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I have lived most of my life in one of the most beautiful places in the world, Cape Breton Island (Nova Scotia). Travel and Leisure magazine recently named it the top island destination in North American and third in the world, after Bali and Sicily.

In 2008, I retired after 28 years in faculty and administrative positions at Cape Breton University. That year, we started wintering in Largo, Florida on the Gulf coast. It was there that I was introduced to shuffleboard, a game I found intriguing from the start. I played only occasionally that first year, but joined the team at our Mobile Home Park the

next year and became a regular player for the 2010-2011 season. Last summer, I also played with the Saltwater Shuffleboard Club in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I met a wonderful group of shufflers there who taught me a lot about how to play... and about how to take (and give) a ribbing!

That summer experience and playing regularly in Florida have really improved my shuffleboard skills. Much to my surprise, I had my first tournament win at a "fun" tournament hosted by the company that owns our Mobile Home Park. I look forward to the Dieppe tournament as a way to meet more shuffleboard players, this time from around the world. I also expect to learn much more about the game (and good-natured teasing). Here's hoping my first global shuffleboard experience is not my last!

Joanne Gallivan 2011 07 26.