

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for safe, natural sports turf

WINTER 2006 • VOL. 19, NO. 4

OUTDOOR ICE RINKS...

- 3 President's Message
- 4 Coming Events
- 5 Turf Industry News
- 6 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
- 8 Cover Story Continued
- 10 Rideau Canal Skateway
- 13 ABCs of Rink Maintenance
- 14 Examine Your Scheduling
- 16 Trade Show Strategies
- 19 City of Windsor Profile
- 21 STA Member Don Sadler
- 22 SOP Snowplowing



Create a Skating Winter Wonderland

TIPS FOR INSTALLING & MAINTAINING A SAFE OUTDOOR ICE SURFACE

During winter in Canada it's not uncommon to see a great sheet of ice in every second backyard, and almost every community has at least one outdoor rink. Here are some tips for installing and maintaining a safe, fun outdoor ice surface.

Site Selection

Obviously, your chosen site should be on ground that's as level as possible. You can level it off as you build your rink, but the more level to start with, the better. The surface you're building on should promote good drainage in the spring and not be a dark color, such as asphalt, because dark colors absorb heat.

Water Supply

Make sure there is an adequate water supply close at hand. If you don't have a controlled water supply, the next best al-

ternative is a stream or pond from which you can pump water.

Lighting

To maximize usability, lighting is a must. It's been my experience that at least 80% of outdoor rink use is after school hours, and with winter days being so short, you'll need lighting.

Surface Area

Make sure that you have enough room for your ice surface. The area should be 180-200 feet long and at least 80-85 feet wide. You can use the area for other activities in the off-season.

Ancillary Facilities

You will need access to facilities for your patrons. If it's not in the budget the first year, renting portable restrooms might suffice temporarily. → page 8





TURF TRADES

Employment Bulletin Board @
www.sportsturfassociation.com

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 is \$75 for STA members and \$100 for non-members for the initial 60 day period. Payment by cheque (Canada only), MasterCard or Visa must accompany the job description. Jobs will be posted in a standard page format.



For information on all STA advertising opportunities, contact Lee Huether at 519-763-9431, fax 519-766-1704, info@sportsturfassociation.com.

EVERGREEN™ Turf Blankets... ...trusted around the world!

**“Results Outstanding...,
 Could Not Believe...”**

wrote **Dann Daly**, Park Maintenance Supervisor,
Parks & Recr. Dept., North Smithfield, RI

- Earlier spring green-up
- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development
- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket
- 3 & 7 yr. warranty covers
- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size

Want to know more?
CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

COVERMASTER™
COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER

MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR. 11-D, REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-742-6837



Covers for baseball fields are also readily available.



Covered...

Uncovered...



It works on the greenhouse principle, every time!



covermaster.com

E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Volume 19, Issue 4, ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the
SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION INC.
328 Victoria Rd. S., RR 2, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8
Tel: (519) 763-9431, Fax: (519) 766-1704
E-mail: info@sportsturfassociation.com
Web: www.sportsturfassociation.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Gord Dol
PAST PRESIDENT Andrew Gaydon
TREASURER Rick Lane
SECRETARY Bob Sheard
EXECUTIVE MANAGER Lee Huether

DIRECTORS

Brian Adriaans, Jane Arnett-Rivers,
Cam Beneteau, Dave Chapman, Paul Gillen,
Bob Kennedy, Grant McKeich,
Greg Snaith & Paul Turner

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$60/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jane Arnett-Rivers, Andrew Gaydon,
Lee Huether and Paul Turner

PUBLISHER

New Paradigm Communications
R.R. #8, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5W4
Tel. (519) 371-6818, Fax: (519) 371-5789
E-mail: joy@npc-solutions.com

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 40031883

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to the STA at 328 Victoria Rd. South, RR 2, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8.



STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. At other times, a message may be left on the voice mail system. 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

GORDON DOL



Will the Rain Ever End?

Winter is fast approaching. The time has come when we all can sit back (a little) and reflect on another busy season in sports turf. And certainly, the talk of the industry has been the extremely wet fall. The month of September saw 18 rain days. October had 21 days of rain, and November was not much better until the end of the month. Combining the rainy days with the subsequent ones needed to dry out did not leave much time to get work done. Furthermore, with all the wet conditions, any field that was used continually will likely be in the condition referred to as a MUD BOWL.

Gearing Up For Winter Activities

At this time of year, many families are constructing their backyard rinks in hopes of a cold winter. In addition to being a long-held Canadian tradition, backyard rinks also serve to keep kids occupied instead of spending hours in front of the TV (and what parent doesn't relish that idea!). Arenas are also a buzz of activity with hockey, figure skating and endless hours of public skating scheduled. What is also good to see is that a number of municipalities are installing outdoor rinks complete with cover and boards. These facilities are being well used for ball hockey, etc. in the warm season and skating and hockey when ice conditions permit.

OTS 2007

With winter approaching, there is another event that everyone in the sports turf industry should be planning to attend. The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium once again promises to be the premier turf event of the year. Another great slate of speakers has been confirmed. Mark February 19 & 20, 2007 on your calendars and I'll see you at the University of Guelph.

During the OTS, the Sports Turf Association will also be hosting our Annual General Meeting. All members are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend. You will receive your invitation early in the new year. The AGM will be held Tuesday, February 20 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of Johnson Hall. Note that over the past year we have restruc-

Mark your calendars. OTS 2007 will be February 19 & 20, 2007 at the University of Guelph. This year's theme is *Keeping it Green*.

tured the STA scholarship program. Applications have been received and the recipient will be announced at the AGM. Lastly, we are now accepting nominations for various board positions. You will have recently received a nomination form by mail. If you would like to be part of a great team, please contact Lee Huether or any board member for more information. Deadline for nominations is December 22, 2006.

Celebrating Two Decades

In 2007, your Sports Turf Association will be 20 years-old. Plans are now underway to commemorate this event. Stay tuned, we will keep you posted. We hope that all members, past and present, will join us as we celebrate this anniversary year.

On behalf of the STA Board, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. ♦



COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

January 9-11

*Landscape Ontario
Congress 2007, featuring Fencecraft*
Toronto, ON
Info: www.locongress.com

January 17-19

*Ontario Golf Superintendents'
Association
Ontario Golf Course Management
Conference & Trade Show*
Info: (519) 767-3341
www.golfsupers.on.ca

January 17-20

*Sports Turf Managers Association (US)
18th Annual Conference & Exhibition*
San Antonio, TX
Info: www.sportsturfmanager.org

January 29-February 23, 2007

*University of Guelph
Turf Managers' Short Course*
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/turfmanager

February 5-9

*Turfgrass Producers International
Midwinter Conference and Field Day*
Queensland, Australia
Info: (847) 649-5555
www.TurfGrassSod.org

February 6-8

*Ontario Parks Association
Annual Educational Seminar
& Explorations Trade Show*
Hamilton, Ontario
Info: (905) 864-6182
www.opassoc.on

February 19-20

*Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
Keeping it Green*
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS

February 20

*Sports Turf Association
Annual General Meeting*
@ the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 763-9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

February 19-24

*GCSAA Education Conference and
February 22-24
Golf Industry Show*
Anaheim, CA
Info: www.gcsaa.org

February 23-28

*Western Canada Turfgrass Association
44th Annual Conference & Show*
Victoria, BC
Info: www.wctaturf.com

March 2-6

*Canadian Golf Superintendents
Association's
58th Annual International Turfgrass
Conference & Trade Show*
in co-operation with the Quebec Golf
Superintendents Association
Montreal, QC
Info: www.golfsupers.com



Spring 2007: Encore Presentation!
*STA Proactive Water Use for Sports
Turf Management: Implications of
Municipal Water Restrictions*
Watch for details!

