

Beverley Richards: Town and Country Girl

A 41st wedding anniversary gift for her grandparents, Beverley Richards was born November 27, 1958, at the Murrayville Hospital, Langley, BC.

After attending school in Aldergrove and Clearbrook, she graduated from Abbotsford Senior Secondary in 1976. Beverley had studied commerce with the aim of running her own office one day, although she was unsure of what that would be. From a large Catholic family, she loved caring for children and had thoughts of owning and running a child-care service.

At 19, Beverley moved to Fort St. John where she worked in a law office as legal and corporate secretary, bookkeeper, and conveyance secretary. The lawyer with whom she worked for 18 years was a very meticulous man. "His influence and advice guided me extensively," says Beverley.

In September 1996, Beverley went to work for Caron Moffat, the sole Notary in Fort St. John at the time.

Why did Beverley choose to become a Notary? To further her education, become self-sufficient, and provide a service to her community. And a second Notary was needed to serve the growing needs of Fort St. John and surrounding areas. She opened her Notary office on September 5, 2000.

For Beverley, the most satisfying aspect of being a Notary Public is having the ability to assist the public with their needs, especially the first-time homeowners. "They come to you with all sorts of questions, unsure of what they are doing, or what should happen next.

Some do not understand the process whatsoever; it's fantastic to see the comprehension when you explain clearly. They put their total trust and confidence in you to do your job right."

And she appreciates being able to bounce professional questions and ideas off other Notaries, and use the Notaries' private Website. She can always turn to Rick Evans and Executive Director/Secretary Wayne Braid for guidance. She also chats with lawyers.

Beverley lives 10 miles southeast of the boundaries of the city of Fort St. John, and loves it. She has lived in Fort St. John and area since 1977; her husband's family has been there since the early '30s. Bev finds the citizens of Fort St. John very friendly and accommodating. Life is fantastic.

The Fort St. John area certainly has a lot to offer. Located in BC's Peace Country, the town has a population of over 15,000; the two Notaries provide

services to over 45,000 people.

Fort St. John is the home base for the majority of BC's oil and gas and prairie agricultural industries. The city has a wide range of shopping, cultural, and recreational opportunities, and is home to an impressive cultural centre with a 400 + seat theatre and adjoining Internet-connected library.

The town boasts a full-service recreation centre, indoor leisure pool, curling rink, three challenging golf courses, ball diamonds, and many parks. Favourite activities include rodeos, indoor and outdoor equestrian events, bowling, boating, fishing, hunting, sledding, hockey, skating, dance, martial arts, and stockcar racing. One daily newspaper, two weeklies, an AM/FM radio station, and full cable/satellite serve the area. The district has over 20 churches, more than 40 restaurants, and 16 hotels/motels. It is a very energetic community.



Beverley still finds time to volunteer for community service activities. She has recently started volunteering a few hours each week at the North Peace Light Horse Association in their “Ride for Disabled.” She assists disabled persons, from age 3 to adult, to enjoy riding horses at the local equestrian centre. “It’s great exercise for me after sitting all day, an excellent stress reliever, and it’s wonderful to see the pleasure it brings to the participants,” Beverley says.

She is 1 of 4 supporters for a Spring 2003 benefit concert featuring a local singer. Admission is free; donations will be accepted to help the rising stars purchase recording equipment. The nearest recording studio is hours away.

For the past 15 years, she has sponsored the local Elks Club, sending children and families to the Annual Variety Show. She also sponsors the Fort St. John Hospital and Health Centre to raise funds for the annual “Be an Angel” campaign. Funds raised by this campaign are used to purchase much-needed

medical equipment for the local hospital and care centre.

Because her time is limited, Beverley is not involved in a “hands on” manner in as many things as she would like. It’s not hard to exceed 60 hours per week in the Notary office, with more hours at home reading and keeping updated on evolving policies and laws.

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Her special interest is genealogy, which has become her passion. “Or obsession, some would call it,” she laughs.

Bev lives on 10 acres in the country with 2 horses, 2 dogs, and 3 cats, and 1 husband. Her hobbies/interests are home, family, friends, and animals. “One of my horses has a lot of energy for those rides when you really want to run, and the other is quieter for a more passive

ride—depending on the day I’ve had.”

She is a member of the North Peace Light Horse Association. Each year she and her husband take in the Canadian Finals Rodeo—5 days in Edmonton, Alberta. It’s a spectacular event and a nice break from the office. She also loves working in her flower garden.

Beverley keeps Sundays free from Notary work to visit with friends and family. In the summer, they congregate, take pot-luck, and enjoy campfires and wiener roasts. “Whether you can hold a tune or not, you’re expected to sing when someone brings out the guitar.”

Most important to Beverley are family and friends. From a family of 12 brothers and sisters, she has 22 nieces and nephews, and 23 great-nieces and nephews. “We stretch from the Pacific to the Atlantic. In 1990 I organized our first family reunion. We now congregate every 5 years to meet the new additions and visit with the old. It’s a wonderful way to spend a holiday.” ▲