

Councillor Janet Davis
Ward 31 Beaches-East York
Suite C57
Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

October 17, 2007

Dear Councillor Davis,

I am writing on behalf of my family and the Sunshine Valley community to request the City of Toronto rename Topham Park baseball diamond 1 in honour of John Shelton to recognize his dedication to Topham Park, Topham Park Baseball League and the Topham Park community.

The following is a brief history of John's involvement in East York and, in particular, the Topham Park community.

John was born and raised in East York (July 27th, 1939) and was the oldest of five children. His father was the owner of E.J. Shelton and Son Butcher and Grocer located at the corner of Mortimer and Woodmount Aves. John's father was also involved in sports and sponsored a local Hockey team for several years. John helped his dad with the hockey team but was not old enough to play. When John was older he played hard ball at Cedarvale Park. That only lasted a few years as he was needed to deliver groceries for the family business.

John became employed with East York Hydro in 1959, married in 1960 and in 1964 moved his family into the Topham Park area of East York. This was to be a starter home for John and his family but after a few years of living in the area wild horses couldn't drive him from his home.

In 1973 John became involved with the Topham Park Minor Softball League. His first responsibility in the league was that of umpiring. He umpired for the next 3 years and in 1976 he became the Assistant Umpire in Chief. He held this position for one year and in 1977 was appointed Umpire in Chief. He held this volunteer position until 2003. In 1997 while still in the position of UIC, John began purchasing supplies for the Snack Bar run by the league. This became like a hobby to John as he was retired after 36 years from East York Hydro and was now looking for some meaningful volunteer work in the community. He knew that by finding the best "bargains" for the snack bar it would help with raising much needed funds for the league. The Saturday barbeque's became part of the fundraising and John could be found flipping burgers, sausages and hot dogs along with both his son-in-laws and as many other volunteers as he could round up. John became so involved with volunteering at the park that he would be known to go

down to the clubhouse just to check that the furnace was working OK, to see if there were any problems with the water, to see if lights were out in the park and was called on many occasions to turn the lights on for games that were played later in the evening. He made several calls over the years to various City employees to ensure that the upkeep of the park was maintained - anything from grass cutting, to ensuring that there was enough clay on the diamonds, to making sure that the diamonds were dragged before tournaments and notifying the appropriate people about repairs that were needed. During all these years with TPMSL John could be found playing Slow Pitch with the Topham Park Men's League and in later years as the coach of the team.

All his volunteering rubbed off on family members as well. Both of John's daughters have coached in TPMSL for many years as well as holding various other positions. At present his wife is treasurer and the family hopes to remain volunteers in the league for a long time to come. After all, his girls grew up playing in the league and now two of his grandchildren play in the league.

Thank you in advance for following up on this request.

Sincerely,
John Peulic
11 Druid Court
East York, ON
M4B 2M5