



WECSO

WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ORGANIZATION

SUMMER EDITION

Volume 29

JUNE 2017

WELCOME TO THE 2017 SUMMER SLO-PITCH SEASON

Welcome back to our returning players and a special welcome to the new players who will be playing in our league for the first time. If past seasons are any indication, you are about to enjoy a season filled with enjoyment, camaraderie, sportsmanship and exciting baseball. This league is a recreational league for players 55 years of age and older. The league has developed a CODE of CONDUCT to emphasize the recreational aspect of the league. It can be found on the website. If you do not have a computer, ask any member of the slo-pitch executive for a copy. You are in a very envious position. You are still capable of playing. Many who want to play cannot for a number of reasons. Enjoy the moment. Don't take the game too seriously. Sure, we all like to win and play competitively. Wanting to win is not a bad thing. However putting winning above everything else, is. Playing should be more about having fun playing a game we love, the camaraderie and sportsmanship developed amongst players during the season and the inner satisfaction knowing that you tried to do your best in each and every game. IF you are a player who gets upset with errors or mistakes made by your fellow team mates or one who gets upset with umpire calls and visibly and verbally displays this displeasure, then, THIS LEAGUE IS NOT FOR YOU. On the other hand, IF you are one who encourages fellow team mates even when they make a mistake(s) or an error(s) or one who may disagree with a call made by an umpire and does not belabour the point, then, THIS LEAGUE IS FOR YOU.

WINTER IN DOOR SLO-PITCH

Once again this past winter, WECSO operated an indoor slo-pitch league at Noveletto Center. The games were played either at 9:30 am or 11:00 am. There were four teams consisting of nine players per team. In addition to the players who registered to play the full season, we had players who played for a half season and we also had players who played "now and then". We had over 40 players who enjoyed playing indoor ball this past winter.

We do not have separate divisions. Players of different athletic abilities compete against and play with one another. This does not pose a problem whatsoever. Players realize that not all players have the same abilities and never are critical of the play of any player. The atmosphere in indoor ball is far different than that of outdoor summer ball. Even though we always preach that we are a FUN league during the summer season, indoor baseball truly follows the principle of having fun first and foremost. We do not take the game so seriously and we really do not care who wins and who loses. Indoor ball gives us something to do during the winter months and at the same time enjoy the camaraderie that develops amongst the players in a relaxed atmosphere. Words cannot describe the experience. Come on out next winter and you will see firsthand what I am talking about in regards to indoor ball. It is unique, it is different, but above all, IT IS A LOT OF FUN.





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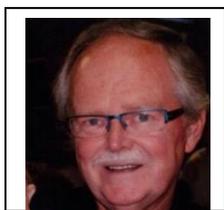


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President Brian's Corner

Hello again, everybody..... it's a bee-yoo-tiful day for baseball. Harry Carry.

Yes, welcome back. It's that time again where we "old men" (and young ladies) come out to the ball park to enjoy another season of Slo-Pitch. This game for us is all about going out and getting some exercise, having fun and renewing friendships with players from last year. We have a number of new players this year in all 3 divisions and we hope you enjoy playing ball with us.

Our two executives, WECSSO and Slo-Pitch were quite busy over the past winter/spring preparing for our 2017 season. Jack Bump, our new Marketing Chairman, has put together an excellent team to promote our league. Ads went into the Essex Free Press, the Tecumseh Shoreline, the Guardian (Unifor Newsletter) and posters were put up in union halls, Community and Senior Centres across Windsor- Essex. I got calls saying "I saw your poster at the Local 444 hall" and another, "I'm calling from the WFCU Senior Centre, your poster.....". Well done Jack and Committee.

The WECSSO executive will be asking the members to reconsider a motion that was passed last fall regarding life memberships. Currently all members playing ball, pay a \$20 membership fee on an annual basis. The motion last fall gave life memberships to retired players who were active for 15 years, waiving their \$20 fee and allowing them to attend banquets, have voting privileges and be honoured with a memorial brick on their passing. It was felt by the WECSSO executive, that there is a large majority of players who do not have any interest in the activities of WECSSO once they stop playing ball. They don't attend the Annual meeting, don't attend banquets and do not carry on with any other activities to support WECSSO. Thus why should we honour them with a life membership? The executive feels a retired player could show their continuing support of WECSSO with a \$20 annual membership fee. This allows retired members to continue to use their membership card with our Member Discount List program, attend meetings, banquets and be honoured with a memorial brick. This will be brought forth at the Annual meeting in October.

There was a lot of discussion on the Slo-pitch Executive on what we could do to help out the Green Division. Registrations were only giving us 3 teams (thankfully we reached 4 - only in the last week of April) and the Red and Blue divisions were at capacity with waiting lists. The WECSSO executive had passed a motion last year to give the Slo-Pitch executive the option to place players in a division which best reflects the ability of a player to participate with a minimum risk to their (and other players') health. The Slo-Pitch executive did not want use this option as there has been an unwritten mandate to allow a player to choose the division where he wants to play. If we were to arbitrarily move players from the Red to Blue or Blue to Green, how many of them would quit playing. How many choose to play ball on a given day because they have commitments on the other days or that they want to play with their friends even though they don't have the skills they once had. These are questions we considered. We were very lucky to get some players at the last minute to play in Green to make 4 teams. We were getting feedback that a lot of players were going to quit altogether if there were only 3 teams. We can't go through this scenario again next year. More and more players are retiring annually, more from Green than the other two divisions, as expected, and if we want to have a viable Green Division, then we may have to move players down a division or combine Blue and Green into one large division. This will have drawbacks also, resulting in players quitting or requesting to move up to the Red division.

(Continued on page 7)

CONVENOR REPORTS

GREEN DIVISION

Hello - my name is Daniel Leithead and I am the convenor for Green Division. This is my thirteenth year playing ball both as a player and a manager and this is my fifth year as a convenor. Green Division is made up of older players, players who have not participated in baseball for many years and just simply those who approach the game for fun and exercise. The age-range of players goes from 58 to 86, with the average age being 71 plus. Green Division is mildly competitive, with the emphasis being on enjoying a challenge and the company of good friends, but always putting safety first.

To begin with, let me thank my managers Tom, Earl, John & Mike, for their continued support and their handling of their teams, with special thanks going to Mike for being assistant convenor.

