



WECSO

WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ORGANIZATION

SUMMER EDITION

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I recently came across a fantastic story that I thought was something that should certainly be shared with everyone and worth the read...especially coaches, parents and grandparents. Submitted by Don Bracken

In Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January 1996, more than 4000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA convention. While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name in particular, kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment – “John Scolinos is here? Oh man worth every penny of my airfare.” Who the heck is John Scolinos, I wondered. Well in 1996 Coach Scolinos was 78 years old and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. No matter, I was just happy to be there. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung – a full sized, stark-white home plate. Pointed side down. Seriously, I wondered, who the hell is this guy? After speaking for twenty-five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about the plate since he’d gotten on stage.

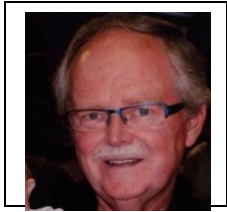
Then, finally, “You’re probably all wondering why I’m wearing home plate around my neck. Or maybe you think I escaped from Camarillo State Hospital,” he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the others, acknowledging the possibility. “No,” he continued; “I may be old, but I’m not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I’ve learned in my life, what I’ve learned about home plate in my 78 years.” Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. “Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?” After a pause someone offered, “Seventeen inches,” more question than answer. “That’s right,” he said. “How about Babe Ruth? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?” Another long pause. “Seventeen inches?” came a guess from another reluctant coach. “That’s right,” said Scolinos. “Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?” Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear. “How wide is home plate in high school baseball?” “Seventeen inches,” they said, sounding more confident. “You’re right! Scolinos barked, “And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in college?” “Seventeen inches!” we said in unison. “Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?” “Seventeen inches!” “RIGHT! And in the Major Leagues, how wide is home plate in the Major Leagues?” “Seventeen Inches!” “SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!” he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. “And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can’t throw the baseball over these seventeen inches?” Pause. “They send him to Pocatello!” he hollered, drawing raucous laughter.

“What they don’t do is this: they don’t say, ‘Ah, that’s okay, Bobby. You can’t hit a seventeen-inch target? We’ll make it eighteen inches or nineteen inches. We’ll make it twenty inches so you have a better chance of throwing the ball over it. If you can’t hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.”

Pause “coaches...” Pause - “...what do we do when our best player shows up late to practice? What do we do if he violates curfew? What if he uses drugs? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him? Do we widen home plate? The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach’s message began to unfold. Then he turned the plate toward himself and using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd the point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows. “This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don’t teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We widen the plate!” Pause. Then, to the point of the house he added a small American flag.

“This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need to be successful...to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?”

(continued on pg. 4)



President Brian's Corner

Welcome back to another year of Slo-Pitch baseball. This year is our 23rd year offering summer slo-pitch to seniors here in Windsor – Essex. The game continues to attract us. It keeps us young in both heart and body as we continue to enjoy the friendships and camaraderie with “old” and new friends. A special welcome to new players to the league this year. May you enjoy, with us, many more years of playing this game that we all love.

The WECSO Executive was very busy over the winter and spring in preparation for this season.

- Good fellow's chairman, Ken Dafoe, presented the Lumberjack Restaurant with a plaque to show our appreciation for their assistance over many years during our Annual Good fellows Drive. Should you visit the restaurant, look for the plaque.
- The Marketing Committee is busy working at plans to increase our membership for next year. This year we introduced a new player incentive “Friend Form” to encourage members to invite new players to the league. Members bringing in new members receive “Concession Money” as a thank you. Check out our website for further details
- A motion brought to the executive by John Barron and Dan Leithead was considered and approved to be brought before the membership for approved at our next AGM. Motion: Any member, being an active member for a minimum of 10 years, and having retired from play, will be honoured with a life membership with full voting privileges. (Member fees - \$20 waived)
- We offered and subsidized the cost of jackets. We had 71 members purchase the bright royal blue jackets (windbreakers) which will certainly be seen to help promote our league. Thanks to Ron Ottogalli for organizing this.
- We decided to stay in the Bingo Class Action lawsuit being brought against the City of Windsor and the Town of Tecumseh. Should the suit be successful in favour of the charities, WECSO can decide at that point if they want to seek restitution.
- With the increasing costs to play ball, the summer slo-pitch fee will go up to **\$75** for the 2017 season. We've been facing a deficit for the last few years and we need to move towards operating with a balanced budget before our funds are depleted.

