



The President's Desk

JANE ARNETT-RIVERS

Happy New Millennium and cheers to all members! I will start by introducing myself. I am Jane Arnett-Rivers, your President for the next two years.

I am presently with the Town of Oakville as Supervisor of Parks. My obligations range from washrooms, garbage collection, horticultural plantings and pruning to grass cutting and of course, sports field management.

We have a large variety of fields here in Oakville – lit, irrigated, sand, soil, baseball, football, soccer, etc. – with the heaviest of clays and the lightest of sands. We hold major tournaments and host more than 16,000 people playing house league and rep baseball and soccer for a grand usage total of 47,000 hours on 125 surfaces. Constantly, we face management challenges.

This brings me to one of my goals as President. Many of us face similar challenges in our workplaces. Whether they are environmental, budget or staffing, someone else has likely already solved the problem. We need to disseminate this information. I would like to encourage open dialogue between our board and members. The STA board which I have served on for six years is made up of established, experienced experts crossing all aspects of the turf industry field. To sit at our board table and throw out a question is to have it answered. I encourage you to use this wealth of expertise as I do. Please call me with queries. I would be glad to share information that I have and put you in touch with others to help. As an association, we are all striving for the same goal of *better, safer sports turf*.

Over the past five years, Chris Mark has captained us with dedication and commitment. My new position is all the more daunting following him. Thank you, Chris. I am sure I will refer to you often and hope

to continue the success and respectability that you have helped bring to this elite board. I'd also like to welcome Bill Campbell, our newest Director. We are looking forward to working with you!

I hope that everyone has been re-energized and motivated after attending the OTS 2000. Thank you to Pam Charbonneau and the OTS crew for once again putting on what I consider to be the most unique three days of information, equipment and networking of the year. Thank you as well to Bob Sheard for successfully representing the Sports Turf Association on the OTS Board.

This year's OTS showcased the debut of the Sports Turf Challenge. Kudos to Marjie Fraser, Jim Galbraith and Dwayne McAllister for captaining the teams which participated. It was 30 minutes of fast and fierce competition with the winner not being revealed until the last minute of Final Jeopardy. Congratulations Oakville on your win. See you again next year when I'm sure challengers will step up to try to

take your trophy. Anyone wishing to participate next year, please contact me – it will be a lot of fun. Thank you John Bladon for stepping in, you did Alex Trebek proud!

I have to commend Mike Bladon for taking on Editor of the *Sports Turf Manager* for another year. You always ensure we put out an informative and current publication. Thanks also to Harold Van Gool for accepting another term as Treasurer and Paul Turner for welcoming the nomination of Vice President. I know I speak for everyone when I say this association will continue to strive to serve our members and bring you current industry information.

In closing, a sincere thank you to all who have supported our association in the past. Please pass on the *Sports Turf Manager* to your co-workers – especially those in the field. To the STA board and members, I look forward to my new position as President with excitement! ♦

— Jane Arnett-Rivers

Meet New Board Member Bill Campbell

Bill was born and raised on a dairy farm near Avonmore, Ontario (Cornwall area). His academic achievements include a BSA in Agronomy from the University of Guelph in 1955, a MSA in Soils from the University of Guelph in 1957 and a MBA from McMaster in 1971.

In the fall of 1958, Bill planted his first 20 acres of sod near Lynden, Ontario. He started harvesting sod full time in 1960, selling 143,000 square yards. Expansion followed with farms located near Valleyfield, Quebec; Youngstown, Ohio; Breslau, Ontario; Tilbury, Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario; Que-

bec City, Quebec; Cleveland, Ohio; and finally in 1980, Kissimmee, Florida, near Disney World. Bill is now retired, selling most of the farms to their various managers.

Bill's family life includes his wife Dorothy, who he married in 1955, and their two children – Barbara born in 1960, a graduate of the University of Waterloo in Civil Engineering, and David born in 1962, a graduate of Ryerson Institute Theatre School.

We are pleased to welcome Bill and his wealth of expertise to the Board of Directors of the STA. ♦

— excerpts from *The Horticultural Herald*