



Oakville Little League Year End Wrap-up

President's Message

I would like to take a moment and thank the players, umpires, parents, grandparents and the volunteers for your continued support of Oakville Little League in 2017. I hope that every player had a positive experience during the season. The Board has already begun preparation for the 2018 season and before you know it, we will be celebrating Opening Day 2018. As some of you may have experienced, the League grew exponentially in 2017 and as a result there were several long waiting lists and some disappointments as we approached the start of the season. **My strong recommendation for the 2018 season would be to register early as a number of divisions are already filling up quickly** (please see the 2018 Registration section for more information).

I want to thank all of you for your feedback throughout the season and encourage everyone to send us your feedback so we can deliver the best program for our players. We are an organization that is run purely by volunteers who want to help make the Little League experience a positive one. Without volunteers, we would not have the program that your children have experienced and will continue to experience for years to come. I challenge the parents in the league to find a way to make a difference for your child by stepping up and volunteering just a bit of your time. It could be as simple as raking a field during Championship Day, taking on a simple role that requires very little time throughout the season or off-season. It's up to you....

Have a great winter season and watch our website as we countdown to Opening Day 2018.

All the Best,

John Sweeney
President

1. House League "The Best Year Ever"

T-ball Division

Another great year for OLL T-ball, from Instructional T-ball (TBI) all the way through to Major T-ball, players and parents took to the fields to learn and play baseball. Once again, we had full rosters in all divisions, showing once again the strength of our grass roots T-ball program.

This year we had several new coaches, as parents that stepped up to help their kids and others to have fun and learn at the same time. The TBI and Minor T-ball programs rely on these new coaches and they provide a great experience for all our players.

The Major T-ball program continues to be a fast paced, rapidly developing part of our program. As you may know we split Major T-ball into the Red and White divisions. Red is more competitive, while White is more developmental; yet when it comes to the end of the season, these players all show how far they've come from May. During the playoffs, players always give their best and like all other sports, it's not always the team with the best regular season record that wins the Championship. In Major T-ball White the final saw the Orioles v the Yankees with the Orioles coming from behind to win the Championship. In the Major T-ball Red the upstart Rays

played the Athletics in the finals. And while the Athletics were victorious, this game came down to the very last batter and a play at the plate to decide the winner. The stands at Cornwall were jam packed with people once again for the playoff games. Thank you to the parents, siblings, grand parents and friends for coming out to support the teams. These playoff games have become a staple for fans young and old to watch.

Minor & Major Divisions

The 2017 House League season in the Minor and Major divisions was outstanding, with record numbers of players in each division (260 players in each division). Notwithstanding the weather issues on Thursday's, all 5 Minor and Major divisions combined to provide outstanding baseball at all parks making the Summer of 2017 one of the best seasons ever in OLL history.

The House League Tournaments in June and the playoffs in August and September brought the atmosphere at Cornwall to a fever pitch. The excitement of the fans and players alike was incredible. The champions of each division are listed below.

Minor NL - House League Tournament and Playoff Champions - MN-NL-Jays

Minor AL-West - House League Tournament - MN-ALW-Red Sox Playoff Champions - MN-ALW-Blue Jays

Minor-AL-East - House League Tournament - MN-ALE-Athletics Playoff Champions - MN-ALE-Rays

Major NL - House League Tournament and Playoff Champions -MJ-NL-Giants

Major AL - House League Tournament and Playoff Champions - MJ-AL-Blue Jays

As a bonus, Oakville Little League produced two champions in the District 1 House League tournament, held in June. The MJ-AL-Blue Jays and MN-ALE-Blue Jays won their respective divisions in the tournament. This is a great testament to the quality of our house league program in OLL!

A special thanks to all of the players, coaches, families, and sponsors for making this a magical season for Oakville Little League!

Junior Division

The Junior Division was a great success this year. Thank you to the players, coaches, parent and volunteers. We had a record number of players and teams participate at the Junior level. We had 6 teams in the Junior National league and 6 teams in the Junior American League. All teams were extremely well balanced. Those teams who were running at the top of the standings all season were over powered by those teams in the bottom half of the season long standings. It was a clean sweep for the Blue Jays, both in the National and American leagues.

