

Alberta Professional Golfers' Association Lifetime Achievement Award

Bill Quilley was born on November 7th, 1933 and at the age of twenty-nine, decided to join the Alberta Zone of the Canadian PGA as an Apprentice in April 1963, while working at the Regal Golf Club in Calgary (later to become the Calgary Elks Lodge & Golf Club).

After brief stints of seasonal employment as a Assistant Professional at the Canyon Meadows G&CC and the Calgary CC, Quilley found a stable position at the Willow Park G&CC in 1967, first as an Assistant, and later as the Club Manager. He remained at Willow Park through the 1975 season before moving to British Columbia, as Head Professional at the Kimberley Golf Club, to close out his career.

Throughout his career, he had a proven track record both on and off the golf course. As a successful tournament player, Quilley posted runner-up finishes in the provincial Assistants' Championship in 1963, 1964 and 1966, and finished in the top ten at the 1964 Calgary Molson Open, the 1964 U.S. National Lefthanders Open in Florida, and the 1966 Edmonton City Open.

In 1965, he decided to complement the competitive skills he had developed on the golf course with a year of PGA business school in the United States. Upon his return, he quickly ascended the employment ranks at Willow Park, and used his savvy business knowledge to help shape the Alberta Zone into the Association it is today.

As Zone President from 1969 to 1973, Quilley was in charge of all Zone administration, including the record keeping duties associated with Member movement, and was instrumental in promoting education and employment for CPGA Members. He was one of the founding Members of the Alberta PGA Education Seminar, an event which has now grown to host over 200 annual attendees, and also served as the regional employment representative for Southern Alberta during that time. Along with fellow Alberta PGA Board Member Frank Fowler, he would travel to golf clubs throughout the southern half of the province every Friday afternoon, while his counterparts Sandy Robertson and Ron Rayner did the same in the northern half of the province, promoting the hiring of CPGA Members to provide professional services to these clubs.

A true testament to how dedicated our past golf professionals were to the game, is recollected in one of Quilley's favourite stories about the summer he enjoyed working with Bud Loftus at the Calgary Country Club. *'Six days a week, we were at the club at quarter past five, pulling carts out for the day. It took as all of fifteen minutes, and although there were no golfers for the next hour that didn't matter. We'd play the front nine in forty-seven minutes and be ready for work at half past six. That's how we learned the game.'*

Quilley was unanimously voted in as a Life Member of the Canadian PGA in 1994 and currently resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

