

Where Are They Now?

Vernon Hargreaves

Vernon Hargreaves was born in Vancouver in 1916.

After graduating from Fairview High School of Commerce, he worked in the real estate office owned by his father Harry Hargreaves. Harry became a BC Notary in 1922 and was President of The Society from 1943 to 1958.

Vernon joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1942 and served in the West Coast defence system before going overseas as an Artillery Surveyor. On VE day, he was transferred to the Army Legal Office to compile evidence for Court Martial cases. He returned home in the Spring of 1946 to work in his father's Notary office as accountant and legal steno.



Winter 1993 Scrivener, featuring Robert Laing (left), Bob Reid, and Vernon Hargreaves.



Vernon and his daughter Betsy Gibbons

Vernon received his Notary Commission on July 15, 1959, and continued to offer professional notarial services to valued clients in the Mount Pleasant area after Harry retired. Vernon enjoyed serving the public and participating in meetings, seminars, and other education programs for both the Notary and the real estate professions.

Much of his professional training was gained through a good legal library and many contacts of the legal profession. He was an excellent Notary; he was often contacted by many junior Notaries for advice and solutions to notarial challenges.

Vernon served as President of The Society from 1969 to 1971 and was appointed an Honourary Life Member of The Society at the Fall Conference and AGM in 1977. He was an Examiner for The Society from 1992 to 1996.

Wayne Braid, Executive Director of The Society, notes, "Mr. Hargreaves taught the Wills section of the course when I was enrolled in the Notary Preparatory program in 1986. The sessions taught by Vern were incredible. He had a tremendous ability to communicate his knowledge to the students in front of him and, with his

sense of humor, everyone always looked forward to the next day of instruction!"

"The historical records here at the Secretariat indicate that Vern was one of the most respected and revered members of our Society; he served his clients and our members for three decades."

Prior to his retirement in July 1989, Vern shortened his office hours so he and his wife Betty could take longer holidays. They enjoyed many wilderness trips via horseback, canoe, river-raft, and plane and travelled to other destinations by bus and train. They also flew to Britain and sailed by cruiseship in the Caribbean and to Alaska.

He was a member of the local Kiwanis Club for several years and, until recently, also enjoyed gardening, sport fishing in the Interior, and antique glass work. Vernon is currently residing at The Terraces at Fir and 7th Avenue in Vancouver.

Because he was educated both on a formal and informal basis, he would like to pass along a bit of the wisdom he has gained through experience: "Keep your mind active to the best of your ability. The knowledge you gain goes with you during your lifetime."

Vernon turns 90 this year. ▲