

# HELEN CRITES

OSA PLAYER

*If you can't join em...beat em!*

In the early 80's Helen's husband Claude was always playing Shuffleboard on Mondays with the league and in tournaments on Saturdays in their hometown of Port Colborne Ontario. Then he started playing in the Canadians in different provinces

She liked this idea of competing at that level and wanted to do so as well.

Helen had been playing in the Ladies League for years but the men wouldn't let the women join their team. *(Is this a familiar story for some?)*

She wanted more competition and to infiltrate the men's league she decided one night at the bar to challenge some of the guys to play for money.

The deal was, if she beat them she would be good enough to play in their league.

Well, *guys being guys*, they didn't think women were good enough to win against them so they were pretty confident when they accepted the challenge, feeling that she didn't have a chance anyway!

The rest is history...so to speak!

Helen joined the men's league which now became a Mixed League and is still active to this day.

She feels very fortunate in winning the Ontario Play-downs several times in Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles with her husband Claude.

Helen says *"For years I had the pleasure of making wonderful friends all across Canada by playing in the Canadian Championships"*



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It's been a great experience she says she'll never forget... *"I've seen so much of our country and have shopped in malls in almost every province! (I've gathered many many pairs of shoes in my travels!)"*

Helen has retired from competitive Shuffleboard now but she still likes to play at home in her rec room with family and friends when they come to visit.

She still likes the game and even though she is not playing she has continued to go out to some tournaments to watch her husband and friends play.

Golf is her passion now and she plays as often as possible from spring to fall...but you just never know...one day Helen may decide to play a tournament for fun and be back in the shuffleboard 'swing' again!