Opening season this year was very challenging because we only set out with 39 registered players. This would have only given us three teams to work with, but as time progressed our numbers slowly grew to the point where we thought we would be able to field a fourth team, making four smaller teams. We had a meeting between the players and the managers about two weeks before the season started to get their thoughts on whether we should go with three full teams or four smaller teams. The vote was unanimous to go with four.

We would still like to see more new players signing up and we would certainly make room for them. We welcome our new players to Green Division and feel free at any time to approach Mike or myself with any concerns. To all the players in Green Division - have a great time out there on the playing field, but remember to be safe and do not overextend yourselves. Remember we're not 18 anymore.

BLUE DIVISION

It's great to see familiar and smiling faces on the diamond. The Maisonville twins, Joe and Gary, have been visiting with us. Now, if we could just get them into the line-up, that would be terrific.

Be cautious; good health is first. Already there have been a few injuries, relatively minor, we believe and hope. A reminder to all players; proper and sufficient warm up prior to and even during the game will likely reduce the need for ice/heat after the game.

A secondary draft, when players may be moved from one team to another is an attempt to improve the league, and will be scheduled soon. So, managers, do you consider that your team is too weak, too strong, or is it another team we need to look at?

Every player should be aware that he could be re-assigned even though you have done nothing wrong.

Everyone have fun, enjoy your teammates company and let's PLAY BALL!

Convenors: Chris Brennan and Brian Adlam

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Senior Romance!!!

I was in my back yard trying to launch a kite. I threw the kite up in the air, the wind would catch it for a few seconds, and then it would come crashing back down to earth. I tried this a few more times with no success. All the while, my wife is watching from the kitchen window, muttering to herself how I need to be told how to do everything. She opens the window and yelled to me, "You need a piece of tail."

I turned with a confused look on my face and said, "Make up your mind. Last night, you told me to go fly a kite!"

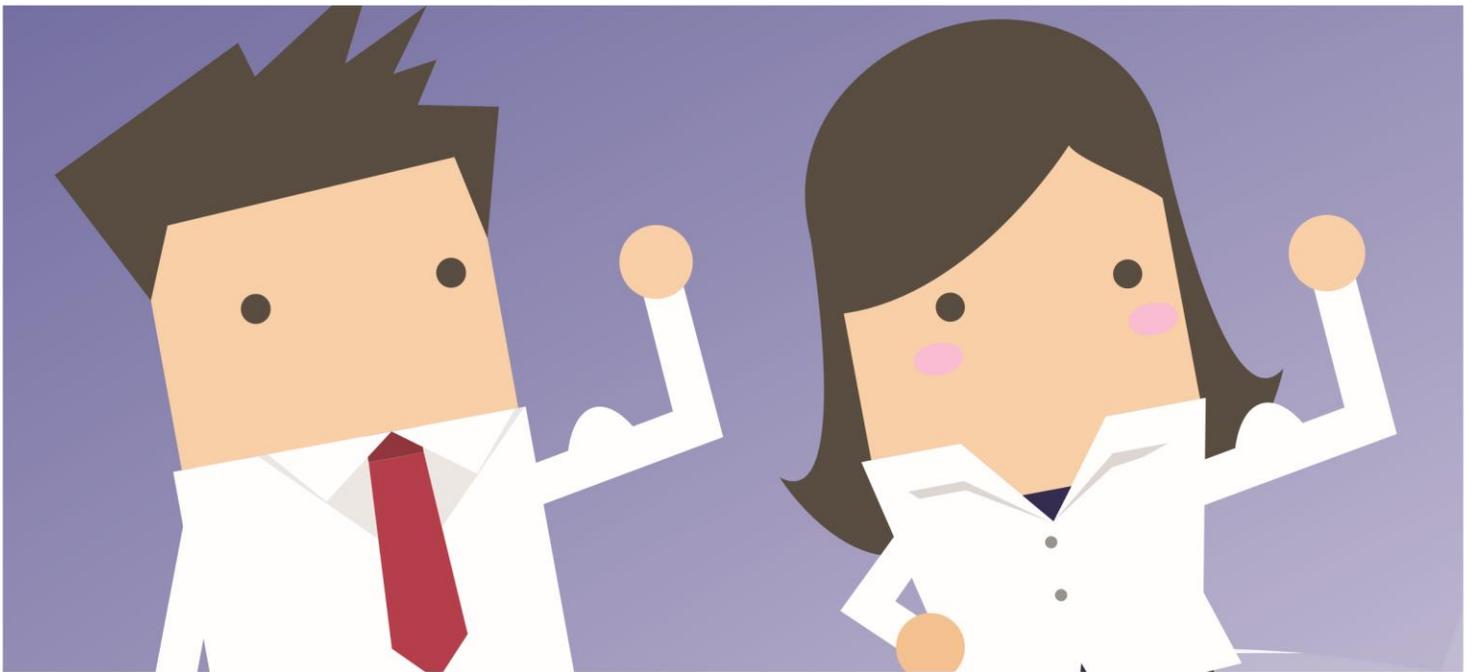
RED DIVISION

The Red Division will have four teams made up of fifteen players. The numbers are up and hopefully in the future we can keep attracting new players. Team managers are: Gary Galli (Leisures), Ron Ottogalli (Dinosaurs), Lou Lafontaine (Cavemen) and Mike DiMaio (Vikings). Bob Hind (Leisures), Rick Anderson (Dinosaurs) and Tom McNorton (Cavemen) will assist the managers in managing their teams. It should be noted that a team managed by Mike DiMaio has won the Red Division championship three years in a row. I know that Mike is going to be aiming for a fourth straight title and the other managers will do their best to stop Mike's streak.

