

OSA HOF Induction for Gary Pipher:

By: Myrna and Rendall Blton Nobel July 15 2014

It is my honor and it gives me great pleasure to nominate Gary Pipher to the Ontario Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for the Special Awards Category.

Gary was given the go ahead on Nov 7th 2005 from the Coldwater Curling Club they could use their building to play shuffleboard in.

The Coldwater Club was soon formed and their first game was in May of 2006 with 45 members registering that first year. This Club was the result of many meetings and many hours of hard work and planning under the leadership of Gary.

The Coldwater Shuffleboard Club had soon risen to 175 members and no doubt became the largest club in Ontario and Canada, this year 2014; they maintain a membership of 145.

In 2006 the CNSA held their first AGM in Coldwater in conjunction their yearly any doubles tournament, and has remained there until this year 2014. It has been a wonderful place for this event with warm fellowship, great facilities and delicious food. Gary has been noted as saying "This shuffleboard has become a full time job, but it its lots of fun, so we don't mind the work involved."

Gary was so very helpful to us with the founding of our Wellington Center Club. He helped us and many other new clubs such a Picton, Puce, Nobel and Penetangushene by providing equipment to get them started, and also helped many to get Ontario Trillium Funding. I understand he is currently working with some interested people in Bancroft to help them get a Shuffleboard Club started in that town.

In May of 2009 Gary and his Coldwater Club took on the challenge of hosting shuffleboard for the intellectually challenged individuals from the Simcoe County Community Services. They continue to take part in a weekly program at the Coldwater Club with about 17 players. For Gary this was just another venture in his life of services to the community and shuffleboard.

Gary Pipher was a director in the CNSA for several years before he became president in May 2010 until May 2012. Under his dedicated leadership he has been involved in three Inter Provincials Tournaments and was the host of the first I/P at his Club in Coldwater. He has also been involved in the ISA tournaments each year since 2007 when it was last held in Midland.

I have a great appreciation to Gary's planning with his perfection. I have worked closely with him for over four years in the CNSA and have been witness to Gary's devotion and commitment to shuffleboard.

Gary is the chairperson for the CNSA in hosting the ISA world championship Shuffleboard Tournament Midland this coming Aug 2014. He has devoted much time and energy to this event to ensure its success.

This past year he must have had some energy left over as he took on the responsibility of getting a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the purchase of a new Cargo Trailer for the Ontario Shuffleboard. The trailer purchase did not just happen overnight!! Gary has spent many hours with the funding process, as well as the planning and design of the interior of the trailer, which includes the welded aluminum shelving and carpentry for the shelving. The final touches were the addition of the decals on the exterior of the trailer that give it a professional look and add to the promotion of shuffleboard.

The OSA is very thankful to Gary for all his work in purchasing this new trailer. A trailer we can all be proud of!! .

This is been another example of Gary with his kind and gentle personality, and helping were needed, and a new trailer for the OSA was sure needed.

Thanks Gary for a job well done.

Reply by Gary Pipher

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Thank you Myrna and Rendall

This is indeed a great honor for me to be inducted into the Ontario Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and I want you to know how much I appreciate having been selected for this award.

I would like to thank President Rendall Bilton for nominating, me and the executive of the OSA for their support.

When I first became involved in Shuffleboard, it was at one of these Ontario Shuffleboard Tournaments and I believe it was in Richmond Hill in about 2003 or 2004.

I was impressed that day by the friendships and bonds that had been formed over the years by those players taking part in the tournament, and that memory has stuck with me to this very day.

Needless to say; I knew nothing about the game of Shuffleboard or what it took to make these tournaments happen.

I soon realized it takes the combined efforts of many hard working people to make it successful, and if my contribution to the OSA helps in any small way to add to that success, then I have achieved my goal.

Because, I have just 2 goals in life – My short term goal is to get through today and my long term goal is to get through tomorrow.

Thank You.

Gary Pipher