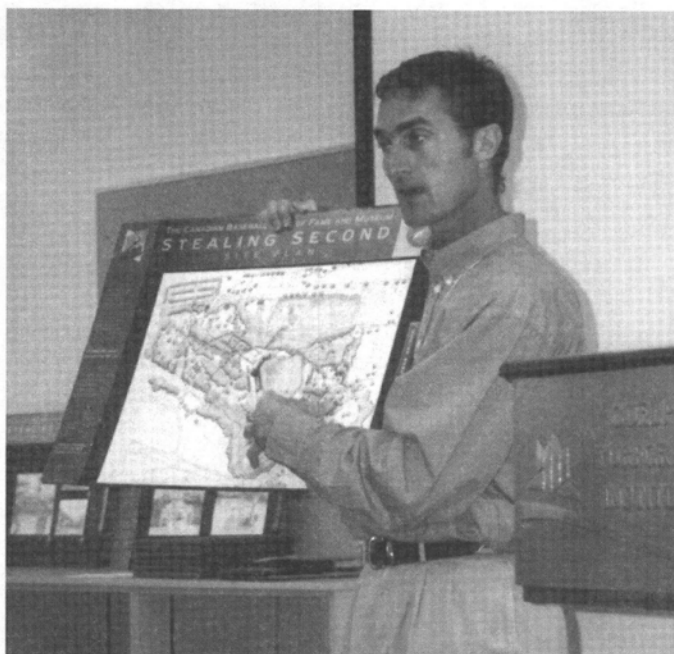
7) Media promotion: handled by the Predator Group, Kitchener, Ontario. They made up press kits for newspapers and

designed radio and TV commercials. Rogers Cable and CKCO did most of the local broadcasting so the Games could be watched on TV.

Athletic Fields

The City of Guelph began inspecting fields in the spring of 1997 for grades, holes, etc. The playing fields were then aerated and overseeded with 100% perennial ryegrass and toppedressed using composted material at a rate of 50 cubic metres per hectare. They were sprayed for weeds and soil tests were done in the fall of 1997 before fertilizer was applied. All work had to conform to Game standards.

In closing, Mau stated that the Games provide an opportunity for the development of up and coming athletes since they are generally their first exposure to major competition. Extensive planning paid off with an extremely successful Summer Games.



Above: Arthur Lierman describes the ballpark at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Right: Avid participants take in the morning session.

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame

The second session of the morning was presented by Richard McPherson and Arthur Lierman. They discussed the history and field construction of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

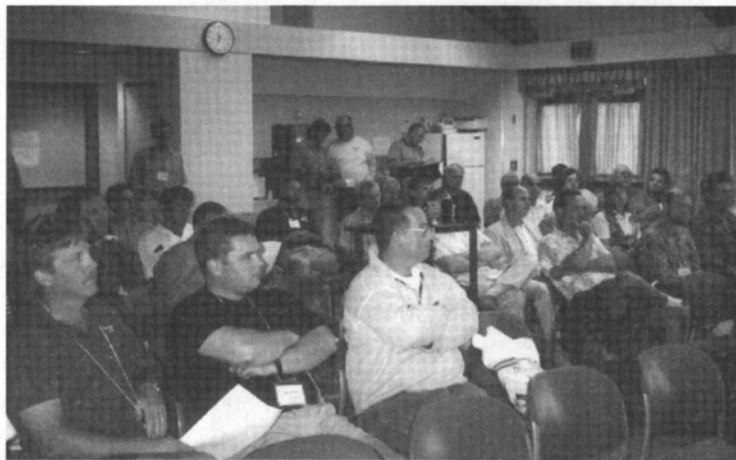
History by Dick McPherson

Originally housed at Ontario Place, visitors had to pay a separate fee (on top of the entrance fee for Ontario Place) to tour the Hall of Fame. Attendance dwindled, and the artifacts were catalogued and removed for safekeeping in Metro Toronto until a new home for the Hall of Fame could be found.

St. Mary's put in a bid for the new Hall of Fame in 1994 for a variety of reasons: it is located approximately 20 km from Stratford, a major tourist destination; the St. Mary's Cement Com-

pany donated 30 acres of land and an old stone building; the first recorded baseball game was held 160 years ago in Beachville, just down the road from St. Mary's; and the town has a long history of manufacturing sports equipment (including Hespeler hockey sticks and Cooper bats).

