

The President's Desk

PAUL TURNER



I wish all our members a belated Happy New Year for 2002 and let's hope it brings us continued health and many successes in our endeavors. As your

new President for the next two years, I would like to take this time to say how honoured I am to be following in the footsteps of some very talented people, Jane Arnett-Rivers and Chris Mark. I look forward to guiding our Association to continued heights of excellence.

As all of you are aware, the events of September 11th have changed forever the way we value life and also the way business is conducted. I, for one, now value each minute of each day more than ever before. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those touched by that fateful day.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Stephen Tolley to the Board of Directors for a two-year term and thank all those Board Members who have committed to another term. A sincere thank you is extended to Andrew Gaydon who has accepted the position of Vice-President. I must however share some sad news with the membership. Harold Van Gool, our Treasurer for many years, has decided to leave us (a great deal of arm twisting didn't help!). Harold is diverting his energy to

obtaining his Masters in Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. We wish him all the very best on his new project. The duties of Treasurer will now be assumed by Rick Lane. Thanks Rick!

Recently at the Annual General Meeting, a membership fee increase was approved for 2002. These fee increases were necessitated due to rising administrative costs, including increases in office insurance and the publishing and mailing of the newsletter. The new rates are \$130 for initial members and \$32 for each additional member. The student rate remains unchanged at \$25. The 2002 advertising rates are now available to prospective advertisers and I think you would agree that our rates are very attractive for suppliers to show people what's NEW in the marketplace.

For those who were not in attendance, the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was, once again, a great success. The list of quality speakers was astounding and from a personal standpoint, the change of date to later in January was refreshing. A big congratulations goes out to the Sports Turf Challenge winners, Marjie Fraser, Reid Patterson and Tino Petrunti from the City of Vaughan.

The Field Day Committee is busy at work putting the finishing touches on the 2002 event. Exact dates and location will

be announced in the June issue of the *Sports Turf Manager*. The committee did agree with membership input to move the field day to September from August, a more convenient time since most summer vacations are over. I think you would all agree that the Sports Turf Field Day continues to be one of the best values in our industry and I look forward to seeing those in attendance. Let's make 2002 the best one yet!

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The annual STA Field Day will be moved from August to September this year.

In closing, the Association is in great shape and we look forward to fine tuning a few things in the upcoming year to make things run even smoother.

Some projects that we are embarking on in 2002 include revamping the current web site to make it more attractive and user friendly and implementing payment by credit card to allow you to register for the Field Day and pay for your membership and other services more conveniently.

I welcome any comments or thoughts from you, our members. You can email me directly at paul.turner2@sympatico.ca or through the Sports Turf Association office at sta@gti.uoguelph.ca. ■

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