GRAND FORKS INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PACKAGE

Annual Report to the Membership

Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament • Established 1968
James Donaldson Park, Grand Forks, British Columbia

Covering the 2026 Grand Forks International Tournament
and the 2026 Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship

Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Refreshments 5:30 PM • Meeting 6:00–8:00 PM
New Century Restaurant, Grand Forks, BC

Prepared by Morgan Strohmann, President and Operations Manager
www.grandforksbaseball.com

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Grand Forks International Society will be held as follows:

Item	Details
Date	Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Time	Refreshments 5:30 PM • Meeting 6:00–8:00 PM
Location	New Century Restaurant, Grand Forks, BC
Membership Fee	$5.00

All members in good standing are welcome and encouraged to attend. This package is provided in advance of the meeting to give members an overview of the 2026 season, the Society's finances, and the year ahead.

Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

Welcome remarks from the President.

2. Approval of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the 2026 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

3. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

THAT the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated.

4. President's Annual Report

Presentation of the 2026 Annual Report — highlights of tournament achievements, financial performance, and community impact. Presented by Morgan Strohmann, President and Operations Manager.

THAT the President's Annual Report for 2026 be received as presented.

5. Financial Report

Presentation of the 2025/26 year-end financial statements. Presented by Joan Thomas, the Society's accountant.

THAT the financial statements for the fiscal year ending 2025/26 be received as presented.

6. Tournament Coordinator's Report

Presentation of the 2026 Tournament Coordinator's Report. Presented by Steve Boutang, Tournament Coordinator.

THAT the Tournament Coordinator's Annual Report for 2026 be received as presented.

7. Nominations and Elections of Directors

Positions up for election this year: Vice President, Secretary, and Directors at Large (up to seven). The President and Treasurer continue in their 2025–2027 terms and are not up for election this year. Nominations accepted from the floor; voting by ballot or acclamation.

THAT nominations for the 2026–2027 term be closed. THAT the following individuals be elected to the Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 term: Vice President, Secretary, and Directors at Large, as presented.

8. Open Floor / Member Input

Questions, feedback, and suggestions from members.

9. Adjournment

THAT the 2026 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Note: Several special governance resolutions (Code of Conduct, Bylaw Modernization, Name Standardization, Constitution & Purpose Update, and the Director Expectations Statement) were adopted at the 2025 Annual General Meeting and are not being brought forward again this year. A summary of these prior updates appears in the Governance section of this package.

About Grand Forks International

The Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament is one of the longest-running baseball tournaments in North America, established in 1968. Each year, the Grand Forks International Society (operating publicly as “Grand Forks International”) hosts the tournament at James Donaldson Park, drawing teams, families, and visitors from across the region.

Beyond the tournament itself, the Society operates concession services, a licensed beer garden (the Right Field Tavern), and a BC Gaming–licensed 50/50 draw, and relies on the contributions of hundreds of volunteers every year.

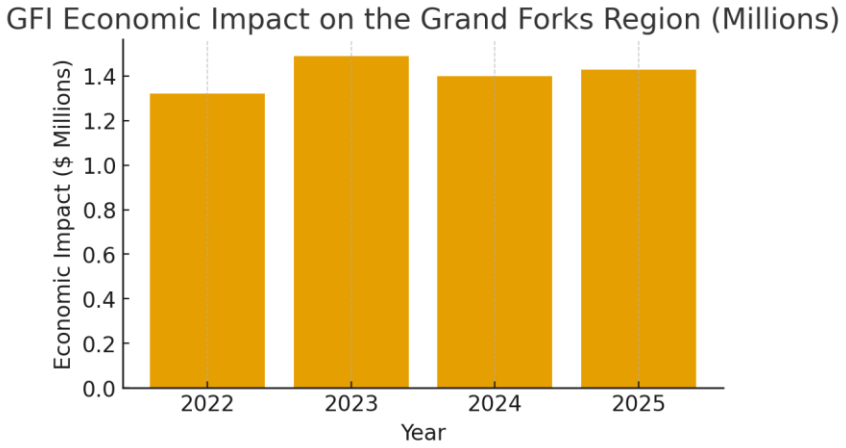
Our Purpose

As set out in the Society's Constitution:

- To plan, organize, and stage an international baseball tournament in Grand Forks, which remains the foundational annual event of the Society.
- To involve and engage the community in support of the tournament, including the recruitment, coordination, and recognition of volunteers.
- To identify, plan, organize, and host additional events, programs, or initiatives consistent with — and that enhance, enrich, or provide financial or community benefit to — the foundational tournament.

