

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2000 MID-WINTER MEETING OF COUNCIL**

John Hoyles

Why Brandon? I think you now have the answer. The big sky, the crisp cold, the warmth and generosity of the people.

Why Brandon for me personally? For all of the above and for a unique experience I had yesterday morning which reminded me of my childhood in Val d'Or, Québec, where we would cross-country ski deep in the bush and often see wildlife. As part of my new regime, I walk at 6:30 am. Yesterday along my walk a large snow white rabbit bounded out in front of me in a residential section of Brandon.

I had prepared my usual report about how many more members we have, how we have more Sections, about E-zines (electronic magazines) and discussion groups; but last night I decided to throw those remarks away and talk about something that I feel very strongly about and something that concerns me deeply.

For three-and-a-half years I have been privileged to be the Executive Director of the CBA. The Canadian Bar Association. It is not just a name, it is an incredible, powerful, highly respected, widely regarded by the public, the press and the government as a very credible, thoughtful organization. Whether in British Columbia or Newfoundland, when the CBA speaks, people listen.

Why? Because of you. Think about it, look around you. 130 people have spent all day Saturday and Sunday morning in this hot room discussing, debating and arguing about a diverse range of issues. Why? Not for the pay, not for the glory, but because you care. Care about the law, care about this organization, care about this country and care about justice.

It is your commitment that gives the CBA the power that it has. Please do not forget how great an institution and organization the CBA is. Don't let differences about money, philosophy, geography and attitudes break down that power.

It is your collective caring and strength that makes the CBA strong and will keep it strong and make it even stronger in the future.