

1987-2007
CELEBRATING
★ 20 YEARS ★

STA Member Profile

STA Current President Gord Dol, Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.

1. You are the current president of the Sports Turf Association whose term is ending at the association's annual general meeting in February, 2008. What is your role in the turfgrass industry?

Andrea and I are the owners of Dol Turf Restoration Ltd. Dol Turf Restoration is a company that specializes in professional sports field and golf course work including artificial turf. We currently employ approximately 40 people in peak season.

2. What is the biggest challenge in your job?

Managing multiple projects with tight timelines, incorporating weather delays and other elements beyond our control.

3. What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Seeing the finished product. I feel a great deal of pride going back to a facility that we have constructed or restored and watching people, especially kids, playing and enjoying a safe field.

4. What is the biggest misconception about your job?

That owning a business is easy. You are constantly juggling work and home schedules. There never seems to be enough hours in the day.

5. What is your educational/employment background?

After finishing school, I worked for many years in a family sod business. At the time, Dol Brothers Sod was one of the largest sod operations in Ontario. In 1993, I left the family business and started Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.



6. Tell us about your family, your hobbies and favourite past times.

I am married and have four kids. Andrea (my spouse) works in the business managing accounting and human resources. Andrea is also the treasurer of our local hockey association. Matthew (21) is in the armed forces now stationed at CFB Petawawa. Patrick (15) and Eric (13) are actively involved in hockey and ball hockey. Patrick is also a referee in the hockey association. Colleen (12) participates in swimming, soccer and horseback riding. I am also involved in both the hockey and ball hockey associations as a coach, trainer as well as many other volunteer tasks in our community. I enjoy being active in local sports either coaching or as part of the coaching staff. In the summer I also play in local (beer league)

baseball. During the winter months, I like to spend time on the trails snowmobiling.

7. How has the industry changed and in what direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

Pesticides, over use of fields, and finding enough qualified people are a big challenge. More and more, we are losing the tools that we need to maintain safe sport fields.

8. What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?

Networking! The Sports Turf Association is a well educated group of sports turf professionals who love their jobs. We are always trying out new products and procedures in maintaining our fields. The networking that happens during and outside our functions helps us all learn and be better sports turf managers.

9. What would your advice be for future presidents of the STA?

Go for it! I have found that being the president of this association and being part of the board to be very rewarding. At times it may seem like a daunting task with the many other pressures that life throws at us, but working with and meeting so many professional people makes it all worthwhile. ♦

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

~ John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963
From speech prepared for delivery in Dallas the day of his assassination