

Phyllis Simon

Part of the Dance . . .

My first cruise experience, for The Society's 2002 Fall Conference, will be very difficult to top. When Society President Ernie Janzen announced on board that I was being given an award as Notary of the Year 2002, I was surprised. When the lights were dimmed and a documentary of my life rolled before my eyes, I quickly progressed from surprise to shock!

On the big screen, pictures of my childhood days moved into interviews with friends, family, and business associates. Scenes with my neighbours, my daughter, my staff, my mother, and my husband led into scenes from my city, my home, my office . . . good grief—from inside my kitchen!

Weeks later, after receiving a copy of the video from Wayne Braid, watching it from the safety of my livingroom, I was better able to appreciate all that had gone

into the making of the 16-minute clip of my life. Friends and family confessed to their part in the conspiracy to honour and surprise me. They are still laughing to think they pulled it off right under my nose without my catching them, and I am getting closer to complete forgiveness.

I had, quite honestly, never considered the things that I had accomplished. My life presented me with many opportunities, but years of illness had etched deep within my mind all the things I had been unable to complete; adventures I had not been able to enjoy; disappointments; frustrations; embarrassing moments when I had taken a face plant in the middle of some public place when my knee suddenly gave way; times I had missed sharing with my children; and things I had wanted to do but could not, due to physical limitations. The list was long and the negative record haunted me daily.

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The award itself was an honour. The video that was part of the award has become something it was likely never planned to become; it is a gift of great healing to me. No longer can the voices in my memory taunt me with all that *was not* . . . now the record is forever before me, available to be reviewed at any time. It shows all that was accomplished in spite of adverse circumstances. That is good reason to celebrate!

From now on, when I stumble, I am going to make it part of the dance! ▲



Editor's

Small World

When photographer Alastair Bird ventured to Chilliwack to shoot our page 3 feature of mountain-biking-Notary Scott Simpson, he thought Scott looked familiar. Scott thought Alastair did, too. They discovered they'd worked together as servers at Monk McQueen's restaurant in Vancouver 12 years ago—when Scott was fresh out of university!

Next Issue

Leadership



Premier Campbell and Wayne Braid

Our Cover Story interview personality for the Summer 2003 *Scrivener* is BC Premier Gordon Campbell. Feature articles will focus on the many aspects of Leadership.

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