



LONDON MAJORS BASEBALL  
of the  
Intercounty Baseball League (IBL)  
Since 1925



# Current Majors Ownership

Scott Dart

- Born and raised in London
- Two children that go to school in London
- Supports local events
  
- Co-Owns London Mortgage Brokerage firm
- Fanshawe College Professor (Business)
- Fanshawe College Program Consultant



# Current Majors Ownership

Roop Chanderdat

- Moved to London in 1977 from Guyana
- Married with two children who attend London schools
- Owns an Occupational Health & Safety firm within London
- Owner of a Junior B hockey team that supports local businesses



# Community Issues

1. Too short a time frame to study details
2. Every neighbour that we talked to surrounding Labatt Park is opposed to having the Frontier League team in the park without further discussion
3. We have worked with the community to address noise, traffic, alcohol related issues and have had no complaints in 2011
4. No discussion with City officials on how they plan to work with two groups to help them co-exist
5. London Majors currently use 23 Canadian players and 3 import players – of which 17 players are from **LOCAL** Southwest Ontario cities



# Scenarios

## City of London Best Case Scenario:

1. City of London increases revenue \$25,000 per year during the **SHORT** time that the team will be in London
2. London Majors continue to be active users of Labatt Park
3. Minor baseball players are re-allocated to lesser parks within the City
4. One of the groups champions baseball in the City – either the Majors a local community team or the U.S. Independent League team with no ties to the area





# Scenarios

## City of London Worst Case Scenario:

1. Through the City of London's decision to approve the Frontier League franchise, the London Majors can't continue as a long term (since 1925) tenant .
2. Revenue generated by the London Majors disappears
3. Local economy is negatively impacted due to Majors no longer buying substantial quantity of goods and services from **LOCAL** suppliers
4. Potential for a revenue neutral/deficit scenario at the expense of losing a long term **local** organization
5. Confusion within the minor baseball community as the Frontier League is not MLB affiliated and is similar in nature to the IBL
6. Backlash from constituents as to why there was little or no input from communities prior to submission to CNC



# Financials

1. We are hearing that the U.S. team will only be in London for one year and are leveraging London negotiations to help secure another stadium in the U.S. for 2013
2. If the U.S. company is committed to baseball long term in London, are they prepared to commit to an early withdrawal penalty?  
Suggestion: City expected to generate \$25,000 per year then U.S. company to pay the following declining penalties:  
<1 year - \$125,000 security bond in place  
1-2 years - \$100,000  
2-3 years - \$75,000  
3-4 years - \$50,000  
4-5 years - \$25,000  
>5 years - \$0
3. Majors ask that 50% of the penalty help with the rebuilding of their franchise through loss of revenue and to help rebuild our connection to Majors' fans



# Majors' Expansion

1. Majors willing to significantly expand their use of the park to help offset loss of U.S. team revenue
2. Majors willing to donate equal amount of funds to a new scoreboard - spread out over time at an agreed upon time frame – need time to study current offer details
3. Is the City prepared to partner with a long term team represented by local taxpayers to remain open for business using creativity and discussion that will be a win-win situation for the City of London and fans of baseball in London.





# London Monarchs

I am not sure what I can say that Roop and Scott may not have thought about. 3 pro teams have all come and gone. All left problems behind. I can only speak of the Monarchs. When they closed down The CBL (Canadian Baseball League) they left unpaid bills, unpaid employees and unfulfilled contractual obligations.

All three pro teams have come and gone The Majors have stayed, and since Scott and Roop have purchased the club, they have established a hard working baseball program, numerous charity programs, grass roots baseball programs, employment opportunities and much more. These two men are Londoners through and through, born and bred, grew up here, have succeeded as business men and are both men who agree with giving back to the community they have grown to love.

Another pro team will not work here, and if the Frontier League comes back, it will surely mean the end of the London Majors, the history, the constant giving back to the community pipeline the team and these two men have created.

Signed by: Tim Smart

Acting GM of the London Monarchs of the now defunct Canadian Baseball League (CBL) at time of team folding – the last pro team in London 2003 that lasted half the season due to financial difficulties



# Intercounty Baseball League (IBL)

Please accept this email as my opposition to granting a lease to a Professional Ball Club to use Labatt Park for the 2012 baseball season.

My opposition comes from my position as Commissioner of the Intercounty Baseball League (IBL). I believe the existence of a Frontier League (FL) Team will make it extremely difficult for the London Majors of the IBL to operate. The Majors would have to compete with a professional team playing 48 home dates for the limited advertising dollar in the community and would, it would appear, have no access to outfield fence signage. They would also not have access to the home clubhouse. The team would draw few fans as the perception would be that the product was inferior and the few baseball fans in the community would be saturated with baseball virtually every night.

The Majors under Scott Dart and Roop Chanderdat are a good organization, community focused. They re-invest whatever profits they make from the team back into the team. The team has been in existence since 1925 and the IBL has been in operation since 1919. If the Majors were to cease to operate it would be a severe blow for the IBL as it would be losing one of it's cornerstone franchises.

The FL has been in existence since 1993. It already has 22 former franchises and has a track record of franchise movement throughout it's history. At this time, they need a park for the Oakland Michigan franchise as the local area was not prepared to commit to a \$1 million renovation of the local park. Labatt Park is a great community field, but with the exception of the playing field itself, it is sub standard relative to the other more modern parks used by most of the FL teams. I expect the team will play at Labatt Park until a better facility in the U.S. mid-west, closer to the other teams in the league becomes available. Then they will leave the community as fast as they arrived. It has happened three previous times.

I nominated Labatt Park in Canada's Favourite Ballpark Contest as a community park as that is what it is. If I had known that the city was discussing a professional team tenancy, I would not have nominated the park as it would not have been eligible. The park is used extensively by the community and it's community usage can be increased if this is needed to make the operation of the park more cost effective for the city.

Please do not risk bankrupting a locally owned business in favour of a non local business of which little is known.

Yours Truly,

Joe O'Neill  
Commissioner, IBL



Questions??