

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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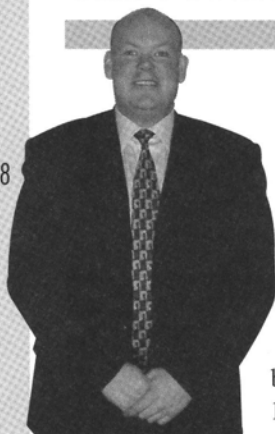
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STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. At other times, a message may be left on the voice mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may be reached at any time by faxing (519) 766-1704 or via e-mail.

The President's Desk

PAUL TURNER



Seasons Greetings...

Fall has passed us by and we're now shoveling the dreaded white stuff. However, let's be positive, in about 16 weeks spring will again be in the air!

Winter signals trade show time for our industry. Mark your calendars and register today! The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) is January 21-23 in Toronto. It would be great to see a large turnout of our membership at this event.

You may be unaware of some behind-the-scene activities regarding the OTS. I would like to give you some brief details. The 2003 Symposium is exactly as in previous years, however for 2004, the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association have decided that they are going to have their own specific golf specific show and thus are leaving the OTS group. We wish them well in their new endeavor.

The OTS group has expanded its partnership and will be hosting the 2004 conference in Toronto on January 20 and 21. As the old saying goes, *the show must go on!* We will be updating you with new details as they develop so stay tuned. This conference will cover all aspects of turf management and will feature many new speakers and exhibitors.

The STA's Annual General Meeting is January 22. Breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m. sharp and we hope to wrap up by 9:00 a.m. If you wish to attend, please register with Lee at the office.

It is with great regret I inform you that two long-time supporters and directors of the STA are stepping down. Michael Bladon, one of our founding members, is retiring after 15 years to pursue other avenues. Michael was one of the true visionaries in the industry and guided the STA to where it is today. He served as President, Past President, Director and Editor of the *Sports Turf Manager*. Believe me, we will miss his expertise immensely. I

would like to say thank-you on behalf of the Directors and the membership for all you have done. We wish you health and happiness in your new adventures. You will be sadly missed.

Bill Campbell is also stepping down after many years on the board. Having spent almost 50 years in the business, Bill brought a wide knowledge of the sod/turf industry. Bill, you too will be sadly missed. Your kind of industry knowledge is irreplaceable.

With two holes to fill on the board, we are excited to have three new nominations for 2003/2004. Jeff Stewart of the Town of Ajax, Jamie Worden of Turf Care Products and Gord van Dyk of the University of Toronto. Elections will be held at the AGM in January and we ask you to come on out and cast your vote.

As mentioned, with Michael Bladon leaving the board, we've decided to form an editorial committee for our newsletter rather than elect a single editor. This decision was based on the large number of hours it would take one individual to prepare the newsletter. Sharing these duties should make it easier for us to continue publishing a quality newsletter for the membership. The new committee is made up of Jane Arnett-Rivers, Andrew Gaydon, Lee Huether and myself.

Our expanded and re-designed web site is up and running. We welcome your feedback on how we can improve the site and what additional features you would like to see. Visit us at our new home at www.sportsturfassociation.com. Also a reminder to please update your address book - our new email address is info@sportsturfassociation.com.

I hope you all have a great winter season and look forward to seeing you at OTS. We will have more details on the new partnership for OTS 2004 and look forward to sharing those with you. The success of this venture will only be achieved if our membership throws all of its support behind the symposium. ♦