



Our next subject is Dave Somerton. Dave is a Canadian bowler who has bowled in several world championship events in his career, winning four consecutive world titles. Candlepin Gallery would like to thank Dave for participating in the latest installment of this feature.

Why not start by telling us a little bit about yourself.

I am 28 years old and live in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia, Canada. I have a daughter 9 years old. For the past 6 years, I've worked for a company called ASCO Canada, a warehousing logistics company as supervisor. We have a very demanding industry so this place keeps us very busy. My hobbies are bowling, baseball, and playing golf.

And that leads me to ask you a little bit about your bowling life. Tell the readers a little bit about your accomplishments in candlepin bowling.

I have been bowling for 23 years and have been pretty blessed with my accomplishments to date. I won Nationals in 1989 as an 11 year old.

A funny story about that is myself and Rob Henderson both won the singles title that year in different age groups. Then, about 10 years later, he and I end up bowling together on the same team. I am a member of McLaughlin Truck & Trailer bowling team. We have had a successful run since we put this team together and I am so proud that we had won 4 straight world team titles. That was a special time in my bowling career. I have the best teammates in the whole world, we just click so well, everyone is very supportive of each other, which makes for some great chemistry.

Twenty three years in bowling! That's great. How did you get started? Tell us a bit about your youth bowling days.

My father and I used to go every Sunday afternoon after church. Personally, I think this was his way of getting me to go to Sunday school each week. I started bowling in the youth program when I was 5, and gave up youth bowling when I was 16. I wanted to start bowling in adult tournaments.

My youth bowling was very enjoyable, there were many trips. My favorite trip was my first one to the states when I was 9. We went down and bowled at Bangor Brewer Lanes. The funny thing about those lanes...when I went to my second world championships, I found that the bowling alley hadn't really changed in 12 years.

During my youth days I was very proud to win the National Title in 1989, my only year in the nationals. Chris Hollett and I are the same age, so I always seemed to run into him at zones or provincials, and he is a tough guy to beat.

What sort of town is Eastern Passage? Could you tell us where it is?

It is a little fishing community about 5 minutes outside downtown Halifax, so basically I live in the city.

[ed. note: a map of the area is [here](#).]

What are your high scores in candlepin? Do you still bowl in league play?

Yes, I'm in two leagues.

*My average is 131
High single is 195
High triple is 493
High five is 727*

What do you see as the main differences between bowling in the US and Canada?

The main difference I see from bowling in Canada as opposed to the US is the fan base and media coverage. The game is more supported down there, than it is up here.

Tell us about your experiences in the national and world tournaments. What's it like for you to bowl on that level? Is there a big difference between bowling in the Canadian Nationals and the worlds?

Well I only went to Nationals once, 1989. It was a great time for me, winning the bantam division singles title. I have bowled in the worlds since 1999. This to me is truly the greatest tournament we have in candlepin bowling. I have won 4 times and came 2nd twice. In my rookie year, had 2nd high single behind Mike Morgan's 200+ game and in 2005 I had high triple for the week. That was bowled against Peter Flynn. I remember watching Peter as a kid when they came up here.

My team makes the worlds so much fun for me. To have been able to bowl on McLaughlin Truck & Trailer since 2001 has been awesome, I have the greatest teammates ever. (Rob Henderson, Chris Hollett, Pat Birchill, Tony McLaughlin, Tim Carrigan and Sean O'Flaherty) . These guys give so much support its makes the game a lot of fun.

There is a huge difference between nationals and worlds. Nationals is bowled in one day, but you have a good road to get there. You have to win zones and provincials just to earn the right to go. They are only 5 string events. But it doesn't compare to bowling for 5 days to win the worlds. Nothing does.

You mentioned baseball as a hobby. Are you a player in the summer or a spectator? How far does your interest in baseball go?

I have a great passion for the game of baseball, playing since I was 8. I play for a team called the Dartmouth Moosehead Dry of the Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League. Our website is [here](#). Last year was my first year on the team. They have a great history. Since 1990 they have won 13 provincial titles and 3 national titles.