



## Kate Greening: Free Spirit in the Comox Valley

Although they practise a block apart on “legal row” in Courtenay, BC Notaries Kate Greening and Margot Rutherford say they don’t feel like competitors. Colleagues and friends for years, they share a love for gardening and serving the people of their area in their profession.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Kate Greening spent her first couple of years in rural Manitoba, her childhood in Whitehorse, Yukon, and her teenage life in Sydney, Cape Breton. She attended the University of Winnipeg.

She and her first husband Don discovered the joys of Denman Island, BC. After Don was killed in a car accident on Denman in 1981, Kate quit her job at Davis & Company in Vancouver, where she was working as a litigation and marine law secretary, and retreated to Denman Island to heal.

Over the next few years, she fell in love—with the Comox Valley and with Matthew. He didn’t want to live on a little island and she didn’t want to leave the Comox Valley so the couple moved to Cumberland. [Ed. Note: Denman Island is part of “the Comox Valley,” as are the towns of Cumberland, Courtenay,

Comox, Black Creek, Merville, Union Bay, Fanny Bay, and Royston.]

Kate ended up working for Notary Bob Arnett in Courtenay as a receptionist, then as a conveyancer. She became his office manager, and eventually bought Bob’s Notary practice in 1990, when he retired.

### *Being a Notary is not just a job, but a life.*

Kate likes to help people—to help them resolve problems or buy a house. She especially likes the feeling of a job well done, whether it’s completing a complex land deal or a simple Will. The team of workers in her office certainly helps make this easier, she maintains.

Being a Notary is not just a job, but a *life*. People often speak to her in her garden and other non-business settings because they need her help. This year on her birthday, clients took Kate treats—flowers, prawns, and icy cold beer.

Kate is involved in the Rotary Club and was their first female President in the Comox Valley. It was a honour and a lot of work, she says! “The guys had told me that ‘a President always wears a tie’—so I did—as a hair ribbon, a belt, an armband.

When the tie thing became part of a newspaper article, I ended up with quite a few funny and interesting ties from clients. One from China, another from PEI. I still own about 42 ties!”

She is really involved in Cumberland—the village where she lives. The heritage aspect of this village is quite evident. Kate serves on a few committees and particularly enjoys working on OCPs, zoning, etc. A lot of her clients are from Cumberland—Cumberland reminds Kate very much of Cape Breton.

Her leisure time (when she can find some) is spent reading mysteries and gardening. Her flower beds are her salvation from the stress of the day. Kate and Matthew are adding a major addition to their heritage home, so life is quite stress-full! Kate’s cat Buddy loves to wander on walks through the gardens on their one-acre property.

“Most important in my life are Matthew and my family—not just my blood relatives—but the *community* family, my cat, and driving in my green Del Sol, with Blues blaring and roof down! Life is grand!!!” ▲

Voice: 250 338-1445

Fax: 250 338-6638

1-800-335-8338

kategreening@telus.net