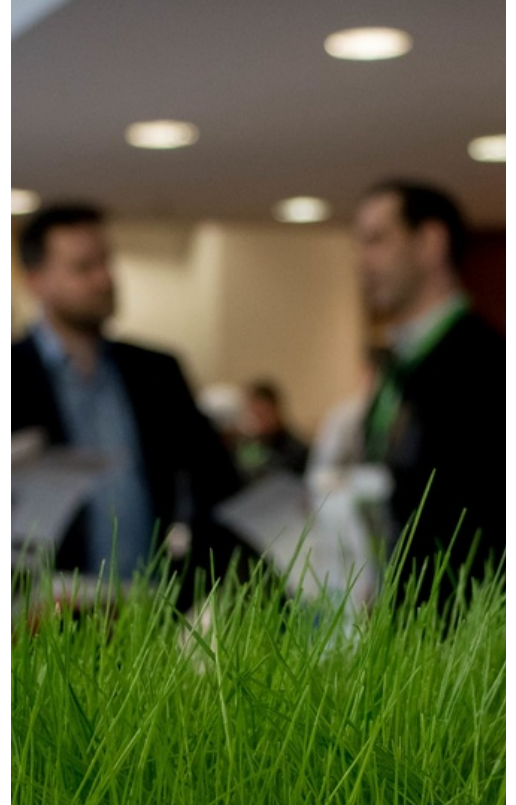


33rd Ontario Turfgrass Symposium



OTS 2024: The Leading Edge of Information

Feb 21–22, 2024
University of Guelph
Rozanski Hall

GET CONNECTED

Wifi Network name: uog-guest

Username: gti@uoguelph.ca

Password: Turfgrass



To receive **0.95 GCSAA Education Points** for attending this event, you must submit the approval code of **999-25306-33508** to GCSAA within 30 days of the event. You can record your attendance by using the online Education Point Affidavit in the Submit Points area of www.gcsaa.org. By using the online affidavit, your education points will automatically populate your educational history. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can call GCSAA at (800)472-7878 and submit the code by phone.



Each 1 hour session of OTS 2024 qualifies attendees for 1.0 **ORFA Professional Designation Credits**. Please sign the attendance form in each session to receive credits



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Continued Education Credits are as noted. Please sign the attendance forms, including your IPM Certification #, to qualify for IPM CEC's.



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OTS Organizing Partners



The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association is a provincially-recognized, not-for-profit, volunteer-driven recreation organization. ORFA is dedicated to providing leadership in training and development, and in products and services for the benefit of the recreation facility profession.



Sports Turf Canada is the professional not-for-profit association dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf for over 30 years. STC is the authority in our field, through our education programs as well as through our professional partnerships with others in complimentary sectors.



The Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario provides credibility and assistance for your independent or commercial lawn care company. PLCAO provides members with a wide variety of support for the everyday business issues and challenges, ensuring that you have what you need to do business well.



The Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario is a non-profit organization focused on building awareness of the benefits of sod, providing quality natural grass sod information for professionals and consumers, and supporting the needs of our sector. The NSGA is proud to support local producers across Ontario.



The Guelph Turfgrass Institute is dedicated to conducting quality research and providing accurate and timely information and education services in turfgrass science with a special emphasis on environmental sustainability and enhancement. The GTI is part of the University of Guelph, and is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the turfgrass industry.

Getting Around on Campus



50 Stone Rd E



Parking Lot 14 and 15 off East Ring Rd



Rozanski Hall (ROZH)

+ McLaughlin Library
-Starbucks (10am-4pm)

○ The Bullring (10am-3pm)
-Soups
-Salads
-Wraps
-Snacks
-Coffee

OTS Social Event @ The Bullring
Wednesday 3:45 pm
Includes Drinks and Snacks

★ The University Bookstore
(10am-4pm)
-UofG Branded Merch

▼ Craft Kitchen & Ale House
(11:30 am-7:30 pm)
-Sandwiches & Burgers

UC University Centre
-Brass Taps (10am-11pm)
-Starbucks (8am-9 pm)
-Subway (11am-6 pm)
-Tim Hortons (8am-6 pm)
-Pizza Pizza (11am-6pm)
-and more options!



8:30–3:30 Registration open - Lobby			
	Room 101	Room 103	Room 105
9:00	Update from GTI	Update from STC	Update from NSGA
9:30	Matt Legg - The Art of Application and Turf Pests in 2022/2023 (pg 5) 1.0 IPM	Trevor Warner - Better, Safer Ball: the Tip O'Neill Reconstruction Project (pg 5)	Dr. Scott McElroy - Autonomous Mowers for the Sod Industry (pg 6)
10:30	Break - Lobby		
10:45	The Hon. Rob Black, Senator for Ontario - Road to the Senate, Role of the Senate, and the Senate's study on Soil Health (pg 6)	General session in room 101	
11:30	Cam Shaw - Diploma in Turfgrass Management Program Update		
11:45	Draw for door prizes - Room 101		
12:00	Lunch - Lobby		
1:30	Dr. Alec Kowalewski - Tall Fescue Integrated Pest Management Practices (pg 7) 1.0 IPM	Robert Heggie - BMO Field and the Road to the World Cup '26 (pg 7)	Dr. Nancy Xiao - Fertilizer and Supplement Registration: An Industry Perspective (pg 8) 0.25 IPM
2:30	Break - Lobby		
2:45	Dr. Eric Watkins - Improving Knowledge and Management of Winter Stresses on Golf Greens in Cold Climates (pg 8) 1.0 IPM	Dr. Sara Stricker - #NoMowMay and #LeaveTheLeaves, what does it mean? (pg 9) 0.25 IPM	Virtual presentation by Dr. Casey Reynolds - Market and Consumer Trends in Turfgrass Production (pg 9)
3:45	Social networking event - The Bullring		



Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

8:30–3:30 Registration open - **Lobby**

	Room 101	Room 103	Room 105
9:00	Update from OTRF	Update from ORFA	Update from PLCAO
9:30	Ed McNab - A Case Study on the Effects of Long Term DMI Use on Dollar Spot Populations (pg 10) 0.5 IPM Jason Winter - Negotiating Employment Agreements (pg 10)	ORFA Panellists - We Want Sports Fields But Not in My Backyard (pg 11)	Dr. Eric Watkins - Turfgrass Mixtures as a Sustainable Lawn Care Strategy (pg 11) 1.0 IPM
10:30	Break - Lobby		
10:45	Kevin Doyle & Al Schwemler - Utilizing Best Management Practices to Drive Sustainability at Your Facility and Advocate for Golf's Future (pg 12) 0.5 IPM	Mike Greer - Meaningful Access in the Built Environment (pg 13)	Al Pinsonneault - Navigating Tenders and Contracts with Impossible Standards (pg 13)
11:45	Lunch - Lobby		
1:15	Dr. Katerina Jordan - Sustainability and the Future of Turf (pg 14) 0.5 IPM	General session in room 101	
2:00	Dr. Scott McElroy - The Future is Now: Autonomous Mowers (pg 14)		
2:30	Draw for door prizes - Room 101		
2:45	Break - Lobby		
3:00	Panel Discussion - OM246 for Testing Soil Organic Matter Content (pg 14) 0.25 IPM	Dr. Eric Lyons - Overseeding for Sports Field Victory (pg 15) 1.0 IPM	Michael Stangl - Regenerative Lawn Care (pg 15) 0.25 IPM
4:00	Closing Remarks	Closing Remarks	Closing Remarks

4:30 - OPTC Technician/Exterminator exam in room 105 (not included in OTS registration)

Matt Legg, Syngenta

The Art of Application and Pests in 2022/2023

Wed. Feb 21, 9:30–10:30 in Room 101

During this presentation, we will cover the fundamentals of the art of application. Listeners will review the components and benefits of product formulation, gain a deeper understanding of mode of action, learn how to perform physical compatibility tests, and finally review best practices before/during application to place control products as part of integrated pest management. **1.0 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



Trevor Warner, City of Woodstock

Better, Safer Ball: the Tip O'Neill Reconstruction Project

Wed. Feb 21, 9:30–10:30 in Room 103

Have you been to Woodstock's baseball field named in honour of Tip O'Neill? The Canadian Hall each year presents the Tip O'Neill Award in Tip's honour to "the player judged to have excelled in individual achievement and team contribution while adhering to baseball's highest ideals." Woodstock honours the ideals of athletes excelling in achievement and team contribution through the maintenance of their ball fields. Trevor is willing to share his years of expertise and dedication to athlete's success through the reconstruction of the Tip O'Neill Field. He will be sharing the entire project process along with his suggestions for success and also what to avoid. Bring your questions! **1.0 ORFA CEC**



Dr. Scott McElroy, Auburn University

Autonomous Mowers for the Sod Industry

Wed. Feb 21, 9:30–10:30 in Room 105

2023 ushered in game-changing technology for deploying autonomous mowers over large scales. Autonomous mowers have transitioned from small scale, wire-bound units to large scale virtual zoned that can traverse across larger acreage areas. This seminar will cover the current technology that is available and will discuss the terminology that will be associated with autonomous technology. For example, not all equipment will be truly autonomous. Due to the nature of the machinery, some equipment will require a pilot that still has sight of the mower when it is operating and can deploy a "kill switch" to stop the device. This seminar will further discuss the type of cut quality and environmental benefits that will be associated with various mowers. **1.0 ORFA CEC**



The Honourable Rob Black, Senator for Ontario

Road to the Senate, Role of the Senate, and the Senate's Study on Soil Health

Wed. Feb. 21, 10:45–11:30 in Room 101

From farms to international forums, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has been gathering information, growing relationships and getting rooted in the latest science as it digs into the status of soil health in Canada. This presentation includes an overview of Senator Black's road to the Senate, the role of the Senate, and some conclusions from the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee's study on soil health. **0.5 ORFA CEC**



Senate copyright: © Senate of Canada / © Sénat du Canada

#OTS2024

Dr. Alec Kowalewski, Oregon State University

Tall Fescue Integrated Pest Management Practices

Wed. Feb 21, 1:30–2:30 in Room 101

This presentation will outline the optimum mowing height, fertility rates and irrigation rates for tall fescue management. Research on the effects of mowing and fertility on winter quality, weed encroachment, and disease (Microdochium patch and net blotch) will be presented.

