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## Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame Inductee Wayne Gollop *Athlete 2007*



Wayne Gollop has always been involved in a variety of sports, including baseball, softball, hockey, soccer and tennis. Not only has Wayne been involved in these sports, he has proven himself a worthy teammate and accomplished player through sheer talent and commitment to the game.

Wayne's excellence in baseball was very apparent when he was invited to play in the St. John's Senior Baseball League at age 16. His sister Janice remembers Wayne's love for the game, saying nothing could stop him from playing. She recalls one incident when he spent the day at the Janeway Hospital with his parents being fitted with a cast for a broken ankle on the day of his team's championship game. Later that same evening Wayne sawed off his own cast and snuck off to play with his teammates, and win the championship game, broken ankle and all. His dedication to baseball was quite outstanding. Of note, Wayne played in four National Senior Baseball Tournaments, and played for the Newfoundland & Labrador Team at the 1977 Canada Summer Games. He won 3 MVP awards in the Senior League, two senior All-Newfoundland Championships, and a Senior 'B' All-Newfoundland with his native Mount Pearl Blazers.

Softball was another sport Wayne loved to play. He was a Junior "A" Provincial Champion with the St. John's All Stars and competed at four Senior National Softball Championships. He received three awards with Mount Pearl Senior Softball including Top Pitcher, MVP (play-offs), and Most Home Runs (regular season). With the Mount Pearl All Stars, Wayne won one Senior "B" Provincial Softball Championship with the Mount Pearl All Stars, and three Senior "A" Provincial Softball Championships with St. John's teams.

In addition to baseball and softball, Wayne had a talent for hockey, playing two seasons with the Mount Pearl Junior Blades, and winning three championships and two scoring titles with the Mount Pearl Intertown League team "Fleat Realty". Wayne also played soccer and tennis. In 1973, he played for the Mount Pearl Junior Soccer Championship team, winning the scoring title. That same year, he represented Mount Pearl in the Provincial Tennis Championships, and won. Looking at his accomplishments it seems clear why Wayne would have been selected as the first recipient of the Mount Pearl Male Athlete of the Year award in 1972, and won the prestigious award for a second time in 1975. Wayne's persistent love for the game and the excellence by which he expresses that love has been demonstrated by his play.

In 2007 the Sport Alliance recognized Wayne Gollop's outstanding athletic performance with his induction to the Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame.

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