The local rotary club donated \$1,000, and a video to promote St. Mary's as the future site of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame was produced. The provincial NDP donated \$50,000 toward the project, and 24 local people pledged to give \$250,000 over a five year period. Thus far, all money donated (with the exception of the NDP) has been from local efforts. Presently, a new campaign is underway to raise another \$750,000 and again, the campaign has a local focus.



Field Construction by Arthur Lierman

Lierman, a landscape architect, typifies the extent local effort has contributed to the Hall of Fame dream. Although he has been paid for his work on the project, as a baseball buff, he has logged many volunteer hours as well. Throughout the field construction process, he called on the expertise of many people to ensure a quality product.

Initially, the whole site was pruned and various unwanted trees were removed. Many large spruce, white ash, cedar, and Manitoba maple were retained for the future addition of a theme park.

On the field site, some 40,000 cubic yards of earth were moved and berms were designed to create sitting areas. The premier field will be capable of hosting semi-professional baseball games. A second field will be a peewee diamond. The juveniles, juniors, minor leagues, and intercounty clubs will play on the fields, but the facility will not host major league games.

Great emphasis has been placed on the drainage system and the 1% grade which drains to the lowest point in right field. Rough grading was completed in October, 1997. Following the installation of the drainage system, large rolls of sod were put in place just three days before the June 4, 1998 opening. Water and screenings were supplied by the St. Mary's Cement Company. Finally, red clay products were added to the infield skinned areas.

The Field Day was both interesting and informative. Due to space restrictions, the remainder of the presentations will be published in the December issue of the *Sports Turf Manager*. ♦

— all pictures except the GTI by Michael Bladon



News Brief: Pitching Fake Grass to the Soccer World

MICHAEL GRANGE

A Canadian company has developed what has long been thought impossible—an artificial surface that looks and plays like natural grass.

And with the help of sportswear giant Nike, the surface invented and manufactured by Montreal-based SynTenniCo. will be introduced to the international sports community at the World Cup.

The exposure is the result of a decision by Nike to use the grass substitute, called FieldTurf, as part of the soccer-based theme park being set up at the Parc de la Défense in downtown Paris.

Part of the Nike display is a pitch suitable for six-a-side soccer that opens to the public tomorrow. It features the Montreal company's surface.

The temporary park will be up throughout the month-long tournament. Located outside Paris's Stade de France, site of the World Cup final, the park will receive hundreds of thousands of visitors each day.

But most important for SynTenniCo., included among the visitors will be the elite of the international soccer community.

As part of tomorrow's opening ceremonies, Brazil—one of eight teams sponsored by Nike at the World Cup—will conduct a warmup on the surface. The other Nike-sponsored teams will do the same in coming weeks.

"For a little Canadian company, it's an amazing marketing opportunity," said John Gilman, the company's chief executive officer. "It saves us having to go all over the world. We've invited every international federation to come see (the turf) for themselves, put their cleats on and go out and play on it, to put their team on it."

Gilman is confident that when soccer players and officials use the turf, they'll recognize it as a low-maintenance, durable grass substitute that lacks the often abrasive qualities of typical artificial turf.

The cost, about \$600,000 for an installed soccer-size field, is cheaper than existing artificial surfaces and comparable to installing a new grass field, Gilman said.

And impressing the soccer community is vital to gaining footholds in other major sports.

While artificial turf is used by professional football teams and baseball teams in North America, soccer people abandoned it after ill-fated experiments in the 1980s. They found the surface changed the nature of the game. The ball bounced higher, rolled faster, and aggressive tackling was hampered by the abrasive surface.

In North America, grass is still considered the ideal surface, but artificial turf is tolerated for its convenience, despite evidence it may contribute to muscle and joint injuries because it doesn't give.

A surface that combines the safety and

playability of grass with the convenience and cost-effectiveness of artificial turf would seemingly generate plenty of interest, and Gilman knows it.

"We want to cover the world," Gilman said.

The surface's benefits come from the way it mimics real grass.

"I never in my lifetime thought I would hear myself say this, but in many ways it's better than grass," Kevan Pipe, chief executive officer of the Canadian Soccer Association, said in an interview last week. The CSA hopes to have FieldTurf installed this summer at their training facility at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C.

"It most closely resembles a natural surface as anything we've ever seen," Pipe said. "And not only that, it never wears out."

