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# SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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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



# Seasons Greetings...

Wow!! Time has certainly flown by this year and it is hard to believe that my term as President of the Sports Turf Association is coming to an end. I

trust you all had an enjoyable summer but this fall just wasn't the norm – too wet and cold. It reminded me of England, a country I left to stay clear of the rain!

# Heading to the Falls

I would like to remind all of you to pencil in your day planners and register to attend the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in Niagara Falls. The dates for 2004 are January 19th to 21st. There is an outstanding speaker program for all industry sectors: sports turf management, golf, lawn care, sod production and managing special events. The OTS Executive Committee has worked long and hard to provide excellent educational seminars which allow for continuing accreditation credits for golf courses and parks, new this year through the IPM-PHC Council.

OTS 2004 has an enhanced educational program because of our joint involvement with new partner the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association. Their knowledge and expertise in this type of event is unbelievable.

With the move from Toronto to the beautiful Niagara Falls area, we hope this change of venue will result in an invigorated show. The old venue was getting a little tired and if you plan to attend, I believe you will love the new location at the Sheraton on the Falls. The rooms facing the spectacular falls are selling fast, so book now!

The key to the show's success is for all of you to try and attend. Cost for the threeday program is very reasonable and I am sure we will all leave with some great knowledge and insight. So come on members, lets go to the Falls!

The STA Annual General Meeting will be held the morning of January 21st, just prior to the start of the show. We invite you all to join us for a wonderful breakfast and take part in the AGM forum. This year we have one board member stepping down, Chris Mark from the Town of Oakville. Chris has been a long-time board member and is also a Past President of the Association. Chris, your knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. We wish you well in your new position and look forward to your possible return to our board.

Mark your calendars now for OTS 2003, January 19-21 in Niagara Falls. Look forward to enhanced programming and a new venue!

#### **Turf Trades**

For the year 2004, we are expanding our services by launching a web employment bulletin board called *Turf Trades*. We encourage all municipalities and companies to post job listings online with STA. Our site offers a targeted audience of turf professionals and students who may be looking for employment. There is, of course, a minimal cost but it is far lower than traditional newspaper and large online employment site advertising. See page 19 for more details.

### **Final Perspectives**

As I sit at my computer reflecting back on my last two years as President, I honestly don't know where the time has gone. It seems like only yesterday that Jane Arnett-Rivers and Lee Huether were advising me as to the duties as President and what to expect. Over the last couple of years, I believe we have...