The Red Division draft is conducted by the managers and supervised by the Commish, Rick Anderson. The draft is not your normal draft where managers pick their teams individually where each manager selects a player from a list following a pre-determined sequence. The Red Division is quite different. The managers first make up teams based on positions. For example, each team will be assigned a first baseman, a second baseman, a shortstop, at least two pitchers and so on. This will assure that a team has players playing the position they normally play as well as no team be missing a player at any position. After this is done, the managers look at the relative strength of the teams and make adjustments to try to balance the teams from a competitive point of view. In making these adjustments, positional play is still considered as being a key component of team makeup. This may not be perfect way of making up teams but we feel this is the best way to try to have competitive teams from the "get go". We go one step further. We treat the first two games as "practice" games to be used as a barometer on how well the teams are made up. The managers meet after these two games have been played and discuss if further adjustments are necessary. However, this may not be the final step. The managers will meet again after six more games have been played to see if any more adjustments to the teams need to be made. The main reason for adjustments at this stage are mainly due to injuries to players that might upset the competitive balance of the league. Our main goal throughout the season is to have the teams as balanced and as competitive as possible. We realize that this may not be possible due to a number of factors but we will strive to do the best we can to achieve our goal. We have used this method the last two years with very good results and with the co-operation of the managers, I know, once again, we can achieve a competitive balance within our division.

The Red Division playoffs start with a double round robin. At the end of the round robin the teams are seeded 1-4 depending on their record during the round. Teams 1-2 and teams 3-4 will play each other. The winner of the 1-2 game goes to the championship game. The loser of the 3-4 game is eliminated and the winner of the 3-4 game plays the loser of the 1-2 game. The winner of this game goes on to the championship game to play the winner of the previous 1-2 game.

Please remember "IT IS JUST A GAME". I know that winning is important but that should not be the main reason why we play. We should go to the games to compete but at the same time enjoy the camaraderie that exists among your teammates and your opponents as well. We should strive to do the best we can both offensively and defensively, give encouragement and positive reinforcement to our teammates, treat our opponents with dignity and respect and at the end of the game congratulate each other on a job well done (win or lose). We should be very thankful that, at our ages, we are able to play this wonderful game. We do not realize how lucky we are until there comes a time that we will no longer be able to partake in this sport or any other sport. **Enjoy each game- each moment- each other's company-nothing lasts forever.**



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(President's Message Continued from page 2)

One possible solution is a method used by a league in Florida to set up divisions. In this league, everyone registers to play but not on any specific days or in a given division. All player's names are put into an initial draft. For 3 divisions of say 4 teams each with 14 players per team, the first 56 players drafted are placed in the top division. All the remaining players are placed in a new draft and the next 56 players drafted go into the middle division. The remaining players are then placed in the third division. What are your thoughts on this? Come out to the next annual meeting and voice your opinion on how you want the divisions set up.

Our Opening Day was bright and crisp and we had a good turnout from all 3 divisions. Our Commissioner, Rick Anderson, welcomed everyone back and we had a remembrance for those members that have passed away since last fall. It was an honour for us to have Carla Hicks present along with her family. Her grandson was excited to see her throw out the first pitch. Carla's husband, Ray, played with us for many years in the Red Division, volunteered as an umpire and worked closely with the Slo-Pitch executive as our handyman taking on many a task. Carla is our webmaster and this year is also taking on a new role in editing the newsletter. Thank you Carla.

Special thanks goes to Bernie Decaire, our Safety Coordinator, for setting up and running the CPR course for us. We appreciate those members that were able to attend.

Enjoy your season playing ball. Play safe, stay healthy, thank the umpires after every game and if you can, stay for lunch at the concession following the games. See you there.

Success isn't something that just happens – success is learned, success is practised and then it is shared.
Sparky Anderson

WINDSOR BEST SELLER BOOKS

Don't forget your Windsor Best Seller book. They are still good until March 1 of 2018. We make a very good percentage of profit on these books for our slow pitch group. This will help to keep us from raising fees for slow pitch. On most items, you pay for one meal and get the second free. There are some very good restaurants worth trying. If you want to go for a drive on a sunny afternoon, try DUCKS ON THE ROOF in Amherstburg for a nice fine dining experience at a reasonable price. If you would prefer to stay in Windsor, Gilligans is always a popular place. Cramdon's has a newly remodeled place with good food. Sam's Pizzeria and Cantina is a quaint little place with excellent pizza and other good menu items. Then, of course, there are several golf courses in the county. Normally, if you pay for 18 holes, the second person gets theirs free. If you use three or four coupons, you could have the book paid for. Usually, we raise about \$1500 for our league. It would be nice if we could raise more than this amount. Please give it some thought. Contact Marilyn Portt ([519-969-0693](tel:519-969-0693)), Brian Adlam ([519-735-5438](tel:519-735-5438)) or Phil Ochs ([519-800-6944](tel:519-800-6944))

UMPIRES

Presently we have 15 names on our roster, with three retiring as of last year. We held our spring annual workshop in early, with Don Balkwill holding a question-and-answer session. As usual, Don provided a clear-cut and concise discussion of new rules to be introduced. He answered all questions and, as in past years, this proved to be of great benefit to all.

We continue to welcome new people who might be interested in joining our group...simply call Bill at **519-972-1812**. Looking forward to the new 2017 season. Bill Scheuerman

DOOR PRIZES AND DISCOUNTS

We are always looking for door prizes for our banquet. If you can donate or know a business that can donate, please ask them and talk to Jack Bump. We are starting to collect now.

We all love a bargain or a discount. If you know of a business or restaurant that would be willing to give WECSSO members a discount, please let us know so we can contact them.

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

A famous writer was in his study. He picked up his pen and began writing: "Last year, my gallbladder was removed. I was stuck in bed due to this surgery for a long time. The same year I reached the age of 60 and had to give up my favorite job. I had spent 30 years of my life with this publishing company. The same year I experienced the death of my father. In the same year my son failed in his medical exam because he had a car accident. He had to stay in the hospital with a cast on his leg for several days. And, the destruction of the car was a second loss." His concluding statement: "Alas! It was such a bad year!"

When the writer's wife entered the room, she found her husband looking dejected, sad and lost in his thoughts. She carefully and surreptitiously read what he had written, and silently left the room and came back shortly with another piece of paper on which she had written her summary of the year's events and placed it beside her husband's paper. When her husband saw that she had written something in response to his account of the year's events, he read: "Last year I finally got rid of my gallbladder which had given me many years of pain. I turned 60 with sound health and retired from my job. Now I can utilize my time to write better and with more focus and peace. The same year my father, at the age of 95 without depending on anyone and without any critical conditions, met his Creator. The same year, God blessed my son with life. "My car was destroyed, but my son was alive and without permanent disability." At the end she wrote: "This year was an immense blessing and it passed well!"

