

# Elmwood Giants Baseball Club



**ELMWOOD GIANTS JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB**  
1957-61  
2008 Inductees Special Team Category

From Left to Right  
**Back Row:** Al Tresson (Coach), Dennis Halford, Ray Hoskins, Frank Urs, Terry Taylor, Bruce Chasley, Bob Reinkenz.  
**Front Row:** Howse Hughes, Ken Ingram, Ray Shafiel, Ron Kidd, Walter Costello, Ken Tressor

Individual portraits shown include: Bob Audette, Alex Turk, Clint Hoskins, Jerry Kurk, Brian McGilgugin, Mac Gordon, George Tilbury, Lorne Nodman, Bob Smith, Gord Lowry, Mike Washak, Don Dorcy, Al Bosak, Tom Trosky, Gary White, Doug Smith, Ron Benson, Jack Shuba, Howard Hughes, Tippy Miller, and Norm Rogoski.

# Alumni & Friends NEWSLETTER

Fall Edition 2011

# Our Cover Photo

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Junior Championship won by members of a Elmwood Giants “team” that was inducted to the Manitoba Baseball hall of Fame in 2008 in the “Special Teams” category.

The 1961 championship roster consisted of:

- **Bob Audette (1B, P)**
- **Ron Benson (C, OF)**
- **Glen Corne (P)**
- **Mac Gordon (P, OF)**
- **Clint Hoskins (SS)**
- **Ken Ingram (C)**
- **Gerry Kruk (P)**
- **Brian Maxwell (2B)**
- **Bill McLennan (3B)**
- **Norm Rogoski (P, OF)**
- **Jack Shuba (OF)**
- **Ray Shuel (OF)**
- **Doug Smith (OF)**
- **Tom Trosky (2B, P)**
- **Gary White (3B)**
- **Denny Halford (Coach)**
- **Ray Hoskins (Coach)**
- **Bob Smith (Coach)**
- **George Tilbury (Manager)**
- **Bob L’esperance (Trainer)**

The nucleus of this team was a part of a great Elmwood-based minor baseball program in the early 1950’s that included two bantam, two midget and two juvenile Provincial Championships.

The 1957-61 group appeared in five consecutive Junior finals winning three championships. In 1957 they lost a best of seven final in the last game to the squad from Columbus Club. In 1958 and 1959 they defeated CUAC while in 1960 they lost the final, once again to Columbus Club. They then went on to defeat Isaac Brock in 1961.

Over this period they often joined with the Elmwood Seniors and won numerous tournaments. To be accepted into them, the combined team often had to enter under a false name such as “Rathwell”.

You are welcome to learn more about them on the "Special Teams" page of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame web site.

[www.mbhof.ca/inductees\\_specialteams.php](http://www.mbhof.ca/inductees_specialteams.php)

## Giants Wear For Sale

The Club has for sale a collection of outerwear, T-shirts, caps and other items bearing the Elmwood Giants and Kildonan Mudcats logos. All inquiries should be directed to [Al Kinley](#) at 204-338-9603.

# University of Winnipeg Wesman Baseball Program

Former Giant player and coach **Mike Krykewich** is busy putting together the U of W baseball program. Local players **Matt Smith** (Elmwood Junior AAA and AA), **Joey Swaryk** (Park City Midgets), **Bennett Podolsky** (RRV Midgets) and **Wes Pomarensky** (Mudcats) are all part of the program. The team has been working out on Giants Field for their fall practices.

## Season Summary: Junior AAA's

The team finished with a 17 and 11 record, good enough for third place in the MJBL. The squad was plagued during the year, especially just prior to the playoffs, by the defections of six senior players, all of whom were expected to play key roles in playoff success.

The team suffered a quarter-final loss to St James. In that series, the team consisted of only nine regular players along with seven call-ups from the Junior AA team. They were swept in three straight games. (continued...)

## Pages From the Past

In 1965, the Greater Winnipeg Junior Baseball League hosted a national championship; the very FIRST All-Canada Junior Tournament! President was ex-Giant **Bob Picken**.

The committee used the old Winnipeg Stadium field and the (then) new Transcona Stadium. Elmwood players (playing elsewhere since Elmwood had no team at the time) included the starting second baseman **Charlie "Sonny" Kurtz** (Isaac Brock Royals) and the starting third baseman **Rick Simcoe** (West End Orioles).

The coaches were ex-Goldeyes Bill Carpenter and Leon McClinton.

The Manitoba team was a finalist and lost to Alberta.

Two players from MB were selected to go to the World Championships. From that same team, a couple of guys (one was Claude Lambert) were given pro tryouts and each had minor league professional experience as a result. Does anyone know who was or were the other player or players?

The tournament was a huge success!



## \*\*\* Season Summary: Senior Giants \*\*\*

The Senior Giants had another very successful season. They finished the regular season with a record of 19 and 2! That was enough to claim the League Pennant and to put them 2.5 games up on second place finishers St James.

They then advanced to the playoff finals by defeating Fort Garry 2 games to none in the quarter-finals and St Boniface 3 games to 1 in the semi-finals. In the finals, they swept St James 3 games to none to claim the WSBL League Championship.

