

# SPORTS TURF Manager

VOLUME 8  
ISSUE 1

MARCH  
1995

ISSN 1201-3765

...for better, safer Sports Turf

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year. At the time of this writing winter is in full bloom with the temperature around -10°C and a wind chill factor which is most unpleasant. At this time of the year sports field maintenance always seems like a very distant memory.

Winter and cold temperatures, however, usually signals the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Such was the case again this year when turf managers from all sectors of the industry braved the elements to gather at the Univ. of Guelph from January 4 to 6. This year's Symposium was another wonderful success with an increase in registered delegates and an outstanding itinerary of topics and speakers. The STA, as a sponsoring association, hosted an excellent series of lectures, panel discussions and seminars directly related to sports turf management. My sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in either planning, hosting or chairing the Sports Turf sessions and making the presentations educational and informative. Special appreciation must be extended to Pam Charbonneau who provided yet another superb effort in ensuring the conference was well organized and smooth running. If you were unable to attend the Symposium this year, I strongly encourage you to try and attend OTS '96. The educational value and professional development enhancement one receives, along with the networking and contact with suppliers, is

truly excellent.

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was also the venue for our General Meeting. At the meeting it was my pleasure to present an Appreciation Award to Bob Sheard for his magnificent contributions to the Association as Executive Secretary for the past four years. In addition, I presented Michael Bladon on his resignation from the Board with a framed Letter of Appreciation from the STA for eight years of outstanding service and dedication. Other highlights of the meeting were welcoming our new Executive Secretary, Sonja Schneider and nominating Bob Sheard and Everett Nieuwkoop as new Directors. Bob has agreed to continue as Editor of the *Sports Turf Manager* and Everett will be assisting in planning the Field Day. At the meeting I was pleased that the membership agreed to extend our office lease for a five year period, at our current lease rate. This move ensures our members will continue receiving the benefits from having our office located at the centre of turfgrass activities in Ontario, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

While athletic turf may be dormant, your Executive are not resting, but staying very active. You will note this newsletter is the first edition under our new name - *Sports Turf Manager* - compete with ISSN number. Our Executive Secretary is very busy getting used to the office, fulfilling her duties and following up on member enquiries. We have now established a routine schedule of office hours during which the Exec. Sec. will be in the office and available to assist our members. Those hours will be listed in

each issue of the *Sports Turf Manager*. Please do not hesitate to call Sonja if you have any questions about the Association, or need any assistance related to sports turf.

Several Board members are hard at work planning for the Field day in Hamilton on July 21 - 22. This year's theme is Ball Diamond Maintenance and the format represents a departure from previous Field Days. As always we will be hosting some educational seminars, with top notch speakers. A new feature will be a baseball tournament and barbecue. It plans to be a great opportunity to come out and learn about ball diamond maintenance while having some fun. Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend. A flyer is enclosed with this issue of the "*Manager*".

Finally, about the time you receive this *Sports Turf Manager* you will be receiving your annual dues renewal notice. Thank you for your past support. I sincerely hope that belonging to this Association over the past year has improved your knowledge and awareness of athletic field construction and maintenance. We strive to make being a part of this Association a professional, educational and rewarding experience. Our mission is simple - Better, Safer Sports Turf. If you believe in the mission of the STA, I invite you to renew your membership so that together we may continue to be a leading organization and voice in the turf industry through improving athletic fields for athletes of all ages.

Best wishes for better, safer sports turf,  
*Christopher Mark*  
President.

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