

CHRISTOPHER MARK
The President's Desk



Hello! Spring and early summer greetings to all our members. With the unbelievably early spring this year, I am sure it has been a real boom for some and a challenge for others. If your fields had significant winter damage, the warm temperatures provided a great blessing by allowing turf managers an opportunity to get out on the fields earlier than normal and perform topdressing and aeration programs. However, the unseasonably warm weather has also accelerated turf growth, weed growth, and grub activity in some areas; hence, from a maintenance and personnel scheduling perspective, it has been a hectic season already for many turf managers. In addition with the warmer temperatures, sports groups, varsity teams, and intramural house leagues all want to get on the fields earlier than usual, which also complicates maintenance programs. "Go, Go, Go!" seems to have been the phrase for this spring.

Things have been go, go, go, around the STA office since the OTS and annual meeting. Our Executive Manager, Lee Huether, has been very busy undertaking usual office duties as well as attending and representing your Association at Landscape Ontario, Ontario Parks Association, and corresponding with members and potential members. Several new members joined our Association based on Lee's representation at these seminars, and she is doing an excellent job at communicating our better, safer sports turf theme. Lee has settled extremely well into her Executive Manager's duties, and we are very fortunate to have her with us.

Some initiatives that are keeping members of the Executive busy include planning for the upcoming Field Day on August 18, 1998, at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. It plans to be an informative, educational, practical, and relaxing day with seminars at the GTI as well as a tour of a renovated baseball facility in Guelph. Please plan to join us for this superb event. Review the enclosed Field Day brochure and pass the information on to another turf colleague. Tell a friend—it will be a

great day! Other items that are in the works include an updated membership brochure, as well as reprinting the highly successful "Constructing the Sportsfield" brochure. Both of these publications will include our new logo.

By this time many of you will have received your invoice for membership renewal. I understand they are coming back to the office at a steady pace. To all of you who have once again renewed your commitment to our mission of better, safer sports turf, thank you very much. For the undecided few, please consider the value of being an STA member. You will continue to receive the best newsletter in the industry (*Sports Turf Manager*), reduced rates for field days and the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, and continue to be included in a select group of people who dedicate themselves to improving the safety of athletic fields through maintenance and construction.

In closing, I would like to note some very special anniversaries which are happening in 1998. G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. is celebrating 50 years of service to their customers and the industry. The STA extends sincere congratulations to Richard and Nolan Duke, Dick Raycroft, and all the staff at G.C. Duke on their 50th Anniversary and wish them many more years of success. Duke Equipment has been one of the biggest supporters of the STA, as well as many other industry associations, and we truly appreciate all the assistance they have given and continue to provide on a regular basis. The other anniversary to be celebrated this year is *Turf and Recreation's* 10th Anniversary. Congratulations on 10 years of excellence to Mike Jiggins, Bart Crandall, and all the staff at *Turf and Recreation* who publish one of the most informative and professional magazines in the turf and recreation industry.

I wish all members and athletic field managers much success this summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the Field Day on August 18, 1998, at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Wishing you better, safer sports turf. ♦

—Christopher Mark

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