

Elmwood Giants Baseball Club



Alumni & Friends **NEWSLETTER**

Spring Edition 2010

Our Cover Photo

Our cover depicts the 1912-1913 Elmwood Giants Senior team. This group won back-to-back City Senior titles only a few years after the Club was organized in 1905. This followed a championship in 1909 at the Intermediate level.

The players depicted in the photo are:

Top Row:	A.E. Irvin (Centre Field), A. Cahill (Left Field), T. Wilcox (Left Field), M. Suggett (Utility), D. Gladue (Catcher)
Second Row:	E.M. Sullivan (Pitcher) A. McLennan (Third Base) J.M. McGrath (President) E.J. O'Sullivan (Vice-President) T. Knott (Shortstop) W. Nevilles (Pitcher)
Third Row:	Drury Cup (?) D. McLennan (Manager / Right Field), J. McLean (Secretary / Treasurer), W.R. Edgecombe (First Base / Captain), Labour Day Cup (?)
Bottom Row:	C. Nevilles (Pitcher), M. Squires (Pitcher), T. McLennan (Mascot), C. Wilson (Second Base), A. McCorquodale (Catcher)

Do you recognize anyone? Or any of the names?

Remember: This was pre-World War I, at a time when people had no access to diversions such as radio or TV; when local sport was taken VERY seriously. The current Louise Bridge came into existence in 1911 and revolutionized the Elmwood area providing safe, reliable transportation to the City of Winnipeg. How will the area change when it is replaced?

Our records indicate that D. McLennan was one of the early organizers of the Club we can trace to our own present day operation. Does anyone have more details for us?

Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner

June 5, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

As most of you are aware from earlier communications, several people with connections to the Giants will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010. The official ceremonies will take place in **Morden on June 5**. Everyone is encouraged to make plans to attend and salute the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of:

- **Al Kinley**
- **Brock McConachy**
- **The Kollesavich Family**
- **The Fortin Family**
- **Morgan de Peña**
- **Hank Lemoine**

There are already plans in the works for some special happenings that evening that you will want to be a part of! We suggest you won't want to miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of Manitoba Baseball history.

2010 Kildonan Mudcats Season Preview

Mike Zurba and **Chris Leclerc** have committed to do the organizing for the Mudcats this year. They have a strong core of returning players and with a few key recruits they could again be a contending team. Any interested and unattached players should contact Mike at 799-7862 or Chris at 999-3807 or via e-mail (use the links above).

The Mudcats are also interested in coaching and management help. Anyone interested should contact **Al Kinley** at 338-9603.

Giants Wear For Sale

The Club has for sale a collection of outerwear, T-shirts, caps and other items bearing the Elmwood Giants and Kildonan Mudcats logos. All inquiries should be directed to **Al Kinley** at 338-9603.



*** Annual General Meeting ***

On March 18, 2010 at 7:30 PM, the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the **Elmwood Legion** at 920 Nairn.

This Meeting is open to Board Members, team representatives and players and any other interested Giants supporters. The agenda will include:

- review of the Club's 2009 / 2010 financial results
- presentation of the 2010 / 2011 Club Executive
- planning 2010 for team operations
- early planning for 2010 team and field special events

Anyone in attendance is welcome to join the Board of Directors and:

- participate in the six formal Club meetings
- have a say in the how the teams are operated
- participate in the fund-raising and team activities

All are welcome to attend and participate in the work of making the Giants successful!

2010 Senior Giants Season Preview

The Senior Giants will represent Manitoba in the **Western Canada Senior Championships** in Munster, SK this year. They are also slated to host this year's **Manitoba Senior AA All-Star Provincial Championships** in July. It is a big year for the team!

Mark Bullion has again committed himself to organizing this team. Anyone willing to help this team in a coaching and management capacity (on or off the field) should contact **Bryan Hodgson** at 668-3817. Any unattached and interested players should contact Bryan as well.

The Seniors have a strong core of players but have lost or may lose several. **Dave "Bucky" Buckingham** has returned to Newfoundland where he has acquired a Chartered Accountant position. **Curtis Briscoe** is in Law School at Windsor and may not return.

Congratulations to **Curtis Furber** and partner **Amy** on the birth of their son **"Cy" Furber**.



2010 Junior Season Preview

Al Kinley returns yet again as the Head Coach after several years in an Assistant Coach role. His main assistants will be **Bryan McIntyre** and **Marc Babaluk**. **Paul Lagimodière** will continue as team statistician and Bench Coach.

