

Elmwood Giants Baseball Club



Bev Fisher

Mike Foster



Glen Hunter

Terry Kirlin



**Our
2013
Manitoba
Baseball
Hall of Fame
Inductees**

**Alumni & Friends
NEWSLETTER**

Fall Edition 2012

Our Cover

2013 Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Inductees

Each year, the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame identifies Manitobans who have made extraordinary contributions to the game on and off the field; in some cases: both! This year is no different.

At the seventeenth annual induction ceremonies and dinner, the Hall of Fame will welcome the following people with connections to the Elmwood Giants:

- Bev Fisher (Builder)
- Glen Hunter (Player / Builder)
- Mike Foster (Player)
- Terry Kirlin (Player / Builder)

You will find more details about them elsewhere in this newsletter

The annual induction ceremonies and dinner will be held in Morden at the Recreation Centre on Saturday, June 1. Tickets will be available from Al Kinley.

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.

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.

Junior AAA's: www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiantsjr

Junior AA's: www.ballcharts.com/WJBL5

Seniors: www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiants

Mudcats: www.ballcharts.com/kildonanmudcats



Mike Foster — Player

Mike had not played baseball for 7 years when he joined the Elmwood Giants Juniors in 1983. He immediately became an impact player as he led the Elmwood Juniors to a provincial championship and a Western Canada silver medal in 1984.

Mike also played college baseball at Mayville State in 1985-1986. Mayville were champions both years. Mike's first college at bat was a pinch hit home run in 1985.

From 1985-1997, Mike played for the Elmwood Seniors in the Redbone League. He pitched, played shortstop and finally the outfield where his great speed and arm strength could be showcased.

He played in many league finals with the Giants. In his career he also played in 13 Canadian or Western Canadian Championships winning 2 gold and 2 silver medals.

In 1994 he led the Western Canadian Championships in Kelowna hitting .572. In 1995 he played for the Redboine All-Stars who defeated the Olympic-bound Canadian National Team.

In the last year of the Redboine (1998), Mike played for Legion 141. They swept Birtle 2-0 in the Provincial final. Mike went 5 for 5 against Shane Mofit in the final game.

In 1999, Mike began his second career playing in the MSBL. He played 8 seasons with Birtle and 2 with the Brandon Marlins. He was an MSBL All-Star on 6 occasions and led the league in stolen bases in 2008 at the age of 45!



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 204-338-9603.

Bev Fisher — Builder

Bev Fisher made his contribution to Baseball in two distinct and important ways, as a coach and in developing and maintaining facilities.



In the early 70's, he coached in the Red River Valley League and at North Kildonan Community Club. His 1977 North Kildonan Bantam Team captured the Provincial Bantam AAA Championship. He also was the first coach of the River East Raiders of the Manitoba Junior Baseball League.

In 1980 Bev joined the Elmwood Giants as a member of their Junior Team coaching staff. Over the next 21 years he coached Midget, Junior, and Senior Teams at Elmwood. His teams won numerous League titles including one Midget Provincial, three Junior Provincials and one Western Canadian Junior Championship.

In 2001 Bev joined the coaching staff of the Bonivital Midget Black Sox where he coached for the next three years. In 2004 he became the infield coach on the inaugural Winnipeg Wolf Team. For the next seven years he helped develop the elite 16 year-olds in the City of Winnipeg.

An engineer by profession, he used his expertise and connections to build a bantam field for North Kildonan in the 1970's mainly with volunteer labour and donated material. Since joining the Elmwood Giants Board of Directors in 1980 he has played a key role in upgrading the facility and installing lights.

In his role as Project Manager and Field Supervisor he has spent countless hours working on the field and supervising all paid employees and Giants volunteers. He works with the Giants planning committee to develop architectural designs and spearheaded the research for and installation of an electronic scoreboard. In addition, Bev provided expertise and insight that contributed to the construction of Whittier Park and the lighting of the fields in St. James.

