President’s Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

This has been a great year to be an Association member. Following up on the Halifax field day in the spring, at the end of August we sponsored the west coast field day in Langley, British Columbia with our Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) partners, and presented the 26th annual Ontario field day in Mississauga on September 19th.

The western event, their first, was an exceptional learning experience; not only with the guest speakers, but with five stations set around the exhibit area where one could gain first-hand insights into everything from field safety to irrigation to sand injection to synthetic turf maintenance. Kudos to Tab Buckner and Jerry Rousseau and their committee for a job well done; in spite of the adverse weather conditions! For all of those western members who missed this one, be sure to mark your calendars when you get the notification for the next as this is a concise short-cut to a lot of knowledge.

The Ontario day was great, as well. The venue at Mississauga was first class and ideal for the program. It just keeps getting better every year – congratulations to Lee Huether and the committee.

Mark your calendar now for our one day seminar Introduction to Synthetic Turf and Air-Supported Structures on November 13. This is being held in partnership with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and will be hosted in Guelph. If you are considering a synthetic field in the future, then this is the day for you and your management personnel. We will be touching on everything from the evolution of synthetic turf, the turf system, field safety, construction and maintenance together with air-supported structures explained, construction and operational considerations. This is an information packed agenda and always generates a lot of questions for our experienced presenters.

This year’s Ontario Turfgrass Symposium is right around the corner. It seems early to be talking about a February event, but now is the time to make your plans. Aside from the great line-up of speakers, this year is even more important because of the changes coming to pesticide licensing regulations.

It’s hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year – it seems like yesterday that we were complaining about the cold spring weather! We trust that your fields were up to the stress and that you have the time and resources to put them to bed in a way that will ensure safe and playable conditions in the spring.

We look forward to seeing you at one or both of the upcoming programs. •