

## Big White owner passes away at 94

*by Grant Scott - Story: 73924  
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Desmond Schumann, the Patriarch of Schumann Resorts, has died

In 1985 Schumann and his company purchased Big White Ski Resort for \$4.5 million and turned it into the world class resort it is today.

His company spent millions upgrading the mountain, including the addition of high speed chairlifts capable of carrying up to six skiers at a time, replacing the slow and clunky double chairs which created seemingly endless waits at the bottom of the run.

As the ability to move skiers and boarders expanded, so did the need for accommodation, as more and more alpine enthusiasts made their way to Big White from across Canada, the US, Europe and Asia.

As a result, development blossomed and the resort grew with the addition of high end chalets, condos and hotels.

By 2005, the total assessed value of its approximately 2,000 deeded properties was [\\$515 million](#).

In 2001, Silver Star Mountain Resort was brought into the fold and it too, saw the benefit of increased investment as the resort underwent a remake of its facilities and lifts.

Nine years later, Silver Star would begin a stretch of four consecutive years in which it [set a new record](#) for the number of skier visits. It too, would experience the massive growth in the value of assessed property since the take-over.

Schumann first ventured into the mountain business when he purchased Mount Hotham resort near Melbourne in the early 1970s, transforming it into one of Australia 's premier ski destinations.

His company would sell this property in the mid-90's to concentrate fully on Big White.

Desmond Schumann was 94.