

9.3.1

My name is Tim Reardon, and I am the president of Conrose Minor Baseball Association which has been the little league baseball association for the Southend / Peninsula area of Halifax for fifty five years. It ranges in age from 5 to 15 (Little Sluggers to Bantam).

It is our Bantam division that brings me to the reason for writing you this letter. Our Bantam team plays at the #5 field at the Halifax Commons. The #5 field is the only field that is big enough for players of that level to play at in the whole Peninsula area.

However, over the last couple of years, due to some special events that have taken place on the Commons, we have run into some problems with our bantam team being able to play on the #5 field.

Last year, as I'm sure you remember, Keith Urban performed on the Commons on August 30th. What this did for our Bantam team's schedule was create major problems!! From the set up time before the concert until the time the concert happened, we had no field for our Bantam team to play on. This might not sound like much, but when you, all of a sudden, have to find another field in a city that already has every field booked solid, it is not a fun thing to do.

When the concert was over, we thought that everything would be back to normal. However, as you also remember, we all know how the Commons looked and what happened to a lot of schedules after the concert. The rest of our ball season was, again, filled with problems. We had no field!!

There was a mound of dirt dumped on the #5 field, in September of 2008, which was to be spread out around the infield. This was the first stage of fixing the field. That mound of dirt is still there. I was then informed that the field would not be fixed until the spring AND that it wouldn't be able to be played on until the end of June/2009. Our season starts the first week of June.

So, now, enter KISS on July 18th!!! Do you see any point in fixing up the #5 diamond for the end of June, which would also include putting a fence back up along the third base side of the field, only to have to take it all apart again two weeks later for the KISS concert which will, no doubt, rip up the Commons again only to make it impossible to be played on for the rest of the baseball season? We all know that there is no way that the field would be able to be fixed in time to continue along with our regular schedule.

Obviously, concerts coming to the Commons do not seem to be something that will be coming to an end in the near future. I do, however, have a few suggestions that could fix this problem of not being able to play baseball on the Commons.

Across the street from the #5 field is the Canada Games diamond. I have gone to watch many of our Bantam team's games at #5, only to notice that the Canada Games diamond is hardly ever used. In order to keep baseball alive, for our bantam aged kids in the Peninsula area, why not bring the fence of the Canada Games diamond back to meet the proper requirements for a Bantam field. There is definitely enough space there to do this. Also, the infield would have to be made a bit larger in order for the proper measurements for the infield itself to be played on.

There is also the Wanderers Grounds. Why was baseball ever taken out of a field where it was played for decades? Could you not have more than one sport on the same field? Here, again was an excellent baseball field taken away from our neighbourhood. Would it not be even cheaper to put an infield back in

the Wanderers Grounds? The other sports that use this field have totally different seasons than baseball.

My final suggestion would be to fence off the #5 field on the Commons to meet Bantam measurements. As a fenced off area, this field could be used, during concerts or other main events, as the first aid station or any other station of importance needed for the event of that time.

I think that what it would cost to do any of these suggestions, compared to fixing the field on the Commons every year, would be a much better move. It would also keep our organizations from having to find another field to play on in a city that doesn't have any field space to spare. We have the facilities that we need literally in our own back yard? All any of them need is a touch up that would solve the problem for everyone.

To prevent this from happening again, to our baseball associations, please take into consideration my ideas of what could be done with the Canada Games diamond, the Wanderers Grounds or the #5 field at the Commons. We know that having special events on the Commons will be an annual event and that this is a great thing for the businesses in the area.

However, also take into consideration the other groups that use the Commons. These are the groups and organizations that have used these fields, for generations, to have fun. Considering what the size of the original Commons was, don't let the little bit that's left also disappear. If we keep having events of this size, I feel that this will be the direction the Commons is heading.

Unfortunately, we cannot afford to wait until May to find out if we do or don't have a field for our kids to play on. Our registrations are just a couple weeks away and it would be nice if we knew, before that, what our field situation is. We have already started receiving registration forms for our 2009 season. Some of them are from Bantam players and I do not want to have to tell them that they cannot play ball this year.

I hope that we will be able to reach a decision that will make this summer a great season for all of us.

Thank you for your time.

Tim Reardon

President

Conrose Minor Baseball Association