

# BOROUGH MAYOR RUSSELL COPEMAN TO RENAME LOYOLA FIELD TO “GELLER FIELD”



CDN/NDG borough **Mayor Russell Copeman** will be hosting an official plaque unveiling and renaming of a baseball field in the name of “LIONEL GELLER” in recognition of **37 years of volunteer service** to the NDG Minor Baseball program.

## UNVEILING CEREMONY

Please join the NDG Minor Baseball association, players, and Borough Mayor Russell Copeman in honouring LIONEL GELLER at this special ceremony:

**WHEN:** SATURDAY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> Starting at 11:45

**WHERE:** LOYOLA PARK (Fielding & Coronation)

## PLAQUE UNVEILING SCHEDULE

<i>HEURES</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>	<i>DETAILS</i>
11:15-11:30	GET READY	PLAYERS GO TO WAITING AREA - ENTRANCE TO LOYOLA-2
<b>11:30-11:45</b>	<b>SET-UP</b>	<b>PLAYERS MOVE INTO DESIGNATED PLACEMENTS - SET CHART</b>
11:45-12:00	SPEACHES	NDG Baseball Presidents: List TBA Shortly
<b>12:00-12:15</b>	<b>UNVEILING</b>	<b>Borough Mayor Russell Copeman Unveils Plaque</b>
12:15-12:30	PHOTOS	Photos of Lionel with Friends, Family, Dignitaries

Following the naming of “GELLER FIELD”, Lionel will be throwing out the first pitch of the Major House League Championship Game at 13:00 with the whole league's membership in attendance on the field. The event will be memorable. The Major age group is the most notorious group in Little League. Players in this group are the ones who compete in the famous Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

<b>INAUGURAL 1ST PITCH SCHEDULE</b>		
<i>HEURES</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>	<i>DETAILS</i>
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	<b>WARM-UP</b>	<b>MAJOR TEAMS WARM-UP BEFORE GAME</b>
13:00-13:08	LINE-UP	PLAYERS FROM BOTH TEAMS ANNOUNCED ONE AT A TIME
13:08-13:13	ANTHEM	SINGING OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM
<b>13:13-13:15</b>	<b>FIRST PITCH</b>	<b>LIONEL THROWS THE INAUGURAL FIRST PITCH</b>
13:15-15:15	GAME	START OF GAME INAUGURAL GAME

## **BIOGRAPHY SUMMARY**

### **NDG BASEBALL VOLUNTEER HISTORY**

- 1976 - Started coaching with the T-Ball Division at “Terrebonne Park” before the amalgamation of the various parks into the NDG Minor Baseball League in 1990
- Mid- 1980’s - Started the NOVICE program, baseball for 4 & 5 year olds, along with local NDG community legends Bill Hurst and Leo O’Brien
- Mid-1980’s – 2012 – Director of the Novice Program
- 1998 - Wins NDG Minor Baseball’s first Provincial Championship at the Minor Division
- Has performed every job in the league. Most notable as being the leagues Equipment Manager & Chief Executive Consultant.
- President of the League four times (1989, 2000, 2001, & 2005).

### **BASEBALL AWARDS**

1997 – NDG Minor Baseball – William Hurst Volunteer of the year

2000 – CDN/NDG Borough - Sports Administrator of the Year

2002 – CDN/NDG Borough – Sports and Recreation Wall of Honor for Service

2006 – CDN/NDG Borough Recognition for 30 years’ Service

2007 – NDG Baseball creates highest Volunteer Award – Lionel Geller Award of Excellence

2017 – Lionel Geller’s No. (9) Retired by NDG Baseball

## OTHER VOLUNTEER HISTORY

1980 - Founded a skating program for Intellectually Challenged Children with Moe and Barbara Yoffe.

1979 – 1990 – Coached NDG Minor Hockey

1984 – 1990 – On the Board of Directors for NDG Minor Hockey

1997 – Founded Dawson’s Women’s Hockey program

1997 – 2007 - Dawson Women’s Hockey General Manager

## OTHER VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

- Has tutored and still tutors Dawson Women’s Hockey players on his own time.
- Tutors people who have special needs
- Has done other charitable activities, private in nature, for many members of the community and beyond.

**In the opinion of The Executive of NDG Minor Baseball, we wholeheartedly believe there is no better person for which an honour of this magnitude can bestowed. Please join the NDG Minor Baseball family in honouring Lionel Geller in the renaming of Loyola-2 to “GELLER FIELD” on Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>, (11:45-12:15) corner of Fielding & Coronation.**

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## **DETAILED BIOGRAPHY**

### **Brief bio of Lionel Geller. (Photo available upon request.)**

Lionel’s contribution to the NDG Baseball association is legendary being the only person to have performed every job in the league including serving as the League’s President four times (1989, 2000, 2001, & 2005).

Lionel started coaching back in 1976 with the T-Ball Division at “Terrebonne Park” before the amalgamation of the various parks into the NDG Minor Baseball League in 1990. In 1998, Lionel coached various teams from T-Ball to Major winning NDG Minor Baseball’s first Provincial Championship at the Minor Division. In 2010, Lionel officially coached for the last time guiding his Major team to a House League Championship.

Everything Lionel ever did on behalf of the League was with one thing in mind - it was "all about the kids". This catch-phrase became so synonymous with Lionel that the NDG Minor Baseball League's official baseball pin is engraved with this very motto..



Lionel is perhaps best remembered for being the longtime coach of the Saturday Morning Novice Program for four and five year olds, started in the mid-1980's by Lionel along with local NDG community legends Bill Hurst and Leo O'Brien. This level of play was by far Lionel's favorite level to teach and monitor and the dearest to his heart. With over 30 years of coaching every Saturday morning. "Grandpa Lionel" saw many of his former players return with their own children.

Lionel did not limit his volunteer activities to NDG Minor Baseball, In 1980, he founded a skating program for Intellectually Challenged Children with Moe and Barbara Yoffe that ran on Friday evenings from 1980-1996.

From 1979-1990, Lionel coached minor hockey and was also part of the executive of NDG Minor Hockey from 1984-1990.

At Dawson College, where Lionel was teaching, he founded the Women's Hockey team serving from 1997 to 2007 as team General Manager and as a tutor to players who needed academic assistance. He continues to tutor athletes at Dawson from different teams or sets them up with other retired professors in disciplines other than his specialty, mathematics.

**Below are awards presented to Lionel Geller by NDG Minor Baseball and the Sports & Recreations Department of the borough of CDN/NDG in recognition of his volunteerism:**

1997 – NDG Minor Baseball – William Hurst Volunteer of the year

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