Senior Division

The Senior division like the Junior Division was a tremendous success in 2017 in large part due to the record number of players, coaches, parents and volunteers who participated and made the year a huge success. In total, we had a record 7 teams and 93 players participate in the 2017 season. To create a balanced schedule, we had the 14U Junior Whitecaps play in the Senior Division during the regular season, but not the playoffs. The Senior division concluded with a Sudden Death Double Knock Out playoff that saw the Orioles winning in a close game over the Nationals. Congratulations to the Senior Orioles.

Volunteer Coach Recognition

Special recognition to one of our Senior Division Coaches. Tom Cosgrove was the recipient of the Martha Dubrey Volunteer Award. Tom has been involved in baseball for over 35 years. Tom followed in the tradition of his father and grandfather, by giving back to the youth of Oakville and other communities. Tom's knowledge and love of the game and the passion to work with youth has made Tom an invaluable asset to the league. Tom's personal health issues this year were a challenge for him but never once prevented him from being at the diamond. Thank you, Tom, for your continued support and time to our league.

2. Oakville Little League Challenger Division going strong again in 2017

The league had another strong season with our Challenger division. There were over 100 players that participated in this program and the season wrapped up with another exciting Championship final under the lights for the kids. The Challenger division is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Oakville and once again, the Optimist Club put on a mid-season BBQ for the kids complete with fun games, face painting and clowns. "This is one of the highlights of the season for the kids" said Aline Doherty, Convenor of the Challenger Division. The support we receive from the Optimist Club of Oakville is second to none and the kids appreciate it. The league looks to grow this division in 2018.

3. Whitecaps Program

Once again, our Whitecap program was a great success both on and off the field. Our young players and coaches represented both our town and league with great class.

8U Whitecaps

It was another great season for our 8U team, and not just on the diamond. Our 8U team had a fantastic season performing well in every tournament they played in. These young players showed huge development under this year's coaching staff. They even had a chance to play in a pitching tournament over the Labour Day weekend which showcased how far they had come from the beginning of the season. They more than held their own and came out of that weekend ready for 2018. On the non-baseball front, the team received tremendous support from their parents, not only were they there to cheer loud and proud... but they also made sure the players and coaches were the best fed team in our league.

9U Whitecaps

Our 9 year-old players had a great season of development, they played in a couple of tournaments in the United States and had a wonderful experience. They also played many local tournaments, and no matter where they played or who they always had a good time and found themselves playing on Sunday.

10U Whitecaps

This was a big year for our 10U team as they played in and help host the Little League Ontario Minor Provincial Championship. The team trained hard and had a fantastic tournament, playing exceptionally well and making it all the way to the semi-finals where they lost a heart-breaking game to the South Ottawa Blues. Congratulations to the team on a great tournament. OLL is incredibly proud of how well they played and how much they learnt.

11U Whitecaps

The 11U year is all about learning and development in preparation for their shot at the 12U All-Star team. This group of young men pushed themselves hard by playing in tournament divisions typically against older teams and players. For the 11U team 'wins and losses' are less important the development and the League is very proud of the effort all players put forth as it was clear that they all grew exponentially as players. We look forward to their 12U year.

12U Whitecaps

As always there are great expectation for our 12U team as this is the 'Williamsport' year and once again these young men didn't disappoint. As it has been in the past several years it came down to OLL and High Park in the District finals, unfortunately our 12U's fell a little short in the final game. Their next stop was the SOBA Provincials, where they surprised the OBA teams by making it to the championship final. While they unfortunately lost the final, they definitely proved to everyone just how strong our program is and how well our young players can perform on many different stages. OLL is incredibly proud of all the 12U players, win or lose these young men represent OLL and Oakville with great class and courage.

