

ALEX OLYNYK

Born June 18th, 1918, Alex Olynyk joined the CPGA in 1947 and was a member until he passed away March 9th, 1998. He was an instrumental teacher in the game of golf.

Not only was Alex Olynyk a proud member of the Alberta PGA, he also served in World War II as a surveyor and artillery specialist. With his love of the game and his love to teach people the game of golf, Alex was a key asset to Canadian Golf.

Getting started at the age of 12, Alex found his first golf clubs out of a garbage can. He began to practice his skills in cow pastures. He played his first pro event at age 17, earning \$50 and continued on to enjoy great success at the game, even defeating the great Stan Leonard for the Canadian Senior Championship title in 1969.

Alex went onto becoming a builder and founder of the Windermere G&CC. He also served as the facility's first Head Professional and mentored several apprentices into Head Professionals, including Sandy Robertson, Bill Wright Jr., Monte Koenig and 1954 Canadian Open Champion Pat Fletcher. He also opened the city of Edmonton's first driving ranges, Grierson Hill and Borden Park.

As an instructor, Alex ran his renowned Masters Golf School, which he opened in 1938. Alex was a teaching professional for more than 60 years. He taught many students during the course of his career, including much celebrated ladies' champion Betty Stanhope Cole and Canadian Junior champion, Rob McMillan.

Alex was honored at the Legends Golf Course, where his favorite saying can be found on a plaque, "The person who wins at the game of golf isn't the one with the lowest score, it's the person who enjoys the game the most." Alex Olynyk became a Life Member of the Canadian PGA in 1988.

After his passing, a scholarship in memory of Alex, is in place as a reminder of the thousands of junior golfers he started on their way. Donations continue to be made to the Alex Olynyk Junior Golf Scholarship Fund in care of the Edmonton Junior Golf Association. Alex is survived by his wife, Elaine and 4 children, Sandy, Toni, Beth and Victoria.

In 2003, Alex was unanimously selected by the Alberta PGA Board of Directors as the inaugural recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Teacher Category.