GET ON THE LIST!

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



Ontario Turf Industry News

STA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY • OTRF STRIVING TO MAKE THE GTI A WORLD CLASS RESEARCH FACILITY IN 5 YEARS...

The Sports Turf Association Celebrates 20 Years in 2007

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987, when, at a 'brain storming' session held at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to turf. Twenty years later the STA continues to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development.

Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) Fall Information Session

Despite a rainy day in October for an outside tour, the OTRF hosted an information session and visit of the turf plots at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Invited guests to the roundtable forum included representatives from turf related associations such as Landscape Ontario, National Golf Course Owners, Sports Turf, Ontario Golf Superintendents and the Golf Association of



Ontario. Dr. Rene Van Acker, recently appointed Chair of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph, joined the discussions to learn of the history of OTRF and its mandate.

Ron Schiedel, President of OTRF, explained the OTRF mission statement which is to direct and promote turf research for the benefit of the turfgrass industry and the general public. University of Guelph turf researchers, Dr. Tom Hsiang, Dr. Eric Lyons and Dr. Katerina Jordan were on hand to showcase their research. These expert turf specialists provided a united voice that spoke volumes of enthusiasm to the future of not only turf research but research at Canada's top turf research facility, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Following the presentations during a roundtable dialogue, association leaders and the OTRF Board exchanged ideas on how to take the OTRF to the next level. With a long term goal in place, the OTRF can be instrumental in making the GTI a world class turf research facility in the next five years. Subsequently, with both industry and end user financial support, the OTRF would continue to fund cutting edge research at one of North America's largest turf research institutes. ♦



ODDS & ENDS

STA Membership Plaques

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

Spring 2007 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by February 23, 2007.

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.



New Members WELCOME TO THE STA!

Janis Bortolotti

EZflow Canada
McGregor, ON

John Gormley

St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, NS

Gino Turchiaro

Earthco Soil Mixtures Inc.
Concord, ON

Nick Farrell

Tartan Turf Industries Inc.
Delson, QC

Ian Ferguson (student)

University of Guelph, ON

Katerina Serlemitsos Jordan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Turfgrass
Science and Nematology
University of Guelph, ON

Rick Brouwer

York Region District School Board
Richmond Hill, ON

Randy Travaglini

Travis Reid
City of Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Stella Williams

Town of Kirkland Lake, ON

Steven Piche

Turf Care Products Canada
Newmarket, ON

John Howard

City of Owen Sound, ON

Steve Halbert

I C Improvements Inc.
Stoney Creek, ON

Kevan Moxam

Pamela Cranston
City of Greater Sudbury, ON



The 16th annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) is scheduled for February 19 and 20, 2007 at the University of Guelph. This year's theme, *Keeping it Green*, reflects the many critical cultural, environmental and maintenance issues influencing the turf industry. The conference will once again be held at Rozanski Hall at the centre of the beautiful University of Guelph campus. Delegates have the opportunity to participate in a learning environment that provides informative and engaging sessions on a variety of turf related topics. Speakers from both industry and research will offer insight relating to important and current topics in turf care, government legislation and environmental issues. Delegates at this year's conference will learn how to use current management options for pests and diseases, techniques to meet the needs of staff, the implication of bylaws and legislation on turf care, plus many other industry related topics. This year, OTS also marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of both the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Sports Turf Association. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and network with colleagues and professionals in the turf industry. For symposium details, please visit www.open.uoguelph.ca/

SPORTS TURF RELATED SESSIONS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

M5 1:30 – 2:00 Selling a Concept to Council

Chris Mark and Jane Arnett-Rivers, Town of Oakville

From the moment it sounds interesting to the time of installation, there is a process. Buy-in from top to bottom is required and there are many ways to insure your enthusiasm is contagious. Understand the steps required to get a central irrigation system approved, tenders issued, awarded and installed.

M6 2:00 – 2:30 Alcohol Consumption on Sports Fields: Responsibility and Liability

Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association

What can be done about drinking in the stands and sidelines? Is the answer policy or proactive policing? Learn how staff can be empowered to effectively deal with alcohol consumption breaches and how one engages local police.



Above: Overseeding plots at the GTI (part of Evan Elford's research strategy, overseeding for weed management).

M7 2:30 – 3:00 Overseeding for Weed Management

Evan Elford, University of Guelph

Over 115 municipalities in Canada have restricted or banned the use of herbicides leaving managers with few options for weed control. Detailed research results will be presented which span the 2005/2006 growing seasons. It will examine various rates and timings of perennial ryegrass overseeding into Kentucky bluegrass athletic turf for weed suppression. IPM 0.66

M8 3:00 – 3:30 Sports Field Assessment

Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph

Many factors affect our ability to provide safe, playable athletic fields to the public. Athletic field assessment can identify the strengths and weaknesses of current management practices and identify potential causes of future problems. Discover ways in which fields can be assessed to maximize the benefit to the turfgrass manager. IPM 0.66

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

T1 9:00 – 9:30 Responsibility for Specification Compliance

Ian Haras, City of Guelph, Chris Davies, Frederick McGuire Consultants, Steve Macartney, Raintree Irrigation

During a sports field construction or irrigation installation, exactly who is responsible for changes, installation quality and product standards? Who is responsible for producing accurate and professional as-builts? Hear three very different perspectives on contract work.

T2 9:30 – 10:30 Full Contact Sports: When Urban Growth Catches Up To Existing Sport Fields

Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, Kelly Williams, Town of East Gwillimbury, Mike Burgess, Burgess and Associates

Dealing with foul balls in the neighbour's backyard? Understanding how to negotiate peace when sports fields disrupt home-

owners' backyards, including proactive measures of what works and what doesn't will be discussed. In addition, how to effectively and properly deal with trespassing on municipal sports fields as determined by the Trespass to Property Act will be presented.

T3 11:00 – 12:00 Reciprocal Agreements Between Municipalities and School Boards

Bob Kennedy, Sports Turf Management Solutions

Reciprocal agreements for use of sports fields between municipalities and school boards have been in place in Ontario for over 50 years. Both parties have benefited from these agreements. Budgetary constraints experienced by school boards are jeopardizing these agreements as school boards lack the funds to properly repair fields. Explore and identify opportunities that can create a win-win situation for both parties.



REGISTRATION

EARLY BIRD: DECEMBER 21, 2006

Discounts. It is important be aware that as an STA member in good standing, you qualify for lower association rates. Secondly, others from your facility/organization who are not STA members qualify for the lower association rates when registered with a member. Send the registration in the same envelope, fax it at the same time, or make just one phone call to register.

THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION HAS MANY PRIME ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CALL US!

"The ART of Sports Field Marking"

SIMPLISTIC LINES INC.

FIELD MARKING PAINTS AND APPLICATORS

R.R.#5 Stratford On Canada N5A 6S6
Tel. 519.348.0653 • Fax: 519.348.0654
www.simplisticlines.com

COVER STORY CONTINUED... OUTDOOR ICE RINKS

MIKE BRYSON, RECREATION FACILITY PERSONNEL, CALGARY, ALBERTA

Parking

Many communities forget about parking for their patrons. If there isn't enough parking, people will park on side streets and this will make local residents angry.

Rink Orientation

The rink should be set so that the long axis runs north-south. This will minimize the amount of melting that occurs when the sun reflects off the boards.

