

**1975**

Karoline (Kari) Michelitsch Cullen competed with the UBC Gymnastics team from 1971 - 1975. In the summer of 1975, she started a summer gymnastics program under the umbrella of Delta Parks and Recreation based in the auxiliary gym of Tsawwassen Junior High. On the first day, the line up for registration wound around the building.

**1977**

By 1977, the program had expanded to year round programming and was operating independently.

The first fund raising campaign raised money to buy a set of AMF tie-down uneven bars. With the old set in the gym, people had to hold them down so they did not rock back and forth as a gymnast trained. With tie-downs, we could train belly whips and cast wraps, moves now extinct but the essence of bars back then.

In March 1977 for the Club's first competition, Delta hosted a team from the Dunbar Community Centre.

# Delta Gymnastics Society

## TIMELINE & HIGHLIGHTS

**1977**

**1978**

Still at Tsawwassen Junior High, we tumbled on wrestling mats, used a wooden beam, and our one set of uneven bars. We hosted athletes from Carlene's old Club in St. Albert for a weekend of gymnastics competition and fun.

In 1979, Kari was teaching at Langara College. First assistant coach Sigrid had gone on to teaching school. Second assistant coach Marie moved to the Netherlands Antilles. With the program still growing, a new coach was needed. Parks and Recreation phoned to tell Kari about a lady who had been the head coach of the St. Albert Gym Club in Alberta and luckily, she wanted to coach gymnastics. Serendipity. It was Carlene Lewall and Delta Gymnastics was about to get bigger and better.

**1980**

Moved to South Delta Senior Secondary. Used the mezzanine for beam and the main floor for the other events. Our "floor" was a mosaic of 2' x 9' white one inch ethafoam sheets with a carpet over top. No more wrestling mats! Received a lottery grant for \$2700.00, which funded our first Spieth Anderson beam. No more wooden beam for us! Allison McCullough was the first Delta gymnast to go to the BC Winter Games. We made a winter trip to St. Albert, where we renewed friendships, competed, and went ice skating on the river.





**1981**

Moved to the South Delta Recreation Centre and used Halls A, B, and C. We purchased more ethafoam and had 3 rolls of carpet to cover a 40' x 36' area. Five gymnasts represent Delta on the Zone 4 team to the Winter Games. In May, we hosted gymnasts from St. Albert and the highlight for the weekend was taking a group of 60 in a double decker bus for a tour of Victoria.

**1982**

Bought our first set of Spieth Anderson uneven bars. Linda Blondin joins to coach recreation and competitive and later becomes our Rec and Junior Gym coordinator. Five athletes and Carlene go to the BC Winter Games in Revelstoke. Another trip to St. Albert. Entered 22 gymnasts in the Lower Mainland Championships and did very well. Our first Awards Night was held at Lighthouse Park in Point Roberts.

**1983**

Our first Recreation Boys Class. Carlene and I took five gymnasts to the BC Winter Games in Fort St. John. Held the first Delta Invitational with 85 athletes.

**1984**

Bought our first full floor from the Canadian Nationals in Victoria. Farewell ethafoam! Hosted the Lower Mainland Divisional Championship at SDSS in Tsawwassen. St. Albert came for the Delta Invitational.

**1985**

A group of 16 travelled to Montana for Hal Haverton's summer camp on Flathead Lake. The drive for a permanent facility gained momentum.

**1986**

Our first year in the Sun Festival Parade.

**1988**

In conjunction with the 1988 Olympic Torch Relay, gymnast Sharon Duck was awarded a Celebration '88 medal as Delta's top female athlete. Sharon wanted to learn a Tsukahara vault so Carlene and Kari had to learn about spotting one. She mastered the skill without a pit or mini-tramp or masses of crash mats as aids. She successfully competed it at the BC Winter Games in Dawson Creek and was one of only 2 gymnasts to perform the vault at Provincials. Delta had three BC Provincial Champions at the Provincial A Championships. Delta hosted the Provincial B Championships. The "Jet" Provincial program was developed.

**1989**

Our first Boys Cadet teams competed at BC Provincial Championships and helps Zone 4 win a bronze. Attended Peace Arch Games. Delta Gymnastics is reconstituted as a non-profit society.

**1990**

Fund raising calendar made. Delta athletes won 1st All Around at the BC Winter Games -- Danielle Dallman in the younger age category and Shari Dart in the older. At the BC Provincial Championships, Delta's Tyro team won gold and Shari Dart wins silver All Around. Shari was the first Delta gymnast to be on the BC team to the Western Canadian Championships.

**1991**

First High School team. Competitive team travelled to California for spring break. Garry Ricks joined to develop the boys' competitive team.

**1992**

Bike and camping trip to Galiano. BC Provincial B Championships -- Carly Walsh won bronze All Around. BC Provincial Championships -- Trevor Toy placed 4th All Around.

**1993**

After fund raising over \$300,000 towards the expansion at the South Delta Recreation Centre, we moved into our new dedicated gymnastics facility on August 1st. We had a Grand Opening celebration. Delta Gymnastics won Top Club at both Glacier and Garden City Invationals.

**1994**

Registration numbers jumped from 300 to 800 gymnasts. Olympian Stella Umeh came to the gym as part of Gymnastics Awareness Week.

**1995**

DGS was 20 years old!

