

Sports Turf Manager

for safe, natural sports turf

1987-2007

CELEBRATING
★ 20 YEARS ★

Winter 2007

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Seasons Greetings

The Sports Turf Association wishes you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to serving you in 2008!

Merry Christmas



THE CASTLE COURSE, COURTESY OF ST ANDREWS

St Andrews Comes to OTS 2008!

HEAD GREENKEEPER GORDON MCKIE IS THIS YEAR'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN GUELPH

St Andrews Links is the *Home of Golf*, where the game evolved and where the spirit and traditions of golf have been safeguarded for over six centuries. Keynote speaker at the 2008 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium is Gordon McKie, Head Greenkeeper at the world famous Old Course.

Gordon, previously Head Greenkeeper at the New Course, took up one of the most prestigious roles in golf this year. "It is a privilege to work on the most famous course in the world," he said. "The history and tradition surrounding the Old Course makes it unique and it is continually under the glare of the international media spotlight. I am very much looking forward to maintaining the exceptionally high standard of the course and ensuring it continues to set the benchmark for links courses around the world."

One of the extraordinary facts about the Old Course is that it was not designed by an

architect but has evolved over six centuries. Even more remarkable is the fact that while the equipment and the standards of play have improved dramatically, the Old Course remains a true test of championship golf. The Old Course starts and finishes in the town. Originally it was played over 22 holes using the same 11 holes on the way out and in. In 1764 this was reduced to 18, which became the standard number of holes for courses worldwide. It was originally played the opposite way round with golfers teeing off to what is now the 17th green. This explains why so many of the bunkers, for example on the 12th, are not visible from the tee. ➔ **page 7**