MORAL: In our daily lives we must see that it's not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy. There is always, always, always something to be thankful for. **ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING**, and attitude is the one thing that we always, in every circumstance, have control over.



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Hicks family I would like to thank the executive for asking me to throw out the first pitch this season. It meant a lot to all of us that you chose to remember Ray in this way. WECSO was a very big part of his life and he made a lot of good friends in this organization. Thanks again.

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

WECSO: Brian Adlam – 735- 5438

WRSA: Gerry Mayea - 519-739-2283

WECSO NEWSLETTER: Carla Hicks – info@wecss.com

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 519-800-6944

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

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SOLD; Cape Coral Florida. Widow from LaSalle had been trying to sell a Florida lot for 2years. She used Tom's referral system. Tom's team sold this Florida property for cash in 2 months.

SOLD; Windsor house for 8888 neighbor client. Goal was to sell but not pay a real estate commission. He used Tom's hourly real estate service and the seller **saved over \$7,000** in broker fees.

SOLD: Michigan Lake Huron waterfront cottage. Client had this for Sale for 3 years with no results. Used Tom's Co-list program and sold it.

CASH REBATES: When Tom is not saving seller money on brokerage fees he is rebating buyers at closing. San Francisco, Atlanta, Lake Orion, LaSalle etc.

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A DEDICATED W.E.C.S.S.O. MEMBER

In 1994, this gentleman was selling a house when a man walked in who was interested in buying. The seller was Bob Parent and the potential buyer was Tom Simpson, one of the founders of W.E.C.S.S.O. As they talked, the conversation shifted to baseball and Simpson learned that Bob had played a lot of ball. He invited him to come out for the W.E.C.S.S.O. League (there was only one division at that time).

Well, Bob Parent joined and as the years passed, he became Secretary of the league, then Vice President, and finally in 2006, he succeeded Doc Thomas as President. He served in that position until 2014 but did not stop there. He continues to serve W.E.C.S.S.O. to this day as Chair of the Remembrance Committee. He wants to remind you that this year's Remembrance will take place at 10 a.m. on August 19.

Bob Parent is Windsor born, was raised and married in Belle River, brought up his family in Riverside and presently lives in Lakeshore. Is he a county guy or what?

He attended St. John the Baptist elementary school and graduated from North Essex High. How many of you know that is the old name of Belle River High School?

Following high school, Bob entered the General Motors Apprenticeship program, became a millwright and worked 36 years at G.M. He speaks fondly of his old employer.

He has been married to Donna for 54 years. They have raised 3 children - John who is a principal in London, Anne Marie who owns a professional cleaning service in Canton Michigan and Joe who works in Social Services at Windsor City Hall.

Bob is very active in his community. He serves in his church, Good Shepherd parish, as a Eucharistic Minister, and delivers food as a worker of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was a scoutmaster for 10 years

It's quite clear that Bob Parent likes to do things to help people and while we were talking, he suggested an idea to help W.E.C.S.S.O. He asked, "What if each of us invited someone to come to a game, shared what we are about, and asked them to join our league?"

Sounds good to me, Bob.

BINGO COMMITTEE REPORT

Bingo revenue for 2016 was \$12 085.00. Without it, our registration fee would go up \$60 per member to \$135.00 for the season. We need this source of revenue and we need more of you to volunteer. Last year we had 12 of our 200 members help out with one or more bingos. Four others had volunteered but we couldn't work them in (dates overlapped). Those that are volunteering are doing a fine job, but most are interested in helping out only at one or two bingos in a given year. Thus the need for **more** volunteers. At our latest date, May 1st, we had Rosemary (Norman) Kennette, Carla Hicks and Ron Ottogalli working with Jim. Kenny Ducharme also came out to look at what is involved. The day went very well.

We give our members a \$20 cash honorarium for each session worked. Three workers are required in addition to Jim. Two are book-sellers and one does cash payout. Booksellers are where we need the most help. We have no problem getting members to do cash payout. If we can get some more members trained on book-selling then we wouldn't have to use the same people all the time. Each bingo date has 3 two hour sessions. You can work all three or just take on one or two.

Consider working a bingo and give me a call.

Below are the bingo assignments up until the end of December, 2017 (each date has 3 two hour sessions)

Wednesday, **June 7th** - 10, 12 & 2 pm

Monday, **October 16th** - 10, 12 & 2 pm

Friday, **July 28th** - 4, 6 & 8 pm

Monday, **November 6th** - 10, 12 & 2 pm

Monday, **August 14th** - 10, 12 & 2 pm

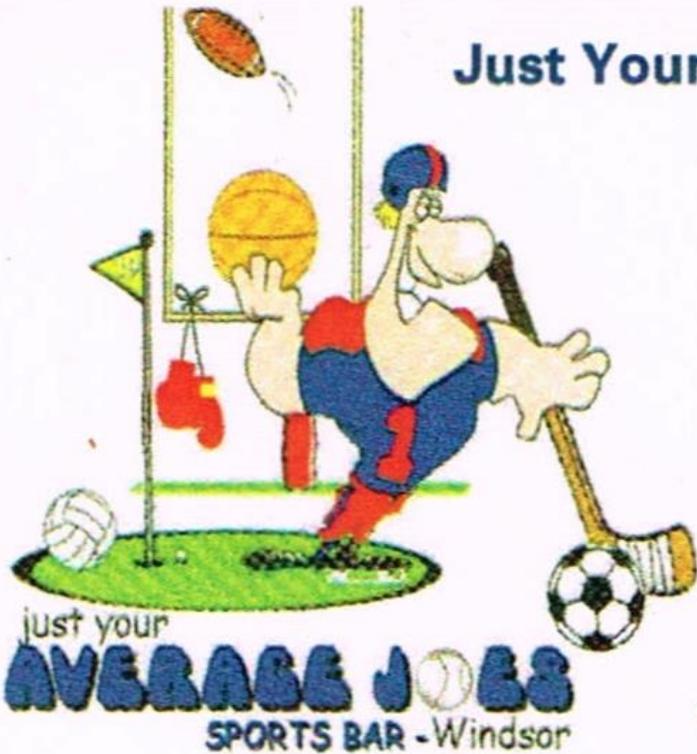
Thursday, **December 14th** - 10, 12 & 2 pm