He was inducted into Manitoba Baseballs Honour Society in 2010 and was previously inducted into the Hall's "Special" category as part of the 1978-1980 Elmwood Juniors.

Junior AAA Players at Nationals

This year, the following players were part of the team that represented Manitoba in the Baseball Canada Championships held in Trois-Rivières, QC:

- **Scott Beever, Ryan Ozunko, Bryce Vincent, Drew Allen, Caleb Smith** and **Matt Smith**

The team came away with a record of 3 and 2 and a fifth place finish.

Cash Calendars for 2012

Once again in 2012, the Club is conducting its major fund-raiser of the year through a Cash Calendar raffle. The top prize, as in past years, will be \$1000.

Tickets are available from directors, coaches and players.

Al Kinley (204-338-9603), **Dave Kodak** (204-668-6367), **Don Krasowski** (204-667-5574) and **Rick Dondo** (204-951-3272) are available to answer any questions you may have about obtaining or returning your tickets and qualifying for multiple prizes!

Everyone who has tickets is asked to complete their sales during the last days of October. Club Directors will be on hand to collect the proceeds of all sales and any unsold tickets at the Elmwood Legion (920 Nairn Avenue) on the evenings of October 29 and 31 between 7 and 8 PM. Al Kinley will also accept arrangements to accept deliveries of same at his residence or some of you can return them in the envelopes provided.

The first draw will take place at the same venue on November 1. Later draws will happen on Tuesdays throughout the month (6, 13, 20 and 27) followed by the Grand Prize Draw on November 30.



Thank you to the Elmwood Legion!

"The Friendly Club" continues to live up to its promise for the Giants Executive and Board of Directors. Now used regularly as a venue for Giants events, the staff and leaders of the Legion have made the Club very welcome and are always supportive of our cause and our intentions.

We thank the membership for their support to the Giants!

Pages From the Past

During a Junior AA fixture this season, alumnus **Ron Knight** was in town from Western Manitoba to watch his son play. **Bob Kinley** and **Tom Wolstencroft**, two of his former *River East Raiders* Junior teammates were on hand for the game as well and they had a great opportunity to catch up and reminisce!

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Season Summary: Kildonan Mudcats

The team finished the 2012 WSBL season with a record of 11 wins and 8 losses, good enough for fifth place. But, they got hot late in the season, losing just once after mid-July. That one loss was in the Senior AA All-Stars tournament in Stonewall!

During the season, a major highlight was the prefect game pitched by **Greg Penner** on June 12. He struck out 12 of the 21 hitters he faced in the 20 — 0 win!

The team went undefeated in the WSBL playoffs, knocking off *Stonewall Blue Jays* in the quarter-finals and their intra-club rivals and WSBL pennant winners the Senior Giants in the “A” pool semi-finals. They then defeated the *St Boniface Legionaires* in the Finals to claim the second **WSBL Championship** for a team using the Mudcats name.

The top hitters for the Mudcats in 2012 were **Chris Leclerc** (.435 in 46 AB's), **Aaron Hildebrandt** (.375 in 48 AB's) and **Angus Klassen** (.351 in 57 AB's). The top pitcher was *Greg Penner* registering an ERA of 1.59 in 22 innings pitched.

A special highlight for one of the Mudcat players was **Brett Schreyer's** contribution to the Senior Giants as a pickup in their victory in the WCBA Senior AA Championship. In particular, his 2-run home run in the Championship game provided the winning run!

The Club congratulates the team and we look forward to seeing them continue to make progress next season in their pursuit of excellence!



Pages From the Past

This year, the Club marked several significant anniversaries of past championships. These were noted on our web sites and included:

- 1912 Winnipeg Senior League - Labour Day Cup Winners (100 Years!)
- 1987 Manitoba Junior Champions (25 Years)
- 2002 Seniors AA Western Canada Baseball Association Champions (Senior Giants; 10 Years)

How many did you witness?

Terry Kirlin — Player / Builder

After a 10 year playing career that included stops with Legion 141, Iowa Western, Augsburg College, Stratford (Ontario Inter-County League) and the Elmwood Giants, Terry retired as a player due to chronic knee problems (he was a catcher).



