

**Rick Evans**



## BC Notaries' Spring Seminar 2002: Education Sessions

To participate in an eclectic mix of topical issues relating to the Notarial profession and life in general, 135 members of The Society of Notaries Public of BC attended the Spring Seminar, held at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel in April 2002.

On Saturday, a member of the Commercial Crime Division of the RCMP on commercial fraud issues enlightened participants on a wide range of potential tricks and traps, from fraud committed in the forging of documents, the many attempts by con artists to help us part with our money, to the up-and-coming "cyber fraud"—where ease of communicating with large numbers through the Internet makes it so easy for con artists to find their victims. Notaries were particularly intrigued and shocked to learn how easy it is for "hackers" to access their computers, in the absence of properly functioning firewalls.

Also Saturday, a representative from the Homeowners Protection Office gave an overview of the function of the *Homeowner Protection Act*. Enacted after the failure of the Home Warranty Program, this legislation provides homeowners with insurance protection on newly constructed homes: two years on labour and materials, five years on the building envelope—including water penetration, and 10 years on the structure.

After dinner, the group was entertained by a hilarious improv duo

from Vancouver Theatresports League. An evening of dancing followed.

A presentation on ethics and stress was given Sunday morning by a professional marketing advisor who delivers a high-energy message, and tailors her remarks and examples to the Notarial profession. The session also presented participants with an opportunity to identify their own stressors to the general gathering; as it turned out, many stressors were common to the group.

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Four "high impact" sessions, each lasting no more than a half-hour, finished the Seminar. Each presenter delivered his or her information quickly, and supplemented the presentations with handout material.

1. **Marine Issues**, presented by Notary John Eastwood, highlighted the requirements for transferring ownership of registered vessels and dealt with float home registrations.

2. **Archeological Sites**, presented by a representative from the Archeology Branch of the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism, and Culture, focused on the effect a designated archeological site can have on development of land.
3. **Notarial Procedures**, presented by Notary Larry Stevens, introduced participants to the "proper" ways of drafting and attesting *affidavits* and declarations.
4. **Planned Gift-Giving**, presented by the CEO of the Victoria Foundation, outlined the many benefits of leaving charitable gifts through estate planning. ▲

Nanaimo Notary **Rick Evans** has been the Education Coordinator The Society of Notaries Public for the past six years. His duties consist of maintaining the new Notaries' Preparatory Course, arranging The Society's Continuing Education sessions, and fielding practice questions for Notaries throughout the province.

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# Notaries' Spring Seminar Dinner 2002

