

Bill O'Neill - FEATHER WINNER

# High & Inside



## The Official Newsletter of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association

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**Editor's Notes:**

Hello fastball world:

Well a very successful 85<sup>th</sup> AGM in Cobourg, thanks to the Host and all of the AGM Committee members for a job well done. An excellent buffet meal put on by the Best Western Hotel with a fabulous dessert table with more items than I have seen in a long time. I enjoyed all of them!!!!

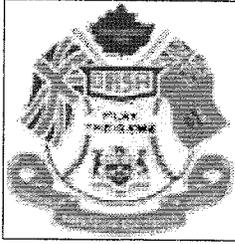


The AGM was a memorial to Gil Read who was so tragically taken from us this year. We were all pleased that Georgia Read and her family could attend the evening festivities. Georgia joined with the OASA Executive in presenting the first Gil Read Coaches Honour Roll to two deserving individuals (see article in this issue).

A little "Soap Boxing" from the Editor here folks. First, a note of appreciation to all of the Fastball enthusiast who attended and contributed to the success of this years AGM. Secondly, I have to now ask you the question, did you attend the AGM? I know that I keep repeating myself, but this is your meeting. Amendments and nominations can be brought to the meeting from around this province for discussion. You or your Registered Delegates vote on the amendments and for the persons who accept nominations to represent you. It is you who recognize and honour our players, our teams, our coaches and our Associations for their achievements. . The OASA Executive have continued to work to provide you with this opportunity. Do you not feel that all of these are worthy of your participation? You are the ambassadors for the great Sport of Fastball. We need everyone in fastball to participate. It is the least that we can do for this great sport. When we all work together for the betterment of our sport, only then will we be able to make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who sent me get well wishes on my recent surgery and to those who assisted me during my convalescence. A Special thank you to everyone who has sent me articles. Please keep them coming and we will work to make this paper your voice to all fastball in Ontario.

*Sylvia Ryan*



## **NOTES FROM A NEW PRESIDENT**

I would like to welcome all of you to a new season of hope and growth.

We are starting down a road where growth is our only option, and we will grow. You will see a new program starting under the guidance of our Out Reach Program, where new ideas will be brought forth to help the grassroots of our game grow.

A lot of you barely know me. You will find that I am a great supporter of this game having played and coached it for many years. So over this season, I hope to be at most of our tournaments to meet with you and find out ways to help you and the OASA make this game better, not only for the men but also the minor players. Our men's and minor committees are moving ahead with many great programs, so please join with them to make them succeed.

Our convenors are going to be asked to take a more active role, and more details will follow at a later date. There are a number of new executive members joining us this year in expanded roles, and some of our longer serving ones are stepping back. They are not gone, and they will be leaned on from time to time for guidance, because you cannot lose this experience, it is too valuable.

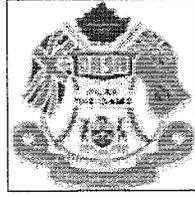
We lost many great people last year and their loss has touched us all. If you have any local stories or happenings, please forward them to our H&I editor, or our secretary for publication.

So once again, welcome, and if you have any ideas please contact our men's or minor committees, myself, or any of our executive, because it is your game. We are only here to assist you in the running of it.

Regards.

*Larry Sherwin*

President  
OASA



## **OASA EXECUTIVE 2008**

### **SHERWIN , ABBOT HEADLINE OASA EXECUTIVE**

Peter Handley

Soft spoken Larry Sherwin of Cobourg was acclaimed President of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association at the 85th AGM in Cobourg in November. Sherwin, the 47<sup>th</sup> individual to head the Association joined the OASA in 2003 when he was appointed registrar, a slot he held for two years. He was elected to the executive in 2004 and 2005, became a Vice President in 2006 and was the groups first Executive VP in 2007. He has extensive ball and executive experience beyond the OASA and will need it as softball has fallen on hard times in the past number of years. He emphasizes the use of teamwork to solve problems.

Bob Abbot of Huntsville will enter his 28<sup>th</sup> year on the Executive as the Executive Vice President. The veteran Treasurer of the OASA announced his intention of giving up that post last year and spent 2007 coaching Paddy Fitzgerald-Nolan of Warkworth, who officially succeeded Abbot at the 85<sup>th</sup> AGM. Abbot , an extremely skilled and knowledgeable money manager, served as Treasurer for a total of 21 years- handling the post from 1984 through 1989 and then again from 1993 through 2007, after a tenure as President in 1991 and 1992. All told he was the second longest serving OASA Treasurer after Lloyd Alguire of St. Catharines, who held the post for 35 years (1937-1971) Abbot was acclaimed to his new position on the Executive.

Four delegates allowed their names to stand for the two Vice Presidents positions with Gary Wren of St. Thomas and Roy Patenaude of Toanche /Penetang being the successful candidates. Wren is returning as a VP while Patenaude served as a director in 2007.

Christine Patenaude of Toanche/Penetang was acclaimed as Secretary a position she has held since 2005.

Seven individuals competed for the six directors posts and the second election of the afternoon saw Jeff Geddes of Ridgetown, Bill Horne of St. Thomas, Sylvia Ryan of Whitby George Ryder of Port Dover, Scott Tuttle of Cobourg and Bruce Young of Waterloo elected. Five of the six are returning to the elected executive while Horne is returning to the Executive after a one year absence.

Dave Reynolds of Napanee, President in 2006 and 2007, will be the Immediate Past President while Mary Myers of Gormley will again be the Registrar. Ron and Sharon Taylor of Havelock will handle the Insurance program again and Roy Patenaude has assumed control of the Constitution and By-Laws book.

## OCTAGENARIAN HONOURED WITH FEAVER

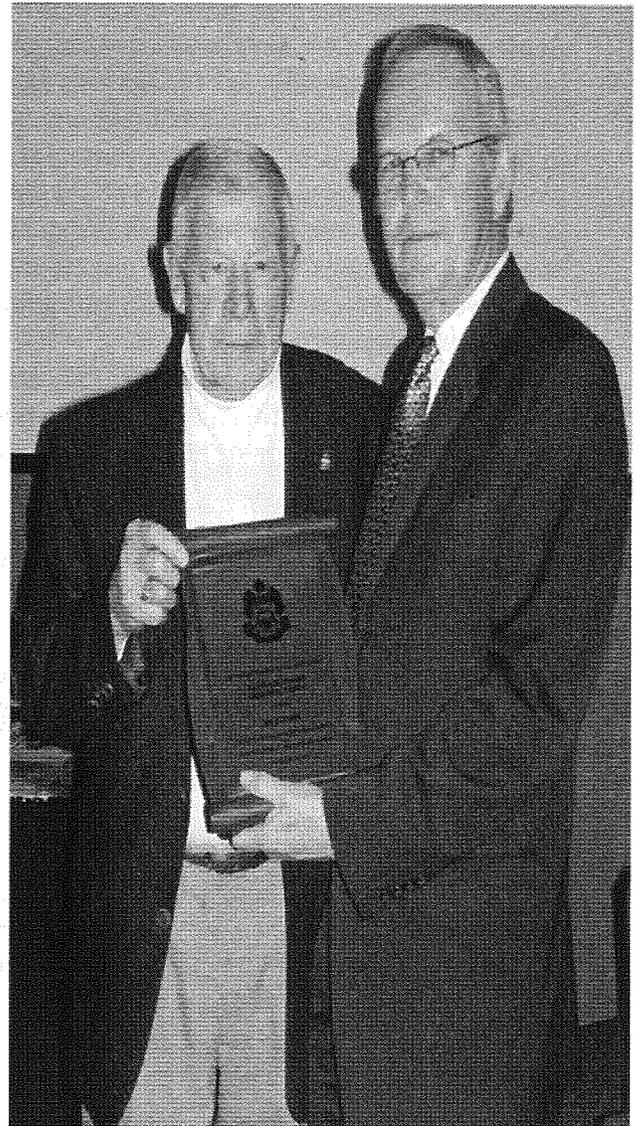
"I started playing softball in public school when I was ten years of age and I've been with the game ever since, as player, manager, coach, executive, and I was even an umpire for thirty years". The speaker was Cobourg's Bill O'Neill and he had just been named the 2007 winner of the F.R. Feaver Memorial Trophy for his extensive services to the game. "I'm very happy" he continued, "this is the nicest award I've ever received. "O'Neill is the possessor of an iron handshake ("I like a man with a firm grip"), a transforming smile and an excellent memory. Most enjoyed his twenty nine years of coaching which began on 1963 when he arrived in Cobourg from Windsor to work at General Foods. That same year he started coaching the General Foods entry in the Cobourg Men's League. In 1970 he began coaching Juvenile and Junior teams and he mentored clubs in those age brackets for nineteen seasons. From 1970 through 1975 he piloted Cobourg to four OASA Juvenile 'B' titles in five seasons. "We should have won it in 1974 too" he confides, "we had a 3-1 lead in the final game in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning, back then we played nine innings, but we lost it (to Binbrook) in the 13<sup>th</sup>".

