

Sports Turf Manager

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President's Desk

BY TENNESSEE PROPEDO

As we withstand one of the coldest winters on record, things at the Sports Turf Association have been heating up. At our annual general meeting the membership voted to expand our horizons resulting in the STA becoming Sports Turf Canada. Our direction and focus will remain the same only now we will be the recognized voice of the sports turf industry in Canada. With our alliance with the Western Canada Turfgrass Association and our strong following in Atlantic Canada we have now become a truly coast to coast organization. Please stay tuned for educational and trade forums that we are planning to bring to the different regions across Canada as we move forward.

Also at our AGM a new board of directors was voted in for the upcoming year. Some familiar faces are leaving and new ones joining us. It is my extreme honour to thank Andrew Gaydon and Bob Kennedy who are leaving, for their service, dedication and vision while serving on the STA board of directors.

Andrew has been on the board since 1999, rising through the ranks to become association president in 2004-2005, and most recently holding the position of secretary. He participated in many working groups including the editorial committees of both the Sports Turf Manager and the Athletic Field Construction Manual, field day committee, nominations chair and the executive committee of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

Bob joined the board of directors in 2006 and was often the face of the association chairing field days and sessions at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. He too participated on numerous committees including field day, Athletic Field Construction Manual production/marketing, scholarship adjudication, and STA growth; in the latter role reaching out to associations and sports turf managers across the country.

Paul Gillen now assumes the role of immediate past president, stepping down but not stepping away. Paul was the STA liaison when we became the first international affiliate of the Sports Turf Managers Association and president when we entered into our strategic partnership with the Western Canada Turfgrass Association, paving the way for Sports Turf Canada.

Andrew, Bob and Paul have all served in various capacities and titles over many years and we are at a better place because of their commitment and contributions to our industry. A very heartfelt and respective thank you Gentlemen, for your dedication to the Sports Turf Association.

Joining the board I would like to welcome Roger Macklin from the City of Toronto. Roger is the subject of our member profile inside this issue. Tab Buckner, from the Township of Langley, BC is our new vice-president and Jason Inwood, from the City of Vaughan, ON becomes our corporate secretary.

In closing please stay tuned, stay informed and get involved as 2014 looks to be the start of an exciting time for Sports Turf Canada! •

Read the Message from Past President Paul Gillen on page 6.



Andrew Gaydon (R), stepping down from the STA Board of Directors after many years of service, receives a token of appreciation from new association president Tennessee Propedo.