

Ken Sherk



# Appreciation, Education, and Acceleration!

**O**ur Society held its Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting at Whistler on the weekend of September 24.

Two of our valued members were honoured for outstanding achievement within The Society and for their dedication to our Society.

- Dalminder Virk was celebrated as Notary of the Year for his contributions and time during the past year.
- Larry Stevens was named an Honourary Life Member of The Society for his longtime service as a Director and former President of The Society.

**Congratulations to you and your families!**

Conference 2007 was an overwhelming success, with over 158 members registering. More than half the members of The Society took time from their practices to attend and learn about new technologies and how they are impacting our practices and will continue to do so in the future.

Our membership is to be commended for the effort made for ongoing Continuing Education and for their strong and enthusiastic spirit.

On the final evening, The President's Ball—our formal dinner and dance—was attended by over 340 people, including BC Notaries and their families and representatives from the Notary Foundation; Wayne Robertson, Executive Director of the Law Foundation; Ron Friesen of the Continuing Legal Education Society; Barbara Palace, Executive Director of the Manitoba Law Foundation; LTSA's Tim Jowett; REIBC President Brenda Southam; Bob Reid, examiner for BC Notary students; and Dave Bilinsky from the Law Society of British Columbia.

The audience was entertained by comedian Patrick Maliha and the songstylings and music of Federico Fuoco.

Tim Janzen, our Notary from Kelowna—who advised he had not won anything in 30 years—was the winner of the Grand Prize donated by Oasis Hong Kong Airlines: a Business Class Trip for Two to Hong Kong!

Thank you to the membership, invited guests, spouses, and the children who attended.

The theme of the Conference was Technology.



The one area of interest that jumped out for me was *how fast technological change is occurring*. For your thoughts, the following shows how

quickly change has, is, and will occur in the future.

The first technological steps—sharp edges, fire, the wheel—took tens of thousands of years.

By 1000 AD, progress was much faster and a big shift required only a century or two.

In the 19th century, we saw more technological change than in the 9 preceding centuries. Then, in the first 20 years of the 20th century, we saw more advancement than in all of the 19th century.

The paradigm shift rate is currently doubling every decade and the rate of acceleration is itself growing exponentially. The technological progress of the 21st century will be equivalent to 200 centuries.

The pace of change is becoming so rapid, it's hard to fathom what life will be like.

To say we are not prepared for our rate of change is an understatement. Remember that the Web and Google did not exist in their current forms until a few years ago . . . and something called Facebook is about to change many of our lives in ways we cannot imagine.

Enjoy the Autumn weather. My predictions for Summer 2007 were correct. I don't think Summer truly ever arrived this year. Well, there's always next year. Until then, it's time to hunker down or fly south! ▲