

# Local resident wants future athletes to take home fond memories

By Radhika Panjwani  
Metroland Media Group



**John Boyce, 68, a volunteer for the upcoming Canada 55+ Games, has been working round-the-clock so that participants to the games can enjoy the experience.** Submitted Photo

John Boyce, a volunteer for the upcoming Canada 55+ Games, wants participants to take home fond memories of their time in Brampton.

To that end, Boyce, a sport specialist for hockey, has been putting in some 60 hours/week of volunteer work. Along with his team of 30 volunteers, the Georgetown resident plans to be front and centre welcoming hockey teams from Canada and ensuring they have a seamless experience.

Brampton, which is hosting the Canada 55+ Games this year, will welcome 400 men and women, Aug. 16-19.

I want in a positive way for these games to be the best experience for participants, said Boyce, a veteran hockey player and member of Brampton's Sports Unlimited Falcons. I have as a participant observed things (during different championships) and thought, This could have been done whole lot better. I will be making sure those details are not missing here. This is my opportunity to step up to the plate and be involved.

The 68-year-old Boyce has been the chairman and organizer of 28 oldtimer hockey tournaments involving as many as 42 teams. He was part of the team that won three Ontario Winter Games gold medals.

When he realized he would be in charge of ensuring the hockey games at South Fletcher's Recreation Centre met or even exceeded participants' expectations, the retired human resources manager went about organizing and executing an action plan with meticulous details.

First, he interviewed dozens of people who had signed up as volunteers and hand picked some three dozen people that not only understood

hockey, but were willing to give it all for four days.

I have prepared a task list for every volunteer so as to guide them along the way, he said. We have participants coming from Alberta, Nova Scotia and other provinces paying a lot of money and taking time to be here. There's quite a lot of investment with the games and we want to make sure they have a positive experience.

With Brampton hosting the Canada 55+ Games, the idea is to create a blueprint that would be available to any other city that wanted to host a similar event, explained Boyce.

With these games, we want to create a legacy, he said.

Boyce, who considers himself a student of the game, has considerable experience with hockey tournaments. He has enjoyed a successful minor and junior playing career, including playing competitive Intermediate A hockey for Georgetown and going to the finals six years out of nine, winning four Ontario championships.

From Aug. 16-19, he will put all his skills both on and off the ice to full use.



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