



The Beacon Hill Family Fun League **All** ages abilities fun

News Release

For immediate release.

Weary with competitive leagues, two dads take baseball back to (barrier free) basics

Ottawa - - Two dads living in the Ottawa neighbourhood of Beacon Hill are taking baseball back to basics. Having spent a number of years coaching and participating in competitive little leagues in Ottawa, they've decided to launch a fall, non-competitive, barrier-free baseball "league" that is open to everyone.

"Community sport can be a force for good and official leagues shouldn't be the only way to participate," says John McKay, one of the dads. "Competitive leagues can pose a barrier to community members who would otherwise like to come out to play or cheer on the teams."

People, kids and adults alike, may not feel they are good enough to play. They may not "make the team". They may not have the money or equipment needed to play. They may have never played or had baseball in their family life or culture. They may have been discouraged from playing because of their gender. They may not be able to meet the time and transportation commitments. Perhaps they have a disability that makes it challenging for them to consider. They may have never been contacted and invited to play.

"With all of the schedules, practices, drills, road trips and tournaments, we can often lose sight of the fact that baseball is a game and games are supposed to be fun, inclusive and social," adds Matt Kletke, the other dad. "So, these four afternoons in September are going to be about much more than baseball – they are going to be fun community events."

Music, a barbeque, draws, fun events and prizes will all be part of the program during the 12:00 to 16:00 events on September 8, 15, 22 and 29 at [Eastvale Park](#) in the north part of Beacon Hill.

While participation is free, proceeds from the barbeque and a 50/50 draw will go to the Miracle League of Ottawa, a purpose-built baseball field in Ottawa for special needs kids and adults. Find out more about the Miracle League at www.miracleleagueofottawa.com



There are still many surprises to be announced so stay tuned!

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