Bryan is a graduating Junior player and has assisted at clinics and camps over the years. He will work on acquiring his Level II (or equivalent) certification when he returns from school at North Dakota.

Marc has coached for several years with North Winnipeg and also is an Assistant Coach with the Saint Boniface Riels of the MMJHL. He is a dedicated, hard-working coach with Level II certification.

A number of other people have indicated their willingness to assist on a part-time basis including **Adam Lachuta**, **Keith Sigurdson**, **Glen Hunter** and **Mike Krykewich**. Several other people may join the staff but are still looking at their availability in relation to work.

The roster is expected to include 12 returning players. Staff has also had discussions with potential new players and several Midget-aged players. The team should certainly be competitive once again in its bid to defend the League Championship.

2010 Calendar of Events of Interest to the Giants Community

Mar 18	Club AGM (Elmwood Legion; 7:30 PM)
Mar 21	Baseball Manitoba AGM (145 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg; 2:00 PM)
May 15	President's Reception (Elmwood Legion; 7:30 PM)
Jun 5	MB Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner (Morden; 5:00 PM)
Jun 19	Bud, Spud & Steak (MyBar, Canad Inns Regent & Plessis; 5:30 PM)
Jul 29 - Aug 8	World University Games (Tokyo, JAPAN)
Aug 6 - 8	Baseball Manitoba Senior AA Championships (Wawanesa)
Nov 30	Cash Calendar Grand Prize Draw (Lasalle Hotel)
TBD	Baseball Canada Cup (Kindersley, SK)
TBD	Baseball Canada Junior Championship (Trois-Rivières, QC)
TBD	WCBA Junior AAA Championships (TBD)
TBD	WCBA Senior AA Championships (Munster, SK)



2010 President's Reception

For the past several years, the Giants have held a President's Reception for our Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame inductees. This is basically a "meet and greet" event. Starting in 2009, we opened the reception to all alumni and determined to make it an annual event.

The 2010 reception will be held at **7:30 PM on Saturday, May 15** at the **Elmwood Legion, 920 Nairn**. Admission is free.

As previously announced, the 2010 HOF inductees will include a bumper crop of Giants alumni, friends and active organizers (See our note elsewhere in this newsletter!).

Come celebrate this special moment in their lives.

There will be a cash bar, a social-type luncheon, door prizes and hopefully a guest speaker. We will also be presenting images from our archives extending back to the 1910's and maybe further!

Meet some old team mates as well as the current executive and players. We hope to see you there!

Indoor Pitching and Hitting Clinics

2010 Giants Pre-Season pitching/hitting clinics are on at Elmwood H.S. Sundays 1:00-3:00pm. Contact: Paul Lagimodière at 282-7289 or by email. The sessions are open to boys & girls of all ages.

Sponsorships Available

The Club is offering businesses the opportunity to connect with the Giants family and supporters through sponsorships in many forms. Examples are as follows:

- **Yearly Program:** \$30 to \$200
- **Newsletter and Web Site:** \$300 in quarterly newsletters for 3 years and on the three team web sites
- **Fence:** Rates available upon request
- **Red, Blue and Gold Levels** (with various other placements for relevant time periods): \$1500 through \$10,000

Contact Dave Kodak, Club Vice-President of Marketing at 668-6367 for all inquiries.



WESTERN STORAGE
a Western Commercial Ltd. company

Newsletter Costs

The Club Executive is pleased to provide this newsletter to all Giants alumni, friends, players, coaches and supporters. We take this opportunity to remind those who receive the printed copy that the Club incurs printing and mailing costs in its production.

The periodic newsletters are available electronically via the teams' web sites and, in the future, via the Club's own site; an option that reduces costs to the Club. If you received the printed newsletter and have not made a recent contribution, we ask that you help the Club cover the cost of production by making a donation of any amount that you may deem appropriate.

2010 Fund-Raising Activities

Fund-raising is the activity that allows the Club to continue to offer an affordable but first class baseball experience to our players.

Plans are already underway for our **2010 Cash Calendar** raffle. Watch for an announcement about ticket sales.

This year's **Bud, Spud and Steak** event will be held on **Saturday, June 19 at 5:30 PM** at the **MyBar (Canad Inns, Regent and Plessis)**. Silent auction items are needed. If you can make a donation, please contact a Board Member. Tickets are expected to be \$15 and will be available from any executive member or player.

The Elmwood Giants Baseball Club has received a donation which we expect to use as a fund-raising opportunity. It is a **World Baseball Classic jersey** bearing the number 33 and **Justin Morneau's signature!** The pictures on the web sites provide a sense of what is on offer. Further plans are forthcoming.

