



The President's Desk

JANE ARNETT-RIVERS

Time is certainly moving by quickly. My last message was written during a snowstorm! Currently I am wondering how many hours in the day we need to keep up with the rate at which the grass is growing. Certainly if you are in southern Ontario, there is no need to explain. We must keep reminding ourselves not to complain, as I have not seen vegetation looking this lush in Oakville's parks in recent years. Surely the long days on the mowers will shorten soon enough.

The Sports Turf Association Board of Directors has been very busy developing a Strategic Plan for the coming years. One of our main initiatives is to educate all levels of staff with information and resources promoting safe, natural sports turf. We spent a day with a facilitator mapping out ways of doing this – one is to continue with this publication at its current high standard – the other is to continue presenting our annual field day.

Speaking of which, plans for the 13th Annual Field Day are almost set. The event will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2000. This year we will focus on baseball. Spending the day will be Ed Miller, retired groundskeeper for Yankee Stadium. I have attended a lecture of Mr. Miller's before and found it both informative and

very entertaining. His tips are applicable regardless of the facilities you maintain and you will find yourself retelling his stories of life in the "big leagues."

Other topics for the day include soil testing with David Smith, and Gerry Ray and Oliver Bremer will discuss the new Barrie Community Sports Complex. We will spend the afternoon outside watching suppliers work their magic with turf, infields, and mounds. There will be an abundance of expertise, experience and advice on site. Space is still available for suppliers wishing a tabletop and/or equipment display.

The day promises outstanding exposure for suppliers as attendance increases every year. Registration forms will be out shortly. Sign up soon as last year's event was a sell-out. Members' cost for the day includes refreshments, lunch and parking.

Invoices are out for membership fees for the current year. If you have not renewed, please do so. Thanks to industry support, beginning this year we will be printing the roster in its entirety on an annual basis, rather than biannually with an annual insert.

Congratulations to Karen Richter of Waterloo and Robert Gill of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Both are recipients of the

Sports Turf Association Scholarship. Karen, for the Year 2000 Turf Managers' Short Course and Robert, for the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture. We look forward to congratulating you both at our Field Day in August. We hope you will be able to attend.

Thank you to all who ticked the STA box when registering for the January Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Sports turf member attendance was up substantially. The OTS Committee is currently working on the speaker roster for 2001.

Finally, in the craziness of the past three weeks where we bounced back and forth from hot sunny days to cold rainy days, I was placing hurried phone calls to industry suppliers recruiting support for our Field Day.

Interrupting their day at such a busy time, I fully expected to be asked to call back in June. That was not the response from anyone. All the companies I approached were more than happy to take the time to listen, and then responded quickly. It made me realize the importance of the Sports Turf Association in this industry and the respected role we play in promoting safer, natural sports turf. Thank you very much for all the support. The Field Day will be a success largely due to our industry suppliers. ♦



SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION

13th Annual Field Day

August 16, 2000

Featuring Ed Miller, retired groundskeeper, Yankee Stadium.

Other guests include David Smith (soil testing) • Gerry Ray and Oliver Bremer (Barrie Community Sports Complex) • a variety of industry suppliers

Contact Lee Huether for registration details: 519-763-9431 • sta@gti.uoguelph.ca