English soccer legend Bryan Robson, manager for Middlesborough, a team that will be playing in England's Premier League next season, was impressed enough to order the surface installed at the club's Rockliff Park training ground last September.

More FieldTurf pitches are expected to be added as the club competes an \$11.9-million renovation of the Facility next year.

"[The FieldTurf] was frequently used by our first team, the players are quite happy with it," said Dave Allen, a spokesman for the club.

Turf's Up: A Canadian company has invented a playing surface touted as good as the real thing—it looks and plays like natural grass!

"IT'S TIME TO STOP Playing Around"

A Video on Providing Safer Public Playgrounds

A partnership initiative of Ontario Parks Association and Ridgetown College with support from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation

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After the Canadian Olympic soccer team trained on a FieldTurf pitch in Portland, Ore., in March, Bruce Twamley, the team's head coach, described the surface as a "revelation for soccer and athletic fields throughout the world," in a letter to Pipe, adding that "this synthetic surface is the way to go with regard to athletic fields in the future."

Mimicking real grass

FieldTurf is made up of a dense weave of soft-to-the-touch, seven-millimetre-wide blades that splinter 32 times, giving the surface a bushy feel. Between the blades, which are four and a half centimetres tall, is about four centimetres of infill—essentially artificial dirt—made up of a fine grind of rubber and silica sand. The blades bend like real grass, supporting the maximum torsion point of an athlete stopping or changing direction, but release to prevent injuries. The infill provides the cushioning effect of dirt. ♦

— reprinted from the *Globe & Mail*, June 2, 1998

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3rd Annual Greenskeepers Workshop

JOHN L. HOPKINS

The Third Annual Greenskeepers Workshop was held at the Hamilton Roselawn Lawn Bowling Club on Tuesday, the 2nd of June. The meeting's agenda consisted of invited technical and sales staff from the lawn care industry each giving a 30 minute talk to explain how their product and experience apply to lawn bowling greens.

Certain products, equipment, etc. were demonstrated on the Roselawn greens and recent purchases by the club were available for inspection and testing.

Greenskeepers are inclined to be reticent to share their "secrets" with others, so it was terrific to have 40 or so greenspeople turn out for this networking event.

Our thanks to the industry people who went the extra mile and were patient in answering the many questions put forward.

The following gives a brief synopsis of the speakers and topics covered.

Ron Schiedel, Compact Sod Ltd.

Ron's business and farm is just north of the 401 in Cambridge, adjacent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Under the Greenhorizons Group of Farms Ltd., Compact Sod supplies bentgrass and other sod daily to Ontario Sod of Mississauga and to Hamilton Sod of Mount Hope.

Due to the warm spring this year, golf courses made an early start, and Ron's company and his competitors were sold out of bentgrass sod in April and last year's seeding wasn't yet ready to be harvested.



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The Balmy Beach Lawn Bowling Club had to wait for this new crop to upgrade their green in preparation for the August 1999 Canadian National Championships.

Compact Sod imports and sells bentgrass seed from Oregon independent of the Ontario Seed Company. It was no surprise to them when Compact Sod introduced Glen Abbey's use of Penncross bentgrass seed coated with "Apron."

"Apron" is sprayed on fertilizer and fungicide and gives the seed a quick start and protection against damping-off or root rot.

At the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in January 1998, Leslie MacDonald from B.C. Agriculture and Fisheries reported 100% germination of seed treated with this product (see *Turf & Recreation*, September, 1997).

Compact Sod sells many kinds of fertilizers, mainly from Nutrite of Elmira, who are now owned by Hydro Agri Canada L.P., a large Norwegian chemical company.

Mike Jiggins, Editor Turf & Recreation Publishing Inc.

We were pleased to have Mike Jiggins attend. He is a genuine source of practical information on turf.

Turf and Recreation fills the needs of the lawn bowling community.

Adrien Gallant's monthly report on fertilizers is excellent. The March 1998 issue added "endogenous phytohormones" to the dictionary of fertilizer words. It gave the industry a reason for adding seaweed to the rootzone of a new sand-based green.

Dean Cormack, Service Manager Vanden Bussche Irrigation and Equipment Ltd.

The most frequent question asked Dean was "When does one water?"

There are many reasons to pick the best time to water. These include combating fungi on the grass, when maintenance will be done, and when the green will be played on. Dean went on to explain watering routines which will not be reported here due to the differences among greens.

