

sometimes receive a better hearing from the ministry than University faculty.

One member of the audience summed up the day by saying, "How does one develop public awareness? — we are a group in a bubble, one talking to the other."

By attending conferences such as this by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, becoming knowledgeable of the environment, then talking to our neighbour, we can break out of the bubble.

### **Lime field markings burn athletes at Windsor high school**

Kitchener-Waterloo Record,  
September 27, 1990

*A separate school playing field marked with a lime powder that burned several football players last week should never have been used, an occupational health expert says.*

*Fifteen players complained of burns Friday and four were treated in hospital after the game between Holy Names and W.D. Lowe separate secondary schools.*

*Larry Girard of the Occupational Health Information Service said lime reacts violently with water.*

*It was raining during Friday's game and when the players tried to wash off the irritating white powder in the showers, it made matters worse, Girard said.*

*A fact sheet on lime calcium oxide provided by the service warns that moisture on the skin "increases the possibility of corrosive tissue damage," or chemical burns.*

*It advises not to rinse the affected area with water and recommends only oil or grease be used to remove the substance.*

*"What was it? That's what I'd like to know," said Darren Dixon, 18, a W.D. Lowe running back who has burns on both legs.*

## **WE GET LETTERS**

Dear Michael,

First of all, please allow me to commend you on a very informative publication. I have come across articles that are very insightful in respect to the football community as a user group.

As part of Football Ontario's mandate, the association is extremely active in promoting safety through a variety of risk management initiatives. One of which focuses on a safe playing environment. Since you have specific expertise in this area your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to make coaches and administrators aware of the most basic principles of turf management and give them an understanding of what should be their minimum expectations for a safe field.

Football Ontario, as a sport governing body is often asked to provide developers with information about football fields. Occasionally requests concerning the annual cost of maintenance and upkeep have been received. Could you provide Football Ontario with a sample budget for annual maintenance?

Also, in respect to Football Ontario's risk management initiatives, we are trying to draft a master facility design to encourage any future developers to adhere to. Your input in this respect would be invaluable.

Sincerely,

Ed Slabikowski, Technical Director  
Football Ontario

Dear Mr. Slabikowski:

Thank you for your letter addressed to Mr. Mike Bladon to which I have been asked to reply.

In response to your request for an estimate of the cost of annual maintenance of a football field, Mike has put together a cost estimate based on his experiences as Superintendent of Grounds for the University of Guelph (see this issue "Cost Estimates"). This field is maintained at an average to above average level, comparable to those fields having seating for 2000 - 5000 spectators. Other practice and inter-mural fields would receive a lower level of maintenance, particularly in the area of mowing.

Regarding your master facility design to encourage developers to use, we are presently in the final stages of writing a booklet on Sports Turf Construction and Maintenance which may assist you.

On behalf of the Association I would express a desire to work closely with your association in developing improved, safer sports fields, whether they be for football, baseball or lawn bowls. If you would desire a meeting I am sure that myself and one or more of our Directors would be available.

Have a good day.

R.W. Sheard, P. Ag.  
Executive Secretary

## WE GET LETTERS

Continued from Page 5

Dear Mr. Bladon:

Are you aware of any courses specific to playing field maintenance and development which may be available to us and are you aware of any legislation prohibiting the use of hydrated lime for lining sports fields and/or when its use was discouraged?

Yours truly,

Jane Lunn, R.D.M.R.  
Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Town of Port Hope

Dear Ms. Lunn:

Regarding courses specific to playing field maintenance I would suggest you consider the Turf Managers Short Course which is offered by the Office of Continuing Education at the University of Guelph. This is a very comprehensive course extending over four weeks in February each year. No formal background education is required, however, the requests for admittance are high and it is usually booked at least one year in advance.

There are no regulations regarding the use of hydrated lime for lining sports fields that we are aware of. The material is not recommended because if the powder gets on a wet skin surface, for example in the eyes, it can cause much discomfort or even burn. Another material, calcium oxide, should never be used for the same reason.

There are latex paint materials available for lining fields, however, they tend to be expensive and are removed in mowing. Ground stone dust is often used. One material is ground calcite obtained from Steep Rock Calcite, Perth, Ontario (phone: 613-267-5367). Ground calcite limestone can also be used. Mr. Bladon will have an article in the forthcoming issue of our Newsletter on the subject.

Thank you for your interest in our organization.

Have a good day,

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