

Alberta Professional Golfers' Association Lifetime Achievement Award

Born on June 25th, 1930 in Vancouver, British Columbia and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, George (Bud) Loftus first started playing golf at the young age of 6, as one of very few youngsters on the links.

His game at the 'Muni', Edmonton's Victoria Golf Course became quite noticeable to some of golf's more established players, so much so that Highlands Golf & Country Club Head Professional Henry Martell decided to hire the youngster in 1948. This, after Loftus had already claimed two Alberta Junior Titles ('45, '47), and played as part of Alberta's Willington Cup Team in 1948.

Like many others preceding and following him, apprenticing under Henry Martell proved to be the challenge that shaped Bud Loftus into one of the Canadian PGA's most distinguished Golf Professionals. Not only did his golfing ability reach new heights during this three year tenure, but his career path in the game was paved and developed into an equally strong part of his character.

In the same year he joined Henry, Bud won his first of three Alberta Opens ('48, '51, '59) and a year later finished third at the Saskatchewan Open, a tournament he would finish as runner-up ('53) and win ('60). In 1956, he joined the PGA Tour for the winter months and competed amongst peers at that level through to 1959 when he joined the Canadian Team in the Carling International Matches.

During that time, he worked as Head Professional at the Willowdale GC (Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan) and the Regal GC (now Calgary Elks in Calgary, Alberta), as well as an Assistant Professional at the Calgary Golf & Country Club. In 1962, he made his formal application to the CPGA and became Head Professional at the Calgary G&CC in 1963, where he would remain until 1975.

In 1988, after brief stints as Head Professional at the Shuswap Lake Estates GC in BC and the Edson GC in Alberta, Bud decided to retire from his career in golf. He was elected to Life Membership of the CPGA in 1994, and received a plaque for serving 25 years as a Class A Member in 1998.

He and his wife Virginia currently reside in Tappen, BC, and many of their six children (two daughters and four sons), continue to be involved in some capacity in the golf industry. Bud becomes just the third CPGA Member to receive the Alberta PGA Lifetime Achievement Award in the Player Category, joining fellow CPGA Members Henry Martell and Frank Fowler.