Bingo Committee: Brian Adlam 519-735-5438 b_adlam@hotmail.com

Jim Bridge 519-969-9029 jgb0543@sympatico.ca

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A History of WECSSO

Windsor Essex County Senior Sports Organization

By Paul Thomas

THE BEGINNINGS

TOM SIMPSON is generally given credit for the founding of **WECSSO**, but if the truth were known, this credit might be ill-directed. In 1987, Tom, a navy veteran, retired from Custom and Excise in Windsor; and, after having led a very active and involved life, suddenly found himself somewhat lost with nothing to do. He was restless, antsy, probably crabby (of course), and just a pain in the butt around his home. He was driving his wife of many years, Florence, up the wall. In the spring of 1988, she probably said something to the effect – For crying out loud, get out of here; do something to get yourself involved and get this restlessness out of you; **go find some guys to play some ‘scrub ball’!!!!** And that was the push behind the formation of what would eventually become **THE WINDSOR/ESSEX COUNTY SPORTS ORGANIZATION**. Thus it was Florence, not Tom, who was the real reason for our organization!!

LET’S PLAY SOME SCRUB BALL

The Royal Canadian Legion Branches have always served, among other things, as a social setting where armed forces veterans can talk, argue, plan, reminisce about anything and everything. Sports is always a popular topic of discussion, and frequently the senior members present would get talking about the ‘good old days’ when they were heavily involved in any and all sports. Of course the stories that were told brought back many wonderful memories of past accomplishments, and most certainly, of enjoyment and fun. Tom was a regular at some of these branches, and during one of these ‘bragging sessions’ brought up Florence’s scrub ball idea – and the seed was planted. “Why can’t we get back to those days? Now that we are retired and have time to enjoy our ‘golden years’, – what is holding us back?”

In the spring of 1988 **TOM, GORD WAFFLE** and **JIM SCHROLL** got a bat and ball, dug old gloves out of mothballs, and started getting together at AKO field to ‘hit the ball around’. This turned out to be more enjoyable than they expected; so they decided to try to get others involved. They started spreading the word by making calls, inserting an advertisement in the newspaper, and even getting some TV exposure. The first ‘add on’ was **STAN SCRATCH**. He called **GERRY VIDLER**; and things snowballed.

LET’S FORM A SLO-PITCH TEAM

In a month there were enough scrub ball payers to form a Slo-Pitch team. Now they needed some opposition. This led to the first game – an exhibition game with a bunch of local young guys in their 20’s. This went very well. So they played several more exhibition games with teams of younger players, and more than held their own. They decided to try competing with teams of ‘their own age’ level – but where could they be found.

ART GRUNDY, another member of the ‘originals’, and **JIM SCHROLL** had played in an ‘old timers’ league in Detroit; and they were able, in 1989, to set up several exhibition games with teams from that league - and ‘our guys’ were quite successful. They were so successful that the next year, 1990, they were admitted to the league as a full-fledged member; and the league became the **CAN-AM LEAGUE**.

LET’S FORM A BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To carry on the program, and to expand its horizons, funds were needed for equipment, uniforms, league fees, etc.; so the group formed a Board of Directors with the main purpose of raising funds for this team to compete in the CAN-AM league. The board was as follows;

TOM SIMPSON (President)
FRANK EDWARDS (Vice-President)
JIM SCHROLL (Treasurer)
JERRY VIDLER (Secretary)

Tom was the 'main pusher' of the organization, and for that, has been included on every Board of Directors. His drive, enthusiasm, and vision were invaluable in getting things going. He is fully deserving of any and all compliments for his efforts. It is quite likely that without Tom, there wouldn't be this tremendous program that is so valuable to so many seniors in this area.

This first board of directors, plus others who jumped in to help at any time, deserve everlasting thanks from the several hundreds of WECSSO members, past and present, who have benefited from the 'joy of fun' of participation in 'play'. There are much bigger benefits – such participation puts off 'growing old' both physically and mentally. It keeps us young in both heart and body. One only has to witness the 'seniors at play' to recognize how true this is.

The board approached the Canadian Government for a grant under one of its 'Heritage Programs', and received \$3000.00! They were 'off and running'. Realizing that most of the members (at the time) were war veterans and were members of various branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, they wrote letters to all the branches in Windsor requesting donations. Branches 594 and 598 made very generous donations to the cause, and continued to do so for several of the formative years of the organization.

WE WILL BE FOREVER INDEBTED TO THE LEGIONS, BRANCHES 594 AND 598.

With funding in place, the board turned its direction to attracting more new members, and soon there were enough players to form another team. It, too, played in the CAN-AM league, and it, too, was successful. Eventually a 3rd team was formed. These three teams played in different levels in the league and we won all three championships! Now there was a sizeable group of local seniors playing slo-pitch at a very respectable level.

LET'S FORM A LEAGUE

As time went on, several players found that going to Detroit for games was too demanding. The closest games were an hour away, including the custom and immigration delays, and this was costly in terms of time and gas money. It wasn't convenient, to say the least. **FRANK EDWARDS** pushed the idea of developing our own league in Windsor. He organized a 'contact group' made up of **WES O'GRADY, HARRY LAPLANTE, GORD WAFFLE, and JIM SCHROLL**; and these guys went through the telephone book and called any names that looked familiar, and prodded them to come out to 'have a ball'.

This very active committee also advertised in the newspapers and on television, and urged all the present players to use word of mouth to get other guys. The group's efforts were successful, so -much so that in 1993, a four-team league of our won was formed! Games were played at Jackson Park and the season was from early May (as soon as the sun started to warm us up), until October (based on the onset of cold weather). These guys loved playing so much that the weather had to be really bad to call off games. They called themselves **THE WINDSOR RETIREES** - The original name of the organization.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER. YOU CAN READ THE ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY ON THE WEBSITE. AS WELL, IF YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES, ARTICLES ETC. FOR OUR ARCHIVES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GETTING A COPY OF THOSE. PLEASE TALK TO TOM BOIS. THANKS TO "DOC" THOMAS FOR THIS WONDERFUL ARTICLE)

WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Do most of us see WECSSO as a worthwhile Seniors' Group that we are willing to support? Do we show our support by actively participating when asked OR do we see WECSSO simply as a means to an end? Is it that we see it as simply a slo-pitch league that allows us to play at a very reasonable price throughout the summer months? Do we really care for the organization as a whole? We simply want to play slo-pitch and WECSSO happens to have a slo-pitch league for us to play in. If not WECSSO, we would simply try to find another league to play in during the summer.