**1996**

Registration numbers doubled again to over 2000 gymnasts. The gym was too small and expansion is needed.

**1997**

Planning began for an expansion of the South Delta Recreation Centre.

**1999**

Daniel McCombe won gold in the National Under 13 category. DG was 25 years old. We had a reunion at the gym and an anniversary party at the Town and Country Inn.

**2000**

Daniel McCombe was both Western Canadian Champion and National Champion in the under 15 category.



**2001**

Registration was almost 3000. The facility had reached maximum capacity with wait lists growing for existing programs and new sport options.

In January 2002, we began pushing harder for expanded training space and a viewing area.

At BC Championships, Delta had three Provincial Champions: Daniel McCombe in Men's National Novice, Kadi Nicholson in Level 2 Novice and Lindsay Skorey in Level 4 Open.

On June 20th, Delta Parks and Recreation Commission approved the expansion proposal, pending approval of Delta Council.

On June 25th, an arson fire devastated the facility and all equipment inside. Programs were relocated to two different facilities over the course of eight months while the facility was repaired. Fund raising was focused towards reconstruction and expansion plans were put on hold for several years.

**2002**

Registration was over 3000.

We ran the first Operation Red Nose for the holidays.

Delta Council developed the South Delta Recreation Centre Task Force to determine further use of the SDRC and expansion of our gym was Option 1. In March 2003, we moved into the gym and celebrated with a Grand Opening.

DG named Recreation Club of the Year by Gymnastics BC.

**2003**

Daniel Braun was Level 6 Provincial Champion. A DG team travelled to Japan for competition. DG named Recreation Leader of the Year.

**2004**

Hannah Thompson was Level 4 Open Provincial Champion.

A DG team travelled to Mexico City.

**2005**

Daniel Braun in High Performance Junior and Devy Dyson for Level 4 were Provincial Champions.

A DG team travels to Japan.

DG celebrated its 30 year anniversary.

**2006**

Gymnastics BC named Kristina Sharp as Recreation Leader of the Year.

DG team travelled to China.

Gymnastrada team was selected to represent Canada at the Worlds in Austria.

Mike Hood and Kris Krunick were named Stan Wilkes Provincial Coaches of the Year. A DG team travelled to Hawaii.

**2007**

**2008**

DG received the Ed Brougham Award as Top Club in Canada from Gymnastics Canada. BC Provincial Champions were Noah Center in Level 2, Tracy Murray in Level 3 Open, Danae Wright in Level 4 Tyro, and Kelsey Hindmarch, Samantha Lo, Zoe Sarafis, and Danae Wright as Level 4 Team. DG teams travelled to Hawaii, Idaho, and San Francisco.

**2010**

After years of fund raising almost \$800,000 and after Carlene's expansion committee finally got approval for a Federal government Recreation Infrastructure Canada grant, the Delta Gymnastics Society entered into an agreement with the Corporation of Delta to build the new Delta Sport Development Centre. DGS would be the exclusive tenant and operator of the new 20,000 square foot facility.

DGS raised a further \$750,000 through the Kids 1st Campaign to fully outfit the new Centre.

Delta Secondary won BC High School Championships. Danae Wright was Level 4 Champion at the BC Winter Games and the Zone 4 team won the Women's category. Samantha Lo won Level 4 Open at the BC Provincials.





**2011**

Said good-bye to the South Delta Recreation Centre and moved into the Delta Sport Development Centre in April. A dream realized after a long, long campaign.

The Barefoot Ball was held in April and the Grand Opening was May 29th. At the Western Canadians, Jackson Ross won gold on three events in the National Open category. Julian Geisler won gold on two events in High Performance Tyro at the Canadian Nationals.

The DG Gymnaestrada team was selected to represent Canada at the World Gymnaestrada in Switzerland.

**2012**

Registration was up 50% in the fall to an all time high.

Operation Red Nose celebrated ten years in Delta.

South Delta Secondary won the BC High School Championships.

**2013**



At the BC Provincial Championships, Sophie Anderson was the Provincial 2 Argo Champion. As was Noah Cender in the Level 3 13 and over category. Connor Edgson was the Provincial Silver Champion. At the Western Canadians, Caleb Richmond won Level 4 Pommel Horse. Action Canada approved an accessibility grant for a lift.

**2014**

At the BC Winter Games, our Women's and Men's teams each become the Team Champions. Ella Rogers was the Women's Champion and the Men's was Caleb Richmond. The accessibility lift is installed and celebrated with a grand opening. Ava Groves was the Level 2 Tyro Champion at the BC Provincials. At the Western Canadians, Que Bidewell won Vault. South Delta Senior Secondary won the BC High School Championships.

**2015**

Delta Gymnastics hosts Best of the West competition, which was the largest gymnastics competition in Canada.

The 5th Anniversary of Delta Gymnastics at the Delta Sport Development Centre

Competitive Kids travel to Japan

Competitive Kids travel to Hawaii

Astarte Garnett, BC Winter Games Champion for JO7 All Around, Vault, Bars, and Floor

Delta Gymnastics Society celebrates it's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Ella Roger, 2015 Western Canadian Champion for JO9 All Around, Vault, and Floor

**2016**

**2017**

Xian James Luo, 2017 Canadian National Champion for Senior Rings  
Russell Woodhead, 2017 Western Canadian Champion for Elite 3 Floor