

Sports Turf Manager

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President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

As I write this, according to the calendar tomorrow is the first day of Spring. It sure doesn't look or feel like it! Does anyone else feel like a great big pot of groundhog stew? I must admit, though, that your association activities have certainly made the time pass quickly.

We've just concluded the annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium and the program was excellent. If you weren't able to make it this year, we are pleased to bring you some of the highlights in this and upcoming issues of your magazine. Take the time to read the articles as they are both interesting and educational.

During the conference, we were pleased to announce the establishment of the association's Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award sponsored by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the GTI Solutions Group. See all of the details in this issue and start thinking about your nominations for submission before the December 1 deadline.



Supporting OTRF.
STA Vice President Tennessee Propedo presents our annual donation to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's Brenda Nailor at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

We also held our Annual General Meeting during this time. For those of you unable to attend this year, the details are contained in the "members only" section of the website. During the meeting we recognized and said goodbye to Dennis Wale, our long serving member and director now retired from the City of Brantford. Thank you, Dennis, for all of your valuable input and contributions during your time on the Board of Directors. At the same time we welcomed Tab Buckner, Past President of the Western Canada Turfgrass Association and Manager of Parks Operations and Cemetery Services for the Township of Langley, BC as a new member of the Board of Directors. Your Board now has representation from coast to coast across Canada.

There will be two presentations of the Sports Turf Management and Maintenance Course this Spring, one for the Town of Midland April 15 to 18, and the second during ORFA's Annual Professional Development Program April 29 to May 2 at the University of Guelph.

The initiatives that we're working on include a complete review and revamping of our branding and marketing effort. This is a huge undertaking, but absolutely necessary and you should start to see some of the results later in the year. As well, work is progressing on Field Days in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Langley, British Columbia and Mississauga, Ontario this year. Details will be released as they become available. The committee is also making good headway on the Synthetic Turf Maintenance Course. Watch for the release of this new program.

As you can appreciate from all of the above, the workload on our association directors and staff is huge, and it's not getting any easier. If any of you have any interest in working on one of the committees, please contact Lee Huether. We could sure use the help.

That's it for me for now. Like all of you, I'm looking forward to the end of the cold weather and getting back on to some green grass.