



The Association of Women Lawyers

A Message from the President

Hello ladies and welcome to the Association of Women Lawyers' Winter 2011 Newsletter. Happy New Year to you all.

I want to congratulate the newly elected Board of Directors. Welcome back to those women who have been members of the Board previously, and a big welcome to those women who are joining us for the first time.

I want to acknowledge the contribution and support of the three retiring Board members being Marcia Johnston, Teresa Homik and Diane Volk.

Our first Board meeting is set for the 18th of January, and we have a number of new events to plan for the coming year, as well as carry on with many initiatives started in the past year.

AWL had a good response to its membership drive last year, and I encourage you all to register again this year, and to bring a friend with you.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. A huge thank you to Charlotte for putting this together.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you at the upcoming events.

Please do remember AWL welcomes your ideas, comments and suggestions as to how we can better serve our members and women in the legal profession.

Please feel free to contact me directly: president@awlcalgary.ca.

Have a pleasant January and stay warm!

Rebecca

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Snowshoeing in Kananaskis- February 6, 2011

Lunch and Learn- Looking forward to Monday- February 10, 2011 at Davis LLP at 12:00 noon

Emerald Lake Lodge Weekend- February 18-20th, 2011

Soup Sisters - April 17, 2011

Celebration of our Honourary Members- Spring, 2011

PLUS... we hope you can join us for a host of other events and activities over the coming months.

Meet the 2011 Board

- President:** Rebecca Brown
- Vice-President:** Deanna Steblyk
- Treasurer:** Roxanne Davis
- Secretary:** Diane Pettie
- Membership Chair:** Rani Wong
- Directors:** Stephanie Charlebois · Charlotte Christophersen · Sandy Gill · Cheryl James · Christy Lee · Sharilyn Nagina · Marianne Panenka · Johanna Price (Past President) · Tara Tiefenbach · Rita Richardson · Chastine Taerum

The Last Six Months...

A recap of the adventures and events with the AWL

Golf Tournament

The AWL Golf Tournament at Elbow Valley was once again a lot of fun for all of the participants. This may have been partially due to the fantastic weather which it would seem that organizer Johanna Price should be able to take full credit for. In all we had 44 players (11 teams of 4). Good work ladies and a big thank you to Johanna who has been successfully organizing the tournament for the last few years.

The 1st Place team was: Stephanie Wong, Joan Dornian, Levonne Louie, Lynn Gregory (Pictured to the right holding the great trophy donated by McMillan LLP. The trophy will be passed on every year to the winning team.)
The 2nd Place team was: Kathy Whitburn, Barbara Widdowson, Linda Threet, Sherry Kachur
The Longest Drive skill prize went to Levonne Louie who drove about 214 yards
The Closest to the Pin skill prize went to Kristen Clarke
The Longest Put skill prize went to Heather Borowski



University of Calgary Mixer by Marianne Panenka

The evening of September 23, 2010 was full of excitement, interesting conversation and new friends, at the annual University of Calgary mixer. This year, the event was held in the Atrium at the Nexen building, with a beautiful hors d'oeuvres layout that catered to what appeared to be at least 200-300 students, faculty, practitioners and friends. Let me not go on about the chocolate fountain!..... Attending on behalf of AWL, I had the opportunity to meet so many University of Calgary students, as well as to touch base with some colleagues, old and new. I had a great time discussing AWL with the many interested students, who were full of thoughtful questions and insightful comments - we could have talked all night! The students provided fantastic feedback and showed an obviously keen interest in AWL. Thank you!

2010 Retreat by Marcia Johnston

The 6th annual Retreat for Women Lawyers, Renaissance at the Rimrock, was held this year on September 24-26th. It was a small group of 10 participants, but that had benefits in that we were a very bonded group. As a departure this year, the workshops were all presented by Sue Jacques, the "Civility CEO", a dynamic corporate trainer with an emphasis on good manners in substance as well as form. Sue tailored a "Business Etiquette Boot Camp" especially for AWL of three morning workshops and then practice at AWL's cocktail reception prior to Saturday night's Gala Dinner.

