



Royal Field & Field of Dreams Annual Update

Thames Centre Council Meeting
Monday, May 26, 2025

PRESENTED BY:
ADAM STERN & CHRIS ROBINSON

GREAT LAKE CANADIANS &
DORCHESTER MINOR BASEBALL





WELCOME TO
ROYAL FIELD

DOE-BLUES-GRA
ROYAL FIELD

FOOT POLE ST. DIONIS

PRIME BASEBALL LEAGUE

PRIME BASEBALL LEAGUE

PRIME BASEBALL LEAGUE



Presenters

Chris Robinson

- Thames Centre Resident
- Dorchester Minor Baseball Graduate
- University of Illinois Graduate (2005)
- Nine-year professional baseball player (San Diego Padres, Chicago Cubs, Detroit Tigers, Baltimore Orioles)
- 10-year veteran of the Canadian Men's National Team
- Current Director of Baseball Operations – Great Lake Canadians
- Current Vice President - Dorchester Minor Baseball

Adam Stern

- University of Nebraska graduate (2001)
- Nine-year professional baseball player (Boston Red Sox, Baltimore Orioles, Milwaukee Brewers)
- 10-year veteran of the Canadian Men's National Team
- Current Coach of the Canadian Junior National Team
- Current Director of Player Development - Great Lake Canadians
- Current Canadian Scouting Supervisor - Kansas City Royals
- Owner of Centrefield Sports - London, Ontario

2024 Royal Field & Field of Dreams Review

By The Numbers

320+

Games at Royal Field (April - October 2024)

250+

Games at Field of Dreams (April - October 2024)

≈600

Games at the complex during the 2024 season

12

Tournaments and major events

*2025 numbers are expected to mirror 2024

USER GROUPS

Main User Groups

Great Lake Canadians (GLC)

- Top Amateur Baseball Organization in Canada
- 40+ local players within organization
- Games/events every week and weekend (April-October)



Canadian Premier Baseball League (CPBL)

- OHL of Amateur baseball
- Six main events throughout the season
- Players/teams from Windsor to Montreal attending weekly



Main User Groups

Dorchester Minor Baseball (DMBA)

- All 14U and over teams use ORC as home facility
- Host local and provincial championships each year
- 15U Ontario Championship – 2025



Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Academy

- 700+ Kids try-out for main Showcase event in May at Royal Field



Main User Groups

Perfect Game (PG)

- Largest tournament/showcase company in the world
- Host all PG Canada events in Dorchester
- June 2025 - Canadian National Championship – Best on Best at 18U and 16U
- Teams from Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario



Thames Valley District School Board & London Catholic School Board

- Main facility for all high school baseball games in April
- 40+ Games



MAJOR EVENTS

Major Events

May 2025

CPBL Showcase Weekend

- Event had 14 MLB Organizations in attendance scouting
- 25 Teams - 500+ Players (Windsor - Montreal)
- Stay and Play Event

CPBL Prospect Game Try-Outs

- 700+ Players (from Windsor to Montreal)
- Four days

GLC/CPBL Play

- Five to six teams from across the province travel to ORC each weekend
- 100-120 players each week



Major Events

June 2025

Perfect Game - Canadian National Tour (June 4-9)

- 20 teams from across the country competing in Dorchester for National Title
- BC, Alberta, Ontario & Quebec based teams
- 500+ athletes competing
- Stay and Play Event

GLC/CPBL Play

- Five to six teams from across the province travel to ORC each weekend
- 100-120 players each week



Major Events

July 2025

Great Lake Canadians 14U Tournament

- 12 Teams (Ontario/Quebec)
- 200 Players
- Stay and Play Event

CPBL Playoffs

- 18U, 17U & 16U
- Eight teams each
- 200 players/playoff
- Stay and Play Events

GLC/CPBL Play

- Five to six teams from across the province travel to ORC each weekend
- 100-120 players each week

Major Events

August 2025

CPBL Prospect Games

- All-Star Weekend - Top 200 players compete in five games across all age divisions
- 10+ Major League Organizations & 30+ US University Recruiters

CPBL Playoffs

- 14U & 15U
- Eight teams each tournament
- 200 players/tournament
- Stay and Play Events

GLC/CPBL Play

- Five to six teams from across the province travel to ORC each weekend
- 100-120 players each week

Dorchester Minor Baseball

- League Playoffs - 22U, 18U, 16U
- Provincial Championship - 15U (Labour Day Weekend)
- 16 teams from across Ontario compete for provincial title
- Stay and Play event



ATTENDANCE

Attendance Numbers

Steam Report - Tourism London

- Based off of 20-player rosters
- Four coaches per roster
- Two spectators per player
- This report does not include a “Stay and Play” hotel policy