When H & I asked the white haired O'Neill why he stuck with the game, and played so many roles in its development, he replied –"I guess it was dedication to the sport and a passion for the game – but you know, those kids I coached had respect and I think they turned out better citizens for having played the game- overall I think, looking at it thirty years later it was a worthwhile effort. O'Neill, who reportedly was never ejected from a game in 29 years of coaching, also served his local association as treasurer for almost 40 years and performed many other duties, such as checking field conditions and re-scheduling matches. He helped to organize Peewee ball tournaments for a decade and umpired ladies and youth ball as well as men's slow-pitch until age 79.

All told O'Neill devoted some 42 years to the development of softball in Cobourg and area and as his nominator wrote "He is disciplined, responsible, reliable, accountable, honest and is known for his integrity." The Feaver award was instituted in 1972 and is named in honour of Frank Feaver, OASA Secretary from 1943-1956 who was renowned for his hard work,

dedication and devotion to the sport. There is no question that Bill O'Neill is in the Feaver mould and is an excellent winner of this prestigious award - he has truly made an outstanding contribution to the game for over four decades .

The OASA invites individuals, league or associations to nominate any player, coach, executive, or official who has made an outstanding contribution to softball. Information and documentation supporting the nominee should be included.



Bill O'Neil receiving the Feaver Award from  
Ron Taylor

## THE GIL READ COACHES HONOUR ROLL AWARD

### CO-WINNERS 2007

#### Rob Way, Waterloo Minor Fastball Assoc.

Rob coached for the Waterloo Minor Fastball Association for 8 years. He is NCCP certified level 2. This past summer while coaching the Waterloo Bantams, his overall record was 31 wins, & 11 losses.

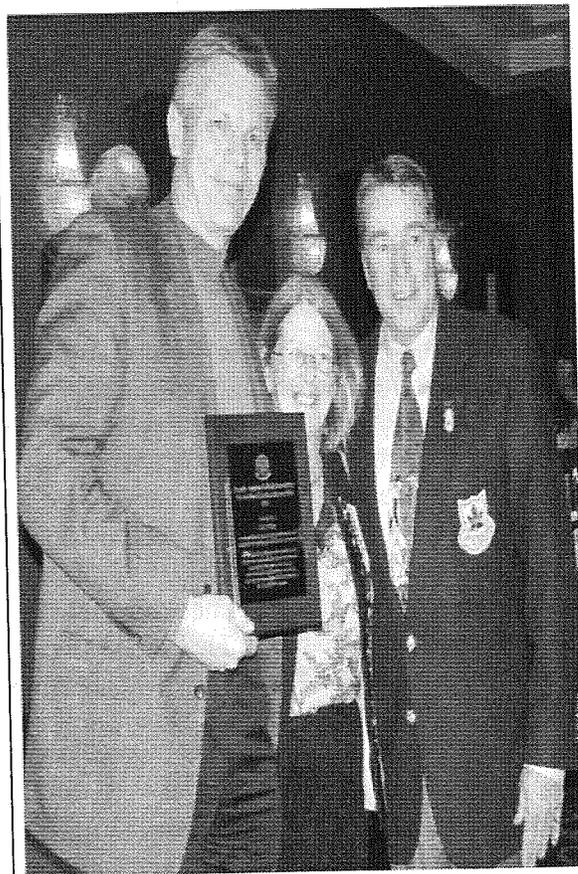
Rob has coached peewee and bantam rep teams for 8 years. His peewee club won silver at the Eastern Canadians in 2002. This year his Bantam club earned silver in provincial "A" and gold in NWRMSL play. In NW play his teams have always finished in the top 3 and won gold in past years (3 times). In OASA play his teams were always competitive and won (2 "A" silvers). Rob's main accomplishment is that he coached solid teams, represented Waterloo well and gave his players a positive and enriching softball experience.

Rob does not cut players. If they are not able to make the team he either finds another team for them to play on or he keeps them and plays them. Brandon Cobb was one such player. He was a walk on three years ago and had never played ball before. Rob took him on and nurtured him and worked with him. This year Brandon was just a very average 16 year old Bantam to other teams but WFMA knew Rob had given him the chance, stuck with him and let him develop while playing on a rep team. Rob practices good sportsmanship and expects/demands as much from his players and staff. Rob's teams have a stellar record for being good sports and having never been ejected from a game. He (and his manager wife) do an excellent job of communicating to the team, his executive and in getting noteworthy articles in our local newspaper. He knows the game well (coaches third) and is an excellent teacher of the game to his players.

Rob helps when he can at our winter clinics. However other sports commitments vie for his winter time., He has been coaching at the AAA

Hockey level for 10 plus years. He is also head of the K-W in-line roller hockey club and guided them to the Junior provincial championships this past spring. He (and his manager wife, Michelle) make sure his player parents help with tn'ts and concessions for our WMFA.

Rob Way has been a very valuable and loyal fastball supporter for our WMFA and local community for the past 8 years. In Waterloo he is near as an ambassador for our game. He works for the good of the game; not only the good of his team.



Rob Way being presented the Gil Read Coach's Honour Roll award by Georgia Read and Bob Abbot.

## THE GIL READ COACHES HONOUR ROLL AWARD

### CO-WINNERS 2007

#### Richard Venne, Scarborough Wolverines

Richard has been a coach for the past 15 years, 12 years of those with the same team, The Scarborough Wolverines, a team which he has taken from the Minor House League System through Select Ball and onto Rep ball. Along the way he has earned his NCCP Level 2 Certification, has a win/ loss record this past season of 39 wins, 20 losses, 1 tie. Here are some of the accomplishments:

Canadian Champions—Junior Men 2007, 2005, and 2004

Eastern Canadian Champions - Peewee 1998

Canadian Championship Finalists - Junior Men 2006 and Bantams 2000

OASA Provincial A Champions— Jr. Men 2007 and 2005, Midgets 2002 and Bantams 2000.

OASA Elimination Champions - Junior Men 2007 and 2005, Midgets 2002, Bantams 2000 and Peewee 1998.

