

# Bowled over for love

## Milton couple share a passion for lawn bowls

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

For people who know her, it may be hard to believe but Laura Seed says she knew nothing about lawn bowling when she started going out with David Anderson in the late 1990s. That changed pretty quickly.

Today, both as individuals and a couple, Seed and Anderson are active members of the Milton Lawn Bowling Club (MLBC). They have both played bowls competitively, both of them reaching the national level of competition, with Anderson also going on to international competitions as well.

Anderson has won medals as a lawn bowler, and Seed concedes that he's far better at lawn bowling than she is. Anderson says Laura is proving herself in the sport and also emerging as a "very competitive" player.

Anderson says that competitive side wasn't as evident in the beginning, although Seed doesn't entirely agree. They can only laugh about it though. "She gets mad when I scream at the TV set because the hockey game is bad or something," explains Anderson, who at 41 has been playing bowls for thirty years. "She's even worse now about lawn bowling.... It's amazing how the game has transformed her into a competitive person."

When they first started going out Seed found herself watching her new boyfriend lawn bowling and she discovered along the way: that she got bitten herself by the lawn bowling bug.

What Anderson and Seed find attractive about the sport is the competitive side, the supportive and friendly atmosphere that exists at the Milton club, and the chance to socialize with other lawn bowlers.

Bowls, an age-old sport that was played back in England as far back as the 12th century, is a lot like curling according to Anderson. Just as in curling, playing lawn bowls is a sport that's generally played with others, but instead of on a surface of ice you're on grass. The object of the game is to roll the bowl as close to the white jack or target as possible. The jack is rolled to the end of the green to start the end. "In lawn bowls the game can last three to four hours," explains Anderson. "By the end of the game, you know the other players very well because you had a chance to chat with them while the game was going on."

They agree that bowls can be many things to many people – as competitive as you want it to be or as non-competitive. On the social side there's also a lot of opportunities too, if you want to get involved. Members can take part in the game only or they can also socialize at the club if they choose to.

Seed started playing later in life as many players do and initially she was a non-competitive player, notes Anderson. That initial interest turned into a full-blown obsession with the sport, an obsession she shares with her partner.

Anderson admits he was a bit concerned when she started out – "leery" is the word he uses. "When you do the same thing sometimes you may spend too much time together. But we actually spend a lot of time apart because she plays ladies' tournaments and I play men's tournaments. We only play together in mixed tournaments a couple of times a year."

Today, Seed says her interest – just like Anderson's – is all consuming. The pair are both involved with the administration of the club – she as secretary and he as vice-president – and they get involved in social activities at MLBC as well as taking part in the game. And, yes, Seed admits they actually talk about lawn bowling at home. "We live bowling," she says simply.

That level of interest means that quite often during the regular season from May to October you'll find them away from home. When they're not at work, most of the time they can be found at the club's greens located off Commercial Street, not far from Main Street.

Then in the winter, they continue to play bowls indoors at a facility in Richmond Hill.

Anderson began playing the sport early around the age of 12. Back in his native Montreal, he was introduced to bowls by his grandparents.

As an adult, he's become known for his abilities both as a coach and a lawn bowler. Nowadays, he has an impressive list of wins to his name; nationally, he attained a gold medal in the fours competitions in August of this year at the National Championships for Bowls Canada, an association that oversees lawn bowling in Canada. He was also the Canadian fours champion in 2003 and the singles champion in 2002; and he's come home with the silver medal for pairs in both 1994 and 2004. Internationally, he's competed in places such as South Africa, Scotland and Australia. He's never attained medal status at the game's world championships – he's attended two world championships – or at the World Champion event in Australia in 2003. At that last event, specifically for national singles champions from all over the world, he came close to bringing home the hardware by placing fourth overall.

