



## STA Renames Scholarship

IN HONOUR OF LONGTIME DIRECTOR DR. ROBERT W. SHEARD

A scholarship established by the Sports Turf Association (STA) to further its goal of the promotion of safe, natural sports turf through education and professional programs was renamed at the association's annual meeting to honour Dr. Robert W. Sheard.

The STA Scholarship will henceforth be known as the STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship in recognition of Dr. Sheard's immeasurable contribution and support provided to the Sports Turf Association over the last seventeen years. Bob's involvement with the fledgling organization began in 1990 upon his retirement as a Professor of Soil Science at the University of Guelph. He became the STA's first Executive Secretary and has played a role in most, if not all, association initiatives

since that time. He was editor and a major contributor to the *Sports Turf Newsletter*, now the *Sports Turf Manager*. He edited and produced *An Athletic Field Managers' Guide* and penned the *Constructing the Sports Field* brochure and the text *Understanding Turf Management*, transferring ownership and donating all proceeds to the association. He has served on the boards of the International Turfgrass Society, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, among others.

The Scholarship Program, funded through STA membership fees, is intended to assist students in a recognized post-secondary program in turf management with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses. To date, 26 students from across Canada have benefited from these schol-

arships. Applications are available online at [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com).

The 2007 scholarship recipient is Ian Ferguson, a second year student in the University of Guelph's Diploma in Turfgrass Management Program. Born and raised in Guelph, Ontario, he will graduate this spring. Ian is on the Dean's Honours List and spent his required summer internship working with the City of Kitchener in sports field management, assisting in preparations for the World Fastball Championships in August, 2006. His essay, on pages 9-10, is required as part of the scholarship application process and is an example of the calibre of the students the STA plans to support. Congratulations Ian on being the first recipient of the Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship!

**Above:** Robert W. Sheard (right) congratulates Ian Ferguson, recipient of the 2007 Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship.