



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Ontario Parks Association, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and Sports Turf Association are pleased to announce that they have joined together to form the “Parks and Open Spaces Alliance”. This group replaces a previous “Parks and Public Spaces Training and Development Authority”.

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Parks Association (OPA), Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (O.R.F.A.) and Sports Turf Association (STA) have given direction for the Associations to jointly provide needed services to professionals in the Parks and Sports Turf profession. It gives us great pride to announce the start of a joint venture between the STA, O.R.F.A. and the OPA. These three Associations have developed a collaboration to better serve the needs of all memberships.

On July 12, 2007, selected representatives from all three Associations met and developed strategies for meeting these needs. The committee will be known as the “Parks and Open Spaces Alliance” (POSA) and have confirmed that the following areas of concentration will form the focus of immediate committee activities:

- Issues/Awareness and Alert Bulletins
- Resources and Publications
- Certification and Professional Recognition
- Professional Development
- Other Opportunities and Partnerships

The POSA presently consists of nine professionals. Three members are from the membership of the OPA, three from the membership of the O.R.F.A., and three from the membership of STA. The committee members will represent the POSA, and have been given the responsibility to develop strategies and to follow through on this project. The POSA is bipartisan and its main objective is to serve all three memberships in professional development:

MISSION:

Coalition dedicated to strengthening practitioners through professional development, recognition and advocacy

VALUES:

Professional Development - provides education and resources that meets industry needs.

Recognition - acknowledges professional competency.

Advocacy - supports and represents leadership within the profession.

We are excited about each POSA member's commitment and trust that all Association members will support and assist them in this new adventure.

Members:

Jane Arnett-Rivers, Town of Oakville
Lee Huether, STA
Stu Young, City of Mississauga
Mark Reinert, Town of Petawawa
Jeff Stewart, Town of Ajax

Bill Clausen, University of Guelph
Tom Mathews, City of Toronto
Terry Piche, O.R.F.A.
Marc Roy, City of Timmins
Rob Field, Plant Science, Inc.



The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (O.R.F.A.) is a not-for-profit provincial recreation organization with over 4,000 card bearing members. Membership within the O.R.F.A. includes representatives from municipalities, educational institutions, government agencies, First Nations, community recreation boards, private recreation facilities and business and industry. The Association provides a variety of services to its members including professional development activities, networking, regional information workshops, access to a recreation Facilities Library, formal recognition through professional designation and registration programs, trade shows and exhibits, a job search service, publications and resource information.

Ontario Parks Association (OPA) is committed to civic beautification, the advancement, protection and conservation of parks, open space and the environment as we practice "Protecting Tomorrow Today"® in the province of Ontario. OPA, a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1936, offers services emphasizing quality and accessible education and professional development, networking, information, communication and advocacy for persons participating in the parks services.

The Sports Turf Association (STA) is a not-for-profit professional association celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007. The association was conceived in 1987 when a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to sports turf. Two decades later, the STA continues to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development, encouraging and supporting research and the communication of research results and the interaction with allied organizations.