



Mary has been involved in gymnastics in Nova Scotia for over 45 years. Mary's involvement has mostly been as a coach at Halifax Alta Gymnastics Club where she was a high performance and a recreational coach but Mary also coached at Taiso Gymnastics and Spartans Gymnastics. Mary coached numerous athletes in women's and men's artistic gymnastics at various Nationals, Canada Games, Easterns and Atlantics over the years. She was also an official for about 30 years and judged both men's and women's artistic gymnastics. She judged Nationally for 10 years and also judged at Canada Games and various Atlantic and Provincial Championships. Athletes of all ages have benefited from Mary's expertise in both coaching and judging.

Mary has been an invaluable member of the GNS Men's Program Committee. She started as the secretary of the Men's Technical Committee (MTC) and then chaired the MTC for the next 15 years, playing an enormous role in the development of men's gymnastics in Nova Scotia. Mary's organizational and administrative skills are incredible and she could always be counted on to make sure that all the athletes, coaches and officials were where they were

supposed to be. Mary was a GNS Board member for 15 years and represented Nova Scotia at Gymnastics Canada meetings for over 15 years.

Mary was Co-chair of the organizing committee for the first Eastern Canadian Championships that took place in Halifax in 2003 and she was a member of the organizing committee for the Elite Canada Competitions that took place in Halifax in 2016 and 2017. Mary was also part of the Nationals Organizing Committee for the Nationals that took place in Halifax in 1990.

Mary offered her administrative expertise as interim Executive Director when the GNS office was in between staff in 1997 and again for a few months in 2006 to fill in for a maternity leave replacement. Mary was involved in the Sport Futures program that was introduced by the provincial government in 2004 and made available through Sport Nova Scotia. Mary's work alongside Jan Chipman saw the creation of the JumpStart program for core gymnastics. Mary and Jan developed and promoted the JumpStart program across the province until 2006. This led to their creation of the GNS Tumblebugs program (preschool and daycare program) that Mary and Jan continued to develop, expand and co-lead until 2017. The Tumblebugs Program is still being used by Gymnastics Nova Scotia and Mary's involvement and commitment to this program introduced a number of athletes to gymnastics that may not have otherwise been exposed to the sport.

Mary was presented a Gymnastics Canada Life membership in 2012. Mary has retired from coaching but she is still involved at Halifax Alta Gymnastics Club where she continues to fill in as a substitute coach.

MARY KIKUCHI