In discussions with the Slo-Pitch Executive, both executives feel we must move toward players playing in a division where they can play safely with minimum risk to their health. This past spring the Slo-Pitch Executive spent many hours debating how we were going to form a proposed amalgamated Red and Blue Division. With close to 140 players indicating they wanted to play in the “new” Blue Division, we would have had 10 teams of 14 players. It would have meant playing on more than just 2 days a week in a varying schedule from week to week. There was a lot of reluctance to this from the membership. One possible solution was to draft 8 teams of 14, (112 players) with the remaining players given the option of playing in the Green Division or going on a waiting list. We weren't prepared to tell/ask players to move to the Green Division as our mandate has been to allow a player to play in the division where he wants to. Unfortunately this will have to change to allow us to better and more safely manage the divisions. A motion has been passed to reflect this.

President's message cont'd.

Motion: All players will be evaluated by their managers to allow the Slo-Pitch Executive to place players in a division which best reflects the ability of the player to participate with a minimum risk to their (and other players') health. We will strive to continue to do our best for what is in the best interest of all the players in our league.

This is the first year that we have not run a bowling fundraiser. The Lou Dupuis Memorial Bowling Fundraiser ran successfully for 11 years. Tom Bois chaired and/or co-chaired this event with Lou Dupuis, before his passing, and raised over \$65,000 for youth in sports in our community. Tom put out an appeal to the membership for a co-chair for this year, and with no one offering to take on the position, the event was not run. We still have some funds allocated for youth in sports and this year we were able to sponsor two groups. We gave \$500 each to the Windsor Essex County Special Stars Soccer League (a soccer league for autistic youth) and to the Windsor Police Community Services Branch which runs a special Camp Brombal for less fortunate kids. The kids, about 40 every year, are chosen from the Grade 6 VIP program the Police Service coordinates in the elementary schools.

On May 17th, my wife, Mary Ann, and I had the pleasure of attending the Windsor Police Annual Awards Dinner where I accepted an award on behalf of WECSSO for our past nine years of sponsorship to the Camp Brombal program. We have sponsored this program with \$8500 in donations over those years.

We are in the process of ordering a new, updated defibrillator. Bernie Decaire, our Safety Coordinator, will set up a course date once it comes in. We're hoping we can get 12 – 15 members or more to take this course. Bernie says this new one is very easy to use and we would like a minimum 4 – 5 members in each Division qualified to operate it. We'll keep you posted on the course date.

Look for an article on our Remembrance Day Program in this issue. This year will mark the 20th year that we have offered this program to our membership. I encourage you to attend. Bob Parent puts together a nice program for families of past members.

Also, don't forget our Facebook page. Len Dupuis has been out taking pictures and these are shared on his Facebook page, wecsso slowpitch. You can access this page through a link right on our website, wecsso.com.

See you on the diamond. Play safe and have fun!!

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth - No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men -
Muhammad Ali

Report on Child Sponsorship – 2016 by Brian Adlam

We are sponsoring a young boy, Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez, from Nicaragua. This is our seventh year sponsoring him. He is twelve years old and is in grade 5. Jerson lives with his sister and parents in the small community of Oscar Turcios in the city of Esteli which is 150 kilometers north of the capital, Managua. His mother is a homemaker and his father is a Subsistence farmer.

We received a Child Progress Report from the Christian Children's Fund of Canada on **May 26/16** indicating that Jerson is doing well. The report also shared information on activities in the areas of education, health and nutrition, water/sanitation and hygiene that are being provided to families within his community. In education, for example, workshops on Early Childhood Development were held for 175 mothers, fathers and volunteers. The program has provided school packets for 900 children to promote school enrollment and retention. Eight

community preschools from four neighbourhoods have been renovated and equipped; and hence the quality of education for 360 sponsored and non-sponsored children has been improved.

The following letter was received from Jerson on **June 4th/16**.

Dear WECSSO, Hello appreciated sponsors, how are you? I hope you are very well. I would like to tell you about my family. My father works in the field as a farmer and my mother does the house chores. My sister works as a labourer in the cigar factory and she is in the 11th grade. I have a niece named Ahsly who is beautiful and I play a lot with her. I am doing very well in school; I participate in what they do in class. I am in elementary school and my favourite subject is physical education and math. During the weekends I go out to the field with my father and I play and distract myself. We would like to know, what do you do in your spare time? How is the family? Thank you for the benefits the family and community receive. I bid you a fond farewell.

