

# 7th Inning Stretch

Remember...If it isn't fun...it isn't Little League!!!



August 2007

Volume 3, Number 6

## World Series Time Again

Hello again, and welcome to the new edition of The Stretch.

Lots of local news stories this month, which is nice...Thank You to all contributors!

Our resident Umpires have been rather busy and have not been able to come up with any articles again this month...hopefully they can get me something for upcoming months so as any young umpires reading this will be able to get a few tips for the end of this season, or next season

The Canadian Championships are taking place as I write this, and that means that all of the World Series Tournaments are just around the corner...Good Luck to all teams that are still participating...a trip to any World Series is a feat that will remain with the kids for a lifetime!

I am looking once again for photos of all the winning teams in the country for the big upcoming issue celebrating all the teams who have won anything from a House League Championship, a tournament, Districts, Provincials, Canadians, anything...just send me a photo of the team, what Division they play, what they won, and what District and Province they are from. ALL photos will get in...

And of course, ANY stories or photos you want to submit are ok as well...nothing is refused!

Looking forward to hearing from all of you sometime soon!

Until next month...

Thanks for taking the time to read this and every issue.

Bob Taunton, Editor, The 7th Inning Stretch

**Play Ball!**

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## Ontario District 1 Congratulates Dave Trimble

Further to a story in last month's issue, here is a picture of Dave Trimble, a Manager in the High Park Little League organization being presented with a letter from Joe Shea, President of Little League Canada, congratulating Dave on his 39 years of House League Volunteering. Presenting the framed letter is John Mooney, VP of Oakville Little League.



Oakville Little League VP John Mooney (left), presents Dave Trimble with his letter of congratulations from Little League Canada President Joe Shea.

Photo courtesy of Wes Snihur

### The Little League Pledge:

I trust in God

I love my country

And will respect it's laws

I will play fair

And strive to win

But win or lose

I will always

Do my best

## History Made In Orleans Little League

At the Little League Minor Tournament held in the Town of Russell tonight (Thursday July 26), the Orleans Red Sox won the Ontario District Six Championship, defeating Carlton Russell by a score of 21 to 7. With this win, the teams of Orleans Little League established a new record. This is the first time in the League's 24-year history that Orleans teams from all four age levels - Minor, Major, Junior, and Senior - have won their District Championships in the same year. All teams have now advanced to the Provincial Championships: Minors in Brockville; Majors in Toronto; Juniors in Thunder Bay and Seniors here in Orleans.

The Minor Provincial Championship games begin on July 29. At this age level, the Provincials are the final level of competition.

Donna Roney

Community and Public Relations

OLLB

## Local Oakville Food Bank is the Big Winner at the District 1 Minor Tournament

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Oakville Little League Baseball played host the 2007 Ontario District 1 Minor Championships from June 30 – July 6. The High Park Braves were the eventual champions of the tournament, defeating Oakville 12-5 in the championship game. However the big winner in the tournament was Oakville's Fareshare Food Bank.

Each season District 1 sets a goal or initiative that is to be the focus for each of the championships. This year, Community Involvement was the focal point. Each player that participated in the tournaments was asked to bring a non-perishable food item to their first game.

"Little League is a community-based organization world-wide.' District 1 Administrator Wes Snihur said during the Opening Ceremonies of the tournament. "The communities we live in have given so much to us, and as a District, we wanted to give something back to them."

As an extension of this, Oakville Little League teamed up with the Oakville Girls' Softball Association (OGSA) and the Oakville Minor Baseball Association (OMBA) to sponsor a food drive the last week of June for members in their League and for the public at large. All proceeds from the concession at the Minor Tournament were donated to the Fareshare Food Bank, and the OMBA chipped in with a \$500 donation. All told, 225 pounds of food and \$2700 was raised for Fareshare.

Cindy Dreja, a director with Fareshare, was present at the closing ceremonies for the tournament. She thanked everyone for their support and generosity, and ended the ceremony by presenting the Championship trophy to the High Park team.

