

Minor Sports

In 1960, I moved from Belleville to the Fifth Concession of Thurlow. I was married with three boys at that time. I now have four boys and one girl. Every day I scratched my head and wondered what my children could enjoy in the area of sports. I got to know my neighbours quite fast and found they had four ball teams, ages 10 to 16 years. They had their ball games at night, and I watched them play for one year. The grounds were rough and the equipment scarce.

Carman Dafoe and George Hopkins coached a team named "Carmel" which played at the old school grounds. Because Carman was busy he offered me the ball team. That was a big thrill for me as I was really interested in ball.

In 1962 I coached Carmel. The only money we had was from small collections and \$25.00 donated from the Women's Institute. That year we won the South Hastings Little League Cup. We practised every second night. Lorne Jarrel, Manley Mitchell and Harold Griffin coached the other teams. They knew all the old tricks but I was learning fast and practise makes perfect, I always believe.

After much debate, in 1963, Frankford was invited into our league. They jumped at the chance and joined our league. The first year was a laugh. Carmel team gave Frankford some good games but we still got the pants beat off us. The other coaches said, "I told you what would happen", but I said "that this won't last long - wait until next year."

In 1964 since the other coaches did not like travelling Frankford was dropped. We struggled along and played with our four teams.

In 1965 we had a meeting. Only two people came out. The Little League was starting to fold. I was worried about the future of baseball.

My team in 1965 was -

Murray Whitmore	1st Base
Gary Robinson	Left Field
Dwaine Horton	Centre Field
Damon Richardson	Pitcher
Mike Musclow	Pitcher, Short Stop
Robin Allison	1st Base
David Julian	Catcher and Pitcher
Mike Graham	} Fielders
John Masterson	
Peter Ladoucer	

We were able to use the new school grounds at Harmony School. We didn't belong to a league but we played Belleville PeeWee, Frankford and many other teams and had some good ball games.

In 1966, I put the team in the E.O.B.A. (Eastern Ontario Baseball Association) Everybody laughed and said you will find out now about baseball.

This team I had now practised hard and never looked back. We were defeated by Frankford that year. Frankford won the All Ontario Championship.

In 1967, under the Carmel name we took every team that came along even giving Belleville the odd trimming. We won the Eastern Ontario Cup that year in Port Hope. The President of the E.O.B.A. was there and he said we had the best dressed and the best mannered team he had seen that year.

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