

# SPORTS TURF

# Newsletter

...for better, safer Sports Turf

## President's Message

I trust that all sports turf managers are having a successful year to date and that maintenance work such as aerifying, fertilizing, topdressing and overseeding programs are on schedule. I am sure we all faced the severe challenges this spring brought when it seemed like the turf would never recover from this past winter. It seemed forever for the turf to green up with all the persistently damp, cool and windy weather and the winter kill was the greatest in recent memory. However from my own experience I noticed that once temperatures were optimum, the turf responded very quickly, greatly aided to a large degree by a late fall fertilization application. This past spring many fields were too wet to allow equipment on for mowing, let alone fertilize, hence the value of applying an early-mid November application of fertilizer when the ground is nice and firm and the turfgrass dormant. I feel that many turf managers who are not taking advantage of late season fertilization are missing out on a great opportunity to kick the fields off to a great start in the spring. If you are not late season fertilizing, try it this fall. I am sure you'll be pleased with the results.

As the season rolls along so does the activities of the Association. Recently we held our 7th Annual Field Day at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute on June 22. The venue and the seminars/exhibits were top notch. My sincere thanks to the organizing committee consisting of Mike

Bladon, Jane Rivers, Roy Forfar and Bob Sheard for planning and hosting such a successful event. Thanks also to our industry suppliers who once again provided excellent products, equipment, exhibits and support for the Association.

The delegate turnout was acceptable, but I had hoped for a larger gathering, considering the fine location, program, increased advertising, and lower cost this year. The weather, facilities, amenities and speakers were superb, but we are still not drawing the support as we should, and once did, at previous Field Days. I understand part of the reason is due to significant cutbacks in budgets for these types of events: that is why we lowered the price to \$20.00 for early registrants this year. For the quality of the program and the luncheon, the nominal \$20.00 fee was a real bargain. If we are not providing a program that is topical enough or stimulating enough, please let us know. We have moved the Field Day to various geographic areas to try and attract delegates from Southwestern Ontario, the Greater Toronto Area and the Golden Horseshoe area, but attendance remains a concern. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please forward them to me or our Executive Secretary at any time.

A planning group has met to suggest a program for our portion of the Guelph Turfgrass Symposium next January and it promises to be very informative with proposed agenda items such panel discus-

sions on in-house vs contracted turf maintenance, organic vs inorganic fertilization, and turf maintenance; plus a plenary speaker on staff motivation. Please mark your calendars to attend the Symposium from January 4-6 and further information will follow in future newsletters. In addition our Executive Secretary is busy getting ready to send out membership directories, updated bylaws, and plaques to all current members.

I wish all members much success with their summer maintenance programs and hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.

Yours for better, safer sports turf  
*Christopher Mark*

### Sorry! We're Late!!

Our sincere apologies that due to illness and technical difficulties, this issue of the Newsletter is arriving approximately 1 month late. We hope to have the next issue and future issues out to members on time. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.



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