A big THANK YOU to the communities of Ancaster, Dundas, Erindale, High Park, Oakville, and Stoney Creek for making this food drive a huge success.

## A Dream Becomes a Reality, Construction Close to Completion on Oakville Little League Fieldhouse

OAKVILLE, Ont., (July 23rd, 2007) – Since it's inception in 1992 it has been a dream of Oakville Little League to construct a fieldhouse at a showcase diamond. That dream is about to become a reality as construction is almost complete on a new 2,000 square foot fieldhouse at the League's Field of Dreams diamonds on Cornwall Rd.

"Our Board of Directors have worked hard to raise the necessary funds to build this new facility", said John Sweeney, President of Oakville Little League. "As with any project of this nature, partnerships are key and we are grateful for the support Mayor Rob Burton, Oakville Town Council and the various departments of the Town of Oakville for their support in making this dream a reality."

"Adding the new fieldhouse to our existing Field of Dreams will provide us with a baseball complex where we can expand our program offerings and continue to help the youth of Oakville develop citizenship, discipline, team work and physical well-being through baseball", said Sweeney.

To make use of the new facility, the League is looking at offering new programs like weekend house-league tournaments, baseball clinics, summer baseball camps and ongoing coaching clinics. The new facility will also become the centre of baseball operations for Little League, replacing the existing office on Speers Rd.

Sweeney added, "The addition of the fieldhouse will rank Oakville Little League's Field of Dreams complex as one of the best Little League venues in Canada with the amenities required to host Provincial and Canadian Little League Championships in the future."

Construction is scheduled for completion in early August of 2007.

### The Little League Parent / Volunteer Pledge:

I will teach all children to play fair and do their best

I will positively support all managers, coaches and players

I will respect the decisions of the umpires

I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game



## Centennial Little League, Calgary, Alberta 1957-2007

### Celebrating 50 years of baseball tradition

Fast facts:

-Received its first charter from Little League (Williamsport, PA) in 1957.

-The Centennial Little League represents minor baseball in the communities of Beddington Heights, Coventry Hills, Creekside, Evanston, Hanson Ranch, Harvest Hills, Hidden Valley, Huntington Hills, Kincora, MacEwan, Panorama Hills and Sandstone.

- Programs range from T-Ball (ages 4-6), Coach Pitch (7-8), AAA Division (9-10), Majors/ National division (11-12), Junior Division (13-14), Seniors Division (15-16), and Big League (17-18).

- Long history of winning teams (full list available from web site):

[www.centenniallittleleague.org](http://www.centenniallittleleague.org)

- 2007 All-Stars teams from the AAA, Majors, Juniors and Seniors divisions are playing in qualifying games and tournaments in July with the possibility of moving on to provincial and Canadian finals
- 2006 Junior Canadian Finalists, Junior AA Prairie Finalist, Major District 3 Champions, AAA District Champions
- 2005 Junior Canadian semi-finalists, Major District 3 Champions, AAA Prairie Finalists

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## Brain Teasers

**# 1:** The batter hits an infield fly with one out and runners on first and second. The ball comes down and hits runner on second. Umpire declares batter out due to infield fly rule and also declares runner out for being hit with a fair batted ball. **Is the umpire RIGHT or WRONG?**

**# 2:** Home run hit over the fence, batter runner misses second as he/she rounds the bases. Ball is retrieved and immediately thrown to second base and an appeal made to the umpire. Umpire declares batter runner out. **Is umpire RIGHT or WRONG?**

**# 3:** Pitcher is on the pitcher's plate, and tries to pick the runner off first base. Ball gets by first baseman and into dugout. Runner stops at second but umpire waves runner to third. **Is umpire RIGHT or WRONG?**

**# 4:** When one base runner passes another while circling the bases, which one is called out?

**Answers on the last page**

## Turning Two

Turning a double play might be the most exciting defensive play in baseball. Not only is it exciting, but it will get you two outs with one swing of the bat and handcuff your opponent's offense. There are a bunch of tips to help you get better at turning two no matter what level you are currently playing. We are going to focus on the middle infielders-- the shortstop and the second baseman.