The speaker at Saturday's lunch was former AWL director and newest (and youngest) Calgary Provincial Judge, the Honorable Judge Laura Burt. Judge Burt gave a warm and informal talk about her path to the bench, through a varied career of earning a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University as well as an LL.B. from Queen's University, 11 years of civil litigation private practice, a stint as a senior litigator for the Alberta Securities Commission and a sessional instructor at the U of C Law School.

A physical break on Saturday between the lunch and cocktail reception was a hike led by Canmore lawyer, Nicky Brink. Nicky, a former Retreat attendee, is the author with her husband Stephen Bown of Forgotten Highways: Wilderness Journeys Down the Historic Trails of the Canadian Rockies. (A picture of just one of the amazing views seen on the hike is below in the lower left hand corner).

Keynote Speaker of the Gala Dinner was Sarah King D'Souza, who is a senior counsel at the Family Law Office in Calgary. Sarah was elected a Bencher in 2009 and is Chair of the Law Society's Retention and Re-Engagement Task Force. She described the work of both the Family Law Office and the Task Force and answered questions, which led to a fascinating discussion of why lawyers, but in particular women, leave the profession. This discussion continued at the round-table discussion at Sunday Brunch, which Sarah facilitated.



As usual we had amazing silent auction items and door prizes from our generous sponsors and raised \$1,110 for this year's chosen charity: Calgary's Women in Need Society (WINS).

As a final note, a big thank you goes out to the Retreat sponsors: Belgo Restaurant ; Murrieta's Restaurant; Mount Norquay Ski Resort; Elbow Springs Golf Club; Calgary Opera; Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra; The Rimrock Resort Hotel; Lake Louise Ski and Mountain Resort; ZSA Legal Recruitment; Cellar Door; Fiore Cantina Restaurant; Ceili's Irish Pub; Marmot Basin Ski Resort; SFM Salon Spa; Stikeman Elliott LLP; and (editors note: last, but not least Marcia Johnston).

Investors Group Presentation by Rebecca Brown

On the 1st of December, Cindy Mawson and Caroline Daviduk, financial consultants with Investors Group, hosted a luncheon and presentation for AWL members at the Metropolitan Grill. The main focus of the presentation was "How would a disability, critical illness or death affect your family? They discussed various types of insurance including critical illness insurance, death benefits, and insurance for home care expenses and the rising cost of care homes.

Candid Conversations with Women in Law by Charlotte Christophersen

The main objective of the luncheon held at the Law Society offices on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 was to provide a roundtable discussion between junior or less experienced practitioners with an assortment of senior women members of the Bar. The Session provided a unique opportunity to engage in facilitated small group discussions in areas of interest. Topics included marketing and business development, maternity/paternity leave, the ever challenging work/life balance question and of course a sharing of individual perspectives on what it meant to each attendee to be a female within the practice of law.

The luncheon was organized by The Law Society of Alberta's Retention of Women Working Group and lunch was sponsored by the AWL and The Counsel Network. As a female participant working in a non-firm environment, I appreciated the opportunity to network and discuss both macro and mundane issues with other women in a non-threatening and healthy environment.

AGM – A few highlights by Charlotte Christophersen and Rebecca Brown

The Annual General Meeting took place on November 25th, 2010 at the offices of Stikeman Elliott LLP. Approximately 25 members attended the luncheon meeting. Our President and fearless leader, Rebecca Brown chaired the meeting and provided a breakdown of AWL events and news occurring over the last year. It was noted we have 203 members.

