

## Sports Turf Manager

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### STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. At other times, a message may be left on the voice mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may be reached at any time by faxing (519) 766-1704 or via e-mail.

# President's Desk

## PAUL GILLEN TAKES THE HELM

This is the first issue of the New Year and spring, we hope, is just around the corner. As per usual, the 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) was a great success with an accomplished line-up of speakers dealing with a variety of timely topics relevant to the "new" pesticide-free environment. This edition includes follow-up articles on two of the presentations. Our thanks to the sponsors, the OTS committee, and the speakers for their time and energy in making this such a valuable program.

The Annual General Meeting of your association was held on February 17 in conjunction with the OTS. The new Board of Directors is pictured on page 8. We said goodbye and thank you to board member Grant Mckeich and welcome new board members Ken Pavely, Ben Tymchyshyn and Dennis Wale.

Gord Dol stepped down and becomes past president. During his four years at the helm, Gord's energy and leadership was invaluable in redefining our strategic direction (including a new mission statement) and keeping pace with the evolving and ever changing conditions of our industry. He also presided over the publishing of the Athletic Field Construction Manual as well as the introduction of the Level 1 Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course. It was during his tenure that STA became the first international affiliate to be recognized by the Sports Turf Managers Association in the US. We're all pleased that Gord will continue with the board, albeit in a different capacity, and we look forward to his guidance and mentoring.

We also said goodbye to long-time board member and past president Jane Arnett. Jane's well deserved promotion and additional responsibilities at the Town of Oakville have resulted in time constraints that compromised her ability to participate on the board. In recognition of all of her efforts on behalf of the STA, Jane was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Thanks, Jane, for everything that you've done for the association – we will certainly miss you.

As we move forward in a new decade, your Sports Turf Manager publication has been upgraded to full colour throughout. We hope you like the new look and always welcome your comments and suggestions. As well, STM is now fully digitized and available online via the STA website.

This spring, the board reviewed the STA Scholarship Program and we have made a few revisions to the application criteria. One change is that the deadline for submissions is now May 1 to coincide better with other scholastic programs. More details can be found on page 7 in this issue.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course at the University of Guelph starting May 3, the Summer Operational Forum with the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) at Cambridge June 23, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual STA Field Day in September. Visit our website for more details as they become available.

Lastly, a reminder that your 2010 membership invoices have been mailed out. Please support your association and arrange to have the renewals back to us as soon as possible. Until next issue, remember two key words – SAFE and PLAYABLE.