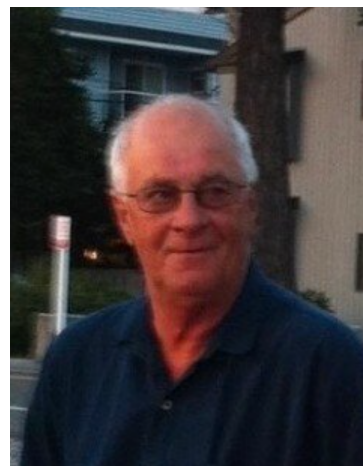


Bill Kiello

2008 Inductee - Honorary Life Member



In 1948, when Bill was 5 years old, he started playing organized ball in the Aldergrove league. He continued to do so until he was 15, joining the Senior C Men's League in Abbotsford, playing their games in Aldergrove because they didn't have their own ballpark - which Bill was helpful in changing.



In 1963, at age 20, Bill was a player on the first BC Junior Men's Provincial Championship team. In 1967, he moved to Fort St John, taking up the 2nd base position on a sponsored team in the Local Senior Men's Fastball League. He could hit the inside pitch down the right field line and out of the park, or lay down a sacrifice bunt when called upon to do so.

Due to a knee injury in 1981, Bill's focus was changed from player to coach, convincing the locals to switch from baseball to fastball - a career that lasted until 2004. Attending a meeting in Prince George in the early 80's meant that he was positioned as Softball BC District 12 Minor Representative for the next eight years.

Bill started umpiring in the Fort St John Men's League in 1970, formed the Fort St John Umpire Association in 1983, still acts as a Director and continues to actively umpire.

Bill was on the Men's League Executive for numerous years. On May 12, 1995, he was the first to be honored by having his name and number #6 retired to the Fort St John Men's Fastball League Wall of Fame.

He helped build ball diamonds in Abbotsford, Taylor and Fort St John, sponsored teams, fulfilled the duties of groundskeeper, scorekeeper, executive, coach, umpire and... just shows up at the park every once in a while to watch a game of Softball - a truly deserving recipient of the Honorary Life Member Award.