

# Wamback won't get involved in appeals by son's attackers

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA  
Staff Writer

As he sees it, Joe Wamback has two choices. He could stew in anger after two youths convicted of beating his son into a coma appealed their one-year sentences.

Or, he could all but ignore the appeal process, focusing on nursing his son Jonathan back to health.

Though he admitted he's frustrated by the whole legal affair, Wamback has chosen the second option.

"We will never get involved in that. It wouldn't achieve anything," the 54-year-old Newmarket resident said in reference to the possibility of trying to block the appeals, launched separately by the youths whose identities are protected under the Young Offenders Act.

"This can be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada if the two parties wish. It's part of the judicial system."

One of the youths — they were each 17 years of age when they beat Jonathan in a park near his home in June, 1999 — appealed his sentence shortly after Justice Michael Caney issued it earlier this spring.

The other boy issued his appeal weeks ago, after Caney ordered them to serve one year in closed custody.

The case is to go before Ontario's Court of Appeal, where three judges are to rule on whether Caney made errors of law in determining the sentence.

Wamback said the way the case has dragged on is frustrating because it has prevented everyone involved — including the youths and their families — from moving on.

A one-year sentence, he added, would "hopefully" allow his son's attackers to be rehabilitated.

According to a probation officer, one of the boys had already taken counselling in an attempt to control anger that stems from the recent separation of his parents.

Even a cursory examination of the case shows Wamback and his wife Lozanne could easily be bitter if they so chose.

The beating left their 17-year-old son on a life support machine for more than two weeks.

Months after he emerged from his coma, he was unable to carry out tasks such as talking or going to the wash-



JONATHAN WAMBACK: York Region beating victim is working out with weights and can play catch.

indomitable spirit have brought Jonathan to a state of near-normalcy.

With his mom as his personal trainer, Jonathan is working out with weights and can play a game of catch — something that was unthinkable about half a year ago.

Jonathan continues to walk with a severe limp and talks only in whispers but now attends high school, where he recently began taking a full course load.

Miraculously, he has regained the ability to reason and communicate his thoughts.

"His memory is better than mine," Wamback said, adding he and his wife felt blessed just to know their son escaped with his life after the beating.

The effects of violence and the triumph of the human spirit are two themes Wamback plans to explore in a screenplay he is helping to write about his son's experience.

room on his own.

