

Sports Turf Manager

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President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

WOW – that is the only way that I can describe the inaugural Atlantic Sports Turf Field Day in Moncton on July 21. The organization and hospitality were first class, the presentations were thorough and down to earth, the weather cooperated, and the sponsors and suppliers stepped up with a genuine show of support. Special thanks to our host, Gord Horsman and the City of Moncton; to our moderator, Bob Daniels; to our presenters Eric Lyons, Katerina Jordan, Gord Dol and George Bannerman; and to the suppliers – you all made this a day to remember. Be sure to see Bob Daniels' recap ahead in this issue.

Speaking of field days, as I pen this message the Annual Ontario Sports Turf Field Day is coming up on September 22 and this year, it's being hosted by the City of Oakville. Our thanks to hosts Jane Arnett and Dwayne McAllister and all the industry suppliers who will be onsite to discuss the latest in equipment and technology. We have a great program of guest speakers and timely subjects including crime and the sports turf manager, water conservation, alternative weed control in a pesticide-free environment, and fertilizer technologies. Look for highlights in this and subsequent issues of the Sports Turf Manager.

[Have you thought of playing a more active role in the STA? Being a director is a rewarding volunteer effort – not to mention a great networking opportunity. Watch for the call for nominations.](#)

We received three applications for the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship this year. Each was impressive and made the selection process difficult, but the committee decided to give the 2011 award to R. Guy Mackie. See his essay that was submitted as part of the application on page 23 of this issue. The quality of the applications this year inspires real confidence for the future of this industry. The award will be presented at the Fall Field Day.

The POSA Summer Operational Forum was held this year in the City of St. Catharines. This forum addressed a variety of occupational health and safety issues as they relate to sports field and parks maintenance employees – management as well as staff. Our featured guest speaker was Debbie Whitehouse, Senior Director Guest Relations, Gardens & Nature, for the Niagara Parks Commission. A synopsis of her presentation can be found on pages 26-29.

We are pleased to advise that we will again be offering a synthetic turf workshop in cooperation with our POSA partners. This year's event will be held in Oshawa on November 10th. This is a great opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of everything that goes into the selection, budgeting, construction and maintenance of a synthetic turf field. Complete details are available at www.POSAlliance.ca. Just a reminder, too, that the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will again be held at the University of Guelph on February 22 & 23, 2012. The brochure will be available later this fall. Watch for it!

It's been a busy year, but extremely rewarding. We work in a great industry with really good people. I hope to see you out to at least one of the events in the coming months.