

I have almost always started out by recapping the weather and the work it allows us to carry out. Not to break tradition, for my final President's Message, I shall do the same. Is this not the best weather for field renovations? We have been able to overseed, topdress and sod almost all of the fields we had scheduled. The rain has been well timed for us in Oakville, but after speaking with Gord Dol, he certainly did not agree. I hear the rain has been too frequent and heavy for some.

We are still edging infields on the diamonds and are actually checking tarps we put down a month ago for turf growth. I suppose the down side is we are also continuing to cut grass the second week of November, and on our well fed, irrigated fields the end is not yet in sight. I do hope everyone is making the best of this outstanding weather and getting a jump on Spring 2002's work.

As I sat sorting the contents of this message, I could not help but realize how fast these past two years have gone by. When I first accepted this privilege, I thought two years would last forever and the task would be daunting. Well, two years have flown by and being a part of

this Board has been anything but daunting.

Your Association has increased membership and had record attendance at two very successful field days. Industry support of our Association is at an all time high. We have adopted a new *Strategic Plan* to carry us through, with focus, the coming years. The *Membership Roster*, again with industry backing, is now being printed annually. We have partnered with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and presented two joint educational workshops. With Lee, our Executive Manager, at the helm, we now have a one page marketing brochure available to suppliers for general advertising and marketing opportunities, as well as ones for specific support options.

We continue to be a presence at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, Landscape Ontario Congress and ORFA's Exhibition. In addition, this year we participated in the Atlantic Turfgrass Conference in Halifax and assisted with the International Turfgrass Research Conference in Toronto. Chris Mark partnered with PLCAO, composing a Sports Turf Association Position Statement in response to Bill C-388. Mike Bladon continues to drive this publication at the highest level of profession-

alism, as does Dr. Sheard with his representation on the OTS Executive Committee.

Without question, the main achievement during my term is the successful publishing and marketing of Dr. Sheard's book *Understanding Turf Management*. This tremendous contribution by Dr. Sheard will stand as a testament to the Sports Turf Association and I am thrilled that I was a part of the Board which made it available to everyone.

To be able to list these achievements shows the dynamic group of individuals who sit on the Sports Turf Association Board. Everyone plays a part, and everyone has a voice. It has been enlightening, it has broadened my knowledge, it has increased the circle of those I call friends and without a doubt, made me a better turf manager.

Lastly, my thanks to the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, especially Murray Cameron and Chris Mark, for all of their support and allowing me the time needed to fill the President's position. With all respect, thank-you to the entire Board, present and past, for the opportunity to work with each and every one of you. ♦

What you need! When you need it!

Technically Trained Sales Staff • Full Offering of Quality Products
Superior Customer Service and Efficient Delivery



Distributors of Turface MVP, Quick Dry and other sports field maintenance products and equipment.

Plant-Prod & Nu-Gro Professional Fertilizer Products. A complete line of fungicides, insecticides and herbicides for sports turf.

1-800-387-2449 • turf@plantprod.com • www.plantprod.com

314 Orenda Road, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6T 1G1 • 905-793-7000 • fax: 905-793-9632

