

## Sketch of a West Pointer: Carl Jonsson

Carl was born in Fort St. John, B.C. When he was 5, the family moved to Alberni (now called Port Alberni). He returned every summer to work in the pulp mill, earning enough money to finance his way through university. His summer work also convinced him that he wanted a good education. He graduated from UBC Law School in 1958.

Carl recalls that the best thing that ever happened to him occurred shortly after moving to Alberni. His parents became friends with another family who had a young daughter, Mavis. She was 7, Carl was 8. They started dating in high school, married in 1957 and in July celebrated their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have two daughters who both live in the Vancouver area. Most of Carl's relatives reside in Sweden. Mavis is half Finnish and Carl is half Swedish, so the family consider themselves ethnic Scandinavians!

The second best thing that happened to him was that in Grade 12, he was taken under the wing and mentored by Alberni's senior lawyer, who was also Chair of the School Board. He encouraged Carl to plan on becoming a lawyer, as no other local graduate had gone to law school for many years. This set Carl on the path to be a lawyer and he has enjoyed it so much that he still practices, although on a reduced basis. He began specializing in corporate and securities work, focusing on publicly traded companies and in mining and oil and gas. This led to a lot of travel and working with the laws and businesses in other jurisdictions, which he found extremely interesting and mentally stimulating. He has been associated with the resource industry for over 30 years. Carl is currently a Principal of the Vancouver law firm Tupper, Jonsson and Yeadon and over the years has served on many boards as Director, CEO and CFO.

Over the years, he has also provided legal opinions to West Point Golf Club, which he joined in 2001. Carl served on the Board of Directors for 4 years, 2006-09, as Director at Large, Secretary and Social Director. His many contributions to the membership are appreciated.

Travel for work and pleasure has taken Carl to over 55 countries: he's been to every Canadian province plus the Yukon and NWT and 26 states plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico in the U.S. He says the most interesting travel was to Zimbabwe. About 25 years ago, he was a minor participant in the founding of a small Canadian mining company. When he was its senior lawyer and Chairman of the Board, the company acquired a small producing gold mine, which required that he deal with the difficult laws and government of Zimbabwe.

When Carl enrolled at UBC in 1953 it was a requirement that first year students enroll in a PE course. In his words, he was not particularly athletic, so signed up for a program that included golf. They practiced in the old Field House with clubs provided by the university; he had to buy his own plastic practice balls! After learning which end of the club to hold, he convinced a golfing friend who owned clubs to take him out to the UBC course a few times. It was another 10 years before his father-in-law got him playing in Qualicum and suggested lessons. Carl notes, "The lessons were obviously not very effective." His lowest handicap is about 23. When asked a question, he replied, "I have never shot my age – in 18 holes."

He recalls two memorable occasions in his golf history. The first occurred while trying to play out of trees; he hit a 3 iron so hard and at such an angle that the ball hit a tree and ricocheted back so quickly it hit him in the forehead, just missing both eyes, and causing him to see stars for a few seconds. The second happened one Hallowe'en afternoon the first year that soft spikes became mandatory. He slipped on the south slope of what is now Langara's 6th hole, sat down onto his left ankle and broke it. One of his foursome friends had to power-cart him off the course and take him to VGH for treatment.

In addition to his love of golf, Carl enjoys playing bridge, gardening, reading and travelling. He and Mavis were once horse riders, but gave that up recently, deciding that brittle bones don't react too favourably to falling off a horse! Favourite vacations are anywhere in the world where they can rent a car and leisurely tour the area, staying in small places and not in American chain hotels. But he hastens to add that, "If the road signs are not written in our alphabet, we leave the driving to others!"

*Prepared by Lorne Lindsay  
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