

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

...for better, safer Sports Turf

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CHRISTOPHER MARK The President's Desk



Greetings 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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The President's Message

continued from page 1

Manager arrives, we will be ready to announce the new Executive Secretary with an introduction at the AGM this coming January.

Speaking of new, I wish to congratulate our Newsletter Editors, Mike Bladon and Harold Van Gool, and our publisher, New Paradigm Communications, on the improvement to the design and layout of the *Sports Turf Manager*. Since its inception, our Sports Turf newsletter has always been a first rate publication. However, since we are launching into our second decade of service to our members and the turf industry, it was decided the newsletter could use a makeover in terms of appearance, style and presentation. We would be most interested in any comments on the new look. Please do not hesitate to give us a call at the STA, or drop us a line at the GTI office.

Finally, I extend sincere appreciation to everyone who have renewed their membership for another year. I understand we are ahead of last year's pace which is fantastic. Thank you once again for renewing your commitment and sharing our vision in promoting the benefits of proper athletic field maintenance and construction for the enhancement of sports fields, and most importantly, the improved safety for all athletes, both young and old.


Have a great fall season.

Wishing you better, safer Sports Turf.

—Christopher Mark

PLEASE NOTE

The articles written within do not necessarily reflect the views of the Sports Turf Association.



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J. Robert Dippel

SEEDS

Did You Know?

In the spirit of our 10th Anniversary we will be sharing with our members some highlights of the Association's history.

- ✓ In 1988, two Honourary Life Memberships were awarded to James Boyce of Agro-Consulting and Norman Rothwell, President of Rothwell Seeds. Both individuals have made significant contributions to the turfgrass industry.
- ✓ Our first Field Day with a Sports Turf flavour was held at Alumni Stadium at the University of Guelph in June of 1988. Organized by Pat Tucker and Mike Bladon, it was here that the Sports Turf Association was officially launched. Until then, few people in the industry had heard of it. Subsequent field days were held in Etobicoke, Markham, Oakville, the University of Western Ontario, London, Kitchener, the GTI, and Hamilton.
- ✓ In 1990 we hired our first Executive Secretary as the administrative work was increasing. Dr. Bob Sheard came on staff and proceeded to get our Association business in order. He also helped to edit and produce several videotapes related to sports turf, and set up a marketing program.
- ✓ In 1989 it was decided that we needed a guide for Canadian turf conditions. Coordinated by Pat Tucker, then Head of Grounds at the University of Guelph, experts were gathered to write the separate parts of the book. Pat later resigned after tiring of cajoling people into meeting deadlines, etc. In 1991, *An Athletic Field Managers Guide* was published, and art work and printing/marketing were completed by our Executive Secretary. In this same year we held our annual conference at the University of Guelph.

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