

Leta Best



President's Theme for 2003: Looking Up and Out, Not Down and Back

The theme I have chosen for this year ties in admirably with the focus of this issue of *The Scrivener*. How does **looking up and out** dovetail with **Roots**? Roots are the beginning, the starting point. Without the stability of good, strong roots, we don't have the foundation that enables us to look up and out.

Notaries' roots are long and deep. Throughout recorded history, Notaries Public have been integral to the expansion of the world. While we BC Notaries seek to expand our global relationship with Notaries in many countries, we continue to explore ways we can better serve our communities at home.

Throughout the province, members of The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia enjoy a trusted relationship with the residents of our respective areas. The goal of BC Notaries is to serve the needs of the public. Notaries can complete the conveyancing on your real estate transactions, assist you with your Wills and Powers of Attorney, and attest to the many documents that require notarization.

[Please see page 5 for a full list of the services BC Notaries can provide.]

When I was a young Notary in the '70s, widows often came into my office to attest the Probate papers of their late husbands. They came alone or with their children. The children would want the widow to give them Power of Attorney so they could handle the parent's daily affairs.

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In talking with the widows, I discovered many had never participated in the work force, and had no business experience. Because their husbands had always taken care of the family's accounting, some of the widows didn't know how to write cheques.

In my office, I would encourage a widow to do her own banking and bill

paying. If she seemed hesitant, I would go with her to change over the household accounts and assist her in handling her affairs on her own. A number of these ladies later returned to thank me for helping prove they weren't yet over-the-hill.

As our government services diminish, many people today are finding they don't possess the education or experience necessary to handle all their affairs by themselves, all the time. BC Notaries have the positioning in the community to fill the void left by the downsizing and closure of government offices. We can help the members of our community reach the next level in handling their own affairs.

To meet the increasing needs of our communities, Notaries require expanded powers that will enable us to serve the needs of our clients more fully.

What noncontentious legal services would you like *your* local Notary Public to provide, to assist you in your day-to-day living? ▲