



SOFTBALL MANITOBA MEMORIAL AWARDS



Softball Manitoba annually presents memorial awards to players, coaches, managers, administrators, executive members, umpires and builders for outstanding performance or contribution to the game of Softball.

Nominations for any award may be made by any member of Softball Manitoba and must be accompanied by detailed information on the nominee related specifically to the criteria for the award. All nominations will be reviewed by a Softball Manitoba Awards Committee, which will select a winner in each category.

The Memorial Awards will be presented at the annual Softball Manitoba Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. This will allow the Association to acknowledge the achievements of both our past and present members.

Nominees for any Softball Manitoba awards must have displayed a desirable attitude towards the game and its participants, officials and executives.

JIM ADAMS MEMORIAL AWARD - Outstanding Administrator, Builder or Executive Member

This award recognizes the contributions that Jim Adams made to the game of softball as a builder, administrator, and executive member. He coached several championship teams in the Winnipeg Men's Industrial Fastball League and was the league president in the 1960s. He also became involved with Softball Manitoba at the Executive level during that time and served as the Association's president from 1970 to 1975. His connection with Softball Canada goes back to its founding years in the mid-sixties. He served three terms as Manitoba commissioner for Softball Canada and was elected as a vice-president of the national organization in 1974. In 1977, Jim was honored as Softball Manitoba's first life member. In 2002, he was the first builder inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame. Jim passed away in 2005.

CRITERIA

1. Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to Softball as an administrator, builder or executive member for an extended period of time.
2. Contributions that have been made at the team, league, provincial, national or international level or any combination of those areas of activity.
3. This category is open to persons no longer associated with Softball as well as current members of Softball Manitoba.

LEO BOUCHARD MEMORIAL AWARD - Leadership in Minor Pitcher Development

Leo Bouchard's involvement with softball in Manitoba as well as in Western Canada and the Northern United States lasted over 20 years until his most untimely death in 1980. While he is no doubt best known as a coach with two of the province's top fast pitch teams during that period, Kiewel's Seals and as an executive member. Always colourful, Leo's battles with umpires were legendary, so it was perhaps surprising that, when he retired from coaching, he joined the men in blue. This award is given to an individual who has provided leadership in the area of pitcher development. The team or teams that this individual has worked with throughout the season has made significant pitcher improvement that has made the team better.

CRITERIA

1. Nominees must have made a significant contribution in Minor pitching development at the individual, team, league, provincial or national level.
2. Must have demonstrated knowledge and application of pitching fundamentals and shown a desirable attitude towards all aspects of the game.

EDGAR STEVENSON MEMORIAL AWARD - Top Male Player (all age categories)

Edgar started playing softball even before he started school, tagging along with his dad's team and playing "catch" with the players and his friends on the sideline. His dad, also his coach and friend, spent countless hours playing "catch" with Edgar at home. By the time he was 12 years old, he was playing on his dad's team in Peguis. In 1989, the rest of Manitoba and Canada heard about Edgar Stevenson in a big way. That year, Edgar signed with the Landmark Knights' Bantam team and led them to a Provincial title and then to a Gold medal at the Western Canadian Bantam Championship. He was named the Top Pitcher in that tournament and later that year in Manitoba was also awarded the Jean Mayne Memorial Award (Top Male Player - Midget, Bantam level) and the Wayne Gilbert Memorial Award (Top Male Player over-all in the Province). As well, he made Manitoba's Summer Games Team that summer (the youngest player to do so) and was instrumental in helping that team win a Bronze medal at the Canada Summer Games.

In 1990, Edgar continued to shine; besides playing for his local high school and his dad's team, he signed with the Landmark team at the midget level. Again this team won the provincial crown and at Midget Nationals where his team won fourth, Edgar was voted an all-star and was the Top Hitter in the round robin portion of the championship. Edgar's excellent play continued in 1991, locally, provincially and nationally. Several senior teams made offers to sign him, in Manitoba, in other parts of Canada and even in the U.S., however, he again signed with the Landmark Knights. He led them to another provincial title and at Nationals his team won the Silver Medal, again largely due to Edgar's strong contributions on the mound and at the plate.

In October of 1991, a car accident near his home tragically ended the life of Edgar Stevenson and prematurely snuffed out the bright light of a rising super-star. His memory lives on:

- His all around skills (he could pitch, hit, run and field).
- His love of the game (he played almost everyday, on several teams, sometimes for two different teams at two different locations 100 miles apart on the same weekend).
- His competitive drive (he loved to challenge good hitters with his best pitch).
- His calm and friendly nature (often grinned or smiled in pressure situations).
- His good sportsmanship.
- His cooperative spirit.

CRITERIA

1. Based on performance within the Province, at Regional, National, and/or International competition during the current year only.
2. Outstanding record in their classification and/or the most valuable player to their team.