Research on the effects of irrigation rate and frequency on weed encroachment, drought stress, and carbon sequestration will also be presented. **1.0 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



Robert Heggie, MLSE Partnership

BMO Field and the Road to the World Cup '26

Wed. Feb 21, 1:30–2:30 in Room 103

An introduction to BMO Field, the home of Toronto FC, The Toronto Argos and Canada Soccer. A review of its short history as well as insight into the investments into field of play by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment. An introduction to hybrid grass, its pros and cons, maintenance and renovation process. The 2026 World Cup bid, the trials, the expectations, the need for consistency and time lines will be outlined. A detailed explanation of the different field testing practices we carry out for agronomical and playability reasons. These tests include soil tests (fertility and mechanics), tissue tests, gmax, deformation, energy restitution, force reduction, rotational resistance, and soccer "stimp". A great overview of the professional soccer industry. **1.0 ORFA CEC**

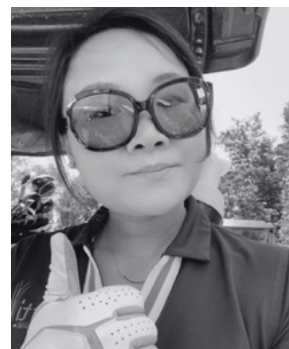


Dr. Nancy Xiao, FertiTech

Fertilizer and Supplement Registration: An Industry Perspective

Wed. Feb 21, 1:30–2:30 in Room 105

Government regulations can be tedious and hard to understand. However, it remains important to have a full understanding of the regulations and registration process when developing and introducing new products into the Canadian market. Product users with knowledge of regulations would make a wiser choice to be compliant. In this session, Nancy will explain the structure of fertilizer and supplement categories in a clear way from an industry perspective, and elaborate on the registration process based on her years of experience. The hope is that the attendees could walk away from this session with a deeper understanding of fertilizer registration in Canada and find it not as intimidating as they might think. **0.25 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



Dr. Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota

Improving Knowledge and Management of Winter Stresses on Golf Greens in Cold Climates

Wed. Feb 21, 2:45–3:45 in Room 101

Winter injury to turfgrasses on greens has challenged golf course superintendents working in cold climates for decades. The variability of winter at a single site, and over the years, makes understanding this stress difficult. Turfgrass managers are therefore left with few research-based solutions to prevent and mitigate this serious problem, one that brings great financial stress to the golf course and personal stress to the superintendent. The WinterTurf project, a multi-institutional and international research effort, aims to better understand the many ways that turfgrasses die in the winter, and then use this information to develop better grasses and improved management recommendations. In this presentation, I will update ongoing research projects, discuss upcoming research plans, and describe how turfgrass managers can help our team as we seek to reduce the risk of winter damage on turfgrass surfaces in cold climates. **1.0 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**





Session Descriptions

Dr. Sara Stricker, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

#NoMowMay and #LeaveTheLeaves, What Does it Mean?

Wed. Feb 21, 2:45–3:45 in Room 103

The #NoMowMay and #LeaveTheLeaves social media campaigns have gained momentum in advocating for a more natural approach to turf management in various settings, including home lawns, parks, and urban areas. These initiatives encourage homeowners and municipalities to refrain from mowing their lawns in May and removing fallen leaves in the autumn. This session will summarize a study conducted at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute which examined the impact of these campaigns in regard to turf quality and the establishment of weeds. **0.25 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



Dr. Casey Reynolds, Turfgrass Producers International

Market and Consumer Trends in Turfgrass Production

Wed. Feb 21, 2:45–3:45 (Virtual live presentation) in Room 105

What do consumers think about natural grass lawns, sports fields, and other sites? Or, do they stop to think about them at all? Consumer perceptions of lawns and other grass spaces will drive future purchasing decisions and research shows that sustainability is increasingly becoming a part of those decisions. This session will cover current and future trends in turfgrass production and how consumer perceptions may impact purchasing decisions now and in the future. **1.0 ORFA CEC**



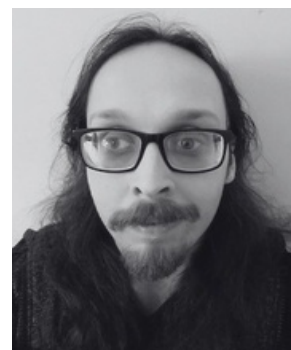
#OTS2024

Ed McNab, University of Guelph

A Case Study on the Effects of Long Term DMI Use on Dollar Spot Populations

Thurs. Feb. 22, 9:30–10:00 in Room 101

In this 30-minute presentation I will briefly outline the development of DMI resistance that has been observed for dollar spot diseases in Canada, the development of a field kit that allows turf managers to assess leaves for the presence of DMI resistant isolates onsite, and an investigation into one site where we observed a high number of dollar spot isolates that were highly resistant to DMI fungicides. **0.5 IPM & 0.5 ORFA CEC**



Jason Winter

Negotiating Employment Agreements

Thurs. Feb. 22, 10:00–10:30 in Room 101

This presentation will focus on the importance, content, negotiations and timing that goes into having a thorough and comprehensive employment agreement. First and foremost, the presentation will look at industry-specific highlights to help understand where to start when working on the details of the agreement. Knowing where to find information on the market that includes standards for compensation, benefits, and identifying priorities will be discussed. Communication strategies will be part of the presentation as they relate to negotiating and keeping a positive and constructive environment to maintain positive relationships with decision makers. Many of the key sections in an employment agreement will be touched on and include but are not limited to; Term and termination, confidentiality, employer property, employment policies, frustration, non-solicitation of employees and related schedules. Termination with and without cause will be discussed also and the importance of having a comprehensive and detailed severance package in place should there be no fault of the employee for the termination. This will help to ease the stress of finding yourself in a position of being without employment. The presentation will wrap up with a summary of the key points and takeaways, a question-and-answer period and open floor for discussions with the attendees. **0.5 ORFA CEC**



Panel Discussion

We Want Sports Fields, but Not in My Backyard (NIMBY)

Thurs. Feb. 22, 9:30–10:30 in Room 103

This session will explore why some homeowners would rather not have a sports field within walking distance. Noise, light pollution, waste management, and stray balls are only some of the operational and management issues that impact public concern in having these facilities in their neighbourhood. Finding a balance of meeting community need and community peace requires careful planning and exceptional management to be successful.