They gave a good account of themselves in the Baseball Manitoba Senior AA All-Stars tournament but were unable to repeat last year's win. At the WCBA Senior AA tournament in Trail, BC, they finished the round-robin play with a record of 3 and 1, good enough to put them in the gold medal game!

Along the way, notable performances from Neil Walton, Keith Clawson, Ian Bowie, Phil Siemens, Nathan Sawatzky, Keith Malo, Dan Carter, Mark Bullion and Ryan Bergen allowed the team to achieve this success.

In the final, the team ran into a "monster" pitcher whose performance in silencing the Giants' bats allowed the host team from Trail to earn the Gold Medals. Our boys came home with the Silver Medals for the second straight year.

More details of the tournament can be found in the article found on the team's web site.

## We thank all our sponsors for their support!

### Our Web Sites

Watch our web sites for developments. We plan to update them over the coming weeks and months and hope to keep them current with all the latest events. We also plan to launch a Club site that will highlight the work done on behalf of all three teams, the field and the wider baseball community.

**Juniors:** [www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiantsjr](http://www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiantsjr)

**Seniors:** [www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiants](http://www.ballcharts.com/elmwoodgiants)

**Mudcats:** [www.ballcharts.com/kildonanmudcats](http://www.ballcharts.com/kildonanmudcats)



**BOSCH**

# Call for Assistance

The Elmwood Giants Baseball Club is looking for coaches, managers, scorekeepers, announcers, sound system operators and scoreboard personnel for the 2012 season. Anyone interested should contact **Al Kinley** at 204-338-9603.

## 2012 Summer Jobs

If you know if anyone who will be interested in a summer job that provides plenty of opportunity to work outdoors, let them know they should consider applying to the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club! We offer two positions as follows:

- ◆ **May to August** for a college / university student
- ◆ **July to August** for a high school student

For more information, contact **Al Kinley** at 204-338-9603.

## Thank you to the Elmwood Legion!

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

We thank the membership for their support to the Giants!

### \*\*\* Further Afield \*\*\*

**Tyler Enns** (Red River Valley Midget and Elmwood Junior AAA player) will attend UBC on a baseball scholarship.

**Drew Allen** (Junior AAA) will attend Dakota State (formerly Bottineau) for baseball. There he will play for ex-Giant player and coach **Eric Mabon**.

**Josiah Churchill** will transfer from Itasca College to Dakota College (formerly UND, Bottineau) this year.

## Season Summary: Kildonan Mudcats

The Kildonan Mudcats had another good season finishing sixth in the WSBL. This put them against St James in the best-of-three AA Quarter-finals. They lost in three games by very close scores. This knocked them to the A event, where they advanced to the final. Unfortunately, they lost to Fort Garry in a best-of-three series.

**Aaron Hildebrand** was picked up by Brandon for the Baseball Canada Senior AAA Championships held in Miramichi, NB and **Nate Sawatzky** went to Trail, BC with the Senior Giants for the WCBA Senior AA Championships.

**Neil Walton**, who played for the Junior AAA team and the Mudcats joined the Senior Giants in Trail as well. There, he won game 1 in a 7 – 0 shutout of BC and he relieved in the final game with no decision in the team's 4-3 loss. In addition, he was a member of the Manitoba Junior AAA All-Star team that went to Windsor, ON for the Baseball Canada Junior AAA Championships where he played well in a relief role.

### \*\*\* Return Cash Calendar Proceeds \*\*\*

Everyone is reminded to return their Cash Calendar proceeds and unsold tickets. Do this at the Elmwood Legion on Thursday nights in October or contact **Al Kinley** at 204-338-9603.

## Season Summary: Junior AA's

Newly formed for the 2011 campaign, the purpose of this team was to provide a chance to play for 18 to 21 year-old players who could not make the AAA team on a regular basis. After a slow start, mainly due to numbers, the Junior AA Giants finished with a record of 11 and 13. They were only 2 wins behind the first place team from St Boniface whom they faced in a best-of-three semi-final. The series went three games and all were decided by one run with Elmwood falling 2 games to 1.

Key players included **Eliot Podolsky**, **Carlin Proutt** and **Eric Lamothe** who all got called up for Senior and Junior AAA games. Other veterans such as **Matt Bergman**, **Patrick McInnis**, **Joel Kosowin** and **Justin Vosters** played key roles as did Midget call-ups **Bennett Podolsky**, **Drew Birss**, **Shane Turk** and **Riley Melnyk**.

**Harley Richardson** and **MacKenzie Jackson** showed great base-running skills and great promise for the future.

The Giants also has two Chinese-speaking players: **Joon Chan** and **Jai Jeung**. They added a reliable enthusiasm to the team.



# Wanted: A Few Good Men and Women

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

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

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

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

## Help us solve a mystery from our archives

On our web sites, you can catch up on the results we obtained in archive mystery quests published in earlier editions of our newsletter.

