

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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faxing (519) 766-1704 or via e-mail.

The President's Desk – Gord Dol

Spring is here, and it's time to get back to the business of sports turf management.

This year's Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was again a great success with a first class slate of speakers and a great venue. The OTS is and continues to be the premier turf education forum in Ontario. Many thanks to the OTS Committee for another job well done. Look inside in this and future editions for 2009 OTS highlight articles.

The STA's Annual General Meeting and board elections were held February 18th during the symposium. We would like to welcome Bruce Carman from the Country Day School, Jason Inwood from the City of Vaughan, and Tennessee Propedo from the City of Hamilton to the Board of Directors. We also say good-bye and thank-you to Cam Beneteau, Paul Cooper and Rob Field who chose not to stand for re-election. A photo of your 2009 Board of Directors is in this issue.

Along with the other formalities of the AGM, a motion was brought forward to reduce the number of board members required for a quorum from 2/3 to 1/2 attendance. With everyone's hectic work and personal lives, meetings are challenging to schedule, and it has been getting increasingly difficult to obtain a quorum. This motion, which was passed, follows along the same lines as many similar industry organizations.

As I write this, Environment Minister John Gerretsen has just announced that Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban will take effect on Earth Day, April 22, 2009. Visit www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban for the details. Questions should be directed to the ministry's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923 or 416-325-4000.

The STA has coordinated presentations by Violet van Wassenaer, Pesticides Regulatory Scientist with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, together with Pam Charbonneau, Turfgrass Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, for the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) Summer Opera-

tional Forum in June at Lakeview Park, Oshawa, Ontario. Violet will further update us on what, where, when and how pesticides can be used and Pam will outline a holistic approach using cultural best practices and the use of allowed pesticides to maximize turf quality and minimize pest damage.



Above: Gord Dol/President (left) expresses appreciation to Rob Field for his contribution to and support of the association. Rob, who served as director in 2007 & 2008, continues to assist with the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course.

While on the topic of POSA, the first offering of the new Parks and Open Space Professional Training Program – Level 1 will be in April at the University of Guelph. See inside for further details on both of these educational initiatives.

At the OTS, I once again had the pleasure of presenting Kevin Falls, President of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, with our annual donation. The OTRF funded and recently released the *2007 Economic Profile of the Ontario Turfgrass Industry*. There are more details in this issue and on the OTRF website at www.otrf.ca. Have a safe sports turf season! ♦