Surface Preparation

- If it's grass, cut it as short as possible.
- If it's a hard surface, clean off all gum, oil and dirt.
- Before applying water, fill cracks around the base of the boards with paper towels, strips of rags or other filler material.
- When the weather starts getting cold, start freezing the ground with a sprinkler. This will form a good frost to minimize melting during warmer weather.
- If there is snow on the ground, pack it down and use it for your base. The white snow will reduce the amount of heat the ground will absorb from the sun and it will give your ice a whiter appearance throughout the season. This will also cut down on painting costs.

Flooding

The correct way to flood is to apply water in small amounts through a hose or spray nozzle so the water freezes on the

surface and ice is built up slowly. Several fine sprays should be applied before proceeding to a heavier spray. If the weather is cold enough, i.e., 0° F to 10° F, spraying can likely be continuous as the first coat will be frozen almost immediately. However, in warmer weather, additional sprays should not be applied until the previous one is thoroughly frozen.

Once the ground has been completely sealed, the water will not run off. Then leveling of the ice can begin using a heavier spray. Repeat the previous procedure, applying as many coats as necessary to build up a level ice surface. Care must be taken during this leveling process to ensure the low spots are filled in gradually, as shell (shale) ice may result if too much water is applied at once. If some spots are particularly low, it may be best to apply water only to those spots until they are built up close to level.

During the flooding process, a number of precautions must be taken with the hose:

- Keep the hose on dry ice; if the hose is dragged over wet ice it will push water with it and ridges will be formed.
- Keep the hose moving so the warmer water running through the hose does not melt the hose into the ice.
- Ensure connections are tight and the hose does not leak.
- Do not leave a running hose unattended on the ice surface.

It's helpful to have a second person, who can manage the excess hose. If you are alone, the hose can be difficult to drag around. A way to minimize the workload is to wrap nylon rope around the hose and secure it with duct tape. This allows the hose to slide more easily; it also keeps the hose above the ice and eliminates melting. When most of the rink is level and covered with an adequate surface of ice, skating can be allowed. Skating will create a whitening effect on the ice surface, either in place of or in addition to actually painting the ice. *It's extremely important that there is adequate ice at this point to ensure safety of your patrons.*

Ice Maintenance

The first step in preparing the ice for the re-flooding is to sweep the snow and chippings away from the boards as the scraper will not get all of the snow away from the boards. If this snow is left, it will build up and form a concave and rough edge. The rest of the ice surface should be scraped using a steel scraper. For flooding during the operational day, use a barrel flooder containing water heated to approximately 135° F. Cold water does not work as well in barrel flooders as they tend to freeze up. At the end of the operating day, the ice surface should be inspected. If necessary, a heavier flood should be completed with a hose. If the weather is very cold, care must be taken to not get

91 YEARS AND STILL CLICKING

www.rittenhouse.ca • 1-800-461-1041

TOP DRESSER

- SELF-PROPELLED
- 250LB HOPPER CAPACITY
- 3' TO 10' SPREAD WIDTH
- 34" WIDE, ABLE TO FIT THROUGH GATES



GRANULAR SPREADER

- SELF-PROPELLED
- JUMP ON AND GO!
- 125LB HOPPER CAPACITY
- OVER 100,000 SQ. FT. OF PRODUCTION PER HOUR





too much water on at one time as it will run and freeze in a ripple. Also, in severely cold weather the ice will crack if flooded with too much water. A very light spraying should overcome this problem. A warm water application will prevent cracking, melt the remaining snow on the ice and spread over a greater distance. Some ice makers suggest that when the temperature is less than 0°F the ice should not be flooded as too much cracking will result. How often a rink should be flooded will depend on usage. Some rinks will need to be flooded at the end of every day, while others may require flooding only once per week. ♦

— *Edge, Volume 7, Number 3, November/December 2004, Ice Skating Institute*

RFP conducts courses in natural ice making as well as many other recreation facility maintenance topics. For more information, go to www.aarfp.com.

COMMON ICE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	POSSIBLE REPAIR
Shell or shale ice	Heavy flooding; leaving ponds of water that freeze on top and run away underneath.	Scrape away and fill with wet snow, or gradually build up with warm water.
Frost boils	Excessive water in the soil freezes and expands causing the ice to heave and crack. Excess water boils out through the cracks and freezes.	Cut out the boil, fill with wet snow and gradually build up with warm water.
Cracked ice	Cold temperatures.	Fill with slush and flood.
Ice chipping	Brittle ice from severe cold weather.	Flood with warm water.
Pebble or rough ice	Too much snow on ice; flooding while snowing; scrapers are not flat or not sharp enough; using too little water; if it ripples, you are using too much water.	Make sure the ice is clear of all snow before flooding. Repair and sharpen scraper and blades or use warmer water. Make sure you apply the correct amounts of water.
Spring deterioration	Warm weather or painted lines absorbing the sun's rays either from direct exposure or from the reflection off the boards.	Do not allow skating. Place snow on melting areas, as a thicker layer of ice will help prevent melting in warm weather. Also try to bank snow up against the outside of the boards throughout the season; this will have an insulating effect in the warm weather.
Low spots on ice	Excessive use in goal crease, behind net, at players' boxes, etc.	Flood with a pail of water in the evening after the patrons have left.



RIDEAU CANAL SKATEWAY FACTSHEET • THE WORLD'S LARGEST NATURALLY FROZEN ICE RINK

Each winter, the National Capital Commission (NCC) transforms the Rideau Canal, a historic waterway, into the world's largest skating rink! Hundreds of thousands of skaters and outdoor enthusiasts from all over Canada and the world come to enjoy this unique 7.8-kilometre ice surface winding through the heart of Canada's Capital. The 2005-2006 season marked the 36th season of skating. The season was officially launched on January 7, 2006, and closed on March 10, 2006.

History of the Skateway

The first skating season dates back to the winter of 1970-1971. The idea to clear the Skateway originated with Douglas Fullerton, Chairman of the NCC from

1969 to 1973. On January 18, 1971, he sent a crew to the frozen Rideau Canal with hand shovels to clear the five-km ice surface between the National Arts Centre (NAC) and the Bronson overpass. Witnessing the success of this initiative, the NCC committed to pursue this unique winter tradition and it has extended the ice surface of the Rideau Canal Skateway to 7.8 kilometres. The Skateway is now known as one of Canada's world-class attractions. According to a 2003 survey, 98% of users are satisfied with the Skateway and 75% stated the Skateway was somewhat important in their decision to visit the Capital Region in winter.

The Rideau Canal stretches 202 kilometres from Ottawa to Kingston, and was constructed between 1826 and 1832 by

thousands of Irish and French Canadian labourers under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel John By.

The Rideau Canal Skateway is a skating rink, and much more. During the month of February, the Skateway serves as centre stage for Winterlude, the Capital's internationally renowned festival and North America's unique winter celebration. The 29th edition of this winter festival will take place on the weekends of February 2nd to 18th, 2007.

Guinness Recognition

In July 2005, Guinness World Records™ of London, England confirmed that the Rideau Canal Skateway in Canada's Capital Region is indeed the 'Largest Naturally Frozen Ice Rink in the

World,' with a maintained skating surface of 165,621 m².

Highlights of the 2005-2006 Skating Season on the Rideau Canal

- Despite the variability in the weather this past winter season, the NCC estimates that over 850,000 visits were made to the Rideau Canal Skateway during the 2005-2006 skating season.

- Officially launched on January 7, 2006, the 36th season of skating on the world's largest skating rink offered 39 days of skating. Colder weather conditions in February allowed the NCC to keep the Rideau Canal Skateway open to skaters for 29 consecutive days, with no temporary closures between February 9th and March 9th, 2006.

