



PRE-TOURNAMENT EDITION

ISSUE #1



Fans enjoy Diamond #1 sight-lines at the scenic and fan-friendly Peter Hallman Ball Yard, home of the International Softball Congress 2018 World Tourney.

Months of planning sets the stage...Welcome to the Show!

For the fifth time in seventeen years, Kitchener's renowned corps of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers is hosting the prestigious International Softball Congress (ISC) World Tournament during Saturday August 11-18.

From its inaugural baptism in 2002, the brand spankin' new Peter Hallman Ball Yard has been a warm and welcoming venue for the highlight of the fastpitch softball (fastball) world club team championships. With back-to-back hostings in 2006-07 and a return in 2014, it was an easy decision for the ISC brass to encourage, welcome and approve a bid from Kitchener to host the 2018 edition.

This year Kitchener will match Phoenix Az as the third place community for hosting – five times. The record is the great grand-daddy community of Kimberly WI, who welcomed the event 11 times between 1972 and 2008. Right behind is the grand-daddy – Rock Island IL – who embraced the event 10 times, including an awe-inspiring nine summers in a row (1961-69).

The 2018 tournament features three competitions within the week – the prestigious 36 teams / 70 games Open bracket, the 13 teams / 32 games Legends event (starts Thursday) and the future stars competition comprised of eight teams of U-23 (under age 23) players squaring off in 19 games, also commencing on Thursday. Lots of action with 57 teams and 121 games in eight days!

Led by Co-Chairs Bernie Burnett and Larry Cox, and a tight committee of hardworking volunteers in collaboration with the City of Kitchener – the stage is set. It's time to listen for a member of the Blue Crew to heartily announce – "Let's Play Ball!" – time to unfold the lawn chair, and time to sit back and watch the tens of thousands of pitches during a beautiful summer week in Kitchener.

Opening Day Exhibition Match-up



Sat. Aug.11
11:00 am

← VS →





Hall of Fame Breakfast – SOLD OUT!

With six Canadians being inducted, it's no surprise that the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame Class of 2018 breakfast proved to be a tough ticket in town. The event SOLD OUT in late July and promises to be memorable for the six inductees – players Rob Gray (Vaughan ON), Sean O'Brien (Brockville ON) and Paul Rosebush (Bakerfield CA), Umpire Bruce Bierman (Ayr ON), administrator Ferdi Nelissen (Portage La Prairie MB) and the Bob Welby Memorial Recognition of Service Award recipient Jim Hallman (Kitchener ON).

Top Ranked Teams

A small group of informed pollsters determine rankings of the ISC Open teams, with the "Sweet Sixteen" seeded to determine a fair and balanced schedule. Who are the favorites? That's certainly in the discerning eye of the beholder – the faithful and long – term fans of this fast-paced tournament.

This year, even the most adventurous risk-taking renegade fan is probably hesitant to wager even the tiniest of dollars (even in Canadian funds) against the defending champion Hill United Chiefs of Six Nations ON.



In 2017 the Chiefs ran the table (6-0) shutting down California's J&B Bombers 5-0 in the title game. It just makes sense that the Chiefs will once again be playing in the final game of the tourney. If Chiefs do make it to the championship game on Saturday August 18 at 7 pm, it

will be the 7th year in a row. Chiefs, champions four of the past five summers, (34-3 in the last six tournaments) have aspirations to continue building a legacy for the ages.

Who might sideline the Chiefs? Last year's finalist J&B Bombers (Los Angeles CA), the up-and-coming Toronto ON Batmen (9-4 last two years); the perennial "final four" New York NY Gremlins (27-11 last six years) or the local fans favorite Kitchener ON Hallman Twins (13-6 over the past four years and finalists in 2014). Make your picks – follow the action and try to anticipate the match-up that just might provide the biggest upset of the week.

YOGI – *"The other teams could make trouble for us if they win" and after some thought... "Well if they lose, they're no trouble at all."*



Weekly Passes Provide Savings...



