

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Volume 16, Issue 1
ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the
SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
328 Victoria Road South, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8
Tel: (519) 763-9431, Fax: (519) 766-1704
E-mail: info@sportsturfassociation.com
Web: www.sportsturfassociation.com

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is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$25/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jane Arnett-Rivers, Andrew Gaydon, Lee Huether and Paul Turner

PUBLISHER

New Paradigm Communications
R.R. #8, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5W4
Tel. (519) 371-6818, Fax: (519) 371-5789
E-mail: joy@npc-solutions.com

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 1461370

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to the STA at 328 Victoria Rd. South, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8.

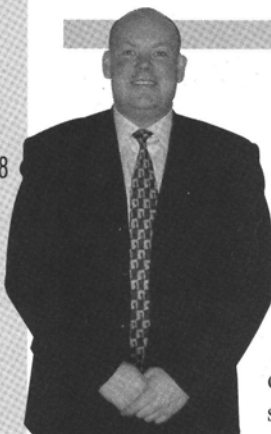


STA OFFICE HOURS

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



Happy Spring!

Hello and a 'warm' welcome to the membership. We have endured quite a chilly winter season and I, for one, will not miss its passing! I am sure spring is just around the corner and that is good news for us all.

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium

It was another successful OTS and a big thank-you should go out to Pam Charbonneau for co-ordinating the excellent speaker program and to the new event coordinator Remo Petrongolo and his staff for making sure things ran smoothly.

Dates for the 2004 OTS are set for January 20-21, so book it in your day planners to attend. Program content is currently being reviewed and you should look for a few more municipal-related topics next year. There is a new group of partners for OTS 2004. As you are aware, the Golf Course Superintendents have decided to move on and we welcome the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) into the new partnership. ORFA brings fresh ideas as well as a rather large membership group. There will still be a program for golf course superintendents as well as sports turf managers and accreditation credits will still apply to all those superintendents and assistants who want to be a part of OTS.

STA Annual Meeting

Our annual breakfast meeting at OTS had the largest turnout ever (at 7:30 am!). We're not sure if that means we are doing a good job or a bad one but it was great to see all those people attend.

A warm welcome to the newest board members for 2003, Jamie Worden from Turf Care Products and Gord van Dyk from the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus. We are glad to have

two knowledgeable turf professionals like yourselves on our board and we look forward to your input.

A sad goodbye was said at the AGM to long serving member and founder Mike Bladon and board member Bill Campbell. Your expertise and knowledge will be missed gentlemen! Thanks again for all you have done for the association and we, as a board, look forward to continuing to improve the association for our members.

Members, please update your electronic address book ...

Our new email address is:

info@sportsturfassociation.com

New Business

Annual Field Day plans are being laid for fall 2003 and we look forward to presenting the dates and location to you in the near future. We will be holding the field day in September again as this seemed to fit well with most people's schedules. Stay tuned for more details!

With the costs of doing business continuing to rise, it was necessary to increase the price of STA memberships for 2003. The new rate for initial members is \$135 with the additional member price rising to \$35. I think you would all agree that the membership fee is still very reasonable and we will continue to bring you a top quality newsletter and field days that you have come to want and expect.

We have implemented the first phase of the new web site and I think you will agree that it is coming along quite nicely. We continue to strive to make it more appealing and we welcome suggestions on content and layout. Visit us at www.sportsturfassociation.com and let us know what you think! Have a great spring!