

# Meet the Board of Governors: Wayne Strandlund

**B**orn in Grey Nun's hospital, Regina, Wayne lived in St. Hubert Mission in the Pipestone Valley, just north of Moose Mountain National Park on the North Dakota border.

The Pipestone River is a tributary of the legendary Qu'Appelle, a sacred river. He completed primary school in Kennedy Saskatchewan, next to Moose Mountain.

Then the family moved a few miles northeast to Broadview, a CPR town with a famous roundhouse for servicing diesel engines. Broadview, complete with streets made of clinkers from old steam engines, lies on the Mainline, just north of the Qu'Appelle Valley above Crooked Lake.

From Broadview, the family moved to British Columbia, arriving in Victoria in 1962 on Wayne's father's birthday, August 14. Those who have seen *The Grapes Of Wrath*, the famous movie based on John Steinbeck's account of a family's trek to California during the Dirty Thirties, will have some sense of the family's passage to Victoria.

"We'd auctioned off most of our possessions, rented a '58 Dodge station wagon—complete with push-button transmission—and a small U-haul trailer, and we were off to the Coast . . . Dad, Mom, seven kids, my uncle Fred, and

our beloved black Lab Duchess. It was a hilarious trip . . . and very smelly."

In Victoria, Wayne attended St. Louis College, a boys school where he completed grades 10 to 12, then attended the University of Victoria, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.



Wayne has lived in Victoria since 1962. Although he has had many jobs over the years, his sole professional career experience since 1968 is in the real estate business and its many associated activities, including marketing, leasing, property management, construction, land development, cash and pension plan investment, mortgage financing, and handling of trusts and receiverships.

Wayne says, "Our small family

business is constantly evolving. These days, I find myself overseeing three mortgage investment corporations and handling more trusts and receiverships that relate primarily to real estate and mortgage matters and quite a number of land development and construction projects. We have close to 1000 home and commercial units on the go at the present time."

Wayne represents the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) on the Provincial Treaty Advisory Group (formerly the Treaty Negotiations Advisory Committee (TNAC) and is a member of the Real Estate Council of BC, a regulatory body.

Those activities keep him hopping. "Every day is jam-packed. Fortunately, I have excellent managers and staff (nine women and seven men) who make things pleasant and interesting. There are 16 staff in the company, including me. Eight are members of my family, including my three kids, my former wife, my brother Paddy, and a couple of nephews."

Every day is full and rich with new adventures, new possibilities, new problems to solve, challenges of all sorts,

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and well-earned accomplishments. “The most satisfying aspect of our business is that it is interesting, challenging, and rewarding and involves everyone pulling hard, cooperating, being inventive, taking personal responsibility, and having a lot of fun at it.”

When asked if he has a mentor, Wayne replied that ever since he met Lawrence Russell at university in 1969, he has considered him a mentor. “Lawrence was my tutor through most of my last three years of university study. He is my loyal friend, brother, teacher, and advisor. He is very wise and has a wicked sense of humour, being quick to spot the double meaning and irony in life’s many situations. He is a great thinker, his interests are wide-ranging, and he is deadly honest. Lawrence has had a tremendous impact on how I think and react to situations, always for the better. He taught me not to take myself so seriously.

“Am I a mentor? I’d like to think so, but that’s probably a stretch. I’m not a half-bad teacher and I am a loyal and faithful friend, qualities I believe are important in a mentor. But I don’t have that quiet, expansive wisdom that ‘mentors’ have. Whatever advice I can offer is within a narrow framework. My great friend, Valérie Whissell from Gatineau, has called me her mentor a couple of times, but I think it’s because she just likes me, as I like her.”

Appointed a Governor of the Notary Foundation of BC in March 2005, Wayne was “thrilled with the appointment,” he says. “It was a nice surprise.” He approaches his new role with considerable gusto, “although I have a lot to learn. It is a tremendous honour to be on the Foundation Board, particularly because I have great respect for the Notary profession and I am very fond of many Notary friends who have helped my clients and me, time and time again, over the course of my career.