ISC II Qualifier Champions - 2004

ISC 16U World Champs - 2001

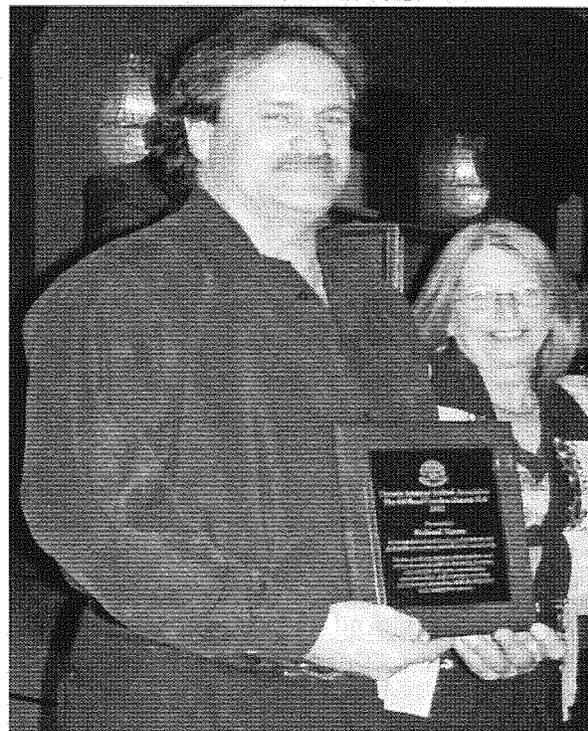
Abbotsford Bantam Tournament Champions

Portneuf Open Champions - 2000 and 1998

Calgary Royal Classic Champions 1998

Richard Venne, as a coach started with Five-pitch ball in the early 1990's and has worked his way up to the Junior Men level of Rep Ball. This team first started as a squirt house league team with the St. Rose-St. Thomas Softball League and then moved onto more competitive

ball by entering the Scarborough Softball Association's Select League. Richard and the team realized their dream when in 1997 the Scarborough Wolverines were accepted into the world of Rep Ball as a Peewee team. They entered the Rep division with a bang and quickly became successful. Since 1998 the team, with hard work and strong coaching discipline, have overcome many obstacles and achieved unsurpassed goals in all levels of ball. Over the years, it is through Richard's passion, determination and commitment that the Scarborough Wolverines have been given many resources and opportunities to gain knowledge and experience and with this came the team's success. Richard has taken the Wolverines to various parts of Canada and the United States and has given them life experiences that will never be forgotten. Richard Venne has always shown that he is proud to be part of such a great sport and his love for this sport has made him a successful coach at the local, provincial, national and international levels.



Richard Venne with the Coaches Honour Roll Award and Georgia Read

## AWARD FOR EASTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONS

### STRATFORD MEMORIALS PEEWEE BOYS

The 2007 edition of the Stratford Memorial Peewee Boys had an overall record of 43-6, which will attest to their team chemistry and commitment level. Each boy deserves a lot of credit, especially for the regularity with which they showed up at twice weekly practices and games. Having 12 players and 12 present at most games made it extremely difficult to try and give everyone a fair share of playing time, and also field a competitive club where possible. All of the boys were very understanding in this matter and the whole team benefited from this especially when they had to play in tournaments that did not allow for unlimited substitutions and forced players to sit out entire games. They went 5 and 2 against Napanee on the year, which was a huge accomplishment as these two teams were about as evenly matched as any Peewee teams will ever be.

Their accomplishments over the year include being Mitchell Tournament Champions, Stratford Tournament Champions, OASA Elimination Champions, North Waterloo League Champions, OASA Provincial Finalists and Eastern Canadian Champions.

Obviously the highlight of the season was being able to represent the O.A.S.A. for the 2nd straight year at the Eastern Canadian Championships and then defending the 2006 Stratford Memorials Peewee Boys title. Not many people in their lifetime can put Canadian Champions on their resume but these boys can.

This year's tournament was held in St. Croix, Nova Scotia. The team stayed in Bedford about 5 minutes from downtown Halifax. For all but 4 of the boys it was their first time to the East coast. Since the team arrived on the Tuesday prior to the tournament, sightseeing was the order of the day. Trip to Peggy's Cove, whale watching out of Halifax Harbour, The Citadel, an excursion to Pier 21 where I believe 4 boys found their relatives names on the wall and of course shopping. These events all helped keep "mom" happy but the event that made the pre-tourney time worthwhile was the father, son and okay you can come too mom, tour of the Alexander Keith's museum on the Wednesday night. How Alexander Keith and the early settlers survived without [Internet and email is hard to believe. The boys were able to partake in games of chance and dancing with actors in the "period costume" as we were all taken back in time. Try as they might the boys could only get cider and juice samplers on the tour as the entertainment heated up.

The O.A.S.A. should be proud of this group of boys for the sportsmanship and fair play they displayed all season but especially as one of the O.A.S.A. Eastern Canadian representatives. For that matter the O.A.S.A. should be proud of the Napanee Express Peewee boys, the silver medalists, for their sportsmanship and fair play displayed in St. Croix as well. Two more deserving teams couldn't have represented the O.A.S.A.

And the Grinch , with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.

*Dr. Seuss*

**AMENDMENTS PASSED AT THE 84TH O.A.S.A. AGM**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2007**

Page references are from the 2007 Rulebook. Changes are in bold when required to identify them. Articles, By-Laws and Sections may require renumbering after changes have been adopted. Unless otherwise indicated, all successful amendments and resolutions take effect immediately.

<b>Mover</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. Bylaw Committee	Constitution Article 11 Objects Page 40 Add New 4  <b>4. The OASA encourage communities to develop their own minor systems and discourage the practice of players moving from team to team at the expense of other communities.</b>
2. Executive	Article III – Membership Page 40  Change the dates of receipt of nominations from “in the hands of the President by March 15 <sup>th</sup> and in the hands of the committee by April 15 <sup>th</sup> ” to “in the hands of the President by <b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b> and in the hands of the committee by <b>September 1</b> ”.
3. Executive	Article VII Page 56 Add <b>Life Membership</b> under standing committees.
4. Bylaw Committee	Page 56 New  A second list of appropriate definitions be added to the Constitution and Bylaws and placed just before the bylaw index. “Individual definitions are not for discussion but questions and concerns may be given to the Bylaw Committee”.  (1) DIVISION – Minor Division or Men’s Division – all OASA teams are placed in one division or the other. (2) CLASSIFICATION – All OASA teams will be placed in a Classification eg. Mite, Peewee, Midget, Masters, etc. Classification is based in some cases on age and in other cases on caliber. (Age – Bantam, Junior, etc. Caliber – Senior, Recreational, Select, etc.) (3) CATEGORY – A, B, C, D – a grouping for competition purposes for provincial championships. (4) CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYDOWN – Otherwise known as HEAD to HEAD play. If a championship tournament is not held in any category due to lack of host or lack of teams, etc. then the teams entered in that category may

Amendments continued...

engage in championship play down (head to head) competition to determine the category champion.

