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Newsletter



Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation

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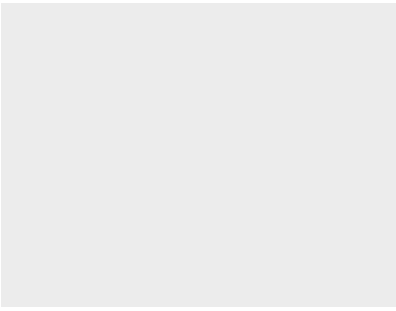


OTRF golf tournament- thanks to players & sponsors

Greystone Golf Club was the venue for the annual OTRF golf tournament with over \$27,000 raised for turfgrass research. Host Superintendent Adam Trenton had the course in impeccable condition, in spite of some heavy rains. The OTRF takes pride in hosting its event at some of the best golf courses in the province and this year we continued that tradition at Greystone. The tournament Low Gross winner was Trevor Parkes (Turf Canada); the Low Net winner was Vesko Gueorguiev (Royal Ontario Golf Club). The success of the tournament, in addition to the full field of players, is due to the remarkable contribution from our sponsors. Together they supported many on course contests, our silent auction, tee prizes and an on the course barbeque! Special thanks go to our platinum sponsors Turf Products and Green Horizons Group of Farms. Once again, the Golf Association of Ontario generously presented a \$45,000 donation on behalf of their membership.

A special thank you to all our participants and sponsors. As quoted by OTRF President Cedar Nisbet, "*Thank you for including this great event in your calendar, year after year. My grandfather and OTRF founder, Keith Nisbet, along with those early pioneers of the OTRF would be very pleased and proud to see the commitment that the turfgrass industry professionals are continuing to make to support turfgrass research.*" We look forward to seeing you at next year's event! For a complete list of our tournament sponsors and candid photos, see our [website](#).

Great day at Greystones despite the rain



SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH- How to reduce soil loss in commercial sod production

With 14,000 hectares of land planted to commercial sod growing in Ontario, the potential annual soil loss in harvesting sod is significant. A current study through the University of Guelph will determine the potential for soil loss and resulting nutrient loss and ultimately developing best soil management practices to prevent soil quality deterioration. In commercial sod production, conventional harvesting involves removing a layer of soil just below the thatch layer, which could result in permanent depletion of soil resources. When the field is left fallow, there is a greater potential for nutrient loss into the environment through soil and wind erosion. Mineral and organic topsoil is easily transferred by wind and water runoff into waterways contributing to the escalating problem of eutrophication in our water sources. The potential loss of organic matter in the soil is important in respect to loss of nutrient holding capacity and nutrient loss through erosion. Soil organic matter and quality influence a wide variety of physical and chemical properties of the soil. A method to quantify the net loss of soil during commercial sod harvesting will be studied. At the conclusion of the project, a guideline for best management practices to reduce potential soil loss from the harvested field will be developed. This study on soil loss in commercial sod production is of great interest to (and supported by) sod producers locally through the Nursery Sod Growers Association as well as internationally through Turf Producers International. More information and updated results are posted on the [OTRF website](#).



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