**Table #1(A) - Economic Impact Summary - Combined Total:
(Dollars)**

	London (CMA)	Ontario	Canada
Initial Expenditure	\$73,262	\$73,262	\$73,262
Gross Domestic Product (at basic prices)			
Direct Impact	\$25,468	\$25,617	\$25,821
Indirect Impact	\$11,986	\$18,862	\$24,311
Induced Impact	\$7,098	\$10,860	\$14,021
Total Impact	\$44,552	\$55,339	\$64,153
Total/Direct (A)	1.75	2.16	2.48
Total/Initial (B)	0.61	0.76	0.88
Wages & Salaries			
Direct Impact	\$17,540	\$17,663	\$17,775
Indirect Impact	\$7,323	\$11,167	\$14,191
Induced Impact	\$3,461	\$5,404	\$7,163
Total Impact	\$28,324	\$34,234	\$39,129
Total/Direct (A)	1.61	1.94	2.20
Total/Initial (B)	0.39	0.47	0.53
Employment (full-year jobs)			
Direct Impact	0.5	0.5	0.5
Indirect Impact	0.1	0.2	0.2
Induced Impact	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Impact	0.7	0.8	0.9
Total/Direct (A)	1.40	1.55	1.69
Total/\$1 Million (B)	10.14	11.26	12.35
Taxes (Direct Impact)			
Federal	\$5,248	\$5,267	\$5,290
Provincial	\$5,617	\$5,630	\$5,660
Municipal	\$617	\$621	\$625
Total	\$11,482	\$11,518	\$11,575
Taxes (Direct, Indirect and Induced Impact)			
Federal	\$8,306	\$9,948	\$11,075
Provincial	\$8,214	\$10,168	\$11,738
Municipal	\$1,623	\$1,686	\$1,938
Total	\$18,143	\$21,803	\$24,750
Industry Output			
Direct & Indirect	\$89,161	\$99,087	\$111,756
Induced Impact	\$12,754	\$19,516	\$24,976
Total Impact	\$101,915	\$118,603	\$136,732
Total/Initial (B)	1.39	1.62	1.87

Around Town | Reference

“As a result of the continued growth of Thames Centre and the success of many teams and the overall program, Dorchester Minor Baseball Association is seeing an increase in requests for registration. DMBA has seen a 38% increase in registrations over the last five years. Due to the number of diamonds available, we do have to constrain the number of teams we run. We are also forced to use TVDSB diamonds (with no up-keep) for some of our programs. For the 2025 season, DMBA was forced to turn away the equivalent of almost 2 teams of players due to limitations on space. We do not expect to see the demand for baseball programming decreasing in the coming years. Adding additional baseball diamonds will be critical to the recreational programming available within Thames Centre”

Jennifer Coghlin

Dorchester Minor Baseball - Treasurer

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

2025 Projected Numbers

Growth

- Combined between all user groups
 - 15 main event weekends
 - Host more than 200 teams
 - Approximately 5,000 players in four-month period
 - Hotel partner: Event Connect

Proposed Facility Expansion

Thames Centre Outdoor Recreation Centre

- Baseball Fields are at full capacity between multiple user groups
 - Includes community fields in Dorchester, Thorndale & Harrietsville
- Partnership with Perfect Game, Toronto Blue Jays Academy and others will allow for more and larger provincial, national and international events
- Our local players were outside playing baseball months earlier than any other local baseball associations
- Royal Field was fully booked in April

Proposed Facility Expansion

Thames Centre Outdoor Recreation Centre

- Existing fields “wear and tear” is significant based on the volume
- Younger players need more places to play
- DMBA numbers continue to increase but we don’t have field capacity to allow for more expansion
- Registration numbers in DMBA continue to rise from previous years:
 - 2025 - 345
 - 2024 - 305
 - 2023 - 283
 - 2024 - 271

Thames Centre Outdoor Recreation Centre



Proposed Facility Expansion

Thames Centre Outdoor Recreation Centre

- Phase 1 proposal: \$1.8 Million - Bantam-sized turf field (14 and younger)
- Public/private partnership with Great Lake Canadians & Thames Centre
- Would allow for expansion to younger players in DMBA, GLC & region to play on fields earlier than first week of May
- Allows more field space for already over booked local fields
- Allows for all organizations to run bigger events

Proposed Facility Expansion

Goal

- Continue to build Dorchester & Thames Centre as the Mecca for amateur baseball in Canada
- Provide our local teams and players with more field space and longer seasons
- In turn will help grow local numbers significantly
- Maximize travel and tourism \$ to local businesses within Thames Centre

Proposed Facility Expansion

GLC & DMBA Commitment

- Invest in the facility to get a shovel in the ground
- Solicit sponsorship/partnership \$ for the necessary outstanding amount
- Schedule and fill the new venue daily from March-October
- Local, provincial, national and international events
- Continue to bring in volume on a weekly basis to grow local economy
- Work with Thames Centre Recreation Department to maintain facilities

Thank you!

