



## David Bayne

A half century..... Really? It doesn't seem possible.....Can someone check the math? It's a mistake right? Those were some of my immediate thoughts as I chatted with Daphne Shaw after she tracked me down a few months ago. Well, the reality of it all has firmly set in. Shock has turned to anticipation and I am very much looking forward to getting 'reacquainted' with what looks to be an impressive turnout of alumni! I haven't lived in Victoria for 45 years, so getting 'acquainted' is actually a more accurate description!

I spent only one year at Oak Bay, followed by four and a half fun-filled, frivolous years at UVic, where I majored in 8-ball, (with a minor in hearts), managing to accumulate just enough credits each year to avoid being summarily tossed into the middle of the ring road by university administration. During those years I had a summer job working at the Banff Springs Hotel. After three summers I had managed to become the bell captain and if that wasn't the best summer job in Canada for a 20 year old, it was certainly high on the list. In December 1969, the Banff Springs opened year round after eighty plus years operating as a summer resort and I immediately dropped my "studies" and returned to Banff. Over the next fifteen years I held a number of supervisory and junior manager jobs in Canadian Pacific's Banff National Park hotels in Banff and Lake Louise, ultimately accepting the position of resident manager at the Banff Springs from 1984 to 1989. In 1989, I was appointed General Manager at Chateau Lake Louise. I held this job for almost 20 years, until I took early retirement in December 2008.

The past 50 years have been good to me. Working in what are arguably Canada's two most iconic resort hotels, with international markets being so critical, has allowed me to travel a fair amount. During the 1990's during the Japanese travel boom, I was in Japan frequently. Being in the ski markets has taken me to Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Italy. Lake Louise has hosted World Cup ski events for many years and the Chateau is headquarters for all off hill activities. Always exciting and interesting times. The Banff Springs was front and centre during the 1988 Calgary Olympics when I was manager which was a fascinating and memorable two weeks.

Since retiring from Fairmont Hotels in 2008, I have stayed active in my community. In 2009, I joined the Board of Directors of Travel Alberta, when the provincial government formed a crown corporation to handle provincial tourism marketing. I stayed on the board for 5 years, the last year, as Chairman of the Business Strategy Committee. I sat on the Banff Municipal Planning Commission for 6 years, the last three as Chairman. I was a board member of AMPPE, the Association for Mountain Parks Protection and Enjoyment, which advocates for responsible and open Park use, and offers a balance to the extreme environmental lobbies. I served on the board for 12 years and was Board Chair from 2012-2014. I am currently vice-chair of the Development Appeal Board in Banff.

In my personal life, I have been married just once. I married Lori two months before my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Yeah, I know.....but we shouldn't be rushing into these things. Right?) She's the best decision I've ever made. We live in Banff with a 16 lb. Havanese named Divot. Lori works in Banff for Parks Canada.

If I reflect back on my career, I am probably most proud of my accomplishments as a coach and mentor. In western Canada, former department heads and senior leaders from the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise are now General Managers at the Fairmont Winnipeg, Fairmont Hotel MacDonald in Edmonton, Fairmont Waterfront In Vancouver and right here in Victoria at the Empress. A Lake Louise alumnus is GM at the Hotel Vancouver and the senior VP North America for Fairmont Hotels and Resorts was my Director of Sales and Marketing in Lake Louise in the early 1990's. There are many more Lake Louise alumni running Fairmont properties and other brand properties and independents around the globe and I'm proud of them all.

I think I better wrap this up. Trying to turn 50 years into 500 or so words, is too short for me and too long for you. That ten months from September 1964 through June 1965 went by so fast. As a seventeen year old coming into a new school, it seems that by the time I was feeling comfortable in my new environment and making new friends, the year was gone! Having dusted off my old banana yellow 1965 yearbook, I'm enjoying matching up 50 year old photos with current bios and the list of attending alums and I must say, for those with pictures in their bios, I think we are all looking pretty good! Having said that, I sure hope we are all getting name tags! I'm looking forward to our two evenings together in a few weeks. I will do my best to make amends for lost opportunities from 50 years ago. Sad for me to say, but there are so many of you I don't know!

It's said, you're never too old to make a new friend! I have my work cut out for me at the reunion, but I'm up to the challenge!