Thank you for your interest and continued support to the Club and the teams we operate!

Our Web Sites

Watch our web sites for developments. We plan to update them over the coming weeks and months and hope to keep them current with all the latest events. We also plan to launch a Club site that will highlight the work done on behalf of all three teams, the field and the wider baseball community.

Juniors: www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiantsjr

Seniors: www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiants

Mudcats: www.ballcharts.com/kildonanmudcats



Pages From The Past

June, 1890

- Montreal lost its team in the International League and the Buffalo franchise was moved to Grand Rapids
- A team of Winnipeg All-Stars whitewashed the local "Evangelines" 34-0 in 5 innings
- Winnipeg was not participating in the "Red River Valley League" which extended to Grand Forks and beyond.

2010 MJBL Pre-season Meeting Report

On February 9, team representatives met to begin preparations for the 2010 MJBL season. Attendance was good, with representatives from 7 teams and other interested parties.

The representatives took care of the single most important piece of business by electing a new League President. **Scott Nieves** will once again assume the role he left a couple of years ago. He has challenged all the teams to find ways to energize the league and leverage the brand. He is also looking to develop a league sponsorship scheme to the benefit of all teams.

The league now expects to welcome back the Carillon Sultans for the upcoming season, under the terms and conditions set out when they were authorized to take a break from competition part way through last season. There was also interest from other out of town representatives for participation in the league in the future.

Participation in the **Baseball Canada Junior Championships** has been confirmed by **Baseball Manitoba**. The form of that representation will be determined following future discussions. Level 3 certification (or the new equivalent) will be required for some team coaches in order to qualify for the tournament, now expected to be in Trois-Rivières, QC following an extended search for host sites.

The teams will play games against the Manitoba Youth team as it prepares for its participation in the **Baseball Canada Cup** to be held in Kindersley, SK later this year.

Team representatives will meet once again at the **Home Run Sports** location in Island Lakes on **March 2 at 6:30 PM** to make further preparations for the new season. At that meeting, all will provide their lists of preferred and unavailable home dates.

A stylized, handwritten-style logo for "Birchwood" in a reddish-brown color, set against a light yellow background with a subtle wood-grain texture.

Dream It! Wish It! Do It!

The core of the current Giants Board of Directors meets regularly on Saturday mornings for breakfast. It is here that ideas are shared that often make their way to official Board meetings.

We all dream of what we would / could do if we won a lottery. The Giants Board does the same thing! If we had a source of funding, what could we do?

To move a **Dream It** List item to the **Wish It** or **Do It** Lists would require a large unexpected influx of cash. On the Giants **Dream It** List is an **off-season training facility** that would also include Club Rooms, a *Museum / Archive space and Meeting Rooms*. To further that dream along, we have met recently with real estate agents so that we can have an idea of what we are looking at.

Items on the **Wish It** List are a little more doable. They, too, require cash, but by involving familiar government aid and grants applications, they are possibilities. In this regard, we might include *a redeveloped grandstand with washrooms, a canteen, a sound system and press box*.

We have had architectural drawings done of a dressing room / storage facility that could be located down the third base line. To move this to the **Do It** List, **would** require some cost-sharing agreements with the city and / or province, possibly even with the Federal government.

The **Do It** List includes several items such as *bringing in a load of special infield material, an upgrade to the outfield fence and a scoreboard*. To date, the **infield has been upgraded** and the **scoreboard should be ready to go by the start of the new season**. These items will be paid for from our own reserves as a result of fund-raising and good management.

The infield upgrade cost \$2,000 and the scoreboard will cost \$28,000. The fence upgrade may have to wait until a bit later in the season when the financial picture for the 2010 season is a bit clearer.

Is anyone interested in advertising on our scoreboard? It will be in right-centre field, more than 20 feet high and visible to Chalmers Avenue. What do you think it would be worth?



2010 Pre-season indoor practice schedule

The Senior Giants team has secured some indoor practice time in the Field House at the [Max Bell Centre](#) at the University of Manitoba (109 Sydney Smith Street). These sessions will be open to all Senior, Junior and Midget-aged players interested in getting ready for the upcoming Giants, Mudcats and Midget 2010 baseball seasons.