Community & Economic Impact

More than a tournament, Grand Forks International is a celebration of volunteerism, sportsmanship, and the economic vitality that makes Grand Forks thrive each summer. Between 2022 and 2025, the tournament generated an estimated $5.6 million in local economic benefit — and for every $1 GFI spends putting on the event, approximately $6 comes into the community.



GFI estimated annual economic impact on the Grand Forks region, 2022–2025

This economic activity flows from spending by teams and visiting players, spectators and families, and the Society's own event operations — supporting local jobs, small businesses, and tourism growth across the region:

- Local hotels, motels, and campgrounds
- Restaurants, grocery stores, and coffee shops
- Gas stations and retail stores
- City services and community infrastructure
- Tourism exposure for Grand Forks and the Boundary area

The tournament is powered entirely by volunteers — from ticket takers and field crews to concession and operations teams — who contribute hundreds of hours each summer. Economic estimates are prepared using Tourism BC's regional event standards for community sport and cultural events, capturing both direct spending and its ripple effects through the local economy.

Governance & Board of Directors

The Society is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, with day-to-day operations led by the President and a team of department coordinators. The current Board, elected at the 2025 Annual General Meeting for the 2025/2026 season, is:

Position	Name	Term
President	Morgan Strohmann	2-year term
Vice President	James Wilson	1-year term
Treasurer	Chris Hammett (also Guest Services Coordinator)	2-year term
Secretary	Becki Cheveldave	1-year term
Director at Large	Shelly Ehbrecht	1-year term
Director at Large	Kirk Duff	1-year term
Director at Large	Jeannette Stooshnoff	1-year term
Director at Large	Donna Olson	1-year term
Director at Large	Alyce Tod	1-year term
Director at Large	Tori Stavenjord	1-year term
Director at Large	Alex Campbell	1-year term

Signing officers for the Society are the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

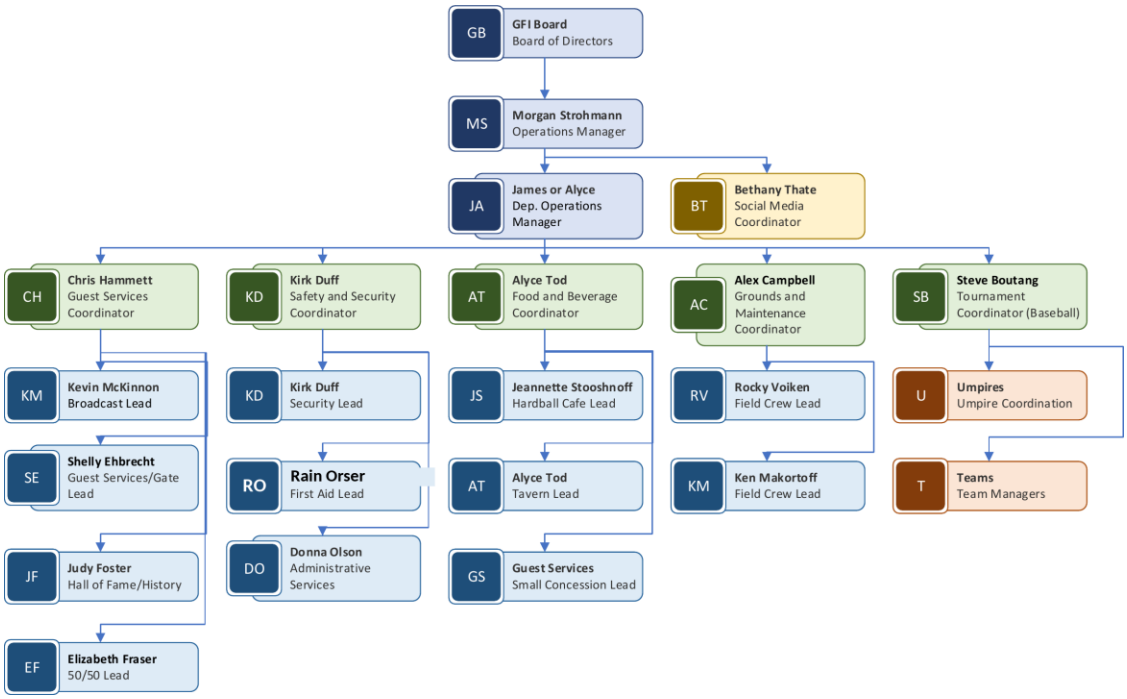
Governance Updates

The membership adopted several governance improvements at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, continuing the Society's move toward modern, professional, and transparent governance practices:

