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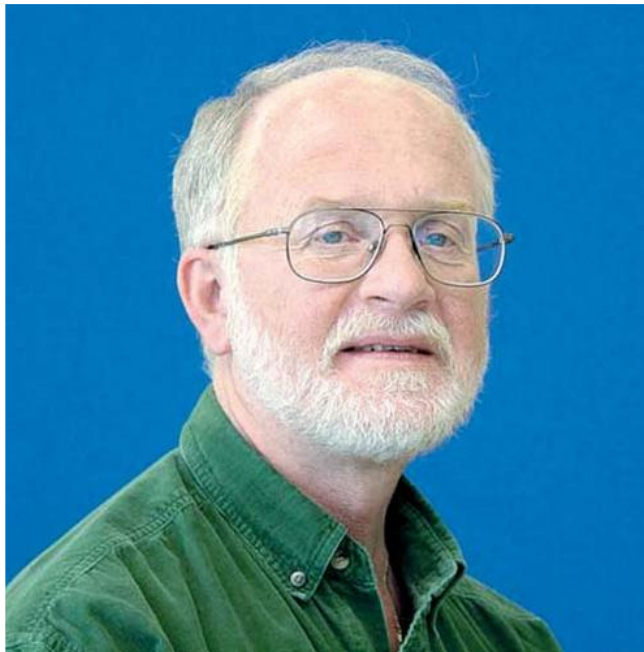
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## Paying tribute to a beloved Londoner

### The official renaming of LDBA Park will honour the sports legend of Dan Pulham

Posted By Dan Haugh, Special to Londoner

Posted 20 hours ago



On June 12 members of the London sporting community will gather to honour the late Dan Pulham at an official dedication of the newly named Dan Pulham Memorial Field. The dedication ceremony will take place at 2:30 p.m. at the baseball diamond where Dan Pulham spent many summer nights at the extreme east end of Windermere Rd., that has been up until now known as LDBA Park.

Dan passed away on July 2, 2008, and left behind a resume of volunteerism that would make most people shake their heads in amazement wondering how it was possible for one individual to accomplish what he accomplished.

He played Eager Beaver Baseball for the Senators, and began coaching in the association in the early 1980s. Dan held many positions within EBBA. The positions he held ranged from scheduler, umpire, equipment manager, coach, director, to president.

In 1989 when Dan became EBBA president, he was one of only two men who at that time, had played in the organization and later became president.

Dan later sat on the board of directors of the London District Baseball Association, serving as vice-president and then as LDBA president from 1998-2007

Dan's coaching experiences were many. He coached in the Eager Beaver Baseball Association, was an original coach and organizer of the London Badger Baseball program, and

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was very recognizable as the coach of the Junior Hornets. In 1998 Dan coached the St. Thomas Tomcats to the OBA Junior 'C' title.

Dan was named London Sportsperson of the Year in 2001, Volunteer of the Year by Baseball Ontario in 2002, and he was inducted into the LDBA Hall of Fame in 2007.

The long list of Dan's achievements and contributions to the game of baseball in London could only be surpassed – or equaled – by a similar list of achievements and contributions to the game of hockey.

The London Minor Hockey Association has re-named one of their annual tournaments, the Dan Pulham Memorial Tournament.

Current LDBA president Joe O'Neill who was one of the driving forces behind the re-naming of LDBA Park, says that it is fitting that this park be the one chosen to be named Dan Pulham Memorial Field.

"I first met Dan at Dan Pulham Memorial Field when he was coaching the Hornets. He needed to speak with me and give me a box of stuff for a playoff or something that I had to run," Joe says. "I was left with the immediate impression that he was very knowledgeable and he expected everyone involved in something to pitch in and get the job done."

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For so many people who organize and play the game of baseball in the City of London, Dan's name meant fairness and sportsmanship. He was a tireless volunteer and administrator who always had time to listen to concerns and ideas.

Tom Valcke, president and CEO of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame described the importance of volunteers like Dan Pulham.

"No short-term or long-term goals of boys and girls who enter baseball, be them purely recreational or high performance-oriented, are possible without people like Dan Pulham who give freely of their time and expertise to serve as the foundation," Tom says. "Dan's passion for the game continues to show in those whose lives he touched, and his legacy will be more formally carried on thanks to this initiative."

Jon Cesarini who was a co-worker of Dan's for most of the 39 years that he worked in the Psychology Department at UWO, recalls a conversation he once had with Dan that spoke clearly to what he felt was the foundation of volunteerism

"He told me one day, in one of many conversations that I was privileged to have with him over the years, that, "It 's easy to volunteer when you have kids involved in a sport, but unfortunately not too many people do it after their kids are done.' Of course he dedicated many hours of volunteerism to baseball and hockey after his son Casey was no longer involved," Jon says. "Dan was involved all year round in many facets, truly a remarkable person. A great guy; a fabulous friend and co-worker. I will always remember him."

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