

SSA Player Profile George Wasyliw



George was born in 1948 in Canora, Saskatchewan & attended early grades at a rural school and completed high school in Canora. After graduating, he was having fun playing in a local rock and roll band when he was offered a real job with Highways and Transportation in Prince Albert so he hit the road. Very shortly thereafter he was transferred to Regina. Although he had not intended to make a career there, he ended up staying for 37 years. He had the opportunity of working at four completely different jobs, two in the field which allowed travel throughout the province, Human Resources and Administration.

Early in his career, Art Evans came to work in his unit. Art introduced him to the world of straight board and invited him to watch the Canadian Championships hosted in Regina in 1975. Two years later George was sparing as a player and another year later, in his first year at the provincials, was one draw away from going to the Canadians in the Men's Doubles with Al Runge. Even though they lost in a four way playoff, George was hooked!

George was elected as President of the Saskatchewan Shuffleboard Association in 1980 and remained on the executive until 1985. He was responsible for writing the constitution, was the primary contributor to a revision of the rules and made his first contribution to the Canadians by co-coordinating the Championships in Regina in 1987. Since they travelled a lot on the job, Art and George would take every opportunity to locate the nearest straight board and do some "promoting". They made many trips on the weekend to areas surrounding the city to promote the league and try to get interest and new players involved. George took pride in being active: by consistently promoting the game, playing and running tournaments, being team captain for 26 years and by teaching mechanics and strategy to new players at clinics as well as by personal instruction. He liked to travel and from 1979 to 2002, George never missed attending a single Canadian event. He has also furthered the interest of senior players by creating an Old Timers Horsecollar league in Regina that is still going strong today.

George made his rookie appearance as a player at the Nationals in 1987 at Regina when Saskatchewan won its second Grand Aggregate award in four years. He went on to represent Saskatchewan three more times – Men's Doubles 1992, Men's Singles 1989 and Mixed Doubles 1998. In 1985 George successfully ran for President of the Canadian Shuffleboard Congress, serving there for twelve years. During this time he was responsible for bringing the playoff system to the Nationals, revising and printing the second edition of the CSC rule book, designing the Congress shuffleboard wax label and promoting its distribution. He is proud to have contributed to the advancement of shuffleboard and to have had the wonderful opportunity to meet tremendous players and supporters from across Canada.

Still today, George considers his most rewarding accomplishment was the introduction of a large number of rookies to the game and the ultimate reward – seeing one win a Canadian event. His favorite approach was to challenge the uninitiated that they would be able to hit and stick on a rock at the end of the board from both rails in less than ten minutes. He rarely failed and demonstrated it on local television at the 2002 Canadians in Calgary. Always a champion of fair play and good sportsmanship, he tried to demonstrate time and again that etiquette and respect for the rules and the players must be part of the game if it is worth playing. In 2004, George retired and moved to Ottawa where partially by choice remains in a retirement phase of the game, playing only when he returns to Saskatchewan in the summer for a visit. George still takes every opportunity to attend the Canadian Championships.

Provincial Championships

Men's Singles

1989 (SSA)

Men's Doubles

1987 (SSA) George & Gord Kammerer

1992 (SSA) George & Cal Read

Mixed Doubles

1998 (SSA) George & Judy Strassburger



George & Barb at Regina Canadians 2008