

The Law Office of
ROSS W. MURRAY, Q.C.

Barrister & Solicitor

FALL

NEWSLETTER

2003

Firm Update

Welcome to our fall 2003 newsletter.

I have decided to write another newsletter to provide you with an update on the developments of my firm.

I will soon be beginning my 28th year of practice in Thunder Bay and the region.

I practice as a general practitioner primarily in civil litigation, corporate and commercial law, real estate and wills and estates.

My staff including, Lifa Jensen-Taillefer and Marcia Hiiri have been with me for many years. I am pleased to announce that Lifa has recently graduated as a law clerk from the Institute of Law Clerks of Ontario. Over a two year period she completed four courses in Estates, Real Estate, Corporate and Litigation, achieving honours in Real Estate and Litigation. This is a significant achievement for Lifa and we are very proud of her.

I have been involved as the President of the Thunder Bay Law Association and an active director for the past 21 years. I am now serving my fourth term as a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. I was also a member of the Joint Committee on Court Reform and helped establish a separate region for Northwestern Ontario. In 1990 I was appointed to the Northwest Region Courts Management Advisory Committee.

In the community I have actively served in a number of organizations. I was director and treasurer of both the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society and the National Exhibition Center when our new building to house the National Center for Indian Art was first planned. I assisted with the corporate fundraising for the project. Later I served as chairman of McKellar General Hospital. I also chaired the Executive, Personnel, Finance and Joint Conference committees of the hospital over a ten year period.

Matters of Legal Interest



Title Insurance

I encourage all of my clients to consider obtaining title insurance when they purchase real estate property. I have brochures available that have been prepared by the Law Society of Upper Canada which I can provide free of charge to anyone that is interested.

TitlePLUS is a title insurance policy that has been developed by LPIC, and I believe that it is the superior product in the market place. I would be happy to discuss the topic of title insurance with you at your convenience, and to the real estate agents who receive and read my newsletter, I am more than happy to meet with you and your staff to discuss title insurance at your convenience.

Wills and Powers of Attorney

I would be pleased to meet with any of my will clients to review your wills free of charge. It is important to review your wills on a regular basis to ensure that they are up-to-date and reflect your intentions with respect to your estate. It is becoming more and more important for everyone to have a power of attorney for financial matters and a power of attorney for personal care, and I would be happy to review these issues with you.

To the former clients of Bernard Black who receive my newsletter, I would appreciate hearing from you to review your will and powers of attorney with you.

It has now been 13 years since we acquired the law practice of Bernard Black.

I have brochures available that have been prepared by the Thunder Bay Law Association setting out the importance of having a will and powers of attorney, which I can provide free of charge to anyone that is interested.

Motor Vehicle Collisions

A lawyer can help assess whether or not you have the potential for a successful lawsuit. Whether your injury is "serious or permanent", or meets the threshold, is a legal and medical question. A skilled lawyer who acts for victims can help with that evaluation. Similarly, whether you are entitled to accident benefits, whether the amounts being paid are correct, and other similar questions are legal and medical questions. A lawyer can help you make a good decision and insure you are getting what you are entitled to.

You may not realize that the Provincial Government, just prior to the recent election, changed the law relating to motor vehicle collisions. The deductibility has now been raised from \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00, and changes to the threshold may prevent certain law suits from being commenced in motor vehicle collision cases.

Marathon, Terrace Bay and Schreiber Clients

Although I no longer have an office in Terrace Bay and Marathon, I continue to regularly travel in the region, and I am pleased to act for the people of the north shore.

I have a toll free telephone number, 1-877-794-9888, and/or you can reach me by email at:

rmurray@tbaytel.net

Professional Activities

Law Society of Upper Canada

I am now in my thirteenth year as an elected bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. I was first elected as a bencher of the Law Society in 1991 and subsequently re-elected in 1995, 1999 and May of 2003. In the May 2003 Bencher Election, I received the fourth largest number of votes in the Province for a Bencher outside of Toronto, and I am now eligible to become a Life Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

I have had an active role in governing the Law Society. For two years I was the chair of the Finance Committee of the Law Society. In addition, I have served on various other committees, currently serving on the Professional Regulation Committee, Finance Committee, Merging Issues Committee and Small Firm and Sole Practitioner Task Force.

I also served for five years as a chair of the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company (LPIC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Law Society of Upper Canada. It is a mandatory captive insurance company providing professional liability insurance to its members.

You can visit the Law Society website at www.lsuc.on.ca and the LPIC website at www.lawpro.ca



Thunder Bay Law Association

I was the president of the Thunder Bay Law Association in 1986-1987, and have been a director of the Association for the past twenty-one years.

Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association

In May of 2000, I was elected as a director of the Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association (OTLA) and have recently been re-elected for a three year term commencing in May of 2003. Membership in this new organization is restricted to members of the plaintiff's bar. Defence lawyers are not permitted to join. It is a growing organization that plays a very important role in the practice of plaintiffs' lawyers in the province of Ontario.

The Spring and Fall Continuing Legal Education Conferences put on by the Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association are excellent and among the best in North America.

You can visit the OTLA website at www.otla.com

Continuing Legal Education



During the past several years I spent eight days at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, and attended the Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop. This is a demanding program in trial advocacy. It is actually intended for lawyers that have been in practice three or four years, although experienced lawyers also attend. I found it was one of the best programs I have attended over the past 27 years of practice.

I also attended a two day program in legal technology sponsored by the Canadian Bar Association - Ontario, and the Law Society of Upper Canada and put on by the American Bar Association - Law Practice Management Section.

The Law Society of Upper Canada has now introduced an interactive learning network so that lawyers in Thunder Bay can attend video conference continuing legal education

programs here in Thunder Bay at Contact North.

Programs are regularly scheduled on a variety of topics throughout the year. This makes the ability to take continuing legal education programs much easier since most of the programs originate in Toronto.



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How to reach us:

I am available at any time for a free initial consultation on all legal matters. You can reach me by toll free in the 807 area code at 1-877-794-9888.

Clients are welcome to visit my office located at:

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