



President's Report

W Patric Mackesy

It is 7:00 a.m. on August 27th, I have just finished my walk and the temperature is 24°C. What a superlative summer in Hamilton, Ontario.

On August 8th, I attended the first of four meetings for the Lawyers' Legacy for Children Fund Advisory Committee. The President of the HLA is a member of such. This fund, which exceeds \$400,000.00 (raised chiefly by the lawyers' plays), is administered financially by the Hamilton Community

Foundation. This advisory group has chosen food for needy children at the elementary school level as its focus for this year and next year. Application Forms for funding will be available on the Hamilton Community Foundation's website September 3rd. Future funding of this important charitable arm of Hamilton lawyers was discussed. There are no immediate plans for a future play, but funding capital remains necessary. I would urge all members to consider adding to their will a bequest to "Lawyers' Legacy for Children". The profession has been kind to us and a little payback would be most welcome. Of course, donations before death are always welcome. In 2017, both the Hamilton Lawyers' Club and Law Association donated \$5,000.00 each, for which the Lawyers' Legacy for Children thank them.

I also attended the American Bar Association's National Conference of Bar Presidents annual meeting. Although nowhere near as competent in computer savviness as our younger members, I have a special interest in technology as a way to bring a more competitive edge to our business. With technology, one can still be economically well off as matters take less time. At the meeting,

I purchased three new technology books for our library that are particularly geared to lawyers: *Blockchain for Business Law*, *Law Firm Cyber-Security*, and *Cyber Security for the Home and Office*. The August 27th-31st Weekly online American Bar Association paper has a small article on protecting from Ransomware attacks. I am aware of several instances in Hamilton law firms where ransom was paid and one where it was not paid. Daily backups of your computer make this form of extortion less profitable but still a pain for the law firm. Unfortunately, our firm has been hacked, despite backing up both onsite to a separate computer and to the cloud, as well as having anti-encryption software to defeat this type of attack. This, of course, does not defeat other forms of internet nastiness as a result of staff clicking on inappropriate sites or downloads.

For older lawyers or sole practitioners, I suggest strongly you put in place a plan for your retirement, disability or death. For a personal corporation, there should be access to your general account by a spouse or a partner by way of a contingent corporate resolution and to the trust by a licensee. I would recommend a booklet by the Law Society of Ontario entitled "The Contingency Planning Guide" which provides Sample Documents. This 47-page guide is available free for

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CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

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download from the Law Society (Iso.ca) or can be obtained from our Law Library.

On September 5th, I attended the Red Mass and brunch thereafter. This is the annual celebration of the opening of courts in Hamilton and is hosted by the St. Thomas More Guild at the Cathedral of Christ the King. There were about 10 Judges present, but attendance was down. Too bad, as the sermon by the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Hamilton, the Very Reverend Adrian Lee, was quite powerful on vicarious liability. One of the best sermons at this event that was both religious and legalistic. Brunch at Lo Presti's was, as always, awesome.

On September 6th in the evening, Matthew Cook, the President of the Hamilton Lawyers' Club, and I hosted a Welcome dinner for the new lawyers and articling students. The format is outstanding. A judge and senior lawyer at each table is the drill. Attendance was excellent. The bar was sponsored by Henderson Structured Settlements, which has always been a friend of the Association. The dinner was the culmination of a day of education, practice tips and wellness inspiration. At our table the talk on wellness and the speaker's suggestions were matters enthusiastically discussed. Thanks to the HLA staff for organizing the learning experience and dinner.

I received an email from Michael Pawlowski, a former member of our legal community, who some litigators may remember as Senior Adjuster with Royal Insurance and then a paralegal at Agro Zaffiro and the Morris Law Group. He will be at the Westdale Library at 7 p.m. on November 15, 2018, promoting his newest book, 13 Lives: Stories of Others, about 13 Indigenous people

and their struggles on and off reserves across Canada. Give it a visit whether you knew Mike or not.

I must end this editorial as it is overdue already. I hope all members have a profitable and energising next couple of months. ■

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