



POWELL RIVER NOTARY

*Leanne Rebantad:***“Messing About in Boats”***In Conversation with Val Wilson*

Leanne’s balanced lifestyle includes her work as a BC Notary, her role as mother of two active boys, and her interest in the activities of her Sunshine Coast community. She not only enjoys her current life, Leanne has impressive plans for her future!

The Scrivener: *You look very much at ease in these photos, Leanne. Have you spent a lot of time on boats?*

Leanne: Most of my childhood years were spent in Port Moody, boating on the waters of Burrard Inlet. I learned to sail on a little sabot. I saved my money for my first boat—a 10’ fibreglass cartop boat—and rowed around for a while until Dad bought me a 10 hp motor. I think he decided to do this after a friend and I rowed up Burrard Inlet to explore some foreign freighters, lost both our oars, and were rescued and brought home by one of Cates tugs!

The Scrivener: *That sounds scary, but fun—especially since your adventure had a happy ending. As a youngster, what did you want to be when you grew up?*

Leanne: A librarian. The idea of working with books still interests me. I also wanted to solve mysteries. When I was young, I was *obsessed* with mystery novels. I’m still obsessed with investigating things. What is *the real story* behind crop circles or Area 51? Maybe when I’m retired, I will have the time to check out more of these things. I love solving problems!

The Scrivener: *You are well suited to being a Notary! What events and people helped shape you into the person you are today?*

Leanne: I am constantly being shaped by people, experiences, and events that invite me or force me to change my positions, opinions, and outlook. There are too many to mention here. In 1991 I was hit head-on in a highway accident; I cannot believe how fortunate I was to survive. I realized at that time that you have no control over what might happen to you each day and that you should try to live more in the present.

A recent break-and-enter to my residence by drug-addict thieves showed me some of the flaws in our criminal justice system.

Certain books or films can leave a lasting impression. Ayn Rand’s book *Atlas Shrugged* had that effect on me.

The Dalai Lama has inspired me. He states we are one planet and must work to resolve conflicts in a spirit of reconciliation—always keeping in mind the interests of others—and that dialogue

is the only appropriate method to arrive at solutions for the problems and disagreements we face today.

The Scrivener: *The Dalai Lama is indeed a wise man. Let’s look back a few years. Can you recall your first job?*

Leanne: A lemonade stand in partnership with my best friend who lived next door. I don’t think we had a written partnership agreement. We probably just split the profits 50/50. The enterprise was highly subsidized by parents who provided the goods and materials. I can’t recall if we had a partnership dispute. We closed the stand before health and environmental authorities took an interest in the product.

The Scrivener: *What serious career interests did you pursue before you became a BC Notary Public?*

Leanne: I have been a real estate appraiser, a real estate salesperson, and a purchasing agent for a school district.

The Scrivener: *Why did you choose to establish your Notary practice in Powell River?*

Leanne: I had moved to Lund because of my former husband’s job. When we moved into Powell River, I opened a Notary practice.

I continued to live in Powell River because I enjoy the lifestyle and enjoy raising my children here. Due to the small population and the isolation, business can be challenging but I love the rural living,

the beaches, and kayaking. I can leave my office and be out in the bay—paddling my kayak—within 30 minutes.

For those of you who have not yet visited Powell River, Lund, Texada and Savary Islands, and Desolation Sound, I urge you to do so.

The sunsets are superb. Charter a boat and go fishing, sailing, or kayaking. Build castles in the sand on Savary Island, rent a bike and tour the dusty roads, then go swimming in some of the warmest water on the coast of BC. Oh, and don't forget to sample some of the local prawns, oysters, or clams.

While you are in Lund waiting for the water-taxi to take you over to Savary Island, visit Nancy's Bakery or the historic Lund Breakwater Inn and ponder the question, "Does Highway 101 start or end in Lund?"

The Scrivener: *Please describe a typical day in your busy life.*

Leanne: There is no typical day in my Notary practice; I am never quite sure who will walk through the door that day and what that person will want to speak to me about. That's probably what I like best about being a Notary. I think of myself as a juggler—and I do different things in different cities from time to time.

I am also a trained Arbitrator. I have been called upon to conduct hearings in various areas of British Columbia and the Yukon Territories. Sometimes these are documents-only arbitrations; I do not meet the parties or leave my office. My decision is made on the basis of the evidence sent to me by the parties.

I am a Provincial Court Civil Mediator and mediate intermittently in Robson Square, Surrey, Delta, and North Vancouver Provincial Courts. On various mediation and arbitration rosters, I am called upon for various cases from time to time. My time is very limited so I take cases only when I have the time to complete them. To stay current in these areas requires a great deal of time each year, but I really enjoy conflict resolution work.

I also take my younger son to karate and soccer each week.

The Scrivener: *What do you find particularly rewarding about your work as a BC Notary?*

Besides family and friends, I value life itself. Each day is a gift to be used as you best see fit.

Leanne: I like the days when I have time to sit and talk to my clients. I have learned a lot from them over the years.

The Scrivener: *How do you add balance to your life? What pastimes do you enjoy outside of your work?*

Leanne: I am usually listening to music or reading. I spend leisure time with my sons and my dog, play with my computer and my boats, and visit my family in Vancouver and Whistler. I am constantly travelling the triangle of Powell River, Vancouver, and Whistler. I love the way Whistler has developed. The Village has such a feeling of community, probably because people don't use their cars; they walk and bike. When I'm in Vancouver, my favourite pastime is meeting friends for dinner and going to our special blues place.

The Scrivener: *What aspects of community service interest you?*

Leanne: I am developing an interest in restorative justice and would like to give some time to this in the future. In the past I have helped my neighbourhood create a community water system and fire protection. I would also like to spend time teaching young people to sail and kayak so they have the opportunity to see how much fun this can be. As Toad said, "There is nothing—absolute nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

The Scrivener: *What do you value most in life?*

Leanne: Sunshine, beaches, and a tropical climate!

Besides family and friends, I value life itself. Each day is a gift to be used as you best see fit.

I value freedom. Freedom to speak and freedom of choice. We tend to take them for granted in this country. We need to remember that our freedoms could be taken away.

I have also come to value simplicity. I treasure my books by Edward de Bono and re-read them from time to time, to remind myself there are many different ways of looking at things. ▲



Photo: David Mohnreux