First off, Rebecca reported that the AWL made several charitable donations throughout the year, such as: \$250 to Partners in the Horns of Africa, \$1,000 for the Women's Ski Jumping Association as a thank-you to the guest speakers at the Gala luncheon, and as previously noted \$1,110 to the Women in Need Society from the silent auction at the retreat. A Motion had been duly passed at the 2009 AGM to provide up to \$1,500 from AWL funds for a charitable contribution, if the Board of Directors were of the opinion there were such funds available after review of the financial commitments of the Association. The Articles of Incorporation set out the objective of the Association is the advancement and well being of women in the Society, and the Mission Statement provides AWL is to promote the advancement and well being of women in the legal profession. After much discussion, the Board determined it needed to come back to the AGM and ask for direction since most of the charitable organizations that had received donations had been ones dealing with the well being of women in general and not necessarily women in the law. The AGM heard comments from several of the members in attendance, and a motion was made and unanimously agreed that the charity selected could be for the betterment of women in general and not just for the betterment of women in the law.

Rebecca then proceeded to recap the year's activities which included:

- Snow shoeing, organized by Stephanie Charlebois and Rani Wong;
- Yak & Snaks, organized by Barb Cotton and Marianne Panenka;
- Investor's Group Seminars, organized by Rani Wong;
- Gala Luncheon, organized by Deanna Steblyk and Roxanne Davis;
- Spring Celebration with Donna Friesen as guest speaker, organized by Rani Wong and Diane Pettie;
- Golf Tournament at Elbow Valley Springs, organized by Johanna Price;
- Retreat at the Rimrock, organized by Marcia Johnston;
- Fall Celebration, organized by Stephanie Charlebois and Rebecca Brown;
- Retention of Women in the Law Committee, Candid Conversations, organized by Rani Wong;
- Women & the Law Alberta update project, organized by Stephanie Charlebois;
- Liason with the University of Calgary, Marianne Panenka and Diane Volk;
- Newsletter, put together by Charlotte Christophersen

Retiring members Marcia Johnston, Teresa Homik and Diane Volk were recognized and thanked for their work and dedication to the board. We expect to continue to see them at ALL future AWL functions. The Treasurer's report was approved, and auditors were appointed for the upcoming year. The meeting then moved to the election of the Directors for the 2011 year as listed on the front page of the newsletter.

Finally, Marcia Johnston found the old AWL banner and it shall be held up with pride when possible at any future gatherings.

Getting to Know Deanna Steblyk

Deanna Steblyk is not only easily identified by her great fashion sense and amazing wit, but she has been a fantastic asset to the AWL as Director, Vice President and organizer of the 2010 Celebrity luncheon.

If you could leave tomorrow and go anywhere, where would you travel to? Fiji! I haven't been there yet and it's got to be warmer than here!

What was your first pet? What was their name? A small dog named Buffy. Are you a native Calgarian or where were you before settling here? I was born in Michigan, but have been here in Calgary for the vast majority of my life (except for a year in grad school at Queen's University in Kingston, and law school at the U of A in Edmonton).

Would you rather own more shoes, purses or lipsticks? I own a revolting number of each, but if I had to pick, I'd say shoes. I could always make do with one handbag and one (red!) lipstick.

As a child, what did you want to be when you "grew up"? Now, what do you want to be when you "grow up"? A teacher. Now I just want to continue avoiding growing up...and retire. Soon.

Tell us anything you would like about your family? How many kids do you have? I have one husband who is also a lawyer, no children, but two spoiled miniature Schnauzers who rule the roost at our house.

What is your most favourite accomplishment? I'm still waiting to have one of those.

Who have you found to be an inspiration in your life? A number of my friends, who are positive, loyal, accomplished and always

there when I need them.

What is your favourite activity/hobby to do when not at work? I don't know that it's a "favourite" activity – more of a means to an end – but I've been a workout fiend for over 20 years. I do yoga, run and lift weights five to six days a week, one to two hours a day.

What is your favourite colour? Red.

Would you rather be able to fly, breathe under water or have x-ray vision? Fly, especially when Calgary is in full construction mode like it is now.

