



Pat and Elvis

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Patricia Wright: A Love of Law and Music**

I was born in Mission, BC. My father was a logger so we moved around the province a lot. My mother and father moved to Williams Lake when I was 3 and started the Williams Lake Logging Company.



Mom and I

Shortly thereafter, my father was killed in a logging accident at age 34, leaving my mother at 30 with three girls to raise—ages 8, 3, and 1. There were debts to pay and no money coming in. To add to the situation, some of the workers—worried they would not be paid—absconded with the equipment, leaving my mom in a horrible situation.

How do you say thank you for what a mom does for you . . . Mom was my biggest cheerleader through life.

The bank came knocking and my mom managed to pull through all the adversity. She moved us back down to Coquitlam and provided a home and everything we needed. She walked miles to work the midnight shift at Fraser Mills, pulling sheets of plywood from a machine. She taught us that a woman can do anything she puts her

mind to do if she works hard and does not give up.

Mom did marry again and we were blessed with another sister. My mother passed away last December but her memory will stay in my heart forever.

How do you say *thank you* for what a mom does for you . . . Mom was my biggest cheerleader through life. Her strength and wisdom helped guide me and her zest for life and fun always inspired me. She was an amazing woman. I was truly blessed to have her as my mother.

After graduating from high school and a trip to Europe, I returned to my home town of Port Coquitlam and went to work for a sole practitioner lawyer who practised in real estate, Wills, and estates. It was a great way to learn because we two were the only people in the office; we prepared all the documents. It was a great one-on-one learning experience and introduction to the legal world.



My 25th Notary Anniversary at Whistler

I became a BC Notary 30 years ago, commissioned at the age of 10—the youngest Notary ever! I had worked for law firms since leaving school and liked real estate and mortgage work immensely. As a paralegal mainly in small firms, I was used to taking the files from start to finish. We would even attend on execution of the documents at that time. I was often in the office 10 hours a day. Dealing with the clients was especially rewarding.

By that time, I was living and working in downtown Vancouver. I was also instructing Conveyancing at the Robson Media Centre and at three colleges and teaching a day course for the BC Notary students.

Then I realized I wanted to be a Notary! When I applied to take the training, I was interviewed by our dear then-Secretary Bernard Hoeter. I happened to be teaching one of his assistants in a conveyancing class. My interview with the highly capable and very stern Dr. Hoeter was a question-and-answer quiz on the topic. I still perspire when I think of that day! I was able to work with Dr. Hoeter on a number of occasions because our offices were so close. He always inspired me.

In the past few years, I have been mentoring new students. We are welcoming some wonderful new Notaries into our profession, each one bringing unique qualities. I think the future of The Society will be in good hands.

I have been very blessed with wonderful clients, knowledgeable staff, and great Realtors and mortgage brokers. Many of them have become close dear friends. I enjoy working with our clients and assisting them to buy their first home or their dream home

or to assist them to refinance or make a Will. Those can be stressful times and I want every client coming through the door to feel comfortable.

I ensure we spend enough time with them, even on the first phone contact and that they receive full and thorough reports about our work for them. I am always happy to hear the sound of laughter in our office; it makes me feel we are making the transaction more relaxed for the client.

Last year, I ran for a position on the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries because I wanted to give back to a profession that has been so good to me. I have always appreciated the way The Society has been there for me. It has been a real eye-opener to see the amount of work our Directors and Executive put in. I am delighted to be a new kid on our great team!

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At my office, there have been some fun and interesting Christmas parties . . . lots of great times with our clients including conga lines around the filing cabinets, surprise Mexican bands, and even Marilyn Monroe actors attending.

We won't even mention who fell into the punch bowl but I do have video! You just never know what can happen.

I've also notarized documents and done files for certain celebrities and have visited film sets, studios, and concert venues. As well, we have done work for hockey players and management and football players and management. One of our clients isn't allowed into the office without his Stanley Cup ring on! Those files are always fun and make for an exciting day.

We all have to put in long hours in this occupation. I am fortunate to have such a supportive husband as my James. We live with our beloved doggie Elvis, a bearded collie who is now 15. James and I love to travel when we can get away from the office, which isn't that often.



With my husband James Black



My team



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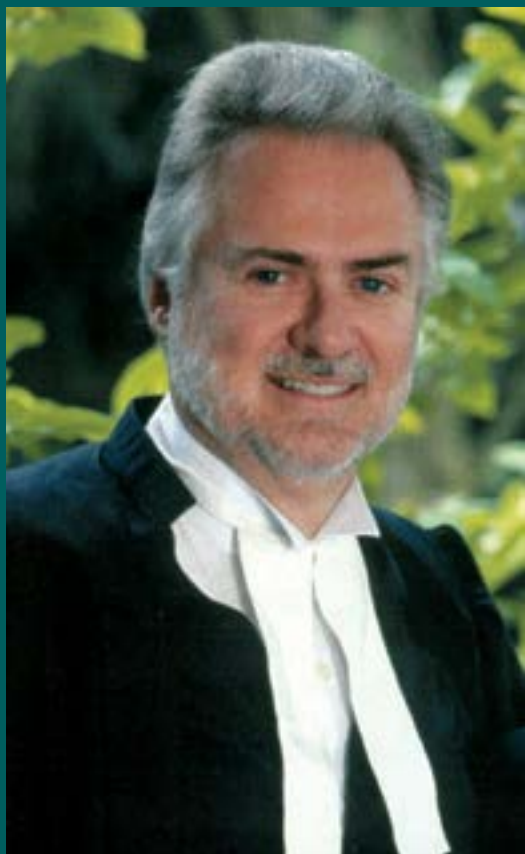


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Pat and James in the '70s

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We also keep up with James's musical career. A member of a number of bands in the '70s and '80s, he was the singer, guitarist, and songwriter for the band May Blitz, which still has quite a following. The group was formed around the world-famous drummer Tony Newman. Very popular in Europe, May Blitz was the first group ever taken on by Paramount Studios. They are now with Universal Music. They toured Europe extensively and the Eastern Seaboard of the USA.

It is amazing to see how much information is on the Internet about May Blitz and how many fans have made YouTube videos for them (my favourite is Josephine Baker dancing to their song *Firequeen*). Their two albums have been re-mastered numerous times. A group from Germany recently found some old footage of a concert May Blitz did at the Essen Festival and re-mastered it in CD and vinyl form.

Their music still sells throughout the world. We are always surprised to see sales in Japan and Korea where the band did not tour. Now some of the younger bands in England are recording their songs. It is all very exciting. When the guys get together, there's always a lot of craziness and fun.

I am still working on getting James and our doggie Elvis on the road as The Two Elvises. I think that would sell and I would be a great manager!

What is most important in my life? Family, friends, and my Notary practice! ▲