



THE JENKINS JOURNAL



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SABR HANLAN'S POINT CHAPTER Winter 2024

In this issue:

EDITORS' WELCOME	2
CHAPTER LEADERS MESSAGE:	3
CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM NEWS.....	4
COMMITTEE HOT CORNER	8
BASEBALL CANADA NEWS.....	9-10
CHAPTER NEWS.....	11
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	11-13
ABOUT US	14
CONTACTS.....	15
SABR NEIGHBOURS	15
OUR PARTNERS ..	15
CREDITS	16
SUBMISSIONS	16



Editor's Welcome

Hello! It's hard to believe we are already in March and spring is just around the corner, along with the start of the 2024 MLB season.

It's been an interesting baseball off-season to say the least. Many free agents (including last year's Cy Young winner!) have yet to be signed, (as of the publication of this issue). It's hard not to feel like there is some collusion happening between the franchises to prevent the type of long contracts we've seen being signed over the past few years or so. And with multi-year contract extensions becoming even more frequent, we might be in for some ugliness come the next CBA negotiations.

Undoubtedly the biggest signing was Shohei Ohtani with the Dodgers, and of course; all the drama surrounding it. Remember that plane with Robert Herjavec? And while it was certainly disappointing for those of us who hoped to get to watch him play 81 games in Toronto – can I be honest and say that the Joey Votto signing almost makes it up for me?

With no disrespect at all to Larry Walker, who continues to give back to Canadian baseball as a coach with the Baseball Canada senior's men team, or Fergie Jenkins, this newsletter's namesake – Votto has always been my favourite Canadian baseball player. I really hope that he can regain his form and finish his career with his hometown team. It's the kind of feel-good story we love in sports, but mostly, I hope he's able to end his incredible baseball journey on his terms, and how he wants.

So far, I have confirmed a trip to Chicago and Milwaukee in July to add two more baseball parks to my list. Hoping to get out to Detroit and Pittsburgh too if my schedule permits. And I'm also on the waiting list to see the Savannah Bananas in Buffalo. Fingers crossed that comes through! I'm very curious who the Buffalo special guests might be.

What baseball trips do you have planned for this season? Please share them with me (rkapelus@gmail.com) and I would love to include in an upcoming issue.

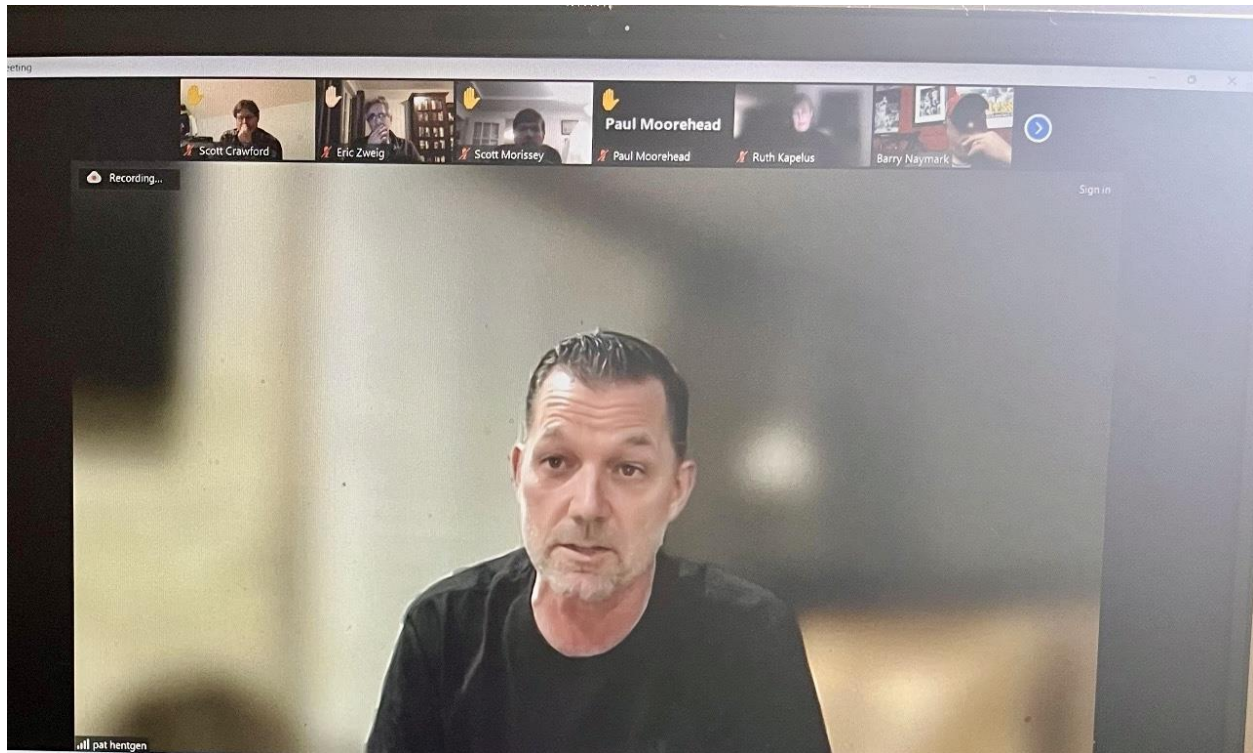
Thank you again to everyone who has submitted content for this newsletter and to those of you who are reading it! Please keep it coming! And please let me know your thoughts and what you'd like to see included in the next issue. I'm still hoping that over the coming months I will get to know you all better and start shaping this newsletter to meet the interests of this diverse group of chapter members

