

WHO WE ARE:

Ottawa West Little League (OWLL), is a community-based, volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing both house and competitive level baseball for boys and girls (aged 4 to 19), as well as coaching, umpiring, and other volunteer opportunities for community members of all ages. We focus on developing in our players the qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork, and physical well-being through the game of baseball.

OWLL is part of the Little League program governed by Little League International. Little League Canada is one of its regions. OWLL plays in Ontario District 2, with teams from Kanata and East Nepean.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- MID-AUGUST: REGISTRATION FOR FALL BALL
- MID/LATE-AUGUST: SUMMER BALL PLAYOFFS
- AUGUST 20: SUMMER BANQUET AT PINECREST PARK
- AUGUST 25: OWLL AT THE TITANS GAME
- AUGUST 28: OWLL FUNDRAISER AT FRANK RYAN PARK





Baseball every day

Hello, and welcome to the July issue of OWLL News! July was a busy month for our teams on the field. Between districts, provincials, a couple of OWLL hosted tournaments, and summer ball, we saw a lot of baseball on the Ottawa West diamonds. During the month our all girls spring/summer season wrapped up, our GOBL continued their play, and t-ball to senior summer teams dove into their seasons, with all but t-ball playing interlock with teams across the city. Overall, the season is going really well, with some great ball being played.

Our baseball filled month would not have been as successful without the help of our many volunteers. We'd like to take a minute to do a shout out to all of those who helped with the intermediate and major provincials, senior and minor districts, the junior girls & rookie tournaments, and the day-to-day running of our league. Many hours were put in by our grounds crews, setup and tear down folks, scorekeepers and announcers, canteen and merch sellers, scoreboard changers, umpires, and the many, many folks who just said "what can I do?" We truly appreciate these volunteers!! THANK YOU.

As is always the case with baseball, when we get to the point where we can see the end of the schedule for one season, we start thinking about the next. Planning as well underway for fall ball. Registration will open in the third week of August, and we anticipate offering programs from rookie through to senior divisions. As is always the case, our programs are coach dependent. If we have the coaches, we are able to offer sessions at the various age levels. Fall ball will run for approximately 4 weeks starting after Labour Day. If you are interested in coaching fall ball, please email <u>Mike McLean</u>.



Districts and Provincials wrap up

OWLL teams typically have district playdowns starting the very last week of June. We enter teams at the minor, major, intermediate, junior, and senior level each year. These tournaments are three team round robins between OWLL and the other teams in our district - East Nepean and Kanata. This was the case this year at all levels except for intermediate, where OWLL was named the district representative by virtue of Kanata and East Nepean not entering teams.

All these tournaments are held locally, each hosted by one of the three associations. This year OWLL hosted the minor and senior districts.

In this year's tournaments, OWLL's junior and senior teams lost in the finals to teams representing East Nepean. With our intermediate team already headed to provincials, the minor and major teams both sought to follow suit. There was some exciting play, and ultimately both were victorious over squads from East Nepean. Provincials have already completed for major, and the minor Twins are headed to Timmins for their provincials.

The provincial tournaments for major and intermediate were both hosted at Pinecrest park by Ottawa West. The intermediate tournament featured teams from Ancaster, Upper Ottawa Valley, Cornwall, and Orleans, and the major welcomed High Park, Timmins, Windsor South, Brockville, Upper Ottawa Valley, and Glebe.



At intermediate provincials, the Twins faced off against a strong field and ultimately were defeated by Orleans in the semi-final. They had a great tournament and should be very proud of the games they played.



At majors, the Twins overcame a first game loss string together six to consecutive victories, including two against a very strong Glebe team in the double elimination final to earn their spot at the Canadians in Regina next week!!!

We wish both the minor and major Twins good luck in their respective tournaments!!!

FALL BALL

OWLL will once again be offering a fall ball program to both our co-ed and all girls players. We anticipate offering programs from rookie through to senior divisions. As is always the case, our programs are coach dependent. If we have the coaches, we are able to offer sessions at the various age levels. If you are interested in coaching fall ball, please email <u>Mike</u> <u>McLean</u>.



Like last year, the program will be a skills development program. Registration will open in the third week of August, and fall ball will be twice a week, running for approximately four weeks starting after Labour Day. Watch for more information in your email, or on our social media channels.

CALL FOR COACHES! OWLL is looking for fall ball coaches. interested? Email Mike McLean, ottawawestdev@gmail.com



Intermediate and major provincials sponsors

Thank you for taking a such a big part in what were memorable tournaments for all the players involved (click on logo to go to website).



