



The President's Desk

JANE ARNETT-RIVERS

Depending on the work you have been carrying out this fall, the weather has been spectacular. We have been installing tile drain on one of our Little League diamonds and the sunshine and absence of rain seem to have been custom ordered. Now that the trenching, back filling and sodding are complete, precipitation can begin!

Hope your fall renovations are moving along smoothly – surely the prolonged higher temperatures have helped extend timelines of work that needs completion prior to frost. We will be using 'turf tarps' again this year on some of our goal mouths and centre field areas to extend the seeding season. I'm writing this column in mid-November and we are still waiting for cooler temperatures to arrive to use them. Turf tarps worked very well for us last year, both in the fall prolonging our seeding window and in the spring accelerating germination. If you have any questions about turf tarps, please contact us.

Your Association, in cooperation with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, organized a workshop in East Gwillimbury in October. Many thanks to Terry Piche for facilitating a very informative day. Mike Bladon, Dwayne McAllister, Gord Dol, Pam Charbonneau and myself covered a wide range of topics: safety and liability, what's new in maintenance, soils, pesticides, irrigation and drainage. The day was a success and we received a great deal of positive feedback. We trust this will be the first of such workshops to take place outside the Greater Toronto Area. If you have any questions about this or future workshops, please contact Lee Huether at (519) 763 9431, sta@gti.uoguelph.ca or Terry Piche at (705) 864-1215, tpiche@onlink.net. The Sports Turf Association is looking forward to more partnerships with ORFA.

Another milestone for our Association – Dr. Bob Sheard's book will soon be available. I am fortunate to have read parts of *Understanding Turf Management* and can say this is a valuable and comprehensive text. It is instrumental as a reference on countless topics and will have a permanent spot on my desk. Much gratitude goes out to the sponsors of *Understanding Turf Management*, Bannerman, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. and Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products, NuGro Corporation and Rain Bird International, Inc. Their support will allow the cost to remain accessible to all, something Dr. Sheard was adamant about. Congratulations and thank you on this accomplishment, Bob. Your hard work will assist us in making informed decisions about our playing surfaces over the coming years. To purchase the book, contact Lee at the Sports Turf Association office.

My thanks to our Past President Chris Mark for his ongoing efforts in responding to Bill C-388. A complete report will be submitted by Chris on behalf of the Association. Chris continues to represent the STA with accurate and highly knowledgeable information. Thank you for your continued dedication to professionalism in this industry.

It's OTS time again. If you have not received your registration brochure, contact the University of Guelph's Office of Open Learning at (519) 767-5000, www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots. Remember to tick the STA box when registering – this is vital both for fiscal and statistical reasons. This brings me to the Municipal Challenge. Two teams are still needed to step up to the plate and vie for the trophy in Jeopardy. Last year was a fast paced, full of laughs session. Gather your team, cover your knowledge base with equipment, turf, pesticides, soil, irrigation and drainage, and let either Lee or myself (phone

(905) 847-9181) know your hat is in the ring. No stress, just fun.

As STA members, you are cordially invited to join our Annual General Meeting and luncheon during the OTS. The invitation is included with this issue of *Sports Turf Manager*. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the Board, hear what is happening in the Association, and attend nominations. I sincerely hope you will attend on Wednesday, January 3rd beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please join us.

Lastly, I have spent the better part of this message thanking associates. This is the last edition of the *Sports Turf Manager* for the year, so I will close by thanking all members of the Association and the Board. Much has been accomplished this year. I cannot imagine any of the tasks coming to fruition without the support of members, suppliers and most importantly the dedicated group of people on the Board, including Lee Huether our Executive Manager. How many times have I deferred to Lee in this message for information? Congratulations to all who contribute and keep this Association what it is. It is an honour to be a part of such a professional, dedicated and productive group. Wishing you all the best in the year to come. ♦

Seasons Greetings

from the staff
and board of
the STA



Have a safe and happy holiday
and enjoy the New Year!
We hope to see you January
3-5 at the Ontario Turfgrass
Symposium in Toronto!