

G. W. (Wayne) Braid

Pink Power?!

When the Magazine Committee and Val, our Editor, first came to me to say they would like to do an issue featuring women in BC—and call it **Pink Power**—I wondered what that was all about.

Would we be featuring men in a future issue called **Blue Power**?

The theme of Pink Power prompted me to think of the women in my life who have been influential.

Of course, my mother comes first to mind. A product of the Dirty '30s, she grew up in rural Saskatchewan during the Great Depression, where daily existence was the most important factor in her life—not education or recreation or time off. Survival and hard work were the ingredients of her daily life.

Every family member, no matter their age, had to be involved in helping the parents provide enough money just for basic needs. It was through this experience that my mother's work ethic, creativity, and character emerged.

My mother was fiercely independent and a creative and analytical thinker. While a formal education was not available to her,

she was a life-long learner. Her education came from knowing and understanding people; she carefully honed her skills of observation.

I am sure many of us can recall how our mothers managed a career, children, and often the majority of the home duties, as well.

During the years my mother raised me, she taught me to question often and to have confidence in myself and in whatever skills I developed. She taught me to respect all people and their positions and their way of life. She taught her children to work hard and not ask anyone to do something we would not do ourselves.

My mother was the first female manager of a Sears catalogue store in this country. She went on to become the first female regional manager for Sears; her responsibilities included British Columbia and Alberta.

She would often tell me how some male store managers were "put off" by having a woman supervisor teach them how to run a store. She would always laugh it off. My mother never resented those negative attitudes and just made certain that she continued to do the best job she knew how.



I am sure many of us can recall how our mothers managed a career, children, and often the majority of the home duties, as well.

I am privileged to work in this organization where over 56 percent of our members are women. On a daily basis, I am impressed by the intelligence, management skills, and professional abilities that our female Notaries exhibit and by the way they manage staff, their careers, and their community activities. And they not only handle their home responsibilities, they often play the major role of homemaker and manager of the offspring.

The pages of this issue showcase some terrific personalities and the tremendous accomplishments of some of our BC women. Pink Power? You bet! I don't know why the colour **pink** is applied to women. I think **multi-coloured** would be more appropriate!

My wife Laurie creates beautiful quilts made with myriad colours and ideas. They reflect the creativity of the moment or the day or the personality of the person who is receiving the quilt.

I see our female Notaries the same way—able to find balance in life and bring colour and experience to our Society and share with us their vision and impressions in a way that men never will.

I trust you will find this issue of great interest and education. ▲