- (5) SERIES – A set of games (2 of 3, 3 of 5, etc.) between two teams in the Championship Play down (head to head) format. This is most widespread use of the term – see World Series, Stanley Cup quarter final series, etc.
- (6) MEMBERSHIP FEE – dues for annual membership (team, associate, individual) in the OASA. Said fees are established by the Executive and ratified by voting delegates at the appropriate AGM.
- (7) AFFILIATION FEE – Membership fee plus Tournament Host Fee plus Insurance plus any other fees (bond, travel, etc.) appropriate to the team involved.
- (8) CALENDAR YEAR – January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, same year. Re Affiliations – this covers the time period from when a team affiliates until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the team will be playing. (Covers teams which affiliate at the AGM or after, before the end of the year of the AGM).
- (9) AFFILIATED CENTRE – an affiliated centre is a community, neighborhood, town, district, or city having its own ball field. An affiliated centre must designate one ballpark as its home field. This field will determine residency for all Minor Division players on all teams within the affiliated centre.
- (10) CLOSEST AFFILIATED CENTRE – is as the “home centre” except it includes the distance from the players resident to the ball field at which the affiliated Minor Division team competes on a regular basis.
- (11) GATE RECEIPTS – ticket sales, including advanced, reserved or package tickets.
- (12) ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT – a tournament determining the OASA representatives to competition beyond the provincial scope such as Canadian or Eastern Canadian Championships.
- (13) CHAMPIONSHIP PROVINCIAL – a tournament determining the OASA provincial champions, or finalists and lower placings.
- (14) REGIONAL QUALIFIER – a tournament determining participation and seeding for an OASA Provincial Championship Tournament.
- (15) ZONE – the province may be divided into zones (specific areas with flexible borders depending upon affiliations) in order to facilitate OASA Championship Play down series or to determine representatives to various Championship Tournaments.
- (16) TEAM CERTIFICATE – term used when referring to Softball Canada or OASA certificate that an OASA player must sign.

5. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 1 – Membership Page 56  
1:1 line 3  
ADD: After “association” add a period. Remove **“and shall be subject to penalties as may be inflicted.”**

6. Executive Bylaw 1 Section 1 Number 4 Page 58  
  
Remove: **Minor category Bantam and Pee wee division teams shall compete in OASA Provincial**

Amendments Continued...

**Remove: Minor category Bantam and Pee wee division teams shall compete in OASA Provincial Championship events according to Eliminations. Seeding will be 1 through 8 go to A, 9 through 16 go to B, next 8 go to C (where numbers justify)**

7. Bylaw Committee

Bylaw Rule II – Player Eligibility 2.1 Page 60

Add **Jr.** before Mite.

Rationale: Jr. Mite is the only Minor classification not included.

8. Men's Committee & Executive

Bylaw 2:3 a) Page 63  
Affiliation and Certification Dates

Delete: **“personally sign and add be listed on**  
Delete: PeeWee, Bantam, Midget and Junior series – June 15  
Jr. Mite, Mite Squirt – June 21  
Masters – June 30  
Senior Men – and Intermediate Men – July 10

Add: **Jr. Mite – Squirt – July 1**  
**Pee wee – Jr. Men – June 10**  
**Masters, Senior and Intermediate Men – July 1**

9. Men's Committee

Bylaw 2:3: (c) & (d) Page 63  
New

**2:3: (c) A maximum of 2 unlisted player additions or changes to the affiliated Junior, Intermediate and Masters men's team certificate will be allowed until one week prior to the team's first event through the Registrar. Signed certificates will be presented by teams at the event.**

**2:3: (d) Affiliation Dates**

<b>Jr. Mite – Squirt</b>	<b>June 15</b>
<b>Pee wee – Junior Men</b>	<b>May 25</b>
<b>Senior, Intermediate and Masters</b>	<b>June 10</b>

10. Men's Committee

Bylaw 2:5:1 (b) Page 64  
Player Eligibility

Delete: To the sentence “All pitchers on an,,,,,,in the Masters classification.”,

Add: **All pitchers on an ISC 1 or senior roster in the previous or current year are not eligible to pitch for a team in the Masters classification.**

**DEFEATED**

Amendments Continued...

**Add: All pitchers on an ISC 1 or senior roster in the previous or current year are not eligible to pitch for a team in the Masters classification.**

**DEFEATED**

11. Men's Committee Bylaw 2:5: 1 (c) Page 64  
Player Eligibility

Add: last sentence. **Affiliated junior players are exempt from this rule.**

12. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 2:6 Page 65  
Topic: Player Eligibility under Definitions

Remove the word "District".

13. Men's Committee Bylaw 2:6:4 Page 65  
Player Eligibility

Add: **Out of province player additions are eligible to participate in the Senior Eliminations for their respective OASA teams if they are listed on the teams certificate by the certification date using Softball Canada Import criteria.**

14. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 2:7 and 2:8 Page 65  
Player Eligibility

Remove 2:7 and 2:8. 2:7:1 remains but is renumbered.

15. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 3:1:1 Page 66  
Team Eligibility

Remove entire paragraph and replace with **The OASA executive shall review and accept or reject any membership application received.**

16. Executive Bylaw 3:5 Page 67  
Team Eligibility

Change dates as follows:

July 10 – Jr. Mite to Squirt

June 25 – Peewee to Junior Men

July 10 – Masters, Senior and Intermediate Men

Amendments Continued...

17. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 3:4:1 Page 67  
Team Eligibility

Add after (9) players **in their affiliated classification.**

18. Bylaw Committee Bylaw III 3:7 Page 68  
Team Eligibility

Change numbering 3:7 to 3:7:1  
3:7 New

**There will be Provincial Elimination Tournaments in Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Midget, Bantam and Pee wee classifications where numbers warrant, in order to qualify entries to Canadian and Eastern Canadian Championships. Teams competing in said Elimination events must meet all OASA registration, entry fee and insurance requirements.**

19. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 3:7:1 (b) Page 68  
Team Eligibility

Remove 3:7:1 (b) and renumber as necessary

20. Bylaw Committee 5:1:1:1 Page 72  
Championship Financial Arrangements & Fees

Replace 5:1:1:1 and 5:2:1 with the following:

**A non-refundable membership fee is required as specified in the current fee schedule established by the Executive and ratified by voting delegates at the appropriate AGM. The provincial tournament host fee and insurance fees (if purchased from the OASA insurance program) must also be submitted with the membership fee.**

**Teams withdrawing from participation in Provincial competition may do so with written notification to the Registrar and will be refunded their Provincial Tournament host fee in full. The deadline for receipt of the notification of withdrawal is the date for submission of team certificates to the Registrar as written in Bylaw 3:1.**

**The OASA may levy a fine if the circumstances warrant. If such a fine is levied, it must be paid before the team or individual players and coaches of that team may participate in any OASA event.**

21. Bylaw Committee Bylaw 5:3 Page 73  
Championship Financial Arrangements & Fees

Amendments Continued...

5:3 line 8 – Remove “and any collection that is taken in lieu of the defined gate receipts”

22. Bylaw  
Committee

Bylaw 8:2:24, 8:2:32 & 8:2:33 Page 77, 78  
Tournament Guidelines & Regulations

Remove 8:2:24, 8:2:32 & 8:2:33 and replace with the following and renumber

**Each team scheduled to take part in a Provincial Championship or Elimination Tournament (except Senior) shall pay a tournament host fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, before being allowed to play its first game in the tournament. Said fee shall be payable to the host (through the OASA – except for Qualifiers), and shall be used to help defray tournament expenses.**

23. Bylaw  
Committee

Bylaw 11:1 Page 79  
General

Remove from book and make necessary numbering changes.

24. Stratford Memorials  
Minor Boys  
Softball Assoc.

Official Playing Rules Rule 1 Section 1 Page 80  
Remove Pee wee on line 3

25. Softball  
Napanee

Official Playing Rules Rule 10 Section 4 Page 84

Change: A revision to Bylaw Rule #10 to allow for the designated player to be used in the Squirt category. This would contravene the Softball Canada Rulebook Rule 4 Section 5j which states: “In Pee wee and under categories the use of the designated player rule is not permitted.”

