



July 22, 2016

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Hastings Community Park Baseball Field Naming

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board officially name the main baseball field at Hastings Community Park, "Richard Saunders Field"; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board officially name the rookie baseball field at Hastings Community Park, "Volunteer Field"

## POLICY

The Park Board has jurisdiction over Vancouver Parks, including the commemorative naming of park facilities as guided by the [Commemorative Naming Policy](#) adopted in 2007.

## PURPOSE

Members of the Hastings Community Little League approached Park Board staff in May 2016 to request naming the two fields at Hastings Community Park in tribute to the many volunteers who support Little League baseball and specifically Richard Saunders. The report outlines the commemorative naming process that has been undertaken since this time, and that has led to the above-noted recommendations.

## BACKGROUND

The baseball fields at Hastings Community Park (Appendix A) were built in 1952 and have been home to the Hastings Community Little League since 1953. The League is a non-profit sports organization that provides baseball programs for boys and girls between 4 and 12 years old. The club has been selected to host the 2016 Little League National Championship tournament at this facility in August 2016. Last year, the main and rookie baseball fields were renovated to accommodate tournaments, and the Hastings Community Little League generously supported this project by donating \$306,000.

## The Volunteers

As a non-profit organization, Hastings Community Little League relies exclusively on generous and committed community volunteers and parents to operate the league. All coaches, umpires, and league officials are volunteers. Parents also volunteer their time handling field preparation, concession duty, selling 50/50 tickets, and scorekeeping. Many volunteers have children who have graduated or are too young to play or don't have children of their own. Without the dedication of volunteers to the league, Hastings Community Little League could not offer and maintain quality baseball programming at a reasonable cost for families. The volunteers are invaluable to the league, and the partnership between the league and the Park Board has provided quality facilities and services to the community for more than 60 years.

## **Richard Saunders**

For over 30 years, Richard Saunders has volunteered and been involved in Little League baseball. He coached for many years and has served as Vice-President and President of the Hastings Community Little League. Saunders has also served as Assistant District Six Administrator for Little League BC since 2005. His leadership and efforts helped raise the \$306,000 to support field renovations and have the Hastings Community Little League host the 2016 Canadian Little League Championship Tournament. In 2012, Richard was a recipient of a “Community Sport Hero Award” from Sport BC recognizing his contribution to amateur sport and a “Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal” recognizing him for his significant community contributions.

## **COMMEMORATIVE NAMING PROCESS**

The Park Board’s [Commemorative Naming Policy](#) outlines the framework for naming community facilities in honour of outstanding achievement, distinctive service, or significant community contribution, generally without financial consideration. The policy guides the appointment of an ad hoc Commemorative Naming Committee, as well as the application, review, and decision-making process. The Applicant must assume any costs associated with the commemorative naming. These costs include any physical recognition on site or signage that must also be approved and executed to the satisfaction of the Park Board General Manager.

As the Hastings Community Little League naming request met the application requirements of the [Commemorative Naming Policy](#), staff moved forward with processing the naming request. An ad hoc Commemorative Naming Committee, appointed by the General Manager, met on July 18/16, following a public open-house held at the Hastings Community Centre where information was provided regarding this naming request. Notification flyers were also distributed to the neighborhood.

Open-house participants were invited to complete a survey regarding this naming request and the results showed unanimous support. The Commemorative Naming Committee discussed the merits of the request and ultimately voted unanimously to support the application and name the larger field “Richard Saunders Field” and the smaller field, “Volunteer Field” at Hastings Community Park. The Committee members noted the importance of volunteers to youth baseball in the neighbourhood and the benefits received by the entire community by the generosity of committed coaches, organizers, and fundraisers.

## **SUMMARY**

The Commemorative Naming Committee recommends naming the two baseballs fields at Hastings Community Park to acknowledge the many volunteers, and Richard Saunders in particular, who have contributed countless hours and energy in support of the Hastings Community Little League.

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Location Map: Hastings Community Little League Field Naming Request

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