

## Sketch of a West Pointer - Andy Leekha



Andy was born in Amritsar, Punjab India and recently celebrated his 79th birthday. Following graduation from Punjab University in 1959 he joined the insurance industry as a Development Officer with Life Insurance Corporation of India. He enjoyed his career there, married Amy in 1968 and 8 months later they moved to Canada. Their first stop was Dawson Creek in 1969, then Vancouver, Burnaby and on to Coquitlam where he lived for 35 years. Andy's sister lived and taught in Dawson Creek and sponsored his move to Canada. When he visited the local employment centre, he was surprised that many insurance companies were seeking experienced insurance salespeople. He accepted a position with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and remained with them until retirement in 2007, even though the company changed hands several times, and was eventually taken over by Sun Life.

Following their first winter experience in northern B.C., Andy and Amy moved to Vancouver in 1970. In the 1980s he established his own financial services company, Capital Concepts Groups, with 3 other partners. During the 80s and 90s he and two friends developed and managed a number of franchised and non-franchised hotels – Travelodges, Red Lions and Best Westerns – in Washington and Oregon. The partners sold the hotel properties just before Andy retired.

When he was 60, he started thinking about retirement and set two goals: take up golf recreationally and travel. After he retired, he tried to include golf as much as possible in their travels and has had the opportunity to play in Thailand, Kenya, India and the U.K. He joined the Coquitlam Senior Golf Club, playing out of Langley's Poppy Estates, and took lesson at Coquitlam's Westwood Academy. In 2013 he joined the McCleery Men's Club and was later introduced to the West Point Golf Club in 2015. He considers himself a learner when it comes to golf. His current handicap is 26, but has been as low as 20. Andy is looking forward to shooting his age when he's in his 80s. Twice he's been within 2 inches of a hole-in-one at Fraserview and remembers vividly the feeling of being so close!

For his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, his son presented him with a surprise gift, planning a golf trip to Scotland. They played the Torrance Course at St. Andrews, Carnoustie Golf Links and Gleneagles. He has played in the Canary Islands in Spain and while playing at the LPGA course in Daytona Beach, Florida, enjoyed the experience of meeting some of the LPGA players who were training there. Golfers he admires are Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker and Vijay Singh – for their tenacity, dedication to the game and consistency. Favourite golf courses are Daytona Beach LPGA, Shadow Hill Marriott in Palm Desert and Kanaapali Course in Maui. Locally, he favours the Whistler Golf Club, Swan-e-Set and Seymour.

Andy and Amy celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 2018. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Their daughter lives with her family in Vancouver while two sons live in London, England and Victoria. All are successfully working in their chosen professions of public affairs, banking and optometry.

Andy's hobbies are travel, gardening and vacationing with family. He's travelled to South America (Havasu Falls in Brazil and Machu Picchu in Peru), Australia, Fiji, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Western Europe as well as Tanzania and Kenya for safaris. He says he has only a few countries left to visit in order to complete his personal bucket list. Since retirement, he enjoys winters in Florida, Palm Springs, Mexico or Hawaii, often

with children and grandchildren, and then gardening at home in the summer. He also likes to cruise and tries to take one or two each year.

Andy enjoys every aspect of being a member of West Point and mentions the members' commitment, friendliness and competitiveness. He likes the opportunity to play with and get to know different playing partners on various courses, as he continues to learn this great game, and always enjoys his games with West Point Golf Club members.

*Prepared by Lorne Lindsay from material submitted by Andy  
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