

McKechnie honoured with baseball diamond

By Michelle Janzen

The permanent renaming of Ball Diamond 'A' at Hyland Park has been a long time coming; nine years to be exact.

In 2002, local resident Lisa McKechnie, a vibrant 23-year-old, died tragically in a backyard pool accident. An avid ball player who attended Hyland Heights Public School, as well as Center Dufferin District High School, Lisa could often be found over at the ball diamond.

At that time of Lisa's death, her family approached Council asking them to rename Hyland Park in her honour, a request that was denied.

At this week's Council meeting the Town of Shelburne Council passed a resolution which will see Diamond 'A' at Hyland Park being renamed the 'Lisa McKechnie Memorial Baseball Field.'

After Duncan Paterson paved the way in the renaming of a portion of Hyland Park to the Natasha Paterson Memorial Park concerns were raised at council with regard the McKechnie family's request.

That being said, Council felt that, now that there is a protocol in place, renaming the ball diamond was the right thing to do.

While having a discussion with regard to the renaming, Councillor Randy Chambers said, 'When looking back at minutes to see exactly what those on Council [decided] at the time the McKechnie family approached us, I found that we had received their request, however that was it. Nothing further was done. So, in the spirit of the original motion not being completed I feel this motion today needs to be complete.'

With Council allocating \$3,000 from Parks and Recreation's operating budget to fund the purchase and installation of the sign, staff are being directed to provide recommendation to Council related to the cost of signage by the September 12th council meeting.

'We will be following the Town's Branding process when putting up the signage, a standardized signage strategy for all future park, diamond, field or building dedication or renaming,' John Telfer, CAO for the Town of Shelburne, tells the Shelburne Free Press.