

...for better, safer Sports Turf

Sports Turf Association Office Hours

Mrs Sonja Schneider will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. At other times a message may be left on the Voice Mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may also be reached at any time by faxing 519-766-1704.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Easter Greetings!!

It is a sincere pleasure to be addressing the membership as President for another two year term of office. I am honoured and appreciative of the trust and confidence the Board of Directors has placed in me to serve another term. One of my primary objectives will be to continue ensuring this Association serves its members in a manner that is honest, forthright, and responsive to the needs of the membership. Belonging to the STA must be an educational, professional and thought provoking experience.

We once again participated in a very successful Ontario Turfgrass Symposium at the Regal Constellation Hotel this past January. The event was deemed a major success with overall attendance up by approximately 100 delegates. The Directors and their staff did an excellent job arranging the event, especially at a new venue. Again this year Pam Charbonneau and the OTS Program Committee deserve special recognition for organizing a premier speakers program.

Unfortunately, the STA share of the revenue will be slightly lower than 1995 due to a reduced number of delegates identifying themselves as members of the STA. I express sincere thanks to all Sports Turf session presenters, and members who attended the educational seminars. The Annual General Meeting was a big success with a record turnout of members.

Plans are already underway for OTS 97 and a STA sub-committee has met to

discuss ideas. One suggestion we intend to pursue is having a session entitled "Sports Turf Managers Speak Out." This session will allow sports turf members to come forward and give a 15-20 minute presentation on some facet their sports turf management program. The session will not only allow ideas to be shared, but will also give members the opportunity to gain experience in public speaking. We are not looking for professional speakers, only people who have a genuine interest in sports field maintenance at their facility and wish to share their experiences with the group.

A Field Day for 1996 is still in the planning stages. The STA, along with several other industry associations, recently met at the GTI to discuss the possibility of having a combined Field Day at the GTI sometime this summer. This would be beneficial for both our members and suppliers since funds are becoming tighter and tighter for conferences and seminars. I shall keep everyone updated as plans proceed.

Since my last correspondence, the impact of the Ontario provincial government cutbacks have become fully known. In many cases it will have a dramatic impact on many sports field maintenance programs by municipalities, school boards, Universities and Colleges. The turf and landscape industry will suffer greatly in reduced sales of equipment, seed, sod, fertilizer and top soil. Not only operating, but capital budgets for renovations or new field construction have been dramatically slashed or deferred into the future. Employee moral in many cases is at an all-time low. Our employees and their families will suffer, and in the

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