

Goodbye, Julie . . .



Julie Boness and her grandchildren in England

Leta Best



Our Julie Boness added a great deal of humour to her work at The Society office. When I heard her staunch British voice on the telephone and listened

carefully to her decisive answer to an obscure foreign-documentation question, she always brightened the moment—and brought an immediate and highly satisfactory conclusion to a stressful situation for a client.

Julie is very much missed, indeed.

Leta is a Past President of The Society of Notaries Public, a member of the Board of Governors of the Notary Foundation, and its Immediate past Chair.

Wayne Braid

Because I had served as a Director of The Society before I became Executive Director, I had some idea of the wit and humour of Julie Boness! When we chatted on the phone, she was always interested in the climate in Terrace and was aware of the flight challenges I had getting in and out during the Fall and Winter months.



During my first month or so at The Society office, in the old Vancouver Block building on Granville, I found my office far too warm and was always complaining about the heat! One day, I got busy and cut away the duct tape all around my window. I was able to get it open and prop it up with a book.

This proved too breezy and cold for Julie. She would come in, take away the book, and close the window. Visitors would comment on the breeze and how “Wayne’s office” was pretty cold, compared to the other offices. Julie’s comeback to such comments was, “Well, Nanook of the North can’t stand the heat!”

I came to appreciate Julie’s English accent, dry sense of humour, and quick wit. I miss her “Good Mornings” and her Nanook comments around the office.

Wayne Braid is the Secretary/Executive Director of The Society of Notaries Public of BC.

Marilyn Taylor

Julie was a very precious and caring coworker. During the past 9 years, we shared many laughs as well as a few not-so-happy times. Julie will be dearly missed by all the people with whom she worked and joked and laughed. During her illness, Julie never lost her sense of humour. I will always admire her courageous struggle. We now have to think of Julie’s passing as a blessing for her because she can now rest in peace.



Marilyn Taylor started with The Society in 1982 when Dr. Hoeter was Secretary. In 1986, when Stan Nicol became full-time Secretary, Marilyn’s work week expanded to 4 days. The workload increased because The Society had its own Insurance Fund and the Notary Foundation was incorporated. She currently assists Secretary/Executive Director Wayne Braid as Financial Administrator for The Society, the Notary Foundation, and the Insurance Fund.

Ken Sherk

My relationship with Julie can only be described in a note I wrote to her and to which she replied.



Julie (from your humble subject):

Would you kindly, graciously, and in your most eloquent manner—along with whatever platitudes go along with your wonderful bubbly and gleeful personality—have the enclosed documentation duly authenticated?

I, of course, being your humbled subject, thank you in advance for your kind, generous, and thoughtful consideration in reviewing and attending to this matter.

To which Julie replied:

Dear Loyal Subject:

After due consideration and appreciative of the deeply humble manner extended in your request, I deemed it worthy of my time.

Thank you.
Regally yours,
Julie Boness

May you rest in peace, Julie, and God Bless.

Ken is the current President of The Society of Notaries Public and a member of the Board of Governors of the Notary Foundation.

Cindi Hawkins

Life is not meant to be lived so that one arrives at the grave in a neat, well-preserved, fashionably attired body . . . but rather so that one goes through life in such a manner that when you meet its end, it is full-tilt, sliding in sideways, hair blowing in the wind, face full of exhilaration, eyes sparkling, messy, dirty, and used up . . . exclaiming “Wow! What a Ride!”



Julie did both.

Coming from Weymouth on the Dorset coast of England, Julie and her husband Clive settled on Vancouver's North Shore more than a decade ago. She fell in love with Canada and Canadians.

Being 1 of 6 children—and 1 of only 2 girls—Julie learned to be strong and to have fun doing it. I always laughed at tales she told of the antics of her youth—one of her brothers burned a haystack with her on it—and listened in awe about the now-famous concerts she attended. We shared much together over the 9 years of our friendship, including a Tom Jones concert.

As all women do, we loved shopping together. We would head out one day

on a weekend—usually the day Clive was watching a game of some type—and go in search of “bibs and bobs” for her daughter Sam or son Mike, who still reside in England.



Julie and her husband Clive

These trips were always interrupted by the “shiny things” we saw along the way. My, how they sparkled! Christmas shopping in September for gifts to be sent overseas was always the most fun. That was when we got to hunt for items for her grandchildren; she had six of them (the seventh is on the way). Julie didn't take me into toy stores too often because she would have to drag me away from pushing all the buttons or taking the latest toy out of its box. Through the smile, I would always hear “you are worse than my grandchildren.”

Julie taught me a lot over the years. She introduced my palette to many treats; jelly and candy bars from England were among my favourites. In turn, I introduced her to the best hotdog vender and many, many sweets, usually confiscated from me by Julie because I had too many.

The proper English lady that she was, Julie was always gracious. She taught me to be thankful for what I was given, even if it was 3 sizes too big. Julie knew it was given from the heart, so it was beautiful, no matter what.

The beauty of Julie, among other things, was her kindness and compassion; she held my hand and gave me courage when I was scared of tomorrow; she showed me compassion and gave me a shoulder when I cried; she gave me words of wisdom and never scolded when I acted a fool. She gave me a hug and encouragement when I needed strength not to fall. On our journey

together, she laughed with me and gave me her love.

I am truly honoured.

Julie faced everything head-on and her awful disease was no different. She faced it with grace and strength, for which we can all admire her.

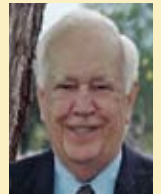
I still can hear her say, “Alright then, let's get on with it.”

She will be missed.

Cindi Hawkins joined The Society in 2001 as Coordinator of Member Services. She looked after membership and insurance dues, Notary student applications, and organizing various seminars for the Notaries. She is now senior compliance assistant with the Real Estate Council of BC.

George Tanco

It's never easy to say goodbye—more so when you have worked closely with a person.



So it was with me. In my capacity as Acting Secretary for The Society of Notaries Public, I worked closely with Julie, mostly for Authentications. Julie was always ready to help a Notary in need. She was responsible for administrating the Authentication of Foreign Documents.

During this period, she organized and clarified the Authentication system for our members. In times when documents were not as they should be, she kindly and respectfully would advise the member as to the corrections required.

Julie also earned a professional working relationship and respect for good documentation from various Counsel offices relative to Authentications.

Julie was often the public's introduction to The Society of Notaries Public, personally and by telephone. In this regard, The Society was well represented by a competent, professional, and friendly greeting.

Julie, you are missed.

Notary George Tanco is a longtime member of the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries Public and a Governor of the Notary Foundation. He was Notary of the Year in 2004.