

Gary Kingman

2011 Inductee - Special Recognition Category



Gary Kingman has been a dedicated and enthusiastic contributor to minor girls fastpitch softball for over 30 years.

Gary has successfully coached girls from Mites to Midget, and at all levels, A, B, and C. He has seen some of his players earn softball scholarships, and be selected for the Canadian National Team. Many of his players have said that Gary has been a great inspiration to them, one of the people who has made a significant and defining impact on their lives, both on the field and off. Gary often jokes that he can't get his players to leave the field - this is because he has inspired such a love of the game for so many players.



In 1979, Gary started coaching his 3 daughters in South Surrey. Gary was a founding member of the Renegade A program, and coached in the program for 9 years. In 1994, Gary started coaching with the Vancouver Westside Minor Softball Association's Wildcats rep program. He has remained with the Wildcats program to the present day, having coached both A and B teams over the years. He is currently the coach of the 1997 Wildcats. Some of Gary's Coaching achievements include:

- 1986 – Provincial Championships Squirt B Gold Medalist
- 1997 – Provincial Championships Squirt B Gold Medalist
- 2003 – Provincial Championships Squirt A Bronze Medalist
- 2005 – Western Canadian Championships Peewee A Silver Medalist
- 2007 – Canada Cup Showcase GM Bantam A Gold Medalist
- 2009 – Provincial Championships Squirt B Bronze Medalist
- 2011 – Provincial Championships Peewee B Bronze Medalist

Gary is also Head Coach for the VWMSA. During the season, he not only coaches his own team, but he also runs clinics for the Association - for both coaches and players. In the off-season, Gary runs pitching and batting clinics for the Association, as well as a summer camp.

In addition to his coaching involvement, Gary has also been active in the administration side of softball. He was President of the VWMSA for many years, and has held various other positions on the executive. He was also District 5 Minor Coordinator from

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2006-2010. Gary was an umpire for many years, and even now will step in when needed - often at the last minute after having just completed coaching a long practice with his own team. In 2006, Gary was awarded the Jack Carle award as one of the "fathers" of softball in BC, in honour of his hard work, dedication and contribution to the sport.

Gary is invaluable to the VWMSA, not only for his involvement with coaching, but also for his vast wealth of knowledge of the game of softball, which he is always happy to pass on to others. A constant at the field, he always makes time to answer questions from coaches, players, and parents alike. He is the highly respected "go to" person for the VWMSA. It is not an exaggeration to say that Gary has virtually single handedly kept softball alive in Vancouver. He has instilled an enthusiasm and love of the game in his players, coaches, parents and community. Softball has been very fortunate to have such an energetic and dedicated promoter of the sport.