

# SSA Player Profile Gayle "Ireton" Conn

---

Gayle was born in Regina, SK "a long time ago" but after Kent!! Gayle & her husband Kent have been married for 36 years and have 2 daughters Susan and Kathy and 1 grandchild Alex and at time of printing another grandchild on the way.

Gayle & Kent now live in Lethbridge, Alberta.



Gayle bowled and played Bankboard in Regina and in 1969 met Kent Conn while bowling "Kent didn't want to admit he was bowling" but Kent soon introduced Gayle to straightboard & taught her first how to play board at the Serbian Club (which is still in Regina) and found out she was a natural at the game.

Early in her shuffleboard career at a \$5.00 game (big money in those days) Gayle & Kent teamed up & played against Art Evans & Al Cooper, well Art states "that Gayle never missed a shot" and of course Gayle & Kent won. They were quite the powerhouse team. Gayle also talked about the bars she would play board in and they were not the type of places a lady would be in. They were rough & tumble places and you would never want to be caught in one of those bars by family, friends or co-workers.

In the fall of 1969 when Kent & Art Evans were the very first Presidents of the SSA and RDSL, Gayle could play in the RDSL which had 8 teams, as Kent & Art brought in a rule that at least one woman had to play 80% of the games on every team, with the hopes of eventually including Ladies Events in the Canadian Championships. Gayle would work tirelessly behind the scenes. Everything was a new experience, along with improving her skills, she was learning the rules, helping out at tournaments, scorekeeping and promoting the game along with Kent, Art, Eleanore, Al & Gino.

In 1972 that day came for Gayle to play in the Ladies Doubles event at the Canadian Championships. Gayle and Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker paid their own way to attend these Championships held in St. John, New Brunswick, which saw the "first" ever Ladies events. In attendance were teams from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick and Gayle & Eleanore played a triple round robin in the Ladies Doubles & actually lost their first 2 games, but...these 2 Saskatchewan Ladies ended up winning both ladies events. Gayle and Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker won the Ladies Doubles and Eleanore won Ladies Singles.

1972 Kent & Gayle moved to "Lethbridge, Alberta", but to this day Kent & Gayle and Art & Irene share a long standing friendship.

## Provincial Championships (3 Ladies Doubles & 2 Mixed Doubles)

### Ladies Doubles

1972 (SSA) Gayle Conn & Eleanore Heinrichs Baker

1973 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Debbie Barrett

1976 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Faye Vucurevich

### Mixed Doubles

1974 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Kent Conn

1974 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Kent Conn



Kent & Gayle Conn, March 2008

## Canadian Championships (3 Ladies Doubles & 2 Mixed Doubles)

### Ladies Doubles

1972 (SSA) Gayle Conn & Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker

1973 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Debbie Barrett

1976 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Faye Vucurevich

### Mixed Doubles

1974 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Kent Conn

1974 (ASA) Gayle Conn & Kent Conn