



Go Chester

Never one to retire, Chester Ferris, 77, will continue to be doorman at Waterfront Beach Resort as well as take on duties as site manager for the Osoyoos Market on Main farmers' market held every Saturday.

"I'm 77, so what else am I going to do," said Ferris with a laugh. "I've already made enough money, been around the world and been on 32 cruises. So, I'll stay put in Osoyoos and work and have fun."

Ferris lived in the South Okanagan as a boy when his father worked at Smithers Motors in Oliver.

He got into the hotel business in the early 1960s and worked as a desk clerk at the Palliser in Calgary and manager of Canadian Pacific's Moraine Lake Lodge in Lake Louise.

He married into a farming family and spent most of his working life on Alberta and Saskatchewan farms until retirement in 2005.

However, it wasn't all work.

In the 1970s, he rode his horse, Nature's Ballet, in the 470-mile Western Canadian Endurance Championships from Regina to Calgary in 101 hours, placing second, and repeatedly did the 100-mile, 24-hour Tevis Cup endurance race from Lake Tahoe, Nevada to Auburn, California.

The horse completed the race five times, a record that still stands today.

Ferris also liked to drag race cars on the quarter-mile track with the Alberta Hot Rod Association and dabbled in politics as the president of Alberta Young Social Credit.

Ferris' latest bucket-list trip was driving across Canada in a convertible last summer.

"My philosophy is keep going and crossing things off the bucket list," he said.



Chester Ferris, 77, above, works as a doorman for Watermark Beach Resort and site manager of the Osoyoos Market on Main. Ferris, left, has a colourful past, including a stint in the 1970s competing with his horse Nature's Ballet in endurance races.