Starbucks or Tim Horton's? Either.

What investment advice would you give someone right now? If it sounds too good to be true, IT IS.

What is one thing that nobody knows about you? Under all the bluster, I'm actually very shy. It takes considerable effort for me to interact with people, especially those I don't know.

Getting to Know Roxanne Davis

The AWL has been lucky to have Roxanne take over the Treasurer duties. Her meticulousness and accounting expertise has left us in awe and almost speechless, which coming from a bunch of lawyers seems even more impressive.

What is your favourite thing about the practice of law? The variety. Every day there are new cases and new clients. And if there should come a day when that is no longer enough there is always a new area of law to practice.

If you could leave tomorrow and go anywhere, where would you travel to? Italy. It has all of the things I look for in a vacation destination, beautiful scenery, history, art, food and wine.

What was your first pet? What was their name? An orange tabby cat named Morris after the cat in the cat food commercials. I only remember him from pictures.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive), who would it be and why? Queen Elizabeth II for a guided viewing of the Crown Jewels and her personal jewelry collection.

Are you a native Calgarian or where were you before settling here? I was born and raised on the Saint John River in New Brunswick, but lived in Ontario for 9 years, and Nova Scotia for 4 before moving to Calgary in the summer of 2008.

Would you rather own more shoes, purses or lipsticks? Purses. My closet is sorely lacking in this regard. I never seem to have a purse that is the right size and colour. I am in Phoenix as I write this and will attempt to address this deficiency.

As a child, what did you want to be when you "grew up"? Now, what do you want to be when you "grow up"? First I wanted to be a clothing designer then I wanted to be an architect. Sadly, I never seemed to develop the right brain originality and creativity required for either of those professions.

Tell us anything you would like about your family? How many kids do you have? I have a husband who is reluctantly tolerant of the rest of my family, 2 beagles, Daisy and Lily, and another orange tabby, Homer (name not my choice, he was adopted).

Who have you found to be an inspiration in your life? My mother for setting the example of building both a satisfying career and family life and my great-grandmother, a real gentlewoman. I always look to for her example of well polished manners and civility towards all others.

What is your favourite activity/hobby to do when not at work? Reading and yoga.

What is your favourite colour? Blue. Sapphire blue.

Would you rather be able to fly, breathe under water or have x-ray vision? Fly.

If you could be a professional athlete or entertainer- who would it be (or what would you be doing)? Figure skater. Unfortunately, I have 2 left feet

Starbucks or Tim Horton's? Starbucks. There is one in my community and in the summer I enjoy cycling there in the morning for tea and something sweet.

What investment advice would you give someone right now? Becoming knowledgeable about investments and remain actively involved in your investment strategy.

We hope you can join us for...

SNOWSHOEING

Another day of snowshoeing is planned for Sunday, February 6th in Kananaskis. Exact location will be determined a few days before based on snow conditions and level of experience. If you are interested in joining us, please email Stephanie at st.char@telus.net or Rani at rwong@stikeman.com by Thursday, February 3rd.

LUNCH AND LEARN- LOOKING FORWARD TO MONDAY: BUILDING A FULFILLING CAREER

Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 12:00 noon at the offices of Davis LLP where Professional career coach Eileen Dooley will deliver a presentation called "Looking Forward to Monday: Building a Fulfilling Career". Topics for discussion will include how to achieve balance and fulfillment in a legal career, how we view our careers as women lawyers, and the other options that might be available for us to apply our legal training and skills in parallel career paths.

Watch your inboxes for additional information, but in the meantime feel free to visit the AWL website at www.awlcalgary.ca.

EMERALD LAKE LODGE WEEKEND

A number of AWL members are heading to Emerald Lake Lodge for the weekend of February 18-20, 2011. We will be snowshoeing on Saturday, February 19th and cross country skiing on Sunday, February 20, 2011 around the Emerald Lake Lodge. Beginners are welcome to join in as we can choose trails depending on experience levels.

