

Profile of a BC Notary: Salmon Arm

Wayne M. Letourneau: Enjoying the Challenge

Born in Saskatchewan, Wayne Letourneau spent his formative years on a grain farm near Rosetown, a well-known grain producing area. Looking back, it doesn't seem possible that the family didn't have indoor plumbing until Wayne was 12.

Being raised on a farm provides an appreciation of the forces of mother nature and how humbling the results can be. What appears a bumper crop one day can be a gnarled mess the next, after the passing of a vicious hail storm.

The opportunity to watch the deer graze in the yard or catch a beautiful rainbow trout is a welcome respite for him and his wife Eileen.

Once a day-student at the Catholic Convent Separate School, Wayne says the discipline problems that exist today did not exist at that institution.

In the early '60s, his father sold the farm and the family moved to Salmon Arm. After graduating high school, Wayne lacked direction. Always a sports nut, both as participant and spectator, he decided to take up the teaching profession, with Physical Education as his major.

His assigned day during registration week at UBC was a Thursday; by then all the courses he needed were full. A friend was enrolling in the Faculty of Agriculture and suggested Wayne enrol there, too. Four years later, upon



Wayne Letourneau and Molly, his beautiful purebred Yellow Labrador Retriever. Molly is totally focused on Wayne's wife Eileen and the favourite squeaky toy she is holding.

graduation, Wayne accepted a position with the Provincial Ministry of Lands in the Fort St. John District Office. The territory covered by that office was huge—all of northern British Columbia. Needless to say, the area included diverse property types.

Working in the Fort St John area provided some very interesting circumstances, Wayne's entrepreneurial spirit took him back to Salmon Arm. He soon became involved in the construction and property development business with his family, and from there it seemed natural to get into the real estate.

During his years in real estate, as salesperson and agent, he found himself heavily involved in the organizational side of the industry. He has served as President of the Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board, President of the British Columbia Real Estate Association, and a Director of the Canadian Real Estate Association.

All was well until the early '80s when interest rates skyrocketed and the real estate market took a severe downturn. As luck would have it, an acquaintance Wayne had met through his association with Realty World suggested he consider the Notary profession. After a few months of procrastination, he followed up on that advice. Wayne wrote the Notary exams in the Spring of 1984 and received his Commission in June of that year.

He feels fortunate to be able to live and work in the community of Salmon Arm. The four distinct seasons provide a multitude of recreational opportunities. The town bordering famous Shuswap Lake is a little more than an hour away from renowned Silver Star Mountain. The Shuswap area is a retirement destination for Canadians and Europeans alike.

When his two children were attending elementary school, they walked a half-mile through an apple orchard every day. At recess, their dog Max would hear the kids playing and often would run over to join them. On many occasions, Wayne's son's teacher would

take pity on Max looking through the classroom window and invite him into class to "rest up" under Todd's desk until the next recess period. This is the type of community Wayne is proud to call home.

Because the Shuswap area afforded him an idyllic place to reside and an opportunity to participate in the business world, he has over the years attempted to give something back to the community in some small way. At present he is serving as Chairman of Salmon Arm Economic Development Commission and has served in the same capacity on the Board of the Shuswap Lake General Hospital. Minor hockey provided an opportunity to coach enthusiastic young hockey players; he now provides Notarial services to many of the former team members.

As the Notary practice has matured and the world of business has become more complicated, Wayne has found the need to escape more often. He enjoys spending many Spring through Fall weekends at their small acreage at Sheridan Lake in Fossum country near 100 Mile House. The opportunity to watch the deer graze in the yard or catch a beautiful rainbow trout is a welcome respite for him and his wife Eileen. This leisure time also provides Molly, their big yellow lab, with unlimited ball-playing time, on land and in the water.

The Notary Profession is a challenging and stimulating endeavour that provides an opportunity for personal and financial satisfaction. Wayne feels extremely fortunate to have taken the path to become a Notary Public. Through the last 19 years, he has provided a responsive, value-oriented, and simple-yet-effective service to the Shuswap community he sincerely enjoys.

He very much appreciates his extremely loyal and qualified staff of nine employees who assist in the day-to-day operation of the practice. Without staff dedication to ensure the work gets done—no matter how late they have to stay—Wayne wouldn't have built such a successful business. ▲

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Editor's

Due to Premier Gordon Campbell's demanding schedule, we were unable to coordinate arrangements for a Cover Story interview for this issue. We hope to provide this feature in future.

Next Issue Fiscal Designing and You!



Our Cover Story personality for the Fall *Scrivener* is Michael Campbell, respected financial analyst based in BC. "I think we are in the throes of the most dynamic changes for personal finance and investment in over a generation," Mike says. The issue will focus on Financial Planning, Planned and Charitable Giving, and Wills.

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