

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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The President's Desk

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Association News...

Well. Spring has come and gone. In southern Ontario, we started off with a drier than normal spring and quite a bit of sunshine to tease us of what is to come (we're in the midst of our first summer heat wave as we go to press!). Because the last two weeks of May were very wet, anyone trying to get jobs done involving earthworks or fine grading certainly had a tough time getting ahead. Sports turf managers were also battling these elements as in many cases, fields were wet, and either play continued and fields were damaged, or usage had to be cancelled.

On April 6 we held our Water Workshop hosted by the City of Kitchener. This issue of *Sports Turf Manager* is a special edition dedicated to coverage of the event. The workshop was very well attended. We had a great group of speakers and the sessions were highly informative. During the lunch break, we also had a putting contest with proceeds going towards turfgrass research. Thanks to Tim Ernst and Greg Snaith who provided the impetus for the workshop and all committee members for a job well done.

Mark your calendars!! September 21 is our 19th Annual Field Day which promises to be yet another great one. A solid program of speakers is being developed

which includes Dr. Andrew McNitt from Penn State. The Field Day will be held at Ridley College in St Catharines.

The Atlantic Turfgrass Research Foundation held their annual conference March 21-23 in Saint John, NB. Dave Smith and I had the honour of speaking at the conference on soils, sports turf management and construction. There were approximately 60 sports turf managers and parks personnel in attendance. The session was very well received. We were subsequently invited to tour the city's parks system. I always value opportunities to network and learn from fellow sports turf professionals and this conference was a welcome opportunity.

In my last message, I spoke of the changes made to the size of the Board of Directors due to increasing association workloads. The first meeting of the new board was held on March 28. For all the years that I have been on the STA board, we have always used the boardroom at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Well, we have now outgrown it and have to use the main meeting room! At the March meeting, our various committees were set up with a few minor changes. Primarily, there are now only one or two board members per committee. The balance of the committee will be made up of other STA members. Board members will chair the committees and will be seeking your help. Whether you volunteer or get "volunteered," your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Finally, one of the goals of the Sports Turf Association is to promote communication and professional development of sports turf managers. If you have any other topics for workshops or have other educational ideas, please forward them to Lee Huether at the STA office or to any board member.

As a parting note, membership invoices have been mailed out. Your prompt attention to these is greatly appreciated. ♦