

# SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for better, safer Sports Turf

MARCH 1998

## Dr. R. W. Sheard Awarded an Honorary Life Membership to the STA



Dr. Bob Sheard was presented this prestigious award at the AGM on January 6, 1998. The following article pays tribute to Bob's contributions.

Bob was raised on a mixed grain/livestock farm in southeastern Saskatchewan. He received his post secondary education at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Toronto (Ontario Agricultural College), and Cornell University in agronomy, plant physiology and statistics. Bob spent more than 36 years at both the University of Guelph and the OAC where his primary interests were in forage production, particularly those aspects dealing with fertilizer use, and he was responsible for a significant upgrade in the recommendations for phosphorous and potassium for forages. The latter study led to his interest in turf production where he pioneered the work on sulphur coated urea in Canada. Recommendations for late fall nitrogen use also evolved from these studies.

In 1979 he constructed a set of sand-based microgreens at the Cambridge Research Station, Cambridge, Ontario, for research in water use and fertilizer practices for turf on pure sand. He was associated with the development of several playing fields which were built on this principle.

In 1981 he served as Local Arrangements Chairman for the 4th International Turfgrass Research Conference and was editor of the proceedings. From 1968 through 1986, he taught soil science and plant nutrition at the Turf Managers Short Course.

In September 1990, following retirement, he took the position of Executive Secretary of the Sports Turf Association and began to put its administrative house in order as the organization was beginning to grow.

During this period he edited, supervised art work, printed, and marketed the *Athletic Field Managers Guide for Construction and Maintenance*. He also introduced the membership plaque, and edited and marketed the videotape series on turf. His other accomplishments include starting a members address book, complete with a code of ethics, constitution and bylaws; organizing field days and annual conferences; wrote and edited the *Sports Turf Manager*; and negotiated an office rental agreement to move the Sports Turf Association office to the Guelph Turfgrass Institute building in 1993. Prior to the move, the Association had been using an office out of his house. Bob resigned in 1994 from the position but continued to edit the newsletter, and designed and organized a booth to advertise and market the Association at conferences, seminars, and trade shows.

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In 1993 Bob was hired as a consultant by the Ontario Jockey Club when Woodbine Racetrack was redesigned. He consulted on the E. P. Taylor Turf Track.

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