- Director Code of Conduct — adopted, with signature required of all officers and directors upon appointment.
- Bylaw Modernization — introduced staggered terms for executive positions and simplified, standardized naming conventions for the Society.
- Official Name Standardization — adopted “Grand Forks International Society” as the Society's simplified legal name, with “Grand Forks International” recognized as its public operating name.
- Constitution & Purpose Update — broadened the Society's purpose to allow complementary events and fundraising while keeping the international tournament as its foundational activity, and updated the dissolution clause to direct any remaining assets to Baseball BC.
- Director Expectations Statement — adopted as an appendix to the Society's governance materials, to be distributed annually prior to elections.

2026 Operational Structure

Day-to-day tournament operations are organized by department, each led by a coordinator reporting through the Operations Manager to the Board of Directors:



2026 GFI operational structure — Board, coordinators, and department leads

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to every volunteer, sponsor, community partner, and supporter who made 2026 another successful year for Grand Forks International.

2026 was a milestone year. In addition to delivering the 42nd year of our flagship tournament, we were honoured to host the Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship — a one-time assignment from Baseball BC that showcased Grand Forks' long history of hosting major tournaments. Both events came with real weather challenges: rain and cold during our own tournament week, and wildfire smoke during the Provincials. Our volunteers and staff adapted to both without missing a beat, and the dedication of more than 120 volunteers ensured both events delivered an outstanding experience for players, spectators, sponsors, and our community.

This was also a year of real modernization. We completed a dedicated internet infrastructure project that gave us reliable point-of-sale connectivity throughout the park for the first time, launched electronic 50/50 sales, expanded digital signage, and continued to grow our web app as the go-to source for schedules and scores. These investments are already paying off in a smoother guest experience, and they set us up well for continued growth.

Looking ahead to 2027, our priorities are clear: strengthening role clarity and delegation across our coordinator teams, replacing our scoreboard with the support of a $10,000 grant already secured for the project, building a better understanding of attendance and ticketing patterns so we can demonstrate our economic impact more precisely, and continuing to invest in the guest and volunteer experience that makes this tournament special.

Thank you again to everyone who gives their time, energy, and support to Grand Forks International. This tournament belongs to this community, and its continued success is a direct reflection of the people who show up for it every year.

Morgan Strohmann
President and Operations Manager, Grand Forks International Society

2026 Grand Forks International Tournament

The 2026 Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament ran June 22–28, 2026 at James Donaldson Park. Despite rain and cold conditions during several key evenings, the tournament was delivered successfully thanks to the dedication of more than 120 volunteers.

Metric	2026 Result
Number of Teams	8
Games Played	19
Tournament Passes Sold	63
Weekend Passes Sold	40
Reserved Seating Passes Sold	36
Day Passes Sold	635
Single Games Sold	1,264
Volunteer Count	123
Estimated Volunteer Hours	1,771
Estimated Peak Attendance	500–600 at one time
Estimated Beer Garden Peak	Approximately 400

Attendance was lower than anticipated due to poor weather, particularly during key evening periods. Friday night remained well attended despite rain, and Saturday drew the strongest attendance of the week, consistent with previous years. Patron spending was strongest later in the day, with the most significant activity occurring after 1:00 p.m. and peaking between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. — underscoring the importance of evening programming, food and beverage service, and the overall guest experience.

Congratulations to the **Seattle Studs**, champions of the 2026 Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament.

Major Accomplishments

- Successfully delivered a seven-day international baseball tournament despite significant weather challenges.
- Completed a dedicated internet infrastructure project, resulting in zero point-of-sale connectivity outages throughout the tournament — a first for the organization.
- Successfully launched electronic 50/50 sales through digital terminals, improving patron access and uptake.
- Expanded digital signage throughout the park.
- Introduced volunteer meal voucher controls to improve inventory management.
- Maintained a safe, family-friendly environment throughout the week.
- Welcomed MP Helena Konanz and numerous community leaders.
- Strengthened partnerships with the RCMP, the City of Grand Forks, and YRB.
- Continued modernization of tournament technology and operations.

