

September already! In Oakville we have survived quite a burn-off with irrigation systems proving to be essential once again. However, even that safety net was removed in Halton for two weeks as a water restriction was declared and systems had to be shut down. Luckily, exception was given to our two sand fields. We are having problems with *Poa annua* in one of them, so I was tempted to follow the ban to the letter, which would force us to strip and re-seed that field but decided budgets could be spent better elsewhere.

## STA Field Day

I hope you had the chance to attend and enjoy our Field Day. Many thanks to the City of Waterloo for providing a tremendous venue and Mark Hillis and Karen Richter for assisting with the events. The venue was, for both morning and afternoon sessions, very well suited. The morning started out with Henry Waszczuk, host of *Fins and Skins Classic Adventures*, followed by the IAPA's Bob Deline with 'New Worker Orientation.' The afternoon was packed with equipment demos and supplier discussions. It is important to know that the day was made possible by the following sponsors who allowed us to present a cutting edge Field Day, lunch, refreshments and grab bags for under \$50 a person: AerWay, Bannerman, Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd., Nu-Gro Corporation, Plant Products Co. Ltd., Turf Care Products Canada Limited, United Horticultural Supply and Vanden Bussche Irrigation & Equipment Ltd. The quality of information on hand was truly representative of their support. I wish to sincerely thank you, as always, for your support of the Sports Turf Association.

## Turfgrass Conference

In July, Dr. Sheard, Lee Huether, Dwayne McAllister and I attended the International Turfgrass Research Conference. Thank you to Rob Witherspoon of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute for the invitation to participate. It was quite a day,

listening to research papers on related topics from around the world. In speaking with delegates the event was reported to be a wonderful conference – full of information and sight seeing in southern Ontario. Congratulations to all involved. What a lot of work goes into turf before we start cutting it!

## OTS Time Again

Hard to believe it is time again to publicize the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. The dates have been changed to later in January allowing everyone to squeeze in those final days of the New Year's celebrations.

The Sports Turf Association has set up a preliminary program encompassing numerous areas of turf. Included will be a session on organics, defining them, discussing what is out there and a panel will be set up to answer questions. Certainly as pesticides have become a very hot topic, fertilizers will also.

Turf Jeopardy will take place for the 3rd year with 2001 defending champions, the southwestern Ontario team of Mark Hagen, Jeff Cunningham and Ross Tucker, ready to defend their title. Anyone wishing to contribute questions, or better yet participate in the challenge, please contact me at 905-845-6601 (x3352) or [jrivers@town.oakville.on.ca](mailto:jrivers@town.oakville.on.ca). All are welcome and it really is a lot of fun for both spectators and participants.

On the second day of the conference a session has been set up discussing 'The New Sports Field.' Determining a site, funding, best construction, new products to incorporate into construction and ear marking funds for staffing and maintenance will be discussed. Any questions about OTS, please contact Lee Huether at



Henry Waszczuk, Keynote Speaker at the 14th Annual Field Day, with STA President Jane Arnett-Rivers.

the STA office, 519-763-9431 or email [sta@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:sta@gti.uoguelph.ca). Looking forward to seeing you there.

## Book Success

Dr. Sheard's book, *Understanding Turf Management*, is now being used in the University of Guelph's Turf Managers Short Course, ORFA's Professional Development Program and at Lambton College. I strongly recommend this book as a 'desk top' or 'truck text.' Whether to retrieve a fast fact or look deeper into a turf issue, it is essential for the turf manager.

That's what's new with your Association. I hope you all survived the summer of students, drought, overuse, pesticide bans and whatever else came your way. If you have anything to share or questions about a new technique, a new machine, a new product, please contact Lee or myself. We would love to hear about it and of course share it with others. The spreading of information is how we all learn to manage better, safer sports turf.

Wishing you all the best. If not before, see you at OTS 2002! ♦



**New Dates for 2002! Check out the info on page 5.**

Register early and support the Sports Turf Association.