

Environment minister: Cooperation 'a must'

By MARK LESLIE

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Canada — In a move toward conciliation, Nova Scotia's minister of the environment said provincial departments of environment must work with, not against, the golf industry.

Speaking at the 44th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show here, Terrance Donahue said: "Departments of the environment have traditionally been seen by many as being rather re-

strictive to ongoing development and as a curtailment of expansion plans and of 'the getting on with everyday business.'

"I don't think a department of environment must take that approach at all, and, on the contrary ... there simply has to be an arrangement and understanding between [them] and your industry that we can, we must work together to ensure as fine a product as we can present and at the same time agree on basic business practices and fu-

ture development."

As a former minister of tourism, Donahue said he is very aware that golf in Nova Scotia and across the country is "a vehicle for tremendous growth in future development.

"The statistics and projections all tell us that the golf industry ... will simply continue to explode in interest and expansion in the decades ahead. I would say, generally, that — though that is not always readily apparent — gov-

ernments at all levels do, in fact, seek to encourage further opportunity for golf and, hence, your profession."

Donahue mentioned "a move, an approach, a set of concepts" taking hold across North America whereby all industries build in environmental safeguards as necessary and, at the same time, "we encourage legitimate development and expansion. The buzzword heading is that we want to practice sustain-



able economic development."

He noted that golf courses must increasingly compete with "other uses that seek to control our natural resources, be they the local water supplies, fish habitat areas, or ... valuable tracts of land which you and I would want to convert to and expand as golf courses."

The concepts of sustainable economic development, Donahue said, offers golf a great deal, including:

- "Delivering new systems for managing common environmental issues associated with your golf courses, be it the water-allocation question or pesticides and herbicide use, or a whole range of management issues";
- Seeking out "common environmental policies and practices that you can adopt locally, regionally and nationwide. Something that I know your respective associations are already examining";
- Looking for new innovative techniques of management that revolve around and reduce the use of resources pesticides and herbicides.
- Ultimately, reducing costs for the industry, and "solid business opportunities for those who seek to be in the forefront of developing those new environmentally friendly technologies and products."

He said many superintendents are eager to work with his department "to demonstrate that the sustainable development approach to managing resources will have real tangible effects for them and the industry as a whole.

"We hope ... to accomplish an industry-wide familiarity and confidence with proven practices for integrating environmental concerns into the very fabric of golf course management. And in the very immediate future we wish to prove that sound environmental practices will have a direct payoff, not only for the environment, but for the industry's public image," Donahue said.

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Club in Ile Perrot, Quebec, has assumed the presidency of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

Dufresne succeeds Paul White of Mississauga (Ontario) Golf and Country Club.