SPORTS

Seven of eight board members leave association

Big change-up for minor softball board

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA

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When the first pitch is thrown out to start the 2012 Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association season, it will mark a time to ring in the new.

Not just a new campaign of balls, strikes, foul balls, great catches and timely hits, but an injection of new blood within the association's executive and board of directors.

The change at the top came when the association concluded the 2011 campaign by holding its annual general meeting Dec. 8.

During that gathering, long-time association president June Doner elected not to run again after serving in that position since 1996.

Also leaving their posts were: Al Piette, who resigned after serving as treasurer and was an executive member since 1996; Edna Piette (vice-president) for health reasons; Laura Powell resigned as secretary; Rebecca Doner (director), chose not to run again; Joe Palma (director) and Don Stobo (director), whose two-year terms had expired.

Diane Batty remained as treasurer.

Replacing Doner as president was Terry Eizinga, a NCCP-certified coach with the association for the last seven years at the house league and rep levels.

Joining Eizinga and Batty on the board for the 2012 campaign were: Mike Clements as vice-president, Kim Lewis, secretary and David Fisico, director.

Starting with the association in 1990 when she accepted a convenor's position at Vandorf before becoming secretary in 1995, vice president in 1995 and a lifetime board member along with Cliff Dunkeld in 2001, Doner thought the timing was right for a change in leadership.

In reflecting on her time as a

volunteer in the association for 21 years, the Gormley resident said it was a truly rewarding experience.

Especially in terms of forging many new friendships during that time frame, some of whom, she added, were like a second family to her.

> 'We have all worked so well together for many years, liking and respecting each other. I am so grateful for all their support and their friendship.'

That aspect, Doner said, is what she will miss foremost.

At the same time though, Doner was proud of what the association had accomplished during her

She is a former recipient of the Sun-Tribune's Whitchurch-Stouffville Sports Person of the Year award.

"I am sad that I will be leaving behind friendships developed over the years. This includes players and their families, who I have grown so fond of; coaches; and officials," she said. "I will miss my co-executive members, who have been like a family to me. We have all worked so well together for many years, liking and respecting each other. I am so grateful for all their support and their friendship.

"When I think of all the people. who I have had the privilege to work with, and the successes we have all shared together, including many provincial titles, and the hundreds of young people who have played house league and rep, I am truly proud to have been part of the fine organization known



JUNE DONER: Volunteer headed youth softball organization from 1996 through 2011.

as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association."

Doner was quick to give her best wishes to the new executive in its endeavours.

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