

## President's message

by Jeff Stauffer

Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

Spring has not exactly sprung the way we would have liked but are we truly surprised? There are many ways to describe this past winter, with the early snowfall followed by the mid-season thaw and near record snow totals in many parts of the province. For winter to remain as long as it has, has created an anxious wait for the new beginning we prepare for all season. I hope the sight of healthy grass has blessed us all.

For the OGSA, it is also a busy time finalizing conference details, finishing plans for the upcoming season of events and getting ready for next year's conference, to name a few. The conference committee is well on it's way, planning for next year's educational sessions, and I'm confident it will continue to be Ontario's premiere golf course management conference and trade show. Our plans for the seasonal *Green is Beautiful* continue in time for next year and the Editorial Advisory Committee is excited to assist Dorothy Hills and her team to maintain the high standard we've come to expect. Be sure to mark down the dates for the golf events this year, as participation ensures future success of every event. In particular, the Spring Field Day requires greater numbers than what has been experienced in recent years to maintain a date in our schedule.

As you are aware, the provincial government is currently considering a ban on pesticides. The EBR posting closed in February and I hope many people, in support of golf's position for an exemption, took the important step to write a response and be the voice that is needed to be heard. At this time of writing,, I understand the government is aiming for a mid-summer decision and we will learn how golf will be affected, at that time. The OGSA board remains committed in our role within the Ontario Allied Golf Association (OAGA). The OAGA will continue to utilize the efforts of a lobbyist and will do so in order to remain in contact with officials of the MOE and provincial government. We will keep you posted as things develop.

Best of luck for the beginning of the season and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events.