

Val Wilson

Old School Excellence *and* High Standards

Newcomers to our province are surprised and no doubt pleased to learn that Notaries in British Columbia can assist with many noncontentious legal matters.

In all other jurisdictions in North America except Québec, Notaries mainly notarize signatures.

To see the nature of the work BC Notaries are permitted to perform for their clients, please note the column at the left.

Each year, approximately 1500 men and women apply to The Society of Notaries Public of BC to become notarial students. On average, 20 are accepted.

The BC Notary education process is intense and challenging. But, as Akash Sablok tells us in his article on page 23, there is more to being a successful Notary than high marks on assignments and statutory examinations. One of his mentors was Dr. Bernard Hoeter, who continues to serve as a strong role model for BC Notaries.

Some Notaries use the word *nervous* when referring to the way they felt when first meeting with him.

Dr. Hoeter's standards are high and he certainly speaks his mind. I see that as a natural extension of his complete mastery of his

avocation. He is determined that things be done correctly and properly and encourages those around him to strive for those values.

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And, as you will learn in our Cover Story, Dr. Hoeter has always had the ability to see the Big Picture.

Here's a comment from Abbotsford Notary Robert W. Simpson who enjoys a family practice with his sons Dean and Scott:

Bernard Hoeter was a tireless worker for The Society. When first appointed Secretary, he was also running a successful notarial practice. He was a doer and expected no less of you. And he was a wine connoisseur. It cost anyone dearly when dining with him. He ran The Society with a firm hand.

New Westminster Notary Chris Dupuis, our Immediate Past President, has this to say about "The Good Doctor":

I had the privilege of being exposed to Dr. Hoeter as a very young 23-year-old notarial student. To say that he was intimidating would be a gross understatement; I was quick to learn he did not suffer fools in any manner but that he was fair and even-handed in dealing with all matters.

It was quite evident from the beginning that Dr. Hoeter was not

only proud of our profession but extremely protective. He used his larger-than-life presence to instill confidence in our members and the public.

Over the past 24 years, Bernard has become a close friend of my family. He has taught me some of the finer lessons in life including how a great red wine should taste and what pride and friendship should feel like.

Dr. Hoeter is a gentleman of the Old School—when excellence was expected and respect was hard-earned.

Thank you, Bernard, for your indefatigable efforts and for caring so much! ▲



Year of the Pig, February 9, 2007

Floata Chinese Restaurant
180 Keefer Street, Vancouver
6:30 PM \$40 per person

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