

Established Cartwright Soccer League in Blackstock

BY SHAWN CAYLEY

BLACKSTOCK -- Dennis Yellowlees grew up in and around the game of soccer.

He has an unconditional love and passion for the sport.

And for the last five years, he and his wife Karen have been giving back to the soccer community.

The Blackstock couple head the Cartwright Soccer League which plays out of Cartwright fields in nearby Nestleton. Dennis and Karen figure prominently in the history of youth soccer in the area as they are founding members of the program.

"It started five years ago," said Karen of when the league was established. "We were approached by members of the community and were asked if we wanted to start a soccer program, and at that time there was not any soccer in the area so we jumped at the opportunity."

Dennis recalls being excited to have the chance to bring soccer into the community.

"I grew up playing the game, and it was a real shame that kids around here didn't have the opportunity to do the same," he said. "I was really looking forward to giving something back to the community."

Karen added: "We really felt the kids were missing out and there was a need for a soccer program in the community."

While their tireless work with the club is all volunteer, they do have a little incentive to be involved as both their daughters play with the club. "It is nice to see them out there participating having fun, just like it is to see all the kids out there doing the same," explained Karen.

Daughters Christine, 17, and Jennifer, 15, both play and volunteer by refereeing games three nights a week. Dennis also spends time as a referee. Karen



Photo by Celia Klemenz

Karen and Dennis Yellowlees are founding members of the Cartwright Soccer League that plays games in Nestleton.

says the club relies on the volunteer support from people like her daughters to keep the ball rolling successfully.

"We have many volunteers, young and old," she says.

"Many of them are high

school students who become involved to complete their community hours in order to graduate while others are just here because they love the sport and want to give back."

The 15-team league runs three