

“We are faced with yet another challenging year. On the positive side, winter in most parts of the country was milder than normal which should result in less turf damage going into the spring. However, the general lack of snowfall may result in moisture conditions that are less than optimal. Let’s hope that spring rainfall and warm temperatures give the grass, as well as construction projects, a strong start to the summer. For those of us in Ontario and BC, the harmonized sales tax commences July 1. This will add as much as 8% to previously exempt goods and services. While the impact of this initiative will be positive for manufacturing and small business, it will add significantly to our industry costs, particularly in the areas of utilities and insurance. The full impact may not be experienced until next year, but already constrained budgets are getting another hit beyond our control. Vigilance and due diligence are going to be tested again this year. The economy, generally, seems to be improving and this is positive for the revenue side of our industry. However, as federal stimulus money begins to run out toward the end of the year, we need to be aware of how this will affect us going forward.” *By Paul Gillen*

NEW MEMBERS

Steven James Arnprior, ON
James Landscaping Co. Ltd.

Matt Fokkens Fort Erie, ON
Niagara Christian Community of Schools

Bernie Henderson Elginburg, ON
Unity Sod Farm Ltd.

Tom Gerlich Williamstown, ON
CMAC Services

Jay Barner Parksville, BC
Island Sport Turf

Todd Cox Mississauga, ON
Centaur Products Inc.

Richard Reed Orangeville, ON
LawnLife

Tom Margetts New Hamburg, ON
Innovative Agronomics Inc.

Phil Mete Caledonia, ON
Haldimand County

**Dan Coote, Warren Hoselton, Roger Macklin,
Doug Smith, Ernie Strong**
City of Toronto, ON



The Presidents. Gord Dol (left), now past president, hands over the STA gavel to incoming president Paul Gillen at our AGM in February.

What do you think?

While working with the committee last year on the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course, I was reminded yet again of the wealth of knowledge and experience that we have within our membership. As an association, I think that we do a fair job of sharing and transferring these assets (Field Day, OTS, etc.), but I would like to see it expanded even more. This magazine and the website are well read and provide an excellent communication base, so let’s expand them to include some dialogue on issues that are timely, relevant and interesting. Let me initiate this by asking for your input on the following – how will the new HST impact your costs and budgets? Share your outlook and reaction by emailing info@sportsturfassociation.com (Subject: HST). We’ll post your replies online.