

# MICHAEL MANYK BIO

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Michael was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, and raised in the nearby suburb of Port Coquitlam. A true “born and bred” BC boy, Michael’s love of the outdoors started at age 5, playing soccer and baseball. Road hockey, bike riding, and tree climbing were all in a day’s adventure as he grew up, so it is no wonder that his love for the outdoors grew as well.

As a child, Michael and his family took long summer trips to Alberta and Manitoba to visit his grandparents. He would watch the wheat fields whip by from the window of the train, or the backseat of the family car, while travelling the 5000 km round trip to Manitou, Manitoba. On the way to Manitou, Michael and his family would often stop to camp and spend quality time enjoying the outdoors. His Grandpa and Grandma Brown owned acres of farmland complete with old barns and farmhouses to explore. Their land was situated across the road from the baseball field where the local Single A team played. The groundskeeper would borrow the riding mower for the grass, and in turn young Michael was hired as the ball boy for the team. Ten cents a ball was some good coin in those days. Other summers were spent visiting family in Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, Camrose, and Grandma Manyk in Edmonton, Alberta. The summer was fun in northern Alberta; however, the frigid winters were a haven for outdoor skating rinks and our all Canadian sport, hockey. After a day of tobogganing and skating, it was no surprise for Michael to return to grandma’s house with blisters on his feet and bruises on his elbows.

When Michael was a teen, he took the opportunity to visit Eastern Canada, including Montreal and Quebec City. The heat and humidity of the two cities was stifling, but the charm and old country feel made it all worthwhile. It was here, during a moment of culture shock, that Michael realized Canada contained a country within a country. While in St. Estasche, Michael experienced a storm of epic proportion, with hail stones the size of golf balls damaging everything in their path.

After high school, Michael returned to Alberta and spent several years working at the Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise. The majestic mountains of the Rockies were a stone’s throw away. During the summer months, Michael would hike the mountain trails of Norquay, Cascade, Rundle and Sulphur, or canoe lakes Minnewanka, Vermillion, and Johnson. Winters were spent on the slopes of Lake Louise and Sunshine Mountain, or touring the Columbian Ice fields.

Michael came home to BC and continued his career in the Tourism/Hospitality industry by working at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for over twelve years. It was at this famous hotel that he met Russell Mussio. Michael has been friends with Russ and Wes Mussio for fifteen years and has played hockey with the brothers for over a decade.

In 2009, Michael married his fiancée Kristina, and the pair travelled to his old stomping grounds of Banff and Lake Louise for their honeymoon. In May of 2011, Michael and Kristina were blessed with the birth

of twin girls, Olivia and Clara. Michael and Kristina look forward to the day that they are able to share with their girls all the beauty Canada has to offer.

In need of a career change, Michael decided to use his knowledge of Canada and the tourism industry, joining the Backroad Mapbooks team in the summer of 2010.