

Val Wilson



On Mentoring, Coaching, and Role Modelling

Can you name five people who have won the Nobel Prize or the Heisman Trophy? Most of us can't easily recall many of yesterday's heroes, but you probably can remember the names of teachers who guided your academic journey, and friends who helped you through difficult times.

"Role models" may not know they are being closely watched and admired from afar. In fact, most of us are unaware of the way we directly affect and influence others who are following our behaviour and emulating our style. It may be our attitude that motivates people to look up to us. Nanaimo Notary Rick Evans offers, "Positive thinking is essential! Put on your best face and let people judge you by your abilities and knowledge and the level of service you are willing to provide." A positive attitude also goes a long way to moving us through our day successfully and comfortably.

A BC Notary is always a role model—in and out of the office. At a recent meeting in Vancouver, Courtenay Notary Kate Greening met a gentleman who had clerked at a law firm in Calgary and was only a few courses away from a degree in criminology. He was most interested to hear Kate was a Notary Public and wanted to know all about her career. She was impressed to hear the man had already checked out The Society's Website with a view to becoming a BC

Notary himself. Always ready to step in, Kate offered him a few tips about the Notary application process!

Caring, supportive, and knowledgeable BC Notaries take the time to help others. It is simply a matter of course and courtesy to assist and to become involved when asked.

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Many decades ago, members of The Society of Notaries Public of BC initiated a mentoring plan to serve fellow Notaries in an educational role. Today, their more formal mentoring program is guided by Rick Evans, The Society's Education Coordinator. Marny Morin and Nancy Schick are also active in administering the good work of the process.

There is no substitute for having a quality executive coach or mentor. It's a must! In a 2002 study conducted by www.learningcircuits.com, business leaders identified that the key component of their professional and personal development was a personal mentor or executive coach. A high percentage felt this was the most important factor in their improvement.

It is invaluable to have a trained individual give honest feedback, hold the person being coached accountable, and provide objective opinions.

The Society's Directors and Officers have almost always been busy Notaries with their own practices, yet they still took the time to help newer members. The majority of BC Notaries today are contributing to the present and future success of their colleagues, friends, and community.

Society President Leta Best talks about her mentors and mentoring. "Since 1983, Zonta has provided me with wonderful role models and mentors. Through Zonta, I actively began to involve myself in public awareness and advocacy. My involvement afforded me the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to run meetings, communicate with people of all educational and ethnic backgrounds, and become a mentor myself. Zonta taught me that you not only have the right to dream, you also have the ability to achieve those dreams!"

The people we remember are the ones who care . . . those who devote their time and effort to making a difference for another person, the community, and even beyond.

We especially revere those who make us feel appreciated. That could be *your* first step to becoming a mentor. ▲