

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gord Marshall Memorial Ladies' Fastball Tournament being held in July

INNERKIP, ON: The Innerkip Umpires Association is pleased to announce that the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Gord Marshall Memorial Ladies' Fastball Tournament will be played at the Innerkip Sports Field from July 7 to 10.

The Gord Marshall Memorial Tournament was initiated in 2004 as a local fundraiser for the Innerkip ladies' team. In 2006, local umpires were asked to take over operation of the event and decided to use it as a means to not only showcase excellent ladies' fastball but also to raise money for charity.

The Innerkip Umps are known for calling balls, strikes, safes and outs over this four-day event while hitting a home run when it comes to raising money for charity through this tournament. Over the past decade, this event has donated \$110,000 to the Oxford County Chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society, as well as helped raise thousands of dollars for the Innerkip Parks & Recreation Committee and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in memory of a former friend, ball player and fellow umpire Gord Marshall.

For 2016, the Innerkip Umpires Association are pleased to announce that for the second year in a row, the Oxford County Chapter of the CMHA has been chosen as this year's beneficiary of proceeds from this event. This charity was chosen to once again show support to families from Innerkip and the surrounding area, who have been affected by mental illness.

Innerkip Umpire and acting Tournament Chairman Brad Hallock said, "It is our pleasure to again partner with the CMHA for this year's tournament. Our goal as an association is to raise funds that will help bring awareness and education to those that may be seeking help."

Oxford County CMHA executive director Mike McMahon adds, "the Oxford Branch is focused on offering walk-in services for those with mental health and addiction needs. All community-generated funding, including the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Gord Marshall Memorial Ladies' Fastball Tournament supports Oxford County Walk-In Counseling."

McMahon notes the principles of the CHMA below.

**Our Vision:** We pursue Hope, Recovery and Resilience for the people we serve.

The Canadian Mental Health Association-Oxford Branch is a community organization committed to building inclusive, healthy communities through:

- Elimination of the stigma of mental illness and the stigma of suicide;
- Educational initiatives that promote mental health and build understanding about the impacts of mental illness and the resources available and
- Leadership and partnerships to plan, deliver and evaluate a broad range of quality programs and services that meet the evolving needs of consumers and community.

Innerkip umpire and 2016 media relations co-ordinator Kyle Smith said, “this event continues to be one of the best ladies’ fastball tournaments in South Western Ontario. This is due in part to the support each year of our long-term supporting teams, sponsors, volunteers, many media partners, and the local community. The umpires and our supporting cast of volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes each year to help us stage this first class event”

Make your plans now for July 7 to 10 to be in Innerkip. Come witness some top level ladies’ fastball action at one of the finest fastball facilities in Oxford County in a small rural village known as Innerkip!

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