

## Sketch of a West Pointer – Grant Hughes



Grant Hughes was born November 23, 1942 in Powell River, B.C. The family moved to Victoria soon after. His father joined the B.C. Forest Service and then the Air Force. They lived with Grant's grandmother, a staunch Victorian, until his father returned from the war.

The family moved many times. Grant started grade one at Willows Elementary in Oak Bay, then moved to Elk Lake where he raised chickens, then to Sidney and finally back to Victoria where he graduated from Vic High, his father's old school.

He curled and participated in track and field events in school. In grade 12 his team won first in the Provincial Senior Boys' curling tournament. He studied for two years at Victoria College, now the University of Victoria. He met his wife Violet (Vi) there. They both graduated from UBC; Grant with a law degree and Vi with a Bachelor of Arts.

Grant practiced law in Victoria, and then in 1967 they moved to Prince George. The area was experiencing massive growth in industry, especially in logging and pulp and paper production. The city was booming. New streets were gravel, shopping malls popped up, whole subdivisions and schools were built from scratch. Practising law there was exciting and the scope was expansive, taking Grant to points east and west, and to the Yukon for a criminal trial at two o'clock in the morning, in the basement of a church. With his successes, he became a partner at Heather, Sadler, Hughes and Jenkins, focusing on business law. New service clubs sprang up to accommodate the city's growth and Grant became a charter member of the Yellowhead Rotary Club, serving as their second president.

Their two children were born in Prince George. The family skied every weekend at Purden Mountain where they had a cabin and every spring break on various B.C. and Alberta slopes. They chartered a boat in summers to cruise the Canadian and U.S. Gulf Islands, went to California and Hawaii, and on motorhome trips to Alberta. They spent a summer in France.

Grant started playing golf regularly at the Prince George Golf Club. Members paid a monthly fee to support the kitchen - drinks were included! Wednesday was men's night. Grant easily met his monthly minimum buying drinks for clients and friends. Members stored their clubs on site. Each year a group flew to Indio, California for a Prince George Golf Tournament. One year, after they returned, the police came looking into the club storage room to see if anyone had bought new clubs without declaring them. Nothing untoward was found. Grant also played racquetball once or twice a week for several years.

In 1986 the family returned to the Lower Mainland. Grant joined the McQuarrie Hunter Law Firm, practiced there until his retirement and was managing partner for nine years. Vi worked in the Faculty of Education at SFU, completed her M.ED. and enjoyed a career with the Vancouver School Board as teacher, mentor, and administrator.

Their children completed high school and university and moved on to careers. Mike is a pilot for Air Canada and Alison is an equestrian competitor (dressage), coach and horse trainer. Both are married with families and live on the North Shore - happily the four grandchildren are nearby. Grant joined the New Westminster Rotary Club and over the years has supported Rotary Foundation work. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

McQuarrie Hunter was the largest law firm in the Lower Mainland, outside of Vancouver, with offices in New Westminster and Surrey. The firm is committed to community involvement. For years, in partnership with the New West Chamber of Commerce, they sponsored the McQuarrie Hunter Charity Golf Tournament. Grant golfed in these tournaments and also golfed extensively around B.C., in Las Vegas, Palm Springs, San Francisco and on four Hawaiian islands. Every Labour Day weekend, the partners went fishing off Haida Gwaii.

Grant has not shot his age yet but did score a hole-in-one at Vernon's Predator Ridge Resort. His best recorded round to date was during our Sweet Sixteen competition in 2022. His gross score was 83 - which he claims was a complete fluke - and after deducting his high handicap and two worst holes, the result was a net 50, which was the lowest net of all three flights.

Grant feels lucky to have golfed with his dad at the Uplands Course in Victoria; his dad was long time member. Years later, Grant golfed in a charity tournament there, to support the Broadmead Care Home, where his father lived for his last two years. Another memorable golf game was with his son in Maui; Mike was one of the pilots who flew them there. Grant and a close friend golfed annually on courses on the big island of Hawaii. During one round, the wind was so strong at the Waikoloa Beach course, balls were sent flying across the green.

Grant's hobbies include travel, old cars, sketching, and golf of course. One summer he studied drawing and painting at a summer institute in France. He has sketched weekly at the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver. He likes fixing up old cars. His first project was a 1955 Thunderbird, followed by a '64 Corvette and a classic MGA. He and his son, Mike, worked on two Mustangs - '64 and '69. Mike moved on to a Mercedes restoration and is now restoring a classic truck.

Vi and Grant love to travel. They have cruised the Mediterranean, the rivers of Europe, and the inside passage to Alaska. They travelled across Canada to the eastern-most tip of Newfoundland-Labrador on the tail of a hurricane. They go to Hawaii often and to Europe almost every year. They have stayed in Paris and other parts of France for extended periods and often visit relatives in Rome.

Grant enjoys playing the three Vancouver golf courses, Riverway and the UBC course. He feels welcome and enjoys the camaraderie of the West Point Golf Club and the challenges on the different courses. His law partner, Paul Levy, introduced him to WPGC in 2016 and law partner Bob Crawford joined later. Grant views golf as both a pleasure and a challenge, always looking to improve his game.

*Prepared from extensive material submitted by Grant to Lorne – February to July '24  
Published September 18, 2024*