

Sketch of a West Pointer – Gary Sinclair



Gary Sinclair was born in Victoria, B.C. in 1932. His family moved to Vancouver's west side when he was four years old and settled in South Burnaby where he received his schooling and developed his sport interests and skills. Although he was a good athlete and excelled at baseball, rugby and soccer, golf outings were never part of his family's activity plan. This sporting focus led him to pursue a career in physical education and to enroll at the University of BC where he lettered on both the varsity rugby and baseball teams.

Upon graduation in 1957, he not only started his teaching career in West Vancouver but married his true love, Myfanwy. They raised two daughters, both of whom later played field hockey at the international level for the Canadian Women's National Team. Dana and her family live in Toronto; Robyn and her family reside nearby in Port Moody.

Gary's teaching of physical education, math and science was accompanied by coaching and administrative responsibilities both with the school's and the inter-high school's athletic programs as well as in various community settings. His concern for the benefits of properly-led physical activity programs and their potential influence on the motor, intellectual and social development of youth stimulated him to pursue more in-depth study of the underlying foundational disciplines of sport. This resulted in his enrollment into the MSc ('65) and PhD ('69) degree programs of study at the University of Oregon in the area of Sport Sciences.

Upon completion of these studies, Gary joined the Faculty of McGill University in 1969 and then the University of Montreal (1971) before accepting a position with the School of Physical Education at UBC in 1973. During the time spent in Montreal, Gary's wife collaborated with a talented associate to create the stretch sewing enterprise known as BouClair, currently operating as BouClair Home.

During his tenure at UBC, Gary became involved with the Coaching Association of Canada and became recognized as a Master Course Conductor within their multi-levelled National Coaching Certification Program. He was revered as a teacher, coach and mentor to many students on the UBC campus who praised his considerable ability to engage them. After 24.5 years of service, Gary retired in December 1997 and holds the title of Associate Professor Emeritus in Kinesiology.

Gary began tinkering with golf in 1973 as a result of his first participation in UBC's Annual Faculty & Staff Golf Tournament. He was exposed to "Pace of Play" in a social context and was quite discouraged by the time spent away from the office. His involvement became a little more meaningful when his wife, upon her retirement in the late 90's, became a member of the Musqueam Ladies Golf Club and he played the occasional round with her. At about that time (2002) he was encouraged by West Point members Hugh Marshall and Stan Lawson, who were long-time friends, to

get involved with the WPGC. He did and in 2004 he volunteered to help out with the activities of the Board of Directors if any assistance was needed. Much to his surprise, he was asked to be the Club's 13th president. Having had limited experience within the world of golf he asked if his credentials would be sufficient – he was simply asked if he could conduct a business meeting! The answer was yes and he accepted the honour for the 2004 and 2005 seasons and also served as the Past President for 3 years, 2006-2008.

During his tenure as President, the electronic world that was in its early stages of becoming the universal communications medium was beginning to blossom. Consequently, he felt that a website would be an asset to the organization and management of the Club, so he enrolled in a Continuing Education course featuring website design. His curiosity, dedication and perseverance led to the creation of our website which is held in high esteem. Gary initiated and was the driving force behind the website from 2005 until he stepped down from the daily management in 2016. At a subsequent AGM, to recognize Gary's immense contributions to the Club as webmaster extraordinaire, West Point presented Gary with his first golfing GPS device. While making the presentation, President Andrew Hobbs shared this: "Over the years the executive has felt that Gary was the link to the history of the Club. He was the one to guide future presidents and executive members by giving them a copy of the history of the Club, and many times we would be reminded of the elements of the West Point Charter that had relevance to the current discussion. Gary continued to be the 'conscience' of our Club, reminding us of our past and walking us the extra mile to acknowledge the Club's achievements and by keeping in touch with 'builders' of the Club who've since retired."

Gary credits Ed Watson's involvement, starting in 2011, for the continuous growth they maintained for the scope of the West Point website. The more recent inclusion of Wayne Gatley in 2016 has shared the time demands of its daily management.

During this early period of digital communication, Gary took over the editorship of the Club's newsletter, The Divot Dust, and revived and distributed it via email. He initially produced quarterly issues to chronicle the outcomes of our competitions and the achievements of our members. Ultimately, an annual compendium, covering all aspects of the WPGC activities, was produced and distributed digitally for the year-end AGM.

Gary served the Club in an executive capacity for 12 years and in 2011 he was recognized as a Lifetime Member in honour of, and respect for, his outstanding contributions to the Club.

He continues to be involved as an active member and is ever hopeful that, if he lives long enough, he may shoot his age. Gary says that his golf skills got a late start but even though they are now only approaching mediocrity, it has been a wonderfully rewarding experience having had the opportunity to associate with such a fine fellowship of men. Rumour has it that Gary is the only member who is known to have locked his keys in his car twice in one year while participating in the Bob Jack Away Game fixtures. Quite a feat!

*Material submitted by Gary, Andrew & Lorne
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