



The History of the Mount Pearl Soccer Association

The first organized soccer program in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland was started by the Mount Pearl Kinsmen Club in the fall of 1969. The Kinsmen Club ran their program after school and on Saturdays.

In 1973 Charlie Chaytor and Ed Moyst, with the help of The Kinsmen Club, formed The Mount Pearl Soccer Association (MPSA). The Kinsmen Club turned over their uniforms and equipment to the Association and continued their support for a number of years to make the Mount Pearl Soccer Association program one of the best in Newfoundland.

"The whole idea behind forming the Association was to organize a summer of soccer for the kids. We felt it was not only a good idea but an obligation as well", said Charlie Chaytor, the Associations Public Relations Officer at the time. The only soccer in Mount Pearl before the summer of 1973 was sponsored by the Kinsmen Club and they didn't start until September. The boys finished up playing with their parkas on. They couldn't develop that way so we took them under our wing and gave them a full summer of soccer. "Although we appreciated what the Kinsmen did", Chaytor said.

The first year we registered a total of 230 boys ranging in age from 7-16. The cost of registration was \$0.50 for minor players and \$2.00 for senior players. The boys played between 25-30 games based on the division they played in. Very few players ever missed a scheduled game. The first games were played at Morris Academy Field and in the outfield of St. David's Softball pitch. The first ever presentation of awards was held at Park Avenue School Gym. It is interesting to note that Girls Soccer in Mount Pearl came along much later.

The main reason for the success of the Association in the beginning reflects back to the people who started it. The first President, Ed Moyst, was one of the main forces in the organization. Charlie Chaytor, who played with the Guards and MC United, was another stalwart with the organization and was the first Public Relations Officer.

The first Secretary was Derek O'Grady from Gonzaga and Don Ash, a former Guards player served as the first Vice-President. The first Treasurer, Keith Welsh, served in that position for ten years. Other executive members included an outstanding fullback from Holy Cross, Sam Pretty and Al Symonds from St. Pats. Executive Members were, Gerard Butt, Pat Sheehan, Cyril Ivany, Neil MacLeod, Keith Burt, Wally Barnes, Bob Woods, Tom McGrath, Albert Stanley, Albert Spencer and many others.

Special mention has to be passed on to the many sponsors and spouses of the people who started the Association. Their tireless efforts in fundraising and helping out wherever needed contributed tremendously to the early success of MPSA. The Kinsmen Club of Mount Pearl has been commended for their efforts and support. They started the ball rolling and when the Association was formed and they were one of the biggest supporters.

Over the past 35 years, the Mount Pearl Soccer Association has proven to be one of the best in the Province. The program continues to be very strong and presently has over 1500 players in our House League and All Star programs, plus more than 125 men and women who serve as volunteers. These volunteer coaches, managers, executive members, convenors, canteen workers, referees and committee members are the backbone of our association and have been for many years. The Association has received tremendous cooperation from our sponsors and the City of Mount Pearl, Department of Parks & Recreation to help provide a high quality soccer program in Mount Pearl.