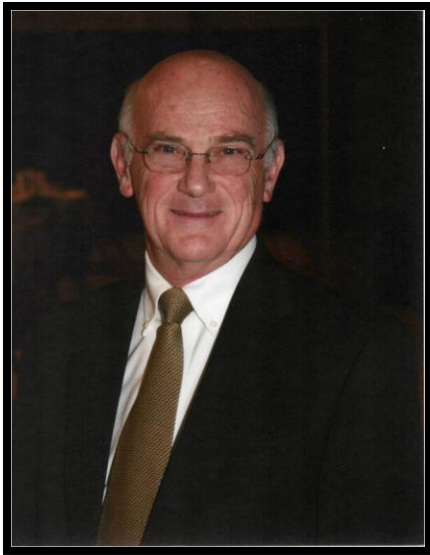




Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

Evan Ash

Builder 2008



Evan Ash's involvement with Special Olympics Mt. Pearl began in the fall of 1996 when his son, Andrew, joined the Special Olympics Organization. Evan was immediately involved with fundraising and eventually took on duties such as chairing on the Special Olympics Mt Pearl sub-committee which helped to ease the workload for the Organizing Committee. In 2002 Evan took over the position of Program Director. He attended four sport programs, four nights a week for four years. Almost immediately, this demanding position began to reflect Evan's firmly held belief in "the athlete first". All his efforts over the next 4 years reinforced his philosophy: that every athlete is equally important and deserves a quality program that meets his or her needs and abilities: that every athlete deserves the best quality and best qualified coaches that can be recruited: and that every athlete deserves the opportunity to attend whatever activities or competitions are on the go, regardless of financial means. Evan has spent a total of eight years as an executive member of Special Olympics Mt. Pearl. His input on everything from the wording of the Constitution to raising funds was invaluable.

While Evan was active at the local level he was also a member of the Regional Leadership Committee and in 1998 became a member of the Provincial Board of Directors. He is still an active member of both those bodies. He is a tireless advocate for the athletes of this province. For the other members of the Board, he is the face and voice of the parents and the hands-

on expert on programming. He has helped organize Celebrity Sport Festivals, golf tournaments and special events in these last ten years. He has been a valuable resource for Special Olympic Newfoundland and Labrador. For his contribution, in 2007 Evan was named the first ever recipient of the "Volunteer of the Year" award for Special Olympics NL.

Evan was also a member of the Host Committee for the 2000 and 2001, Newfoundland and Labrador Special Olympics Summer Games. He filled the position of what is now known as the Chef de Mission position for Team Mt. Pearl at the 2002, 2003 and 2004 Provincial Games. He was a training coach for his son, Andrew in preparation for the World Games in Nagano, Japan in 2005. Evan was also a member of the Organizing Committee for the 2006 NL Special Olympics Track and Field Championships. Indeed, Evan was one of the training coaches for Team NL's floor hockey team that won a gold medal at the National Special Olympics Winter Games in Quebec City. All but three of the hockey players were from the Mt. Pearl Club.

It didn't take long for others to recognize the asset they had in Evan Ash and chose him to represent the province at national meetings. Thus it was then that Evan found himself on the National Coaching Sub-Committee for five years. Much of the work done by this committee has just come to fruition with the publishing of the new Special Olympics coaches' certification courses and manuals. When he was named Volunteer of the Year for 2007 for all of Canada it was obvious that Evan had brought the same level of commitment and dedication to his work on that level that he had always brought to Mt. Pearl and the province.

To date, Evan's only involvement on the International scene has been as a "fan-extraordinaire" when he and his family travelled to Japan to cheer on his son Andrew as a member of Team Canada's 2005 snowshoeing squad. Evan was interviewed by TSN at that event, and his comments at the time were not about the family work and commitment to get Andrew there, but about the value of Special Olympics to the lives of persons with an intellectual disability.

Evan believes that no detail is too small and no person too insignificant. Since 1996 he has maintained a level of commitment and dedication that is second to none. He is generous with his time and knowledge to other volunteers and regions. Although he is the first to acknowledge the accomplishments of others, he never looks for reward or recognition for his hard work.

The Mount Pearl Sport Alliance recognizes Evan Ash's outstanding contributions with his induction to the Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame.
