

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

...for better, safer Sports Turf

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CHRISTOPHER MARK The President's Desk



Hello and Seasons Greetings! Wow, another year has almost come to a close. I hope the year has been successful for one and all.

1997 has been another thriving year for the STA. Some of the highlights were:

- In January, we celebrated our 10th Anniversary and kicked off our second decade in fine style with a highly successful program at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Many past Directors and Executives of the Board returned for a special gala dinner held in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- In March, we participated in the successful Canada Blooms show at the Toronto Congress Centre.
- In June, we gave the *Sports Turf Manager* a facelift to update its appearance, style, and presentation.
- In August, we held a very successful Field Day at Woodbine Race Track where we combined educational seminars and a tour of the E. P. Taylor Turf Track with a fun evening of thoroughbred racing trackside.
- Also in August, we were sad to say good-bye to Sonja Schneider as our Executive Secretary. I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Lee Huether is our new Executive Manager and already making a large contribution to the organization.
- We handed out three educational scholarship awards for excellence in sports

turf related subjects.

- We commissioned a class of graphic arts students at Conestoga College to design a new logo for the STA. The winning logo will be unveiled at our 1998 AGM at the upcoming Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.
- We have undertaken a review and updated our bylaws and constitution which will be presented at the 1998 AGM.
- We carried out a survey of our membership to obtain the views of the members and to update ourselves on their opinions on a variety of issues so that we may continue to provide quality service.
- We continued to expand our membership in 1997 and are pleased so many new members have come on board to share our vision of better, safer sports turf.

Yes, 1997 was a busy year, and I sincerely thank the Board of Directors for their efforts and support. Whether it was through our own initiatives, or supporting the Ontario Facilities and Recreation Association Conference, or distributing our brochure *Constructing the Sports Field* to 800 landscape architects, at every opportunity, we continued spreading our mandate of better, safer sports turf.

This message to the membership marks my last as President of the STA. It has been

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