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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHCART RETURNS TO MANAGE 2009 FISHER CATS

New pitching coach Tom Signore & new hitting coach Paul Elliott join 2nd-year manager

Manchester, NH- The **Toronto Blue Jays**, parent club of the Double-A New Hampshire Fisher Cats, today announced that **Gary Cathcart** will return for his second year as manager of the Fisher Cats in 2009. Cathcart will be joined by new pitching coach **Tom Signore** and new hitting coach **Paul Elliott**. Trainer **Voon Chong** returns for his sixth season with the Fisher Cats.

Cathcart, 45, enters his 11th year as a professional coach and seventh season in the Blue Jays' organization, including four years as a member of the Fisher Cats' coaching staff. The New Bedford, MA, native and Bedford, NH, resident won Toronto's **Bobby Mattick Award**, recognizing dedication and excellence in the field of Player Development, in 2007 when he managed the Single-A Lansing Lugnuts of the Midwest League to a franchise-record 78 victories. His career managerial record is 179-169 after New Hampshire posted a 61-81 mark in 2008.

"The Blue Jays are excited to have Gary Cathcart back as the manager of the Fisher Cats," said Toronto Blue Jays Director of Player Development **Dick Scott**. "Gary does a great job in preparing our players for the major leagues.

"In looking at the new coaches, Tom Signore has done a tremendous job with our young pitchers in Lansing over the last few seasons, and Paul Elliott is a very hard worker who has contributed to the development of many former and current Fisher Cats, such as Ryan Patterson, J.P. Arencibia and Brian Dopirak, to name a few. We feel like we have a very strong coaching staff in 2009."

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“Any time you get the opportunity to manage at this level in your own backyard, it’s a very special thing,” said **Cathcart**. “And to do it for a second straight season is obviously a thrill for me both personally and professionally.

“We had a good year development wise, sending a few guys to the big leagues, and I’m excited to work with Tom Signore and Paul Elliott next season. Tom was my pitching coach in Lansing in 2007, and Paul is a very hard worker I’ve had the chance to work with for the last six years in Spring Training and Instructional League.”

“We’re pleased to have Gary Cathcart back as our manager in 2009,” said Fisher Cats President **Rick Brenner**. “Gary has been a vital part of this organization through the years. He not only has shown great commitment to the community during the season, but as someone who has chosen to make New Hampshire his home, he is a familiar face to our fans all year long. We look forward to welcoming Tom Signore and Paul Elliott to the Fisher Cats family and having this new coaching staff compete for an Eastern League championship.”

Tom Signore, 46, has been with the Toronto organization since 2005. The North Haven, CT, native was the pitching coach for the Auburn Doubledays (Short-Season A) in 2005 and spent the previous three seasons as the pitching coach of the Class-A Lansing Lugnuts of the Midwest League.

Paul Elliott, 52, began working for the Blue Jays organization in 1996 as a scout for the team in his native Australia before taking on a coaching role with Medicine Hat (Rookie) of the Pioneer League. In 1997, he coached with Double-A Knoxville of the Southern League, and in 1998 he coached with Single-A Hagerstown of the South Atlantic League. Elliott returned to Medicine Hat as a manager in 1999 and 2000. He also managed Auburn (Short-Season A) in 2001, Class-A Charleston (WV) of the South Atlantic League in 2002 and Pulaski (Rookie League) of the Appalachian League in 2003. He served as a hitting coach with the Advanced-A Dunedin Blue Jays for the last five seasons.

Voon Chong enters his eighth season in the Blue Jays’ organization and sixth year as the Fisher Cats Trainer. The Vancouver, BC, native also serves as the Assistant Minor League Athletic Training & Rehab Coordinator for the Blue Jays. Chong graduated from Simon Fraser University in Canada, where he earned a degree in Kinesiology.

Tickets to the **Granite State Baseball Dinner**, scheduled for Saturday, November 22, at the Manchester National Guard Armory, are on sale now by calling **(603) 641-2005** or visiting www.nhfishercats.com.

-Fisher Cats-