

Baseball is back in Ottawa

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Ottawa will have a new Can-Am team, the Ottawa Rapides, as league commissioner Miles Wolff made it official in a press conference late last week.

The name was chosen after more than 1,100 entries were submitted in a region-wide contest. Rapides was chosen because it is synonymous with the rich river history of the city, linking Ottawa and Gatineau, and because it is bilingual.

The conference also featured the announcement of the team's upper management. Also in attendance was Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien, and east end councillors Bob Monette and Rob Jellett, who have been integral to bringing a baseball

team back to Ottawa.

This is the second baseball team that will call Ottawa home. The Ottawa Lynx of the AAA league, folded a earlier last year.

"This is a gorgeous stadium and a great city," said Wolff. "This is a special day for all of us."

For Monette and Jellett, all their hard work has truly paid off.

"It's a great game, and I am pleased to see it come back to Ottawa," said Coun. Jellett. "Baseball is a great sport, and this shows us that there is room for baseball in the city. I look forward to opening day." With a name like The Rapides, Monette said it will cater to not only the Anglophone community, but the Francophone community as well.

"That is something that I

believe the Ottawa Lynx failed to do," he said. "It's important to reach out to people on both sides of the river. It's exciting that we now have another sports league in Ottawa, and I believe that this team will be very successful."

The Can-Am league started back in 1936, but ended its run in 1951 due to the popularity of television and pro football.

On October 6, 2004, the league was reborn, and the league currently has eight teams, including Les Capitales de Québec.

"I look forward to the great rivalry our team will have with Les Capitales," said the team's manager, Ed Nottle. "This is a great league with great players, and I look forward to what we can do here in Ottawa."

Opening day for The Rapides is May 22nd.