

Durelle Kowacz
Induction into the OSA Hall of Fame
Special Award

Today it is my honour and privilege to present Durelle Kowacz for induction into the Ontario Shuffleboard Association Hall of Fame, Special Award Category.

It was Bish Kowacz's dream to start a shuffleboard club, so Durelle started writing letters for support and got the Picton Recreation Department, County Council, Kiwanis and Kinsmen to contribute to help them buy equipment. The Kowaczs painted the 10 courts by themselves.

The first game of shuffleboard was played in May 2008 in the Picton Curling Club.

The Prince Edward County Shuffleboard Club moved to the hockey arena in 2009. They now have 15 courts. Enrollment peaked at 58 but is now steady at around 40 players. This year for the first time there is a committee to help run the club.

Under Durelle's leadership Picton has hosted two tournaments, one in 2010 and one in 2013. Durelle gave a presentation to Council in 2012 asking them to waive the rental fee for holding a tournament in 2013 which they did. 40 players showed up at Council to back her up.

Durelle has applied for two Community Grants and received \$2000 in 2011 and \$1500 in 2014 to purchase more equipment and hopefully to pay rent for a future OSA tournament.

In 2011, they partnered with Community Living and two developmentally challenged people showed up every week to help set up and play. Durelle's quote, "At our final luncheon at the end of the year they were given hats with our logo and it was as if we had given them a million dollars".

Additionally Durelle has demonstrated above average leadership and commitment to shuffleboard in the following ways:

OSA Treasurer for four years.

Prince Edward County SC Treasurer for six years.

Lee County Shuffleboard Club Secretary for three years.

Tournament Director for seven years.

Tournament Director for the Senior Games in Napanee in 2013.

Played on Lake Fairways team in Florida for several years.

Coach and teacher for Lake Fairways team for interpark play in 2013/2014.

Played in the ISA tournaments for the Canada women's team in Australia, 2008 and Germany, 2010.

Durelle's shuffleboard goal for next winter is to play in tournaments and have fun. It has been a rewarding time for her with both the OSA and the Prince Edward County Shuffleboard Club but she says it is time to say farewell and pass the reins of leadership on to new people.

Wishing Durelle all the best, I now present her for induction into the OSA Hall of Fame, Special Award Category.

Presented July 15, 2014 by Linda McRae

Nominated by Grant and Linda McRae