

## Spring Seminar 2003

Susan Davis



# Successful Spring Seminar 2003

Spring Seminar 2003, held April 5 and 6 at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel, was a resounding success. A total of 172 of our members—approximately 63 percent of our membership—and eight support staff registered for the seminar!

The educational sessions were informative and interesting.

Saturday morning saw the unveiling of the Notaries' University Degree program, offered by Simon Fraser University. Dr. Rob Gordon and Ruth Price presented an outline of the program. Two adult students currently participating in a similar program discussed their experience with the course and the time commitment involved in taking on the extra workload.

Later that morning, a “conveyancing tips” panel of practising Notaries addressed various topics. Ken MacKinlay (Kamloops) spoke on issues dealing with undertakings; Scott Simpson (Chilliwack) reviewed amendments to the Property Transfer Tax exemptions for first-time home buyers; Carolynne Maguire (Vancouver) discussed Non-Resident Vendor Tax issues; and Susan Davis (Saanich) presented a talk on Contracts of Purchase and Sale. The information was well received by the members, who asked some very good questions and offered excellent comments.

After lunch Hugh McLellan, of the law firm McLellan, Herbert, presented an overview of current legislation, specifically the *Power of Attorney Act, Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act, Adult Guardianship Act, and Representation Agreement Act*. He led a discussion on the McLean report recommendations to the *Power of Attorney Act* and, if adopted, the effect they could have on the current legislation.

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Joanne Taylor, Executive Director of the Representation Agreement Resource Centre (RARC), presented an introduction to the new Nidus eRegistry, where a person can register the location of his or her Power of Attorney and/or Representation Agreement. When registering, an individual can specify who may have access to his or her information. The Nidus eRegistry data will be made available to financial institutions and caregivers, as well as Notaries and lawyers.

The Saturday night dinner was wonderful. After dinner, former Society Secretary Dr. Bernard Hoeter honoured retired member R. Jack Evans. His Honorary Lifetime Membership in The Society of Notaries Public of BC was awarded in recognition of Jack's many years of dedicated and exemplary service to our Society. Our own Rick Evans was delighted to accept the award on his father's behalf.



Dr. Bernard Hoeter and Rick Evans

Victoria's Johnny Vallis, man of many voices, treated us to fabulous impersonations of Tom Jones, Mick Jagger, Dean Martin, Buddy Holly, Garth Brooks, and others. To learn more about him, visit [www.johnnyvallis.com](http://www.johnnyvallis.com).



As a beautifully decorated cake was rolled out, Johnny led a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday* to a very surprised Rick Evans.

Sunday education sessions opened with an overview and demonstration of the upcoming Land Title Office electronic registration system, presented by Darcy Hammett, Denis Thomas, and Ian MacDonald from the Land Title Office. Notaries' interest was high because this change will affect every one of us involved in conveyancing. Several questions were posed about how the process will work from a practical standpoint. The system is expected to be up and running as early as March or April 2004.

Ronald Usher of the Law Society of BC, in his capacity as CEO of Juricert Services Inc., gave an outline of the software and equipment that will be required to implement the e-filing.

Over lunch, we were introduced to Reputations Corporation, a media management consulting group, who gave an entertaining and humorous presentation on media relations.

On Sunday afternoon, Wayne Braid, Rick Evans, and Todd McKendrick—the WraT Pack Panel—discussed issues our Notaries face in their everyday practices. Always popular with our membership, this session provides a forum for sharing questions, concerns, and new information. ▲

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