

President's message
December 2007

As the end of 2007 draws near, it is hard to believe that my tenure as the OGSA president is almost complete. It has been a great honour to serve as your president, and I have absolutely no doubt that your new president and board will serve with the best interest of the association in mind. My last eight years on the board has been a great learning experience and I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of great people. The industry has also changed dramatically and the OGSA has done its part in keeping up with challenges and trends.

We feel very fortunate that our membership has grown by 40% over the last eight years. On average we receive almost forty eight new applications for membership each year. The services and education we provide have also grown at an impressive rate. We continue to offer our membership affordable and diverse educational opportunities through the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show and our recently launched webcast seminars. Our award winning publication, *Green is Beautiful* continues to remain strong.

Since its inception, the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show has become the largest regional association show in Canada. This year's education portion is very strong and we look forward to seeing you all in January. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our members and suppliers for their ongoing support in making our conference as successful as it has become.

The Ontario Golf Course Superintendents' Association is financially sound due to our increasing membership, conference, financial investment portfolio, and well attended golf events. We have made responsible, financial decisions with respect to our operations, conferences, programs and services. Our investment portfolio will provide funding for programs such as research, environmental advocacy, scholarships, and opportunity/emergency funds. In the mean time, these long term investments continue to gain compound interest. Based on our long term strategic plan, surplus funds are re-invested into these four designated accounts to ensure funding for these initiatives and secure the financial future of our association.

Our association has also been very involved and supports environmental initiatives such as Integrated Pest Management, Source Water Protection, Nutrient Management, and Government Relations. It continues to play an integral role in environmental lobbying, ensuring that the superintendent's point of view is represented, and keeping our membership up-to-date on their requirements and obligations. Our board strategic planning sessions have facilitated us in fulfilling the OGSA vision to be recognized as a leading authority in golf course management, professional development and environmental stewardship.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all of the OGSA directors and staff for the help during the last eight years. As you know being a director of our association is a volunteer position and it does take time away from both your professional and personal life. These dedicated individuals do it for no reason other than the love of their profession. And, on behalf of all of our members, I would like to extend many thanks to Dorothy Hills, Deborah Badger, and Patricia Thomas.

I would like to thank you, the membership, for your support and as always welcome your feedback. I look forward to seeing you at our OGCM conference and trade show in the new year.

Sincerely,
Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Sean DeSilva
President