

E. Beryl MacMillan
OFFICIAL EXAMINER

30 Years
OF COURT REPORTING



Standing (L-R): Cheryl St. Louis, Ann Stewart, Nancy Colenutt, Suzanne Mills, Lisa Weese Gray, Susan Coffey, Dorothy Desjardins, Sharon Sharpe, Kelly Stewart, Sharon Masse. Seated (L-R): Deirdre Merritt, Ann Carter, Sandra Fitzgerald, Nichola Vincent. Photos: Ed Goodfellow - Special to The Star

E. Beryl MacMillan Official Examiner

BY SUSAN LEWIS
Special to the Star

When you think of a court reporter, you probably imagine someone quietly typing detailed notes while lawyers argue cases in front of a judge.

But you won't find any of the court reporters from E. Beryl MacMillan Official Examiner in a courtroom. Instead, this long-standing Windsor legal service works from venues outside of their boardrooms as varied as hospitals and nursing homes to county churches and town halls.

E. Beryl MacMillan Official Examiner is a court-reporting agency that first opened its doors 30 years ago. It employs the services of 13 court stenographers to report and transcribe court proceedings. It is an independent, private business but governed by court rules and regulations.

When a person becomes involved in the legal process, because of an automobile accident, a divorce, or any variety of civil proceeding, he or she is often required to give evidence. They may receive a Notice of Examination, a subpoena, or simply a letter from their lawyer asking them appear at the Office of the Official Examiner for an examination at a specific time and date. A court reporter from the office is assigned to the case and records the proceedings both on tape and in her steno book.

For this purpose, E. Beryl MacMillan Official Examiner provides a neutral venue in which to hold the Examinations for Discovery, cross-examinations, Examinations in Aid of Execution, Mediations, or Questioning.

In addition to the legal community, the office also does reporting work for various government entities such as the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board Ontario, Coroner's Inquests, Tribunal Hearings, and Ontario Municipal Board Hearings.

"Our reputation is very good throughout the legal community across Ontario," says Beryl MacMillan, the firm's founder. "Our reporters are well known for excellent work, and their willingness to work long hours to accommodate the lawyers and their clients."

Depth of experience is one of the primary reasons the office is so highly regarded, says Sharon Masse, who has worked there almost 30 years and now owns the business.

"The women who work in this

office are extremely loyal. Many of our court reporters have been here more than 20 years. That's unusual for a business today."

In 1975, a group of lawyers approached Ms. MacMillan to open an independent office for conducting Examinations for Discovery. A court reporter at the County Court House at that time, she accepted the challenge and was appointed "Special Examiner" by the Ontario Government in the fall of that year.

The office initially operated out of rent-free accommodations above Ye Olde Steakhouse, eventually moving into the then-newly built Westcourt Place. In 1999 the office moved to its present location

in the Security Building at 267 Pelissier.

And, while the office's court reporters would typically sit at a desk, Beryl says that this wasn't always the case. She tells of being called to a Coroner's inquest in a death involving a fire.

"The lawyers thought it would be helpful for the jurors to see the actual site of the fire. So, off we went - jurors, coroner, lawyers, constables, and me, with my notebook and pen. There was no electricity, so no light. It was very dark inside, and we had to be careful where we put our feet, although they assured us it was quite safe. It was decided that what the jury was seeing

should be described, for the record. Someone, either the coroner or one of the lawyers, held a flashlight on my notebook so I could see to write my shorthand, but we had to keep on walking. Try it some time! We didn't have tape recorders in those days."

Ms. MacMillan retired in 2002, and Sharon Masse took over the business where she had served as a court reporter for more than two decades.

Times and processes have changed in the 30 years since the office opened. In an average day, a court reporter will write anywhere from 30,000 to 50,000 words. Today, in addition to shorthand and steno-

type, audio and digital tape recorders and computers are utilized. Because of the wide variety of clients and situations, the court reporter's presence is frequently required offsite:

"We do hearings in Windsor's City Council Chambers, at the Hilton for the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, in hospitals for Consent and Capacity Board hearings, and even in lawyer's offices when space is unavailable elsewhere." The firm's services have been requested from Windsor to London, and even beyond, a testament to its excellent reputation.

PLEASE SEE 30 YEARS / C5



Foreground, Sharon Masse, Sandra Fitzgerald. Background, Nichola Vincent, Bonney Anderson, preparing transcripts for pickup and checking diary for appointments.

CONGRATULATIONS

E BERYL MACMILLAN OFFICIAL EXAMINER

BEST WISHES ON YOUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

SUTTS, STROSBERG LLP

LAWYERS

600-251 GOYEAU STREET
WINDSOR, ON | N9A 6V4
T 519.258.9333 | F 519.258.9527
www.strosbergco.com

Congratulations

E. BERYL MACMILLAN
On 30 Years...

Greg Monforton (519) 258-6490
100 Ouellette Ave., 13th Floor
WINDSOR
www.gregmonforton.com

For the record,
we officially congratulate you on
30 years of reliable court recording.

THE LAW FIRM OF
paroian | skipper | hewitt
THE RIGHT CALL

Leon Paroian*, Q.C., L.S.M. | J. Mark Skipper | Jeffrey J. Hewitt | Hon. Susan E. Whelan, P.C.
Of Counsel | *B.A., LL.B.* | *M.A., LL.B.* | *J.D., LL.B. Of Counsel*

2510 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N8X 1L4
Phone: 519-250-0894 Fax: 519-966-1869 info@therightcall.ca
* Recognized by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Civil Litigation

Congratulations E. Beryl MacMillan & staff on 30 years of court reporting.

SENIOR COUNSEL:
SHIRLEY LINTON,
B.A., LL.B.

WILLIAM C. GOLDSTEIN,
B.A. (HONS.) LL.B.

MICHAEL DEBIASE,
LL.B.

EDDY D. MANZOCCO,
B.A., M.B.A., LL.B.

COLLEEN M. CAZA,
B.A., LL.B.

GOLDSTEIN DEBIASE MANZOCCO
176 University Ave. W, Suite 900
Windsor, ON
519-253-5242

Congratulations on 30 Successful Years

Anita M. Berez B.Sc., LL.B.
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
Notary Public

Security Building
267 Pelissier St. Suite 304, Windsor, Ontario N9A 4K4
Phone: (519) 258-8306 Fax: (519) 258-4184



Entrance of the Security Building at 267 Pelissier St., home of the offices of E. Beryl MacMillan official Examiner.

Happy Anniversary

HOGARTH HERMISTON SEVERS LLP
Barristers & Solicitors

114 Giles Blvd West
phone 519 973-3663
519 258-0958

Thank-You
for many years of fine service!
All the best in the future.

WILLIAM F. WRIGHT, B.A., LL.B.
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR