



2010 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD Nomination Form

Name of Volunteer: Patrick McConnell

What qualifies the nominee for this award? Brief description of the Volunteers duties, responsibilities and accomplishments:

Patrick has been the President of Bloordale Baseball since 2009 and has been a member of the Bloordale board since 2001, representing Bloordale at the EBA for six years. Patrick has been a passionate and dedicated baseball volunteer for 10 years.

He is a volunteer who gets involved in every aspect of supporting baseball in the community, from manual labour at the fields, to coaching, to planning and development.

Among his many accomplishments are the following:

EBA-related activities:

- Spearheaded the purchase of the three tractors for member leagues, including product research, supplier liaison, delivery co-ordination
- Organized tractor operator training session for EBA members, hosted it at Millwood Park
- Convened TBA West PeeWee Select loop on behalf of EBA
- Convened and hosted (at Millwood) TBA West PeeWee Select championship tournament
- Convened and grounds crewed Millwood Park during EBA SOBA Midget tournament
- Convened and grounds crewed Millwood Park during Mega Tournament
- Active and contributing member to the EBA Board of Directors
- Maintained both diamonds at Millwood Park for Rangers on a weekly basis
- Hosted two Ranger teams on Millwood 1
- Coordinated and maintained online field-booking schedule for Millwood 1, notifying Ranger coaches of available times to reschedule games and practices (in addition to two Ranger teams being hosted)
- Secured local media coverage in the spring to promote Super 7 t-ball concept for all of Etobicoke; coverage appeared on the front page with EBA executive representatives

- Assisted with registration at EBA-hosted umpire clinic
- Test piloted the implementation of AA select level teams in anticipation of supporting a broader, future EBA initiative
- In 2010, led the test pilot and subsequent implementation of Super 7 as a new form of tball

Bloordale-related activities:

- President of Bloordale Baseball League (and all duties associated with that position)
- Part of the project team that built new Bloordale website
- Maintained new Bloordale website, including, but not limited to, posting local baseball news (Bloordale, EBA and EBA member league information), maintaining standings and schedules (HL and Select), updating calendar of events and training opportunities
- Launched and maintained Bloordale social media initiative (Facebook and Twitter)
- Secured local media coverage from Etobicoke Guardian promoting baseball in Etobicoke (four articles, including a video)
- Convened Bantam houseleague division
- Select convener
- Spearheaded the purchase, delivery and installation of equipment bunker at Millwood primarily for the safe storage of the tractor
- Initiated and provided oversight for the rebuilding of the pitching mound at Millwood 1
- Assisted neighboring league (Forest Glen) to secure diamond time and umpires to ensure the successful operation of a peewee and bantam SOBA tournament
- Expanded Bloordale to include a Junior Select team and successfully negotiated its participation in an MBA loop
- Maintained field quality at Millwood 1 and 2 on a weekly basis; continuous care guaranteed Millwood 1 would be in top shape for all EBA-hosted tournaments
- Member of the Bloordale BBQ project team; duties included the purchase of capital equipment and product for the fundraising operation at Millwood Park

In addition to these highlights, Patrick tirelessly attends as many tournaments and championship games as he can, providing support and encouragement to players, coaches and parents. He is a tremendous resource who is willing to assist every new coach, convener or board member learn his/her role.

His love of the game and of the association' work within the greater Etobicoke baseball community is truly infectious and he has assisted in recruiting many new volunteer members to the association boards – many of whom do not currently have children enrolled in local baseball programs.

In detail, what outstanding or unusual contribution has this Volunteer made to Etobicoke baseball?

As the highlights provided in the first section of this nomination form and the attached document showcases, Patrick McConnell epitomizes the ultimately dedicated baseball volunteer. As a member of the community his entire life (and a former Bloordale player himself), Patrick's passionate dedication shows through in the fact that there is no task too small or no initiative too overwhelming that will prevent him from pitching in however he can.

There are many people who are very skilful at talking about what they can do for an organization – Patrick McConnell does everything he can for Bloordale Baseball and Etobicoke Baseball Association. If he says he is going to do something, you can be confident it will get done.

Patrick instills a great sense of pride in those who are recruited to assist with board tasks, coaching or convening and makes everyone at EBA and Bloordale feel like part of the greater baseball family.

In addition to his work with the baseball associations, Patrick has spent nearly 10 years as a baseball coach, taking a break from full-time coaching only to ensure his duties as Bloordale's President and an EBA member are adequately managed. He has provided an expertise and instilled a love of the game with every level of player, from tball to bantam in the house league, to select and AA/AAA levels.

Patrick really just lives baseball all summer long. Millwood Park truly is his second home and he treats it as a castle – for the enjoyment of everyone within Etobicoke baseball and for visiting teams to enjoy. During tournament weekends, there were dozens of comments made to the barbecue crew that Millwood was among the best quality diamonds they played on all season and they were really pleased with their visit to Etobicoke as part of their tournament loop.

Through all these efforts, Patrick has helped to create a positive reputation for Bloordale and Etobicoke baseball now and for years to come. His volunteerism is a legacy to Etobicoke Baseball Association and Bloordale Baseball Association.