- Skating for the first time on the 'World's Largest Naturally Frozen Ice Rink' was a highlight for many residents, visitors and Winterlude festival-goers to the Capital, as well as for professional athletes. On January 17, 2006, to the delight of hockey fans, the NCC welcomed the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim Hockey Club for a one-

hour practice on the Rideau Canal Skateway. Crowds gathered along the banks of the canal to witness, for the first time in the history of the Skateway, an NHL hockey team from sunny California State skate on the world's largest skating rink.

Interesting Facts

- The Rideau Canal is one of Canada's nine heritage canals. The Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada is owned by Parks Canada. The Skateway is managed by the NCC during the winter months.

- The segment of the Rideau Canal known as the Skateway runs 7.8 km from downtown Ottawa, along Colonel By Drive to the Hartwell Locks, located near Carleton University.

- The "classic" 7.8 km loop on the Skateway was established over 20 years ago as a speed skating circuit for the prestigious, international Jack Barber Challenge, held on the Rideau Canal from 1982 to 1986 and sanctioned by the Ontario Speed Skating Association.

- The actual skating surface is comparable to more than 90 Olympic-sized hockey rinks.

- On average, the skating season starts between Christmas and New Year's Day, weather permitting.

Maintenance crews work day and night to keep the skating surface smooth and clear. Snow removal is ongoing, and the Skateway is flooded every night, weather permitting.

- The average skating season during the past five years was 50 days long. During the 2002-2003 season, the Skateway opened on January 3 and closed on March 16 for a total of 72 days (66 skating days). This closure matched the March 16, 1999 date for the latest closing in recent history.

- The longest skating season to date was in 1971-1972 and lasted 95 days, while the shortest was in 2001-2002 and lasted 34 days (26 skating days).



ZANDER
SOD CO. LIMITED

Suppliers of
Top Quality Turf Products

GOLPLA
Turf Reinforcement System

* No. 1 Kentucky Bluegrass
* Five Varieties of Bentgrass
* Extreme Fescue

(877) 727-2100 (416) 364-5700
www.zandersod.com



G.C. Duke EQUIPMENT LTD.
ISO 9002 REGISTERED

Paul Turner
Sales Representative
Cellular: (416) 566-0211

1184 PLAINS ROAD EAST, BURLINGTON, ON L7S 1W6
Burlington (905) 637-5216 Toronto (905) 338-2404
1-800-883-0761 • Fax: (905) 637-2009 • www.gcduke.com



Master's
Turf Supply Ltd.

890 Fairground Rd. R.R. #4 Langton Ont. N0E 1G0
Phone (519) 875-4094 Fax (519) 875-4095
Website: mastersturfsupply.com
email: mastersturf@uniserve.com

Make the Switch to Quality

Quality Seeds for Sod Growers, Golf Courses, Sports Facilities, Municipalities & Landscape Contractors



Quality Seeds ♣

District Sales Managers
Peter Coon • Cell: 705-715-3760
John Konecny • Cell: 905-376-7044

1-877-856-7333 • 905-856-7333 • www.qualityseeds.ca

- The 1972–1973 and 1981–1982 seasons tie for the earliest Rideau Canal Skateway opening on December 18. The latest Skateway opening was on February 2, 2002, breaking the previous record established on January 18, 1971. The latest Skateway closing was on March 25, 1972.

- Every year in mid-October, Parks Canada drains the Rideau Canal by opening the sluice valves at the Ottawa Locks near the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel. In just a few short days, vehicle-access ramps, skate shelters and other facilities are installed in the Canal before beams are placed at the locks and the water is raised to skating level. From then, until the time the surface freezes, maintenance crews are busy installing stairs, hooking up plumbing and electricity, and setting up an entire infrastructure before the opening of the season.

- As the ice freezes and is covered with snow, the surface is cleared manually and with light equipment. Once the ice is approximately 15 centimetres (6 inches) thick, heavier equipment can be used.

- Maintenance crews work day and night to keep the skating surface smooth and clear. Snow removal is ongoing, and the Skateway is flooded every night, weather permitting.

- It takes about 10 to 14 consecutive days of cold weather (-15° C to -20° C) to get an ice surface safe for skaters.

- The ice must be at least 25 to 30 centimetres (10 to 12 inches) thick for skaters to be allowed on the Rideau Canal



Skateway. The NCC Ice Safety Committee experts assess the ice thickness before the official opening of the Skateway can be announced. The Committee continuously monitors ice conditions throughout the skating season.

- Snow must be removed when ice thickness permits as it acts as a thermal blanket and prevents the ice from expanding.

- The maintenance of the Skateway is 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- The NCC uses a flag system to indicate Skateway conditions. The green flag means fair to good conditions, but caution should be used when skating. The red

flag means the Canal is closed and conditions are unsafe.

- The Rideau Canal Skateway has its own skate patrol of 40 to 45 patrollers trained in First Aid and CPR. Some of these patrollers work two hours a week, while others do six- to eight-hour shifts.

- The second year the Rideau Canal Skateway was in operation, new skate shelters were installed on the ice surface of the Canal. They all sank! Since then, shelters have been supported by gravel pads and frames so they do not rely only on the support of the ice. The majority of the shelters are heated, and some are universally accessible.

- The holes along the Skateway serve as access for pumps required for flooding.

- Some 2,500 Christmas trees are recovered by the NCC and displayed in all the rest areas located on the Rideau Canal Skateway.

- The Skateway features an array of services such as concession stands, skate and sleigh rentals, shelters and rest areas.

Public Information

For Rideau Canal Skateway ice conditions, the public can call 613-239-5234 for a recorded message. For more information about the activities offered on the Rideau Canal Skateway, visitors may call the National Capital Commission toll free at 1-800-465-1867 in North America, or at 613-239-5000, or they may stop by the Capital Infocentre at 90 Wellington Street in Ottawa, across from Parliament Hill. ♦

Z-E-B-A
A Revolutionary, All-Natural Solution for Localized Dry Spots and Turf Repair

logic
 ALLIANCE

For more information, call 1.866.538.1280 or visit www.logicalliance.ca.

OTS 2007: FEBRUARY 19 & 20, GUELPH, ON

Keeping it Green!

University of Guelph
 Guelph, Ontario

519-767-5000
info@open.uoguelph.ca
www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS

THE ABCs OF OUTDOOR RINK MAINTENANCE...

Alcohol is forbidden at all ice rinks.

Benches should be provided for resting, otherwise skaters will group together on the ice.

Cracks, frost boils, chopped up surface must be repaired immediately.

Document all inspections, repairs and maintenance.

Even surface preparation in the fall makes for a better skating surface in the winter.

Flood the rink as often as needed when weather permits applying light sprays of water.

Garbage containers should be provided or else the ice rink will become the container.

Hockey should not be allowed during public or open skating.

Ice shavings may contain bodily fluids; dispose of accordingly.

Justify your rules to the public in terms of safety and legislation.

Know what the different colours of natural ice mean (blue, white, grey).

Lights must be in working condition and should point towards the ice surface.

Maintain adequate water supply and equipment at all rinks.

No food or drink on the ice.

Only maintained ice is safe ice.

Parking should be provided for users.

Quick response to any reports of unsafe conditions can prevent injury.

Rules should be posted on signs, websites and in newspapers.

Signage should advise when the ice is OPEN and when the ice is CLOSED.

Trucks are not the preferred method of clearing snow.

Users of the rink should be encouraged to report problems with the ice.

