

FORMER LUMBER KING CATCHER AWARDED ORDER OF CANADA

By Ernie Bies, May 27, 2015

Allan Etmanski, a graduate of Hearst High School, whose father was head of the OPP detachment in Hearst from 1964-68 was named as a member of the Order of Canada in 2014 and investiture took place in May 2015. His wife Vickie Cammack also received the same honour.

<http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca/news/news-release-order-of-canada-honours-social-innovators-al-etmanski-and-vickie-cammack-for-dedication-to-fostering-communities-of-care-and-belonging-across-canada>



In an email, Al said that one of his favourite memories was catching a perfect game for Ray Lafleur when the Hearst Lumber Kings went to the all Ontario finals. Ray said that perfect game was 50 years ago and he thinks it is one of the only perfect games pitched in the Northland Fastball Association. They beat the Mattagami Braves 1-0 in Hearst with Ray striking out 24 of the 27 players he faced, of which 17 were consecutive. His total pitch count was 96, during this historic game.

Newspaper clipping on left dated September 14, 1966, shows Al Etmanski (catcher) and Ray Lafleur (pitcher) after winning the Lumberkings first ever N.F.A. Intermediate Championship by defeating Elliot Lake

Rebels. Al was only 17 years old when he joined the team. Clipping Courtesy Pit Hébert via Alan Jansson

Allan Etmanski has several books in print. He even has a 2 for 1 special on his latest book for the Month of May so act fast. <http://aletmanski.com/books/>

Visit his website at www.aletmanski.com

Allan and Vickie`s bios below taken from the Order of Canada press release:

Allan **Etmanski**, C.M., M.S.M. Surrey, British Columbia

Family and disability advocate Al Etmanski is a social innovator with transformative impact. He co-founded PLAN, an organization that helps Canadians secure the financial and social futures of loved ones with disabilities. PLAN's model has now been emulated in more than 30 locations around the world. A great collaborator, Mr. Etmanski also played a key role in the successful efforts to create Canada's Registered Disability Savings Plan, the first of its kind in the world. He went on to co-found Social Innovation Generation, a partnership devoted to identifying and solving Canada's most acute social and environmental challenges.

Vickie **Cammack**, C.M., M.S.M. Surrey, British Columbia

Family and disability advocate Vickie Cammack is changing how we support our most vulnerable citizens. She co-founded PLAN, an organization that helps Canadians secure the financial and social futures of loved ones with disabilities. PLAN's model has now been emulated in more than 30 locations around the world. Possessed of a remarkable capacity to find practical solutions to social problems, she is also the founding director of the Family Support Institute and creator of Tyze Personal Networks. Tyze uses secure online networks to connect individuals, their families and their care professionals in order to coordinate support. The initiative is considered the next frontier in caregiving.

I am currently working on a story about the Dillon baseball team from Jogues and exchanging information with Ray Lafleur who was telling me about that perfect game and other Lumberking history last week. Ray came to Hearst with the CNR in 1961 from Cochrane. Hearst switched over to fastball the year before and with Ray`s 'Iron' arm they won 7 Northland Fastball Association championships between 1961 and 1979 with several trips to the Ontario finals.

In 1967 the Lumberkings hosted the All-Ontario Provincial Championship and the pitcher of the opposing team from Newmarket was Dale Pegg, the son in law of Bill and Margaret Arkinstall. The senior Arkinstalls also lived in Newmarket and they accompanied the team and threw out the first pitch. Game one ended with a 1-

0 Newmarket victory even though Hearst loaded the bases with no one out in first inning but did not score. Newmarket won the second game 2-1 taking the series.

Barry Fraser, originally from Kirkland Lake, was the Lumber King catcher in the early 60s and went on to be Chief Scout (Director of Player Personnel) with the Edmonton Oilers winning 5 Stanley Cups. Check out this article from 2014 <http://blogs.edmontonjournal.com/2014/10/06/barry-fraser-architect-of-84-oiler-stanley-cup-team-cant-make-reunion/>

Sadly Roger “Pit” Hébert, Ray Roy, Ted Wilson and Rene Fontaine have all passed away.

Here are some photos and clippings of the Hearst fastball teams through the ages that I borrowed from Allan Jansson’s Facebook page “Old Hearst”. He has 19 albums on there of old Hearst photos totalling over 2,000 pics. Worth a look if you friend him on FB.



The 1962 Hearst Lumberking NFC "C" championship fastball team. Pictured in back from L-R: Roger Hébert, Jean Gagné, Ray Lafleur, Bob Labrosse, Jean Doré, Barry Fraser & King Begin. front row L-R: Yvon Brochu, Marcel Brochu, Albert "Snuffy" Wills Aldé Collin, Ted Wilson, Rene Fontaine, Roger Paquin and Raymond Roy. Photo obtained via David Fontaine.

