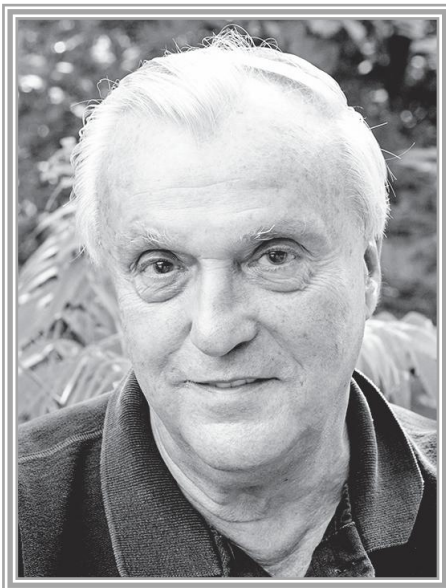


# **BOB WELBY MEMORIAL RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARD**

**Jack Fireman - Sponsor - 2015**



Jack Fireman, born in Toronto, in 1939, with two children, Belinda and James, and four grandchildren.

He became involved in fastball in 1992, sponsoring the York Merchants, but never became involved in the selection process of his team until the first Gator Ball Club in 1993, recruiting players, such as Darren Zack, Brian Paton, Adam Smith and Terry Challis, all of whom have or will enter the Hall of Fame today.

In the first year of operation the Gators were the first Canadian team to win the ISC World Championship, the Canadian National Championship, and the Pan Am Qualifier in Mexico.

However, more than anything, the players that were recruited have led to the Gators' success over the years.

The Gators were World Champions in 1993 and in 1995, and Canadian National Champions in 1993, 1995 and 1996.

The Gators disbanded temporarily in 1997, but Jack ran teams out of Oshawa, and then Kitchener, into the early part of this Century. He ran fastball in Israel, for several years, at the Maccabian Games, accumulating an impressive total of medals.

In 2010 he decided to enter the Gators in the 2013 World Masters Games in Torino, Italy. Therefore the team reassembled in 2011 to prepare, and won the Ontario Masters Championship in 2011 and 2012.

In 2013 the Gators, mostly members from the World Championship Teams of the 1990's, travelled to Torino, Italy, and won the World Masters Championship in their age category.

Nothing has pleased Jack about being involved in the sport of Fastpitch Softball any more than the friends he has made and the people he has met. It is a wonderful group of people.