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1988/89 Board of Directors

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NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is our fifth newsletter to you, our members. We would enjoy hearing your comments: Is there a topic you would like to read about in future issues? Are the guidelines to field care useful? Have you a concern you wish to share with our readers? We will help you find a solution. That is what this forum is for!

In the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta try adding some of those turf-type ryes to your mixtures of Kentucky bluegrass and red fescue. While we recognize the shorter growing season, cold winters and many sports fields on dry land conditions these ryes are worth a try. Trials in Manitoba and Saskatchewan indicate varieties such as Blazer All-star, Fiesta, Manhattan II and NK 200 from Northrup King in Minneapolis, have all exhibited good cold tolerance as far north as Edmonton. While somewhat stemmy they are wear tolerant for those heavily scheduled fields and are on a par with the tall fescues for drought tolerance (some varieties).

We need some pioneer sports field managers out there. To quote from the Royal Bank monthly letter entitled "Pioneers are still needed", it states "the key to pioneering and invention is in your hand when you ask, I wonder what would happen if..."

An interesting observation from Bruce Shank on the opinion page of Sports Turf Magazine. The state of Maryland financed a second turfgrass survey in 1987 by the Department of Agriculture which included athletic fields. The survey showed that athletic fields are second in acreage only to home lawns in that state. Ten percent of the maintained turf is ath-

letic fields. Golf courses comprise six percent of maintained turf, home lawns constitute 40 percent. Add to this maintenance of grounds around parks and school boards to athletic fields and golf courses you not that 30 percent of the maintained turf in Maryland is done by sports turf managers.

Mr. Shank concludes "we strongly believe that the sports turf manager that is responsible for this tremendous national asset should be well trained, well respected and well compensated" unquote.

We too need good solid numerical data to show the value of athletic fields in Canada. It will require a resourceful team to accomplish the feat. To do this they should heed the words of James Stillman, a former bank president. When asked what interested him most in life, he replied: "It is to plan some piece of work that everybody says cannot possibly be done, and then jump in with both feet and do it."

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WELCOME!

To Our New Members

Neil Zachary

Superintendent of Grounds
St. Boniface, Manitoba

Bryan Brodie

John Deere Ltd.
Grimsby, Ontario

Ronald M. Craig

President,
RMC Equipment Ltd.

McGill University

P.D.L. Knox
Ste. Anne de Bellevue,
Quebec

Ernest Pecore

Dol Brothers Limited
Cookstown, Ontario

Doug Munn

Superintendent of Parks
Edson, Alberta

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Penetanguishene

Penetanguishene, Ontario

Hugh Logan

Director of Culture and
Recreation
The Corporation of the
City of Chatham

Gary McDonald

New Waterford,
Nova Scotia

Al McNivem

Director, Parks and
Recreation
Vernon, B.C.