He became a coach with Elmwood in the tough Redboine Senior League for 15 years. His teams were nearly always in the finals. Winning the “big one”, however seemed to be cursed as Terry's Giants were part of 11 Redboine League Championship finals and finally one Championship in their 15 Redboine seasons.

The teams also represented Manitoba in four Western Canadian and one Canadian Championships winning a silver medal in 1989 in Moose Jaw.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Redboine League and for 8 years he was League President.

As a player, Terry was a power hitting left handed batter who led the MJBL in home runs on two occasions and was known as a great defensive catcher and handler of pitchers. As a coach and manager he was seen as a great strategist. He had a great memory for stats and knew how to use them to the team's advantage. His teams always seemed to have fun and always seemed to be successful.

On the tournament trail, Terry's teams were a big fan draw. They had huge wins in places like Moose Jaw, Warroad, Grand Forks and Detroit Lakes, not to mention towns across Southern Manitoba and the Interlake.

Season Summary: Junior AA Giants

The Club's entry in the WJBL completed their season with a record of 11 and 13 and finished in fourth place.

A season highlight occurred on July 21 when **Justin Vosters** went the distance and picked up a 5 - 4 win for the team, **striking out 20** along the way, allowing 3 hits and 8 walks.

Also of note was the team's performance against the *Wesman Diamond Dawgs*, the eventual League Champions. In four regular season matchups, they went 2 and 2 and all of the games were decided by one run!

Eric Lamothe led the team in batting average (.548 in 43 PA's) and was the League Batting Champion! Also providing consistent offence this year were **Daniel Tabachuk** (.365 in 58 PA's) and Colton Boudreau (.333 in 34 PA's).

cont'd...



Glen Hunter — Player / Builder

Glen developed as a player in the Red River Valley League with Morse Place and Chalmers. He played in the Elmwood Giants organization for 16 years (1978-1993).

Throughout his career he was a perennial all star and represented the province as a player on numerous occasions. He was voted the Redboine League's Most Sportsmanlike Player in 1990 and won the League Batting Title in 1992, hitting 426.

After his retirement, Glen turned to coaching and has progressed from coaching his own kids to coaching other coaches. He is one of the top baseball instructors in Manitoba and has done numerous certification clinics, player development camps, and coaching clinics over the years.

He has taken on an administrative and leadership role with the Manitoba Junior League serving as Vice-President and Director of Media Relations. He served as General Manager and Chef de Mission for the MJBL All Star team that won the Canadian Championships in 2010.

In 2008 Glen was chosen as the High Performance Coach of the Year. In 2010 he helped coach the Elmwood Juniors to the Western Canadian Championships. He has been on the coaching staff for the Summer Games events in 1990, 2008, and 2009.

Glen was previously inducted into the Hall of Fame in the "Special" category with the 3-time Provincial Champion Elmwood Juniors of 1978-1980.

Season Summary: Junior AA Giants (cont'd)

On the mound, the team maintained a **team ERA of only 2.17!** The top performer was **Carlin Proutt** who registered an **ERA of 1.03 in 20.33 innings pitched.** *Justin Vosters'* 40 strikeouts (in just 25 IP's!) were a team high.

Daniel Tabachuk also contributed significantly on defence over and above his performance at the plate.

The team was hurt by injuries late in the season to players such as **Bennett Podolsky** (P/C), *Carlin Proutt* (P/IF) and veteran **Patrick McInnis** (UT). This was a factor in their performance in the playoffs as well, where they lost in the semi-finals to *St Boniface*, the eventual League Champions. Both their losses in that series were by scores of 6 - 5.

Participating in the WJBL All-Star game were: *Justin Vosters* (Player of the Game for his team!), **Brandon Michalow**, *Bennett* and **Elliot Podolsky**, **Eric Lamothe**, *Carlin Proutt* and *Daniel Tabachuk*.

