OW, what a summer! Well, here in Ontario anyway. I understand many of our colleagues on the east coast would have welcomed a little less rain and a few more days of bright sunshine.

We experienced day after day of hot, dry weather. And when it did rain, it was of little benefit because it came down so fast and hard. I am sure many farmers, turf managers and gardeners were exasperated with the dry conditions, but it certainly was kind to the general public who, especially in Canada, deserve a good summer.

Because of the dry conditions, we are now discussing how we should rethink our gardens, parks, golf courses and sports complexes with respect to plants, grass varieties and most importantly, our watering habits.

We have all heard of the threats of global warming and it's often discussed around the water cooler or BBQ; however, summers like 2005 drive home the fact that it is real and we need to begin planning for the long term.

Scientists estimate that southern and central Canada will warm an average of 2-5 degrees Celsius within the next 75 to 100 years. The winter months are projected to warm faster than the summer months. These changes will have severe consequences for us, our children and the ecosystems that support us. I think we all realize that we can not continue indefinitely with many of our current practices and behaviours but unfortunately, many of us seem quite slow to embrace change. Visit www.climatechange.gc.ca/onetonne/english/index.asp to find out more about Canada's One Tonne Challenge and how you can start to take small steps with respect to your own lifestyle that will make an impact.

Annual Field Day

Back to the present. The STA had yet another record Field Day on September 14 with high attendance and excellent speakers on very topical subjects. Check inside for coverage of this year’s event.

As President, I would like to personally thank all the Field Day Committee, Jane Arnett-Rivers, Roy Forfar and Paul Turner for their tremendous commitment of time and effort into making the day a resounding success.

Thanks to the Town of Milton who were great hosts providing an excellent facility and making everything happen on schedule as promised.

A few other important ingredients were also crucial. Thanks to the Town of Milton who were great hosts providing an excellent facility and making everything happen on schedule just as promised. Finally, Lee Huether was the cement that put the program together, communicated to all concerned, generated the record attendance and quite simply, just 'made it happen.' Thanks Lee!

We are already planning for next year, but in the meantime, don’t forget the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Strengthening Our Roots: A Growing Tradition, February 20 & 21, 2006. An interesting and educational program is being finalized and your presence will be most welcomed.

The Board would like to wish you a very pleasant and healthy fall season.