It's going to be a great year at Sabr Hanlan's Point. We have some exciting chapter events planned, and I hope to meet many of you over the coming year!

Ruth Kapelus



Celebrating Sabr Day with Pat Hentgen



We were thrilled to be joined for Sabr Day celebration by Jays pitcher and current Jays special advisor, and Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum inductee [Pat Hentgen](#).

Pat regaled us with stories from his times with the back-to-back World Series championships Jays teams and also shared his thoughts on modern baseball, in particular how much pitching has changed since his playing days.

It was wonderful to hear from him. Pat was extremely gracious, taking the time to answer everyone's questions with thought and consideration. He enjoyed the event as much as we all did.

As our thanks, a Sabr-penned book (with authors from this chapter) on the 1992 World Series will be presented to him the next time he is in Toronto.

A special thanks to Allen Tait for coming up with questions to open the session and get Pat in a reflective and reminiscent mood.

Hopefully we can do something similar with other Jays alumni in the future.



Chapter Leaders Message – March 2024

As I prepared this contribution to the spring edition of the Jenkins Journal, it was time to reflect on how quickly another fiscal year for the chapter is coming to an end.

This was the first year of a rejuvenated Chapter board system supported by a Planning Committee. This led to a successful year with excellent speakers at our meetings. The fall meeting featured Dom Dinelle, Owner and Harry Muir, General Manager of the expansion Chatham-Kent Barnstormers of the Intercounty League. Both speakers, with extensive backgrounds in major league baseball, provided a highly informative talk on how their collective experience was being applied to build an expansion team from the ground up.

Our SABR Day event featured Pat Hentgen as the Chapter recognized the 30th anniversary of the Toronto Blue Jays 1993 repeat win of the World Series. Given only six other franchises in baseball history have accomplished this feat, Pat provided an informative talk as he discussed the season.

The Chapter is not finished yet, with two more events scheduled before the end of our fiscal year on May 31st. Details are listed separately in the newsletter under the **Coming Events Section**.

One final item requires comment. Board terms run for two years, hence, there will be no election given we are completing our first year of operations under a refreshed Board system. However, one Board member has stepped down, so we will need to elect a new Board member at the spring AGM. Details are listed separately in the newsletter under **Call For Volunteers Section**.

I would like to thank everyone, in particular the volunteers on the Board and Planning Committee, for all their support and hard work to help the chapter run effectively and provide programming for chapter members. Well done everyone.

Allen Tait



Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Announces the 2024 Inductees

On February 6, 2024, this year's inductees were announced, and they include a number of baseball heavy hitters, and two favourite former Toronto Blue Jays.



ASHLEY STEPHENSON
2024
Date Inducted: June 15, 2024
Primary Position: Infielder
Teams: Baseball Canada, Vancouver Canadians




RUSSELL MARTIN
2024
Date Inducted: June 15, 2024
Primary Position: Catcher
Teams: LA Dodgers, Pittsburgh Pirates, NY Yankees, Toronto Blue Jays, Baseball Canada



PAUL GODFREY
2024
Date Inducted: June 15, 2024
Primary Position: Executive
Teams: Toronto Blue Jays



JIMMY KEY
2024
Date Inducted: June 15, 2024
Primary Position: Pitcher
Teams: Toronto Blue Jays, NY Yankees, Baltimore Orioles



ROD HEISLER
2024
Date Inducted: June 15, 2024
Primary Position: Pitcher
Teams: Team Canada



HOWARD BIRNIE
2024
Date Inducted: June 15, 2024
Primary Position: Executive
Teams: Baseball Ontario, Leaside



Jays alumni pitcher Jimmy Key and catcher Russell Martin along with former women's national team member Ashley Stephenson, former Blue Jays president and CEO Paul Godfrey, former national team pitcher Rod Heisler and longtime Toronto Leaside baseball executive Howard Birnie make up the 2024 class. All will be inducted in June (details on Induction Weekend can be found under the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter).

