

Francis Baverstock (*Farmer*)

OSA Player

Shuffleboard is his hobby and his passion



Farmer has been playing shuffleboard since the 1950's

Farmer Funnies

- One time he may have had one too many cold ones and fell asleep. His partner had to play both ends of the board to finish the game!
- He recalls playing once and got into an argument with a woman who smacked in the middle of his forehead but he went on to complete the game!
- Farmer loves people and loves to clown around. He is never is lost for something funny to say and is always smiling!
- He actually had his honeymoon in Calgary where there was a tournament being held! Audrey and Geoff Denny babysat him!

Francis or "*Farmer*" as he is most often called comes from Milton Ontario, has farmed for fifty years and is now enjoying retirement.

He got his nickname from an old shuffleboard friend named "Housten Flairty"

When he was not out in the fields he would spend a lot of his free time playing Shuffleboard. He says he has a great passion for this game.

He has one son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

His daughter Bonnie and her partner John play shuffleboard as well as his new love Darlene.

It's been at least thirty eight years since he started playing at the Charles Hotel in Milton where they had two teams

Some of us who were not good enough to play on the main team, put together our own, called "*The Centennial's*" in 1968.

We traveled to different hotels in Acton, Georgetown, Norval, Cooksville Legion, Oakville Legion and Milton Legion.

In the early years, he played four times a week and at every tournament that came up. His team would travel to tournaments as far away as Niagara Falls.



Farmer loves to clown around!

He also belonged to a four man team when ladies were not allowed to play. (*He smiles*)

He played a lot with his longtime friend *Wolfman Mertin* as his partner in the beginning and a lot of people knew that he was awful noisy and took the game rather seriously. He says (*"I still take the game seriously but maybe I'm not quite as noisy!"*)

Farmer remembers playing out of Smitty's Pancake House in Kitchener as a challenge from the Charles Hotel where he met Margie and Ritchie Kresse and have been good friends ever since.

Eventually the teams from the Charles Hotel quit playing so the league started playing in Audrey and Geoff Denny's garage.

The league was able to stay intact thanks to their support and the support of all the players.

Farmer has played in almost all the Ontario playoffs to qualify for the Canadian Shuffleboard Championships.

He has never won but he enjoys playing and says he'll keep trying to win as long as he is able!



Farmer with his spouse



With daughter Bonnie

Age doesn't stop him from playing

Farmer celebrated his 70th birthday this year (2006) and he hopes to continue playing shuffleboard for a long time yet.

He says "*All the friends he has met along the way from Milton, Kitchener, Port Colborne and all across Canada have become special to him throughout his life and it truly has been a wonderful hobby to be involved in.*"