Community & Guest Experience

The tournament welcomed several notable guests in 2026, including Member of Parliament Helena Konanz, Mayor Everett Baker, and Katie Woods, Executive Director of the NBC World Series. MP Konanz attended a game, met with players including the tournament's first female player, and offered brief remarks thanking volunteers for their contributions.

A new Cultural Awareness Day, coordinated by our Food & Beverage Director, introduced additional community organizations into the tournament environment and gave guests opportunities to engage beyond baseball — one of the most successful additions to the 2026 event. Visiting teams also continued the tournament's tradition of community engagement: the Calgary Diamondbacks spent an off day with the local Special Olympics group, a highlight of this year's community impact.

The Society continues to benefit from strong relationships with public safety and municipal partners. RCMP members were present at the park during peak times throughout the week, and City of Grand Forks staff supported tournament delivery, consistent with past years.

Notable Visit

Grand Forks International also hosted Katie Woods, Executive Director of the NBC World Series, for several days during the tournament. Follow-up discussions identified opportunities to improve the guest and team experience going forward, including expanded team giveaways (such as drawstring bags and water bottles), stronger marketing of the Grand Forks experience alongside the community itself, and leaning further into fan-favourite elements like the “Blue Monster” through potential merchandise and improved souvenir offerings.

Technology & Modernization

A major operational success in 2026 was the completion of a dedicated internet infrastructure project, deploying a Starlink connection with hardwired network connections to key operational areas including Guest Services, the Hardball Café, the Tavern, and the Broadcast Booth. Despite processing thousands of electronic transactions across multiple departments, payment processing remained stable and reliable from the first day of the tournament through its conclusion — a meaningful improvement over previous years.

This investment also supported the successful launch of electronic 50/50 sales, improved communication between operational areas, and more reliable live streaming and broadcast operations. It establishes a technology platform that can support further enhancements in the years ahead, including expanded digital signage, additional electronic point-of-sale locations, and new digital guest experiences.

Financial Report

The Society's Annual Financial Report for 2026, covering both the Grand Forks International Tournament and the Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship, will be presented by Joan Thomas, the Society's accountant, at the Annual General Meeting.

2026 Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship

At the request of Baseball BC, Grand Forks International hosted the 2026 Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship from July 31 to August 3, 2026. This was a one-time hosting assignment rather than an expansion of the Society's regular event calendar, and it gave Grand Forks an opportunity to showcase its experience hosting major tournaments to teams and officials from across the province.

Schedule

Date	Game
Friday, July 31	5:00 PM — Burnaby vs. Trail
Friday, July 31	8:00 PM — Coquitlam vs. Ladysmith
Saturday, August 1	11:00 AM — Coquitlam vs. Nanaimo
Saturday, August 1	2:00 PM — Victoria vs. Trail
Saturday, August 1	5:00 PM — Ladysmith vs. Burnaby
Saturday, August 1	8:00 PM — Victoria vs. Nanaimo
Sunday, August 2	2:00 PM — Burnaby vs. Nanaimo
Sunday, August 2	5:00 PM — Coquitlam vs. Trail
Sunday, August 2	8:00 PM — Victoria vs. Ladysmith
Monday, August 3	9:00 AM — Semifinal 1 (1st vs. 4th)
Monday, August 3	12:00 PM — Semifinal 2 (2nd vs. 3rd)
Monday, August 3	3:00 PM — Championship

2026 Champion: **Burnaby**

Congratulations to Burnaby on the 2026 Championship, and to all six teams for a competitive and well-played tournament.

Event Summary

The Men's Provincials was a moderate success operationally, even though wildfire smoke in the valley during two of the tournament's most popular days reduced attendance and, with it, revenue potential below planning targets. The Society did not lose money on the event, though results left room for improvement financially — a shortfall directly attributable to the smoke rather than to operational performance.

More importantly, hosting the Provincials was a valuable public relations opportunity, showcasing Grand Forks' roots as a host for major baseball tournaments. Operationally, the event allowed the Society to pilot several new approaches that will benefit future events, including a kitchen display system (KDS) for meal preparation and order tracking, newly deployed waste management bins, a new security contractor, and a contracted first aid provider that delivered an excellent level of service throughout the event. No major incidents or concerns were reported during the tournament.

Kitchen Speed of Service

The new kitchen display system tracked 577 food orders during the tournament, with a typical order moving from the kitchen to the guest in about three to four minutes — a strong result for a high-volume concession operation, and a useful baseline for future events.

Tournament Coordinator's Report

The 2026 season was one of ups and downs for everyone associated with the GFI.

