



# Oakville Little League June 2017 Update

## President's Message

Is it Canada Day already! Hard to believe that we are already two months into the 2017 baseball season and what a season it has been so far. While we have had a little more rain than we'd like, the season has once again gotten off to a tremendous start. From a very successful series of opening day games to the highly competitive house league tournaments to the energy and enthusiasm of players, coaches and parents on display nightly at diamonds through-out Oakville this season has been one of the best-ever. THANK YOU! **In appreciation please find attached at the end of this newsletter a coupon offering \$5 off at the Buffalo Wild Wings 2501 Hyde Park Gate location.** A special thank you to Buffalo Wild Wings for their ongoing support and sponsorship of our league. Like our players, parents and volunteers, Oakville Little League could not offer the high caliber of baseball programming without the support of sponsors like Buffalo Wild Wings. Enjoy the rest of the season!

## **John Sweeney**

As with all our updates and newsletters, we encourage you to read through it and retain a copy for future reference.

### **1. House League Division Play in Full Swing**

From Blastball to Major to Senior, House League Divisional play is in full swing. At the half-way point in regular season play there are tight races top to bottom in all divisions. But to paraphrase our own John Mooney, 'the regular season is nothing more than an extended version of spring training'. With every team making the play-offs the regular season gives all players an opportunity to improve their baseball skills whether at the plate, on the mound or in the field. To check out the schedule for upcoming games or to see the league standings please visit [www.sportsmanager.us/oakvillelittleleague.htm](http://www.sportsmanager.us/oakvillelittleleague.htm).

Here is a quick run-down on the highlights of the season to date for each of the Divisions.

**Blastball & T-Ball Divisions** – After a rainy start the T-ball season is in full swing! From Blastball to Major T-ball, kids are shaking off that winter rust. The season is going very well; coaches are getting to know their players better and our rookie coaches are finding their stride. Kids are making new friends, having fun and playing ball! Does it get any better? With school ending and summer holidays around the corner, families will start to take time off for vacation. Players and parents, you'll start to see emails asking for call-ups. This is a great opportunity for young kids to play in a higher division and get exposed to 'the next level'. When you see an email like that, please respond quickly as it's first come, first serve! I hope everyone continues to have a great season and if you ever have any questions, you can always reach me via email at [tballdirector@gmail.com](mailto:tballdirector@gmail.com).

**Minor & Major Divisions** – The past three weekends the Minor and Major Divisions have participated in their annual House League Tournaments and in a word, all three tournaments were 'AMAZING'. Per John Mooney the Major NL House League Tournament final on Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day) may have been the best House League game and experience he has ever seen. The game should have been recorded and sent to every baseball organization in the world. It was the tournament final with the winner playing in the District 1 House League Championships this past

weekend, and what unfolded between players and coaches, teams, fans and umpires was magic. 100 minutes of magical, amazing baseball (thanks to the umpires for keeping the game moving). No arguments, fans cheering plays on both sides. Announcers in the booth who rocked it. Fun and sportsmanship all around. Just what Little League baseball is all about.

**Intermediate, Junior and Senior Divisions** – The Junior season is in full swing. The changes to the Junior Division this year are moving along extremely well. The creation of the National and American leagues has allowed for competitive balance. Players in each league have greater opportunity to develop their skills and improve as they prepare to move on to the full-size field. All teams in both leagues are well balanced and the race to number one is extremely close.

The Senior division is shaping up to be a tight race to the top. All teams are well balanced and any team can come a way with a win on any given night. The Senior Division has more players playing this year than any time in the past. It is great baseball played by high school age players getting ready to move on to bigger and better things. Amazing to see how players have developed into skilled and capable ball players after playing in Little League for the past 10 years. Come out and watch on any Monday or Tuesday.

**2. Oakville Little League Summer Camp (conducted by Pro-Teach Baseball)**

Once again this summer Oakville Little League will be running our annual Summer Baseball Camps. There will be three weeks of camp:

- Week 1: July 3-7 **(LIMITED SPACE REMAINING)**
- Week 2: July 10-14 **(SOLD OUT)**
- Week 3: August 14-18 **(LIMITED SPACE REMAINS)**

For information or to registration please click on the following link:  
[http://www.olb.org/olb/images/2017\\_Baseball\\_Summer\\_Baseball\\_Camp.pdf](http://www.olb.org/olb/images/2017_Baseball_Summer_Baseball_Camp.pdf)

**3. 2017 Playoff and Closing Gala Celebration Dates**

Just a quick reminder of this year’s playoff and gala celebration dates so you can make sure you have them in your calendars.