## Sponsorships Available

The Club is offering businesses the opportunity to connect with the Giants family and supporters through sponsorships in many forms. Examples are as follows:

- **Yearly Program:** \$60 to \$200
- **Giants Patron:** \$100 per year or one payment of \$250 for 3 years
- **Newsletter and Web Site:** \$300 in quarterly newsletters for 3 years and on the three team web sites
- **Fence:** \$800 (Minimum of 3 years)
- **Red, Blue and Gold Levels** (with various other placements for relevant time periods): \$1500 through \$10,000

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

**IPACO**

**SAFETY PRODUCTS**

# Elmwood Giants Rolls of Honour

## Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame

Year of Induction	Members	Year of Induction	Members
1998	Hugh Gustafson Dave McConachy	2005	Cam Walker Ron Hewitt
1999	Jack Warwick	2006	Bill "Snake" Siddle
2000	Ed Leier Joe Baron Carl Mattson Alex Kurceba	2007	Carey Candy Len Gzebb The Ingram Family (Al, Doug and Ken)
2001	Bob Audette Curly Haas Reg Chopp Mark Flynn Bob Picken	2008	Lawson Davie Bob Kinley Randy Ladobruk
2003	Dave Olsen Gord Ledochowski	2009	Bill Kinley Bob Smith
2004	Paul Chartrand Hal Westberg Jack Thompson	2010	Morgan de Peña Al Kinley Brock McConachy The Kollesavich Family (Dan, Rob, Jim, John, Jerry)
		2011	Alex Turk Scott Kwasnitza Corey Koskie

**Help us honour our greats from the past!**

Are you aware of anyone we might have missed in our two lists?  
Who do you think we should nominate?





# Elmwood Giants Rolls of Honour

## Baseball Manitoba Honours Society

Year of Induction	Members	Year of Induction	Members
1970	Alex Turk	1995	Tom Thompson Daryl Steen F. Ross Kinley
1971	Curly Haas	1996	Ollie Schroeder
1972	Scotty Oliver	1999	Dave Olsen Gord Ledochowski
1973	Ernie O'Dowda	2002	Bev Fisher Ted Nowicki
1974	Al Seymour Len Gzebb	2003	Al Kinley
1984	Jake Epps Jack Thompson	2010	Ken St-Germain Bryan Hodgson
1991	Joe Sandryk		

### Junior AAA's (Cont'd)

Fifth place Carillon went on to win the MJBL Championship, defeating first place Altona in the final. As an indication of the effect of the player defections, the team had won the season series against those two clubs; 5 – 0 over Carillon and 3 -2 over Altona.

Elmwood as hosts, Altona as pennant winners and Carillon as league champions advanced to the Western Canada Baseball Association (WCBA) Junior AAA Championships. All three teams finished with 3 wins and 2 losses, tied for second place.

The tie-breaking formula used runs against in defensive innings. Elmwood had beaten Carillon 13 – 8 in their meeting, but that result effectively eliminated both teams. Altona advanced to the final despite not scoring a run in either of their last two games. The Bisons went on to win the Championship against the Innisfail Indians of Alberta.



# **Elmwood Giants Baseball Club Champions**

**Western Canada Senior AA Champions**  
2002, 2004

**Manitoba Senior Baseball Champions**  
1912, 1913, 1994

**Manitoba Senior AA All-stars Baseball Champions**  
2001, 2003, 2009, 2010

**WABA Senior Champions**  
1922

**Winnipeg Senior Baseball League Champions**  
2000, 2005, 2006

**Manitoba Intermediate Baseball Champions**  
1909

**Western Canada Junior Baseball Champions**  
1948, 1987, 2010

**Prairie Region Junior Baseball Champions**  
1978

**Greater Winnipeg or Manitoba Junior Baseball Champions**  
1925, 1927, 1928(???), 1948, 1951, 1958, 1959, 1961,  
1978, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1995,  
2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009

**Manitoba Juvenile Baseball Champions**  
1924, 1951, 1955, 1975, 1976, 1978

**Manitoba Midget Baseball Champions**  
1953, 1954, 1974, 1989, 1992

**Manitoba Bantam Baseball Champions**  
1952, 1959



*Birchwood*

# Area Teams with Success at the City and Provincial Levels

## **Morse Place**

1952 Midget

1937 Junior (Monarchs)

1944 Junior (Bombers)

1947 Junior (Monarchs)

???? Intermediate and Senior

## **Saint Alphonsus**

1934 Junior

## **Elmwood Cubs**

1935 Junior

(in 1934, operated as the Saint Alphonsus team)

## **North Kildonan Cobras**

1977, 1978(?) Bantam

## **Transcona**

1929 Junior (Colts)

1920 Senior

(Munitions Workers team;

organizers included Dan McLennan,

founder of the Giants in about 1905)

## **River East Raiders**

1976 Junior

## **East Kildonan**

1941 Junior (Bisons)

1942 Junior (Rangers)

1943 Junior (Rangers)

## **Help us honour our greats from the past!**

We will have further updates on Transcona teams in a future edition of the newsletter.

Are you aware of any other teams we might have missed in our two lists?

### **Please let us know!**

We would appreciate having copies of any clippings or photos you may have that record these triumphs or other significant area baseball history!



ELMWOOD  
**GIANTS**



KILDONAN  
**MUDCATS**

## Our **Red Level** Sponsors



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