

Thoughts from the Past with Kip Morrish

As I was packing my bags to travel to Halifax for the 2006 National Championships I couldn't help but reminisce about the last time this event was held in Halifax (1986). Other than myself, there wouldn't be too many people in attendance from "way back when", with the exception of two ladies from two different provinces who keep coming back year after year.

Kathy Bourgeois is from a small town in Nova Scotia called Joggins, which is on the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border and first represented Nova Scotia twenty years ago when the Canadian event was last held in Halifax. She has represented Nova Scotia in 1987 and 1989 and then took a breather, returning in 1993. Another long break but she has been back for the past three years (2004, 2005 and 2006). Although Kathy has never won the big singles event, she has been a force to be reckoned with and always adds some valuable points for her province.

Kathy is married and has one daughter – who incidentally did play in the regional play-downs hoping to gain a spot on the Nova Scotia team. Lobster is Kathy's favorite food so, because of her location, this shouldn't be a problem to get. When not playing darts she likes to watch CSI.

Ghislaine Girard is from Jonquiere which is in the Saguenay region of Quebec which I believe is located north of Quebec City. This is strictly a French speaking area of the province where nobody speaks English, so our little chat was with the help of an interpreter, but that didn't present any problems.

A widow who has four children, she has been playing darts for 45 years. I first met Ghislaine in 1982 when we were both in attendance at the national event for the first time and which was held in Dorval, Quebec when the NDFC was very much in its infancy – an event that had no timelines and play was still going on at 2 a.m. in the morning (wouldn't our players like that these days?). Ghislaine has one daughter who plays darts and her husband also used to play.

This lady keeps appearing at the National Championships having represented her province on eleven occasions. She has had some very impressive statistics - she was runner-up in 1988 in Moncton. Over the years she has added some very valuable points for the benefit of Quebec and excellent standing in some of the events held in her province during the year.

Ghislaine doesn't like eating any fast food and her favorite meal is a steak cooked in the fondue. Favorite T.V. show is "anything in sports".

In recognition of her contributions to the sport of darts in Quebec, Quebec made her a lifetime member in that province in 2000.

I enjoyed the opportunity to sit and chat to these two ladies who are so frequently in attendance providing support to their teammates and earning points for their province. Keep up the good work ladies – another 20 years would look great in your resumes!