He also coaches his partner, Seed, and that's something that she says works out very well. As a team, they've been able to improve Seed's level of play. Each lawn bowling club in Ontario is part of the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association (OLBA), an organization where Anderson is on the board of directors. Each year the first and second place winners in different districts covered by the association are sent on to the nationals. Seed went to the nationals last year and placed fourth in pairs. Typical of weather on the West Coast – the competition was held in Vancouver – it was wet outside. Mother Nature didn't do anything for her game, as she admits. "We played in the bronze medal match. And we lost it because it rained. It just poured and I couldn't roll my ball."

Not one to give up; Seed plans to keep trying for nationals events. And both she and Anderson hope to continue just playing the game for fun for many years yet. That's another attraction for them, says Anderson. Unlike hockey, you can still be a viable player in your 40s and beyond. Anderson admits they'll probably be lawn bowling well into their old age. "That's part of the charm of the sport. You can compete for a long time," says Anderson.

The Milton Lawn Bowling Club, located at 43 Commercial Street, holds regularly scheduled games during the lawn bowling season from May to October. Game nights are on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., but people can come earlier to practice. For information on the club, contact Laura Seed at 905-693-9802. The website for the club is [www.miltonlawnbowls.com](http://www.miltonlawnbowls.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
David Anderson and Laura Seed spend a lot of their spare time during lawn bowling season at the Milton Lawn Bowling Club (MLBC) located off Commercial Street. The two are lawn bowling devotees; they admit the sport has become an all-consuming passion for them.

# This new old house

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

It is a contractors dream to find old homes and breathe new life into them. Mandy Sedgwyck and Mirella Marshall of Milton have spent the past three months on their home project, the Arts and Craft style home on Queen Street in historic downtown Milton. They have converted the 1920's house from a two bedroom, one bathroom into a lavish three bedroom, three bathrooms, while keeping the country charm and elegance that historic Halton homes are known for.

The two woman contracting team specialize in heritage homes in the area. Their company, Sedgwyck and Marshall Heritage Homes invests primarily in old style houses and restores them into beautiful homes for resale. Their own personal style and touch accompanies each house they transform. Mandy and Mirella have a fondness for old buildings, and live in old style homes themselves. Mirella said. "We just have a passion for century homes and both of us want to see old homes saved for another hundred years in this community." On the project site, Mandy and Mirella directed their team with everything, from painting, to even overseeing wiring and plumbing.

The house on Queen Street is a classic heritage Milton home. Built in the 1920's, the typical Arts and Craft style house has come to be known as the Sinclair house by residents in the area, after the longest residing owner of the home. "I thought it was a diamond in the rough," Mandy explained. "It is a great house, but it needed some TLC because it looked tired."

Mandy and Mirella fell in love with the house after seeing the beautiful original woodwork still inside the house. Often when contractors get old style houses to fix up, the original woodwork in the house either is damaged or has been replaced over the years with contemporary house remodelling trends. They were lucky that the house still retained most of the original style and the look of the 1920's, but they still felt it needed bringing up to the standards of today's market. "We felt the house overall was small and adding an addition to the house would open it up," Mandy explained.

The addition in the back is new, but both Mandy and Mirella worked with blueprint designers for a look that would complement the Arts and Craft style home. "We opted for board and batten on the outside of the new addition since barn board gives a nice country feel to the brick," Mandy explained. "I really feel it complements the home and opens up the appearance from the road."

The stunning feature of the house is the kitchen design that both women took part in designing. Keeping with tradition and with a 1920's theme, the new kitchen is furnished with antique style cupboards and counters, as well as a butler's nook adjacent to the room. The new renovation opens the floors to natural light after remodelling a few windows and adding larger open spaces. "We couldn't find any photos from the 1920's, but we tried to retain the original character as best as we could," Mandy said.

They do it one house at a time, saving old houses to be enjoyed as homes for future generations. "We really feel a lot of old houses can be saved, especially in Milton," Mandy said.

"Milton has a lot to offer in the way of old houses and sadly, many of them have been torn down," Mirella explained. "You just don't notice how many old historic homes we have in the community."

The house is currently on the market and will be recognised by the Town as an historic building and a plaque to this effect attached to the outside wall.