Sincerely, Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez

Jerson will return to school in the fall. He walks to school which is 1.5 km from his home. He wants to be a professional athlete. Our sponsorship is \$456 per year. Money is used to buy school supplies, clothing, and anti-parasitic, anti-louse medicine. Also training on preventative health care personal hygiene is provided. We also sent a \$60 gift for Jerson and his family this past Christmas, 2015.

We can continue to sponsor Jerson until he is 18, provided he stays in school.

Continued from pg. 1

submitted by Don Bracken

“And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young people, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate!”

I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curve balls and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable. >From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path.

“If I am lucky,” Coach Scolinos concluded, “you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: if we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standard; and if our schools and churches and our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to...”

With that, he held the home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside.

“...dark days ahead.”

His message was clear: “Coaches, keep your players – no matter how good they are – your own children – and most of all, keep yourself at seventeen inches”

Be bold enough to use your voice *Leaders continue to lead even when no one is looking*

If you can...Conceive it ...and Believe it...you can Achieve it!

Bingo Committee Report

Thanks to the members that volunteered to help out with the bingos. We have 16 members that have stepped up to help us out. Those members are:

Carla (Ray) Hicks, John Barron, Gary Maisonville, Ron Ottogalli, Linda (Bob) Teron
Doug Bondy, Gord Miall, John Post, Rosemary (Norm) Kennette,
Mike Graham, Ray Morand, Steve Travis, John Barrette, Bill Magone, Gary Morris, Don Trott

Carla Hicks, Gary Morris and John Post worked the May 23rd bingo along with Jim and Brian, Linda Teron, Don Trott, and Mike Graham worked the June 11th bingo along with Jim.

If you don't get a call for a date you signed up for, it is because we had a number of you sign up for the same date. Most everyone volunteered to work the cash payout. We really need members to volunteer to sell books. At present we only have 5 that volunteered to sell books and 3 of those are on the same date. As we get closer to a given bingo date (a week to 10 days ahead) you will get a call to verify that you are able to work that day and the hours you selected. For our next bingo on **Saturday, July 2nd**, only Ron Ottogalli and Mike Graham have indicated they are available. We will hopefully get others to help out. Call or email Jim or Brian if you are available to help.

Our remaining dates for the year are: (Each date has 3, two hour sessions)

Saturday, **July 2:** - 10, 12, & 2 pm sessions

Wednesday, **October 26:** - 10, 12, & 2pm

Wednesday, August **10:** - 10, 12 & 2 pm

Friday, **December 16:** - 4, 6, & 8 pm

Just a reminder that each member that volunteers to work a session (2hr), **receives a \$10 credit** towards their membership and baseball fees for the following season, (Winter or Summer Slo-Pitch)

Bingo Committee: Jim Bridge 519-969-9029 jgb0543@sympatico.ca

Brian Adlam 519-735-5438 b_adlam@hotmail.com

VISIT www.wecssso.com for more information about Windsor Essex Senior Sports Organization, for updated schedules and photos updated weekly. If you want to send something send it to: info@wecssso.com

RED DIVISION

After several meetings and many discussions, the slo-pitch committee decided to try and go with three divisions for the upcoming season. This decision came very late in the process and time was our enemy. Could we get enough players to play in the Red Division after telling them that this division would be eliminated for the 2016 season? Many players, by this time, had probably made their decisions to play in the Blue Division or decided to play elsewhere for the upcoming slo-pitch season. What compounded the problem was the fact that the slo-pitch committee had announced the days of play and players probably adjusted their summer schedule to play on the designated days. The slo-pitch committee instructed me to contact the players (who had already registered) to see if they would play in the Red Division (if we had one) on Mondays and Wednesdays, as in the past. Unfortunately some players had already made alternate plans to play in other leagues or had adjusted their schedules to play in the Blue Division. Fortunately though, enough players indicated that they would be willing to play in the Red Division on Mondays and Wednesdays. As a result, the slo-pitch committee made the decision to go back to a three division format for the upcoming season. An additional meeting was held to make some necessary changes as a result of going back to three divisions.