The finances took a bit of a hit this year with an overall bottom line in the red, however we accomplished so many great things at the park and within the organization that we can all hold our heads high despite the many challenges we faced as an organization.

There were break ins, theft, logistical challenges, teams withdrawing late in the spring, terrible weather at times during our 2 events, and some unwanted and unwarranted discord from some uninformed members of the public who saw fit to wrongly trash us publicly and on social media without any factual basis to back those statements up. A sad statement to be sure.

However, we were able to accomplish so many things off the field that have set our organization up for years and years of success to come. Some of those things include the modernization of our cash collection and reconciliations, structure within the administration of the organization, and a strengthening of our core volunteer base who want to buy in to what we are doing. That's culture. And something I personally would have thought was a pipe dream as recently as 5 years ago.

It would have been easy to throw our hands up in disgust and quit when things got tough, but we did not.

We upgraded areas of the kitchen, and continue to do so. We are moving forward with a scoreboard replacement, as another major capital project. A dedicated office has been established in the city, which again shows that we are a real year-round business partner in the community and not just a one week event. And we have built great relationships with local, provincial, and federal members of government who have publicly supported what we bring to the table in tourism dollars and civic pride.

On the field we celebrated our first female participant in the 42 year history of the event, a young lady from the Kootenays of all places, who pitched for our local Grand Forks club. She has since gone on to play professionally in the States.

We recognized long standing volunteers in our organization, welcomed representatives from the National Baseball Congress, and hosted baseball fans from all across Canada and the United States once again.

And of course we crowned a champion, the Seattle Studs, who again found a way to win this event by upsetting favoured Fairbanks, Alaska in the final.

A month later we hosted the BC Men's Provincial Baseball Championship. Larry would have been proud to see it, given his more than 40 year association with that league. It was the first time that a host city was chosen who did not have a team in the tournament. It mattered not. The weather was terrible, but the players loved the experience of being here. Marked by our usual top notch field conditions, atmosphere, and community support, the league loved the fact that we stepped up and hosted their event and indicated they would be willing to come back again in the future. That's a real tip of the cap to our organization.

Next year we embark on our 43rd GFI, which will be held Sunday June 20–Sunday June 27. We hope to have 10 teams again. Things look good for that plan as some newcomers have indicated preliminary interest in joining us.

I conclude my annual report by thanking the many, many volunteers who sacrifice hours and hours of work to help put this event on. The board, who besides meeting regularly, volunteer full time at the tournaments. These are people who take pride in what they do. It shows. We have a well earned reputation as a phenomenal baseball event. That's because of the volunteers. And to the fans who keep coming out and supporting it. We might not get everything perfect every year, but we try our best to put on a great show. We have an amazing event. The world sees it.

Yours in Baseball,

Steve Boutang

Tournament Coordinator

Concessions, Retail & Guest Experience

Food, beverage, and retail operations are a core part of the guest experience at Grand Forks International. The following reflects the relative mix of point-of-sale activity across major categories — not the Society's audited financial results, which are presented separately in the Financial Report.

Sales Category Mix

Category	2025 Tournament	2026 Tournament	2026 Provincials
Right Field Tavern	37%	37%	34%
Hardball Café	25%	29%	32%
Tickets / Gate Admission	29%	29%	28%
Souvenirs & Retail	2%	3%	1%
Other (grill, snacks, ice cream, misc.)	7%	2%	5%

Across both 2026 events, the Right Field Tavern and Hardball Café remained the two largest concession categories, consistent with prior years. Souvenir sales following the relocation of merchandise into the Babe Ruth Building performed well and should continue.

Guest spending patterns during the 2026 Tournament also confirmed the importance of evening programming: nearly a third of all point-of-sale transactions for the week occurred between 7 and 9 p.m., reinforcing the value of strong evening food, beverage, and gate operations.

Kitchen & Guest Services Performance

- The new kitchen display system deployed for the Men's Provincials tracked 577 food orders with a typical turnaround of three to four minutes from kitchen to guest — a strong benchmark heading into 2027.
- Guest Services continued to serve as the primary point of contact for patrons, with volunteers highlighting clear communication, an organized store layout, and a smooth point-of-sale experience.
- The Hall of Fame display in the Babe Ruth Building remains a unique feature of the tournament and continues to contribute positively to the guest experience.

Social Media & Digital Reach

Facebook remains one of GFI's primary channels for reaching the community, promoting the tournament, and sharing highlights throughout the season. Page performance over the summer reflected strong, event-driven engagement.

