Winter has arrived – a time to sit back and reflect on the past season and analyze what went well and what didn’t. For many of you, it is also budget time. With what is going on in the world and here on the homefront along both economic and political lines, budget setting is sure to be a particularly daunting task for 2009.

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) will be on February 18 and 19 in Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph. This year promises to be another great educational forum. A summary of the sports turf related sessions is inside on page 7. There are also a number of informative plenary sessions for your consideration. Complete details are available at www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots. The Sports Turf Association is proud to present this professional development program together with the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario and the Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph.

During the OTS, we hold our annual general meeting which is open to all members. We urge you to join us to learn more about the association and our initiatives. The meeting will be held on February 18 at 3:30 p.m. We will also be electing directors to the board. Now would be the time to consider allowing your name to stand for election. If this interests you, please speak to any board member or call Lee at our office. The Call for Nominations and Nomination Form has been mailed to all members in good standing. They are also available in the Members Only/Member News section of the website www.sportsturfassociation.com. Deadline for nominations is December 19.

Also in this issue, we provide an update from the Parks and Open Space Alliance with details of the Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program being offered in Guelph in April and Petawawa in September, 2009. The Sports Turf Association will be delivering the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance portion of this three part certificate program. This is one phase of the development of certification programs outlined in our strategic planning initiative.

At this time last year you were asked to participate in a research study on the economic profile of the Ontario turfgrass industry. Survey results have been compiled and will be presented at the 2009 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. This is the first comprehensive overview of the economic significance of the Ontario turfgrass sector since 1982.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year!