

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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