1.0 ORFA CEC

Dr. Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota

Turfgrass Mixtures as a Sustainable Lawn Care Strategy

Thurs. Feb. 22, 9:30–10:30 in Room 105

Turfgrass mixtures are a sustainable lawn care strategy. Lawns experience any number of stressors, ranging from snow mould and ice encasement in the winter to severe drought and heat in the summer.



These stresses can significantly reduce turf performance, and often result in stand loss. One approach to dealing with these challenges is by using new turfgrass cultivars that have been developed specifically to survive some of these stresses. Most turfgrass research focuses on individual cultivars of turfgrass species, while most lawns and other turf surfaces are established as multi-species mixtures. Leveraging the positive attributes of multiple individual grass species can be an excellent approach for a successful lawn. In this presentation, I will discuss research at the University of Minnesota that is investigating the use of mixtures for low-input landscapes, and provide recommendations based on recent and ongoing work from our group. **1.0 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**

A wide-angle, black and white photograph of a large sports field at night. The field is illuminated by several tall stadium lights. In the foreground, the field is mostly empty, with a few small figures visible. In the background, there are trees and a distant city skyline. The text '#OTS2024' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters on the left side of the image.

#OTS2024

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA

Al Schwemler, OGSA

Best Management Practices to Drive Sustainability at Your Facility and Advocate for Golf's Future

Thurs. Feb. 22, 10:45–11:45 in Room 101

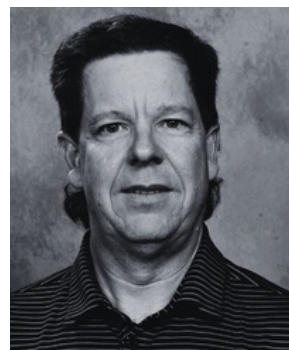
Ontario golf course superintendents are professional land managers entrusted to protect the environment and communities the property lies within. Regulatory requirements such as Integrated Pest Management Accreditation Program, Permit to Take Water, and others create a framework superintendents must abide by. The Best Management Practices (BMP) for Ontario Golf Courses provides a comprehensive document, developed by experts, that can help foster the sustainability of our industry.

This presentation will discuss:

- With rapidly changing regulations, our industry needs to better communicate golf's positive environmental impact. BMPs are the language of regulators.
- A walk-through of the document, highlighting the integration of current IPM and Water regulations within the BMP for Ontario Golf Courses. The BMP document serves as a conduit to access vital regulatory information and offers industry-expert recommended best practices to further enhance your environmental efforts.
- Benefits to you and your golf course, specifically the impact on the sustainability triangle of people, planet, and profit. From the minute the door opens at your maintenance facility the goal is to offer a safe environment for staff and golfers, the community at large, and the environment. This comprehensive document helps superintendents in Ontario tell that story.
- Finally, how to build your own facility BMP in GCSAA's online tool. Those in the regulatory world will applaud the efforts of the OGSA in building this document, then they will ask how many are using it. Will you be one?

Join us and see how the BMPs for Ontario Golf Courses can become a vital building block to communicate and elevate your environmentally positive efforts to stakeholders, including those in golf, within your community, and the regulatory arena.

0.5 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC



This session is brought to you in partnership with:





Session Descriptions

Mike Greer, Rick Hansen Foundation

Meaningful Access in the Built Environment

Thurs. Feb. 22, 10:45–11:45 in Room 103

Our mission at the Rick Hansen Foundation is to create and deliver innovative solutions that lead to a global movement to remove barriers and liberate the potential of people with disabilities and our vision is to have an inclusive world where people with disabilities are living to their full potential. Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) is a rating system that encourages meaningful access in the built environment. An RHFAC rating goes beyond compliance with building code or adherence to minimum standards or guidelines and provides a snapshot of the real level of accessibility of a site along with recommendations for areas of improvement. Site owners or managers can use this information to make positive changes that will help to ensure all users of their facilities feel welcome. RHFAC is a nationally recognized rating system. Having RHFAC certified Sites attracts more inclusive and diverse staff and visitors and welcomes everyone including persons with disabilities, parents with strollers, and aging seniors. **1.0 ORFA CEC**



Al Pinsonneault, Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario

Navigating Tenders and Contracts with Impossible Standards

Thurs. Feb. 22, 10:45–11:45 in Room 105

When quoting to provide landscape management services, navigating unrealistic specifications requires careful consideration of liability and the establishment of clear boundaries. This session will cover examples of how it is essential to conduct a thorough review of the provided specifications. If these specifications are deemed unachievable or unrealistic, it is the responsibility of the service provider to communicate these concerns to the client because it isn't always feasible to align corporate-level requirements with on-the-ground realities. Clear and transparent communication is crucial to managing expectations and avoiding potential disputes. **1.0 ORFA CEC**