Matagami Braves Knocked Off By Hearst's Lumber Kings

HEARST (Special) - Behind the sterling pitching efforts of Ray Lafleur, the Hearst Lumber Kings won their N.F.A. intermediate "B" semi final against the visiting Matagami Braves last weekend. All the games of the best-of-three set were played here in Hearst.

The Lumber Kings had their hands full with a solid Matagami club and the series went the three game limit before they edged the Braves in a 13-inning thriller Sunday night.

Lafleur hurled a neat two-hitter in the series opener Saturday as the Kings came up with a 4-0 shutout. While Lafleur went all the way, Matagami's Doug McArthur was relieved by Paul Bolduc. Each Matagami pitcher gave up two runs with McArthur being the losing pitcher. They gave up a total of four hits to the winners.

With their backs to the wall,

Matagami squared the series at a game apiece as they took a 3-2 decision on Sunday afternoon. Rolling to a 5-0 lead, the Braves gave up two runs in the late innings to the Kings. Jim McIsaac chipped in with the big blow for the visitors as he socked a tremendous home run with one mate on base in the seventh inning. McArthur was credited with the victory while Lafleur took the loss.

Deciding Game

The third and deciding game was played that evening with the Kings winning the contest and the series in the 13th inning. It was a pitching duel between Lafleur and Matagami's Bolduc. Both pitchers went the entire game with each club picking up three hits.

Hearst now meets Sturgeon Falls in the Northland Fastball League finals for the intermediate "B" crown.

News clipping from the Val
D'Or Star dated Sept. 3,
1964

Newspaper
clipping on
right dated
September
28/66
courtesy of
Roger "Pit"
Hébert.

