

# Sports Turf Manager

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Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm 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

**W**OW – that was one hot summer right across the country. Aside from the burden that high temperatures and low rainfall placed on maintenance personnel, it appears that many areas are now going to have to deal with exceptionally low watertables into the foreseeable future. Let's all hope that Mother Nature will bring the balance back into our environment through the winter.

You have probably read about it before now, but I want to personally welcome our friends at the Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) into the STA family. The strategic partnership signed earlier this summer will result in substantial benefits to both organizations in the educational opportunities for the production and maintenance of safe and playable sports turf. It was a pleasure to host WCTA President Tab Buckner and Executive Director Jerry Rousseau

at our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day in Vaughan, Ontario. The following day our visitors toured the University of Guelph sports fields with Facility Manager Bill Clausen and the Guelph Turfgrass Institute research plots with Eric Lyons, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science.

Speaking of the Field Day, our sincere thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and the organizing committee for your support, without which none of this could



Founding and current STA Presidents Michael Bladon (L) and Paul Gillen at the 25th Annual Field Day

happen. Look for highlights of the day in this issue.

The STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship for 2012 has been awarded to Ross Baron. Ross hails from Vancouver, British Columbia and is currently entering his second year in the University of Guelph's Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management Program. Ross has just completed a summer internship with The Washington Nationals. His scholarship essay submission *Natural and Synthetic Sports Surfaces: A Comparative Discussion* is included in this issue.

The scholarship is one tool that your association uses to recognize excellence in the next generation of sports turf managers. In addition, we are currently working on a "Sports Turf Manager of the Year" award, the details of which will be rolled out in 2013. Stay tuned for further information.

You will by now have received your invitation to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet scheduled for October 25 in Guelph, Ontario. The committee has planned an affordable and entertaining evening and we hope that all members, past and present, will make every effort to come out and see old friends and associates. Please contact the STA office for any additional information you may require.

The Atlantic region is hosting the STA's four day Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course October 29 to November 1 at the Moncton Coliseum, Moncton, New Brunswick. It will also be delivered April 29 to May 2, 2013 at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Our planning for the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in February is well underway – the dates are February 20 and 21, 2013.

Visit the website for up-to-date information on all of our events and programs. We hope to see everyone on October 25!