Section 4 In all series except **mite and under** the use of the flex player(DP) is permitted.

26. Men’s  
Committee

Resolution #1 Page 85

The term regional municipality not be used in defining a home centre.

27. Men’s  
Committee

Resolution #2 Page 85

For the 2008 season a Masters B (recreational) division is created. Teams will select Masters A (Competitive) or Masters B. The OASA may move teams based on

Amendments Continued...

their competitiveness.

28. Men's  
Committee

Resolution #3 Page 85

Teams using affiliated juniors or masters players as part of their Intermediate men's team must list those players' names only on their intermediate certificates with the classification they are signed. Teams must still be required to produce the appropriate masters or junior certificate.

**Delegates at the 85th AGM passed the following amendment.**

**Official Playing Rules Rule 1 Section 1 Page 80  
Remove the word Peewee on Line 3.**

**Implications: All OASA Peewee Championships and Eliminations will be using the 12" Ball.**

### **Walker inducted into Scugog Township Sports Wall of Fame**

OASA Feaver award winners and Past Presidents were honoured by Scugog Township at their inaugural induction ceremony to Scugog's Sports Wall of Fame

The Township of Scugog has been fortunate to have a long well recorded history of sports personalities and exceptional athletes, teams and sport builders. On Thursday October 25, 2007 the first inductees to the Scugog Wall of Fame were honoured by the community in a ceremony held at the Scugog Community Centre. The hall was full to capacity to congratulate the first seven inductees. Anne Ottenbrite, Olympic Gold Medalist, now a resident of Port Perry, gave the opening key address.

OASA Past President, Vin Walker, was one of the first seven to be inducted. He was honoured in the builder category for his outstanding contribution to softball. Vin moved to Port Perry from Oshawa, and in the fall of 1962 he called a meeting at his home to organize softball. The Port Perry & District Minor Softball Association was formed.

Vin served as secretary of the Port Perry Association for 8 years and served as President in 1969. During the 1960s and 1970s, Vin coached various teams, served on the Executive and was instrumental in hosting several tournaments. Vin continues to be involved with Port Perry Minor Softball and acts as a consultant and unofficial historian for the current Executive and annually reviews the financial statements of the Association.



Kevin, Jean and Vin Walker

## TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS RECOGNIZED

Peter Handley

The Saturday afternoon portion of the OASA AGM was not all business by any means. It included discussion of the many proposed amendments interspersed by presentations to three prominent teams, two scholarship winners and several pitchers who had thrown no hitters during 2007.

The teams recognized were from Stouffville, Stratford and Scarborough with all teams members and coaches being presented with recognition certificates. Stouffville won the Eastern Canadian Bantam championship and Mary Myers and Sylvia Ryan handed out the certificates. Bruce Young and Roy Patenaude did the honours for the Stratford Memorials Eastern Canadian PeeWee titlists. Scarborough Wolverines won the Canadian Junior Fastpitch Tournament and their awards were handed out by George Ryder and Gary Waugh.

Five young pitchers threw no hitters in OASA play in 2007 and they were presented with plaques by awards chair Larry Sherwin.

Riley Manion and Reid Russell of the Napanee Junior Mites and Mite A's respectively, each threw a pair of no hitters - both striking out 33 batters along the way. Andrew Raisbeck of Newmarket Stingers had a no hitter in the Bantam Elimination event and Cory Alkerton of the Orleans Rebels had one in the Midget Elimination. The other no hit plaque went to Michael Lagace-Roote of the previously mentioned Stratford Memorials, in the OASA PeeWee Elimination. The lanky Lagace-Roote had an impressive tournament as he won five games in a row, recorded two shutouts, allowed six runs, and struck out 63 batters in 33 innings. As well as throwing the aforementioned no hitter, he recorded a two hitter, a three hitter and two four hitters - permitting just nine hits in those five victories.

OASA Scholarships were presented to Matt Allen of Kingston and Ryan Mitts of Oshawa. (See pictures on page 26).

The tall Allen made a point of thanking his father for being with him since Junior Mite. He has played the game for 13 years around Kingston and graduated from high school with honours. He is presently attending Wilfred Laurier University studying Kinesiology and Physical Education and helping coach the Laurier girls softball team.

Mitts, attending Carleton University, was unable to attend, but his brother read a well phrased letter of thanks to the assembled delegates. The scholarship winner played with Oshawa teams since the age of six and this past season was with the Oshawa Double "B" Junior team. Also a high school honours grad, he is taking Public Affairs and Policy Management at Carleton.

The OASA Scholarship program is supported by the Association and in particular the Jack Cook Masters Tournament.

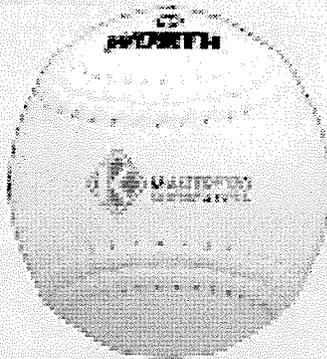
### ***NEW YEAR CHEER***

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Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,  
to the promise it ushers in.***

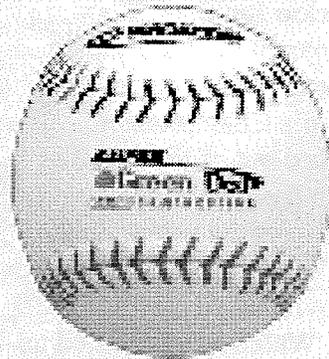
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your wishes and dreams fulfilled.  
May your confidence stand in the face of  
loss  
and give you the strength to rebuild.***



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**O. A. S. A. ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNER**  
**WATERLOO MINOR FASTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Waterloo Fastball was founded in 1983 by the local Optimist Club to provide organized softball opportunities for Waterloo boys. In 1988 the Association became independent of the Optimist and formed Waterloo Minor Boys Softball Association. 1993 was their first efforts into OASA play. In 1995 the name was changed to Waterloo Minor Fastball Association partly to recognize the number of girls playing within the organization. Starting first as a house league operation the Association was entering teams in the North Waterloo Rural Minor Softball League since 1988. In 2003 Jim Hallman became a major sponsor and the rep teams became known as the Waterloo Hallman Twins. Waterloo Junior Twins were formed in 2001. The parent club the Waterloo Twins (now the Kitchener Twins) won Canadian bronze in the 2007 Men's Championships. The senior Twins was formed out of Waterloo in 1971. The Association has won numerous league and (6) OASA crowns over the years. In 2007 the Mite club won "A" Provincial gold and the Bantams won "A" Provincial silver.

As an Association, Waterloo has hosted numerous OA Provincial and Elimination tournaments at Hillside Park over the years. They have held at least one Provincial tournament the last 4 Augusts. As part of Waterloo Ontario Fastball Association, Waterloo has also hosted two Men's Nationals in the mid nineties and one Junior National Championship plus numerous Men's open tournaments (most recently the May 24 Blast for Ontario junior and intermediate clubs). The Association has also liasoned with local men's teams to offer winter clinics and April start up sessions to attract and teach the Waterloo ball-players. Registration numbers have declined over the past few years. Looking for extra teams to play within house league Waterloo organized several small rural nearby communities (St. Jacobs, Wellesley, St. Clements, Woolwich, Maryhill) to play house league games and held year end jamboree tournaments to include the rural areas and promote softball in those areas. For the past three years WMFA has offered Blast ball

and Learn to play programs for the 5 and 6 year olds to compliment the Novice coach 5 pitch played by the 6 and 7 year olds.

