

## ASK THE EXPERT

Nancy Greene Raine is an Olympic skiing gold medallist and former senator. Now 81, she lives in British Columbia where she's an ambassador for Tourism Sun Peaks.

BY SHARON STEPHENSON



**I LIVE AT** Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge, a 190-room condominium in Sun Peaks, which we built in 1995. When we first arrived in Sun Peaks there were 10 full-time residents but now there are close to 1600. It's a fantastic ski area, with great skiing on three mountains, as well as summer amenities such as an 18-hole golf course, tennis court, pool and hiking trails. My husband was mayor of Sun Peaks for 24 years. There's a great sense of community here.

**Earliest ski memory** My parents were avid skiers and belonged to a ski club that built Canada's second ever chairlift. All six of us children started skiing on little wooden skis when we were three years old. I remember riding up the chairlift on my father's knee and skiing down between his legs. A bit later I was so proud when I made it all the way down with only 15 falls.

**Favourite ski experience** Heli skiing in The Bugaboos in eastern British Columbia on my honeymoon, skiing figure eights in the powder with my husband, was magic. But winning silver and gold medals at the 1968 Winter Olympics in France is also a big memory.

**Ski experience you'd love to have** I've skied all over the world, including New Zealand and Australia, but I'm yet to ski in Scandinavia. My son's wife is from Sweden so I'd love to try the skiing there. Thankfully I've never been caught in an avalanche and don't intend to.

**What are you working on now?** I was a director of skiing at Sun Peaks for 27 years but now I lead tours of Sun Peaks mainly for VIPs, media and the tourism industry but also for the public because I love to show people where the best skiing is. I try to ski every day during our season, which runs from November to April. 🏂



### VERTICAL CAFE

I love my lattes, and Vertical Cafe at the base of Sundance Lodge in Sun Peaks does a great one. They also bake an incredible blueberry avocado muffin, which sounds like it wouldn't taste good, but it absolutely does.



### TOP OF THE WORLD TRAIL

Hiking this trail when the alpine blossoms are in full bloom from mid-July to mid-August is one of my favourite things. You catch the ski lift up and hike about an hour from there. The views from the top are amazing.



### MCGILLIVRAY LAKE

I'm not a downhill mountain biker but I like riding my mountain bike in the valley out to McGillivray Lake, about half an hour from where I live. It's a wilderness area and bear country, so sometimes I see brown bears as well as deer and coyote.