

Cheryl Vavra



## The Class of 2009

### **A**n aspiring Notary, I recently completed the 18-month Notary Preparatory Course overseen by UBC's Sauder School of Business and The Society of Notaries Public of BC.

My classmates and I are the last group of students to graduate from this course. In the Fall of 2008, The Class of 2010 entered the new Master of Arts in Applied Legal Studies (MAALS) program delivered through Simon Fraser University. Thus, the Class of 2009 may soon be known as the Old School Diplomats!

With my career history in banking, real estate, sales, and my education history in justice administration and commerce, the Notary Preparatory Course rounded out my foundation to become a Notary. After writing my final exams in March, I will anxiously anticipate graduation day in May.

It has been a challenging and demanding period and I am certain all the effort will be worth it. But . . . how did I get here?

After 28 years of working for companies large and small, and at the prompting of a typical mid-life re-evaluation, I decided I wanted

to be self-employed and have more control over my life.

While I was exploring various opportunities, as Fate would have it, my father who lives in Calgary purchased real estate in Sicamous, BC, with the assistance of two BC Notaries. He found it a very positive experience and encouraged me to consider becoming a Notary. Once I discovered all the valuable services a self-employed Notary can offer clients, I was convinced, and began the application process.

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The Notary Preparatory Course was delivered through an online format coupled with mandatory seminars. The curriculum was exhaustively comprehensive and at times arduous. Weekly assignments demanded commitment and perseverance from each student.

The seminars provided opportunities for us to bond and socialize with each other (more like commiserate) and personally interact with our instructors. We were fortunate to have excellent tutors and teachers

who injected our studies with real-life anecdotes and practical applications.

The highlight of any journey is the people we meet. In addition to my exceptional classmates, I have had the opportunity to get together with many of the knowledgeable and accommodating Notaries on Vancouver Island.

I will be continuing my education by articling with local Notaries and learning about the realistic issues of operating a BC Notary office. My goal is to open an office in Sooke or perhaps Langford. Of course, referrals will always be welcome! ▲

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