JEAN MAYNE MEMORIAL AWARD - Top Female Player (all age categories)

The Manitoba Softball Association has renamed this award in honour of Jean Mayne, who passed away on June 27th of 1987. Jean was involved with softball for over 30 years. Her love of the sport brought her to the executive of The Manitoba Softball Association where she served as Minor Chairperson for six years. In October of 1984, her fellow volunteers voiced their vote of confidence in Jean's abilities to lead The Organization and elected her President of The Manitoba Softball Association, where she held that position until October of 1986. During that period of time, Jean's interest in Softball extended to a Regional and eventually a National Level.

She served as Secretary-Registrar on The Western Canadian Softball Championship Board and on a National Level, was Chairperson of The Minor Participation Development Committee for two years and Manitoba's voice at many Softball Canada National meetings. After stepping down as President, The Manitoba Softball Association presented Jean with The Association's Highest Honor, a Life Membership. Jean's passion has always been the youth of our sport and it was under her guidance that the boy's program has developed to what it is today. By naming this award in Jean's Honour, Softball Manitoba recognizes her contribution to Minor Softball.

CRITERIA

1. Based on performance within the Province, at Regional, National, and/or International competition during the current year only.
2. Outstanding record in their classification and/or the most valuable player to their team.

BILL SADONICK MEMORIAL AWARD – Coach of the Year - Minor Category

Manitoba Softball lost a dedicated worker when its president, Bill Sadonick, passed away suddenly on the ball field in April of 1983. Bill was president of the Association at the time of his death, having being elected to that position in 1982. Previous to his election, he has served as Treasurer and the Chairman of Program Development. He also was one of the province's senior umpires. Bill had a particular fondness for Minor Softball and had coached that level for several years. It is most appropriate that Softball Manitoba remembers Bill Sadonick with an award that is presented to the top Minor Coaching Staff.

CRITERIA

1. Based on performance within the Province, at Regional, National and/or International competition during the current year only.
2. Coach must be minimum Level 1 (Community Sport On-Going Participation).
3. Must have demonstrated knowledge and application of game fundamentals and shown a desirable attitude towards all aspects of the game.

EUGENE MICHALOW MEMORIAL AWARD – Volunteer of the Year

A true friend of softball, Gene was a tireless and driving force in program development, coaching and as a member of the Association's Executive. Gene's influence on the development of softball touched nearly every young ball player that threw a strike or swung a bat in the province during his time working in Softball. A soft spoken, easy going individual, Gene gave unselfishly of himself to the sport that he loved so dearly. He was truly a "team" player. In recognition of his contribution to softball, the Association has renamed the Volunteer of the Year Award in his honor.

CRITERIA

1. 1.Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to Softball as a volunteer for an extended period of time.
2. 2.Contributions that have been made at the team, league, or provincial level.
3. 3.This category is open to persons that are current members of Softball Manitoba).

BOB TURNER MEMORIAL AWARD - Outstanding Contribution to Grassroots Softball

This award recognizes the contributions Bob Turner made to the growth of Softball as a builder, administrator, clinician, umpire and coach.

Bob's softball career spanned 40 years, first as a player. Following an outstanding playing career, Bob graduated to the officiating part of the game where he was an active umpire for many years. In 1989 Bob founded The Winnipeg Lightning culminating in coaching his team to the 1998 Softball Canada Senior Women's Fastpitch Championship. Bob started the Winnipeg Lightning Softball Association which continues to flourish. Bob's finest calling was as a leader in the areas of player and coaching development where he excelled at the Provincial and National levels. In 2007, Bob was inducted into the Softball Manitoba hall of fame. Bob passed away in 2011.

CRITERIA

1. Nominees must have made a significant contribution to Minor Softball as an organizer, builder, umpire, clinician or coach for an extended period of time.
2. Contributions made to the growth of softball at the Community or League level.
3. This award is open to persons no longer associated with Softball as well as current members of the Softball Community.

WAYNE DESCHOUWER MEMORIAL AWARD – Umpire of the Year

Wayne Deschouwer was a leader in softball who never asked for anything in return for his countless hours of volunteering. He meant everything to the membership and all those involved in Softball Manitoba's development & competition programs. Throughout his fifty-one years in the game, he excelled as a player, coach, clinician, umpire, administrator and was always a huge fan of softball. He completely immersed himself within the umpire program offering his time and knowledge as on field official, mentor, recruiter and administrator. Throughout his 46 years of umpiring, his ability as an umpire led him to numerous trips to Western and Canadian Championships. In 2006-2009 he started his term as Softball Manitoba's Deputy Umpire in Chief and alternate Board Member. In 2010 he was named the Provincial Umpire in Chief and served this position along with a seat on the board until 2015. As Provincial UIC he led the Umpire Development Committee and represented Manitoba at Softball Canada national meetings. In addition, he shared his expertise as our director of umpire development to the north where he certified numerous of northern umpires in the communities of Cross Lake and Norway House. Softball Manitoba is honored to have had him as a longtime friend and treasures everything he left with our sport.

Criteria

1. Be a resident of the Province of Manitoba.
2. Be a registered Softball Canada/Manitoba Softball Association umpire in good standing.
3. Must have participated as a working official at local league competitions or at Provincial Competitions in the Province of Manitoba.
4. Should have been involved in assisting with the development of officials at local or provincial level.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30TH