

# About Chris Dupuis

**C**hris Dupuis was born September 4, 1959, in New Westminster, where he attended K to grade 12.

“Most boys who grew up in New West in the ‘60s and ‘70s played hockey, lacrosse, and rugby. My parents said it kept me off the streets and out of jail,” laughs Chris.

After high school, Chris worked a year at the mill on Annacis Island, pulling lumber off the green chain—one of the most physically demanding jobs at a mill—and received a phenomenal education in hard work. He worked a year-and-a-half as an automotive and industrial parts salesman, where he learned a lot about human nature.

At the BCIT Business Faculty, Chris studied Marketing Management, then moved to Urban Land Economics at UBC Faculty of Commerce. While at school, he managed his friend’s New West sporting goods store and worked at The Keg. “After earning my Masters degree in the study of people and the art of partying, I went to work in the family business.”

His father Jerry Dupuis was a Notary Public who owned a general insurance agency and one of the only independent real estate companies in New West. Chris challenged both the real estate exam and the insurance agent’s exam and was successful on both counts.

In June 1983, at age 24, Chris became the youngest-ever BC Notary at the time. “My father was a Notary and it seemed like a great profession. I was always quite interested in the law and real estate, so it was a good fit. At the time, Notary Bill Mackay, former deputy registrar at the New West land registry, was thinking of retirement. As fate would have it, I attended two interviews: one with the Secretary of The Society and one with Mr. Mackay, whose Seal I acquired.”

Mr. Mackay offered to help Chris

prepare for the Notary exams. Mrs. Mackay would provide a plate of cookies and a quart of milk and Chris would sit at the Mackay’s kitchen table “where Mr. Mackay would review statute law, contract law, and his favourite, the *Land Titles Act*, which he knew backwards. In all fondness, Mr. Mackay was tougher than any Prof I had at either BCIT or UBC.”

Chris chose to practise in his home town. Although the Sullivans on his mother’s side were a pioneering family in Surrey, Chris’s mother was born in New West and his dad moved there when he was three. “It just made sense to stay and carry on the family tradition. My children were both born in New West and I am proud to say we are fourth generation.”

To Chris, the most satisfying aspect of being a Notary Public is helping people solve problems or, as he likes to call them, situations. “I like dealing with people that for the most part are excited to be doing something involving change. I like being a very positive part of that process.”

A member of The Society’s Board continuously since 1990, the year his father died at age 59, Chris has served on the Board of Governors of the Notary Foundation for eight years. “I enjoy all aspects of Board governance and am proud to serve this self-governing organization. It is a great privilege that I take very seriously. I trust that as an organization, we can steer the current and future business environment of The Society to an even better place.”

Chris helps coach his younger son’s hockey team. His past civic service in New Westminster includes the Massey Theatre Board of Directors, Municipal Police Board, Arts Endowment Board, and the Fire and Safety Board.

A devoted husband and father, Chris is health conscious and active in sports. “A balanced life is essential for mental and physical well-being and happiness,” he maintains. ▲

## Editor’s

Many thanks to Vancouver Notary Carolynne Maguire for the excellent articles she has contributed to *The Scrivener*. We have appreciated her fine efforts.

## Next Issue Spring 2005: Education



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At Victoria’s Camosun College  
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Our Cover Story will feature (left) **Dr. Liz Ashton**, President, Camosun College; **Josje Andmore**, Program Leader, Legal Support Programs, School of Business; **Susan Haddon**, Director of College Relations & Development and Executive Director of Camosun College Foundation; and **Leta Best** and **Wayne Braid**, respective Chair and Executive Officer of the Notary Foundation of BC. The interview will focus both on the comprehensive training offered to people planning to work in the offices of BC Notaries and lawyers and on the Notary Foundation’s contribution to the program.

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