



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bow Ridge Little League enjoyed continued success in the 2007 season. We saw another significant increase in our numbers with a registration 273 players amongst 22 teams.

This year 2 of our all star teams won the District Championship and advanced to the Prairie Championship held in Calgary, where they competed with other clubs from Alberta and Saskatchewan. The triple A team (9 and 10 yr olds) were coached by Steve Oldale, Brent Wilson and Brent Conway and the Major All Stars (11 and 12 year olds) were coached by Dennis Baumgartner, Dennis Reid and Troy Lamb.

The year also saw the return of a Big League team to Bow Ridge, and what a return it was. The Bow Ridge team, coached by Michael Zimmer, Darren Moulds and David Hyatt, dominated the Calgary Big League, winning the District Championship.

District 3 (which Bow Ridge is a part of) hosted the Big league National Championships at Foothills Stadium this year and showcased some of the top 17 and 18 year old players in the country. The District 3 host team was also coached by Michael, Darren and Dave and featured no less than 7 Bow Ridge players; Billy Hudson, Jon McGregor, Jacob Noullett, David Bonnier, Jeff Meers, Kyle Harper and Cody Conlin. What an experience it was for them to compete at a National level. We at Bow Ridge are all very proud of their accomplishment.

I am excited about the upcoming year and we plan a number of changes and improvements. This year we are introducing a machine pitch league for 7 and 8 year olds. The focus of this league will be on basic rules and skills as well as batting and being comfortable at the plate. By removing the pitching aspect of the game, we hope to improve the flow of the game for this young age group.

In 2008 we will be focusing on working with our coaches, providing instruction and additional coaching tools. We will require coaches to have NCCP certification and have put together library of instructional videos for everyone to have access to. As well, we will be spending more effort in developing young pitcher's, especially at the minor level, by hosting clinics.

For facility improvements, we are looking into building new dugouts at Sarcee and St. Andrews as well as upgrading the ones at Foothills. Pitching mounds will also be built at the Varna diamonds.

This year, Gord Lester, who has been our treasurer for the past 7 years has stepped down. A lot of people don't know what Gord did, but certainly benefited from the work he put in. I want to thank Gord for all he has done.

I also wanted to recognize Dennis Baumgartner who was inducted into the Little League Alberta Hall of Excellence in 2007. Dennis started coaching in Regina when he was 16 years old and has been involved with Little League for over 30 years. He has twice taken Bow Ridge teams to the National Championships. We are honored to have him as part of our club.

I wanted to thank the many volunteers who helped with the season last year. The improvements and strength of our league has been a direct result of increased volunteer help over the past two years, something I hope will continue on into 2008. We still have a number of positions to fill for the upcoming year, and I ask everyone to review them to see where you may be able to help out.

See you at the ball diamond.

Greg Nielsen

President

Bow Ridge Little League