The Red Division has four teams. Each team has 14 players. The managers are: Jack Bump, Geoff McKay, Mike Dimaio and Bernie Decaire. The Red Division has adopted a few of the Blue Division's rules for the upcoming season. The players were informed of the new rules and the reason that they were adopted. Playoffs will be the same format as last year- Round Robin first round in which the teams will play each other twice. Then it will be 1vs2 and 3vs4 format. The winner of 1vs2 goes to the championship game. The loser of 1vs2 plays the winner of 3vs4. The winner of this game goes to the championship games to play the winner of 1vs2.

Ron Ottogalli Convenor

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2016 REMEMBRANCE REPORT

THE FOLLOWING BALLPLAYERS HAVE PASSED AWAY AND WILL BE REMEMBERED ON SAT. AUG. 20TH 2016

RICHARD DUNGY SEPT. 14TH 2015

MICHAEL EDWARD "EDDIE" RIDEOUT DEC.29TH 2015 --- DAVE PIROUET FEB. 8TH 2016

MATTHEW "MAX" KRUTSCH APRIL 23RD 2016 --- THOMAS MULDOON MAY 29TH 2016

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THIS CELEBRATION OF OUR PAST WECSSO MEMBERS AND TEAMMATES. THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR LIVES ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. IT SHOWS THE FAMILIES THAT THEY WERE WELL THOUGHT OF AS TEAMMATES AND FRIENDS. OUR CELEBRATION TAKES ABOUT ONE HOUR AND IS HELD IN DIEPPE PARK AT THE FOOT OF OUELLETTE AVE. IN FRONT OF THE FOUNTAIN. WE HAVE RESERVED MANY STONES TO BE USE'D ONLY FOR DECEASED WECSSO MEMBERS.

ON ANOTHER NOTE I HAVE ASKED YOU MEMBERS TO LET ME KNOW WHEN A MEMBER IS SICK OR HAS PASSED AWAY, IF WE KNOW IN TIME WE CAN ORGANIZE AN HONOR GUARD FOR THE FUNERAL BUT WE NEED TIME. IS THERE ANYONE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO SERVE AS AN HONOR GUARD? PLEASE LET ME KNOW 519 725 3373, IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS SICK OR CONVOLESCING FROM A PROCEDURE. BY LETTING US KNOW AND WE CAN LET OUR MEMBERS KNOW SO THEY CAN VISIT, CALL OR LET THEM KNOW WE ARE THINKING OF THEM. HERE'S HOPING THE LIST DOES NOT GET ANY LARGER FOR OUR REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATION.

BOB PARENT



Our President, Brian Adlam along with Chief of Police AL Frederick and Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac. Brian and his wife, Mary Ann, attended the Windsor Police Annual Awards Dinner on May 17th; and Brian accepted an award on behalf of WECSSO for their nine years of sponsorship to the Windsor Police Camp Brombal program.

WECSSO has provided a valuable service in my life. Although most of the guys and gals are retired I still work half time and there are a few here and there that work full time but can shift around the sports events. Guess some of us just love chasing balls around and acting like a kid again. In a younger all age league many of us would get discouraged, embarrassed and maybe injured. So this is a chance to play, find new friends, share comradery and compete on an even basis with other seniors.

My passion is for Volleyball. Somehow I also feel that if it is summer, then I must be back on the old diamond, so softball is close behind. Somehow I like keeping score, and I like that the teams have a "record" of wins and losses, yet when the game is over, it does not matter and I celebrate victories with a beer and drowned my 30 second sorrow with a beer. Either way it is one of my favorite social situations, having some comradery with the team and league mates.

Probably the most valuable aspect has been the mental and physical health related to keeping active and exercise. We each determine how much or how little sweat we want to work up or at what level of risk are we going to go after that silly ball. I lost 35 pounds which I attribute part to my competitive nature to compete in the WESSCO leagues.

A big thank you goes out to all the administration for these fine sports programs. I think the Men's Slow Pitch Convenor said it all at the beginning of this season. He said "My hope is that you all drive home with a big smile on your face after each game."

Indeed I have had that big smile. It is FUN, Win or lose remembering the better plays or hits made.