14U Whitecaps

The first major event in the 14U season was hosting and winning the Canada Day Classic with a come from behind, walk off win vs Orangeville in the final. Next was another shot at the Canadians Championship in Lethbridge. Their path started by hosting the Ontario Provincial Championship and defeating East Nepean in the final game to earn the right to represent Ontario at the Canadians. Buoyed by the support of many emails from young players and families from OLL, our 14U team fought their way past teams from QC, NS, BC, and AB for the right to face host team Lethbridge in the finals. Unfortunately, they lost the final game but, as always, made this league and our town proud. The next part of their summer took them to the SOBA Provincials where, like the 12U team, they surprised the OBA teams and made it all the way to the semi-final game where they fell just short against a strong Milton team. All season the 14U team played and like all of our Whitecaps teams they represented OLL and Oakville with class.

As an organization we are beyond proud of all of our Whitecap players, as is the town of Oakville. OLL is welcomed everywhere we go, and that is a testament to all the young men that wear the teal jersey.

4. Umpires Corner

On behalf of myself and Chuck, I would like to thank and congratulate all Oakville Little League umpires for a job well done for this 2017 season! All existing umpires willing to join us again next year must let us know by emailing me at cpdoakvillelittleleague@gmail.com. The selection process will continue to be the same where as the president of the league will review each application and will decide who remains on the crew for 2018. All new umpires (year 2003 and older) must register through the Oakville Little League website by filling out the registration form. Plans for the 2018 will start in late December, all existing and new potential umpires will be contacted via email. Have a great off season, see you all in 2018!

5. Oakville Little League Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Oakville Little League Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 2017. The start time will be 10:00AM – 12:00PM. The AGM will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suite @Bronte located at 2525 Wycroft Road.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is open to all adult Regular Members of Oakville Little League who had players registered during the 2017 playing season or who are registered for the 2018 playing season. The AGM is a general meeting with the membership to inform members of previous and future activities within the league and to review the fiscal information for the past year. It also provides the membership an opportunity to ask questions of the board regarding the league. Below you will find the definition of our two types of membership.

- a. **Player Members** – Any player candidate meeting the requirements of Little League Regulation IV shall be eligible to participate in little league baseball. Player Members shall have no rights, duties, or obligations in the management or in the property of The League, with the exception of those players who have reached the legal age of majority in which case they will be classified as a Regular Member of The League.
- b. **Regular Members** – Any person, who has reached the legal age of majority, and is actively engaged in the operation of the league within that given year or is the parent(s) and or legal guardian(s) of a Player Member within that given year or the subsequent year will be deemed to be a Regular Member. All Board Members, Executive Members, Committee Members, Coaches and Volunteers, who have reached the legal age of majority must be active Regular Members in good standing. Only Regular Members in good standing are eligible to vote at General Membership meetings.

6. 14U Travel Baseball Program

This fall was the second year for our 14U Travel Baseball Program. The program was introduced last year as a pilot for players who are Junior age in the following season, that were looking for extended competitive baseball through the end of September. This year we saw over 30 Junior age players try out with a final group of 12 players selected for the 2018 Travel Ball Team. The Team had a very successful season with the emphasis on skill development, growth and experience on the full-size diamond. The Team practiced twice a week and played 8 exhibition games in the three weeks following the end of the house league season. The Team will now participate in indoor training during the remainder of the Fall and Winter before getting back onto the diamond in April. The Team will disband officially on April 30th, just prior to the official start of the Little League season.

7. 2018 Registration

2017 was one of the best seasons on record for registrations with over 1,154 players participating in Canada and clearly Oakville's favourite spring and summer past-time. Thank you to all the players, coaches, parents and volunteers who participated last year. The League is looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2018 season as registration for the 2018 season is already well underway with over 800 players already registered for next year. **IF YOU ARE INTENDING ON RETURNING FOR THE 2018 SEASON WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO REGISTER NOW!**
SOME DIVISIONS SUCH AS MINOR AND MAJOR HAVE VERY, VERY LIMITED SPACE LEFT FOR NEXT SEASON. SO, TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE STOP BY THE CLUBHOUSE ON TUESDAY NIGHTS AND SATURDAY MORNINGS TO REGISTER.

8. 2018 An Early Sneak Peek At 'The Season At A Glance' & 'Game Days of the Week'

To help you plan for the **2018 OLL Baseball Season** next spring and summer, please find attached an early sneak peek of the "Season At A Glance" and "Game Days of the Week". We suggest you print off a copy of each as they contain important dates and events for the 2018 season.

