

President's message

by Jeff Stauffer

Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

Welcome to the first new issue of *Green is Beautiful!* As announced earlier this year, the board of directors decided to move forward with a revised release schedule for *Green is Beautiful* that will allow for improved content, increased size and will continue to provide our membership with a leading magazine on a seasonal basis. The editorial team is always looking for articles written by people, just like you, from within the industry. It does not have to be a big project, it can be a simple practice put in place at your facility that works for you, and we always welcome articles, especially the ones received on time!

Plans are well underway for the 2009 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show to be held this January 21st through 23rd at the Westin Harbour Castle, in Toronto. By now, you will have received the registration brochure and I am confident the lineup of presentations put together by Jeff Alexander and his organizing committee will catch your attention, including Joe Vargas, Eric Lyons, and our keynote speaker, Brian Burke. Mark your calendars now and I look forward to seeing you at the Westin. Don't forget about the early bird registration deadline to take advantage of the lower rates.

Recently, your board of directors participated in a strategic planning session to discuss the many challenges facing our association and formulate an updated plan of action to ensure we are continuing to move in the right direction as an association. I believe following the meeting, all in attendance felt a renewed sense of learning and direction as they lead towards the future. The future continues to look bright as the OGSA moves forward with initiatives that look out for the long term health of our great association! A special thank you to Dorothy Hills and her team for their relentless efforts in handling our daily operations and specifically for all of their guidance and help they provide to the directors. It truly is a team effort and they are an important part of the OGSA team.

As we near the end of another golf season, allow me to wish you a successful finish to the year with the turf ready for a 'long winter's nap'! More importantly, please have a safe and happy holiday season with your families and loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!