



Project Story: Bowen Island Baseball Portable Pitching Mound

Andrea Layzell

There's a special magic that unfolds at the little ball diamond in Crippen Park on Bowen Island, a place where community spirit thrives and connections blossom. This cherished corner of our island is alive with the exuberance of youth baseball. It not only hosts seven adult Slopitch teams and six Fastpitch teams, but it also nurtures the dreams of our young athletes. As spring arrives, the air fills with laughter and cheers, as players of all sizes—both tiny and towering—dash across the field. This season, we witnessed an incredible surge of enthusiasm, with a remarkable 72 young players registered, ages ranging from just 3 to 14!





Neighbourhood
Small Grants
Bowen Island

However, the limitations of our little field also became clear each year. Sharing the field between three different leagues playing three slightly different versions of the game, means that the field can't have a permanent pitching mound built into it. Mounds are a required feature for baseball but not fastpitch or slopitch. After traveling to various communities in the lower mainland and watching my own children play, it became increasingly clear that we needed a portable pitching mound to give our kids the tools they deserve to grow and develop. Hosting BC Minor Spring season games and inviting teams in the 7U, 9U, 11U age groups—along with our dedicated 13U team who practice purely on island—highlighted the need of having a reliable mound to hone their pitching skills. Without a proper foundation, our young

players struggle to adjust when they face the challenge of pitching from a mound in games off island. The addition of a portable mound transforms our practices and matches into opportunities for our children to elevate their skills, leveling the playing field with their friends on the other side of the ferry trip.

We send a heartfelt thank you to the Bowen Island Community Foundation, and the Neighbourhood Small Grant program for making this dream a reality! Additionally, our gratitude goes out to North Shore Baseball, who generously covered the remaining costs, ordered the mound, and delivered it to our beloved Bowen Island. Together, we're nurturing not just players, but the future of our community!



BOWEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
vancouver
foundation