



Joan Burry Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

Joan Burry

Builder 2003



Joan Burry's interest and love of synchronized swimming began in 1970 while swimming at Memorial University. It is important to note that Joan has not actually participated in synchronized swimming as an athlete, ever. In 1976 she was asked by Luke Stern, the Aquatic Director for Mount Pearl, to start a synchronized swimming program in the city. Delighted with the prestige of such a request, Joan set the organization into motion.

Joan found herself volunteering much of her time and personal finances to acquire the necessary courses and knowledge needed to establish a team with the rank and notability the Mount Pearl Synchro Club possesses today. She spent much of her time organizing and developing the club so that it could be an officially registered club and immersed herself in studies to become an official synchro judge. Joan learned everything she knows about synchronized swimming from video tutorials and reading about the sport. Having

learned so much so fast, her reputable coaching talent flourished, as did the reputation of the Mount Pearl Synchro Club.

Though Joan became ill with cancer in 1978 she continued to build the Mount Pearl Synchronized Swimming Club. The club has achieved success at all levels of competition; provincially at the Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games and nationally at the Canada Summer Games.

Joan is a lifeguard, a course conductor for the Lifeguard Program and Small Craft Safety Program, and a swimming instructor. She was a Girl Guide leader and trainer with Girl Guides of Canada. She is also a volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society and teaches in the Salvation Army beginner band program. She has received her Level II Coaching Certificate and her National Level IV Certification for synchronized swimming.

Her efforts and accomplishments have earned her recognition and awards over the years. These include: a Coach of the Year Award and the National Builders Award (awarded by Synchro Canada). Furthermore, Joan has also been the Manager of the Newfoundland Canada Games team and a member of the Mission Staff for the Canada Games. Joan has provided the sporting community of Mount Pearl, and the province, with a lifetime of love, volunteerism, support and renowned expertise. She continues to support many local programs in sport and other areas within our city today.

The Mount Pearl Sport Alliance recognizes Joan Burry's outstanding contributions with her induction to the Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame.