Tom Goebel

Constant Government Assault

Perhaps you've received news in your Hydro One bill that rates will again be going up this summer. Of course, it's only a small amount. They claim, on average, each household will only have an increase of \$3.00. The reason for the increase is very strange. Apparently, due to a mild winter, they will need to raise fees. For an endless amount of time, Ontario Hydro has given us many suggestions as to how we can reduce our hydro bill. Now that we have followed their suggestions and added insulation, turn off lights and not done our laundry during peak hours, they tell us that their suggestions have worked too well to the point where they have to raise our fees. In the past, they have even levied a "debt retirement" fee. This fee could range anywhere from approximately \$6.00 to \$10.00. Who knows why it is never the same. I presume their debt should be going down each month. Then, someone sent me a list of salaries made by employees of the Ontario Energy Board, Hydro One and the Ontario Power Generation. Combining all three public sector agencies, there are 11,879 employees who make over \$100,000 per year. (This doesn't include the employees who make less than that!) How is it that they need this many employees to begin with? The president of OPG makes more than \$1,700,000. Who needs this much money, especially when it's coming from the public dole? Then there are approximately 15 others who make half a million or more. Then we discover that 15% of Hydro One has been sold, now making it, at least, a partially private company. This means they no longer have to disclose salaries of their employees. The idea from the premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, is to sell off 60% of Ontario Hydro. The fee from the banks, for what has already been sold, is 29 million dollars. Now they need an extra \$3.00 from each household to continue their lavish lifestyle.

This is something that should annoy each one of us. The public should have some say as to how much employees are getting paid from the public trough. These people are living in luxury while some of our children are just scraping by. Even at that, those just scraping by will still be required to pay this fee increase so that the wealthy can continue their lifestyle. All this information can be found by simply checking on your computer. Just look up "salaries for employees of public energy companies". After this, you could also contact your local MPP and let him or her know what a farce this is and, perhaps, they might like to look into it. Phil Ochs

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GREEN DIVISION

It's a brand new year with a number of new faces. Some haven't played in years but others have come from the blue division. We have welcomed them as our numbers have been down and we field 12 players (fewer on the bench). The ex-blue guys have been a great addition and are finding that the play is a little slower but just as much fun and sometimes more. How many times can a guy turn a triple into a double and a double into a single and still laugh about it with both teams. All the teams are getting plenty of laughs.

The competition has been good with Tom's team leading the way with the most wins but the majority have been by 1 or 2 runs. All the coaches have been working with their players and the umpires to try and speed up the game and it has been working. Thanks to the umpires, you're doing a great job. The hits and the scores have increased along with the caliber of play. We may not have the arm to throw from 3rd or short to get an out at first but a runner getting past second is a lot tougher, that's great baseball.

It's good to see the respect each player has for great plays and great effort by all no matter the outcome. At the end of the game the majority of conversation is about the plays of the game and not so much the actual scores. We all know we can improve our play but the friendships are most important. Having fun is #1

One thing I should have mentioned was that we loan players to all teams, even the ones we aren't playing to balance the number of players each game as no one wants to be on the bench. Playing is what we came for and if we win it's a bonus. Mike Graham

Danny has been doing a great job organizing the teams, setting up the diamonds and most importantly stressing the good sportsmanship that should be displayed by all participants. All the players and managers congratulate and thank Dan for doing a great job. And thanks to Peg his wife, as she knows how hard a job he has.

A Man For All Seasons

When I was a Rotarian, there was a saying that when you needed something to get done, you always went to the busiest man you could find. It would appear that Brian Adlam is such a busy person.

Many of us know Brian as the President of the Windsor Essex County Senior Sports Organization. He has been a member for 16 years, a manager for 12 years and we've also currently seen him umpiring our slo-pitch games. You would think that would keep him busy enough but you would be wrong.

Brian is a member of Forest Glade Optimists, a service club whose motto is "Bringing out the Best in Kids." He has been a member for 32 years. He also is President of Forest Glade Baseball and has worked with this organization for 35 years. His grandchildren now play in Forest Glade. Oh, I want to mention that Brian himself plays in the adult mixed league with two of his children.

Brian is a member of Banwell Community Church and sings in the choir.

As you can see from the above, Brian Adlam is not just a short term joiner of the volunteer organizations with whom he works. When he signs up, he commits totally. For example, if you were to observe him in his role as President, you would be impressed with the fact that he not only delegates tasks to the Executive but takes responsibility for the nitty gritty jobs that need to be done himself.

Enough about his volunteer work. Let's get to know the man himself.