Vanden Bussche will help you design an irrigation system, show you the different control units, electrical or hydraulic, and the correct size and strength of piping. Dean emphasized that the security of the layout also requires some thought—particularly against late night wanderers whose primary interest is to pull equipment apart and leave your irrigation system running all night!

Mark Peart, Duke Equipment Ltd.

Mark Peart, an area salesman, brought a trailer load of Duke's better known equipment. He made each operational and explained their many knobs and whistles.

Competitively priced is the Ren-O-Thin verticutter. For a bowling green lawn one would select the 1/32" thickness blades, set 1" or 1-1/2" apart.

The Ransomes Greens Super 55 mower is the most up-to-date machine engineered to maintain lawn bowling greens. It attains more perfectly level surfaces than those found in 90% of Ontario clubs.

Other pieces of equipment shown were (a) the small EpoMini 5 spreader for even distribution of sand (for greens) or salt (for winter roads), and (b) the heavy, 400 kg Greensaire 24" Ryan Aerator, a common aerator for those who need the economics of a "walk ahead" machine.

Angelo Capannelli, Hutcheson Sand and Mixes

The technical sales/serviceman for the Hamilton Area, Angelo Capannelli held a discussion on "SAND," a daunting subject.

Angelo explained the preferred use of silica sand to keep the pH of the root zone closer to 7.0 rather than near 8.0. This provides the best solubility of the minor elements in the root zone. He also demonstrated their new product, Dry Bagged Sand, which may be spread over a green with a fertilizer spreader.

Dry Sand has multiple uses including leveling, overseeding, and topdressing after verticutting. It is ready for immediate use and saves both time and manpower.

Bill Crook, Highland Creek Lawn Bowling Club

Bill was asked to present his Indoor Lawn Bowl's Chute which he constructed from a design in a U.K. report for the testing of indoor lawn bowling felt carpets.

We have used the chute to check the pace of the indoor car-

pets at Brampton, and we found a pace of 16 seconds for the 95 foot carpet.

There are many uses for this chute: (a) testing bowls for accuracy of bias; (b) testing the evenness of a green; and (c) having a competition between immobilized wheelchair people on an even footing against more mobile people.

Bill also showed the value of his laser beam transit which was reasonably priced and covered an accuracy radius of 30 feet. A much more expensive machine would be preferred for 120 foot greens but this smaller sized laser covers almost half the green and is a good start in measuring the topography.

Thanks to all who participated. It was a worthwhile day. To Roselawn Lawn Bowling Club, thanks for the venue and the lunch.

— John L. Hopkins is the Greens Advisor for the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association



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- Constructing the Sports Field, a pamphlet jam packed with info for sand based fields, available at a minimal cost

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DOGS BY DESIGN



When it comes to golf businesses, creativity has no limits. Dogs by Design, for example, is a canine academy that leases border collies, retrievers, and dalmations to chase geese off golf courses. It charges \$20 a day or \$4,000 for the season.

"We're the goose busters," said master trainer Norm Murray from Ballantrae, Ontario. "These birds extrude about half a pound of excrement a day. When you have 50-100 geese flying fairways and golfers walking through it ... it becomes quite an annoyance."

Golf, as far as Mr. Murray is concerned, is the best thing to happen to dog training in a long, long time.

"It's changing my life back to normal," Mr. Murray said. "We're recovering from a bad case of economics. These golf courses have tried netting, shotgun blasts, horns, etc. But they're all irritants. The best way to do anything is to prevent it rather than correct it."

By the end of this year, Mr Murray predicts Dogs by Design will have signed up 80 golf courses, all in Ontario, for his goose patrol. ♦

— reprinted from the *Globe and Mail*, Saturday April 11, 1998

COMING EVENTS

Ontario Parks Association
AGM & Awards Banquet
September 16-17
Toronto, Ontario

Crop Protection Institute
46th Conference & Annual Meeting
September 20-23
Delta Meadowvale, Mississauga, Ontario
Contact (416) 622-9771, fax (416) 622-6764

1st National Parks & Open Space Symposium
September 24-25
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Communities in Bloom
National Award Ceremonies
September 26-27
Winnipeg, Manitoba

National Institute on Park & Grounds Management
28th Annual Educational Conference
October 25-28
Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact National Institute
(920) 733-2301

The Composting Council of Canada
8th Annual Conference, Exhibits,
and General Meeting
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