The President's Desk

GORDON DOL

Another interesting winter is almost gone. We are now getting a few warm days from time to time, teasers of what is yet to come. We had a fairly normal December and a warm and wet January that was followed by a February that brought us quite a bit of snow, especially in those areas traditionally prone to snow squalls. It is now becoming apparent that these weather fluctuations may lead to winter injury due to heavy ice formation on some fields. Check your turf and be prepared!

Over the past couple of months there have been a number of very good and well attended turf shows in Ontario. Most recently was the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium of which the Sports Turf Association is very proud to be a part. By all accounts, we've had another great show. Very special thanks should go to the OTS Committee and the University of Guelph’s Office of Open Learning for a job well done. We had a great lineup of speakers and a great venue. The OTS continues to be the premier turf education forum.

During the OTS we held our Annual General Meeting. The 2005 reports from various committees were presented to the membership. Also presented was the proposed budget for 2006 which includes a modest increase to membership fees. We're always hesitant to increase prices; however, our costs keep going up, so membership fees must follow suit.

During the AGM we also made an amendment to the constitution and by-laws of the association to increase the number of directors from 11 to 15. Our membership has increased over the years. There is a tremendous amount of work that is being done by a small group of people. This change will help the board to better service member needs. On this note, we always welcome and encourage participation from our membership on various committees. If you would like to help, please call Lee Huether at the STA office or send us an email.

Also at the AGM nominations were held for board positions. First of all, I would like to thank Andrew Gaydon - Vanden Bussche Irrigation - now past president, for his leadership over the past two years. Returning board members include Jane Arnett Rivers, Town of Oakville and Paul Turner, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. New board...
Above: On behalf of the STA, appreciation is expressed to Director David Smith (right), who is stepping down at the completion of his term, by President Gord Dol.

members include Dave Chapman, City of Toronto; Bob Kennedy, Sport Turf Management Solutions; Grant McKiech, Town of East Gwillimbury; and Gregory Snaith, EnviroIrrigation Engineering.

Board members with one year left in their term include Rick Lane, Haldimand County; Bob Sheard; Brian Adriaans, City of Burlington; Cam Beneteau, Ridley College; Roy Forfar, York Region District School Board; and Paul Gillen, Holland Equipment Ltd. David Smith has stepped down as a board member. Dave, your hard work and dedication to the STA board will be missed. At the AGM, Andrew Gaydon and David Smith were presented with a plaque as a token of our appreciation for all their hard work.

Membership invoices will soon be mailed. Your prompt attention to this is greatly appreciated. For your convenience, we now accept most major credit cards.

Plans for our 19th Annual Field Day are now well under way. It will be held at Ridley College in St. Catherine's on September 21, 2006. Stay tuned for more details as this promises to be another great one. Thank you to Mr. Cam Beneteau and Ridley College for hosting this event.

Finally, I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with this exciting group of individuals for my term as president. I have been on the board since 1995 and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and meeting so many great people over the years.

Above: Delegates mingle at OTS 2006.

Right: Chris Mark (left), OTS Committee Chair, pays tribute to STA Director Bob Sheard, who served on the OTS organizing committee since its inception until his retirement in 2006. Along with Annette Anderson, Bob was the driving force behind producing this annual premier educational conference. At this year's OTS, Bob stated that education, particularly outside the normal classroom is the secret to advancement.