

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for better, safer Sports Turf

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In Recognition of Michael Bladon

AWARDED AN HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP AT THE AUGUST FIELD DAY

Michael Bladon, a visionary in the sports turf industry was honoured by his fellow turf managers by being named an Honourary Life Member of the Sports Turf Association at their annual summer field day on August 16, 2000.

In January of '87, a group gathered for a brain storming session at the University of Guelph's Arboretum. They met to explore the possibilities of forming an organization to service the void in the Ontario turfgrass industry which was not being covered adequately by the only existing group speaking for turf management at that time, the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association.

STM

Service has been the watch word of Michael Bladon. He is a member of several associations and has been on the STA Board since its inception.

The group recognized the need for an association with interests directed to the needs of those who cultured turf for a wide variety of sports, ranging from soccer and baseball to thoroughbred racing. Their discussions set in motion the organization of

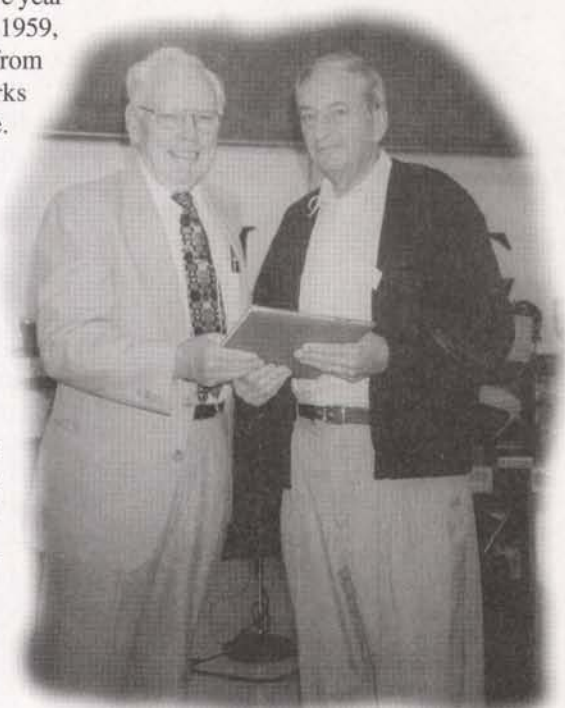
the Sports Turf Association of Ontario in 1987. The mission statement of the fledgling Association was "to promote better and safer sports turf." During the past 14 years, Michael has volunteered much of his time to promoting that mission statement, particularly the safety aspect to turf for sport.

Michael hails from London, England; coming to Canada to complete his high school education in the town of Walkerton, Ontario. He left high school for a five year stint in the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1959, he came back to dry land to spend from 1959 to 1962 at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture. Upon graduation with a Diploma in Horticulture, he tried several types of employment in the horticultural industry, ending up at the Wascana Centre Authority in Regina, Saskatchewan where he assisted in maintaining that oasis of green in the land of drought and winter. After having his nose nipped by frost for four winters, he returned to Ontario to join the Grounds Department of the Univer-

Michael Bladon (right) accepts his STA Honourary Membership from STA Director Bob Sheard August 16 at the Annual Field Day.

sity of Guelph in 1969. He moved through the ranks to become Director of Grounds, a position from which he retired in 1996.

Service has been the watch word of Michael Bladon. He is a member of several associations in the horticultural and educational fields. He has served as President of the Alumni Association of the NPC School of Horticulture, but of most importance to this organization, as its first President, Past President, ... see page 2



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Honourary Membership for Bladon

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

... Editor of the *Sports Turf Manager* and as a Director since the inception of the Association. The *Athletic Field Managers' Guide* and a series of videotapes on turf were the result of initiatives originating with Michael Bladon.

While in Regina, Michael met Elaine. Elaine was a beautiful prairie girl, a nurse, and an excellent cook. That meeting and their subsequent marriage has spawned two children, John, superintendent of the Guelph Lakes Golf Course, and Alexis, a member of the staff of the Ontario Uni-

versities' Application Centre.

Mike and Elaine now wisely spend much of their time during the summer at a cottage at Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula. There he reads, writes humour (he wrote a Ham Landers column for *PlayBoar* magazine) and cultivates wild flowers.

Sports fields in Ontario and in Canada are safer and better from your presence, Mike, for which we give you thanks and wish you well! ♦

— Bob Sheard



Letter of Thanks

To the Board of Directors and members of the Sports Turf Association, my thanks for the Honourary Life Membership presented to me at the Field Day in August.

Not only was it a surprise, but also it is something that I will always treasure. It is very different starting an Association versus joining one. I have to thank my wife Elaine as well as my daughter Alexis. Elaine's support and bookkeeping skills were a big help in the early stages of development. Alexis logged many hours typ-

ing for the newsletter, designing brochures, etc. Uwe Sehmerau from Tourism and Recreation, Annette Anderson, the first Turf Extension Specialist, Ron Dubyk, Robert Allen and Bruce Calhoun all played major roles in the beginning. In later years, Dr. Bob Sheard was instrumental in putting our Association on a firm administrative footing and in organizing strong boards which have kept us at the forefront of the turf industry.

Once again, thank you for this honour. I see a great future for the Association. ♦

— Michael Bladon

Turf News Brief from the UK

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR STRI

DR. GORDON MCKILLOP has been appointed as the new Chief Executive for the Sports Turf Research Institute. He officially took over the role on July 10.

Dr. McKillop joins STRI from the Central Science Laboratories in York. CSL is an agency for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). He joined CSL in 1978, where he progressed from the Science Team to Science Manager, to his position of Commercial Business

Strategy Manager, working on strategies to further the commercial development of CSL.

Growing up in Glasgow, he studied at the University of Glasgow before obtaining his Ph.D. from Reading University. In 1997, he was awarded an MBA from Henley Management College.

Dr. McKillop is looking forward to the challenges of his new appointment. He brings with him qualifications, skills and experience which will enable him to combine business management skills with science in his role as Chief Executive at STRI. ♦

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