

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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The President's Desk

Spring is here, and it's time to get back to the business of sports turf management. After an extremely wet fall and a winter with very little snow cover, I'm sure you all have your work cut out for you over the next few months.

The Sports Turf Association is 20 years old in 2007. We celebrated at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium with a retrospective presentation and the publication of *20 Years of Service* by Mike Bladon which is included as an insert in this edition. During the OTS, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute also celebrated its 20th anniversary.

This year's OTS was again a great success with high attendance, a great venue and a first class slate of speakers. The OTS is, and continues to be, the premier turf education forum in Ontario. Many thanks to the OTS Committee for a job well done.

During the symposium, we also held our annual general meeting. As you may recall, over the past year we changed our scholarship program and revamped the scoring matrix. At the AGM, we also announced its renaming to the "Robert W. Sheard Scholarship" and Bob was presented with a plaque recognizing his contributions to our association and the sports turf industry. We did a good job of keeping this under wraps prior to the conference, however when Bob's lovely wife Gladys entered the room, he knew that we were up to something!

During the AGM, elections for board positions were also held. Many thanks for a job well done to Roy Forfar, Brian

Adriaans and Greg Snaith – all three have stepped down from our board. I would like to welcome Murray Cameron, Bill Clausen, Paul Cooper and Rob Field as directors. I look forward with great enthusiasm to the next year of my chair.

The STA currently has 262 members. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be. I challenge each of you to encourage just one new person to join. It should be an easy sell as the benefits of a professional membership are multiple.

Finally, part of our mandate set out in our strategic plan is to encourage and support education and research. During the OTS, we made a donation to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. We have a great team of Ontario turf researchers (including many at the University of Guelph) and they need and deserve our support. Donations to the OTRF are appreciated. For more information on becoming an OTRF member or to donate to the future of turf research in Ontario, contact the OTRF office at 519-824-4120 (x56149) or email otrf@gti.uoguelph.ca.

— Gordon Dol, STA President

Above: STA President Gord Dol (left) presents Ron Schiedel, President of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, with a donation in support of turfgrass research.