

Gayle Conn Provincial and Canadian Champion

Provincial Championships:

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

Canadian Championships

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Gayle Conn and Eleanore Baker, March 2008



*Left: Gayle Conn & Eleanore (Heinrichs) Baker
1972 Ladies Doubles Canadian Champions*

*Right: Kent and Gayle Conn
Mixed Doubles Canadian Champions*

Gayle Conn "Player"

Canadian Shuffleboard Congress Hall of Fame

*Induction Ceremony
October 11, 2008*

*Nominated by:
Saskatchewan Shuffleboard Association*

Gayle Conn Provincial and Canadian Champion

Gayle "Ireton" Conn (Player)

(First Ever Ladies Doubles Canadian Champion)

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 writing another grandchild on the way. Gayle & Kent now live in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Gayle bowled and played Bankboard in Regina and in 1969 she met Kent Conn while bowling "Kent didn't want to admit he was bowling as shuffleboard was his game". 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 Gayle 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 recalls that day & says "that Gayle never missed a shot" and of course Gayle & Kent won. They were quite the powerhouse team.

Gayle talks about the places she would play board in and they were not the type of bars a lady should be in. They were rough & tumble taverns and you would never want to be caught in one of those bars by your 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 events 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.

Gayle & Eleanore played a triple round robin in the Ladies Doubles & actually lost their first 2, but once they got playing a few more games, these two just could not be beat and the 2 Saskatchewan Ladies ended up winning both the first ever Ladies events held. Gayle and Eleanore won the Ladies Doubles and Eleanore won the Ladies Singles.

And the powerhouse team of Gayle & Kent won the Mixed Doubles Canadian Championships 2 years in a row (1974 & 1975).

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



Gayle and Kent Conn,
Eleanore Baker
Art and Irene Evans

March 2008