

Professional Golfers' Association of Alberta Lifetime Achievement Award

Born June 1, 1946 in Vancouver BC and raised in Victoria, Jay Wilson grew up under the watchful eyes of the two Canadian PGA Head Professionals who worked at the Victoria GC, Laurie Carroll and Paul Trapp in the 1960s.

As a junior, Jay competed in many local junior events, city amateurs and island opens. He was a distinguished enough junior at the time and made the trip to compete in four provincial juniors as well as the Canadian Junior between 1961 and 1964.

In 1965, Jay decided to join the Canadian PGA and became the Assistant Professional at the Victoria GC, a position he held until 1968. In 1969 he decided to make the move to Alberta, accepting a position with Head Professional Ron MacLeod at Jasper Park Lodge. In the winter months, Jay would travel to the Bahamas where he worked as a Golf Professional at the Grand Bahama Hotel (1969 to 1974). As far as his career in Alberta, he remained in Jasper until

1977 and learned as much as there is to learn about the golf business and about merchandising from some of the leaders in the industry. He had found his passion.

In 1978, he was offered the Head Professional position at the Shaganappi Point Golf Club, a municipal course located in the heart of Calgary. Twenty-five seasons later in 2002, he could still be found in the shop at 'shag sipping away at a coffee while reviewing a list of inventory or a catalogue of new products with the same level of passion and excitement as the day he first started. Jay has the time for everyone who walks through his door and has an all around good-natured ability to engage everyone around him into a passionate dialogue about the golf business. He enjoys learning from others and is always willing to share his experiences from his life long passion with the game.

Since the days as Head Professional at 'shag, (he became Executive Professional in 1995) Jay also oversaw operations at the city's McCall Lake Golf Course from 1988 to 2006 and was involved in the operation of the Valley Ridge GC from 1984 until 1987 and in the ownership of the Cochrane GC from 1995 to 2003.

When the city bought his shop in 2002, he continued to manage the operation at McCall for four years before moving on to assist with the revival of the Sundre GC, a position he currently holds and as described in his own words 'the ownership aspect of the business intrigues me the most.'

Fitting for a genuine and natural business leader who happens to be a golf professional.

His Leadership contributions to the Industry were also recognized within the Association, when, as a Member of the Board of Directors from 1980 to 1986, Jay was voted as Association President in 1986. His first order of business was to hire Executive Director Dave Mayes to assist the Board in building the Association. The PGA of Alberta Championship was another significant initiative that found its roots under the guidance of Jay Wilson, who organized the Association's first Pro Am to Jasper in 1981 and 1982 before the event was separated into the Pro Am and Stroke Play Championship in 1983.

Jay continues to oversee the Sundre GC operation and becomes just the 2nd recipient of the PGA of Alberta's Lifetime Achievement Award in the Leadership Category, joining Don Price who received the award in 2003.

