

# SPORTS TURF

# Manager

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...for better, safer Sports Turf

## COMING EVENTS

### Pesticide Safety Training 1997

Toronto: March 13, 14  
Guelph: March 29, 30  
London: April 12, 13

### Turfgrass & Pest Identification

London: March 26  
Toronto: April 12  
Call: Turfecs 1-800-TURFECS or  
519-767-1611

### Prairie Turfgrass Conference

March 23, 24, 25  
Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon,  
SK,  
for Information: Joe Bloski,  
Conference Chairman,  
Tel. 306-931-1982, Fax 306-931-7110

### OPA Annual Education Conference

Toronto Congress Centre  
March 25, 26

### Green Industry Expo

Charlotte, NC  
November 15-18

### Ontario Amateur Softball Association

April 4-6, 1997  
Annual Convention, Kingston, ON  
Contacts: Ms. Bea Weber, OSA  
12 Kenwood Cres., Guelph, ON  
N1H 0E5  
Mr. R. Whitfield, 3rd VP, Convention  
Chair, RR #1 Bath, ON K0H 1G0  
Home: 613-352-3605  
Bus. 613-548-5743  
Fax: 613-548-5096

### Baseball Clinic

May 5-6, 1997  
Chatham ON  
Contact: Mr. Tom Beaton  
519-352-3888

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**G**reetings to everyone and I hope 1997 has started well for all members.

As we begin 1997 we also embark on the 10th Anniversary year of the Sports Turf Association. On this issue of the Manager you will see a special commemorative banner on the front page which celebrates our 10 years of service to our members and the industry. This banner will appear on each Manager throughout our anniversary year. From the smallest and humblest of beginnings the STA has grown and evolved to become one of the leading voices in the turf industry. At the recent Annual Meeting we held a gala 10th Anniversary Dinner to celebrate our first 10 wonderful and successful years, and it was my privilege to be the host, reminisce and thank some very special people who have been instrumental in our first decade.

The STA began as a brainstorming session in early 1987 when a group of individuals, representing a cross section of the turf industry gathered at the U. of Guelph Arboretum to discuss and en-

dorse the need for an association which would focus itself on minimizing and avoiding injury to those using athletic facilities as they relate to turf. The STA - it was an idea whose time had come.

*Better, safer sports turf*, it has been our mission statement from the beginning, so brief, yet so succinct. Our mandate has been carried forward with the assistance of some extraordinary individuals. People such as Annette Anderson who provided guidance and invaluable assistance in the early years and acted as our first conference chairperson in 1987. Early Board of Directors included Mike Bladon who served as President (1987 - 1989 inclusive), Director and Newsletter Editor, Bruce Calhoun who served as Vice President for 3 years, President for 2 years, Robert Allen who served as Secretary and Treasurer, Ron Dubyk who assisted as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Individuals such as these provided tremendous vision and commitment to ensure the STA had a firm foundation in the early formative years.

There have been a number of hallmark events and decisions over the first decade, but none so important as bringing Bob Sheard aboard as the STA's first Executive Secretary in 1990. For four years Bob played a leading role in carry-

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*Promoting better,  
safer sports turf*