

## Sketch of a West Pointer – Peter Coyle



Peter has made many contributions to the West Point Golf Club since joining in 2007. He has been an event coordinator and served on the Executive as Social Director for two years, Vice Captain in 2015 and is completing his second successful season as our Club Captain.

His grandfather moved west from Winnipeg in 1886 and the family grew from there. Peter is a third generation local boy, born and raised in Vancouver, where he resided until his family moved to Richmond in 1983. Peter and his wife, Jenny, have two daughters and 3 grand-daughters. Peter fondly reports that he has been surrounded by women his whole life, as he also has two sisters.

Peter spent his entire teaching career in the Richmond School District, working with students in secondary schools for 34 years. He also was involved in refereeing basketball, a pursuit that he really enjoyed.

The golf bug bit Peter in the mid 70s when his brother-in-law wanted to learn the game, so Peter joined him. Most West Point members know how much Peter loves golf. He has honed his skills and has played to a 6 handicap. When asked about shooting his age, Peter quips, “I’m too young for that!” The closest he has come thus far is a 69 at Langara when he first joined West Point. Peter has scored 3 holes-in-one, the most memorable one was at the Northview Ridge Course, on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole from the blue tees. That was his first ace and he said it was an amazing experience. The foursome in front of him had waved his group up and he did not see the ball go in the cup, but definitely heard their shouts.

Peter says he doesn’t have any favourite golf stories, but we all know that he has many stories! He has been lucky to play numerous courses with family and friends and has played in various parts of the world. One memorable experience was teeing off on the first hole of the Old Course at St. Andrews. He was fascinated by the course and its history. Peter also recalls playing a round at Whitefish Golf Club in Whitefish, Montana, with his uncle, and actor Kiefer Sutherland. It was a great experience for Peter’s uncle, as he was an admirer of Tommy Douglas. Peter lists his favourite courses as: the Old Course at St. Andrews because of its history, Makena in Wailea, Maui because of its fantastic views, and Chateau Whistler for its great layout and the success he has had playing there.

Favourite golfers include Tiger Woods for his determination and incredible skills. Peter cites Tiger’s 2000 US Open victory as perhaps the greatest win in history. Jack Nicklaus is included on his list because Jack set the standard for the modern game. Peter’s Uncle Jim rounds out his favourite foursome. He was a single digit handicap and taught Peter how to play. His last round with his uncle was at Peace Portal; he was 79 and they both played from the blue tees. Uncle Jim shot his age and then checked himself into hospital to have his gall bladder removed, after never saying a word about it on the golf course!

When asked about hobbies or interests, Peter of course identifies golf, but he also loves to travel. Europe is a favourite destination, especially France, and says it definitely helps to have a bilingual wife. Venice and Paris are at the top of his list of cities, with New York a close third. Peter was up the North Tower the week before 9/11 and will never forget the guys that entertained them on the 97<sup>th</sup> floor as his group waited for the elevator down. Peter likes to fix things around the house and takes great pride in a job well done, as he has learned a lot about being a handyman over the years.

One of his most memorable experiences occurred when partnering with another teacher and taking students to Northern Canada, through a federal government program called Open House Canada. Visiting Baffin Island was fantastic; it’s a part of Canada that most of us probably will not get to see. The Inuit students then came to Vancouver and Peter marveled at their expressions while doing simple things like riding an escalator or going to a hobby farm – things we take for granted but they had never experienced.