



# Celebrating 20 Years

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987, when, at a “brain storming” session held at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to sports turf. Two decades later we continue to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development.

**Above:** Sports Turf Association President Gord Dol; Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute; and Chris Mark, Chair of the OTS Executive Committee at the 2007 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Both the STA and GTI celebrate 20 years in 2007.



## What's Inside TWO DECADES STRONG!

Browse through the following six pages for a look at STA yesterday and today. Along with an assortment of photos and tidbits, we also publish a profile of STA founding member Michael Bladon and announce the re-naming of the STA Scholarship. Enjoy the journey!

INCLUDED  
WITH THIS ISSUE  
"20 YEARS OF SERVICE"  
CHRONICLING  
STA'S HISTORY



## STA Board: Then & Now...

**Above: Board of Directors 1987.** Michael Bladon, President; Annette Anderson, Conference Chairperson; John Watson, Director; and Ron DUBYK, Secretary. Absent: Bruce Calhoun, Vice President and Robert Allen, Treasurer.

*\*Sports Turf Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1, October 1987*

**Top: Board of Directors 2007.** Paul Cooper; Bob Sheard, Secretary; Rick Lane, Treasurer; Grant Mckeich; Bill Clausen; Murray Cameron; Jane Arnett-Rivers; Dave Chapman; Cam Beneteau; Bob Kennedy; Lee Huether, Executive Manager; Gord Dol, President; and Andrew Gaydon, Past President. Absent: Rob Field, Paul Gillen and Paul Turner.

## Ontario's Premier Turf Educational Event

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held February 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> at Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph. Turf managers from across the province gathered to participate in educational sessions reflecting the many critical maintenance and environmental issues influencing the care of turf. Speakers from both industry and research offered insight relating to turf care, government legislation and the environment. As with every Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, attendees had a chance to update skills and network with colleagues in the turf industry. Participants at OTS also had the chance to mark and celebrate the 20th anniversaries of both the Sports Turf Association and The Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Planning has already started for the 2008 Ontario Turfgrass symposium. We look forward to seeing you there!





2006 Field Day

## STA Fast Facts

- 02/87 Inaugural meeting of the STA
- 06/87 1st annual Field Day, University of Guelph
- 09/87 Volume 1, Issue 1, *Sports Turf Newsletter*
- 03/88 1st annual conference, Toronto, ON
- 01/92 1st annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, University of Guelph
- 10/93 Scholarship program launched
- 01/94 STA office established at the new Guelph Turfgrass Institute

By January of 1989 we had enrolled 76 members. Since then membership has grown to 262 at the beginning of our 20th year.

## GTI Celebrates 20 Years!

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI). The institute was established by the University of Guelph in 1987 to “promote an interdisciplinary approach to research, education and extension programs in turfgrass science at the University of Guelph, and to facilitate greater interaction between the university, industry and provincial government.” A subsequent industry fundraising drive resulted in the 1993 opening of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre building, an impressive structure located on research lands provided by the Province of Ontario. The Guelph Turfgrass Institute continues to be actively engaged in turf and related environmental research and teaching as well as providing a meeting place for the Ontario turfgrass industry.



## STA Donates to GTI (1992)

As part of the mandate of the Sports Turf Association to support turf research, Peter Kleschnitzki (left), President of the Sports Turf Association, presented Chris Hall, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, with a cheque for \$1,000. The funds will be used to complete the construction of the institute building. Construction is well underway and completion is expected in late August. The formal opening will occur sometime in October. A machinery storage and service building has already been erected by OMAF. Plans are now being formulated for the development of the research plots. The first seeding of turf plots may occur as early as the spring of 1993.

\**Sports Turf Newsletter* Volume 5, Issue 2, July 1992