One of the biggest mistakes players make is not positioning themselves correctly before the pitch is thrown. When the opponent is on first base and there is a chance to turn two, the middle infielders need to "pinch" on the field. Pinching is when the shortstop and second baseman move closer to second base and play a few steps off of the outfield grass. This positioning will allow you to get to the bag quicker when the ball is hit. Many people argue that there is a hole between shortstop and third, along with second and first. While this is true, the argument against would be the middle is now guarded and there was a hole there before we moved. It is a risk worth taking to exchange two outs with one swing. Remember not to shade too much creating a huge hole. You should only take approximately five steps closer to second base.

Another key component to turning the double play is footwork. When the ball is about to arrive, the player's feet should be in a position to get rid of the baseball. Whether fielding the baseball or receiving it at second base, footwork may arguably be the most underrated aspect of turning two. There is a general rule of thumb: If the ball is hit on the second base side of the player, it is a flip. If it is hit right at the player or slightly to the opposite side of second, widen the feet and make a quick snap throw. In both cases, you want to make sure to come get the ball if it is hit slowly and never let the ball play you. When receiving the ball at second, it is imperative to start moving the feet before the ball arrives. After seeing the ball in the air, adjust with your feet so the ball can be caught and thrown as fast as possible.

If the feet are the most underrated aspect in turning two, the hands are the most obvious. Middle infielders need to have quick, soft hands. Soft does not mean you put lotion on your hands for smoother skin! Soft means that you catch the ball like it is an egg, giving a little when it arrives and relaxing the fingers. For quickness, the player needs to get rid of the baseball as soon as it hits the glove. To do so, it is important for players to catch the ball with two hands. We don't just use two hands so the ball does not pop out. We use two hands to allow for a quick ball transition from the glove into the throwing hand.

A whole book could be written on how to execute the double play more effectively. If you use these few tips and continue to work hard in practice, your team will benefit from your ability to turn two.



Marc Shoenfelt is the founder and President of B2B Baseball, an instructional baseball business that conducts youth coaching clinics. Marc has also written the book "Baseball's Forgotten Basics", an instructional book with a DVD companion.

The book can be seen and purchased at [www.baseballsforgottenbasics.com](http://www.baseballsforgottenbasics.com), or for an autographed copy or to book Marc for a coaching clinic, contact him at [info@B2Bbaseball.com](mailto:info@B2Bbaseball.com).

**"GETTING BIG THINGS from little swings"**

## Ontario District 7 Presidents Meet By Chance In Williamsport

In late June this summer, the families of Ontario District 7 Presidents Joe Muise (Prescott LL) and Teresa Flannigan (Cornwall LL) took their sons to Williamsport for a week long Little League clinic. What neither of them knew was that the other was going to be there.

The boys (Joe's son, Sam, and Teresa's boys, Austin and Jay) had a great time, and "an experience that the boys will treasure forever".

Here are a some photos from their week:



- (1) Joe Muise (Prescott LL) and Teresa Flannigan (Cornwall LL) in front of the administration building sign in Williamsport.
- (2) Joe, Teresa, and sons Sam and Austin
- (3) Sam Muise pitching in a game
- (4) Jay Flannigan pitching in All Star 13-14 game
- (5) Austin Flannigan catching in 12 and under All Star game at Volunteer Stadium under the lights.

All photos courtesy of Teresa Flannigan

# News From Chateauguy Little League

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The following is courtesy of Colleen Wilkinson, Webmaster and Publicist for Chateauguy Little League in Quebec. Their website is [www.plchatbaseball.com](http://www.plchatbaseball.com)

## **SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT:**

Every year, there is a softball tournament that is held as one of the biggest fundraisers for Chateauguy Little League. Local adult softball teams take part and all the money raised is for Chateauguy Little League. This year, the MARVELS won the championship trophy and Allan Massel (DA for district 2 in Quebec as well a technical advisor for CLL and assistant coach on the Senior team) won the "ANNE FURLONG MEMORIAL" trophy. This trophy is given to the team or individual that best supports the tournament. Congratulations! A big thank you to all the teams who participated.



