



Fighting Owls Football Alumni

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The Fighting Owls Football Alumni was established in 2005. Our goal has been to provide affordable football with the safest equipment possible for students in our community. We have been able to keep football fees at CCI manageable. The Alumni have helped subsidize or has fully covered fees for students in need. We have provided an opportunity for players to “work to play”. By providing labour, for various festivals in the area, money paid to the Alumni is then used to pay all or part of a player’s fees. The amount paid on behalf of the player depends on the amount of time worked.

The co-curricular budget at CCI in 2000 was three and one half times the 2012 budget. Total costs for all teams are currently over \$280 000 but the total budget is under \$13 000. As a result all teams “pay their own way”. The school requires that the students have a valid student’s card in order to participate in school sports. The student card is \$20. There is also a basic sports fee of \$75 and a team fee to cover costs specific to that sport. The wide range of costs involved in a team sport drive the per player cost. Without the Alumni, the football fees would be at least \$300 per player. This is nearly double the current fee. Other school sports at CCI are similarly affected; boys rugby – up to \$270 per player, senior girls basketball - \$225, senior girls volleyball - \$195, hockey - \$300, cross country running - \$95.

Over the last ten years, the Alumni has paid for a new blocking sled, arm and full blocking bags. These additions provide an opportunity for players to safely learn good technique. Helmets and shoulder pads are checked each year by an outside inspector for safety. We have provided the funds to replace or refurbish the equipment as required. Money raised has also sent players to football camp, purchased cleats and safety glasses as needs arose.

In September 2013 an electronic scoreboard was erected at the east end of the football field on the CCI campus. Parents commented on how much they appreciated knowing the quarter, time and score when they arrived at the field. The scoreboard is available to all field teams at CCI. We have made a \$3000 commitment to the weight room at the high school, purchased camera equipment for the yearbook and provided awards for the local elementary school flag football champions.

Currently, the Alumni are in the process of purchasing outdoor bleachers for the CCI campus. In the last few seasons, we have been able to borrow bleachers from the Town of Collingwood. Unfortunately they are not always available and are aging. There is also some question as to whether they meet all the safety requirements of the Simcoe County District School Board. These new seats would be used by all field sports at CCI, as well as the town flag football league, local rugby and soccer teams. The school field is also occasionally used by the area elementary schools and for fundraising events.

Times have changed. There is less public money available and more demand. The players and coaches appreciate the tremendous support that has been provided by the community. The Alumni hope we can continue to do our part in assisting CCI football.

Thanks for your support,
Fighting Owls Football Alumni