#OTS2024



Dr. Katerina Jordan, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

Sustainability and the Future of Turf

Thurs. Feb 22, 1:15-2:00 in Room 101

We have seen large shifts in the turfgrass industry over the last 20 years, partly facilitated by legislation but mostly directed by environmental stewardship and an awareness of the impact of our industry. This session will discuss the changes in the turfgrass industry over the years with respect to management, sustainability, and social and public awareness. These changes will be framed in a way to consider the economic feasibility and environmental management of the turfgrass industry in the future. **0.5 IPM & 0.5 ORFA CEC**



Dr. Scott McElroy, Auburn University

The Future is Now: Autonomous Mowers

Thurs. Feb. 22, 2:00–2:30 in Room 101

In this rapid session, Dr. McElroy will cover how autonomous technology is currently classified so attendees can more competently explore this technology and its potential use in turfgrass management. **0.5 ORFA CEC**

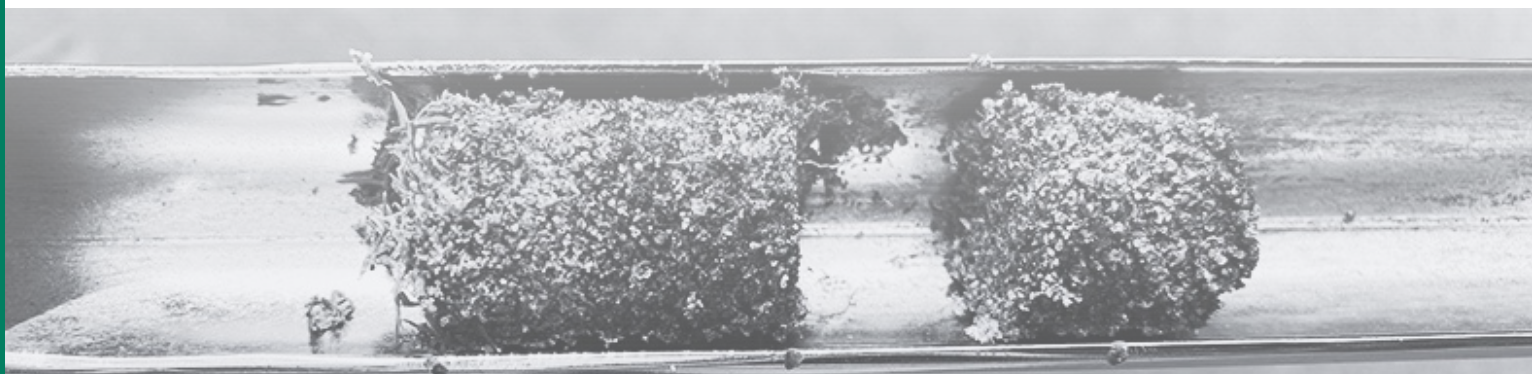


Panel Discussion

OM246 for Testing Soil Organic Matter Content

Thurs. Feb. 22, 3:00–4:00 in Room 101

Organic matter management is crucial to be a successful turfgrass manager. But what really is organic matter? How can I measure organic matter? What is too much, too little, optimal amounts of organic matter? Finally, what can I do to achieve optimal organic matter? This panel discussion will seek to answer these questions by reviewing provincial OM246 test data combined with performance metrics. **0.25 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph

Overseeding for Sports Turf Victory

Thurs. Feb. 22, 3:00–4:00 in Room 103

Sports field turf conditions throughout Canada consistently suffer from high usage, limited resources, and short growing seasons. To combat this, overseeding is a common practice to maintain turfgrass cover, reduce weed encroachment, and maintain optimum safety and quality of the turf stand. This session will present the current data from the project supported by the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation to improve drought resistance, weed management, and winter hardiness of existing sports fields. This trial implements overseeding with different grass varieties in conjunction with allowable weed control methods. **1.0 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



This session is brought to you in partnership with:



Michael Stangl, Stangl's Enviro Lawn Care

Regenerative Lawn Care

Thurs. Feb. 22, 3:00–4:00 in Room 105

You might be wondering, what exactly is regenerative lawn care? It's like taking the timeless wisdom of healthy soil, blending it with cutting-edge techniques, and sprinkling a touch of magic on top. Michael has devoted himself to nurturing lawns and landscapes, transforming them into vibrant, pesticide-free sanctuaries by collaborating with Mother Nature herself. But it doesn't stop at lawns – not by a long shot. Michael's journey has taken him across various landscapes, from cash crops to orchards and even vineyards. He possesses a unique talent for employing root-injection methods and concocting solutions that bring trees, flowers, and veggies to life with pure delight. And here's the real game-changer – Michael is a staunch advocate for ditching synthetic chemicals. He's leading the charge in a new era, one focused on preserving the land we hold dear. Whether it's your own backyard oasis or sprawling acres of green, he possesses the expertise to ensure it thrives, teeming with life. Michael has stories and insights that will elevate your lawn to a neighborhood legend. **0.25 IPM & 1.0 ORFA CEC**



Al Pinsonneault established Al's Lawn and Garden in 1981 at the early age of 18. Al's motto, "He cares" hasn't changed in 42 years of business. What started as a small lawn cutting venture driven by a young entrepreneur has grown into a full service horticultural and landscaping company. Al also serves as the President for the Professional Lawncare Association of Ontario and on the organizing committee for the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

Al Schwemler is a former superintendent and the Past President of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association (OGSA). He holds a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Guelph and a BSc in Geology from the University of Windsor. Al's storied career includes experience at Essex G&CC, Westmount G&CC, Board of Trade CC, Toronto GC, and York Downs G&CC. Al continues to support the turf industry by serving on the OGSA Board of Directors and spearheading the recent BMP's for Ontario project through OGSA and GCSAA.