League	Closing Gala & Play-off Dates
Blastball	July 22
T-Ball Instructional	July 22
T-Ball Minor	July 22
Major T-Ball Red	August 14-20
Major T-Ball White	August 14-20
Minor NL	August 21-27
Minor AL	August 21-September 9
Major NL	August 21-September 9
Major AL	August 21-September 6
Junior	August 21-September 7
Senior	August 8-20

#### **4. Canada Day Classic**

The League invites everyone to come out and watch some of the best U15 baseball in the country and help us celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday at the 5th Annual Canada Day Classic Tournament which is being held from Friday, June 30th to Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Canada Day Classic has quickly become one of the premiere baseball tournaments in Southern Ontario and is open to all LITTLE LEAGUE 'JUNIOR', OBA SELECT & REP 'A' Bantam teams or lower. Teams from across Ontario, Quebec and the United States have participated in the past and will be participating again this year.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Canada Day Classic, please contact **Nick Rigato** at [nickrigato@cogeco.ca](mailto:nickrigato@cogeco.ca).

#### **5. District 1 Major 12U Tournament**

The road to Williamsport for the 2017 Major 12U Whitecaps will begin on Friday, July 7 at 8:00 PM as they take on the Ancaster Diamondbacks in the opening round of the District 1 Major Championships. This year's tournament is being hosted by High Park Little League. All games will be played at the High Park diamond on Colborne Lodge Drive adjacent to the High Park pool. This year's District 1 Championships will run from Friday, July 7 through to Thursday, July 13. Please come out and cheer on this year's team at the District's as they take on some of the best Little League teams in Ontario. If you can not make it out to the games you can still, follow the tournament scores and highlights by following ON D1 Little League on Twitter @D1LittleLeague or the 2017 Oakville Whitecaps 12U on Game Changer ([www.gc.com](http://www.gc.com)).

#### **6. Junior Provincial Championships Hosted by Oakville Little League**

The league will also be hosting the 2017 Junior 14U Provincial Championships which will be played at Glen Abbey Diamonds on Third Line. This significant tournament will feature Junior 14U Little League teams from across the Province including our very own host the 14U Whitecaps. This tournament will crown a Provincial Champion who will move on to the 2017 Junior Canadians in Lethbridge Alberta where they will compete for the right to represent Canada at the Junior League World Series in Taylor Michigan. The league is looking for volunteers to get involved with this tournament to help make it a great success. We will also be looking for community sponsors to support our tournament. If you know of any business that may be interested in getting involved, please have them reach out to John Sweeney at [president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org) or Michael O'Connor at [communications@ollb.org](mailto:communications@ollb.org)

#### **7. Minor Provincial Championships Hosted by Oakville Little League**

The league is excited to announce that we will be hosting the 2017 Minor 10U Provincial Championships at Cornwall Park. The tournament will take place in late July with the specific dates to be confirmed by Little League Ontario. This All-Star tournament will see 8 teams including our very own Whitecaps team coming in from around the Province representing their District to compete for the title of 2017 Minor Provincial Champions. This tournament will require significant planning and volunteers to make it a success.

We will also be looking for community sponsors to support our tournament. If you know of any business that may be interested in getting involved, please have them reach out to John Sweeney at [president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org) or Michael O'Connor at [communications@ollb.org](mailto:communications@ollb.org).

#### **8. Adam Fedoruk Memorial Tournament**

The Adam Fedoruk Memorial CAN/AM Tournament was established in 1999 as a lasting tribute to Adam Fedoruk. Adam was a player in Oakville Little League and absolutely loved baseball. The Fedoruks' were a true baseball family;

Adam's dad not only sponsored the team, he was also their pitching coach, and while his mom typically kept the score sheets, his little sister Amanda cheered the team on from the bleachers. As a player Adam had two favourite positions - shortstop and pitcher, but he excelled in all aspects and his coaches were always impressed with his 'thinking game'.

Tragically, Adam died suddenly, along with his sister and mother, in a house fire on August 17, 1998. That year Adam's team was set to play their championship game and as difficult as it was to go on the field without him, the team did the only thing they could do, they played for Adam. This tournament is a celebration of all that this young player embodied; characteristics typically found in the young people who play in Little League - dedication, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play.

And so, we invite you to take the field with us - play for fun, play for the love of the game, and play for Adam. If you are interested in volunteering at this year's Adam Fedoruk Memorial Tournament please contact John Sweeney at [president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org).



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