The
Lumberking
s advanced
to the All-
Ontario
Intermediate

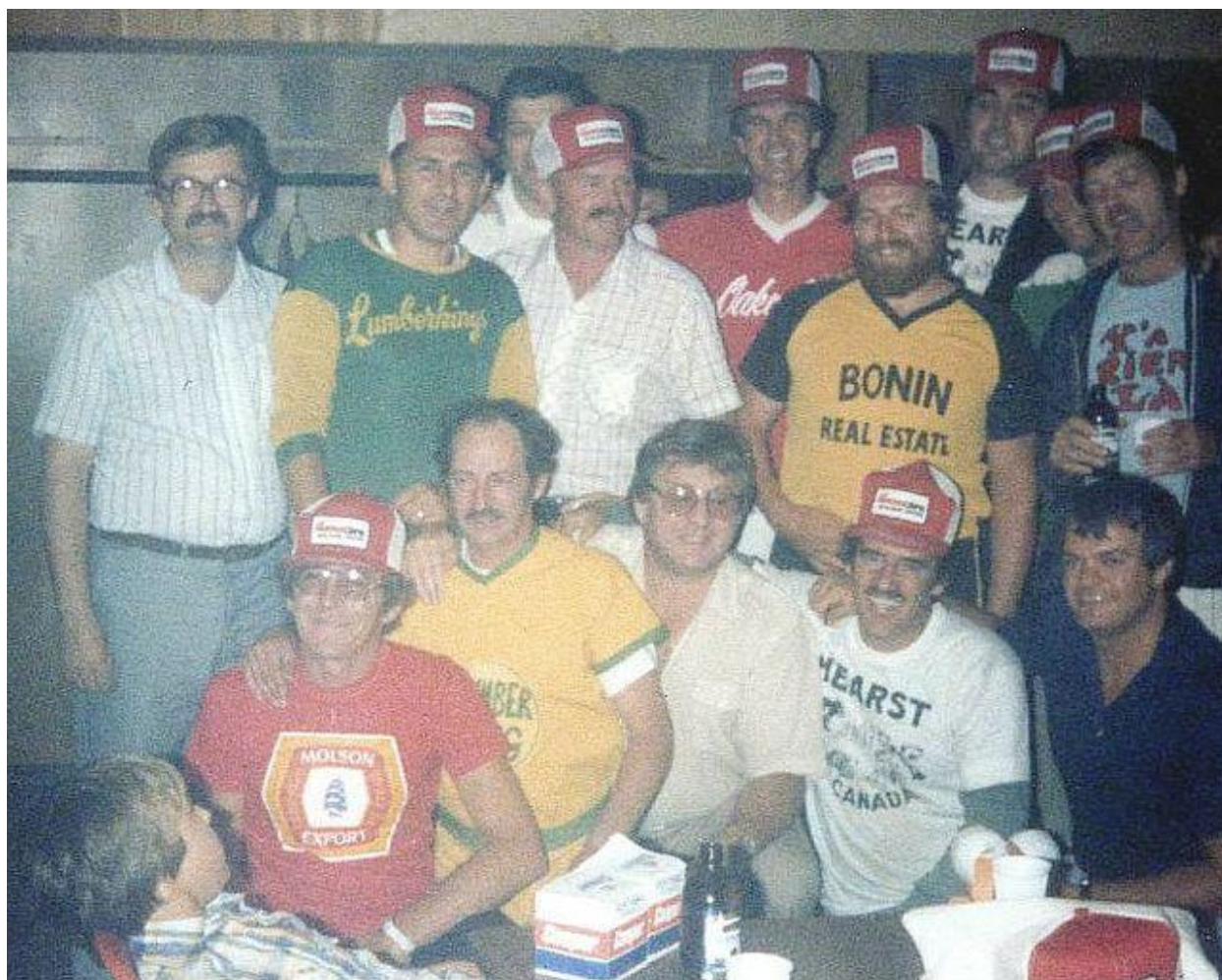


Bring on the South!

Hearst Lumberkings are ready to meet representatives from the south in the All - Ontario Intermediate "B" fastball finals Thanksgiving weekend. The team is shown after their victory over Garson in Hearst Sunday. Front; Alde Collin, left, and coach Rene Fontaine. Second row; Ray Comeau, Roger Hébert, Etmansky, Ray Lafleur, Ray Roy, John Gagne and Roger Comeau. Back row; Gaetan Simard, Albert Wills, Eve Matko, Gaston Grondin, G. Brav and Gilles Archambeault.

Photo: Northern Times

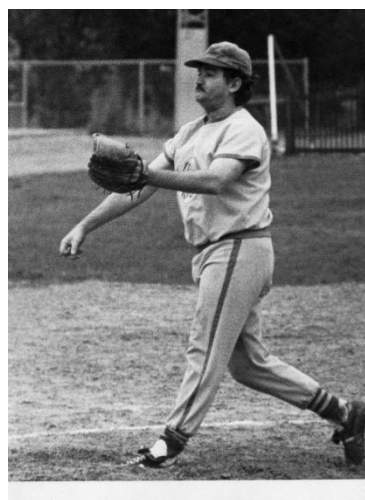
`B`Fastball Finals by defeating Garson: front row: Aldé Collin & Rene Fontaine..second row: L-R Ray Comeau, Pit Hébert, Al Etmanski, Ray Lafleur, Ray Roy, Jean Gagné & Roger Comeau.back row: L-R Gaetan Simard, Albert "Snuffy" Wills, Steve Matko, Gaston Grondin, Gilles Archambeault, & Gilles Bray



Lumberking fastball players photo circa 1976/77. Back Row: L-R Ray Lafleur, King Begin, Gaston Grondin (behind) Albert Wills, Pete Pomfrett, Gil Archambeault, Gaston Gamache, Aldé Collin, & Fern Grondin..Front Row: Steve Matko, Pit Hébert, Rene Fontaine, Jean Gagné, & Roger Comeau. Photo courtesy of Roger Hébert.



More fastball history, photo courtesy of Ray Vermette.....NFA Champs Hearst Lumberkings in 1977 with deciding games won in Blind River...pictured from L-R back row: Ray Vermette, unnamed NFA convener, J.C. Chouinard, Gilles Bureau, Marcel Marchand, Ray Lafleur, Mario Guerin, Simon Duchesneau, Vic Hébert, Romeo Laflamme..front row: L-R: Luc Dupuis, Reg Vaillancourt, Omer Cantin, & Yves Picard





Hearst Lumberking fastball players reunion circa 1979/ 80 and photo courtesy of Roger Hébert....pictured back row L-R Gilles Gagnon, Marcel Leger, Ray Vermette, Fern Grondin, Albert Wills, Gaston Gamache, Claude Larose, Pete Pomfrett, Gilles Bray, Barry Fraser, unknown ??, Ray Comeau, Marcel Marchand, Gaston Grondin, Claude Gagnon, Romeo Laflamme, Don Banks, Maurice Bray, Gaetan Defosses, front row L-R Omer Cantin, Gerry Defosses, Roger Comeau, Yves Picard, Ray Lafleur, Marc Gagnon, Rene Fontaine, Gilles St. Pierre, Jean Gagné, Don Roger, Aldé Collin, Jean Doré, King Begin, Steve Matko, and Roger Hébert



1979 - NSA Softball Champs (same team as 397)

Back L-R/Arrière de gauche à droite: Romeo Laflamme, Gilles Bray, Roger Comeau, Ray Lafleur, Dan Conway, Silvio "Toyo" Hebert, Maurice Bray, Michel Hebert, Gilles Bureau (coach)..front L-R/avant de gauche à droite: Marc Gagnon, Claude Gagnon, Gilles St. Pierre, Nick Fasano, Yves Picard, Marc Girouard (Batboy) & Omer Cantin.

Cette photo est un don de Raymond Lafleur