



▼ BUSINESS

# Legal beagle has plenty on his plate in addition to the law

If the name Paul Hergott sounds familiar, it might be because he's helped you with a legal issue, captured your attention with his legal column in this newspaper or fed you a hot diggity dog at the Westside Daze parade.

Besides keeping high profile on this side of the lake, Hergott has made a name for himself in the Okanagan as a personal injury lawyer that ICBC isn't too fond of.

But the winner of three Westbank Chamber Key Business Excellence Awards views the insurance corporation's dislike for him as a good thing.

"I act only against ICBC," said Hergott. "I never act on its behalf."

If you've ever read his column which has been published in the Westside section of the Capital News for more than two years, you probably already know that he's the go-to-guy if you've been injured in a car crash.

But what you might not know is that he should be the go-to-guy for notary services as well.

For the last year he's been donating the \$30 notarial fee directly to the local non-profit brain injury support system, BrainTrust Canada Association.

"It's an easy way for



WESTSIDE BUSINESS

Lori Welbourne

to give back," he said.

"I think people would go out of their way to come to us for this service if they knew their entire payment was going to such a worthy cause."

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Paul Hergott

The other thing he likes doing for free is cooking up hot dogs and giving them out to locals at the annual Westside Daze parade in July.

"Last year was our first time and it was a blast," said Hergott.

"Our goal this year is to give out 1,500 hot dogs."

A kid at heart, Hergott's playmates are his three children, who range from three- to seven-years-old.

Besides raising their

children, he and his wife of 10 years work together as well.

Terri Hergott specializes in the real estate conveyancing and refinancing side of their legal business.

With five additional employees, the pair operate out of their offices at Hergott Law, which will celebrate its second anniversary in September.

Prior to making the leap of independence—Hergott was with Bassett and Company for 11 years, where he got his start as a litigator.

"I was drawn to the litigation side of law because it gives me a real sense of power against injustice and unfairness," said Hergott.

"I feel physically ill when I hear of people being taken advantage of. Working for people against ICBC allows me to be instrumental in preventing that from happening."

Busy these days implementing a paperless office, he's doing his best to work on behalf of the environment too.

"This is a system quite unique to the law industry and we believe it will make a real difference. Every little bit helps."

One of the founding members of the Okanagan Business to Business networking group, he



LORI WELBOURNE/CAPITAL NEWS

**WEST KELOWNA** lawyer Paul Hergott is not just a litigator who deals with personal injury cases, he is also a legal columnist for the *Capital News*.

is also serving as chairman of the group, which this year is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

"An awful lot of volunteer work goes into the OBB," said Hergott.

"Not just from me, but from all those who have served on the executive and the many fantastic members who belong. It's an incredible support

system I'm thrilled to be associated with."

A long-time member of the Kelowna Community Chorus, he sings his heart out on a weekly basis and is often heard encouraging others to also get out and sing.

"People get self-conscious about their singing—it's such a shame. We should feel free to

sing like we did when we were really young, before anyone said anything as silly as 'don't give up your day job'."

Not likely to give up his day job any time soon, Hergott can be found doling out his legal advice in his office on Industrial Road in West Kelowna beside World Gym.

But don't be surprised if you hear him at least humming a ditty or two while he does it.

With a song in his heart, he's committed to being a kid 'til the end.

Lori Welbourne is an advertising consultant with the *Capital News*.  
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