I ask the above questions because of what I have been observing these past several years as to the involvement of our members in activities OTHER THAN slo-pitch. One word that I would use to describe most members' involvement is APATHY. Apathy is defined as "lack of intent, enthusiasm, or concern." Apathy of members is a big reason why organizations cease to exist. We have a great organization and for it to continue we need active participation and support of all our members in our many activities.

When was the last time (if ever) that you have participated in the following WECSSO activities.

1. Attended a WECSSO annual meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday in October each year.
2. Ran for elected office- slo-pitch executive or the WECSSO executive.
3. Attended our annual remembrance day held on the 3rd Saturday in August each year.
4. Helped out with the Good fellows drive.
5. Served as an honor guard for a deceased member.
6. Worked a bingo.
7. Contributed an article for our newsletter.
8. Contributed a door prize for our end of season banquet.
9. Volunteered to ump.
10. Purchased a Windsor Best Seller Book.

We are much more than a slo-pitch league. We have a number of members who plan a number of activities and do a lot of work "behind the scenes" to ensure the success of these activities. Believe it or not, slo-pitch is not our only activity. It is gratifying to see your support for slo-pitch. It would also be gratifying if members supported WECSSO and its' many other activities.

Just My Thoughts, Ron Ottogalli

WHY DO CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS?

In a recent survey young sporting enthusiasts were asked why they participated in sports. The reasons may come as a surprise to most of you in our very competitive society that puts emphasis on winning.

Reasons in order of importance.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. To have fun | 2. To improve skills |
| 3. To stay in shape | 4. To be good at something |
| 5. For the excitement | 6. To get exercise |
| 7. To play as part of a team | 8. For the challenge |
| 9. To learn some skills | 10. TO WIN |

Would you rate to have FUN as the primary reason why you play sports and TO WIN as the last reason why you play? The children seem to have the reasons for playing sports in proper perspective. Do YOU? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

LOGIC?

Submitted by Phil Ochs

Have you ever tried to explain something logically when the other person does quite know what the word "logic" means? Unfortunately, the next few examples are true. You may have heard of them.

A 59-year-old woman claimed she was viciously attacked by a seagull. This lady sued her company's landlord. Apparently, she lost her footing and fell heavily after losing her shoe during the seagull's attack. This project officer, who worked in Scotland, was left upset and injured by the bird's dive-bombing. She is suing the owner of the office building because he did not take sufficient care for her safety. Obviously, it must have been the fault of the owner of the office building.

Now, you and I know that we have had our own complaints with certain establishments but would we have gone to this extreme? This lawsuit was filed by a judge from the District of Columbia. We all know that judges can be very reasonable people. This judge, apparently, was the victim of a lost pair of trousers. The dry cleaning company just couldn't come up with the pants. Now, obviously, this was a very distressing case because the judge sued for inconvenience, mental anguish and he also sued because he had to represent himself. It was such an embarrassing situation that he felt he had to sue for 40 million pounds (yes, over a pair of trousers). Apparently, there was a sign in front of the dry cleaning shop indicating "satisfaction guaranteed". In the judge's opinion, this establishment failed to live up to its claim. He pleaded his case for four years....He lost.

Then there's the story about the lady who was driving a Winnebago. This lady, from Oklahoma City, had purchased a new 32-foot motor home. This lady was driving on the highway. She set the cruise control to 70 miles/hour. She calmly got up, walked to the back of the motor home to make herself a sandwich. (This, of course, was long before the age of self-driving cars) She seemed quite surprised when the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. The lady sued Winnebago because they had not indicated in the driver's manual that you couldn't actually leave the driver's seat after you set it to cruise control. Now, I hope you're sitting down because this is where the point of the whole article comes in. The jury (supposedly intelligent people) awarded her \$1,750,000 PLUS a new Winnebago. The Winnebago Company did update their manual with this correction in case the lady had any relatives who also might buy a Winnebago.

SUPPORT THE CANTEEN – LET'S NOT LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY

After our games, we have the luxury of being able to purchase food and/or refreshments without leaving the premises. For those who want to socialize after the game, this is an ideal setup. No need to go to another location to meet up with fellow players. This is a service that does not have to be provided to us. Matt provides this service as a courtesy to those who wish to hang around and do a little bit of socializing after the games. This is a great way to get to know your fellow players better especially those that you might not have played with before. At times, we also get to solve the world's problems with our many solutions. Lively discussions often ensue and we all become experts in a wide variety of topics. The game itself may also be discussed but that is not the main area of discussion most of the time.

Unfortunately, on certain days the canteen is not used by our players and there may come a time when it is not economically feasible to have it open after our games. Matt could easily be getting the diamonds ready for the night games and thus have more time to spend doing the things he enjoys away from the diamond. I know that the regular users appreciate his efforts. It would be these people who would be greatly disappointed if this service was no longer offered. Let us make an effort to see that this not happen. Support your fellow players to ensure that the Canteen remains economically feasible for Matt to open after our games. By directly supporting the canteen, you are also indirectly supporting your fellow players who enjoy socializing after the games while having food and/or refreshments.

Coaches and Managers, please remind your players to support the Canteen, socialize with the others players and have a great day.

