

Sketch of a West Pointer - Dave Wilson



Dave was born in Toronto on September 15, 1947; fortunately for us, he moved to Vancouver when he was 6 months old. He has also resided in Nanaimo, Rhode Island, Halifax and Java (Indonesia). He attended Shaughnessy Elementary and University Hill Secondary before graduating from the University of B.C. with a B.Sc. in Marine Biology. For his post-graduate studies, Dave went to the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I. and earned his M. Sc. Degree.

Dave trained as a fisheries biologist and worked for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) from 1976-79. His employment took him to Nanaimo for two years where he worked at the Pacific Biological Station, the oldest fisheries research centre on the Pacific coast. He also lived in Bedford, a suburb of Halifax, for three years in the early 1980's where he worked for Monenco, a consulting engineering firm. He then worked in the fish farm industry for 4 years with farms located in Zeballos. Dave spent the latter part of his career with B.C. Hydro in Vancouver, doing environmental impact assessments.

Dave started playing golf as a teenager on the beach at Qualicum but didn't take the game up seriously until his late 20's. He says that he was attracted to the game as it was a unique sport, where you can play with golfers for a few hours, enjoy the time together and perhaps never see the person ever again. He has played to as low as a 15 handicap and shooting his age remains a future objective! Dave recalls his hole-in-one about 25 years ago at Homestead Golf Course, a favourite of many locals, across the border in Washington. "My shot rolled onto the green, we looked at each other and then I walked quickly to the green, trying not to sprint. I looked in the hole and there was my ball! Cheers and hugs all around! Fortunately, the course was new and the clubhouse hadn't yet been built, so there was no obligatory round for the house, just drinks for my foursome."

Favourite golf courses for Dave include Oak Quarry in Riverside County, west of Palm Springs, an award-winning, thrilling and challenging course with 4 sets of tees, winding through the picturesque, jagged terrain of the historical Jensen Quarry, formerly a major source of marble. A second course he likes is Sand Hollow in St. George, Utah, a resort course carved out of the steep red rock outcroppings of the southwest desert. Rounding out his trio is Qualicum Beach Memorial, with its beautiful views of the Salish Sea, especially teeing off on the first hole!

One memorable golfing experience occurred while golfing in Bali with women caddies. When asked if they gave advice and whether he followed it, Dave replied, "Yes, they did, and of course I listened to them. They knew the course and I was the newcomer." After playing a round of golf in Myanmar (Burma) with a local fellow, Dave was invited back to his house where the two of them practiced chipping in his backyard!

When asked about golfers he admires, Dave cites Lee Trevino for his great sense of humour and Tom Watson, who had terrific skill while lacking any visible ego. He views the current crop of golfers as very skilled and business-like but without much personality, much like clones.

Dave has a partner, Lynn, and is the father of two adult children, a daughter, Kim, who lives in Port Moody and a son, Rob, who resides in Ottawa. He also has 3 grandchildren: Isla, Finn and Evan. His family includes a brother, Jack, who lives in Qualicum Beach. Hobbies consist of photography and travel, mostly to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Following retirement in 2010, Dave learned about West Point Golf Club from David Johansson and Brian Boone, becoming a member in 2013. The three of them, plus a newer member from 2019, Keith Beglau, have made a few road trips, including annual November junkets to the Palm Springs area where they might frequent Eagle Falls, Indian Canyon South or the Pete Dye course at Mission Hills.

Dave has volunteered to serve our Club and contributed three years on the Board. During the first year one of his responsibilities was promoting the sale of merchandise (the “bling”); he followed that assignment with two successful years as the Membership Director, for 2019 and 2020. Dave has won numerous individual and team events during his 9 years with the Club.

*Prepared from material submitted by Dave to Lorne - February 2021
Published August 25, 2021*