

Chris “Bubba” MacPherson was the driving force behind minor baseball in Fredericton for many years and although his time was us was limited, his impact was immeasurable. While most teenagers were spending their summers doing typical teenager things, Bubba Mac began doing what he loved more than anything, coaching baseball to kids.

Chris “Bubba” MacPherson’s list of accomplishments are plentiful, but his crowning moment came on a memorable weekend in Red Deer, Alberta in August 1996. He led his Fredericton Midget (U18) Royals to a National Championship and became the youngest coach in Canada to achieve that feat. What made that weekend even more impressive is what happened that same weekend, a few provinces to the east. The Fredericton Junior Vikings, a team made up almost exclusively of Bubba’s former players, brought home a national silver medal from Kitchener, Ontario. Yes, Bubba had built a dynasty and many of his former players continued on, and were the driving force behind the Fredericton Senior Royals teams that dominated NB senior Baseball League for close to two decades.

While Bubba’s impact on the diamond was well documented, it is the Bubba “the man” or perhaps more appropriate, Bubba “the boy” that most of us that knew him best, will remember. He was a fun-loving kid at heart who could connect with a six-year-old as easily as he could speak to a sixty-year-old. He loved nothing more than playing stick ball or a game of “american” with a group of kids on baseball hill. But his talents and passion were not just limited to baseball. As soon as the snow melted it was ball hockey season under the lights at the Marysville Tennis Courts. For many of us, this would be the first Bubba sighting since the previous baseball season ended. He would come walking up over the hill with his Sher-Wood hockey stick and his work gloves with “NILAN” written across the knuckles in honour of his beloved Montreal Canadiens enforcer.

Although Bubba was not one for the spotlight, I know he’s looking down with that familiar grin, knowing that baseball is alive and well here in the Capital City.

Let’s Play Ball!