Dates and times are:

- **February 28, 21:30 to 22:30**
- **March 8, 20:00 to 21:00**
- **March 15, 21:00 to 22:00**
- **March 22, 20:00 to 21:00**

2010 Season Special Events at Giants Field

May 28 - 30	Winnipeg Classic Midget AAA Baseball Tournament
Jul 2 - 4	Winnipeg Wolf Baseball Tournament
Jul 15 -18	Manitoba Senior AA All-Stars Championship
Jul 29 - Aug 2	Midget AAA Provincial Championships (in cooperation with Bonivital)
Saturdays	All Giants teams practice (Juniors, Seniors, Mudcats)
Various	Winnipeg Wolf tryouts, practices and games

Volunteers Required to Sell Bingo Cards

[Baseball Manitoba](#) is assigned about 25 Bingo's a year at the [Manitoba Lotteries Casinos](#) as fund-raising events. Each of them is awarded to a team or club who provide volunteers as card sellers for the night. That organization earns valuable funds for use in providing players with the opportunity to play baseball.

For the past several years, the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club has earned valuable funds from these events and continues to support Baseball Manitoba and our teams in this way.

The Club will be providing card sellers once again for the Bingos to be held **March 30, 2010 from 5:30 to 9:30 at Club Regent on Nairn**. Anyone willing to help out is asked to contact [Bryan Hodgson](#) at 668-3317.

We thank all our sponsors for their support!

Pages From The Past - 1990



1990 MANITOBA JUNIOR BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

Front row, left to right: Travis Simonson, Howie Prociuk, Steve Riley, Jason Mateychuk, Mike Siwak, Wilf Plouffe, Dean Ouellette.

Back row, left to right: Rob Cosens, David Olsen, Craig Baron, Greg Lavis, Jeff Trager, Kris Holmstrom, Tom Thompson, Rob Bachart, Lance Browne, Kalam Pauli, Jared Hall, Brent Bellamy.

In many ways 1990 was "The Year of the Giant" in the Manitoba Junior Baseball League. For the sixth time in the 14 years since the revival of the franchise, the Elmwood Giants captured the Curly Haas Memorial Trophy emblematic of the championship of the MJBL.

Nothing came easily of the Giants this season as they won the regular season pennant on the last night of play with a record of 19 wins and 10 losses and then were stretched to the full five games in two of their three play-off series. In the first round, the Giants were taken to the fifth game by a scrappy Transcona Trojan Team which played its best baseball of the season. The Giants then disposed of the Legion 141 Veterans three games to one in the semi-finals and in a thrilling championship round defeated the Pembina Valley Orioles three games to two. The Giants moved on to represent Manitoba at the Prairie Junior Baseball Championships in St. Albert, Alberta, but, like their other opponents, they were unable to defeat the Saskatoon Bulls who advanced to the national final where they finished second to Quebec.

The Giants also dominated the individual league award winners for 1990. Twenty-one year old pitcher — first baseman Wilf Plouffe completed a solid four year career by winning the Eddie Cass Memorial Trophy as the Most Valuable Player in the MJBL. His combined pitching record for the regular season and play-offs was 10 wins and two losses and he was the winning pitcher in the games which completed both the semi-final round and the championship final series. Wilf was among the leaders in most batting

categories. His .347 batting average was seventh in the league and he finished second in home runs with four and fourth in runs batted in with 24. He continued his hot hitting in the play-offs by adding four more home runs.

Eighteen year old rookie centre fielder Greg Lavis of the Giants won the Vic Bosyk Memorial Trophy as MJBL batting champion. The left handed power hitter had a .411 batting average to edge teammate Mike Siwak by 11 points. The two Giant outfielders were the only players in the league to crack the .400 level. Greg was a key member of the Manitoba Youth Team which won a bronze medal in the National Youth Championships in Trois Rivières, Quebec and he has been selected to attend the National Baseball Institute in Vancouver during the upcoming season.

Right handed pitcher Kalam Pauli of the Giants won the Jack Thompson Trophy, emblematic of the top rookie in the MJBL. Kalam was the hero of the 1990 play-offs after returning from the 1990 Canadian Youth Championships where he pitched two outstanding games to lead Manitoba to the bronze Medal. The 18 year old right handed pitcher then proceeded to win three crucial games and save two others including the championship final. During the regular season, Kalam finished third in the league innings pitched with 57 and was second in the strike-out race with 61. His record of four wins and five losses included several tough losses against the league's top teams.

Wilf Plouffe, Kalam Pauli and Greg Lavis came up through the Red River Valley Sports League and all at one time played for the Red River Valley Pioneers.

Help us solve a mystery from our archives

On our web sites, you can catch up on the results we obtained in archive mystery quests published in earlier editions of our newsletter.

IPACO

SAFETY PRODUCTS

ELMWOOD
GIANTS



KILDONAN
MUDCATS

Our Red Level Sponsors



mjbl.ca

wsbl.ca