

Wayne Braid

Today's Seniors: Enjoying the Journey



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Welcome to our very special edition of *The Scrivener* where we examine Seniors' issues from the BC Notary's perspective.

The Cover Story with my friend Leta and her mom will, I am sure, strike a cord with each one of us who has had similar experience with a beloved parent.

And you will enjoy myriad articles in The Mix section, including our usual technology and financial topics—plus contributions from guest writers.

You can't pick up a paper or a newsmagazine these days without reading some phenomenal statistic concerning Seniors. *Statistics Canada* says that as the Baby Boomer generation moves into their senior years, this age group will represent over 21 percent of the Canadian population.

The word *senior* means different things to different people. All I know is I am growing older and so are you. Time does not feel the same as it did 20 years ago. Our opportunities are shifting; our world is expanding—or not. Some friends are still around; some are not.

BC Notaries understand the changing demographics and are taking steps to ensure that Notaries in our province are educated and equipped to handle the expectations of our clients.

The BC Notary Society recently hosted a full-day seminar for our members. The entire program was dedicated to learning about present-day Seniors issues and the coming changes for the new generation of people entering that stage of life.

At this seminar, BC Notaries learned about the many resources available to assist clients with their needs for everything from Canada Pension information to supportive housing, health care, financial and pension planning (RRSPs RIFs, annuities, etc.), and many other challenges and prospects Seniors will face in their future years.

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We also learned that the Japanese don't have a word for *retirement*—they embrace the idea of a “second life.”

Notaries in every community around British Columbia serve the seniors in their town or city. Most Notaries have known these folks for many, many years. They have learned to trust our judgment and trust our ability to take care of their property needs. We also sign their passports as guarantors, swear various documents, provide them with their last Will and Testament, and draft their Power of Attorney.

Surveys show that when asked, people over age 65 in BC say they will visit their local Notary rather than another professional.

Our members tell me every day about something they have learned from a person who is their senior.

Let me share with you an interesting story I received from a friend the other day.

A very self-important university student attending a recent hockey game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

“You grew up in a different world, an almost primitive one, actually,” the student said, loud enough for many nearby to hear.

“The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, and man walking on the moon—and our spaceships have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing, and . . .”

He paused to take another drink of beer. The senior took advantage of the break in the student's litany and said, “You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young . . . so we invented them.”

That little story illustrates our need to remember the tremendous accomplishments, skill, knowledge, and genius that our previous generation has brought to our planet. In this issue of our magazine, BC Notaries celebrate and acknowledge the contribution of Seniors in British Columbia! ▲