

Val Wilson

Allied Professionals: BC Lawyers



Allied Professionals enjoy collaborations between and among organizations for the good of the people of British Columbia.

Our Winter 2005 issue focused on BC Land Surveyors, members of the group of Allied Professionals who work in the daily realm of a BC Notary Public. In the Summer *Scrivener*, we feature BC lawyers and the human side of the law—the people behind the profession.

Notaries' and lawyers' services can complement each other or these individuals may work in the spirit of healthy competition and professional courtesy.

BC Notaries are permitted by statute to handle non-contentious legal matters. (Please see page 63 for the list of services a Notary can provide in our province.) The extremely challenging Notary Preparatory Course is followed by a period of articling and ongoing continuing education.

Bob Reid talks about the education of the two groups, with regard to property law.

Before I retired in 2003, I taught the

law relating to the BC title registration system and the basic principles of property law to law students at the UBC law school for 25 years. Also, for the past 15 years I have taught the Notary students the same law and basic principles.

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On reflection I do not think the differences taught to, and examinable by, both groups are all that great with respect to the basic principles and legal issues relating to property law in BC.

Law students study the principles and issues in greater depth and cover a greater breadth of property law issues. For example, Notary students are not required to learn the law relating to future interests and the rule against perpetuities. It is debatable, however, how many law students actually understand these issues of property

law. And both groups are taught the peculiarities of the unique 'Torrens' system in force in BC whereas, to my knowledge, law students at law schools in other provinces are not taught these unique peculiarities.

One area of common ground for Notaries and lawyers is that both groups need support staff with the skills and abilities to assist them in their offices. Our Spring Cover Story focused on Camosun College's Legal Assistants Program in Victoria. Other recipients of a scholarship and bursary from The Society are Vancouver's Langara College and the Capilano College Institute of Paralegal Studies Diploma program in North Vancouver, who also provide quality training. Graduates "have found satisfying careers and their employers an efficient means of delivering legal services to their clientele," says Margot Spence, new Chair of the Institute.



Before studying to qualify as members of The Society, many individuals have had years of experience in professions such as real estate, insurance, and law . . . all allied professions to our BC Notaries! ▲