The Club congratulates the team for their efforts this year and we look forward to seeing them achieve greater success next season!

Season Summary: Senior Giants

After another outstanding season, the team finished the 2012 WSBL season with a record of 18 wins and 2 losses to claim the pennant! Despite this success, they dropped their WSBL semi-final series against their intra-club rivals the Kildonan Mudcats.

Using their standard arsenal of great pitching and defence, they also won a fifth title in the Manitoba Senior AA All-Stars tournament held in Stonewall. This entitles them to travel to Alberta in 2013 to defend the WCBA Senior AA Championship they won on our field in late August! Of special note: they finished both of those tournaments with records of 5 and 0!

For the season, the team maintained a team batting average of .317!. Their top hitters were Kevin Reimer (.515 in 33 AB's), Kevin Krasowski (.411 in 56 AB's), Tyler Tilbury (.377 in 53 AB's) and Curtis Furber (.340 in 50 AB's). While maintaining a stellar team ERA of only 1.75, the most notable performance was from Mark Bullion who completed the season with an **ERA of 0.00** in 16 innings pitched!. Also of note, was the workhorse performance of Neil Walton who allowed an average of only 2.10 earned runs in 30 innings pitched. Elliott Desilets, Jeff White and Nathan Sawatsky also delivered ERA's below 2.00 in their shorter mound appearances.

The Club congratulates the team and we look forward to seeing them continue to have success next season!

Season Summary: Junior AAA Giants

The Club's entry in the MJBL completed their season with a record of 14 and 16 and finished in fifth place. They were knocked out of the playoffs in the quarter-finals three games to one by *Altona*, the eventual League Champions.

The season was marred by the loss of key players during the season, including the decisions by **Tyler Enns** to pursue an opportunity to play university baseball in BC and by **Ryan Ozunko** to pursue an opportunity to play semi-professional baseball in Texas. Also of note were the loss of **Curtis Neskak** to injury and **Jeff Cressweller** to work commitments. We do expect, however, that the seasoning received by the younger players who stepped up will pay dividends down the line.

For the year, the top hitters were Josiah Churchill (.263 in 97 PA's) and Bryce Vincent (.259 in 63 PA's). By far, the top pitcher for the team this season was Brett Muron. In tough circumstances, he registered a stellar **ERA of 2.03 in 103 innings pitched!** He also set a new MJBL season strikeout record of 117, besting the previous mark of 115 and returning this standard to the Giants fold where it was for so many years! Good things are expected in the future from some of the young players who got the opportunity to pitch this year.

The Club congratulates the team for their efforts this year and we look forward to seeing them achieve greater success next season!

Wanted: A Few Good Men and Women

After 1962 the Elmwood Giants ceased to exist as a baseball organization. The reasons for its demise are somewhat unclear. There was an abundance of players available, a thriving feeder system and a suitable playing field (Giants Field). What seemed to be missing were the necessary volunteers and organizers to maintain the teams.

Several attempts were made by various groups in the late sixties and early seventies to reform the Giants but nothing lasted. Not until 1977 did a viable group come together to reestablish and operate the Giants organization. Few people from the original group are still active but enough people have come on board over the years to allow the Giants to continue to operate.

Each year new people have been invited to join the Board of Directors. One of the goals of the organization is to not let the Giants disappear again. We welcome anyone who is interested to attend our next meeting.

Anyone interested in helping with this successful organization are welcome to contact **Al Kinley** at 204-338- 9603, **Gord Menzies** at 204-257-3553 or **Rick Dondo** at 204-951-3272.



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:** \$60 to \$200
- **Giants Patron:** \$100 per year or one payment of \$250 for 3 years
- **Fence:** \$800 (Minimum of 3 years)
- **Red, Blue and Gold Levels** (with various other placements for relevant time periods): \$1500 through \$10,000 or more

Contact **Dave Kodak**, Club Vice-President of Marketing at 204-668-6367 or **Rick Dondo** at 204-951-3272 for all inquiries.

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