Dr. Alec Kowalewski has over 20 years of research experience and multiple publications on various turfgrass species obtained while employed at Michigan State University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the University of Georgia, and Oregon State University. Alec is an Associate Professor at Oregon State University and teaches several undergraduate classes in the Department of Horticulture. Alec also provides extension material for stakeholders in turfgrass and landscape management. His primary research interest is improving the economic and environmental sustainability of turfgrass.

Dr. Casey Reynolds is the Executive Director at Turfgrass Producers International (TPI), a trade association that represents turfgrass seed and sod producers worldwide. He is a passionate advocate for the proper use of natural grass in urban and suburban spaces worldwide. He has been an author or co-author of over 300 publications in trade magazines and research journals and has been an invited speaker at almost 100 events. Prior to joining TPI in 2017, he was a faculty member at Texas A&M University and received his PhD in Turfgrass Science from North Carolina State University.

Ed McNab is a PhD student in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree majoring in biochemistry and a MSc in environmental sciences. Ed's masters research focused on developing a field assay for turf managers to assess the sensitivity of the dollar spot fungus in the field. In addition to the field kit, Ed has also investigated the effects of repeat fungicide use on the creeping bentgrass microbiome. Ed's PhD is on further developing his research into the effects of fungicide use on the microbiome of turf grasses, and he is also attempting to determine the genetic mechanism(s) that are responsible for DMI resistance in dollar spot, pink snow mould, and other DMI-resistant fungi in the turfgrass microbiome.

Dr. Eric Lyons is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. Eric specializes in nutrient management, stress physiology and plant competition in sports field, golf course and landscape turf. In addition, he oversees extensive testing of new emerging products for turfgrass managers and focusses on outreach and education to further the turfgrass industry.



Dr. Eric Watkins is a professor in the Department of Horticultural Science and vice provost for distributed learning at the University of Minnesota. Eric received his Ph.D. in plant biology from Rutgers University. Current research activities involve germplasm improvement of several turfgrass species and projects investigating approaches to reduce winter damage on cool-season turfgrasses. He is also involved with cultivar evaluation and other turfgrass science research focused on low-input systems. In his administrative role, Eric provides leadership for online educational programs across the five-campus University of Minnesota system.

A versatile individual with a passion for golf, **Jason Winter** has been a golf course superintendent for the past 18 years and in the golf industry for 26 years in various roles. Born and raised in St. Thomas Ontario, Jason developed his interest for the game of golf from an early age. This early passion laid the foundation for his journey in becoming a golf course Superintendent. Jason is a graduate from the University of Guelph 94A diploma program, a graduate from the 2-year certificate program at the Pennsylvania State University and currently holds the designation of Master Superintendent with the CGSA. After working in the US for 5 years, Jason returned to Canada where he worked for Marriott Golf at the Rock Golf Club and most recently at Deer Ridge Golf Club in Kitchener. Throughout his career, a significant amount of his time has been focused around golf course construction, renovations, and several extensive projects. Outside of this, the focus for Jason has primarily been creating and maintaining championship playing conditions through sound agronomic programs and he has hosted both provincial and national championships in his most recent role. Jason is looking forward to embarking on new adventures, while remaining steadfast in his pursuit of excellence and having a positive impact on those around him.

Dr. Katerina Jordan is an experienced plant researcher in turfgrass science and the director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) at the University of Guelph. Katerina is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Agriculture, where she has been conducting turfgrass research since 2005. She has taught courses in turfgrass insects, biological control of plant diseases, research methods and statistics, plant disease epidemiology, and integrated pest management to certificate, diploma, undergraduate, and graduate students. Her primary service to the turfgrass industry is managing the GTI Diagnostic Clinic.

Kevin Doyle graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and embarked on a career in golf course management lasting 17 years. Kevin also earned a master's in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University in 2010. He has authored articles in various trade magazines, including GCM. He began working with, and advocating for, the members and chapters of GCSAA as the regional field staff representative in 2012.

Matt Legg is the Technical Lead for Syngenta Professional Solutions, based out of Toronto, ON, where he leads all technical outreach, advanced troubleshooting, and product development on behalf of Syngenta Canada. Before joining Syngenta, Matt worked in a golf course setting, serving in the capacity of Director of Agronomy within the private golf sector. Academically, Matt holds a diploma in turfgrass management from the University of Guelph, along with his Bachelor of Science, in Turfgrass Science, from the Pennsylvania State University. Outside of Syngenta, he provides educational outreach as a seasonal lecturer of Turfgrass Entomology at the University of Guelph, where he educates up-and-coming Turf Managers about the biology, ecology, and management of turf and landscape insect pests.