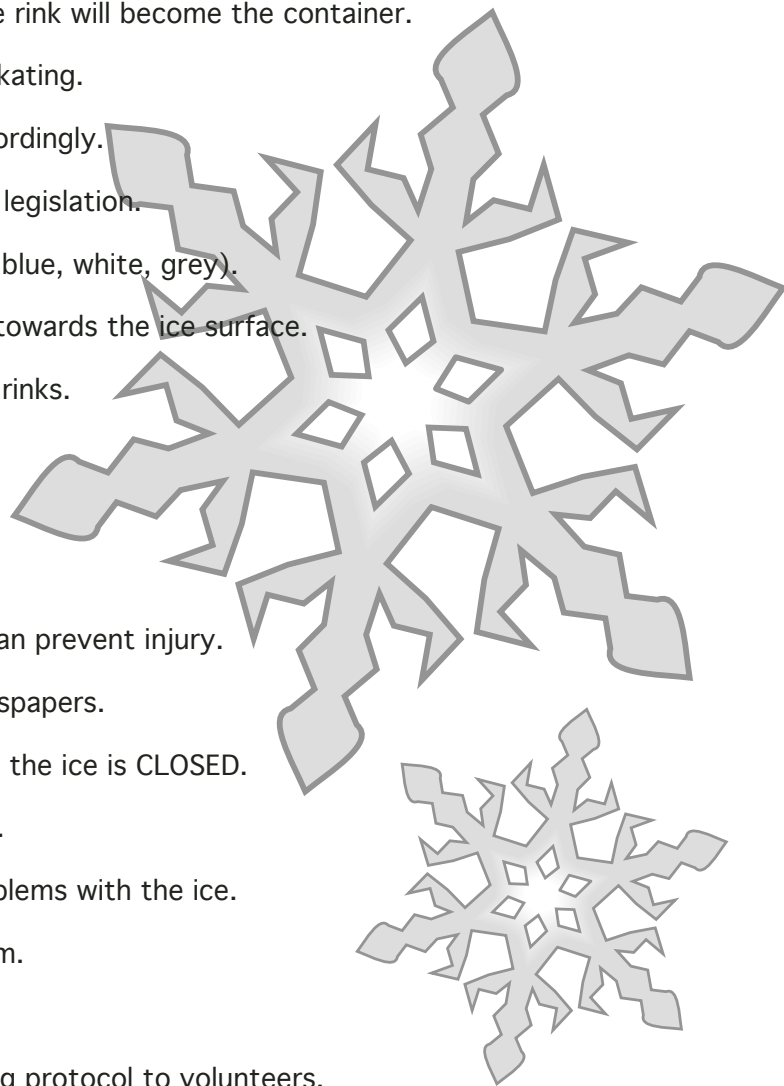
Volunteers are crucial for any outdoor ice rink program.

Wearing of helmets by all skaters is recommended.

X'plain your policies, procedures and incident reporting protocol to volunteers.

You should train your volunteers as if they were your own employees.

Zamboni or any ice resurfer should be transported on a flat bed to an outdoor rink.



Reprinted from *News & Views*, February 2006, Frank Cowan Company. Editor's Note: *Creating and Maintaining Outdoor Ice*, delivered in cooperation with Frank Cowan Company Limited & O.R.F.A. Municipal Members Operating Outdoor Ice, is Wednesday, December 6th during ORFA's Facilities Operational Forum. For all the details visit http://www.orfa.com/FOF/2006_FOF.pdf.



YEAH! IT'S DOWN TIME... OR IS IT?

JANE ARNETT-RIVERS, SUPERVISOR, SPORTS FIELDS & IPM, TOWN OF OAKVILLE

So you have aerated, overseeded and topdressed everything you could (or could afford). Sod is down, seamed, seeded and rolled. Goal posts that could be pulled have been and fields have been t-barred to keep those diehard soccer and football fans off your newly renovated turf. Irrigation systems are blown out and equipment is clean – well OK, there may be a few more leaves to pick up and fence lines to clean, but you did it! You reached December! And, you accomplished this feat

working through one of the wettest seasons going. Fellow STA Director Paul Turner joked with me in late September about seeing an ark – we all felt that pain this fall.

I don't mean to ruin your well-deserved break, but this is an excellent time to polish and improve schedules while the problems of last season are still fresh in your mind. Remember the conversation in June about putting a smaller unit in that park because of the trees? How about realizing that a diamond was never used on Tuesdays so

why are we still grooming it? Then there were the missed parks you discovered thanks to an angry resident pointing out seven very long inches of growth.

I recently read an article laying out three steps to improve any operation and decided to test it. The steps are:

- 1. Simplify.** Tasks, practices, and schedules – the best format is always simple.
- 2. Innovate.** Find the better ways, quicker routes, OWN IT.
- 3. Grow.** Keeping up with expansion, achieving more in your day.

How do we put this theory to the test in our profession? Let's examine scheduling. Here's what I suggest:

1. Print off all your schedules: mowing, ball diamond grooming, lining, trimming, tennis court blowing, aerating, garbage – every schedule you have. Hand them out to the relevant staff who does the work. Changes made here will have the largest impact on your department and no one knows those hidden efficiencies more than the person(s) doing the job. Make sure staff know the direction you want to go. In the initial brainstorming session there should be no boundaries! They should consider travel, equipment, staffing, everything they can think of relevant to the job and then submit recommendations back to you.

2. Apply the three steps (simplify, innovate and grow) to improve each schedule. Then meet with the relevant staff and discuss. Your three steps may be different than theirs. For more input, bring in staff who used to do the job; experience is gold in this field.

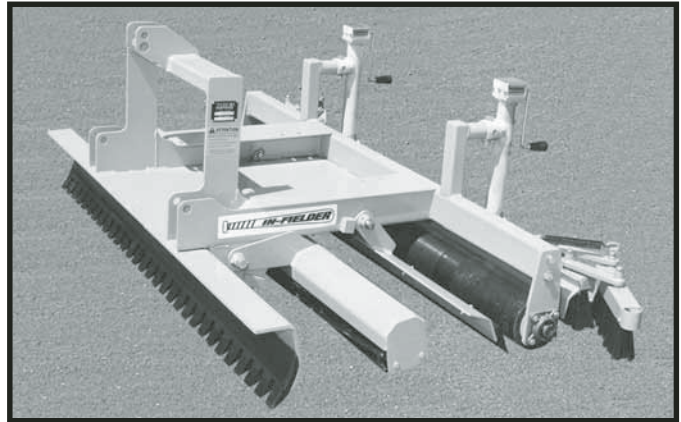
I don't mean to ruin your well-deserved break, but this is an excellent time to polish and improve schedules while problems are still fresh in your mind.

3. Take everything into account; leave no stones unturned. For example, perhaps someone doing another schedule is working close by and their 4-wheel drive unit would be better for the job than yours. Taken a step further, perhaps your scheduled work should be done on Mondays, and not on Fridays, as you did all last season.

4. We have started putting notes on schedules – area wet, park/unload here, heavy litter area/leave yourself time to hand pick, noise sensitive neighbourhood, etc. This has really helped when staff is moved around to different areas; all your staff can have the knowledge, not just the experienced ones.

5. Once you are comfortable with the changes, create a checklist to run parallel with your schedule. Whether it is a field inspection or for time/cost tracking purposes, this will help the operator and you to know what has been done and what hasn't. We have all had the calls, "Hey, you haven't cut this grass for a month!" With your new-found level of organization, you can tell them exactly when the field was cut last (and I hope for your sake it hasn't been a month!) and when it's scheduled to be done again.

