Sports Turf Association executive and members, past and present, together with staff, colleagues, family and friends gathered on October 25 to celebrate the organization’s milestone anniversary at a commemorative banquet in Guelph, Ontario.

With historical story boards providing a retrospective of the past, both founding President Michael Bladon and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs’ Annette Anderson (pictured at left) reflected on the association’s beginnings, growth and many accomplishments. Bladon challenged the STA executive “To continue our commitment and our mission to provide educational and networking opportunities for our members and the promotion of better, safer sports turf to those involved in sports field management and to the general public”.

“The STA is an organization of volunteers”, added Executive Manager Lee Huether, “from the visionaries of 1987 to the current Board of Directors and everyone in between, the association has grown and benefited from the dedicated service of so many”.

Paul Gillen, current President, relayed greetings from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, “Since 1987, the Sports Turf Association has been making a positive difference in the lives of Ontario’s athletes providing sports turf managers with the tools they need to help maintain playable sports fields, while maximizing safety…. Take pride in knowing that the important work you do each and every day makes a real difference”.

Attendees at the Celebratory Banquet included (L-R) Paul Turner/Past President, Gordon Dol/Past President, Paul Gillen/current President, Michael Bladon/founding President, Jane Arnett/Past President and Robert W. Sheard/first Executive Secretary. Bladon, Arnett and Sheard are also Honorary Life Members of the STA.
its 25th Anniversary!

October 25, 2012

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I would like to extend warm greetings to the staff and members of the Sports Turf Association as you mark your 25th anniversary. Congratulations on reaching this milestone!

Since 1987, the Sports Turf Association has been making a positive difference in the lives of Ontario’s athletes. By promoting better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs, you provide sports turf managers with the tools they need to help maintain playable sports fields, while maximizing safety.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the staff and members of the association for your dedication to keeping our athletes safe and helping to build stronger and healthier communities across Ontario. Take pride in knowing that the important work you do each and every day makes a real difference.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

As the year draws to a close so does our reminiscence regarding the establishment, growth and development of the Sports Turf Association over the past quarter-century. And while Henry David Thoreau counsels “Never look back unless you are planning to go that way”, we hope that you have enjoyed our retrospective as much as we have enjoyed wading through the old files to bring it to you. But Henry is right and we set our sights on the future. For 25 years the Sports Turf Association has been dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf. That commitment continues. For a look at the retrospective timeline in its entirety, visit www.sportsturfassociation.com.