

# Mr. Reliable on the Mound

## Paul John Quantrill

Hockey is Canada's game, and over the years the Cobourg-Port Hope area has been a veritable hotbed of professional hockey players. **But baseball is a whole different ball game!**

Of the 230 Canadian players who actually made it to the National and American Baseball Leagues, **only Paul Quantrill is from this area.** Perhaps this makes him extra special for us!

Paul was born in 1968 into a baseball family. Both his grandfather and father pitched for teams in the nearby village of Kendall, known for its ball teams. And now Paul's son, Cal, is a pitcher with Stanford University.

Paul played minor ball for his home town of Port Hope, and at 17 was drafted by the *Los Angeles Dodgers*, but didn't sign. Three years later **he did sign with the Boston Red Sox** and made his major league debut on July 20, 1992.

After a stint with the *Philadelphia Phillies* he was welcomed back to Canada **as a Toronto Blue Jay.** He was **a Jay for six seasons and it was there that he**

**made a name for himself** as a durable relief pitcher with impeccable control. He regularly appeared in 80 or more games a season and rarely walked more than 25 batters. In 2001 he represented the *Blue Jays* at the **Annual All Star Game.**

In an interesting bit of cross-sporting, in the winters at home in Port Hope, one time NHLer Dennis O'Brien served as Paul's bull pen catcher.



After leaving the *Blue Jays* at the end of the 2001 season Paul continued to pitch, including **some of his best years with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Yankees.**

Since retiring in 2005, Paul has been **involved at every level of the game.** He's helped out local minor organizations, travelled with the national junior and senior programs, and been a consultant with the *Toronto Blue Jays*. He spends time with seven of the club's minor league teams evaluating and coaching young prospects.

*"The Blue Jays have been wonderful about giving me opportunities, keeping me in the mix whether it be the draft or looking at players. I wasn't a superstar but I played a long time (14 years). That's the one thing I'm proud of."*

On June 19, 2010 Paul Quantrill was inducted, along with former Blue Jay Roberto Alomar, into the **Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame** at St. Mary's, Ontario.