6. So, I submit this article with apologies for adding yet another task to your list. However, I promise you will be glad you took the time to perfect your scheduling when spring arrives and there are fewer bugs to work out. And everyone knows 'less bugs' in the spring is always a good thing! ♦



REIST INFIELDER

72" width • Floating clod breaking pulverizer roller & leveling bar • 6 section packer roller, reduces skidding during turns & comes with a **5 YEAR WARRANTY**
Also features the first in spring loaded wing brushes
OPTIONAL 48" width available & tow hitch with adjustable wheels
The **BEST WARRANTY** in the industry.



REIST AERASEEDER

Comes in widths of 48", 72" & 96"
With the largest seed box capacity
The 72" will give you over 1700 perforations per square yd • The base unit comes with front cone spike or knifing tine roller and a solid rear packer roller
Seed is distributed through our ground drive mechanism
OPTIONAL rear cone spike or knifing tine roller



Visit our website www.ReistIndustries.com
to preview a video presentation of our equipment.

1-877-467-3478



MAKING THE MOST OF SEMINARS & TRADE SHOWS

JIM PUHALLA COVERS A TOPIC MOST WOULD FEEL IS INTUITIVE – BUT MANY PARTICIPANTS DON'T GET THE BEST BANG FOR THEIR BUCK AT CONFERENCES

A glance at the Coming Events calendar on page 4 indicates the approach of the conference/trade show circuit. The following article will assist you in making the most of your event attendance – a boon for you, your employer and the clientele you serve.

Conferences can be a welcome break from the daily grind – a chance to step away from the demands of the office, get some new ideas, and think about the big picture. If we go about it right, we come back refreshed and rejuvenated, ready to bring new life to our work. But if we fail to think through the process, we come back tired and discouraged, wondering why we wasted all that precious time.

Let's look at some of the habits that can make attending a conference an exciting and useful enterprise. While we're at it, let's consider some ways to get the most out of the trade shows that are a part of most conferences and educational seminars these days.

ATTENDING SEMINARS

At many conferences, one of the most important and useful parts of the gathering is the slate of seminars and presentations sponsored by the organizers. Surprisingly, many professionals never take time to attend these seminars, and many of those who do attend don't get the full benefit of the presenter's knowledge. Here are a few tips for making these presentations a productive part of your conference experience.

Get a Good Seat. Arrive early enough to get a good seat (15 minutes in advance is usually enough). If the presenter has audio-visual equipment like an overhead or slide projector, choose your seat to make sure you can see. Generally, you need to be closer to the screen when overheads are used than you do with slides.

Stay Close to the Speaker. Lots of us still have an elementary-school tendency to sit in the back row when we can. But if you're in the back when questions are being asked, you likely won't hear the questions or the answers.

John Madden tells about attending a coaching seminar the first year he was a head coach and sitting down in the last row, then seeing one of the NFL's most respected coaches march right to the front row, where he took copious notes and asked lots of questions. Madden learned a lesson from that, and we can too. That brings us to the next point.

Ask Questions. Lots of us are shy about asking questions. We don't want to sound stupid. But there's an old saying that the only dumb question is the one you don't ask. You're paying to be there – either through registration fees or through dues in an organization – so get your money's worth. If there's something you want to know more about, ask. You'll be surprised how often people will come up to you later and say, "I'm glad you asked that."

Ask About Handouts. Before the seminar starts, ask the speaker what information will be handed out at the end. It's silly to scribble notes the whole time, then have someone hand you a nicely printed booklet containing the same information.

Fill Out Feedback Forms. Lots of people hurry from the room after a presentation without filling out the response form. That's a mistake. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the form, and it's a big help to the presenter and the organizers in planning good seminars in the future. It's especially helpful to write down things you hoped to learn about, but didn't.

That's right – there are no dumb questions. Usually someone else seeks the same information anyway. Remember, you (or your employer) are paying for you to be there, so take full advantage of the opportunity!

TRADE SHOW TIPS

Establish Objectives. A good place to start is by thinking about what you hope to accomplish at the trade show. What new products do you want to learn more about?

What problems in your work could you find solutions for at the show? Who would you like to see at the event?

Take time to make up a list of goals you want to accomplish and put them in order, just as you might (and should!) list the things you have to do on a typical work day. That way, you can make sure you accomplish your high-priority items. Without planning, you can easily fritter away the time looking at interesting (but useless) new stuff.

Go Early. Most trade shows have light crowds first thing in the morning and last thing at night. Those are the times you can get the attention of exhibitor staff people with less competition. Of course, at the end of the day you'll be talking to tired people who are thinking about getting to the hotel bar. Instead, aim to be there when the doors open, and see your most important exhibits first thing.

Plan for Bringing Back Information. Before you can use any great discoveries you

make or exploit the great contacts you establish at a show, you must transport information about them back to your office. That takes some planning, too.

Probably the most common method for taking information home is to gather up lots of exhibitor literature and put it into a plastic bag. Of course, this is also the least efficient method. Many people get back from the show with a bulging bag of literature, put it in a corner of their office until they can get to it, and don't touch it again until they throw it out six months later.

It makes much more sense to carry a little notebook and write down the key items you learn, along with names and addresses of industry contacts, and so on. Little tape recorders are also very useful, because you can easily and quickly record lots of information then go through it later and make note of the really important stuff. Some exhibitors will even let you record their pitch – just make sure to identify yourself and ask permission first.

You might feel a little silly standing there talking into a tape recorder, but take



DOL TURF RESTORATION LTD.

Turf Drainage Solutions • Aerification (All Types)
Top Dressing • Overseeding • Automated Laser
Fine Grading of Tee Decks & Sports Fields • Golf
Course Renovations • Sports Field Construction
& Reconstruction

and official distributors of
Permaline™ • SportGrass™

P.O. Box 240, 2785 County Road 27
Bond Head, Ontario L0G 1B0

Tel: 905-778-1222 • Toll Free: 1-800-794-9664
Mobile: 416-791-3677 • Fax: 905-778-1333
Email: gdol@dolturf.com • Web: www.dolturf.com

MEMBER: STA, OGSA & ORFA

Your Sports Turf Specialists

The *Sports Turf Manager* isn't your only member resource. Why not visit



STA On-Line...
at www.sportsturfassociation.com

View a listing of all *Sports Turf Manager* articles from 1987 to the present. Go to the "newsletter" link and click on "cumulative index."

Contributions Welcome

Contact Lee Huether at the STA office if you are interested in contributing to the *Sports Turf Manager*. We appreciate feature-length articles, column ideas and newsworthy items. Updates on innovative research or equipment are also welcomed. This is a great way to both support your professional association and enhance your resume!

a minute to look around. You can probably see people dressed up like cartoon characters, booths with cheerleaders performing sales pitch cheers, and sales reps blathering on like carnival pitch men. A person recording notes looks pretty “normal” by comparison.

The new generation of electronic pocket notebooks can also be handy at a trade show. These devices have miniature keyboards to let you type in your information. If you decide to try one of these, make sure you’ll be able to operate it in the aisle of the show without finding a table to put it on.

Take Business Cards. Next to lugging around too much literature, forgetting to take enough business cards is probably the most common trade show mistake. If you have an adequate supply, you can give them to exhibitors and ask them to send you literature after the show. That lets you avoid lugging their brochures around.

When you give people a card, ask for one of theirs and write on the back what you expect them to do – call, send information, etc. That way, if they don’t get back to you in a reasonable amount of time, you know who to call.

Schedule Time for Spontaneous Nosing Around. Scheduling time to be spontaneous seems like a contradiction in terms, but it’s really not. You will definitely get more from the show if you plan your time, but it’s also important to leave a couple of hours to wander around and see what’s new.

One strategy is to arrive at the show early, make your key contacts and booth visits early in the day, and set aside the last hour or two to wander around. Since booth traffic usually dies off at the end, you’ll be able to get close to some exhibits that were packed earlier in the day.

Plan for Networking. Before you go to a show, think about other attendees you’d like to meet. They could include prospective clients, specialists you’d like to hire, or even an expert whose brain you’d like to pick. Consider calling before the show to make an appointment, or just to find out where you might run into the person you’d like to see.

Trade shows bring together the brain trust of an industry. If you’re going to be there, you might as well get the benefits of networking while you’re looking at the exhibits.

Get Off Your Feet Sometimes. Vince Lombardi used to tell his players, “Fatigue makes cowards of us all.” In other words, when we’re tired, we tend to think more about our fatigue than about the real work at hand. If you’re a football player that means you’re less willing to take chances to make the big play. If you’re a trade show attendee, it means you miss something you should see.

So plan to get off your feet after you’ve been at the show awhile. If you go early, take an early lunch break. Your feet will probably be tired by then, and you’ll miss the bulk of the lunchtime crowd, which can be brutal at a trade show. And make a point to sit down to eat; you’ll be able to focus better when you return to the show floor.

My final word of advice is one any experienced trade show veteran already knows: wear comfortable shoes. Aside from that, a little planning and forethought will help to make the trade show experience a productive and rewarding investment of your time – one that pays rich dividends for years to come. ♦

— *sportsTURF*, Volume 14, Number 1, January 1998




Red and grey clay products designed for baseball, cricket and tennis, along with groundskeeping tools and accessories.

MAR-CO CLAY PRODUCTS INC.
Tel. 519-684-7591 Fax: 519-684-7457
www.marcoclay.com



JOHN BLADON
Technical Sales Representative
Tel: 519.757.0077
Cell: 519.574.2013
E-mail: jbladon@nu-gro.ca

Nu-Gro Professional Turf
10 Craig Street
Brantford, Ontario N3R 7J1
Product Info Line: 1.800.461.6471



Box 171
Harriston, Ontario
N0G 1Z0
Phone (519) 338-3840
Fax (519) 338-2510

Edward J. Seifried
J. Robert Dippel

SEEDS




PLANTPRODUCTS
Turf MVP • Grass Seed
Turf & Tree Fertilizers
Pest Control Products

Plant Products Co. Ltd.
Brampton, Ontario
905-793-7000 or 1-800-387-2449
Fax 905-793-9632 • plantprod.com



STA Facility Profile

City of Windsor

1. Name, location of facility(s).

City of Windsor Parks & Facility Operations and Recreation Departments.

2. General information.

Parks and Recreation is responsible for:

- 2280 acres of parkland
- Over 211 parks
- 68 kilometres of trails
- 450 acres of green space in 700 locations of vacant city and private lots
- 123 km of roadside ditches
- 104 km of irrigation piping

- 102 life preserver stations
- 3 maintenance work yards (Malden – West, McDougall – Central, Little River – East)
- Ecologically significant areas such as Ojibway Park, Black Oak Heritage Park and Spring Garden ANSI, South Cameron Woodlot, Oakwood Woodlot, Peche Island, Ojibway Tall Grass Prairie.
- Peche Island, which contains many types of vegetation that are unique to the island.

4. How many employees are involved with turf care?

There are 3 who are dedicated year round to maintaining the sports fields. An additional 9 maintain during the high season. Each supervisor judges what is needed at what time. In the Parks Department there are 60 full time staff and 40 students between the months of May and September.

5. How many acres of turf are maintained? How many acres of sports turf?

Over 900 in total.

6. What percentage of this acreage is irrigated?

Approximately 10% of our sports fields are irrigated.

7. What is the primary type of turfgrass? Name of varieties.

Kentucky bluegrass with a mix of rye and fescue.

8. Is yearly overseeding part of your sports turf maintenance program?

Yes.

9. How many times do you fertilize?

3 times.

10. Do you aerate? Topdress?

Yes, we aerate and topdress.

11. Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides? When? Comments.

The City of Windsor implemented its Pesticide Use Bylaw in April, 2006. Meetings were held with both the public and commercial applicators to inform and educate on the particulars of the bylaw and what it entailed.



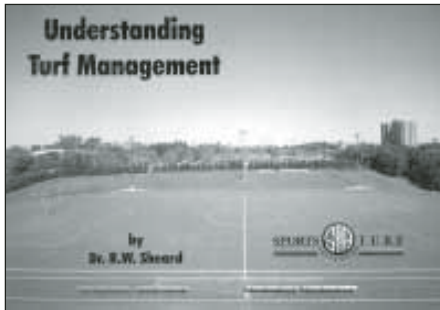
John Ivan Complex, MicMac Park

- Maintenance of the entire stretch of green space along E.C. Row Expressway (320 acres)
- 6 arenas with 8 ice pads and 2 outdoor rinks
- 10 Community & Heritage Centres and 5 clubhouse facilities
- 6 outdoor pools and 3 indoor pools which hold swim and fitness programs all year round.
- 28 park public washrooms
- 2 natural beaches
- 1 marina with 295 boat wells

- 8 picnic sites with shelters which are booked through Parks and Recreation by families and community groups year round.
- Odette Sculpture Park with over 30 features
- Festival Plaza and Civic Terrace, which hold over 14 major festivals each year.
- MicMac and Malden Park Complexes
- 1,000,000 square feet of horticulture planting beds
- 65,000 street trees and 35,000 park trees (excluding natural area trees) with 8,000 work requests per year

3. What types of sports fields are on site?

- 100 ball diamonds
- 40 soccer fields
- 13 lighted stadia
- 2 cricket pitches
- 1 Australian Rules Football pitch
- 48 tennis courts in 13 locations



Understanding Turf Management by Dr. Sheard

Available from the STA

A practical manual for the management of safer, natural turf facilities for outdoor sports. The concepts are applicable for any turf manager, from golf course superintendents to the parks supervisor, whether maintaining golf greens, sports fields or race tracks for thoroughbreds. 24 chapters illustrated throughout with photos and diagrams.

Members \$30, Non-members \$35

To order, call 519-763-9431 or visit www.sportsturfassociation.com.

12. Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of facilities? In what manner?

Yes, user groups continue to raise funds to partially finance new construction as well as assist with on-going maintenance of facilities. The City of Windsor and community groups and organizations routinely work together to construct/maintain the various sports fields and facilities located across the city. Partnerships are developed and grant funding is secured through local organizations to help alleviate costs.

13. How many hours per year are the fields permitted?

20,273 hours. Fields are permitted from May 1 to November 30, depending on the sport. Hours of rentals run from 9 am to 11 pm, depending on facility type. We have control on the amount of timing of use through our permitting system. Fields are closed during the regular season at the discretion of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

14. Who permits them?

The Recreation Department issues permits for the use of fields. Each booking is entered into the facility booking system in order to issue permits and fees to local groups and individuals.

Our Pesticide Use Bylaw was implemented in April, 2006. Meetings were held with both the public and commercial applicators to inform and educate on the particulars of the bylaw and what it entailed.

15. Are the fields ever closed during the season to give them a rest?

No, we do not close fields during the season.

16. How much input do you have in the amount and timing of use?

The Recreation Department manages all usage of the fields and determines when those fields will be open or closed. ♦

**For perfect diamonds
Edge it & Groom it**

With its adjustable guide shoe, the Bannerman Diamond Edger is surprisingly easy to use. Its three-inch blade depth and reversible, 20-inch concave disc work together to quickly eliminate ridging. Debris is spiraled into the infield for fast and easy clean-up.

The Diamond-Master® (pictured) and Ballpark-6® groomers will give your community ball diamonds a surface just like the professional teams demand, and reduce the time, effort and labour required to do the job.