Members of the Waterloo Executive have also been instrumental in promoting ball outside the city limits. WMFA was a partner in sponsoring the first ISC world tournament held in Kitchener in 2002. Waterloo Executive members have been active in working on the NWRMSL and OASA Executives to promote softball in this area of Ontario. Sadly 2007 will be the last hurrah for Waterloo Fastball. This fall they will merge with Kitchener-Waterloo Minor Boys Softball Association in their efforts to supply quality opportunities in house league and rep for the softball playing youth of this area.



Gary Wren presenting the Association Award to Bruce Young who accepted on behalf of the Waterloo Minor Fastball Association.

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## 85 & 50 ADD UP TO MUCH MORE THAN 140

The 85<sup>th</sup> OASA Annual General Meeting was held in Cobourg, where the community was celebrating 50 years of ball with the Cobourg Legion Minor Softball Organization.

Several speakers at the celebratory banquet, held Saturday evening November 24<sup>th</sup>, after the afternoon business session, pointed out the value of both organizations in the life of the province and the community. Mayor Peter Delanty remarked that “three generations of Cobourg children learned the skills of life “ through the Legion ball system. MP Rick Norlock (referred to as “Dr. Phil” by MC Rob Faulds of Sportsnet-and there is a resemblance!) presented a letter from P. M. Stephen Harper to the OASA for 85 years of service. Later in the evening a communiqué from Governor General Jean was read, celebrating 50 years of community work by the Cobourg Legion Ball system.

Host chair Rory Quigley took the some 150 in attendance back fifty years and credited an article by veteran sportswriter Layton Dodge with triggering the start of the Legion Minor Ball organization. Dodge, the 1987 winner of the F. R. Feaver award, was in attendance at the dinner, seated almost beside the 2007 winner, Cobourg’s Bill O’Neill (see separate story). Quigley pointed out the CLMSO is “truly family” and remarked that

the night before some 50 championship teams had been invited to a celebration of a half century of softball in Cobourg.

Outgoing President Dave Reynolds of Napanee presented Presidents’ Merit awards to Agnes Cole of Churchill and Bob Abbot of Huntsville (see pictures page 26). In Reynolds words - “Agnes works behind the scene and has always been available to help the OASA and that help has been extremely important to the Association”.

With regard to Abbot, Reynolds called the life member his mentor and alluded to many conversations at all hours where Abbot helped him see his way through some tricky situations. “He likely won’t be pleased getting this award-but he’s getting it anyway”, Reynolds remarked-but Abbot’s wide smile belied that emphatically.

The Association of the year award was presented to the Waterloo Minor Fastball Association (see separate item) and Gil Read Coaches Honor Roll plaques went to Richard Venne and Rob Way (see separate story) .

The evening concluded with an extensive prize draw and a dance.



Rory Quigley and Larry Sherwin cutting the OASA 85th Anniversary cake.

## DELEGATES PLAY LETS MAKE A DATE

Peter Handley

Delegates to the OASA's 85<sup>th</sup> annual convention at Cobourg faced a daunting thirty pieces of business to handle at the Saturday afternoon business meeting.

The three hour November 24<sup>th</sup> session saw twenty two items passed as presented, seven passed with amendments and one proposal defeated by the sixty four voting delegates in attendance.

A set of proposals that caused a great deal of discussion concerned the various date deadlines which affiliated teams must meet in order to compete in the various OASA championships. The association has embraced new technology and teams are now encouraged to utilize on-line facilities which brought forth another set of deadlines. Delegates also decided to split the various classifications into three, with a set of dates for each.

It was felt that the Jr. Mite through Squirt teams should be given extra time to get their ducks in order, so it was agreed their affiliation date deadline should be June 15<sup>th</sup> roster certification (posting the roster on-line). For Jr. Mites through Squirt the date will be July 1<sup>st</sup> while the final date for getting the signed certificate in the hands of Registrar Mary Myers will be July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The respective dates for teams from Peewee through Junior will be May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Teams in Intermediate, Senior and Masters will have to meet June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> deadlines.

Delegates made a number of other important decisions during the often lively session. It was agreed that in the Men's division, up to two player additions or changes to the team will be allowed up to one week prior to the relative event, through the Registrar. This will allow Men's teams to replace players lost

through injury or other commitments. A thorn in the side of Senior entries was removed when it was agreed that teams in the Senior Eliminations Tournament can play out of province players providing that they are listed on the team certificate by the appropriate date and Softball Canada import criteria are met. Other Provinces have allowed this for some time and the change will bring Ontario back to a level playing field in this regard.

The item that drew more discussion perhaps than any other single item was the suggestion that the twelve inch ball be used in Peewee Championship play. Currently the eleven inch ball is used in Mite, Squirt and Peewee classifications. Stratford Memorials suggested the change and the amendment was upheld by a narrow (5 vote) margin so Peewee play in 2008 will feature the twelve inch ball. Another playing rule change (from Napanee) will allow the "Flex" player (formerly known as the "DP") to be used in Squirt play.

Three resolutions were proposed and all were passed – effective in 2008 for one year only. One of these resolutions creates a Masters B (recreational) category in the hopes of attracting more entries to the Masters tournament.

It was also decided that the Peewee and Bantam teams no longer have to compete in their respective Elimination Tournament in order to qualify for their category championship event.

The only proposed amendment that went down to defeat would have prevented ISC 1 or Senior pitchers from the previous year from pitching for a Masters club. The rule that remains in the book prevents ISC 1 pitchers in the current year from pitching in Masters.

All thirty amendments are listed in this issue of High & Inside

## FAULDS DOES DOUBLE DUTY

Peter Handley

Well known sportscaster Rob Faulds was both master of ceremonies and guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet during the OASA's 85<sup>th</sup> annual AGM at the Cobourg Best Western.

Faulds, who learned his trade in London and Sudbury before graduating to Montreal and now Sportsnet in Toronto, established an easy rapport with his audience as M.C. and when the time came for him to step out of that role, he took the microphone and ambled out onto the dance floor, which was free of tables. The open space allowed him to walk about while he talked freely and expressively about his love of sports.

He picked up on two words that had been used by previous speakers –“passion “ and “team”- those are key words and it was a great pleasure to hear them here tonight, because they are so important in a sport like softball.” He also alluded to the 85-50 theme (OASA's 85<sup>th</sup> AGM , 50 years of Cobourg Legion ball) by praising members of both organizations for the tremendous “ commitment “ involved in those many years.

Faulds, who has covered two Olympics and an Asian Games as well as many other events during his career pointed out that covering sports now is much more than just reading a list of scores - “ I have three words I work with and think about when I am getting ready for an assignment - ‘desire, determination and dedication.’ He pointed out that he watches players faces when they are taking part in a game “ the joy I see there is a great sight – they are playing the sport they love and having fun doing it”.

He concluded by praising the “enthusiasm of those in attendance “ You can't ignore the importance of sport in the community and folks like you are prime examples of this - you are proud of what you do and you are proud of your community. I congratulate you on those years , 85 and 50, and I am pleased to be here to help you celebrate



Rob Faulds

# The Sports Zone

with Mike Townes (Excerpt from Springwater News, Oct. 18, 2007)

Last Saturday, we gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Elmvale Merchants winning the O.A.S.A. Intermediate "C" championship in Hearst, Ontario. The weather on Saturday was much like it was 30 years ago minus the snow showers -- but in the warmth of the Elmvale Legion nobody seem to mind.

