



DONNA PEACH

Donna has been involved with gymnastics in Nova Scotia for over 45 years where she started as an athlete. Following her time as an athlete, she was instrumental in developing a competitive gymnastics program in Cape Breton as a coach and an administrator.

In 1976, Donna started a club called Eastern Tech alongside Dora Goldman. This club ran in front of CBU (formerly known at UCCB) for over 5 years until they moved into a building in Reserve Mines. Donna then played a significant role in starting a gymnastics program at the University in 1983, where they were preparing for a small membership. She then was asked to help with the hosting of the 1987 Canada Games. Donna helped the Canada Games committee and organized the entire gymnastics event, from equipment set up to athlete events/schedules and judging panels.

In 1988, once the Games finished, Donna and Carol Rizzetto created the Dynamics, a competitive gymnastics group. They were a successful club, running in a court inside the UCCB field house. They had all the state-of-the-art men's and women's gymnastics equipment from the Canada Games to help the sport grow. When the club was running consistent recreational and competitive programs, they began applying to host the NS Provincial Gymnastics

Championships and the Atlantic Gymnastics Championships at the UCCB Fieldhouse, bringing off island competitors and their families into the club. Donna actively advocated for the UCCB/CBU Dynamics to host large events to expose the club to others. They were successful in providing amazing experiences to all who attended the NS Gymnastics Championships and the Atlantic Championships. They hosted the Nova Scotia Provincials for over a decade along with many Atlantic Championships. They also hosted several successful GNS Provincial Summer Camps. Over the years, Donna was a main player in many of these events that were hosted by UCCB Dynamics then CBU Dynamics.

When the organization moved to its own facility at the Bicentennial gym in 2009, Donna assisted in the creation of the new Not-for-Profit organization, the Cape Breton Gymnastics Academy, and she held a position on the Board of Directors. She was heavily involved in the competitive stream and participated in many championships including Provincials and Atlantics. She also volunteered many times to be a chef or manager for Team Nova Scotia during team travel events to Atlantics or Easterns.

As a coach, Donna has her Level 3 Technical course in Women's Artistic Gymnastics and she is a Level 1 Trampoline Coach. She assisted well over one hundred athletes in attending Provincial, Atlantic, Eastern and Canada Games Championships during her many years involved in gymnastics. She was also a GNS Board member for over 10 years serving as our Safety/Harassment Officer, Uniforms Director, and our Conflict Resolution Director.

Donna continued to coach up until a few years ago when she retired from coaching, but she still visits the club regularly to provide support and help with programming. Athletes and coaches of all ages have benefited from Donna's expertise in coaching, and her ongoing coach mentoring throughout the years. Her planning and attention to detail has always been admired, and she has always appreciated the high-level standard that our sport needs to uphold. So many people within the Gymnastics Nova Scotia community have benefitted from Donna's big heart, her knowledge, and her friendship over the years.