

BY PAUL GILLEN

is the official publication of the
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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$125/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

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CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 40031883

STA OFFICE HOURS

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.

Welcome to this, the first edition of our 25th year. It seems like just yesterday that Bruce Calhoun was convincing me of the need for an association such as this and the benefits that could accrue from my support. Little did I know then the extent to which I would become involved. The time has passed quickly and I have been fortunate to have been introduced to, and worked with, some truly great people who personify everything that is so good about our industry segment. This year will be our springboard for another 25 years of growth and sector improvements through research, education and communication.



STA President Paul Gillen greets WCTA members at the opening ceremonies of the association's 49th Annual Conference and Trade Show in Victoria, BC.

Photo: Richard Elkie, Rain Designs.

There will be more to follow on this. Then the recent Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) at the University of Guelph. A very special "thank you" to our sponsors, guest speakers and the committee for making this event so successful. Be sure to read the OTS Highlight article – "Climate Change and Turfgrass" – this issue's cover story. With our weather this winter, it is timely.

Our annual general meeting was held at Guelph during the OTS. The apathy of the membership was evident; the lack of attendance disheartening. This is your association and there are a number of people who give freely of their time and expertise for the benefit of all members. If you have suggestions for a better date, time or forum, email them to info@sportsturfassociation.com with the subject line 'AGM'. We welcome your comments. At the meeting we said goodbye to long serving directors Rick Lane and Dave Chapman – thanks to each of you for your contribution. At the same time we welcomed Terry Henderson to the board and look forward to sharing his enthusiasm. We are also pleased to salute Gord Horseman as the new Atlantic Canada director. Gord's passion for this industry will serve all of us well. Thanks to Ben Tymchyshyn for volunteering to serve as Treasurer.

A reminder that May 1 is the deadline for applications for the R. W. Sheard scholarship. Details and an application form are available on-line or through the office.

We have scheduled the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course at the University of Guelph from April 30 to May 3. This is the level 1 introduction to the subject and one of three courses required for the Parks & Open Space Professional Training Program. Again, details are available on-line or through the office.

Plans for our 25th Anniversary Field Day are being finalized. Watch for details!

The 2012 membership invoices are in the mail. These are due May 1 – please ensure that your renewal is sent in promptly.

Finally, we say goodbye to our long serving newsletter designer Joy Black and welcome, with this edition, Jackie Ranahan. Jackie is keen to hear any suggestions and ideas that will make this communication vehicle absolutely the best that it can be.

That's a wrap for me for this issue. Stay involved, and let us know if we can do anything to make your association better for you.