Ron Ottogalli

BASEBALL NICKNAMES

submitted by Brian Adlam

What was your baseball nickname growing up a kid? If you didn't have one, did you see yourself as "The Mick", "Joltin Joe" or "Hammerin Hank" I'm sure you know the players called "Shoeless Joe", "The Splendid Splinter" and "The Georgia Peach", but how many of the following nicknames can you match with the players on the right (without going to your computer). All of the players played within the last 25 years. Let me know your score out of 25

- El Oso Blanco
 - Kung Fu Panda
 - Scrabble
 - Beef
 - The String Bean Slinger
 - The Octopus
 - Country Breakfast
 - Big Donkey
 - Pronk
 - Big Papi
 - Wonder Hamster
 - Eye Chart
 - Coco
 - Da Meat Hook
 - The Flyin Hawaiian
 - Big Unit
 - Big Hurt
 - Crime Dog
 - The Professor
 - Froot Loops
 - Nails
 - Chipper
 - Starvin
 - Big Mac
 - Chilli
- a) Evan Gattis
 - b) Carl Edwards
 - c) Travis Hafner
 - d) Frank Thomas
 - e) Lenny Dykstra
 - f) Charles Davis
 - g) Pablo Sandoval
 - h) Antonio Alfonseca
 - i) Dmitri Young
 - j) Fred McGriff
 - k) Larry Jones
 - l) Wellington Castillo
 - m) David Ortiz
 - n) Adam Dunn
 - o) Doug Mientkiewicz
 - p) Mickey Tettleton
 - q) Mark McGuire
 - r) Marc Rzepczynski
 - s) Randy Johnson
 - t) Billy Butler
 - u) Matt Stairs
 - v) Shane Victorino
 - w) Greg Maddux
 - x) Covelli Crisp
 - y) Marvin Freeman

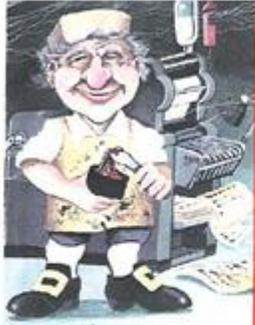
Answers: See elsewhere in the Newsletter

KEN HOGAN TOM JONES RICHARD MAYVILLE



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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Submitted by Bob Parent

Our Remembrance Day is held the third Saturday in August on a yearly basis. This year it is being held on Saturday, August 19. It is very important that we make every attempt to attend this celebration of our past WECSO members and teammates. The celebration of their lives is 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 Avenue in front of the fountain. We have reserved many stones to be used for deceased WECSO members. This year we will be remembering the following people:



Emile (Emmer) Theriault



Walter Block



James (Jim) Kalman Schroll



Thomas (Tommy) Simpson



John Stein



Gordon Waffle



Don Stockwell



Gordon (Gord) Gunnell



Raymond (Ray) Hicks

CANCELLATIONS

The following procedure is followed for games that are cancelled

1. Matt Janisse will contact the commissioner, Rick Anderson, as soon as possible to cancel the games.
2. Rick will contact Carla Hicks, our webmaster, so that the information can be put on our website- wecsso.com
3. Rick then will contact the convenors
4. The convenors will contact their managers.
5. The managers will call/e-mail their players to inform them of the cancellation.

Unless told otherwise, either on our website or by your manager, players should show up for their game. It may be raining or has rained in your neighborhood but not at the complex. If in doubt, call your manager.

BE A DONOR

Organ and Blood Donations

The CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES CENTER is open Tuesday through Saturday at various times. Their slogan is, ***"It is in you to Give" and it is very easy to give and much more is needed.***

Inventory of blood needs an injection of 150,000 donations by July 1

Less than 10 % of Canadians donate blood but the need is much greater now than ever

WINDSOR/ ESSEX needs BLOOD AND ORGAN Donors

Windsor is currently ranked 159 out of 170 Canadian Cities 27% OF DONORS/POPULATION

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

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 1,545 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.

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

Be a hero and consent to organ and tissue donation beadonor.ca/wegiftoflife

Statistics today are 1545 Canadians are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. 1105 for kidneys, 232 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 are only 27%. Let's increase our numbers! Talk to your family and register your consent at beadonor.ca/wegiftoflife

Niva Segatto

Tom Bois

Charity Committee Report - 2017

submitted by Brian Adlam

We are sponsoring a young boy, Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez, from Nicaragua. This is our eighth year sponsoring him. He is thirteen years old and is in grade 6. 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 **April 4/17** indicating that Jerson is doing well. His favorite subject in school is Phys Ed and his goal for a career is to be a veterinarian. *He* walks to school which is 1.5 km from his home. On **May 19/17**, the following letter was received from Jerson

Dear WECSO,

Hello, esteemed sponsor. I hope you are in good health together with your loved ones. My family and I are fine, thanks to God. I am doing great in classes, as I have put all my interest in learning. I also help with the cleaning. On my vacations, we go to visit my relatives. They are very loving to me. Sometimes they tell me stories about people or places, or how life was much peaceful without so many cars, and that the rivers had more water before and more fishes to eat. Now there are few rivers.

I would like to know: What do you do on vacations? Thank you for the support you give to my family and community. I bid a fond farewell to you.

Sincerely,

Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez

If anyone is interested in writing to Jerson or has a grandson or granddaughter who would like to write to him, let me know and I will give you the mailing information. 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, 2016. We can continue to sponsor Jerson until he is 18, provided he stays in school.

Local Youth Sponsorships

Once again this year we are sponsoring 2 youth sport-related groups. We gave \$500 each to the Windsor-Essex County Special Stars Soccer (a soccer league for autistic youth) and to the Windsor Police Community Services Branch which runs a summer camp program, "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.

Answers to Baseball Nicknames on page 13

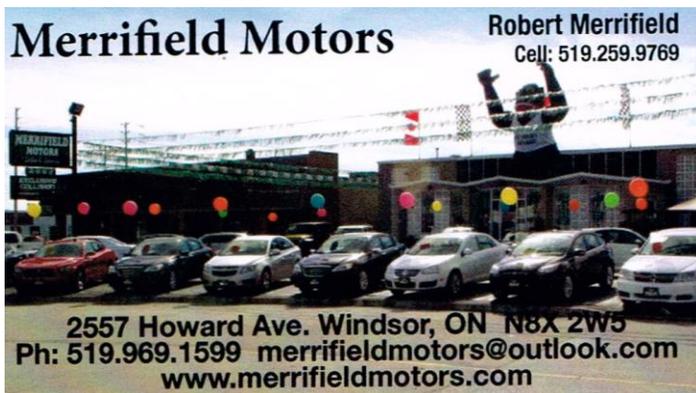
El Oso Blanco - Evan Gattis, Kung Fu Panda - Pablo Sandoval, Scrabble - Marc Rzepczynski,
Beef - Wellington Castillo, The String Bean Slinger - Carl Edwards, The Octopus - Antonio Alfonseca,
Country Breakfast - Billy Butler, Big Donkey - Adam Dunn, Pronk - Travis Hafner,
Big Papi - David Ortiz, Wonder Hamster - Matt Stairs, Eye Chart - Doug Mientkiewicz,
Coco - Covelli Crisp, Da Meat Hook - Dmitri Young, The Flyin Hawaiian - Shane Victorino,
Big Unit - Randy Johnson, Big Hurt - Frank Thomas, Crime Dog - Fred McGriff,
The Professor- Greg Maddux, Froot Loops - Mickey Tettleton, Nails - Lenny Dykstra,
Chipper - Larry Jones, Starvin - Marvin Freeman, Big Mac - Mark McGuire

WHAT'S THE CALL?

