



Congratulations to **Larry Stevens Sr., The Society's Newest Honourary Life Member**

At the BC Notaries' Fall Conference 2007 in Whistler, Larry Stevens was named an Honourary Life Member of The Society.*

He is in good company. Other Honourary Life Members are Dr. Bernard W. Hoeter, Lois M. S. Lambert, Roy A. Bishop, Vernon H. Hargreaves, and Jack Evans.

"I wish to thank The Society for bestowing this award upon me. It is a great honour."

Born in Vancouver, Larry Stevens grew up in the East End and North Burnaby. He met his future wife Janice at Burnaby North High School.

After high school, Larry joined a Canadian chartered bank and worked for 8 years at branches in BC.

His mentor was his father-in-law, the late James L. Robinson Sr., a Notary Public for the District of Coquitlam and President of Brunette Agencies Ltd., a real estate and insurance agency.

One day in 1969, after Larry expressed some dissatisfaction with his work at the bank, his father-in-law, said, "Why don't you quit that bank and come to work for me. I'll give you a \$100.00 a month raise."

It took a few days of thought but, in accepting his offer, Larry and Janice say they made one of the best decisions of their young lives. Larry became a conveyancer in James Robinson's Notary office. He began to

learn the real estate profession and spent the next 7 years at night school and UBC taking the Urban Land Economics course. His goal was to become a BC Notary Public himself.

Larry applied for membership in The Society of Notaries Public of BC but was told there was no possibility of another Seal being placed in Coquitlam, where he wished to practise. In 1976, he received a call from his father-in-law—a member



Larry with Society President Ken Sherk



Larry thanking The Society for his Honourary Life Membership

of the Board of The Society at the time—to inform him that the Board would assign a Seal to Port Coquitlam, if Larry could be ready to sit for the exams in 4 months.

The rest, as they say, is history. Larry practised in Port Coquitlam until 1994, then wishing a slower pace, transferred his Seal to Princeton.

Larry's proudest moment came in 2001 when their son Lawrence E. Stevens Jr. was sworn in as a member of The Society of Notaries Public of BC. Larry Jr. took over Larry Sr.'s Princeton practice and his father took the vacant Keremeos Seal.



Larry Sr. says the most satisfying aspect of his practice is the positive feedback and referrals he receives from clients—particularly when former clients' offspring attend at his office because of their parents' recommendation.

Larry was President of The Society from 1986 to 1988 and served as a member of the Board from 1980 to 2000 and 2001 to 2007. He was also a member of the Board of the Notary Foundation from its inception in 1986 until 2000, and again from 2003 to 2007.

He continues to be involved in community affairs through St. Paul's United Church and Rotary International and is a member of the Town of Princeton Board of Variance and a Director of Valley First Credit Union.

Larry and Janice have been married 44 years and have worked together since Larry became a Notary Public. They have 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren. The couple enjoys golf, travelling, and spending part of the Winter months in the Palm Springs area.

Congratulations and well done, Larry! ▲

*An Honourary Life Membership in The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia is bestowed upon Notaries who have exemplified the spirit of The Society's founding membership and who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of improving and promoting the status of Notaries Public in our province.

In practice, a member of the Board of Directors, the President, or the Secretary/Executive Director presents a name to the Board. After considering the proposed candidate's background and worthiness, the Board votes.



Larry and Janice enjoying Palm Springs in November 2007!