We booked accommodation at Emerald Lake Lodge for the evenings of Friday, February 18th and Saturday, February 19th. There is a promotional rate of \$170 per room per night, subject to availability. You will have to arrange your own transportation and call the Lodge directly at 1-800-663-6336 to make your booking. We have not reserved any rooms and they will go quickly at this rate for the long weekend so we suggest you book as soon as possible. We will also get together for cocktails and meals so you are free to dine with us or do your own thing.

Note that this is not a sponsored AWL event and AWL assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever in relation to this weekend or your chosen activities at the Lodge. You will be required to sign the usual waiver of liability form that we have used in the past if you join us for the snowshoeing or cross country skiing.

Please let us know by Friday, February 4, 2011 if you have booked accommodation at the Lodge for the weekend and if you plan to participate in one of the activities by email to Rani Wong at rwong@stikeman.com. Questions can be directed to Rani or to Stephanie Charlebois at st.char@telus.net

SOUP SISTERS

In line with the AWL's commitment to women and our community we have scheduled a night of making soup with the non-profit organization Soup Sisters. The Cookbook Company provides a state of the art kitchen and as a group we make between 150-200 servings of nurturing and delicious soups for the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter. At least one extra batch is prepared and enjoyed by all participants at the end of the evening along with some wine, freshly baked bread and plenty of great conversation.

The event will be held from 6:30- 9:30 on Sunday, April 17th, 2011 at the Cookbook Co. Cooks, 722 11th Avenue S.W. Cost is \$50.00, and no experience is necessary as there will be an expert chef supervising us. All you'll need is a comfortable pair of shoes and the desire to assist in the making of several liters of comforting and healing nourishment for the intended recipients.

Watch your emails for the registration form and further details or alternatively visit the AWL website at www.awlcalgary.ca. Group size is 12 to a max of 35 so make sure you register right away as we'd hate for you to miss that great event.

HONOURARY MEMBERS CELEBRATION

The AWL intends to honour our founding members and pay homage to the foundation they created in the establishment of our association. We hope you can join us in acknowledging our fore "mothers" at a date to be announced shortly for later this Spring 2011 (a list of the original Steering Committee is found on the AWL website).

PICTURES FROM THE AGM HELD NOVEMBER 25TH AT STIKEMAN ELLIOTT LLP



The board and members busy discussing many important items



Retiring Director Marcia Johnston and Director Johanna Price



Vice President Deanna Steblyk and President Rebecca Brown

AWL wishes to acknowledge the support of our many Patrons who have made such a significant contribution to our success over the years. Our thanks are extended to our 2010 Patron Members:

Laurie Anderson
Marcia Johnston, Q.C.
Johanna Price
Patricia Sealy
Leslie Morris
Francine Swanson, Q.C.
Sandra Hildebrand
Jennifer Pollock

Dina Honke
Deni Cashin
Joy Stuber
Rebecca Brown
Barb Cotton
Virginia Engel, Q.C.
Marlene Barchuk
Peggy Walden

Patricia Daunais, Q.C.
Judy Boyes, Q.C.
Patricia Blocksom
Karen Muir
Gwen Randall, Q.C.
Judy Wong
Jennifer Edwards
Diane Pettie

If you or your firm
would like to become a
Patron of AWL please
email our President,
Rebecca Brown at
conw8891@telus.net

We also have several members of the judiciary who have become Judicial Patrons, some of whom have requested we not publish their names. For now, we would like to recognize and thank:

The Honourable Madam Justice C.M Conrad
The Honourable Madam Justice M.C. Erb
The Honourable Madam Justice S.L. Hunt McDonald

We also wish to recognize our firm patrons who have supported our activities and our members on many occasions.

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Please contact Charlotte Christophersen via email at cchristophersen@fnf.ca
(I would love any pictures, stories or anecdotes that you may have)