

EDITORIAL



Forgetfulness, disinterestedness, procrastination, budget uncertainty; there are many reasons given why dues to an organization are not paid on time. Failure to pay dues on time adds to the operating costs of the organization through repeated invoices, phone calls and in some cases the need for short term loans.

The added costs may result in increased dues, so the delinquent member starts a cycle which affects all members of the organization.

Although the fiscal year of the Sports Turf Association commences January 1 of the calendar year, the executive realizes many members are employees of institutions where the fiscal year begins April 1. Thus you will shortly be receiving your first invoice. When you receive your invoice, think of the following verse:

*O blest is he who does not fuss
When he receives a bill from us
But promptly sends in the amount
Wherein to balance his account.
But doubly blest is that good friend
Who waits not 'til a bill we send,
But knowing well his dues are due,
Sends in his money to renew.*

- Bob Sheard

STA Welcomes Andrew Gaydon to Board of Directors

It is with sincere pleasure the Sports Turf Association welcomes Mr. Andrew Gaydon to the Board of Directors. Andrew brings to the Association a wealth of knowledge and experience, particularly in the area of irrigation. Watch for a profile on Andrew in our June issue of *Sports Turf Manager*.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Sports Turf Association

Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Sports Turf Association. It is also the 10th anniversary for OMA-FRA turf extension services, and I have enjoyed reminiscing about the activities that have been undertaken in partnership with the Sports Turf Association (STA).

To all the dedicated members and directors who were involved in the formation and evolution of the STA this is a very significant milestone. The STA has become recognized in Ontario and elsewhere for promoting better, safer sports turf. As my son will soon be old enough to play soccer I now also have a personal appreciation for that fact!

In the early years of the STA there were some fairly typical challenges of getting an organization off the ground. I still have flashbacks about the long discussions on by-laws and constitutions! Had it not been for the diligence of its founders, it is doubtful that the idea of an association would have taken hold.

The success of the Sports Turf Association has been impressive. The annual Field Day has provided an opportunity for sports turf managers from across the province to deal with the practical aspects of maintaining sports turf. The newsletter provides quality information unique to the interests of this sector of the turf industry. As a founding sponsor of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, the Association has made a significant contribution to an educational program tailored to the specific needs and issues of municipalities, universities and schools. Much of this has happened due to the passion of Dr. Bob Sheard, and the dedication of the Board of Directors past and present.

In an age when information comes to us from so many sources, cynics may question the need for associations. I would propose however, that now more than ever there is a critical need for organizations such as the STA. It is not just the amount of information, but finding the most appropriate information for Ontario conditions. When issues surface that affect all sports turf managers it is invaluable to have an advocate that helps provide representation on behalf of the entire industry either as a single organization or in conjunction with other partner organizations. The opportunities to fund research, scholarships and promote the overall profile of the industry are also positive objectives of this association.

Where will the Sports Turf Association be in the next ten years? It is difficult to predict. However, I would anticipate that in the not too distant future, there will be an interest in seeing sports turf information on the Internet. Can't you picture it - the "virtual sports field".....

The STA has not only helped build a better knowledge base, but has also contributed to developing the leadership skills of the many people that have been involved in the association for the past decade.

Certainly one challenge for the STA as for most organizations will be to continue to build the leadership skills within its membership and maintain the involvement of members.

Spend a few minutes today thinking about what you have learned in the last 10 years about turf management. It is likely that in some way the STA has helped you somewhere along the way.

Best wishes to the association and keep up the great work in promoting better, safer sports turf.

Sincerely,

Annette Anderson

Program Manager,
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*People who cannot find time for recreation
are obliged sooner or later to find time for
illness.*

- John Wanamaker