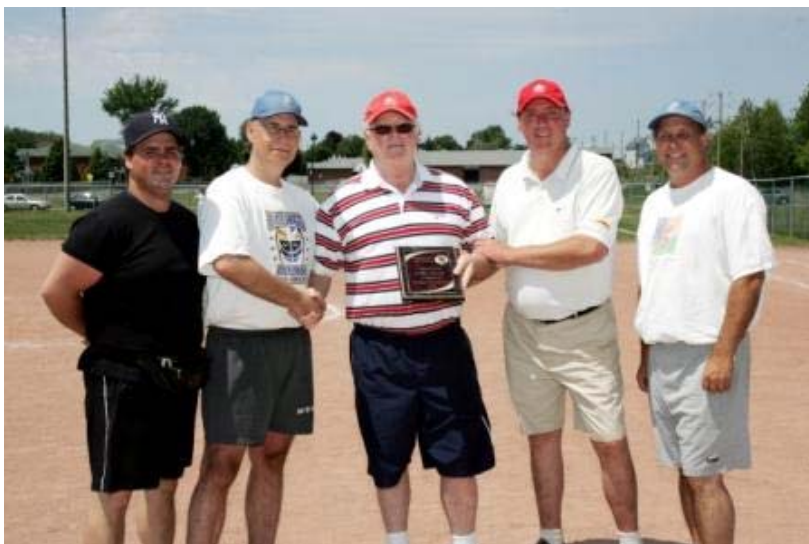
The Marvels...winners of the Anne Furlong Memorial Tournament



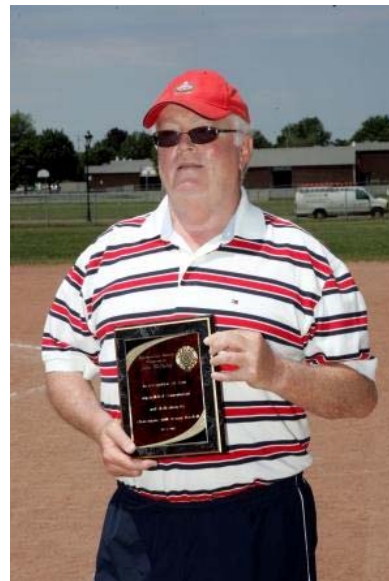
Tim Furlong and Allan Massel. Allan was presented with the "ANNE FURLONG MEMORIAL" trophy that is given to a team or individual that best supports the tournament. Tim Furlong is the founder of the tournament and it was re-named in his late wife's honour.

## **JOHN MCNALLY:**

After 34 years with Chateauguy Little League, John McNally decided it was time to retire. In his many years with CLL, John served as a coach, director and eventually took on the tough task as league treasurer, to which he held that position for 20 years. During our softball tournament, a plaque was given to Mr. McNally for his commitment and dedication to CLL. Thank you for so many years of service!



Glen Zarboni (Vice-President of Chateauguy Little League), Chris Manfred (Past-President of Chateauguy Little League), John McNally, Chuck Godbout (President of Chateauguy Little League) and Allan Massel (District Administrator for District #2 in Quebec and Technical Advisor for Chateauguy Little League).



