

# SPORTS TURF MANAGER

...for better, safer Sports Turf

SEPTEMBER 1997

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CHRISTOPHER MARK

## The President's Desk



**G**reetings to everyone. I hope all members had a pleasant summer with friends and family.

While I am sure the hot, humid conditions turned many of your fields dormant over the summer months, be assured activity has not been dormant around our office at the GTI. In June, at the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture banquet, the STA was pleased to present the Sports Turf Association scholarship to Mr. Ken McLeod. Mr. McLeod was the recipient of a cheque for \$200, a *Field Managers Guide Book* and a 1 year subscription to the *Sports Turf Manager*. Our Vice-President David Smith was on hand at the banquet to represent the STA. Mike Bladon and Everett Nieukoop had a busy summer planning for our very informative and educational Field Day recently held at Woodbine Race Track (see page 5).

One unforeseen yet very important activity which occurred over the summer months was the recruitment process for a new Executive Secretary. In late June Mrs. Sonja Schneider advised us that she would be leaving the Association in mid July to assume the full time position of Executive Assistant to the President of a prominent developer in Kitchener/Waterloo. We are extremely pleased for Sonja and her new challenge, but saddened to see her leave the STA. During the past 3 years Sonja has greatly assisted the Association in running the day to day operation of the office and ensuring that our members re-

ceive prompt, attentive and efficient service.

Over the past several years many organizations have struggled to maintain their existing membership base. The Sports Turf Association has actually grown in terms of membership over Sonja's tenure as Executive Secretary and much of the increase must be credited to her performance in the position. Whether corresponding to our members and potential members over the phone or in writing, to promoting and marketing the Association at various trade shows and conferences, Sonja has done a marvelous job in terms of ensuring the message of better, safer sports turf is front and centre, professionally represented and communicated. On behalf of the entire Association, I offer heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all her efforts during her time as Executive Secretary. We wish Sonja all the best and much success and happiness in the future. She will be missed by all of us.

Hence with each chapter that closes, another opens with exciting possibilities and opportunities on the horizon. The search for a new Executive Secretary began in late July with interviews scheduled for completion by the end of August. Along with several other members of the Executive, I formed a selection committee to recruit for the position. It is hoped by the time this issue of the *Sports Turf*

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