



Tonight we would like to honour one of our members for his tireless dedication and commitment to the improvement of baseball umpiring in the Calgary Area.

For over 20 years, Tom Langlois has been involved as a baseball umpire in Calgary. His accomplishments are many, and credentials are unquestioned.

He has been involved with, and supported training programs with nearly every level of baseball. From The Little League Alberta Umpires Association, The District 3 Umpires Association, to ABA and Baseball Canada, Tom has always been part of the Umpire development process in our area. He has attended endless clinics and seminars with the idea of not only becoming a better umpire himself, but to also pass on his skill to others.

In the early 90's, the name 'Calgary Area Baseball Umpires Association' was born as Tom introduced a winter umpires clinic.

His goal was to ensure that the Calgary area always had a strong supply of qualified umpires. Many of the best umpires in our territory have developed their skills during this 18-week clinic, which includes both classroom instruction as well as field mechanics and video critique. In addition to his

time spent as an instructor in class, he has also devoted countless, if not endless hours to developing lesson plans, special 1 on 1 sessions and researching knotty problems so that every question asked was given an educated and well researched response. In the past couple of years, Tom has also invited other instructors to attend, not only to assist with the clinic, but so they could also further develop their skills as instructors.

As with a lot of Tom's undertakings, the clinic for the most part, was run 'out of pocket', where the expenses surely offset any income. This is also the case when it comes to drop-in evaluations and critiques, where he has just showed up at a diamond to watch and offer his expert advice to the crew working the game. For quite some time Tom has unofficially represented umpires, as a common voice on our behalf, to Babe Ruth Baseball and many other leagues at their meetings. As well as taking on the task of assigning hundreds of games for the leagues before CABUA was able to secure any compensation for this position.

In late 1998, Tom's vision of continuing to develop and train some of the best umpires in the country continued when he helped assemble a core group of umpires, which formed the basis of the Calgary Area Baseball Umpires Association we have today. His tireless dedication, commitment, expertise and skill have helped form the basis of what has certainly become a well respected and successful Umpires association. As is his nature on and off the field, all his efforts in instructing and developing an Umpires Association are without the desire to be in the limelight, and often quietly steps into the background, not seeking titles or glory.

Most of us here have been influenced by Tom's drive for Umpiring excellence. Tonight we honour him with this special 'Founders Award' on behalf of the entire Calgary Area Baseball Umpires Association.