

President's Message from Alan Waffle

What's New in 2012

Welcome to the 2012 baseball season! The League is anticipating some exciting changes for 2012.

- Early bird registration fees (your chance to save) will be available until **March 4th**. Fees will increase after **March 4th**. Please remember that all Rep and Select players **MUST** register by March 4th, using paper copy, through their respective team manager. As an incentive to register early, **Home Run Sports** is again sponsoring one lucky player and one parent/guardian to be the guest of the Toronto Blue Jays at their pre-game batting practice and to stay and see the game in excellent seats.

Register Now on line (preferred) or by paper copy!

- In affiliation with **Pro Teach Baseball**, the Royal York Baseball League will once again be offering pre-season clinics, coaches clinics, summer clinics, and team instruction. These clinics provide RYBL participants with the opportunity to learn from the knowledgeable and experienced instructors at Pro Teach.
www.proteach.net
- The City of Toronto is considering initiating permit fees for all baseball diamonds as part of “cutting the fat” out of the City Budget. In anticipation of this eventuality, your executive has recommended a slight increase in fees this year to offset this possibility. The Royal York Baseball League is a not for profit organization and as such has no cash reserve to cover off this eventuality.
- The only face to face registration date and *meet the president* evening will be held this year at Home Run Sports on **Thursday, March 1st from 7:00 to 9:30pm**. On that night, Home Run Sports will be offering baseball equipment to **all players** in our League at an HST equivalent discount along with other in-store specials.



I am happy to announce that RYBL has a new trusted partner – CutMyCosts.com. The majority of our conveners, including myself, have utilized this service which is designed to find you significant savings on your telecom bills. We have found it to be financially very rewarding. CutMyCosts has offered to donate a portion of their proceeds generated through RYBL contacts back to the league. It takes very little time and I strongly encourage everyone to contact Vir Sodhi (one of our conveners) for more information.

He can be reached at 416.554.1987 or you can learn more at www.cutmycosts.com. Please remember to mention that you are with the Royal York Baseball League.

- **Blastball** will play on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings from the first week of May until the end of June. Blastball will be playing out of diamonds to be announced in the near future.
- **T-ball** will play either on Tuesday or Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Like Blastball, T-ball runs from the first week of May until the end of June. T-ball will play at the Humber Valley diamonds.
- Online registration is fully secured through Pay-Pal, and I encourage all to register in this manner. The League will continue to absorb all transaction fees related to online registration.
- Players will be contacted and assigned to teams and coaches no later than May 1, 2012.
- In order to facilitate requests for players to play together, we ask that you request on the registration form **one friend only**. That friend **must** also request your son or daughter to play with them in order to ensure that they play together.
- This year, the league will continue with training and development programs for all players at all levels with **Pro-Teach** baseball professionals. RYBL is very proud to be a leader in the community through providing these development programs for all registered players.
- Tom Riley diamond will again have a dedicated washroom facility during the playing season in a secured fenced area at the north end of the batting cage. All coaches will have keys to access the enclosure. Your League is funding the operational cost of this upgrade.

Highlights of 2011

- Royal York had 844 registered players in 2011, making it one of the largest leagues in Toronto.
- 2011 was another successful year for Royal York Rep & Select teams with the following Ontario and Toronto Champions & Finalists:
 - Women's team – OBA Provincial Champions
 - Minor Mosquito – TBA "A" Champions
 - Peewee – TBA "A" Champions
 - Minor Bantam - TBA "A" Champions & OBA Semi-Finalists
 - Minor Peewee – TBA "AA" Finalists

- Bantam – TBA “AA” Finalists
- Rangers 16 and 18's AAA 2011 Ontario Champions

- Our Rep and Select teams provide Royal York baseball players with the opportunity to play competitive baseball while still maintaining the focus on fun, sportsmanship and player development.

- The Etobicoke Baseball Association purchased, on our behalf, two small grading and grass cutting tractors. One has been located at Tom Riley Park and the other at Queensway Park. Our Rep and Select coaches will be asked to use the machines to groom the fields after each of their games to supplement work by Parks and Recreation.

- Fixed bases have been installed at Tom Riley, Ourlands and Queensway south at the 90 ft. base path length. This should help to reduce the damage caused by steel cleats to the normal nailed down bases.

- The infield grass at Ourlands has been removed and replaced with red clay. The infield will be much easier to maintain.

- The League is exploring a joint partnership arrangement with both the Toronto District School Board and City of Toronto’s Parks and Recreation to refurbish the Castlebar diamond to a Bantam class field.

- The League has also submitted an application to the Jays Care Foundation to build a new Bantam size diamond at Connorvale Park.

***Please remember to register early to avoid disappointment!
In addition, we need your help, and ask that you volunteer your
time to coach, a rewarding experience helping young children
learn the game of baseball. Again this year we will continue free
training for both coaches and players using Pro-Teach
professionals. I look forward to another safe and exciting
baseball season!***

Your President,
Alan Waffle