To access 'Season At A Glance' please click the following: [2018 OLL - Season At A Glance](#)

To access 'Game Days of the Week' please click the following: [OLL - 2018 - Game Days of the Week](#)

Alumni Corner

Oakville Little League is extremely proud of all its Alumni, but we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the members of the 2015 14U Junior Whitecaps. Not only was this team successful on the field, representing Canada at the 2015 Junior World Series Team, but more importantly they continue to give back to Oakville Little League whenever and however they can. This past summer several members of the team honoured us by throwing out ceremonial first pitches at our Minor & Junior Little League Provincial Championships. Members of the 2015 14U Team included: Emily Baxter, Brian Bowman, Owen Coleman, Mike Cummings, Graham Hamel, Steven Hospital, Nick Jaeggin, Jibran Qureshi, Nathan Shute, James St. Louis, Jack Swanson, Bernn Tabuyog and Dylan Whittaker. The Team Manager was Nick Rigato and the Coaches were Anthony Rigato, Mike Lunder, Jonathan Del Pozo and Stephen McPaden. While many the players from the 2015 14U Team continued with Little League, several others moved onto play for provincial teams including:

Dylan Whitaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2015 14U Junior Whitecaps- 2016-2017 Ontario Royals- 2016-2017 Team Ontario (Canada Games)- 2016-2017 Ontario Team Green (Tournament 12) (winning pitcher against Ontario Black)- 2017-2018 Ontario Terriers- Accepted Scholarship to play at the University of British Columbia starting in 2018-2019
Nick Jaegen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2015 14U Junior Whitecaps- 2016-2017 Ontario Royals- 2016-2017 Futures Team (Tournament 12)- 2017-2018 Ontario Royals- Accepted Scholarship to play at the University of British Columbia starting in 2018-2019
Nathan Shute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2015 14U Junior Whitecaps- 2016-2017 Ontario Royals- 2016-2017 Team Ontario (Canada Games)- 2017-2018 Ontario Royals
Steven Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2015 14U Junior Whitecaps- 2016-2017 Etobicoke Rangers- 2016-2017 Ontario Baseball All Star Team- 2017-2018 Etobicoke Rangers
Emily Baxter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2015 14U Junior Whitecaps- 2016-2017 21U Women's Team Ontario

OLL Alumni Umpire Brad Johnston represents Canada at the 2017 Little League World Series

Oakville Little League alumni Umpire Brad Johnston got the call to participate in the 2017 Little League World Series in Williamsport Pennsylvania. Brad embraced the once in a lifetime opportunity and headed to Williamsport in Mid-August. Brad worked several games during championship week and the icing on the cake was when Brad was asked to be behind the plate for the American final in front of 26,500+ spectators and millions of television viewers from all around the world. "While this was an amazing experience" Brad said "this wasn't the only highlight of my Little League involvement which one may think that is insane and it might be. "The truth is the highlight is the combined experiences and lifelong skills gained during my time with OLL"

Brad went on to say "I remember being told by Mel Swinton who was the Umpire in Chief of OLL when I started that I would find myself in situations where there would be adults that weren't acting like adults and I would have to be the one to step in and manage those situations. He was right and I found myself looking forward to dealing with those types of things. Through umpiring for Oakville Little League, I learned things that had a direct impact on my personal and professional life. Skills like conflict resolution, giving feedback, leadership, facilitation, management and communication skills that helped me in my teenage years, through university and now as an adult.

An assignment like the LLWS is icing on the cake for Brad however, it also shows that participation in youth sports develops lifelong skills and good citizens. If Brad didn't cross paths with good role models like Mel Swinton, Peter Lambert, Terry Sullivan, Ian Rankin, Scott Shelly, Terry Sears, Ted Hayes, Rob Wagner, Brenda Del Pozo, John Mooney, Nick Rigato, John Sweeney, Wes Snihur, Jeremey Snihur, Geoff Muldoon, Peter Hundeck, John Doyle, Steve Meyer, every teammate he had, every umpire he worked with and every kid he coached, not to mention his wonderful parents, opportunities such as the LLWS simply would not have been there for him.

Congratulations to Brad and thanks for making OLL and the Town of Oakville very proud.