John McNally

## Little League Canada Provincial And National Championships

Here is a current list of all the Provincial and Canadian Little League Championship sites and dates. I will add this info and update it every month until the tournaments are completed. [Click on the highlighted links to see the official web pages.](#)

### Little League (Major) Division:

**World Series:** [August 17 to 26, 2007 Williamsport, Pennsylvania](#)

**Canadian Championships:** [Regina, Saskatchewan, August 4-11, 2007](#)

### **Provincial Championships:**

**Atlantic Division:** Nova Scotia (Winner: Sydney Mines and District LL)

**Quebec Division:** Montreal (Winner: Rouyn—Noranda LL)

**Ontario Division:** Toronto (Erindale) (Winner: Brockville LL)

**Prairie Division:** Fort McMurray (Winner: Calgary West LL)

**B.C. Division:** Vancouver (Winner: White Rock—South Surrey LL)

### Junior Division:

**World Series:** [August 12 to 18, 2007 Taylor, Michigan](#)

**Canadian Championships:** [Windsor, Ontario, District 5, August 3-10, 2007](#)

### **Provincial Championships:**

**Atlantic Division:** Nova Scotia (Winner: Glace Bay LL)

**Quebec Division:** Montreal (Winner: Valleyfield LL)

**Ontario Division:** Thunder Bay (Winner: Cornwall LL)

**Prairie Division:** Calgary (Winner: Southwest LL)

**B.C. Division:** Vancouver (Winner: Whalley LL)

### Senior Division:

**World Series:** [August 12 to 18, 2007 Bangor, Maine](#)

**Canadian Championships:** [August 2 to 9, 2007 Vancouver, BC](#)

### **Provincial Championships:**

**Atlantic Division:** Nova Scotia (Winner: Glace Bay LL)

**Quebec Division:** Montreal (Winner: NDG LL)

**Ontario Division:** Ottawa (Winner: Orleans LL)

**Prairie Division:** Edmonton (Winner: Community Park LL)

**B.C. Division:** Prince George (Winner: Prince George LL)

### Big League Division:

**World Series:** [July 28 to August 4, 2007 Easley, South Carolina](#)

**Canadian Championships:** [July 14 to 18, 2007 Calgary, Alberta, District 3](#) (Winner Fraser Valley)

**Provincial Championships:**

**Quebec Division:** Montreal (Winner D2, Valleyfield)

**Ontario Division:** Windsor (Winner D5, Windsor)

**Prairie Division:** Edmonton (Winner D1, Regina)

**B.C. Division:** Prince George (Winner D3, Fraser Valley)

**Little League (Major) Softball Division:**

**World Series:** August 9 to 16, 2007 Portland, Oregon

**Canadian Championships:** Victoria, BC

**Junior Softball Division:**

**World Series:** August 12 to 18, 2007 Kirkland, Washington

**Canadian Championships:** Windsor (Winner: Turtle Club LL)

**Senior Softball Division:**

**World Series:** August 5 to 11, 2007 Lower Sussex, Delaware

**Canadian Championships:** Windsor (Winner: Windsor East LL)

**Big League Softball Division:**

**World Series:** August 13 to 18, 2007 Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Canadian Championships:** Windsor



Become an Alumni Member and support Little League in your community and across the Country.

The Little League Canada Foundation's goal is "to ensure that all children in Canada have the chance to participate in Little League regardless of their abilities, either physical or financial". For an annual membership of \$10.00 or three year membership of \$25.00, as an Alumni member you will have the opportunity to have input into the growth and direction of Little League and its programs.

For a membership application form, please contact Little League Canada at [Canada@littleleague.org](mailto:Canada@littleleague.org).

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## Answers to Brain Teasers

**Answer # 1: WRONG – 7.08(f) EXCEPTION.** If a runner is touching a base when touched by an Infield Fly, that runner is not out, although the batter is out.

**Answer # 2: WRONG – 7.10.** For the defense to be able to make a proper appeal the ball must be live, so the umpire should say that the ball is dead and that nothing can happen while the ball is dead and he/she should not make any call/ruling until the ball has been put back into play properly.

**Answer # 3: WRONG – 7.05(h).** It is a one base award if the ball is thrown or pitched by the pitcher when he/she is in contact with the pitcher's plate and the ball goes out of play. It is a two base award if thrown out of play by a fielder. So you have the old rule of thumb "One from the mound, two from the field".

**Answer # 4: PASSING RUNNER – 7.08(h).** Any runner is out when he/she passes a preceding runner before such runner is out.

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