Eight of the twelve players were present including Brian Handy, Doug Barnes, Paul Marley, Chuck Jordan, Garry Turner, Carl Edwards, Doug McMann and Lou Belcourt. Joining them were executive members Lou Turner, Don Ritchie, Den Turner and Mike Townes and of course their coach, Paul "Gummy" Rowat. Missing were Dan Rowat, Ken Archer and brothers Keith and Bill Williams the best pitchers in the province.

Everyone had a great time especially since some Merchant players from the past were present. George Sibbald, Stan Ritchie, Dave Campbell and Lou Turner were there to help celebrate this special day as well as one of the best pitching duo the

Merchants ever had on one team. Dan McHugh and Leo Belcourt (in photo on this page) were at their best and were ranked high as the best pitchers in the province. Leo never won an O.A.S.A. Championship with Elmvale, but he did with Lakeview Diary out of Barrie. Having these two at this event was the icing on the cake

for this writer. Speaking for the team were team Captain Garry Turner, playing coach Lou Belcourt and coach Paul Rowat. The common themes of the three speakers were that the team played as one with no one putting themselves above any other player, plus the support of their families and the fans of Elmvale.

A great day was spent telling stories of past glories and defeats with maybe an exaggeration or two but no one seemed to mind as we were there for one thing—the Elmvale Merchants -- O.A.S.A. champions of 1977



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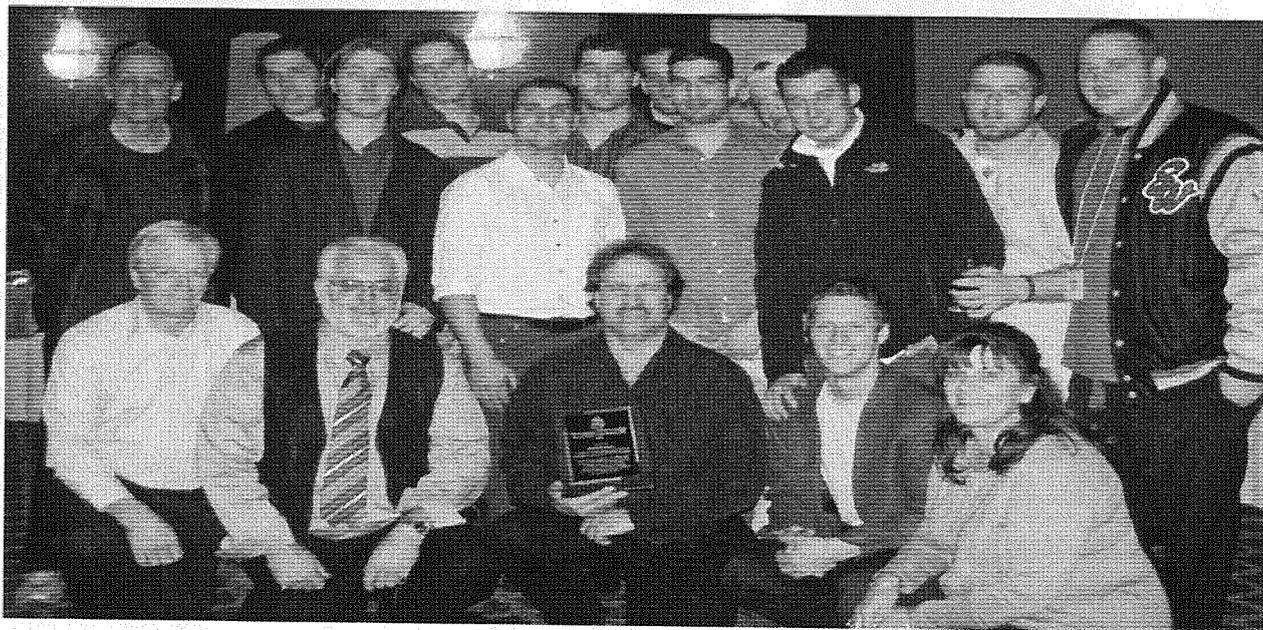
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## **BRACEY WINS BRADFORD MEMORIAL AWARD**



From left Softball Ontario umpires rep Dave Mills, umpire -in- chief Doug Cundall and Steve Bedard presented Don Bracey with the Jim Bradford Memorial Award for umpires at the Ontario Amateur Softball Association Junior Elimination Tournament on Friday evening. Bracey is the fifth winner since the inception of the award to honour the memory of Jim Bradford, a nationally recognized level 5 umpire from this area who was regarded as one of the best officials behind the plate. Bracey is recognized for his ability to mentor and inspire officials at all levels of the game, whether it was a house league game or prepping an umpire for a national championship. He worked numerous high-profile events himself at the national and provincial level and in 2003 was recognized as the HSRS Softball Canada Umpire of the year, Bracey retired in 2005.

