

# Mount Pearl Baseball History

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In 1958 the Mount Pearl Baseball Association established with the development of a minor program for ages 8 to 18. The league played at the Morris Avenue ball field, or the second street field as it was called. The first president of the baseball association was Gerald Whitty. The championship trophy was donated by the Morris family and awards were presented at Barney's on Topsail Road. This program continued for many years and was supported by various groups in the community.

In the mid-1960s, a senior baseball league was established at the St. David's complex. Roy Mercer was installed as the first president of the senior league; and in its first few years the team sponsors were the Lion's Club, The Royal Canadian Legion, Mount Pearl Branch and Noseworthy's Esso. The championship trophy for the league was donated by "Dog and Suds". This league continued until the early 1970s when an accident at the field resulted in the closure of the field and the folding of the senior league. After the league closed down, a senior all-star team from Mount Pearl entered the St. John's Baseball League and competed until 1975. The team was originally known as the "Mount Pearl Stealers" and later as "Stokes Angels". During the 70s the city of Mount Pearl also organized a minor baseball program which saw teams compete in its own house league system as well as all Newfoundland competition.

In 1980, the minor association, re-established under President Jed Butt with a committee of interested parents, saw the beginning of an evening program at Squires field and St. David's Field. Over 500 kids took part in this league. Minor baseball flourished during the 80s as Mount Pearl won Mosquito, Pee Wee and Bantam titles at the Provincial and Atlantic Championships. In 1988 the association hosted the provincial Summer Games. A new field was constructed at PearlGate in preparation for these games. The minor baseball program continues to this day with an annual registration of over 500 kids in divisions from T-ball to junior. The program now operates out of PearlGate Field, Squires Field, St. David's complex and Smallwood field. The Mount Pearl minor Baseball Association has become one of the main baseball centres in the province. Teams from Mount Pearl compete in all age divisions and in all levels of competition and have won several Atlantic titles.

To enhance the baseball program in the City of Mount Pearl, a regulation senior field was constructed at the Smallwood complex in 1992. The addition of this facility enabled the Mount Pearl Baseball Association to expand and develop its own leagues. Consequently, in 1994, a

senior league was formed under a three man committee of Bill Fitzgerald, Harry Bartlett and Joe Wadden. In its first year of operation the senior league was comprised of five teams: Paradise knights, Legion, A&W Midget all-stars and Guards. In 1996 the Association also set up a five team Junior league comprised of: Paradise, Legion, knights, C.B.S. and Guards. Residents of Mount Pearl no longer have to compete in the St. John's league. By 1996 Mount Pearl had claimed its first Provincial Junior Title. Another milestone was reached when, in 1997, Mount Pearl hosted the Canadian Senior Men's Tournament.

Minor Baseball Presidents: Gerald Whitty 1958-1963, Roy Mercer 1969-1973, Fred Butt 1974-1976, Jim Fitzgerald 1979, Ged Butt 1982-1984, Gord Tavenor 1985, Rollie Warren 1986, John J. Martin 1987-1990, Tony Merrigan 1991-1993, Joe Wadden 1994- . . . . Senior Baseball Presidents: Bill Fitzgerald 1994-1995, Harry Bartlett 1996-1997, Sean Weir 1998 –

*Taken from Sports Museum exhibit, year 2000.*