

MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE



Guelph Turfgrass Institute Officially Moves



The Guelph Turfgrass Institute has officially moved to the new G.M. Frost Centre. The new GTI location is 364 College Ave E, just down the road from the previous location on Victoria Road.

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Guelph Turfgrass Institute

The GTI was established as a partnership between the University of Guelph, the Ontario turfgrass industry, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in 1987. The institute aims to conduct quality research and provide accurate and timely information and education services in turfgrass science, with a special emphasis on environmental sustainability and enhancement.

The move to the new site resulted in the construction of a new state of the art research and teaching facility. The new G. M. Frost Centre building includes a classroom, a large lecture hall, a spacious boardroom, and a scientific laboratory to facilitate collaborative learning experiences, innovative research, and specialized services.

The total physical area of the new grounds is approximately 7 hectares (17 acres), within the research and special collections

portion of the University of Guelph Arboretum property. There are 14 new research plots, ranging in size from 414 m³ to 1680 m³. These plots include different combinations of turfgrass cultivars and mowing heights grown on the five sports field rootzones outlined in the Sports Turf Canada Athletic Field Construction Manual. New to the institute are two movable rain-blocking devices which will be used for drought trials.

The research fields were seeded in 2018 or 2019 and have been in use for the 2020 and 2021 field seasons. Some of the trials ongoing right now include:

- NTEP National Tall Fescue Test
- TWCA Kentucky Bluegrass drought trial
 - 2020 TWCA Tall Fescue Drought trial
 - Assessing the effect of Plant Growth Regulators on Winter Hardiness of Creeping Bentgrass and Annual Bluegrass on Golf Greens
 - Comparing plant growth regulators: Anuew, Primo Maxx and an experimental on a USGA putting green – Sponsored by Nufarm
 - Comparing different formulations of Fiesta to determine application safety for turfgrass – Sponsored by Neudorff North America
 - Bio-solids as potential turfgrass fertilizer - Sponsored by OTRF
 - Long-term surfactant study conducted on greens height creeping bentgrass 'V8' and on an annual bluegrass-creeping bentgrass mixed-stand that has been overseeded with 'T1' bentgrass – Grad student Ellen Westelaken

- Biology and management take-all patch in Canada caused by the fungus *Slopeiomyces cylindrosporus* – Grad student Karen Francisco – Sponsored by OTRF
- Incorporating the Use of Machine Learning in the Turf Canopy Scanner – Grad student Arthur Rosenfield1}

Funding partners for the relocation include the Ray and Shelley Chyc Family Foundation, OAC 71/72 Class Project, Greenhorizons Sod Farms, Landscape Ontario, Shirley Schiedel, Ronald M. Craig, Marc Vanden Bussche, Plant Products Company Limited, Bayer CropScience, Ontario Seed Company Limited, Neudorff North America, Corrie A. Almack, Victoria Park East Golf Club, and Timothy A. Tripp. In-kind donations of sod, sand, seed, and fertilizer from Greenhorizons Quality Sod, Zander Sod Co. Ltd., TurfCare Products Canada Ltd., Nutrite, Hutcheson Sand & Mixes, Ontario Seed Co. Ltd., Quality Seeds Ltd., Graham Turf Seeds Ltd., DLF Pickseed Canada Inc., Speare Seeds, Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., Tee 2 Green, and Pure Seed were integral in the early stages of developing the research plots. Cutten Fields, the neighbouring golf course to the new location, provided help and expertise in the establishment of the plots.

The furniture is on the way, and the GTI partners will be able to move into the new building in the coming weeks. The GTI is looking forward to welcoming the diploma turfgrass management students back to campus this fall and will be hosting the Turfgrass Manager's Short Course.

