

# SSA Player Profile Art Evans

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Art Evans 1968  
Winner Men's Doubles  
Cdn. Championship  
(partner Doug MacKenzie)

Art started playing shuffleboard in 1967 in Lethbridge, AB in a Hotel Bar with 4 shuffleboards, 2 were on Mixed side of bar & men were not allowed unless with a woman (old laws). The men's side had 2 boards; 1 board the bar looked after & it was pretty nice, but you could not play on it unless you played for money.

The other board was where older fellows & those who didn't want to play for money would play on. This is the board Art learned to play on with a good friend of his, Ron Umabie, a Japanese fellow he worked with. Didn't take long before they graduated to money board & held their own. They then started going to all the bars & clubs & played a lot of shuffleboard & when Ron quit, Art continued to play.

1967 Art entered Lethbridge & District Championships & lost in Singles but came 2nd in Men's Doubles. Art & partner Joe Sudelkat, earned chance to play in Calgary for Prov. Championship where they tied for 1st & lost in playoff. 1968 League was half over when Miners Team approached Art to replace a player who had a heart attack. The team won League Championship & this was a very big thrill! Later in the Spring Art traveled to Edmonton with new partner to play in Alberta Open with approximately 150 men's doubles entries. They ended up in semi finals, playing against Al Cooper & his partner but lost. Fall of 1968, Art took new partner Doug McKenzie & entered Lethbridge & District Championships & won Men's Doubles. Art & Doug went on to win Alberta Prov. Championship & earned them trip to Oakville, ON for Cdn. Championships where 8 charters were competing. Art & Doug won Men's Doubles Event & received royal welcome from Mayor of Lethbridge & supporters on return at airport.

1969 Art transferred to Regina, SK in Jan. 1969. Al Cooper was working in Indian Head & visited Art suggesting they contact President of Cdn. Shuffleboard Congress, Dave Neufeld, for permission to enter 1969 Cdn. Championships. They were granted permission provided they form SSA & League upon return. Art & Al tied for 1st in Cdn. & lost in playoff. Fall 1969, Art, Al & Kent Conn formed SSA & League. Kent became 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. of Assoc. & Art 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. of League. League started with 8 teams with rule at least one woman had to play 80% on every team, with hopes of including Women's Events in Cdn. Championships.

1971 Art made motion at Cdn. Congress AGM to have Women's Singles & Doubles events introduced at Cdn. Championships. 1972 St. John, New Brunswick, Ladies events first played & Sask. Ladies won both events: Eleanor Heinrichs won Ladies Singles & Eleanor & Gayle Ireton (Conn) won Ladies Doubles. 1973 Art made motion at Cdn. Congress AGM to introduce Mixed Doubles event into Cdn. Championships. 1974 Art won Men's Singles event at Cdn's in Winnipeg, MN. Art also made motion charters have matching team shirts while playing in Cdn. Championships. Art has come very close in many events, including trying to win Men's Doubles with son Larry, although they won Prov. several times, were unable to win Cdn. Championship.

Art treasures the most, besides his lovely wife Irene & their family, all the wonderful friends he has made from coast to coast. Art a Founder, Player, Mentor, Teacher, Fantastic Cheerleader & above all, a very special Family Man & Friend.

## Provincial Championships (3 Singles & 7 Men's Doubles):

### Men's Singles:

1974 (SSA), 1975 (SSA) & 1977 (SSA)

### Men's Doubles

1968 (ASA) Art Evans & Doug McKenzie

1969 (SSA) Art Evans & Al Cooper

1970 (SSA) Art Evans & Kent Conn

1971 (SSA) Art Evans & Eugene Buskow

1978 (SSA) Art Evans & Larry Evans

1979 (SSA) Art Evans & Larry Evans

1986 (SSA) Art Evans & Larry Evans

1989 (SSA) Art Evans & Ed Bale



## Canadian Championships (1 Singles & 1 Men's Doubles)

1968 (ASA) Men's Doubles Doug McKenzie

1974 (SSA) Men's Singles

Art & Irene at SASK Open (2007)