



Are You Being Watched?

Welcome to the first issue of *The Scrivener* for 2003.

Over these pages, you will hear from many Notaries and colleagues about people who have had an impact on their lives.

Our theme of Mentoring, Coaching, and Role Modelling is timely, yet the process of people helping people is not new.

Scores of individuals in The Society of Notaries Public of BC give of their time and effort to help other members and their community.

I would particularly like to cite George Tanco, Stan Nicol, Leta Best, Larry Stevens, and The Society's Honorary Life Members.

- Bernard W. Hoeter
- Art Jacobson
- Lois M. S. Lambert
- Frank J. McKinnon
- Roy A. Bishop
- Vernon H. Hargreaves
- Jack Evans

For many, the benefits we have received from those we consider "mentors" remain with us. The sum of what they taught us and how they taught us is reflected in what we do today—in the way we perform in our professions and conduct ourselves in our personal lives.

As a young man in business, I recall a number of people who were my mentors, although I did not realize it at the time.

My first "boss people," Cliff and Faye Latimer, taught me the insurance business. Cliff taught me how to golf and Faye taught me customer service and the technical side of the insurance business.

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Larry Pruden, who was my mentor for quite a number of years, sparked in me the courage to strike out on my own to start my own business. Larry was the person who taught me that integrity was more important than the next sale. Larry also taught me how to deal with the bankers and accountants and the management at the insurance-provider level.

Mr. Lawrence W. Clay, the Terrace Notary who operated his practice and lived his life as an English Gentleman, had his own unique style and brand of humour. He taught me the value of self-respect and that upholding ethics was more rewarding than compromising just to make a dollar.

My son has taught me emotional intelligence—which is the ability to

think with your emotions and examine how you feel about a situation, then use your emotions to guide you through the decision-making process.

Other mentors come to mind: my friend Dick Evans, who gave up a very productive and respected career as manager of a big retail business to enter a business entirely new and unknown to him; my friend Tom Gingles, who came to Canada as an immigrant and whom I watched over the years use his personality and tremendous people skills to build a province-wide business and—most important—a support network of friends that virtually spans the globe.

Those are some of the people I have watched and learned from over the years. I have emulated some of the abilities and skills of these individuals and hopefully, have applied to my life those skills that work for me.

The interesting thing is that when I mentioned to these individuals that I consider them my mentor, all of them were surprised—even shocked. They never knew!

I think the message for all of us here is that each one of us is a mentor. We are being observed. Our actions are being followed. We are not only setting an example, but our business practice and our personal decisions are being copied and used.

What a responsibility!
Are you up to it? ▲