



## New President of the B.C. Branch

Alec C. Robertson

On August 22, at the Halifax meeting of the Canadian Bar Association, some time between the law and the lobsters, Alec Robertson will take over from Les Little as the new President of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. This represents a fairly rapid promotion, since Alec only joined the Council in 1982, but then Alec's career has been a succession of rapid promotions.

He grew up in Victoria, spending summers fishing on his father's troller off the west coast of the Island. He graduated from Victoria High School in 1949, and worked for a year before packing up his Model A roadster and moving to U.B.C. In 1950, he entered U.B.C. as a bachelor, acquired a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws, and emerged no longer a bachelor, having married Barbara. His class, the Class of '57, is perhaps the most distinguished of all, being the smallest, the one with the fewest cabinet ministers, judges, or other luminaries — except for that S.M.A.L.L. luminary, Gerry Lecovin. After graduation, Alec went to Harvard Law School, spent the year trying to explain that British Columbia was not a South American republic, and returned to article at the firm of Shulman, Tupper, Southin and Grey (as it then was) in the old Standard Building. Seeking new fields, he and Keith Liddle (of the same great '57 class) started Robertson & Liddle in the new Burrard Building, and were joined in the same year by Gordon Shrum (of the reasonably good year of '58). After four years of counsel work in both the civil and criminal law fields, Alec moved from the now Shrum Liddle to seek adventure in Brameda Resources. That was a fairly brief encounter and he sought less adventure and more security in the legal department of MacMillan Bloedel in 1966. After five years, there were further fields to conquer and he moved in 1971 to Davis & Co., since which he has confined his new ventures to various Bar organizations and something called the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, which nobody understands but which has great conventions.

Alec's practice is chiefly on the corporate side, but his heart is in counsel work, and he keeps in practice with occasional forays into hospital discipline cases. His powers of seduction in both aspects of practice were recently displayed in persuading the provincial government to do the decent thing and relocate the entire small community of Garibaldi a few miles north on the Whistler highway after it was frozen but not expropriated due to a slide risk. The fact that his own cabin was within that community may have stimulated his efforts.

For relaxation, Alec makes elaborate plans for skiing, hiking, snorkeling, and boating trips both here and abroad, and occasionally has time to actually take one of them.

The Presidency of the B.C. Branch will be in good hands.