



**Name:** Brian Williams  
**Company:** Ashton Service Group  
**Title:** President  
**Resides in:** South Surrey, B.C.  
**Trade School:** British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)  
**Age:** 47  
**Family:** Wife, Julie; Children: Connor, Ashley and Abby  
**Service Area:** B.C.'s Lower Mainland  
**In the mechanical industry since:** 1980

After 23 years in the business, Brian Williams knows what a plumber's life is all about. "You're really on call at all times," he says. Williams' company, Richmond, B.C.-based Ashton Service Group, is a full-service contracting firm that primarily provides plumbing, heating and air conditioning service in both residential and commercial buildings. When not plying the trade, Williams is an active community volunteer. He founded the Brian Whatley Foundation, a fund for kids who can't afford to participate in sports programs, and sponsors and helps coach local hockey and soccer teams. Williams also drives a 2009 Harley-Davidson Road Glide. His interest in bikes goes back to Williams' best friend who passed away from cancer. "He sold me his Harley," says Williams. "We were going to ride all the time, so that's why I followed through with the new Harley. It kind of reminds me of him."

**Favourite car of all time:** 1967 Ford Mustang Fastback GTA 390



Photos: Brian Hawkes Photographic

**What brought you to the plumbing and heating trade?** "My father was a plumber and my first job was unloading box-cars for BC Plumbing Supplies."

**Favourite thing about your current job:** "Seeing our Ashton employees succeed and having fun."

**Kilometres logged per day:** 40 to 45

**Favourite place to get dispatched to:** "Downtown Vancouver, so I can stop in at GM Place and watch the Canucks practice or take in a game at night."

**The most useful tool in your toolbox:** "Definitely a flashlight."

**Tool that you wish you had:** "I have lots of tools, but I could use a mini-excavator. With a place up-country, I would use it to clear the snow."

**If you were granted one wish:** "Finding a home for all the children in the world."

**Favourite outdoor activity:** "Getting on my Hog and heading out on the highway."

**Favourite magazine:** "Mechanical Business, along with HOG (Harley Owners Group) magazine."

**Where have you taken your Hog?** "We went to Sturgis, North Dakota in 2009. This year, we rode to Laughlin, Nevada."

**Favourite performer:** Alan Jackson

**Best concert:** "The Eagles at GM Place. AC/DC was also good, but my ears are still ringing."

**Favourite TV show:** "The Late Late Show on CBS with comedian Craig Ferguson."

**Favourite TV station:** "Global BC and the News Hour coverage."

**Favourite actor:** Harrison Ford

**Favourite movie of all time:** On Golden Pond

**Favourite sport:** "Hockey and the Vancouver Canucks."

**Favourite season:** Summer

**Place on your wish list to visit:** "I would like to go to Asia, especially Tahiti."

**Blackberry or iPhone:** Blackberry

**Vancouver Olympics:** "We did all the plumbing, air conditioning and heating for the U.S. hockey team's dressing room. That was pretty sweet. The work was done from scratch and within a two-week time window. We also did plumbing and gas fitting for food and beverage hook ups."

**Community volunteering:** "There's nothing like the warm feeling you get driving home at four in the morning, and knowing you have made a difference with a person on the street who needs help."

**Place to hang out:** "Bikram Yoga studios in Richmond or White Rock, B.C."

**Favourite restaurant:** "SW Steakhouse, Las Vegas, Nevada."

**Favourite food:** Vietnamese

**Favourite snack:** Fruit

**What do you usually have for breakfast?** "Oatmeal and berries."

**Drive-thru restaurant:** "I usually avoid drive-thru. When I started out in the business, I promised myself that I would eat out for lunch as a treat. The Cactus Club is my top choice. They serve everything there."

**Where do you order pizza?** "A place called Emilio's."

**What toppings do you like on your pizza?** "Chicken, garlic, green onions and artichokes."

**Favourite hobbies:** "Looking to buy real estate and collecting old cars, but I don't refurbish them."

**Last book read:** The E-Myth, by Michael Gerber

**Last movie you saw:** The Blind Side with Sandra Bullock

**Favourite web site:** VoLo Auto Museum in Chicago [Classic and Muscle cars for sale]

**What has been the weirdest thing that has happened to you on the job?** "How about pulling a Grand Marnier bottle from a toilet? Under a sink, I also found a bag that had about \$80,000 in it. I gave the money to the people, and it was like they didn't even miss it."