ADMISSION PRICES

FULL TOURNAMENT PASS (AUG 11-18)	\$80.00
ADULT FULL DAY PASS	\$15.00
ADULT EVENING PASS (VALID AFTER 5 P.M.)	\$10.00
YOUTH DAY PASS (AGES 15-17)	\$5.00

CHILDREN 14 AND UNDER - FREE ADMISSION

DATE PURCHASED	TOURNAMENT PASS	SAVINGS WEEK VS. DAILY
SATURDAY AUGUST 11	\$80.00	\$40.00
SUNDAY AUGUST 12	\$70.00	\$35.00
MONDAY AUGUST 13	\$60.00	\$30.00
TUESDAY AUGUST 14	\$50.00	\$25.00
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15	\$45.00	\$15.00
THURSDAY AUGUST 16	\$35.00	\$10.00
FRIDAY AUGUST 17	\$25.00	\$5.00
SATURDAY AUGUST 18	\$15.00	

In addition to your Tournament Pass or Daily Admission ticket, another "must have" item is purchasing a copy of 2018 "Welcome To The Show" Official Pro-

gram. The 36-page booklet is a great guide for fans - with all 57 team rosters, three tournament flowcharts and schedules, and a multitude of statistics

covering the last sixteen years of the event since it was first hosted in Kitchener in 2002. It's truly a great value for only \$3 to keep you "in the game".

For more information, visit the website – www.iscwt.teamsnapsites.com



Strong Start to reading™

"Making a difference in the life of a child"



Strong Start to Reading is proud to be the 2018 ISC Tournament's **charity beneficiary**. At Strong Start we believe in changing children's lives by helping them learn how to read. With 1 in 4 children struggling with their reading, it is essential that we reach them early before they get discouraged and feel that they can't do it.

Strong Start partners with elementary schools, community centres and thousands of trained volunteers who together bring their high impact programs to thousands of young children each year at no cost to families and with measurable results. Come meet the team from Strong Start at the admission gate and at our booth.

Have your children play the fun interactive literacy games and learn more about our programs and incredible impact. A gift to help a child learn to read is a gift you give over and over as they have success in school and in life.

Thank you 2018 ISC Tournament Participants!



KITCHENER AUGUST 2018



Much MORE than just FASTBALL

In collaboration with the 2018 ISC Tournament, the Kitchener sporting and fastball community welcomes players, coaches, fans and the general public to attend several informative and entertaining events.

ISC HALL OF FAME RECEPTION

Sunday afternoon August 12 - 2-4 pm

Edelweiss Sports Banquet Hall, 600 Doon Village Rd, Kitchener

All ISC Hall of Fame members, team-mates, friends and fans will enjoy informal opportunity to "mix and mingle" and be entertained by the **"Hall of Fame Hot Stove Panel"** with moderator Todd Martin (HoF 2016).



"CRAZY GAME" - with NHL alumnus Clint Malarchuk

Monday August 13 - 9 am in morning; 4 pm in afternoon

Edelweiss Sports Banquet Hall, 600 Doon Village Rd, Kitchener

The journey and odyssey of an athlete, baseball player and NHL goaltender whose struggles in a harrowing life include abuse, alcoholism, mental health challenges and attempted suicide as shared by **Clint Malarchuk**. A narrative of his pain and difficulties with overcoming self-doubt - and the courage it took to face his demons. ***This will change your life!***



"safeTALK" WORKSHOPS - (2 Sessions)

Tuesday August 14 - 8:30 am and 6:30 pm

Activa Sports Complex (adjacent to Peter Hallman Ball Yard)

Focused on alerting participants to the importance of recognizing warning signs of team-mates, peers, friends and family indicating risks of suicide, and communicating with and getting help or resources for the person at risk. **Limited attendance.**



FRIENDS OF WATERLOO CHYM'rs REUNION

Wednesday August 15 - 3-6 pm (Hot Stove Panel at 4:30 pm)

Edelweiss Sports Banquet Hall, 600 Doon Village Rd, Kitchener

A gathering of Ontario fastball's finest in a relaxed reception that will include a "Hot Stove Panel" with swapping of memories, tall tales and exploits from the golden era of fastball in the **Intercity, Memorial and Ontario Fastball Leagues**. Alumni players especially welcome... long-time fans of the sport will enjoy this memorable gathering.



For information on these events, please contact:

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