But several types of therapy, his parents' unflinching desire to help and his

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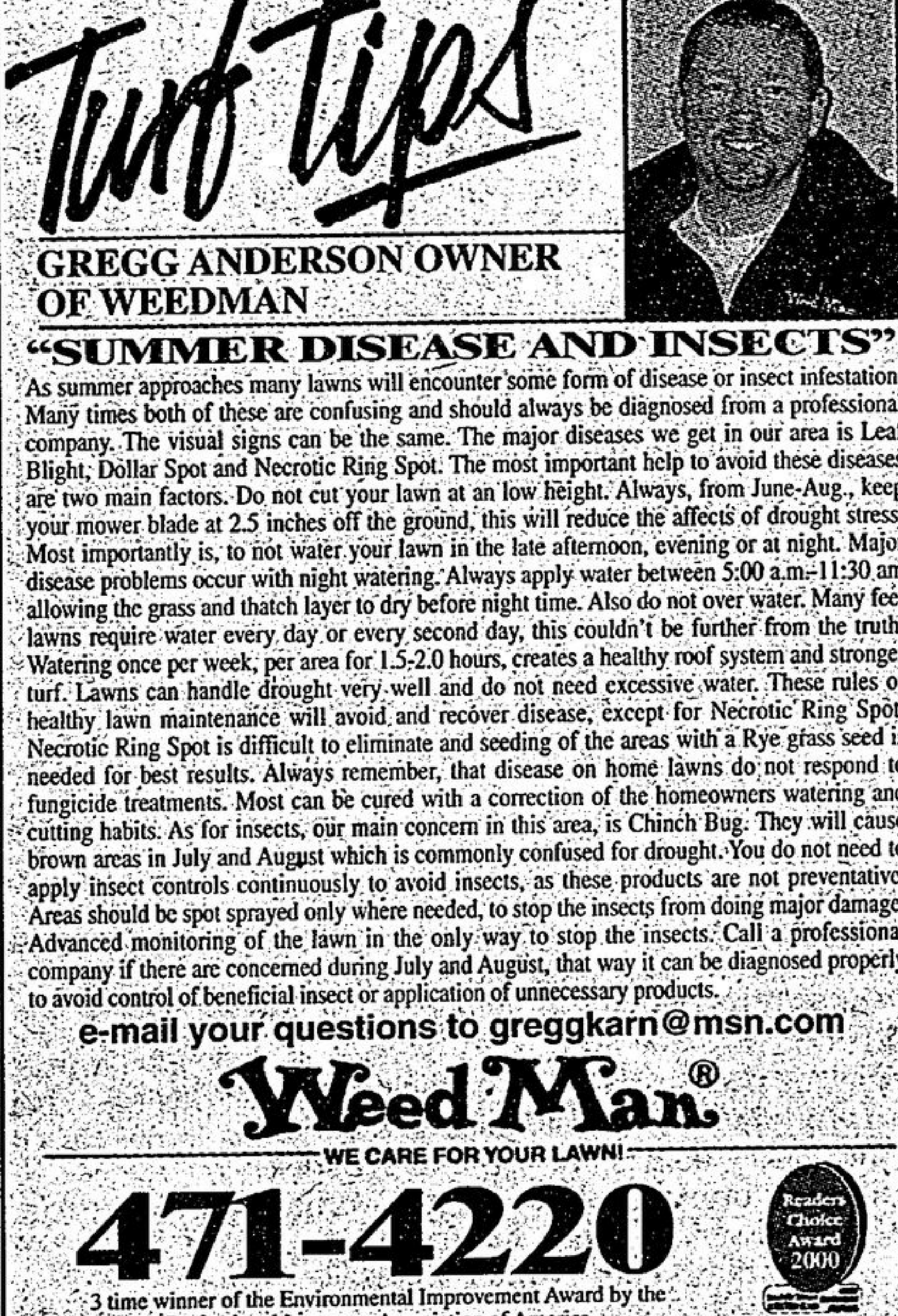
As summer approaches many lawns will encounter some form of disease or insect infestation. Many times both of these are confusing and should always be diagnosed from a professional company. The visual signs can be the same. The major diseases we get in our area is Leaf Blight, Dollar Spot and Necrotic Ring Spot. The most important help to avoid these diseases are two main factors. Do not cut your lawn at an low height. Always, from June-Aug, keep your mower blade at 2.5 inches off the ground, this will reduce the affects of drought stress. Most importantly is, to not water your lawn in the late afternoon, evening or at night. Major disease problems occur with night watering. Always apply water between 5:00 a.m.-11:30 am allowing the grass and thatch layer to dry before night time. Also do not over water. Many lawns require water every day or every second day, this couldn't be further from the truth. Watering once per week, per area for 1.5-2.0 hours, creates a healthy roof system and stronger turf. Lawns can handle drought very well and do not need excessive water. These rules of healthy lawn maintenance will avoid and recover disease, except for Necrotic Ring Spot, Necrotic Ring Spot is difficult to eliminate and seeding of the areas with a Rye grass seed is needed for best results. Always remember, that disease on home lawns do not respond to fungicide treatments. Most can be cured with a correction of the homeowners watering and cutting habits. As for insects, our main concern in this area, is Chinch Bug. They will cause brown areas in July and August which is commonly confused for drought. You do not need to apply insect controls continuously to avoid insects, as these products are not preventative. Areas should be spot sprayed only where needed, to stop the insects from doing major damage. Advanced monitoring of the lawn in the only way to stop the insects. Call a professional company if there are concerned during July and August, that way it can be diagnosed properly to avoid control of beneficial insect or application of unnecessary products.

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