

**October 27, 2004**

**Presidents Report (Chris Green) – Annual General Meeting 2004**

The 2024 season was by all accounts a major success for Thorold Minor Baseball. The organization saw registration growth, the return of 15U Rep baseball, the return of a Thorold Minor Baseball umpire crew, a 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 13U “D” OBA’s and the crowning achievement of the season; Thorold Minor Baseballs 35<sup>th</sup> OBA Championship with the 11U Rep team winning “D” in Sudbury. We were also the proud host of Niagara’s sole Blue Jays Camp and we hosted a Home Run Derby with over 80 participants.

**Registration:**

328 players were registered in 2024, and increase of 35 players (293 in 2023). The growth in the younger divisions is very promising and the organization is retaining players at the older levels. Since moving to the online RAMP registration in 2020 we have been able to compare, track and project registrations more accurately. (2020 – 87 / 2021 – 175 / 2022 – 253 / 2023 – 293). We projection a slight increase to approximately 350 players for 2025.

**House-League:**

The HL program was strong with 11 teams entered into the Niagara Interlock. (9U x 4, 11U x 3, 13U x 2, 15U x 1, 18U x 1). Thorold had teams in the Niagara Interlock finals at 9U and 13U. Both teams finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thorold had 1 or more teams into the semi-finals of “A” pods in all divisions except 18U.

**Select:**

Thorold fielded HL Select teams at 9U, 11U, 13U, and 15U. The teams provided extra field time for players, exhibition games and tournament play. The 13U Select team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Thorold 13U Select Tournament and competed at the HL Select OBAs. Looking ahead to 2025, Thorold Minor Baseball will be operationalizing a new plan for Select that is focused on offseason development and training.

**Rep:**

Thorold fielded Rep teams at 9U, 10U, 11U, 13U and 15U. The teams had a successful season, some highlights are below:

9U: Made it to Sunday in 3 tournaments / finished top 5 at OBA’s

10U: Made it to Sunday in 2 tournaments

11U: Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Niagara District Playoffs / Won “D” OBA’s in Sudbury

13U: Finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Niagara District Playoffs / Made Sunday in 3 Tournaments / 2<sup>nd</sup> at “D” OBA’s

15U: Finished 4<sup>th</sup> in District / First 15U Rep team in Thorold in 10 years

In 2025 we will be offering 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, and 15U teams. 86 players are signed to play Rep baseball for Thorold for the upcoming season.

**The Board:**

I want to thank Robb, Sandra, Brandi, Stacy, Dieter, Tim, Aaron and Steph for their hard work and dedication this past year. We are a small but mighty board that accomplishes so much. Without their hard work and focus, the Thorold Minor Baseball experience would not be what it is today. We are

bringing in a Select Director, formalizing the Development Director and looking to fill vacancies with focused, passionate volunteers.

#### **Coaches:**

In 2004 our players were supported by over 60 volunteer coaches. We are truly the envy of the Niagara baseball organizations. Our coaches give so much of their time and efforts and we have around 10 non-parent coaches on teams that are giving back for the love of the game and Thorold Baseball. We have an incredible group of Rep coaches lined up for 2025 and will start to offer offseason development for interested coaches.

#### **Finances:**

Thorold Minor Baseball is in a strong financial position. The revenues are accurately projected each year and the expenses are carefully thought out. Each year we find more efficient and inexpensive ways to deliver our programming. The use of Fresh Books for our accounting software has allowed us to have clean, accurate and clear financial reports that are updated monthly. At the time of this report Thorold Minor Baseball has approximately \$47,000 in the bank (\$20,000 is from 2025 Rep Registration). There is approximately \$5,500 in 2024 expenses to payout.

#### **Tournaments:**

We hosted 9U, 10U, 11U, 13U and 15U Rep tournaments this summer. We also hosted a 13U HL Select tournaments. The tournaments continue to prove profitable for us and provide families with a tournament that does not require travel or hotels. However, the time commitment required to run the tournaments is a burden and will need to continue to fall to the teams if we want to host in Thorold. 2025 will prove to be a challenging year for tournaments with 7 Rep teams and potentially 4-5 Select teams.

#### **Diamonds:**

We continue to work with the City of Thorold on park upgrades and improvements. New items in 2024 were the turf mound at Sullivan, new netting on the Sullivan batting cage, fence repairs at Sullivan, fixed scoreboards, and other field maintenance items. The lights at Sullivan were an issue this year and the City is working on permanent solution.

In 2025 there will be some very important upgrades taking place. Port Robinson and South Confederation Park will have covered dugouts for the players, there will be a water filling station at Sullivan, the mounds will continue to be worked on at Sullivan and Port Robinson, lights at Port Robinson will be in the budget discussions at the City of Thorold as will upgrading the lights at Sullivan, home plates and pitching rubbers will be replaced at all parks, and the "lips" at all fields will be looked at. We will also experiment with using other fields for practices, some 5U and 7U activities.

In closing, we are in a really good spot. We have grown, continue to build a great reputation in the community and in baseball in Niagara. We will continue to look for new sponsors and partners to enhance our programming, We will look to host the Home Run Derby again and look forward to our new plans with Select Baseball. Thank you for the support, and passion for Thorold Minor Baseball. Lastly, please thank the folks at Front Row Sports for all of their support, we could not do this without them.