Brian Adlam was born and raised in Windsor. He attended Herman Secondary School (and is pleased that the school is keeping its name), and went on to the University of Windsor where he received a Master of Science degree. He went from there to Althouse College, received his teaching certificate and taught Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics at General Amherst Secondary.

Brian and his wife Mary Ann have been married for 42 years and have 3 children - a daughter and two sons. One son is a teacher, the other is with the R.C.M.P. while the daughter is a supervisor with the City of Windsor. They now have 9 grandchildren.

An interesting foot note is that Brian and Mary Ann have lived in the same house in Forest Glade all their married life. In fact its construction was completed when they got back from their honeymoon and they just moved in for the next 42 years.

When I asked Brian what pleasure he gets with WECSO, he talks of the team camaraderie and the friendships developed over the years.

Volunteer organizations thrive when members such as Brian Adlam step up and commit to undertaking the very demanding tasks and issues that are sure to arise in any undertaking. I think we are fortunate to have this man for all seasons.

By Don Diubaldo

One-eyed Willis turned me around. I was clutching the fat, red, bat. "What side do you swing from?" He asked, peering down but I wasn't sure what he meant. "Are you a lefty or righty?" He looked at me sternly, he was tall and his face kind a red. But I couldn't help staring at his glass eye glaring at some point over my head. Right then I recalled the story I was told about my father, his brother and a stick. They were up on the farm in the summer, by the barn, where the accident happened so quick.

Dad with the stick, like a spear he tossed at the door still closed on the barn. When it suddenly opened and there be his brother and too late for him to be warned. And no time to duck as the spear like stick struck, there was only an awful cry. Now nobody talks about that terrible toss when Willis lost his eye. Well he made me swing this way and that, my hands squeezing the red, fat, bat. And I swung back and forth with all of my might, then old Willis exclaimed, "You bat from the right!" So he turned me sideways with my left facing out. He told me to swing with my arms straight out. He told me to choke-up and spread out my stance, but that glass eye so scared me I nearly peed my pants.

So I stood there all sideways with the fat, red, bat resting on my shoulder as Willis stepped back. Then he bent down low 'cause he was so tall, in his hand he was holding a fat, white, ball. And he say's "are ya ready?" But I don't reply, from even ten feet away, I'm still scared of that eye! Then he lobbed it toward me, the white, fat, ball. It floated in the air like a hovering seagull. And it floated on by me as I stood like a soldier the red, fat, bat still there on my shoulder. And Willis cried, "You gotta swing that thing!" But it was the look in that eye that was most frightening. So he pitched it again the fat, white, ball.

I was standing with the bat still sideways and all. Then, "Swing!" old Willis excitedly cried. But all I could do was just shut my eyes and swing like a blind man flailing away, missed it completely and the ball bounced away. Well, Willis just stood there with his hands on his hips. Both eyes were glaring but which one was which? Then he tells me to relax and, "keep your eye on the ball." Now that choice of words didn't help me at all. He tells me to focus and just follow through, but if that eyeball fell out what would I do? That's what I was thinking as I rigidly stood my whole body frozen and stiffer than wood.

I wanted to turn; I wanted to run I didn't think baseball was really much fun. But again I gripped the red, fat, bat. Held it up straight above my head. With my arms out level, my feet firm and settled; I was determined to do what Uncle Willis said. I would try just watching the ball, and not think 'bout that false eye at all, just time my swing to hit that thing, "Just concentrate, that's all!" And then I swung the fat, red, bat and I heard a really loud smack, 'cause I hit the ball hard, nearly out of the yard, it landed in some bushes way back! In that moment of joy I was not a scared little boy and my excitement took a great leap! I was so super surprised – I forgot that eye; and I was dancing on my feet. And Willis he cheered, grinned ear to ear clapped his hands and gave a big smile.

"Way to go!" He said (the eye still in his head), "You must have hit that one a mile!" And so it was there, in Uncle Willis's backyard with a fat, red, bat I hit that white ball far and I fell in love with baseball while overcoming my fright and from that day on I would swing from the right. Though sometimes I wonder, maybe Willis got it wrong. After all, he had that impairment to his sight.

But I can no longer recall, from which side he saw and so I'm left to batting right.

BLUE DIVISION CONVENORS REPORT

Standings as of Thursday June 09.