In the dynamic realm of regenerative lawn care and sustainable landscaping, **Michael Stangl** stands as a seasoned visionary with over 43 years of unwavering dedication. His journey commenced in 1981 when, at the young age of 16, he co-founded Stangl's Lawn Spray, setting the stage for a remarkable career. With a relentless thirst for horticultural knowledge, Michael pursued a year of Horticulture at Niagara College in 1985. In 1986, he furthered his expertise by attending the 17th Annual Turf Managers Course at Guelph University, a pivotal moment in his educational journey. However, Michael's quest for innovation didn't stop there. He embarked on a remarkable journey of exploration, delving into organic, natural, and chemical approaches to lawn care. This extensive research and experimentation culminated in his pioneering work in regenerative lawn care. In 2014, driven by a global perspective, he earned a Sustainable Ag Certificate from renowned experts Graeme Sait and Joel Williams from Nutri-Tech Solutions. His global quest for knowledge continued with immersive courses, including Dr. Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web Course and Microscope Intensive Course at Farming Secrets Australia in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Throughout his career, Michael garnered accolades and recognition, including the Niagara This Week's Readers' Choice Diamond and Platinum Awards in 2021 and 2022, respectively. In 2023, his unwavering commitment to excellence was once again acknowledged when he received the Niagara This Week's 2023 Readers' Choice Diamond Award. Today, Michael Stangl stands as a luminary in the field of regenerative lawn care, armed with decades of wisdom and a vision for a greener, more sustainable world.

Mike Greer is on a mission to help those with a disability have a greater voice around accessibility, in the home, office, and travel. Born with a condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, he learned to adapt and deal with many challenges over the course of his life. In 2020 he joined the Rick Hansen Foundation as a Sr. Engagement Specialist for the Accessibility Certification program (RHFA) based out of the Toronto office, focusing on cultivating relationships within the public sector, municipalities, and government entities. Mike is a past member of the City of Guelph, Accessibility Advisory Committee. He currently is a board member at Guelph Independent Living & GW United Way, plus other local civic organizations and causes. These activities have given him greater opportunities to have a voice for inclusion for all. His speaking engagements bring both knowledge and a new perspective around people with a disability by using humour and thought-provoking questions in many of his engagements to further his message.

Mike also uses his social media persona of BloodSweatandWheels, to further his ability to share stories and information around his personal journey and other accessibility topics and issues. He has a passion for wheelchair racing, completing his first half marathon in September 2016, and his 3rd Marathon in January 2024. He is part of a strong adaptive racing community, from all over the world that shares a common narrative around adaptive sports, as well as working with Race Directors to make races more inclusive. He wants nothing more than to share his racing story with others providing them with a deeper insight and motivation around dedication and life goals

A grayscale background image showing a golf course with a clubhouse and a golf cart in the foreground.

#OTS2024

Dr. Nancy Xiao currently works as the research and innovation director at Ferti Technologies Inc. based in Montreal, Quebec. She works on developing fertilizer, soil, and biostimulant products, testing and bringing innovative bio-technologies to market for our business partners and customers. She also oversees fertilizer product registration and compliance in Canada. She received her PhD in plant physiology from the University of Guelph and M.Sc. in turfgrass management from Michigan State University.

Not in My Backyard Panelists:

Terry Piche has been active in the field of recreation since 1979. Starting as a frontline practitioner with no training, he has subsequently obtained diplomas, through distance learning, in both arena management and leisure services, while working his way through the ranks of supervisor, manager, and director. This passion for life-long learning is what he strives to instill in the next generation of recreation facility professionals. Today, his work focuses on monitoring legislative change in many of the complex regulations, codes and acts that impact recreation. Further, he collaborates with key governing authorities so that they are better informed of ORFA's leadership role in the recreation sector and how the association is investing its resources to assist their respective efforts in compliance. In addition, he captures industry experiences and best practices, and develops actionable, easy-to-implement and practical solutions that comprise components of ORFA training courses, which result in professional accreditation. Terry has been recognized with numerous industry awards.

Brad Putnam is the Manager of Recreation Facility Services for the Recreation and Park Services Division at the City of Peterborough. He is an experienced facilities management professional with a variety of experience in municipal facility operations and systems. Brad has established supervisory experience of various staff teams as well as third-party services including contract development and management.



Terry



Brad



Tracy



Werner

Tracy Eso is the risk assessment and solutions manager in the Risk Management Department at Intact Public Entities. She has over 20 years' experience in the insurance industry—with expertise in insurance claims, risk management, and captive insurance. Her focus at Intact Public Entities is to research risks that municipalities across Canada are facing, develop ways to mitigate those hazards, and educate municipal clients in best-practice solutions to create resilience in the face of an ever-changing risk landscape. Tracy is an instructor for the Insurance Institute of Canada and has spoken at various industry conferences on topics ranging from climate change to liability claims.

Werner Schwar (OALA) is the Supervisor of Parks & Open Space Planning for the Department of Parks & Open Spaces Section at the City of Thunder Bay. He has extensive experience as a landscape architect and more. Werner has led many excellent city projects including a Jumpstart Accessible Playground and the Current River Greenway; one of the biggest urban parks in Canada.