“Like the Real Estate Foundation, with which I am familiar, the Notary Foundation is a ‘good works’ organization that grants money to worthy causes, particularly education and legal aid. I have always been involved in education and worked for many worthy causes, so

the Foundation feels like a good fit. I hope to be able to bring some value to the enterprise. Since I am ‘the new kid on the block,’ I do not have special involvements at this time. Our Chair, my friend Leta, knows I am not a very good bystander, so hopefully I’ll get some interesting assignments in due course.”

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in March 2005.**

When asked to tell us about his greatest career achievement to date, Wayne says, “It’s tempting to think that building a company from \$145 thousand in January 2000 to \$75 million in June 2005 ought to be a ‘greatest career achievement’ but I’m happy to say that is not the case. Of all the things I’m proud of, I consider the family orientation of our business my greatest achievement.

“With some planning, a lot of hope, and considerable good luck, I’ve managed to fashion a company and a business that allow me to spend nearly all my time very close to the family, especially my three kids. I can’t imagine anything better. I consider myself truly blessed to be in such a ‘special’ business environment. Within a few feet of my workspace are their three offices; I get to see them; talk to them; share their hopes, problems, and accomplishments; and learn from them all day long.



*Wayne's daughter Hali Strandlund*

“Since I like to be close to my family, it’s impossible to imagine a better situation. My kids, in their 30s, are highly experienced professionals who work hard, play hard, are well liked, are generous to a fault, and participate in the industry and our community in every way possible. My daughter Hali, the company’s President and CEO, is President of the British Columbia Mortgage Brokers Association and chaired its very successful annual conference and trade show this year.

“Besides my immediate relatives, I consider all my staff to be ‘family’; we all do our best to make sure that’s how it feels to everyone.”

Wayne is a past chairman of the Board of Governors of the Victoria Conservatory of Music and an immediate past director of the Victoria Symphony. He has spent many years participating in his favourite area of the cultural experience: music. His family has recently sponsored the nine-symphony Beethoven Festival, which was a huge success with six concerts over 10 days and a special gala concert at the Royal Theatre, where over \$80,000 was raised for the symphony. Next May they are sponsoring the five-concert Mozart Festival to celebrate Mozart’s 250th birthday. The Mozart birthday bash is the family’s special gift to Victoria and the whole world is invited!

Wayne has been a member of Open Space, a Victoria arts organization, and a director of the Pacific Rim Artisan Village Foundation in Chemainus, the City of Murals.

His family has also sponsored many sports events and various teams over the years.

“Involvement in the culture of our community is not an option; it is an essential part of our everyday family—and business—life.” ▲

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## The 12-member Board of Governors of the Notary Foundation of BC is comprised of:

- eight members of the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries Public of BC;
- one representative from the Attorney General's office in Victoria;
- two Directors-at-Large, appointed by the Attorney General; and
- the Executive Officer.

The eight members from The Society are elected by the Directors of The Society from among their ranks, for a three-year period.

### Current Governors

**Leta C. Best:** Chair

**William G. Anderson**

**Susan Davis**

**Christopher W. Dupuis**

**Laurie Salvador**

**Ken Sherk**

**Larry Stevens Sr.**

**George J. Tanco**

**Robert Adamson:** the Attorney General's Representative

**Jennifer L. Harry:** Director-at-Large

**Wayne Strandlund:** Director-at-Large

The Governors of the Foundation have the responsibility of guiding the Foundation in its mandate to disperse the funds generated by interest on Notaries' Trust Accounts for the following purposes.

1. Legal education
2. Legal research
3. Legal aid
4. Education and continuing education for Notaries and applicants who have enrolled to become BC Notaries
5. Establishing, operating, and maintaining law libraries in BC
6. Contributions to the special fund established under the *Notaries Act of BC*

G. W. (Wayne) Braid, Executive Officer of the Foundation, is responsible for administration of the office, staff, and the diverse investment funds of the Foundation.

The Board of Governors meets quarterly to consider applications for funding from various organizations and to set policy, review the Foundation's financial status, and provide direction for the administration of the Foundation.

**\$11,847,673**

10 MILLION

8 MILLION

6 MILLION

4 MILLION

2 MILLION



\* Contribution to date from the Notary Foundation of BC to the Legal Aid Society of BC.

Source: Interest earned from Notaries' trust accounts (the *Notaries Act of BC*)