

## Glenn Verge, Owen Sound, ON



Glenn Verge was a long-time sponsor of men's and junior men's fastball in Newmarket and Owen Sound.

Most recently, he was the sponsor of the Owen Sound Selects junior men's program. Most importantly, Verge is directly responsible for Ontario players and teams being able to enjoy the success that they have had in the ISC over the past 37 years.

Verge's Newmarket Rays and Grimsby Peach Kings competed at the ISC World Tourney in Tempe AZ in 1980, but their participation created controversy in Ontario.

Fastball administrators of the day arbitrarily deemed that players who competed in the ISC would not be allowed to play in OASA provincial and Canadian championships. This would disqualify players from being eligible for the new national team program that was being developed in the early 1980s, so this was a very big deal for those players.

Verge lobbied fastball administrators and led opposition to the ruling, but to no avail. Verge ultimately threatened to go to the courts but at the last second, federal politicians at Sport Canada intervened and ordered that the suspensions be lifted.

Glenn Verge's efforts in the early 1980s were instrumental in Ontario-based teams being able to compete in the ISC and he was inducted into the ISC Hall of Fame as a sponsor in 2014 in Kitchener.

Without him, it's hard to say whether Ontario teams and players would have accomplished what they have in the ISC.