

Guest Editorial

WHO IS TENDING THE STORE?

I have become involved in the restoration of a 100 year-old building in the centre of the city in which I live. This involvement has illustrated the number of loops city officials require those involved with renovations to jump through. Permits and approvals must be obtained for structural changes, electrical changes, plumbing alterations, fire coding, fire exits, and health standards—just to name a few. All are necessary to ensure the building standards of the city are adhered to and that some unscrupulous contractor does not use faulty designs, procedures, and materials.

I have, on occasion, seen faulty designs, procedures, and materials used in the construction of sports fields. As a result the owner, and usually the taxpayer, has been saddled with extra expenses which could have been avoided if some inspection or supervision had taken place during the construction or restoration of the field.

In a recent review of a proposal for a major Ontario city, I raised the question of site supervision during a field restoration process. I was somewhat surprised to receive the response, "We do not require inspection on site." I raised the point that if the restoration was for a new changing room, most of the same group of inspectors I have dealt with on the old building restoration would have descended on the site. When asked why a sports field does not require inspection whereas a change room does, I received the response, "Buildings have provincial and federal standards which must be adhered to."

Is it not time then that we developed minimum standards for the construction of sports fields? The standards could be the first step toward minimum standards performance of the field. At the very least, we should require inspections to assure that the taxpayers' money was spent wisely.

— Dr. Bob Sheard



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For more information, contact Lee Huether at the STA office, (519) 763-9431, or Joy Black at New Paradigm Communications, (519) 371-6818.

- ◆ For more feature articles from the 1999 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, please see pp. 6-11.
- ◆ For the dirt on grubs, see pg. 13.

Weather Facts

Once in a blue moon? No, twice. A blue moon rose January 31 and again on March 31. Two blue moons in one year happens every 20 to 40 years. The last time was in 1961.

The term "blue moon" refers to the occasional occurrence of two full moons in the same month, which usually happens roughly once every 33 months. The last full moon was January 2.



The second full moon in a month is called a blue moon, regardless of tint.

"Having two full moons in two months in one year is really kind of nifty, no matter what you call them," said Jack Horkheimer of the Miami Space Transit Planetarium.

The next occurrence of two blue moons in one year will be in 2018, on January 31 and March 31, and again on the same dates in 2037.

— Associated Press, *The Record*, February 1, 1999

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