OM246 Panelists:



Steve



Micah



Corrie



Michael



Jeff

Steve Mann has been co-consulting with DCS Agronomic Services for over a decade. He is an I.S.A. Board Certified Master Arborist with extensive experience evaluating the health, safety, and environmental significance of individual trees and stands of trees in both urban and rural settings. Steve specializes in large-scale tree inventory, evaluation, management, research, and impact studies. He has managed hundreds of projects related to the identification of important natural features and the significance and/or sensitivity of these features to development. He has developed numerous master plans, arboricultural management plans and replanting plans for golf courses, parks and municipal properties. Steve's more than twenty years of industry involvement has enabled him to interact with numerous provincial and municipal officials on matters regarding tree conservation and large-scale planning applications. He has provided education and training across Canada on arboriculture and green site evaluations and taught a course on Soils for Horticulture at Humber College.

Micah Woods established the Asian Turfgrass Center (ATC) in 2006 to develop and provide turfgrass information for the golf and sports turf industry. Through the ATC, he provides turfgrass advisory and soil testing services to golf clubs, sports facilities, and select clients around the world. He has been an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee since 2009 and he has been director of the PACE Turf information service since 2022.

Corrie Almack is a professional agronomist and is the President and Owner of Almack Agronomic Services. He has been serving the golf and agricultural industries for over 40 years, providing soil analyses and designing nutrient management programs. Corrie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy and Crop Science from the University of Guelph and he serves on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation.

Michael Kooy is an independent agronomist and Masters of Science student in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. Michael has been working under the mentorship of Corrie Almack for the past year. His MSc research has focused on disease forecasting a foliar disease of onion in Ontario.

Jeff Stauffer began working in the golf industry almost 40 years ago and graduated from the University of Guelph in 1993. Jeff's interest in maintaining golf courses while respecting the environment has included an eagerness to learn and willingness to share his own experiences to colleagues and the industry alike. During his tenures at both Rosedale Golf Club and Credit Valley Golf and Country Club, Jeff has consistently maintained a quality conditioned golf course, ensuring the fundamentals of turf management are in place to align with the expectations of a supportive membership. Throughout these many golf seasons, Jeff's philosophy of promoting healthy soils and environments has lead to success in growing healthy turf while maximizing the performance of resources and minimizing the reliance on others.

The Honourable Rob Black has worked in the rural, agricultural, and leadership arenas for much of his working career. He has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs for 15 years. Following his time at OMAFRA, he spent 5 years as the Executive Director of 4-H Ontario. Rob then accepted the role of Executive Director of the Centre for Rural Leadership, which morphed in to the Rural Ontario Institute. In 2018, Rob was sworn in as a senator representing Ontario. Since then, he has been working on several issues of importance to Canadians through his role, and is the Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and a member of the Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament, and the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament. Rob is a recipient of the Hal Rogers Fellow Award, the highest honour conferred by the Kin Canada Foundation, he was named a Produce Champion by the Canadian Produce Marketing Agency, and he was recognized as one of the Top 50 Most Influential People in Agriculture by Canadian Western Agribition.

Robert Heggie started his career in turf at the young age of sixteen. Before long, he realized he wanted to make a career out of it. After graduating the University of Guelph for both Horticulture in 2006 and Turfgrass Management in 2008, he found himself in Barbados building Apes Hill Club, one of the top golf courses in the Caribbean. Upon construction completion, he jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the BMO field conversion from artificial grass to natural grass. In the past 14 years with MLSE, he has built up the field from a modest pitch to one of the most technologically advanced pieces of sports turfgrass in the world. Hosting both soccer and football consecutively is no short order and in Toronto's harsh climate it requires special tools. Robert was the first to bring many technologies to Canada including grow lighting, undersoil heating, hybrid grass, and more. His accomplishments include 2015 Sports Turf Canada Manager of the Year, 2020 Turf and Rec 10 under 40, 2015 PanAm games, 2016 and 2017 MLS Cup host, 2017 NHL Centennial Classic, 2016 Grey Cup, 2015 and 2017 Gold Cup 2023, and the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

Dr. Sara Stricker is a plant pathologist working as the Communications Coordinator at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. She aims to make turfgrass research interesting and accessible to the industry and the public. Sara obtained her B.Sc, M.Sc, and Ph.D degrees at the University of Guelph and completed a Bachelor of Education at Western University. She has conducted research on foliar diseases including tar spot of maple, Stemphylium leaf blight of onion, and Microdochium patch of creeping bentgrass.

Dr. Scott McElroy is a Professor of Weed Science and Turf at Auburn University, Alabama. Scott holds a PhD in Crop Science and a Masters of Science in Agronomy and Soils. His research focus includes evaluation of herbicide use in turfgrass management and the use of autonomous mowers. In addition, he studies weed geonomics and herbicide resistance. He teaches, among other courses, Advanced Turf Management and Applied Weed Science Technology at Auburn University.

Trevor Warner's dedication to sports field maintenance began while he was playing junior college baseball in Tennessee. He enjoyed maintaining the field and had a knack for it. He considers himself fortunate to have been able to learn from some of the best in the southeastern United States sports field construction and renovation industry. He has maintained fields for the City of Welland, for the Niagara Stars (which were part of the Canadian baseball league) and completed major renovations in Quebec for the league. He then expanded his industry awareness with Mar-Co Clay Products. He has been in the municipal environment with the City of Woodstock since 2014. Trevor is a strong believer of continual professional development and completed the Turf Managers' Short Course at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Trevor is a long standing member of Sports Turf Canada and won the Sports Turf Manager of the Year in 2021.



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SAVE THE DATE! **OTS 2025**

Wednesday February 19 – Thursday February 20, 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

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