Jimmy Key is a native of Huntsville, Ala., and was a key member of the Blue Jays starting rotation for seven seasons. He was also a member of the 1992 World Series winning team.

Key was also selected an all-star in 1985 after posting a 14-6 record and 3.00 earned-run average. He was named American League pitcher of the year by the Sporting News in 1987 after going 17-8 with an AL-best 2.76 ERA.

Russell Martin, born in Toronto, but raised in Montreal, spent parts of 14 seasons in the majors and played for Canada at the 2009 World Baseball Classic. He signed with the Blue Jays to be their primary catcher before the 2015 season and was part of the memorable 7th inning in game 5 of the 2015 ALDS.

He played for the Blue Jays through 2018 (memorably managing the final game of that season) before ending his career with one season with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the team where he spent his first five years in the big leagues.

Paul Godfrey was an integral part of the group who helped to bring an MLB franchise to Toronto and was involved in the project that led to the creation of SkyDome (now Rogers Centre), which opened in 1989.

He served as President and CEO of the Blue Jays in 2000 and remained with the team through 2008.

Ashley Stephenson was a member of the first women's national team in 2004 and went on to spend 15 seasons with the squad. She won Women's World Cup silver twice and took bronze on four occasions.

She is currently a position coach with the High-A Vancouver Canadians.

Rod Heisler, a native of Moose Jaw, Sask., pitched in a record 14 international competitions for the men's national team. He started Canada's first game at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and also played at the 1988 Games in Seoul.

And Howard Birnie, a Toronto native, has quietly been an integral part of baseball in his home city for more than 70 years as a player, coach and umpire. He received the



Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award in 2012 in recognition of his 50 years of volunteering in amateur baseball.

Congratulations to all the inductees! We look forward to celebrating in June.

Upcoming Chapter Events

April 6 - Hybrid Meeting - Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum + Zoom Option 1:00PM

Speaker - Zak Ford - author of Called Up.

Zak is Chair of The Dusty Baker-Sacramento SABR Chapter. His book, *Called Up*, provides first person accounts of 109 players who debuted in the major leagues between 1961 and 2018. Zak's presentation can be tailored to include players of special interest to requesting Chapters. Hanlan's Point has a Board member who has read the book; hence, we will be submitting a request for a few specific players to be included in the talk. This is an early afternoon meeting to accommodate the time zone difference as Zak will be speaking to us from California.

Following Zak's presentation, the AGM will be held.

The zoom meeting will begin at 1PM. For those attending in person at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Marys, doors will open at 12:30.

Late May

Our fourth meeting of the fiscal year will be in person only at an Intercounty League game. This is the fourth time we have scheduled this event on a rotating basis over our geographic area (2019-London, 2022-Brantford, 2023-Toronto). There is interest, following the October 2023 Chapter meeting, in attending a game in Chatham.

However, schedules precluded organizing attendance at a May game, so this event will be deferred to early in the next fiscal year.

No consensus on location for the May 2024 game has been established, so I am providing options below. Attendees at the April 6 meeting can advise which option(s) they would be interested in attending and highest projected attendance will be the

chosen date/location. If you can't attend the April 6 meeting, but would like to attend an Intercounty League game, please advise me directly (atait4@cogeco.ca) on your preferred game(s).

Friday May 24 - Hamilton, London or Brantford (night games)



Saturday May 25 - Guelph or Welland (day games)
Sunday May 26 - London, Kitchener or Toronto (day games)
Friday May 31 - Hamilton or London (night games)

Allen Tait

Committee Hot Corner

For this issue, I will profile two committees that highlight the range of varied interests within SABR.

Baseball and the Arts Committee

This committee focuses on research, education, and appreciation of the history of performance, literary and visual arts inspired by baseball as expressed in the areas of music, poetry, theatre, cinema, painting, sculpture and illustration.

The Committee periodically produces the SABR Journal of Baseball Arts, available through SABR in e-book or hardcopy format.

Baseball Index Project

The objective of this group, formerly known as the Bibliography Committee, is to locate, identify, evaluate, classify, and describe the literature of baseball.

