

Step In

The Spring 2004 *Scrivener* features information on Marine issues that affect our practice as Notaries and our lives as British Columbians.

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The involvement of Notaries throughout maritime history is legendary. On his voyage to the New World, Columbus took along a Notary to record the events of the journey and authenticate his discoveries. Through the accurate annotations of that Notary, Queen Isabela of Spain—the trip’s sponsor—had watertight proof of her captain’s expedition to distant lands!

I, too, made an early voyage to a new world. In December 1954, almost halfway through my grade one school year, my mother, baby sister, and I excitedly boarded a big ship to join my dad in the fledgling town of Kitimat, BC. Our home was finally ready for us; we were moving from Southern Saskatchewan up the coast to start a new life together.

At that time, the only way in and out of Kitimat was by boat or floatplane. Kitimat was and is a “private port,” not part of Canada’s National Ports System, about which Gary LeRoux, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities, writes on page 10.

My Terrace home sits on a beautiful northern lake called Lakelse, a First Nations word meaning *lake of clams*. My children and grandchildren enjoy all that the water has to offer: swimming, boating, water sports—and, of course, fishing!

Because of our geographic location, most British Columbians have had a lifetime of experience with water. We BC Notaries understand our clients’ needs regarding water and foreshore rights, marine bills of sale, marine mortgages, float homes, marine protestations, water access rights, and well water agreements, and so on. We investigate titles and check all the rights that go with the property, which may include water rights. On page 21, Port Alberni Notary Dorothy Clarkstone discusses some of these topics.

Our water is essential to both our health and our economic well-being. We depend on water for power, transportation, and trade; proximity to water increases the value of our land.

BC residents and corporate citizens alike are adopting better environmental stewardship practices in an effort to help look after our resources; people are wanting to become more involved.

We trust that these articles will provide you with timely and interesting information and perhaps the inspiration to become proactive in your local marine matters. ▲