

## BVAA Baseball Program

The Beaver Valley Athletic Association has been running their baseball program for many years. When it started, there were enough kids to play in a town league without having to travel. Over the years, it was decided to enter our teams in the WOAA League and because of the travel to away games, after a few years we decided to find something closer.

In 2001, we joined the South Simcoe Baseball League which is a house league and is interested in the playing development of our kids. Some of the teams we play against are Collingwood, Stayner, Wasaga Beach, Elmvale, Angus, Barrie, New Lowell and a few other towns on the outskirts of South Simcoe. Each team plays in a Mid Season Tournament and the younger teams have a Year End Tournament with the older kids having playoff formats. Wasaga Beach and Ivy each host a Blue Jay Clinic where all kids can come and get some tips on their skills from former Blue Jay coaches and players.

We run a T-Ball program with kids aged 3-5. They play one night a week where kids learn the basics of throwing, fielding, catching and batting. They don't travel and they don't play any games, just amongst themselves. There is also a House League/Fun Night for kids 7-14. This group also plays one night a week with no traveling. We have teams that play in the Jr. and Sr. Rookie divisions where they use a pitching machine for batting and softer balls than a baseball. In Tyke, ages 10 & 11, the kids start to pitch and learn this aspect of the game. We also have teams playing Pee-Wee, Bantam and Midget. As the kids have gotten older, we are looking at the possibility of having a team play either Junior or Senior ball in the North Dufferin Baseball League.

To help support ourselves, we run a couple fund raisers during the season. In 2007, after the tragic accident that claimed the lives of 5 young men from town, we held our 1st Annual Memorial Day to honor 4 boys who came up thru the baseball system. All teams played a home game on a Saturday in June and it was so popular, that we will continue to host this day every year to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

We try to host a Mid Season and Year End tournament to raise money and show the rest of the league what a wonderful facility we have in town. Baseball helps encourage teamwork and cooperation. It helps improve concentration skills and hand-eye coordination. Most of all it's a lot of fun for the players and the spectators. We are always in need of HELP.

If you don't want to play but would like to umpire, we host a clinic to get you started and you can make \$20-40 in an hour or two. If you would like to help out or want more information, e-mail [cinron@bmts.com](mailto:cinron@bmts.com) or call Cindy Lennox at 519-599-3871.