SENIORS 7 – 3 FOSSILS 6 – 3 ANCIENTS 6 – 4 NORSEMEN 5 – 5

ANTIQUES 3 – 6 ROCKERS 2 – 8

ADLAMs, FOSSILS came out of the gate on fire, winning their first 6 contests. If Don and Hector can keep SIL and the other young PUPS in line, this team will be tough.

Speaking of tough, manager MIKE, has been busy teaching his ANCIENTS team mates how to get down and dirty. CHUCKIE and the others are fast learners with a 5 game winning streak.

SENIOR manager MORRIS, instruction was not quite as successful. He gave a pointers to rookie JOHN for an early season pitching performance. The bad news – CLINTON, gave up 19 walks; the good news – the SENIORS managed to WIN that Game.

Welcome back DON. Not only are MACPHERSONS, NORSEMEN happy to see you, the entire league enjoys the day a little more with you here. Be safe as you recover; hopefully you will be game ready soon. Dan sets a fine example for his crew, no inappropriate language allowed. However, it has been reported that ED gave someone the finger. NO Really he gave his

PHILS, ANTIQUES; have scuffled early. But FRANKLY once all of their big bats are in the line – up together they should be a force.

MOULDERS, ROCKERS; are also struggling a bit, hoping to keep everyone healthy and in the line – up. Hang in there! We see a RAY of light ahead. WAIT; is that a tunnel.

As you veterans of the league know, the convenor together with the managers will soon consider roster changes to balance the numbers and attempt to address any talent imbalance due to injuries, retirements and the like. (This is being written in early June)

It is imperative that each and every player communicates with his manager regarding planned absences, that is both individual games and especially prolonged absence due to for example vacation, or injury or surgery, etc.

Also if anyone is contemplating a division change, (i.e. moving to GREEN – C or RED – A Division), tell the convenor Chris or your Manager ASAP.

PLAY SAFE, TREAT THE OPPONENT WELL. ENJOY THE SEASON.

Chris Brennan

Here are the names and phone numbers of contact people for each of our activities:

WECSSO: Brian Adlam – 735- 5438

WRSA: Gerry Mayea - 519-739-2283

WECSSO NEWSLETTER: Tom Bois - 519-735-3922 email - thomasb@mnsi.net

SLO-PITCH: Rick Anderson – 519-734-0173

VOLLEYBALL MEN: John Barron - 519-735-5236

VOLLEYBALL WOMEN: Carol Malewicz 519- 990 - 8709

BEST SELLER BOOKS – Phil Ochs 519-726-6974

WEBSITE –www.wecssso.com / Carla Hicks – info@wecssso.com or raycarlahicks@gmail.com

Member Discount List:

Bring your membership card.

Restaurants:

The Whistling Kettle - 11700 County Rd. 42 - 10%

Sports Equipment:

Nantais Source For Sports - 2020 Tecumseh Rd. W. (no GST/PST)

Bob Reaume Sports - 4275 Tecumseh Rd. E. (no GST/PST)

The Trophy Boys - 1540 McDougall (20%)



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See their scheduled hours on the next page and to book an appointment – call 1-888-2-donate

Spread the Word - We need Donors

Windsor-Essex Gift of Life Association: Give the Gift of Life

Organization | Windsor

Clicks to Register: **965**

97% to my goal of 1000

Windsor-Essex Gift of Life Association is committed to increasing the number of registered organ and tissue donors through awareness, education, media outreach and transplant community support. Every three days someone dies in Ontario because the life-saving organ transplant they need is not available, yet only 25% of Ontarians have registered their consent to be a donor. There are 1,500 people in our province waiting for organ transplants and the thousands more waiting for tissue transplants. Most people would accept an organ transplant if they needed one, so why have so few registered their consent to donate? Our organization is committed to changing these statistics and increasing education. We're asking our community to register their consent for organ and tissue donation – it can be done online in just two minutes. We're also asking them to ask their friends and family to register as well.

Help Windsor-Essex Gift of Life Association: Give the Gift of Life reach their goal.