OWLL AT THE TITANS GAME!

OWLL is looking to gather families at the



Ottawa Titans game on August 25th at Ottawa Stadium. All OWLL players and their families are invited to come celebrate baseball and the end of the summer season! Check with your team/team snap, as some teams are organizing to go together. Players are encouraged to wear their OWLL jerseys and hats - parents and siblings, wear your OWLL gear too!

Tickets can be purchased using the promo code OWLL23 at <u>this link</u>.

Looking forward to seeing a sea of OWLL jerseys at the game!

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS!!



Do you love to see pictures of OWLL's teams in action? Do you ever wonder how you can get your player's team featured by OWLL? Do you have thousands of pictures that you have taken at baseball games this year and don't know what to do with them??



OWLL's social media team wants your pictures! We try really hard to feature as many divisions and teams as we can on social media, but we aren't able to catch every game. So we would like your help! If you have pictures to share, please email <u>owllsocialmedia@gmail.com</u>, and include the division/team(s), date taken and any other info you would like to share! Thank you!

The road to the Little League World Series

With district and provincial tournaments nearing completion for OWLL's district teams, we thought it would be useful to explain how a team gets from the district to their age's World Series.

The district tournament is the first step for a team on the way to the World Series. Once a team from District 2 (OWLL, East Nepean, and Kanata) wins the round robin district tournament, they advance to the Ontario championship, where they play against teams from all districts in the province. These tournaments typically involve five to eight teams, and follow either a round robin or double elimination format. If a team is successful at provincials, they'll advance to the Canadians. Teams at the Canadians generally represent their province, although some provinces (i.e. the Atlantic provinces) are grouped together and they send one team to represent the region. The winner of the Canadian championship plays in the World Series.

Four age levels have a World Series: major, intermediate, junior, and senior. They all play in different tournaments at different times in the summer – the final tournament of the Little League season is the Little League World Series, for major, which happens in late August. Minor teams don't have a World Series – their tournament season ends after provincials.

When a team from Canada advances to their level's World Series, they will be seeded into the international bracket. The bracket is ten teams for major, and six teams at the three other ages. The teams in the international bracket compete against each other for the right to play the champion of the American bracket in the tournament final.

OWLL has one team still playing for a shot at the Little League World Series. The major Twins will play at the Canadian championship for major, located in Regina, this month.



SPONSOR SHOUT OUT!!

OWLL would like to extend a GIANT thank you to the following sponsors of our spring and summer season. You are an integral part of providing little league in Ottawa West, and your sponsorship of OWLL is a fantastic way support to your community and the development of our players. Thank you for your support of our players and our league!



For sponsoring our t-ball teams



For sponsoring our rookie teams



For facilities support



For donating a portion of sales back to OWLL when they attend our events



For a great job watering our fields during the really dry spells in the spring and summer seasons

Club ball is coming to Ottawa West!



CLUB BASEBALL is coming! Ottawa West is thrilled to announce that we are launching a competitive club to complement our robust little league programming. The West Ottawa Pirates will be offering teams at 13U, 14U, and 16U* - competitive teams that encourage junior and senior aged players to keep playing ball in their community, with the players they grew up playing with and against. Open to players west of downtown Ottawa.

The Pirates are a club program where you get to play competitive ball AND are encouraged to keep playing other sports & in Little League districts. The schedules, travel expectations, and price are all reasonable.

Our technical director, Alex Lajeunesse, brings a wealth of experience, both as a player, and a former coach with ONC. His experience has helped to design this program to meet the needs of our older, competitive ball players.

The tryouts at Pinecrest park will consist of two sessions for each age group. Players must attend both sessions for their age group. The dates are as follows August 9&10 (14U), August 13&14 (16U), and August 15&16 (13U). To register for tryouts, please fill out the <u>registration form</u>. Questions can be emailed to westottawapirates@gmail.com.

*Team age levels refer to player's age on May 1st of the season in question.





AFFORDABLE CLUB BALL / OFFERING VALUE OVERSIGHT BY ESTABLISHED LEAGUE / ACCOUNTABILITY PLAY WITH FRIENDS AND FORMER+FOES MAINLY IN TOWN GAMES / REASONABLE TRAVEL NOT PROFIT MOTIVATED / COMMUNITY FOCUSED

LAYDOWNS AND OTHER SPORTS