

# Conversation with Mike Truscott

MIKE GRADUATED FROM SELKIRK COLLEGE RESORT & HOTEL MANAGEMENT IN 2001. HE IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT VANCOUVER MARRIOTT PINNACLE DOWNTOWN HOTEL IN VANCOUVER, BC. MIKE SITS ON THE SELKIRK COLLEGE RESORT & HOTEL INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD.

1. What inspired you to go into the hospitality industry?

I was working at the Balfour Golf & Country Club and it was there that I realized I had a passion for the service industry. I did not have experience in hospitality at the time, but while researching a suitable post-secondary program, hospitality caught my eye.

2. Why did you choose to attend Selkirk College?

I had attended high school in Nelson from grade 9 to graduation in grade 12. On arrival to Nelson I instantly feel in love with the city and wanted to stay as long as I could. Selkirk allowed me the ability to stay in Nelson for another 2 years. I also liked the class sizes, which gave all students the opportunity to get to know their instructors and classmates.

3. Tell me about your experience at Selkirk in 100 words or less.

Selkirk was a wonderful and rewarding experience. I first started in the Silver King Campus and was lucky to move to the new Tenth Street Campus the following year. Tenth Street offered a larger space which opened new learning opportunities. Class sizes were well appointed, and instructors were very approachable and always available. As the first class to attend Tenth Street, we were able to assist with setting up Scholars Dining room (including picking the name). Since that time, Scholars has become even better and continues to offer a phenomenal "hands-on" learning experience for students.

4. What is your most memorable moment from your time at Selkirk?

My most memorable time at Selkirk was the execution of events. From the planning stage to final execution, it was rewarding to see hard work lead to extraordinary results. Working with different students who brought diverse backgrounds to the table was also a great learning experience.



5. How did Selkirk prepare you for your current position? (Director of Human Resources)

Selkirk did not directly prepare me for my current position but certainly indirectly prepared me by giving me the fundamentals to start my hospitality career and excel it to where I am today.

6. Do you mentor new people coming into the business and what are your thoughts on mentoring? Do you have any comments on anyone who was a mentor to you?

I make a strong effort to mentor new people coming into the industry. It is nice to work with people who are first starting. I especially enjoy working with students, like those from Selkirk who are on their work terms, to help each achieve the goals he or she would like to achieve by the end of their work term.

I have worked with a General Manager, Ken Cretney, in three different hotels. Mr. Cretney, who is the past Chair of the Resort and Hotel Advisory Committee, first recruited me from Selkirk and since that time, I have worked with Mr. Cretney at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff, the Delta Whistler Resort in Whistler, and the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel in Vancouver. Mr. Cretney has been a very influential part of my career and I owe him a debt of gratitude for his willingness to mentor me.

7. Is the hospitality business on the rise? What are your aspirations for the business and for yourself?

With the current economic conditions the hospitality industry is in for tough times. However, there will always be a strong demand for tourism. What will be most interesting in the next 10 - 20 years will be the variety of different hotels and resorts that we will see built. From different and unique architecture, to offerings that meet and exceed the always changing discerning clientele, the industry will always be on the rise in exciting ways.

For me, I definitely plan to stay in the industry moving to a General Manager position in a full-service hotel and then into the corporate offices of a large brand similar to Marriott.

SELKIRK COLLEGE MUSIC FACULTY SHOW

# come together

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 | 8:00 PM  
CAPITOL THEATRE NELSON BC

FEATURING 2008-09 SELKIRK COLLEGE (PERFORMANCE) STUDENTS

**TICKETS: Capitol Theatre and Eddy Music**

**TICKET PRICE:** Regular \$20.00 | Alumni \$15.00 | Students (with ID) \$10.00 | Seniors \$10.00 [General Seating]