41 Kelfield Street, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 5A3
CANADA 1-800-325-4871 USA 1-800-665-2696
Email info@sportsturfmagic.com www.sportsturfmagic.com

Bannerman

THE HOME OF SPORTSTURF MAGIC

STA Member Profile

Don Sadler, Executive Director of Parks & Facility Operations, City of Windsor

1. What is your role with the Corporation of the City of Windsor?

Executive Director of Parks and Facility Operations.

2. What kind of team do you work with?

The Parks and Facility Operations team consists of 4 managers:

- Manager of Parks Operations
- Manager of Parks Development
- Manager of Forestry and Horticulture
- Manager of Facility Operations

Each manager reports directly to the Executive Director of Parks and Facility Operations.

3. What are you and your team responsible for?

Parks and Facility Operations is responsible for the year round maintenance and operation of all parkland, greenspace, trails, landscaping and corporate facilities within the City of Windsor.

4. What is the biggest challenge in your job?

Constant communication.

5. What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Nothing satisfies like success.

6. What is the biggest misconception about your job?

That cutting grass and planting flowers are our main functions.

7. What is your educational/employment background?

I am a graduate of Humber College from the Landscape Technologist program.

Throughout the years, I have gained extensive experience in the operations of parks and facilities through my positions as Supervisor of Operations, Ottawa; Superintendent of Parks Maintenance, Etobicoke; Director of Parks Operations, Etobicoke; and Director of Parks, Windsor.

Presently, as Windsor's Executive Director of Parks and Facility Operations, my duties are as follows:

- Provide leadership and vision for the unit, delivering parks and facility operations as part of the Client Services portfolio.
- Oversee the operations of parks, forestry, horticulture, park design and development and maintenance of all Parks and Recreation and corporate buildings.
- Responsible for \$17,000,000 gross operating and \$15-20,000,000 annual capital program operations including 20 permanent management staff, 130 permanent unionized employees and the full time equivalent of 50 part time and seasonal staff.
- Direct communication with City Council, Senior Management Team, media and community agencies on issues related to parks and facility services within the City of Windsor and the surrounding region.

8. Tell us about your family.

I have a son, Jeff, and daughter, Tanya. My partner is Lou-Ann Barnett.

9. What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

Hockey and golf.

10. What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

I don't feel there is necessarily a requirement to move forward without perhaps moving back and reacquainting ourselves with tried and true horticultural and maintenance practices. Then we could utilize modern technology to refocus on past practices to influence best practices today.

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

The ability to contact friends and professionals in our industry for advice, support and encouragement. ♦



Standard Operating Procedure

By designing an SOP for every piece of equipment, the message is loud and consistent for every employee. The following is a seasonal example.

WARNING!

This Safetygram is designed as a tool to be used in conjunction with the operator's manual in the safe operation of the **John Deere with snow plow attachment**. Further site training and experience are necessary for competent operation.

SAFE PRACTICES

- **DO NOT USE** equipment unless trained.
- If equipment is damaged or malfunctions, **DO NOT USE**. Report to your supervisor immediately.
- **DO NOT REMOVE** or circumvent any safety devices on the equipment.
- **ALWAYS WEAR** prescribed personal protective equipment.
- **FAMILIARIZE** yourself with the operating manual before use.

John Deere with Snow Plow Attachment

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Green patch safety boots
- Gloves (for inspection)
- Warm seasonal clothing
- Follow legislations and use P.P.E.
- I.E. (safety vest, reflective striping)



PRE-USE INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

- Pre-trip inspection of vehicle
- Check plow for excessive wear, cracks & broken parts
- Check hydraulic connection for proper attachment
- Check engine oil, hydraulic oil and coolant for proper levels. See **FLUIDS** section.
- If unit is equipped with operation lights, check for proper operation
- After starting vehicle, test all controls that operate the plow attachment. Raise and lower. Left and right angles.
- Check tire chains and air pressure

OPERATING PROCEDURE

- First do a visual inspection of area to plow.
- Release the parking brake by stepping on the parking brake and lifting the parking brake handle.
- Use the forward and reverse pedals to propel the intermediate in the proper direction.
- Use the dual controls to move the blade up and down as well as left and right.
- After making first pass with the plow, remaining passes should only use half to three-quarter of the blade per swipe.
- Blade should be angled at all times when you are using the plow.
- If snow is required to be removed from a stationary object, then you should back drag. This is done by lowering the blade in the straight position in front of the stationary object and reversing the vehicle until you have achieved the desired distance that would allow you to now push the snow forward to the designated location.

STARTING PROCEDURE

Hold the Murphy switch over ride (only on the 935) and turn the key one stage to the right. Wait for the glow plug light to go out then start the engine by turning the key one more stage to the right and release on start up. Hold the Murphy switch for 10 to 20 seconds more then release.

FLUIDS

- Fuel: Coloured Diesel
- Engine Oil: 15W40
- Transmission/Hydraulic oil: Type F or Dextron

TRANSPORTATION

- Always transport with the plow in the most raised position.
- The intermediate needs to be secured when on a trailer with the parking brake set and the blade lowered.

CAUTION

- Always look back before putting vehicle in reverse.
- Use extreme caution while reversing.
- Remember that your surrounding area can change its structure in seconds and will not be the same as you remember it as being on your last pass just seconds ago.
- Be always aware of other traffic and pedestrians in your vicinity.
- Be aware that the intermediate is a rear steer machine and that it is very easy to hit things with the rear end.
- Store the machine with the blade lowered.

VANDEN BUSSCHE
IRRIGATION

RAIN BIRD

Hunter

Vanden Bussche Irrigation
Milton 1.800.263.4112 • King City 1.866.703.KING
Scarborough 416.289.3635 • Delhi 1.800.387.RAIN
www.vandenbussche.com

Turf Care Agronomics

- **South-Western Ontario/Niagara**
Duncan Brewer
905.536.0357
duncanb@turfcare.ca
- **Mid-Western Ontario**
Craig McCutcheon
519.421.6593
craigm@turfcare.ca
- **Greater Toronto Area**
Mark Scenna
416.458.2396
marks@turfcare.ca
- **Eastern and Northern Ontario**
Bill Martel
705.627.3590
billm@turfcare.ca







TURF CARE



Turf Care Products Canada
200 Pony Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 7B6
Tel: 905-836-0988 • Fax: 905-836-6442 • www.turfcare.ca



Supreme-Green™ TURF COVER

The multi-purpose turf cover ideal for natural turf environments such as baseball, soccer and football fields, etc.

BENEFITS

- accelerated seed germination • encourages root development • early spring green-up
- delays dormancy in fall • winter protection: reduces frost and ice damage • turf repairs
- available in any size

Covertch
Fabricating Inc.

Buy Direct From the Manufacturer!
Call 1-800-837-8961
www.covertchfab.com • sales@covertchfab.com

Never takes a day off.



Happy Holiday Season from The Staff at Turf Care!

The New Groundmaster®7200

Introducing the first zero radius turn mower that doesn't hibernate when the snow flies. The patent-pending POLAR TRAC™ system converts the mower to a snow removal machine with rubber tracks and a heated cab – That's Groundmaster Versatility. A quick connection system allows you to switch between snow blower, rotary broom, angled snow blade and V-plow.

For more information, contact your Turf Care Sales Representative.



TURF CARE PRODUCTS CANADA

200 Pony Drive, Newmarket, ON L3Y 7B6 • Tel: 905-836-0988 • Fax: 905-836-6442 • www.turfcare.ca
Mississauga • Scarborough • Gloucester • London