

Margot Rutherford



Recollections *on* **Dr. Bernard Hoeter**

In 1975 and 1976, I had been going through the application process to become a BC Notary Public.

It seemed to take forever . . . then I received a letter in the mail to appear at The Society's office in Vancouver in February of 1977 for an interview. I was, at that point, almost 9 months pregnant with my first child and unable to operate my car for long trips. My father drove us to Vancouver.

I was on time for my interview with Dr. Hoeter. Because he was extremely busy, I sat in the reception area and spoke with his assistant about my hopes and fears. These were my concerns.

- I am a woman and that might inhibit my chances over the three other applicants for the vacant Notarial Seal for the City of Courtenay.
- I am too young.
- I am starting a family.

Dr. Hoeter's assistant reassured me that The Society was looking fondly upon young women applicants those days; it was no longer an Old Boys' Club. And pregnancy was not an issue.

Eventually Dr. Hoeter was free to see me and we settled at his desk. During our interview, which lasted no

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A year after my daughter was born, I was invited to travel to Vancouver for pre-examination lectures that would last a week. The Class of '78 was a great bunch: loud, happy, and funny. Dr. Hoeter seemed to select a person in the group to hurl questions at and, of course, that individual almost never had the perfect answers and was teased relentlessly by our teacher.

Our classmates met at annual conferences regularly after that. We all held—and continue to hold—a quaking respect for Dr. Hoeter. I observe that whenever he walks into the room, we Notaries stand a little taller. ▲

Margot Rutherford practises in Courtenay, BC.

Voice: 250 338-6251
mrutherford@notaries.bc.ca