Submitted by Don Balkwill

1. One out with no runners on. B2 bats and hits a single. B5 bats and hits a home run. The umpire then calls an illegal pitch on the first pitch to B6. At that time, the defence appeals that the offence batted out of order. What's the call?
2. A pitched ball is batted in the air to the outfield. The batted ball hits the top of the outfield fence in fair territory and ricochets back toward the outfielder, hitting him in the shoulder. The ball then deflects back toward and over the fence in foul territory. What's the call?
3. There is a runner on 2nd. The batter hits the next pitched ball for a single. The outfielder's throw toward home is a few feet up the first baseline. The catcher, who had picked up the batter's bat, uses the bat to stop the misdirected ball. As a result, R2, who is between 3rd and home at the time of the catcher's actions, retraces his steps and arrives safely at third. What's the call?

(Answers elsewhere in the newsletter)



HOME OF THE ONE YEAR WARRANTY

MARKETING COMMITTEE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of this group for their hard work and organizational skills to put together this newsletter. A special thank you to Carla Hicks for showing us the way to pull it all off. Bless you and your family for your time and dedication to the WECCSO Slo-pitch organization. This committee consists of the following people:

Bill Magone Tom Bois Bob Parent Ken Dafoe Don Balkwill Don Diubaldo Jack Bump

Thanks to all our sponsors, those who placed advertisements and the people who submitted articles. Please support our sponsors with your business whenever possible.

Jack Bump
Marketing Chairperson

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to thank both UNIFOR LOCAL 444 and UNIFOR LOCAL 200 for their sponsorship of WECSSO this year. Please visit their websites to find out more about their History, Activities, Charitable Events and more.



<https://www.uniforlocal200.org/>



<http://www.uni444.ca/>



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KITCHEN CORNER

Vinegar & Garlic Dills, Submitted by Diana Trott

- 1 cup pickling salt (no substitutions)
- 4 cups pickling vinegar
- 4 quarts water (use sealer 4 times)
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar

Combine salt, vinegar, water with cream of tartar. Bring to a boil.

In clean, hot, quart jars, place garlic toes & dill in 3 layers with cucumbers.

Cucumbers may be whole, sliced horizontal or vertical, or in chunks.

Add vinegar solution.

Put outside in the sun for 4 days.

Store in house after 4 days is up.

Cheesy Potatoes, Submitted by Erin Bump

- 1 bag of hash browns (2 pounds)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 2 cups old or medium cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 500 ml tub Sour Cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder

Mix all together and place in casserole dish or cake pan. Bake uncovered at 400 degrees for 1 hour. Grate extra cheese to put on top when finished cooking.



Salsa, Submitted by Diana Trott

- 8 cups tomatoes (blanched, peeled, chopped) or a 7 lb. tin of tomatoes from Costco
- 2 cups of chopped sweet yellow peppers
- 2 cups of chopped sweet green peppers
- 2 cups of chopped onions
- 1 cup of chopped celery
- 8 toes of garlic
- 2 plus chopped hot peppers
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 2 tablespoons coarse salt
- 1 teaspoon of paprika
- 1 tablespoon of cilantro (or 1 fresh bunch)
- 1 ½ cups vinegar
- 1 – 5 ounce can tomato paste
- 1 ½ teaspoons chili powder

Mix and let cook on low for 2 hours, stirring frequently. Mix ¼ cup lemon juice with 2 tablespoons of flour and add to salsa to thicken. Salsa continues to thicken while cooking. Makes 8 pints.



Fruit Chili Sauce, Submitted by Diana Trott

30 Litres tomatoes (does not have to be exact)

6 pears

6 peaches

6 apples

6 plums

1 stalk celery

6 onions

3 or less hot red peppers

4 cups white sugar

2 tablespoons salt

2 teaspoons of cinnamon

2 teaspoons of cloves

1 teaspoon mace

1 teaspoon allspice

3 cups pickling vinegar

1 cup water



Chop all vegetables and fruit.

Cook for 4 hours, check often, do not let it burn.

Pour into clean jars and seal.

RHUBARB CUSTARD BARS, Submitted by Carla Hicks

Base:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 cup sugar

1 cup cold butter

FILLING:

2 cups sugar

7 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 cup heavy whipping cream

3 large eggs, beaten

5 cups finely chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed and drained

TOPPING:

6 ounces cream cheese, softened

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped



In a bowl, combine the flour and sugar; cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into a greased 13x9-in. baking pan. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, for filling, combine sugar and flour in a bowl. Whisk in cream and eggs. Stir in the rhubarb. Pour over crust. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until custard is set. Cool. For topping, beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Fold in whipped cream. Spread over top, cover and chill. Store in refrigerator.



The Ciociaro Softball Complex is operated by M&M Sports Management, a family company owned by Matt and Megan Janisse. We've both been a part of this facility for 8 years now, the last 6 as facility operators.

We have invested tens of thousands of dollars on improvements to the diamonds here at the Ciociaro Softball Complex over the past six years, with those projects funded by the sales at our concession/bar & grill. Your patronage at the softball concession helps to keep diamond rental fees affordable, and ensures that we can continue to upgrade and improve your ball diamonds.

Thank you to all WECSO slo-pitch players for your continued loyalty. We look forward to serving your league for many years to come!

ANSWERS TO WHAT'S THE CALL

1. All plays stand. Two runs score, one out, B3 and B4 miss their turn at bat, and B6 has a count of one ball on the illegal pitch.
2. The batted ball is a fair ball. The ball is dead, "Dead Ball", as soon as it goes over the outfield fence. The batter and any other runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch. The batted ball is not ruled a home run because the ball touched the defensive player after making contact with the outfield fence.
3. R2 is awarded home. This is not a blocked ball situation but rather the use of detached equipment. B1 is awarded 2nd base.

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