Metric	Result
Lifetime Page Followers	2,927
Page Views (summer period)	676.7K
Growth vs. Prior Period	+252.2%

Engagement Around Our Events

Page views closely tracked the two major events of the summer, peaking at roughly 45,000 views in a single day during the Grand Forks International Tournament in late June, and again at roughly 35,000 views a day around the Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship in late July and early August. Outside of these two event windows, daily views returned to a modest baseline — a clear reminder of how much of GFI's digital reach is generated directly by tournament activity itself.

Who We're Reaching

Our Facebook audience skews slightly female (53.8% women vs. 46.2% men) and toward adults 35 and older, who together make up roughly three-quarters of our followers.

Top Cities	Share of Followers
Grand Forks, BC	29.2%
Castlegar, BC	2.8%
Kelowna, BC	2.1%
Calgary, AB	1.7%
Trail, BC	1.7%
Top Countries	**Share of Followers**
Canada	70.0%
United States	25.6%
Australia	1.3%
Puerto Rico	0.6%
Japan	0.3%

The tournament's cross-border draw is clearly reflected online: roughly one in four followers are based in the United States, with a genuinely international audience reaching as far as Australia, Puerto Rico, and Japan — a fitting reflection of the “international” in Grand Forks International.

Capital Investment & Looking Ahead to 2027

The Society continued to reinvest tournament proceeds into infrastructure and equipment that reduce future operating risk and cost. In 2026, this included network and internet infrastructure, Hardball Café kitchen equipment, guest services improvements, electronic 50/50 terminals, grounds and waste management equipment, and point-of-sale hardware. Full details are included in the Financial Report.

2027 Priorities

The President and Operations team have identified the following priorities heading into the 2027 season:

- Role Clarity & Delegation — developing clearer role definitions and job descriptions across departments to strengthen delegation and build coordinator confidence and discretion within their roles.
- Scoreboard Replacement — replacing the park's scoreboard ahead of the 2027 event, supported by $10,000 in dedicated grant funding, with all current gaming-event proceeds earmarked for the project and additional Society funds pledged as needed.
- Volunteer-Driven Improvements — acting on feedback from the 2026 after-action review, the Society has already purchased new park garbage and recycling bins to address overflow issues, and improved front-gate check-in with better point-of-sale equipment to streamline volunteer and guest entry.
- Understanding Our Attendance — launching a program to better track park attendance, peak times, and pass usage compared to day passes, using low-cost online tools. This data will support tourism and community development grant applications by more precisely illustrating the tournament's true economic impact.
- Guest & Team Experience — following a visit and consultation with the NBC World Series coordinator, the Society is exploring expanded team giveaways, stronger marketing of the Grand Forks experience, and leaning further into fan favourites such as the “Blue Monster” through potential merchandise and improved souvenir selection and quality.

Financials

The Society's full financial statements for the period November 1, 2025 to August 9, 2026, covering the Grand Forks International Tournament and the Baseball BC Senior Men's Provincial Championship, will be presented by Joan Thomas, the Society's accountant, at the Annual General Meeting.

Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors extends its sincere thanks to everyone who made 2026 a success.

Outstanding Departments

The Hardball Café and Admin Services are specifically recognized for outstanding performance in 2026. The Hardball Café operated efficiently through significant transaction volume while maintaining strong service levels throughout both events. Admin Services continued to be critical to tournament success, supporting the rollout of the new electronic 50/50 system and providing problem-solving support across departments.

Volunteer Recognition

Every volunteer who gave their time in 2026 helped make both events a success. Individuals recognized this year for going above and beyond include Rocky (Grounds Crew Lead), Donna and Terry (Admin Services), Shelly (Guest Services), Alyce (Food & Beverage), and Jeannette and Tori (Hardball Café).

Sponsors & Community Partners

Grand Forks International thanks its key sponsors, including Rockwool, Beem, and Community Futures, for their continued and significant support of the tournament.

Special recognition also goes to YRB, who were critical to keeping our grounds tractor running this year and have been a key supporter in providing field materials that let us keep play moving through rain delays — we simply could not have done it without them. Thanks also to the RCMP, who made a point of being present at almost every single game, helping ensure an issue-free event, and to the City of Grand Forks and its works crews for their continued support of tournament delivery.

On behalf of the Board of Directors — thank you to every volunteer, sponsor, community partner, and supporter who contributed to another successful year for Grand Forks International.