

Chris Dupuis



# Charting a Course for 2005

**F**irst, I want to say how privileged I am to be serving as the new President of The Society of Notaries Public of BC.

It is not only a great honour, it is *exciting* to work with such great people—Wayne Braid, the Secretary/Executive Director; the staff of The Society; the Board of Directors, who have shown exceptional stewardship the past two years; and the membership at large.

This is a very stimulating time for our Society, one filled with great expectations.

This time of year, we take stock and look back on the past year to see what we have to be thankful for, plan for the coming calendar, make resolutions, and set goals for what we hope to accomplish in the year ahead.

No different than most, I sometimes struggle at the thought of putting my goals and dreams on paper for fear of a failed outcome . . . which brings me to the apprehension of writing this article.

**What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us.**

***Ralph Waldo Emerson***

I have always been drawn to the famous authors of the last century for inspiration when I have to make a toast or give a speech and, in what was the most unfortunate of situations, present the eulogy at my best friend's funeral after he died at 40, widowing his wife with three children under the age of 9.

For this article, I choose two of my favorites.

“Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

*Mark Twain*

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us.”

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Both Twain and Emerson wanted us to look beyond the boundaries that we seem to set for ourselves—or let other people set for us—and risk a little to succeed . . . to look within yourself to discover the courage and strength to do something different—or the same thing in a different manner.

This year, I trust that you plan to make new contacts in business, expand the horizon of your influence, and make your already great work environments even better, for yourself and your staff.

My New Year's wish is a healthy, happy 2005 for you, your families, staff, and clients. As you make your plans for the year, you may want to heed the advice of Messers Twain and Emerson. I know I have . . .

So I will see you at the dock. Mine is the tall one with all of my family and friends on board, the music blaring, and the big, bright sail. ▲