EDITORIAL

Who carries the ball?

At a recent conference I attended, a speaker made the comment that a survey of non-profit and benevolent organizations found less than 10% of the membership were active in the operation of the organization. For the Sports Turf Association that translates into less than 16 people. That is about the number of people who attended the last annual meeting of the Association at the Guelph Turfgrass Symposium in 1993. Can 16 people carry the load and make the Association grow and prosper? Certainly, if that was their full time job. But those who are currently in leadership roles as Directors also have full time careers which brings home the pay cheque. Being a Director means additional work, most often after regular working hours. These are the few who are carrying the ball for the remaining 90%.

What is the solution? One alternative would to be to have a full time Executive Director who would not only carry out the office functions, but also write the Newsletter, arrange the educational initiatives, write a new edition of the Field Managers' Guide, direct the production of more video tapes, provide professional on-site consultation, visit prospective members - the list is endless and is still beyond the scope or time of one person.

Do you want a one man show?

A second alternative is to share the load and pass the ball around. More people are needed to write articles for the Newsletter, contact potential new members, assist in the development of the programs the Field Day and Guelph Turfgrass Symposium, to name a few areas.

My answer is to combine the two alternatives and have 160 rather than 16 members carrying the ball. If this were to happen we would soon have 360 members to carry the ball.

Your Part-Time Executive Secretary