



Russ  
Diethrick



Greg  
Peterson

# Keeping the dream alive

Superfans Russ Diethrick and Greg Peterson are driving force behind Jamestown's baseball tradition

By Todd Peterson

**I**n every city, town and village, there are always a few special people who have the ability to make things happen, especially in times of crisis. They can mobilize resources, politicians and receive support of the public quickly and effectively to accomplish goals. Often, they do this quietly, with no thought of personal recognition.

In Jamestown, Russ Diethrick and Greg Peterson have filled these roles in exemplary fashion.

Diethrick has been long recognized as one of the premier sports advocates

in the area, and served as the director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department for nearly three decades. His vision that local sports figures should be recognized for their accomplishments led to the creation of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1980. Diethrick himself was elected to the Hall in 1982.

His love of baseball and ability to get people in the community working together helped to bring the Babe Ruth World Series to Jamestown in the early '80s. The series remains a fixture at College Stadium to this day and Diethrick has served as a director on the National Babe Ruth Baseball Advi-

sory Board.

On the professional level, he helped to bring minor league baseball back to Jamestown in the early 1970s; the Jamestown Expos club occupied College Stadium through the 1993 season.

Peterson, a well-respected attorney in the area, shares Diethrick's enthusiasm and passion for baseball and other sports activities. His legal background, knowledge of the political world and ability to motivate many different forces were major reasons he became involved, along with Diethrick, in bringing the Jammers and the Rich organization to