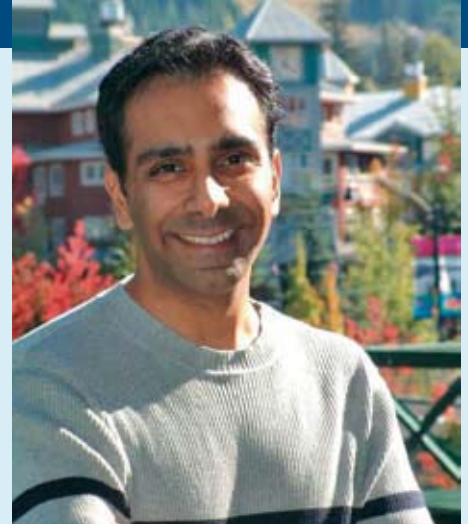


Dr. Hoeter and I



In our lives we meet people who have such an influence on us, we can't imagine what our lives would be like, had we not met them.

Dr. Bernard Hoeter has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. He was Secretary of The Society when my father Tarlok Sablok became a Notary in 1977.

My earliest memories of him were his encouraging words to my father, advising him to work hard and honest in his new profession. My father, a very hardworking man already, kept Dr. Hoeter's words in mind and has been very successful.

My father taught me to work hard and be dedicated to the profession and Dr. Hoeter has always inspired me to keep that up. My father and Dr. Hoeter both had the same knowledge to teach me; they just had different methods of getting it across.

When I started my studies as a Notary in 1995, I was fortunate to have Dr. Hoeter as my tutor. Other Notaries told me I was a brave man—and I couldn't figure out why. Dr. Hoeter is such a sweet man, I thought. Nothing to worry about. Boy, was I in for a surprise!

My first class with him was in the evening; it was to be about general

conveyancing. I came in with my books, my cheery smile, and pen and paper, ready to go. He sat on his favourite chair, looked at me with this stern gaze, and said, "Get ready to learn Latin."

At the end of the hour, my books sat closed, my grin was now a tired look, and my pen and paper were new and blank as when I had bought them in.

I am hopeful I can pass on some of his teachings to my children and future notarial students. That is a gift I can give to him for all he has done for me.

At home, I told my father what had happened and he just smiled. I asked him how he could do that after hearing what I had just gone through! He said that what Dr. Hoeter had done was prepare me for more than studying to be a Notary; he was preparing me for *being* a Notary. I sat confused.

My father said that as a Notary, it's not only what you learn in your textbooks, lectures, and classes, your general knowledge about the profession and knowing how to handle unexpected events will help you better practise as a Notary.

In my next class with Dr. Hoeter, I listened to his expert words about how Notaries came to be and what the Notary Seal meant. And I tried to pick up as many Latin words as I could. Each session became easier and more interesting.

Finally it was time for me to write my exam and, to be honest, I didn't know who was more nervous—Dr. Hoeter or myself. He was acting like a proud father.

I passed my exams and attended the Luncheon held for new Notaries. Dr. Hoeter didn't say a word to me. He just smiled. That told me everything.

I started my practice and have been using the guidance I received from Dr. Hoeter ever since.

I am fortunate to say I continue to sit with Dr. Hoeter, listening to his stories about growing up in Germany, his many travels, his knowledge of wines, his experiences while practising as a Notary—and yes, having the occasional Latin lesson.

His encouraging words and motivation are a big part of my life and my family's life. And he never forgets my birthday!

I am hopeful I can pass on some of his teachings to my children and future notarial students. That is a gift I can give to him for all he has done for me.

Thank you, Dr. Hoeter. ▲