

Swimming History (written in 1999)

Competitive swimming first began in Mount Pearl in 1974. At that time the Mount Pearl Swim Team only trained during the summer months in an outdoor pool that was located behind the Royal Canadian Legion building on Park Avenue. Complications with the sewer system caused the closure of the pool and the team moved to the new Mount Pearl Swimming Pool which was built further up Park Avenue. Although this was also originally built as an outdoor pool, not long after its completion it was enclosed. The new pool allowed the swim team to extend its operation through the winter months.

For the first few years of operation Mount Pearl Swim Team was simply recognized by the town's name. In the late 70s it was decided by the executive that the team should have a more distinctive name. From the suggestions that were entered, the name Mount Pearl "Marlins" was chosen as the best and the swim team has gone by that name ever since.

During its twenty-five year history of the Mount Pearl Marlins swim club there have been four head coaches: Wayne Miller, Dick Young, Jack Best, and Gaylord Kenny. In the beginning coaching was a volunteer position. Often coaches had to take holiday time from their regular jobs in order to accompany the team to any meets that required extensive travel. Similar dedication displayed by Bill Rossiter, a former member of the executive, earned him the distinction of being named the club's first and only honorary member in 1986. While the Mount Pearl had some success in the early years, records of individual and team accomplishments were not maintained prior to the arrival of Coach Kenny. Under his guidance the club and its swimmers have had many competitive highlights. (A listing of records from this period will be included with the Swim Team's history on Sport Alliance website).

Note: In 1984 the Marlins Swim Team hosted the 1st Annual Frosty Invitational "AA" Swim Meet in partnership with the Frosty Festival Committee. (Not sure how long this ran. It was a great promotional opportunity and significant cost saving in terms of hosting costs). The annual Swim For Hope may also be considered a benchmark type activity.

Also note: Additional information to be added for 2000 through 2014, including coaches, Charlie Tomlinson and Duffy Earle, and outstanding swimming accomplishments and team highlights.