

President's Message (cont'd)

ing forward many of the Associations most important projects such as the Athletic Field Managers Guide for Construction and Maintenance, and a Three (3) volume turf management videotapes on Grass Selection, Cultural Practices, and Weed control. These books and videotapes have become well accepted within the turf industry and various horticultural institutions.

Another momentous event was the decision to join other turf organizations in coming together to develop the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Since its inception the STA has been a large contributor and supporter of this turf conference which has become one of the finest of its kind.

Throughout the first 10 years the STA has taken the opportunity to recognize the contributions of people to not only the Association, but the turf industry. We have presented 3 Honourary Life Memberships: Jim Boyce, Norman Rothwell and Clay Switzer. Each of these distinguished gentlemen have made enormous contributions to the turf industry and demonstrated tremendous support for the STA and our goals.

In October 1993 the STA officially recognized the need to institute an educational scholarship program in the amount of \$200 which is awarded annually to the student with the highest proficiency in sports turf related courses at the U. of Guelph Turf managers Short Course. As we embark on our second decade, the STA has announced it will further offer another educational scholarship to the student with the highest overall mark in the turf management option of the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture program.

In January 1994 the STA took a large step forward and moved its office into the Guelph Turfgrass Institute which allowed the Association to reside at the centre of turf research in Ontario for the benefit of our members and demonstrate our support for the GTI. January 1995 witnessed the hiring of our second Executive Secretary Sonja Schneider who has greatly enhanced the day to day operation of the Association.

The STA has always shown a commitment to disseminating information re-

lated to the practical aspects of the care and improvement of athletic fields. We have remained focused on trying to convey hands-on information to front-line people. We have always tried to reach the person on the tractor operating the top-dresser, overseeder or core aerifier. We have to ensure our information gets to the lead hands, equipment operators, and out of the Directors in-basket.

It has been quite a journey as we enter our 10th year of service. We have serious challenges and cannot rest on our laurels for a single minute. Our Directors are finding it an increasing challenge to strike a balance in spending time on Association business and facing additional pressures at their places of employment and family responsibilities. We need to strive for good representation from across the industry on our Board. How will municipal amalgamation affect the Association? Our strategic plan Toward 2000, as well as our Field Managers Guide and videotape series require updating. We need to continue spreading the words of better, safer sports turf. Finally we must continue to ensure the person paying the annual membership dues feels he/she is receiving value for their investment.

A large vote of thanks is extended to all our past Presidents, and members of the Executive. Thank you for your hard work and leadership.

Last but not least a huge thank you to our industry representatives who have been big supporters of the STA from its inception. Space does not permit listing all of them, but they know who they are. Our industry colleagues have always been there for us and assisted in field days, conferences, our newsletter and participated as members of the Executive. They are a valued and integral part of our Association and the turf industry. To all of them we owe a large amount of gratitude.

We have enjoyed a wonderful 10 years and the future is bright. The opportunities and possibilities for this Association are great, and I am confident that together we will face the challenges head-on for the benefit of our members and the turf industry.

Wishing you better, safer sports turf

Christopher Mark



STA President Chris Mark, left, presents a \$200 Scholarship to Stuart Roberts of Etobicoke Parks.

STA Announces Scholarship Winners

The Sports Turf Association is pleased to announce the 1996 educational scholarships have been awarded to Stuart Roberts and Kim Nihls. Each year the STA makes available a \$200 scholarship, and 1 year free membership to the student who achieves the highest proficiency in sports turf related courses at the Turf Managers Short Course held each February at the University of Guelph. The award is based on the students' standing in three of the courses, Soils and Nutrition, Turf Management, and Herbicides. STA President Chris Mark was honoured to make the presentation at the 10th Anniversary Dinner on January 7, 1997. In 1996 two Turf Managers' Short Courses were held, hence the STA awarded two scholarships.

The Sports Turf Association congratulates both these gentlemen on their outstanding achievements and wish them much success in all future endeavours.

STA Furthers Commitment to Education

The Sports Turf Association has extended its commitment to education by announcing that beginning in 1997, the STA will award a \$200 scholarship, along with 1 year paid membership to the student achieving the highest overall mark in the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture (ODH) Turf Management option. Approval of the scholarship award occurred at the November 14, 1996 Board of Directors meeting.

Graduates exiting the program are, for the most part already employed in their field of study. Some students study a different field to broaden the scope of their knowledge, while others gain more in-depth knowledge in their particular area of expertise. The ODH program is certainly well respected in the turf industry and the STA is pleased to assist students participating in the program which is offered through correspondence from the University of Guelph.