"One organ donor can save up to eight lives, and can enhance the lives of up to 75 others"

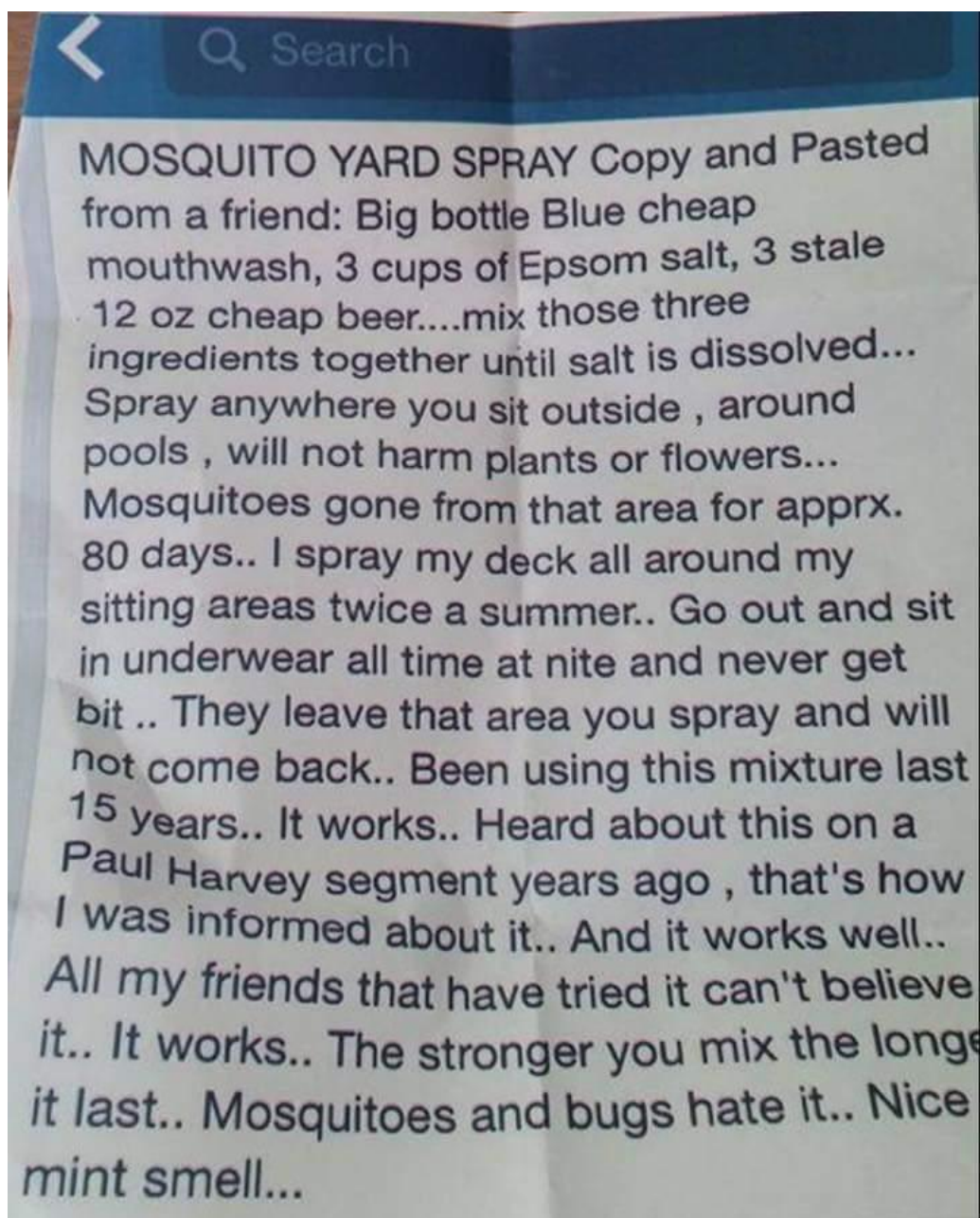
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Statistics today are 1528 Canadians are waiting for a life saving organ transplant. 1095 for kidneys, 224 for livers, these are the two organs that can be living donors if you are a match.

In Windsor Essex County health card holders registered is only 27% let's increase our numbers talk to your family and register your consent beadonor.ca/wegiftoflife.

Niva Segatto

Tom Bois



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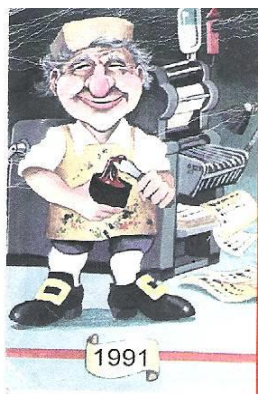
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