

Sketch of a West Pointer - Wayne Gatley



Wayne spent his working life as an educator and treasures the experience of 4 years teaching and travelling in Europe. He taught for our Department of National Defence in Baden Soellingen, Germany, and also taught in Langley and New Brighton, England. Born and educated in Vancouver, Wayne taught in 6 Vancouver elementary and 2 secondary schools (Churchill and Tupper). He served as vice principal at Van Tech, King George and David Thompson before finishing his VSB career in 1997-98 as Fraserview Area Administrator, working with many district schools and their staff. Then UBC beckoned and he worked for 6 years in the Mathematics Education department, mentoring prospective Middle School teachers.

Like many of us, Wayne enjoyed golf but had little time for it until retirement in 2002. Until then, he had played regularly – once a year! That wasn't enough for him to get good enough to really enjoy it and avoid embarrassing his older brother. Wayne joined West Point in 2008 and recalls having beginner's luck and being on the winning Palcutta team in his first year. He reached a handicap low of 21 but that was fleeting, he states, lasting about 2 weeks. When asked about favourite golf stories, Wayne remembers a day on the par 5 eighth hole at University GC, when he hit his drive into the trees on the left; second shot landed left of the greenside bunker; third shot into the bunker, of course; 5 more to get on the green and 4 putts. Total meltdown! On a more positive note, he relates shooting a career low 81 at Langara, playing with a buddy and his two sons from Africa. His friend couldn't believe the improvement from Wayne's normal mid-90s average. Wayne admits that his golf is mediocre, but his Sasquatch driver is legendary for its explosive 'crack' on impact. Some have described it as the sound of slamming the door of a 1950 Volkswagen! When asked to name his favourite courses, Wayne lists NK'mip in Oliver, Tsawwassen Springs and Pagoda Ridge but Fraserview tops his list for its varied terrain, beautiful vistas, wide fairways and the bonus that it's only blocks from his home.

Among the golfers Wayne admires are Lydia Ko, Brooke Henderson and Rory McIlroy. Lydia for her remarkable performance at the 2015 Canadian Open, played at the Vancouver Golf Club, winning at age 15, the youngest winner on the LPGA tour; Brooke for being perhaps the best Canadian golfer ever; and Rory for showing what men from small Commonwealth countries can do! He likes Fred Couples for his amazing relaxed swing and composure and Mike Weir for his coveted green jacket.

Wayne's hobbies include golf, family, writing and music. He has one sister (Carol) and 3 brothers (Garry, Lyle and Don); Lyle rowed for Canada in the 1968 Mexico Olympics. Wayne and Gloria celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2017, taking 13 family members on an Alaskan cruise. He has 3 novels in print; two of them are historical fictions set in the 1st Century, focused on the travels of a young man who travelled with the apostle Paul throughout Asia Minor and Macedonia. The third is a children's book, "The Ring of Truth". Wayne plays bass guitar on an instrument he made in 1995 while taking a John Oliver summer school course; he says it still plays well after 24 years.

A favourite vacation is the Gatley Guys' summer week at Whistler, which includes two sons, Randy and Darren, and two grandsons, Charlie and Emery. Highlights in 2018 were watching the final Crankworx competition from the finish line, a walk-in outdoor movie of bikers descending mountains in Greenland, and playing soccer-golf in Pemberton.

As Gary Sinclair was planning retirement from his many years of website duties, Wayne was brought on-board in 2016 to assist Ed Watson. Wayne also serves as Editor of the annual publication of Divot Dust and is a valued member of the Club.