

SURREY BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2018

The stated purposes of the Surrey Bar Association are:

1. To encourage camaraderie, good will, and mutual support among lawyers who live and/or maintain a law practice in the City of Surrey;
2. To enhance the image and reputation of lawyers in the City of Surrey;
3. To provide continuing legal education opportunities for lawyers in the City of Surrey;
4. To influence government policy for the benefit of Surrey-based lawyers and/or their clients; and
5. To promote access to justice in the City of Surrey.

An additional purpose that has developed over time is to increase membership and involvement in the Surrey Bar Association. In 2016 we had 117 members, which we increased to 127 members in 2017, and in 2018 we now have 148 members and are only half way through the year.

2018 has been an amazing year for the Surrey Bar Association as a result of the dedication and hard work of its members.

We have continued a number of events to encourage the camaraderie, good will, and mutual support of Surrey lawyers including:

1. (4) Seasonal Minglers, held in different locations around Surrey to encourage lawyers from all parts of Surrey to mingle, which have generously been sponsored by a number of firms in the community;
2. A joint event for Young Lawyers and Young Accountants in collaboration with the Chartered Professional Accountants for BC;
3. A bench and bar dinner, this year delayed until October given a number of retirements;
4. The golf tournament in collaboration with a number of other bar associations at Morgan Creek on June 26, 2018.

We have spoken at new judge's ceremonies, including Judge Boblin and Judge Jette last month.

We have provided a number of continuing legal education opportunities for its members.

We have a completely redesigned website, a software application for membership, a credit card, and square for taking credit card payments and are a much more sophisticated organization than in any previous year.

Significantly this year, we furnished the new barristers lounge at the Surrey Provincial Courthouse, which now also has water, coffee, a photocopier, art, and bulletin boards for announcements.

We also continued to support pro bono events, causes, charities, and causes and to continue considering how we can make a positive impact on the community.

The great achievements of 2018 has been a result of the hard work and dedication of the board directors and it has been my great pleasure to have served with such a fine group.