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Notaries: At the Roots of British Columbia

On behalf of the staff of *The Scrivener* and The Society, and the members of The Society of Notaries Public of BC, I welcome you to another great issue of *The Scrivener*.

Our thanks to the many writers and contributors to this magazine, to the committee that oversees the operation of the magazine, our valued advertisers, and last, but not least, Val Wilson, who provides the expertise to make certain that each and every issue is unique in its educational content and information. And of course, a big thank you to our readers. Every issue brings comments from you on how helpful, informative, and useful our magazine is. Comment on articles may be sent to Val at scrivener@notaries.bc.ca or to me at gwb@notaries.bc.ca.

On page 31, Second Vice President Ken Sherk and I present a significant cheque to Mark Benton, Executive Director of the Legal Services Society, which provides services to the people of BC who can't afford legal advice, legal education, and legal representation. The amount contributed by BC Notaries to date is over \$10 million.

This issue of *The Scrivener* reminds us of our "roots," which are set on a foundation of knowledge, security, and confidence. Our heritage reflects the strong spirit of Notaries and how we became a distinct group of professionals in this province.

There are two things we must give our children: roots and wings. Observing my children establish their own families,

belief systems, and community involvements, I have learned that a lot of different things make up their roots. (Of course, when I talk to my grandchildren about roots, they think it's a cool clothing store that sells hats that snowboarders wear backwards!) Family history and events, financial stability, emotional stability, integrity, and work ethic all make up the roots of a family.

BC Notaries, in 1865 and today: good people to know!

As The Society has celebrated our 75th year of incorporation in BC, I have taken some time to read about the people who've planted the seedlings of our Notary culture. The following quotation was taken from the *Journals of the Colonial Legislatures of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1851, Volume IV*.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook, from the Select Committee appointed to draw up a Report and who recommended the adoption by the Council of the following Resolution, said, "on second reading that His Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint, or recommend for appointment, Notaries Public for this Colony. On the question being put, it was carried nem.con."

BC historical records show us that through the 1800s, Notaries were active in

the business of the colony and in the social life and times of the developing area.

- In Victoria, by way of a letter dated 23 March, 1865, Mr. John Copland petitions the governor to appoint him as a Notary because the only other Notary for Victoria had now left the territory.
- A letter to the Governor of the Colony, dated 31 August, 1865, requests an appointment to act as Notary for the City of New Westminster. Letters from Government House by the Hon. P. I. Hankin, Colonial Secretary, confirm the appointment of Mr. A. (Alex) E. B. Davie as a Notary in and for the Colony.
- Documents dated May 1870 indicate Notaries were involved in many business transactions. One set of documents gives details of Mr. Robert Bishop of Victoria requiring such a commission because his occupation of solicitor was not sufficient for him to conduct certain business between the Colony and England.
- The first Notarial Register we have found is dated 1864–1865; it contains the names of the Notaries appointed in those formative years of the new Colony.

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What noble roots and foundations are we establishing for those who will read, 120 years from now, what has transpired with Notaries and the business community of British Columbians? ▲