

Sports Turf Manager

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SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION INC.

328 Victoria Road South
Guelph, ON N1L 0H2

Tel: (519) 763-9431

Fax: (519) 766-1704

E-mail: info@sportsturfassociation.com

Web: www.sportsturfassociation.com

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Huether at the STA office.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Ken Pavely & Lee Huether

PUBLISHER

Joy Black

New Paradigm Communications

Tel. (519) 371-6818

E-mail: joy@npc-solutions.com

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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

BY PAUL GILLEN

As I put pen to paper for this edition, we've just been promised a colder, wetter spring season here in southern Ontario, contrary to the groundhog forecasts. Let's hope nature knows more than science in this case – I think that we've all seen enough cold and snow for this year.

Speaking of cold, we attended the STMA Conference in Austin, Texas in January during which it never got over 38 degrees F (3° C). However, attendance was back to pre-recession levels and they had an excellent array of speakers. Our own Dr. Eric Lyons was on the program and had a standing room only audience to listen to him talk about weed control without chemicals. Even other presenters were encouraging their audiences to attend Dr. Lyons' session. Well done, Eric.



Supporting OTRF. STA Director Ben Tymchyshyn (L) presents our annual donation to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's Dave Smith at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

While we're on conferences, we've just completed the annual Ontario Turf Symposium at the University of Guelph. This year marks the highest attendance since our return to the university locale. Our sincere thanks to the commercial sponsors, the speakers and the OTS organizing committee for their support and hard work in making this the premier industry event every spring. We will feature highlights from various presentations in this as well as future issues.

As per usual, the STA Annual General Meeting was

held in conjunction with the conference. Welcome to both new and returning Directors (see adjacent page for more details). We said goodbye to Murray Cameron and Bruce Carmen as their time on the board had come to an end. Thank you both for your support over the years. Tennessee Propedo from the City of Hamilton has been elected to serve as vice-president of your association. Meeting attendees endorsed a name revision from the Sports Turf Association of Ontario to the Sports Turf Association in keeping with our incorporation documents. Our mission statement reads: "Dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs." The STA constitution and by-laws are available in the Members Only section of the website. Have a look.

Change is in the air and there are some exciting things developing on the association front. We hope to be able to firm them up and make them public later this summer so stay tuned! In closing, a reminder that 2011 membership invoices are in the mail. This is your association – please ensure that those dues are paid promptly! And, a warm welcome to our new Administrative Assistant Cheryl Machan. Please make Cheryl feel welcome as you visit or call into the office.