The Baseball Index Project is on-going with an objective to maintain and expand a database of baseball literature. The database currently has 240,00 records.

The Committee also prepares bibliographies on baseball topics, indexes to baseball books, research into baseball literature and prepares reviews of baseball books.

In summation, whether you enjoy baseball entertainment through the arts, are an active baseball researcher or enjoy reading baseball books, please consider joining either or both of these committees as they will support your enjoyment of the game.

Allen Tait



SOLD OUT!

Congratulations to the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers of the IBL for selling out their season tickets for the upcoming season in their first year!



If you live near Chatham, they still have a number of unreserved tickets for their home games, you can learn more here: <https://www.ckbarnstormers.com/>

Baseball Canada's 2024 Women's National Schedule announces for WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup Finals

Canada will open play at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) IX Women's Baseball World Cup Finals, presented by CARNEXT, against Mexico on July 28th at Port Arthur Stadium in Thunder Bay, Ontario before taking on Japan, USA, Venezuela and Chinese Taipei in the event that is set to take place from July 28 to August 3.



Date	Opponent	Time	Venue
JUL 28	MEXICO	7:30 PM ET	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON
JUL 29	JAPAN	7:30 PM ET	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON
JUL 30	USA	7:30 PM ET	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON
JUL 31	VENEZUELA	7:30 PM ET	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON
AUG 01	CHINESE TAIPEI	7:30 PM ET	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON
AUG 03	BRONZE MEDAL GAME	TBD	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON
AUG 03	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	TBD	PORT ARTHUR STADIUM THUNDER BAY, ON

Canada earned their spot in the Finals after finishing second place with a 4-1 record last August in Thunder Bay at the Group A Stage qualifier with victories over Mexico, Hong Kong, Australia, and South Korea.

During the Finals, the six teams will play a single round robin, with the top two teams in the standings playing for the title of World Champion on August 3. Third and fourth place finishers will play for the bronze medal with August 2 serving as a rain day.

Japan has won the last six editions of the Women's Baseball World Cup including the last time the event was held in 2018 where Canada captured the bronze medal with an extra innings win over host USA.

All-time, Canada has captured six Women's Baseball World Cup medals including bronze in 2004, 2006, 2012 and 2018 along with silver in 2008 and 2016.

Canada hosted the inaugural Women's Baseball World Cup in 2004 and the fifth edition (2012) in Edmonton, Alberta, and will do so for the third time in history in Thunder Bay in 2024.



Prior to the World Cup Finals, Baseball Canada will hold a selection camp in Ottawa from July 3-7 where athletes will compete for one of 20 spots on the final roster. The team will then travel to Thunder Bay for a training camp from July 23-27 where they will hold daily workouts and play exhibition games.

For more information on the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup Finals, visit the tournament website [here](#).

Chapter News – Call for Volunteers

The Membership Director position is currently vacant. The role of this Director is to serve as a liaison between the Board and the Planning Committee by attending Planning Committee meetings and Board meetings to ensure that the Chapter achieves its goals for the fiscal year. This is your Chapter so it provides an opportunity for the volunteer to help influence and structure Chapter activities for the membership.

In addition, positions are available for anyone interested in volunteering to join the Planning Committee and have a voice in what activities are held by the Chapter next year.

Anyone interested or requiring more information should contact me at **atait4@cogeco.ca**.
Allen Tait

A reminder: Every month SABR hosts an online 'new member experience' to acquaint new members with all that membership has to offer. For more: <https://sabr.org/new-member-experience/>

Upcoming Events

April 6 - Hybrid Meeting - Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum + Zoom Option 1:00PM

Speaker - Zak Ford - author of Called Up.

Join us for our discussion with baseball author Zak Ford, either in person in St. Mary's at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, or over Zoom. We hope to see you there!

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Induction Weekend

The 2024 Opening Pitch event will take place on Thursday, June 13. The Opening Pitch is the official kick-off for induction weekend celebrations. Guests can mingle at a small, private ticketed event with the Hall's class of inductees, other special guests, media personalities and Blue Jays executives.



Date and time:
Thursday, June 13, 2024 from 6pm-10pm

Location:
Rogers Centre

Cost:
\$100
Includes food and drinks.

Tickets on sale [HERE](#).

This event is not an autograph session so there are no guarantees for autographs. Please be respectful of the inductees and other special guests.

A silent auction will take place throughout the evening. All proceeds are in support of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

The 2024 Celebrity Golf Classic and Banquet will take place on Friday, June 14 at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club.

Don't miss out on your opportunity for a great day of golf, while supporting a great cause. The tournament will provide an excellent opportunity for 4 team members and your celebrity 5th on the golf course.

