

Myron Achtman  
**New ACBL NABC Life Master**



In their retirement, Myron's parents moved from Montreal to Toronto to live close to his sister. Their main joy was belonging to their bridge club and spending four nights a week playing bridge with friends. Living close to their daughter, and playing duplicate bridge, and kitchen bridge were their sources of happiness. Unfortunately, in 2005, Myron's sister died of cancer at age 59. His parents, now in their 80s, would frequently call him to travel from Calgary to Toronto to help them out with something or another, or to just visit.

After one of his Toronto trips Monique, his wife, suggested that his parents should move to Calgary.

Well! They certainly were not going to abandon their bridge friends! But, to be honest, their bridge friends were in their 90s and several had stopped playing bridge for health reasons. They promised that they would learn how to play bridge and then Myron's parents could move to Calgary and they would all play together. That was all they needed to hear and as soon as Myron and Monique proved that they had learned enough the parents could continue teaching them at their bridge table. They packed up their things and moved to Calgary!

Mom always said, "Every hand is like a new gift to unwrap!" They played bridge with them until Mom passed away in 2009. Then Myron and his Dad started their partnership. Myron invented a bidding system that they tried out for awhile. It was called the ABS - "Achtman Bidding System" or "Achtman BS System" depending on who they were playing it against. It gave them an advantage for awhile, but then they nixed it, as Myron taught his Dad some of the more traditional bidding conventions. Myron and his Dad played together until he died at age 96, in 2015.

Myron and his wife have taken a couple of cruises and met bridge players! They've played in Las Vegas and Phoenix as well. And when they travelled to Mexico, they ask the local realtor

to hook them up with some clients of his who may be bridge players, and he did! Now, Myron enjoys playing bridge 3 times a week with several partners and is always learning new conventions and nuances of the game, to the point of teaching these to new bridge enthusiasts.

Myron started a School Bridge program that now involves 8 schools in Calgary. It's a lot of fun teaching young students in grades 4 - 6 how to play bridge. He has also been teaching bridge to seniors at a community center for the past 5 years. His wife jokes about being a "bridge widow" but thank goodness she does enjoy the game too! They hope their children will eventually join them on this bridge game journey. They find it to be a wonderful social pastime, mentally stimulating, and they always meet very intelligent people at the bridge tables.