

# Sports Teams

## Paul Currelly

### The Cobourg Angels Women's Fastball Team, the Cobourg Junior Angels and Paul Currelly

*Picture this – it is a warm Tuesday night - the 4-tiered bleachers of Cobourg's Victoria Park are literally packed with fans - the smack of leather on leather is heard as the pitching battery warms up - bugs circle the glow of the outfield flood lights - a cheer rises from the bleachers as the Cobourg Angels take to the field with their signature 'hustle' - a very proud man in the "green & gold", with a serious grin, directs his players like a conductor working his orchestra. It's Tuesday night - the Angels' home game - and all's right in the world.*



It was the dream of an avid sportsman, a man named **Paul Currelly**, to one day see “top notch” women's ball here in Cobourg – but the dream started small.

Together with assistant coach Max Smith, Paul put together a peewee team in the east end and called it the “**Coverdale Aces**”. Soon three more teams were created, representing the other areas of the town. The year was 1963 and the first league was born.

As players grew into their teens, the organization expanded through Bantam and then Juvenile. **1968 marked the “birth” of the “Cobourg Angels”** team as the cream of those local squads, and they found their home at Victoria Park. Cobourg joined the Provincial

Women's Softball Association where it didn't take long for them to earn their respect.

As time passed, the *Cobourg Angels* matured into a Junior “B” team – which involved the very best players that south-eastern Ontario had to offer. The majority of those players Paul had personally sought out – enticing them with summer jobs, reasonable summer lodging and the chance to play “good ball”. In 1975 and 1976 this team **made history by winning Ontario Championships back to back**. In 1983 Cobourg's first Senior Women's Squad earned a spot in Ontario Women's Fastball.



Runners-up in the Pee Wee section of the Cobourg District Girls' Softball League were Coverdale Aces. Left to right, they are: Front — Carol Currelly, Sharlene Abrams, Maureen Smith, Nancy Currelly; Middle — Sandra Macklin, Diane Stacey, Barbara Potier, Cathy Williamson, Anne DesMarteau, Elaine Sprigley; Back — coach Max Smith, Barbara Smith, Kathy Crowe, Brenda Lemmon, Susan Johnston, Maxine Smith, manager Paul Currelly

*The Coverdale Aces*

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## Cobourg Angels

Over the years and at various levels the *Angels* won numerous league and district honours as well as **7 Ontario titles: Junior B in '75, '76; Juvenile in '79; Senior Tier II in '84, '85, '87 with Silver in Tier I on each of those years and Senior Tier I in 1990.**

Of all who have worn the *Angel* uniform, one stands out for her success in the sport after her *Angel* years. **Elaine Devlin's** list of accomplishments can be found in the Softball Photo Binder elsewhere in the museum. Here we will tell you that she played in over 15 Canadian/World titles and has been inducted into the Peterborough Hall of Fame as well as the Sam Houston Hall of Fame in Texas. She is by far our most recognized *Angel* athlete.

Successful as it was, this concentration on the older players meant that the **younger girls from the area were without a team to play on.** Recognizing the need, Paul recruited a leadership team to form the *Cobourg Junior Angels' Association* in the late 1980s.

Since then, the *Junior Angels* have continued to carry the provincial torch – **winning another 6 Ontario titles** including a very impressive run of Junior Tier II Championships in 2008, 2009 & 2010. Most recently they had an A Finalist Bantam Silver at both the Provincials and the Canada Games in PEI in August of 2014.

The organization continues to flourish, **dedicating itself to instilling in our young women the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, fair play, a positive work ethic, belief in the power of sport, the power of being female and above all else – the importance of “giving back to your community”!**

From 1968 to 2003 the *Angels* played their home games at the diamond in Victoria Park. In 2004, to honour his contributions to girls' softball in Cobourg, the town named the street running through the lower half of Victoria Park, **“Paul Currelly Way”**, and erected a cairn at the site outlining his accomplishments. The **“Paul Currelly Diamond”** was eventually taken out of Victoria Park and is now located near its origin at Coverdale Park in Cobourg's East End.

Paul Currelly was the inspiration of the *Cobourg Angels'* organization but no one person could do it all on his own. Here are the names of some of the others who helped make it happen:

- **Before the Angels:** Ross Burgess, Don Dunn & Jack Bevan
- **The early Angels:** Max Smith, Ev Walters, Gord Burdick & Jeff Brooks
- **The growing Angels:** George Haynes, Buzz Foote & Rod Baker
- **The high flying Angels:** Jim Morrow, John Hayden & Janet Davey Hynes
- **The Junior Angels:** Faye (Oliver) Gaudet & Jan (Bevan)

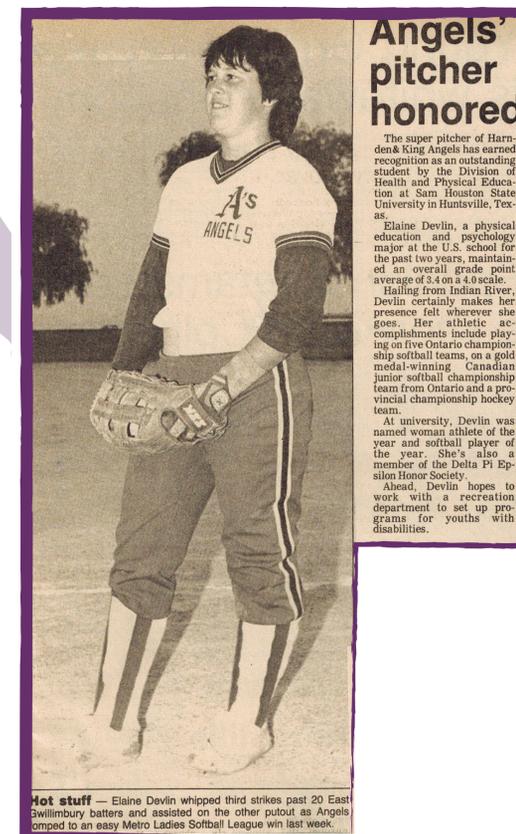


**Airborne Angel** – Second baseman Laura Boon leaves her feet to glove a line drive during Morrow Transport Angels' exhibition fastball twin bill with Oshawa S&H Fabricating on Sunday afternoon at Victoria Park. The Cobourg team played good defence in sweeping the doubleheader. Photo by Jason Holland

### Angels shine in the sun

By Layton Dodge

Morrow Transport Angels swept both ends of an exhibition ladies' fastball doubleheader Sunday afternoon at Victoria Park.



### Angels' pitcher honored

The super pitcher of Harn-den & King Angels has earned recognition as an outstanding student by the Division of Health and Physical Education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Elaine Devlin, a physical education and psychology major at the U.S. school for the past two years, maintained an overall grade point average of 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Hailing from Indian River, Devlin certainly makes her presence felt wherever she goes. Her athletic accomplishments include playing on five Ontario championship softball teams, on a gold medal-winning Canadian junior softball championship team from Ontario and a provincial championship hockey team.

At university, Devlin was named woman athlete of the year and softball player of the year. She's also a member of the Delta Pi Epsilon Honor Society.

Ahead, Devlin hopes to work with a recreation department to set up programs for youths with disabilities.

**Hot stuff** – Elaine Devlin whipped third strikes past 20 East Swillimbury batters and assisted on the other putout as Angels romped to an easy Metro Ladies Softball League win last week.