



Beaver Valley Athletic Association

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For Youth – We Strive!

REPAIRS AND UPGRADES TO BASEBALL DIAMONDS AT MOREAU PARK

August 30, 2023

To: The Council of The Town of the Blue Mountains

From:

Kelly Mackey, BVAA President, [REDACTED]
Cindy Lennox, BVAA Past President, [REDACTED]
Mark Cronin, BVAA Baseball Convener, [REDACTED]
Steve Burgess, BVAA Baseball Committee, [REDACTED]
Nathan Lennox, Clarksburg Blues Coach, [REDACTED]
Alonzo St. Louis, Clarksburg Blues Assistant Coach, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- We used to have the nicest ball fields in the area, we would like to have that again.
- Only upgrades done to diamonds in over 20 years were repairs of the pitching mound and batter's box on the Moreau Diamond. Minimal to none done on the BVAA or Lennox Diamond since they were built.
- Only changes made to Moreau Diamond were about 15 years ago when they removed the dugouts and replaced them with the covered bench area, and when the town removed the grass and dirt infield and replaced it with a gravel infield. This was a significant downgrade that was done without consulting any of the organizations that used the diamond. We would have preferred to maintain the grass infield. The BVAA and the Clarksburg Blues would like to work with the town on improvements to the baseball diamonds.
- If the town had put \$5000 into the baseball diamonds each year for maintenance, over the last 15 years that would come to \$75,000. That amount would cover the cost of resurfacing the ball diamonds.

- According to Terry Green, the town cannot obtain screenings/dust/sand. The infields of all 3 diamonds are gravel. This is unsafe for our youth and baseball players. Parents are very concerned about the injuries their children are receiving.
- Baseball is a very active game, players need to slide into bases, dive for balls, etc. This is causing injuries to our players, torn pants and jerseys, abrasions, cuts and wounds on player's arms, knees, thighs, hands. etc. In addition, the rocks in the infield cause the baseball to bounce in unanticipated ways, this has resulted in facial injuries in our players.
- Spectators on all diamonds, often have the gravel hit them in the bleachers when baseballs come toward the backstop or fence.
- The BVAA and the Clarksburg Blues would like to work with the town on the improvements to the ball diamonds and be involved with the sourcing of the proper material. Having the proper surface will make the diamonds safer for everyone and allow them to be used more.
- We would like to see the town invest in the youth of our community. More families are moving to this area, our schools are over capacity and the number of children playing baseball continues to increase. This year alone, we had 125 children participate in our baseball program. This is an increase of 25% from last year. Next year we will have teams in the 15U age group, which we haven't had since before 2020.
- The BVAA baseball program sponsored two tournaments and our Memorial Day this year, with teams participating from throughout Ontario for these weekend long events.
- The senior, Clarksburg Blues team, also saw a full summer schedule, hosting 11 other teams at our diamonds.
- If you travelled by the baseball diamonds this summer, you would have seen them in use most evenings and weekends.
- Changing to clay infields would incur a cost of \$20,000 - \$25,000 for each diamond, according to Terry Green. This is much less than amounts spent on other projects in the town. The diamonds would be as easy to maintain as previous, but much nicer and safer for our players.
- The pavilion and washrooms for Moreau Park were approved over 12 years ago, we would like to see this built.
- We are grateful that the town appreciates the greenspace at Moreau Park and we would like to see this park maintained at the standards that it had been initially built to, which was the best in the area.