



Mount Pearl Sports Team Honour Roll
Mount Pearl 1985-1986 Junior Blades Hockey Team
Inducted in 2007



Standing: Ralph Neil, Pres. - Ed O'Keefe – Terry Ryan Sr. Coach – Dave Bailey – Jeff Smith – Glen Williams – Brad Saint – Derek French – Paul Young – Steve Dunne – Russ Matthews – Derek Dalley – Pat Coombs – Gary Martin – Paul Aylward – Foster Taylor – Pat O'Keefe Sr. Asst. Coach.

Front row: Terry Ryan Jr. – Rod Hennessy – Keith Hoyles – Kevin Hodge(A) – Pat O'Keefe Jr.(C) – Darrin Taylor(A) – Paul Lingard – Dave Noble – Chris O'Keefe.

The 1985-1986 Mount Pearl Junior Blades were one of the most successful junior hockey teams the province has ever seen. This particular Blades team did something that no other team has ever done in the St. John's Junior Hockey League; they played an undefeated regular season. That year, the team won the Pepsi-Cola Trophy which is presented to the 1st place team overall throughout the regular season. In fact, they increased the prestige of such an award by obtaining it with a record 26-0-2; they were the only team to go undefeated out of all the teams ever to have played in the 27 year old league. Their athleticism and successes were well known in

Mount Pearl. Every Sunday night was a home game for the Blades, and every Sunday night the arena would be the place to be. Indeed, every home game played by the Junior Blades was played in front of crowds that reached the arena's maximum capacity. The team gave Mount Pearl a fantastic team they could call their own and this generated community spirit that was not to be reckoned with. Mount Pearl was thusly titled "Hockey Town Newfoundland".

After an incredible regular season, devoted fans wanted the Blades to keep the winning streak going at the President's Cup League Championship. They faced the Clarenville Caribous in 5 games, losing their first game and then their second; a devastating blow for the teams once unstoppable winning streak. However, now more motivated than ever the Blades roared back and won 2 straight games forcing the Caribous into the 5th and final deciding game. The Blades conquered the Caribous in front of 1000 spectators at the "tin can" (Smallwood Arena), advancing to the league championship where they then claimed the winning title in the final game against St. John's. By winning the league championship the Blades won the right to represent the eastern region of the province for the Veitch Memorial Trophy Championships (the provincial junior hockey crown). The Blades defeated the Port aux Basques Mariners and the Corner Brook Royals twice outscoring both teams 26-5! Having captured the provincial championship, they were to represent Newfoundland and Labrador at the Don Johnson Cup Championship (the Atlantic Junior "B" Championship). Not surprisingly, they won the final game against Fredericton, 4-1 and were named champions once again. The 1985-1986 Mount Pearl Junior Blades are without a doubt, one of the best hockey teams to have ever played in the province and are true role models for the citizens of Mount Pearl.
