

Sigge Bjorklund



Alf Sigvald (Sigge) Bjorklund, born and raised in a small town in south western Finland, at 30 years of age, came to Canada in the fall of 1956 to visit his sister in Vancouver. With fresh snow on the local mountains and the beauty of Stanley Park his short-term visit became a lifelong stay. As a journeyman electrician he found work immediately upon his arrival and began to build his new life as a proud Canadian immigrant.

Being an avid cross-country skier from Scandinavia his passion for the mountains was insatiable and the west coast of Canada promised a lifetime of adventure. Recognizing a need for Nordic skiers to meet up and organize car pooling and equipment acquisition, Sigge was instrumental in forming The Vancouver Skiers Club in 1962. The club grew quickly to over 500 members. The success of the club culminated in 1971 when Sigge opened Sigge's Sport Villa, initially a general sporting goods store. With the help of his eldest son Anders, 'Sigge's' became one of Canada's most successful specialty Nordic ski shops.

Determined to showcase all the wonders of cross-country skiing, Sigge was also involved in helping form the Canadian Association of Nordic Ski Instructors (CANSI) in 1976 and the Nordic Racers Ski Club in 1980. However, the one aspect of his love for the sport was his unwavering support of young skiers. The younger the better, through his involvement with various clubs' Jackrabbit and Junior Race Programs, Sigge was very generous with both his time and support for sponsoring young skiers.

The Bjorklund family is honored that Sigge will be recognized in perpetuity by the Payak with this special memorial award.