

Sketch of a West Pointer – Lorne Lindsay

During the 2012 season, Lorne embarked on a project to profile some of our West Point members. That year, Michael Alms, Ed Bobinski and Jim Appleby consented to provide some background information. Recently the 50th member was featured in a “Sketch of a West Pointer”, which thus far has covered all willing members who had joined the Club up to 2010. Several people have prodded Lorne to put some of his own facts on paper, but he relented – until now!



Lorne was born in 1944 in Abbotsford, a quiet, peaceful residential and farming community, not the bustling hub that it is today. He was one of five children with 3 sisters and a younger brother. He attended the only high school at the time, Abbotsford Senior Secondary, where his father was the principal. He enjoyed all sports, playing soccer, softball, badminton, volleyball and basketball. The only ice in town was at the curling club, so he never got to hone his ice hockey skills! As a teen, he was invited to play golf with his father, mother, and their friends, whenever they needed a fourth. A short drive took them across the US border to Everson to play on the local course for a reasonable green fee and great home-made burgers. (When he introduced Audrey to the course many years later, she called it a cow pasture!) Chilliwack Golf and Country Club was also a favourite. He likes to think that after playing the game for so long, he would be much better!

Several varied summer jobs helped pay for university: working in the advertising department of the local newspaper, unloading and packing hot bricks from the kilns at Clayburn Brick Plant and 3 summers as a customs officer at the Huntingdon border crossing, which also included trips to the Abbotsford airport to document US travelers and to seal their guns if they were going on to Alaska.

Leaving home to attend UBC, he graduated with a B.Ed. and much later (after constant urging from good friend and VSB colleague, Jim Appleby, and others) his Master of Education degree. Lorne worked for the Vancouver School Board, serving the students, staff, and parents in four elementary schools throughout the city for 33 years. Each year he coached all sports and included every student who wanted to participate; his winning basketball team had a bench of 18 players. In recognition of his involvement in physical education, Lorne received a Career Achievement Award in 2002. He retired as a principal in 2002 but returned to action in a series of administrative capacities with VSB until 2006.

In 1972 he married Audrey, which he says was the best move he ever made! They do not have children but count 12 nieces and nephews as their blessings. They lived on Robson Street for 2 years before moving to Burnaby, where they have owned a condo near a golf course, a house and now a town home on the former Oakalla Prison site, overlooking Deer Lake. The two of them curled for many years at UBC, dabbled at softball, played tennis at several indoor facilities until injuries did them both in, skiing downhill until the bodies said ‘no more’, but have managed to continue playing golf, a game they love. Both have been involved in the volunteer activities of their respective clubs. Lorne served on the West Point Board for 8 years, as Membership Chair, Vice-Captain Draw and Scoring, President and Past President. Until recently, he was the Head Scorer for the Burnaby Mountain Senior Men’s Golf Club, a position he held for 4 years. Audrey serves her membership in several capacities and is team leader on the provincial Course Rating Team for BC Golf.

A recreational hobby was basketball officiating, which he did for approximately 25 years, refereeing all levels from high school to university, including some wheelchair games. Lorne was the president of the Vancouver and District Basketball Officials Association for three years and enjoyed his relationship with many coaches over the years, including Hugh Marshall and Stan Lawson, both of whom suggested he join West Point.

Lorne joined WPGC in 2005 and has enjoyed playing with such a diverse group of members. When asked, he remembers a lucky hole-in-one he scored on the 8th hole at Langara. His foursome watched the ball veer left, take a bounce, and did not realize something great might have happened until Neil Brett-Davies, who was on the adjoining green, gave them the thumbs-up sign. He had seen the ball roll into the cup. Such a feat has never been duplicated but he vividly recalls a 157-yard eagle on Fraserview's 14th hole while playing in a group with Dean MacKinnon. Lorne's lowest handicap index is about a 19, and he would be happy if he could play bogey golf or better on a regular basis.

Audrey and Lorne enjoy travelling and feel fortunate to have visited England, Scotland, Scandinavia, the Baltic, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Canadian Maritime provinces, Japan, China, Alaska, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. A favourite cruise took them from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro with a group of friends and they enjoyed another cruise through the Panama Canal and were amazed at the incredible engineering feat of a time long ago. They like to spend some of the wintertime in the Palm Desert area, playing golf at many local courses.

Among the golfers Lorne admires are Mike Weir, Adam Hadwin and Brooke Henderson. Did you notice they are all Canadian? Each of them has worked so hard to achieve their goals and appear to be so grounded. Lorne and Audrey followed Mike as he won the 1999 Air Canada Championship tournament played at Surrey's Northview Golf Course and of course watched him win The Masters in 2003 (on TV). They have followed Adam's group in Palm Springs a couple times and remember his efforts in finishing fourth at the 2011 Canadian Open while they were on-course volunteers at Shaughnessy. Brooke winning the 2018 CP Open in Regina with her sister, Brittany, on the bag is another favourite memory.

Lorne's parting words, "I have genuinely enjoyed the fellowship of being a member of West Point. I am amazed and grateful that we have so many talented and committed individuals who step forward to provide exemplary service to the membership. I remember many, and respect all, who have donated their time and expertise over the years. West Point Golf Club is a gem."

*From the desk of Dubbell EU
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