Don't have a full group, not to worry you can register as an individual, a twosome or threesome - we will pair you accordingly. First class all the way and a day you will remember with fondness in future years.

Date:
Friday, June 14, 2024

Location:
St. Marys Golf & Country Club
769 Queen St. East
St. Marys, Ontario. N4X 1B6
www.stmarysgolf.com

Time:
9am - Registration
10am - Tee-off
4:15pm - Banquet (at the Hall of Fame - 386 Church St. S.)

Costs:
\$1700 - 4 golfers, carts, 4 banquet tickets, hole sponsorship, gift bags



\$1400 - 4 golfers, carts, 4 banquet tickets, gift bags

\$350 - hole sponsorship

\$350 - 1 golfer, cart, 1 banquet ticket, gift bag

\$95 - 1 banquet ticket only

Goal:

To raise \$30,000 through this event to support archiving our collection and continuing our museum programs.

More information **HERE**.

The 2024 induction ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 15.

The Induction Ceremony under the ceremonial tent is free to attend.

There are many advantages during Induction weekend for members, including reserved seats for the ceremony and entrance into the autograph session prior to non-members.

Purchase a 2024 Elite, Home Run or Grand Slam annual **Membership** and receive 2 or 4 reserved seats depending on your membership type (**if requested by June 1**) for the Ceremony.

Buy a 2024 Home Run or Grand Slam Annual **Membership** and you can dine with the Inductees.

Autograph session rules:

Members are \$25 each to enter autograph session.

Non-members are \$35 each to enter autograph session.

Hall of Fame 2024 members enter first.

Autograph session is 90 minutes long.

Autographs are limited to one item per person per Inductee/special guest.

Autographs will be signed on a first come first serve basis.

Hall of Fame staff reserve the right to cut the line at any time.

Autographs are not guaranteed.

NO posed photos.

Upcoming SABR events

[Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference](#)

April 19-20, 2024

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum | Cooperstown, NY

Hosted by SABR's Nineteenth Century Research Committee, join us at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown for a special event as we discuss a wide range of 19th-



century baseball topics. The conference is open to all SABR members and non-member guests. The annual conference includes research presentations, panel discussions, spotlight interviews, and more.

LEARN MORE **CALL FOR PAPERS**

[Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference](#)

June 6-9, 2024

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum | Cooperstown, NY

Since 1998, the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference has been the only symposium dedicated exclusively to the examination and promotion of Black baseball history.

LEARN MORE

About Us

The SABR Hanlan's Point Chapter has existed for some 40 years. Named after the park from which Babe Ruth launched his first professional home run in 1914, it was originally intended to serve the Greater Toronto Area; however, its membership spans a much wider geographical area running from Newfoundland to the Western Provinces. Chapter activities are planned and coordinated by a Planning Committee. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @SABR_HP

Hanlan's Point Board June 2023 - May 2024

Chapter Leader: Allen Tait

Secretary/Treasurer: Elena North

Membership: Vacant

Communications: Barry Naymark

Social Media: Adrian Fung

Coordinator GTA: Ruth Kapelus

Coordinator SWO: Jim Easton

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SABR NEIGHBOURS

SABR Frank “Shag” Shaughnessy Ottawa Chapter: website ; on Twitter:
@OttawaSabr
SABR Quebec
SABR Southern Michigan Chapter

OUR PARTNERS

[THE CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM](#)

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum exists to preserve and promote Canada’s baseball tradition. Its extensive collection is housed in a modern facility on a 32-acre site. It is also home to the Harry Simmons Memorial Library, a joint venture with the Centre for Canadian Baseball Research.

CBHFM is a stop on London Tourism’s Southwestern Ontario Baseball Heritage Pass, together with historical Labatt Park in London and the Beachville District Museum.

[THE CENTRE FOR CANADIAN BASEBALL RESEARCH](#)

The Centre is a not-for-profit corporation established to encourage and facilitate research into baseball’s historical development in Canada and to disseminate the results of this research. Its initiatives include maintenance and operation of the Research Library and an annual Canadian Baseball History Conference.

CREDITS

Use of Fergie Jenkins’ name in the newsletter title is by permission of the Fergie Jenkins Foundation.

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SUBMISSIONS

We have not established a word limit for articles since the format allows us to publish an article précis with a link to a longer text.

To have your work included in the newsletter, or to make suggestions, please



email Ruth. Contributors should consult the SABR Style Guide and Tips for Aspiring Authors. Scroll down [here](#).