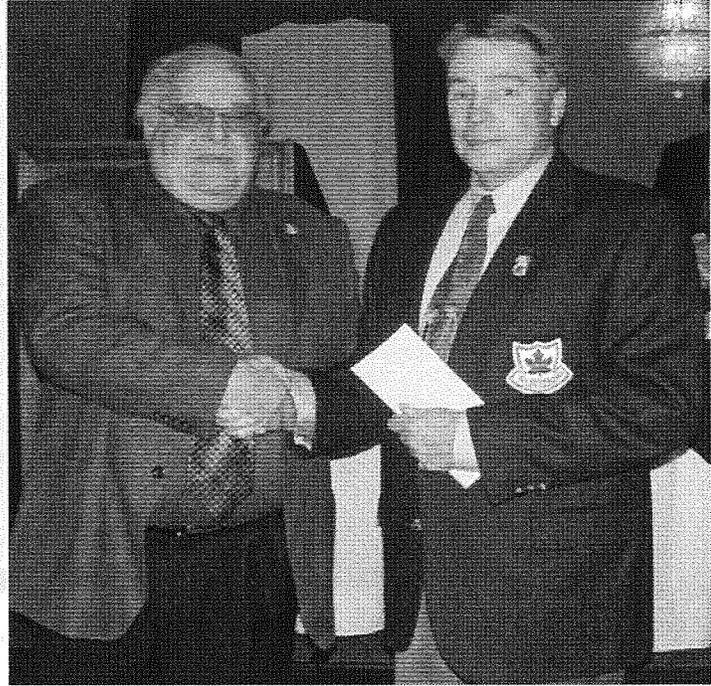
## **SCARBOROUGH WOLVERINES 2007 JUNIOR CANADIAN CHAMPIONS**



**PRESIDENTS' AWARD RECIPIENT PICTURE**

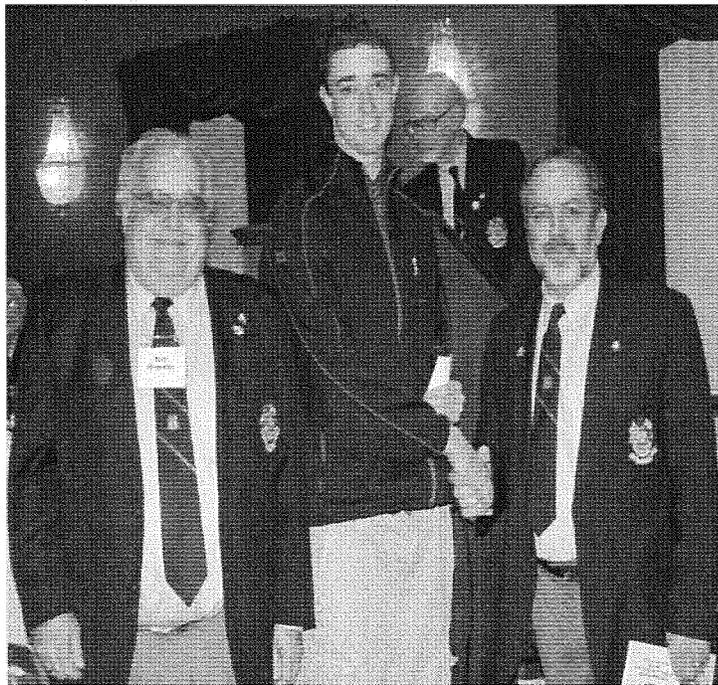


Dave Reynolds & Agnes Cole

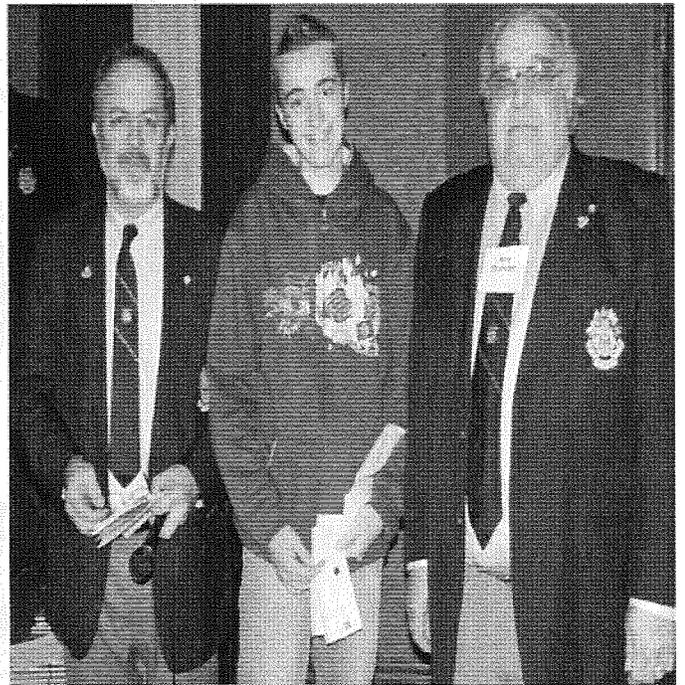


Dave Reynolds & Bob Abbott

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS PICTURES**



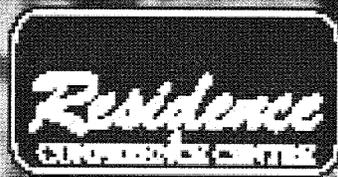
Dave Reynolds, Matt Allen & Larry Sherwin



Larry Sherwin, Jordan Mitts & Dave Reynolds



# OASA Team



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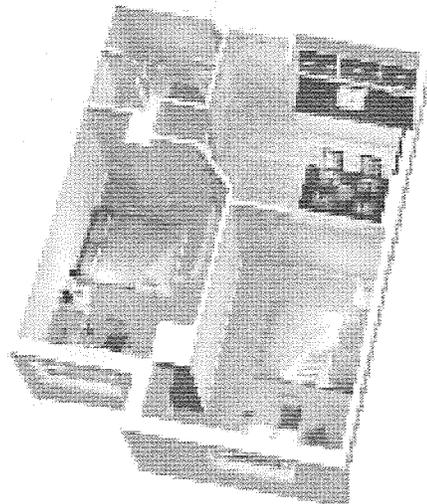
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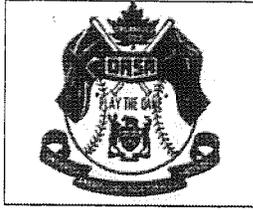
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NUMBER OF TEAMS TO BE INSURED:

NON-AFFILIATE (Recreational or House League Teams) \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATE (Teams competing for O.A.S.A. Championships) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF ALL THE TEAMS YOU ARE INSURING ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM**

It is the policy of the OASA that a current ( 3 Years) Police Record Check is required for any individual who is in a position of trust or authority while working with youth (under the age of 19). It is the responsibility of each team, league or association to ensure that Police Record Checks have been completed.

**LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-affiliate Teams price to be determined \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate Teams price to be determined \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCIDENT INSURANCE:**

**NOTE:** Accident Insurance is **NOT** available unless liability insurance has been purchased.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Teams price to be determined \_\_\_\_\_

(Under 19 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_ Minor Teams price to be determined \_\_\_\_\_

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**ONTARIO AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
2008 INSURANCE SUMMARY**

**GENERAL LIABILITY**

- a) Limit - \$5,000,000 each occurrence
- b) Directors & Officers (Wrongful Acts/Errors & Omissions)  
Liability Limit - \$2,000,000
- c) Insured - The Association & Affiliated Clubs/Teams including Officers, Directors, Coaches, Managers, Officials, Members, Volunteers & Employees
- d) Sponsors, Government Departments & Municipalities can be added as additional insured at no extra cost (a separate certificate will be issued by Pearson-Dunn)
- e) Participant coverage is included in addition to 3rd party exposure
- f) All appropriate riders included such as Cross Liability, Non-Owned Automobile, Tenants, Legal, etc.
- g) This policy does NOT cover equipment, supplies or contents of Concession Stands etc.
- h) World Wide coverage
- i) \$500.00 Deductible

**ACCIDENT**

- a) Accidental Death & Dismemberment Limit - \$10,000
- b) Permanent Total Disability \$20,000
- c) Accident Reimbursement Limit \$10,000  
i.e. costs not insured by Provincial Medical Plan, e.g. Medical Braces, Emergency Ambulance, Excess Physio, Prescription Drugs for the injury, etc.
- d) Dental Accident Limit Up to \$5,000
- e) Fracture Indemnity From \$50.00 to \$500.00
- f) No deductible
- g) Coverage in Canada only
- h) Does not cover lost time or wages

\* Treatment under c) and d) must be completed within 52 weeks from date of each accident.

\* This plan is secondary to any existing medical plan.

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association (O.A.S.A.) **MUST** be notified of any claim within 30 days of the incident.

**NOTE:** Softball Canada and Ontario Amateur Softball Association (O.A.S.A.) Rules **MUST** be followed with the exception of House league rules.

Policies re: Police Record Checks (for all people involved with youth, under the age of 19) and Anti Harassment Policies must be followed.

All Ontario Amateur Softball Association (O.A.S.A.) policies and procedures are available on our web-site at [www.oasa.ca](http://www.oasa.ca).



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2008 LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT FOR LIQUOR LIABILITY**

**YOU MUST HAVE REGULAR LIABILITY INSURANCE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT FOR LIQUOR LIABILITY.**

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under 100	Prices to be determined									
101-250	Prices to be determined									
251-500	Prices to be determined									
over 500	RATES ON REQUEST									

**THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IS TO BE BASED ON THE TOTAL POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE AT THE BEER TENT (OR BALL PARK IF TOTAL PARK IS LICENSED) AT ANY ONE TIME.**

**A SEPARATE LIQUOR LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY IS REQUIRED FOR EACH LIQUOR LICENSE.**

**NOTE: ALL TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT MUST HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE.**

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**Clinics, Demonstrations, etc.**

**Affiliated/Associate Teams/ Associations: Price to be determined per participant**

**A Special Events Application form MUST be filled out with an attached cheque made payable to the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (O.A.S.A.) and received seven (7) days prior to the event.**

**NOTE: Activities outside normal softball, e.g. (Winter Tournaments with beer/liquor WILL NOT be covered).**

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