



310 CIRCLE DRIVE
 ST. ALBERT, ALBERTA T8N 7L5
rrspadvisor@shaw.ca
 Phone (780) 460 9599
 Fax (780) 460 1816
 Toll Free (888) 461 9599
 Webpage www.dwgoodstal.ca



SUMMER 2017

From the Desk of Laszlo Szojka

**CHANGE OF LOCATION
 AS OF MAY 1, 2017**

It is with great pleasure that we announce our official move to our new St. Albert location at 310 Circle Drive. We moved on May 1 and everything went as planned.

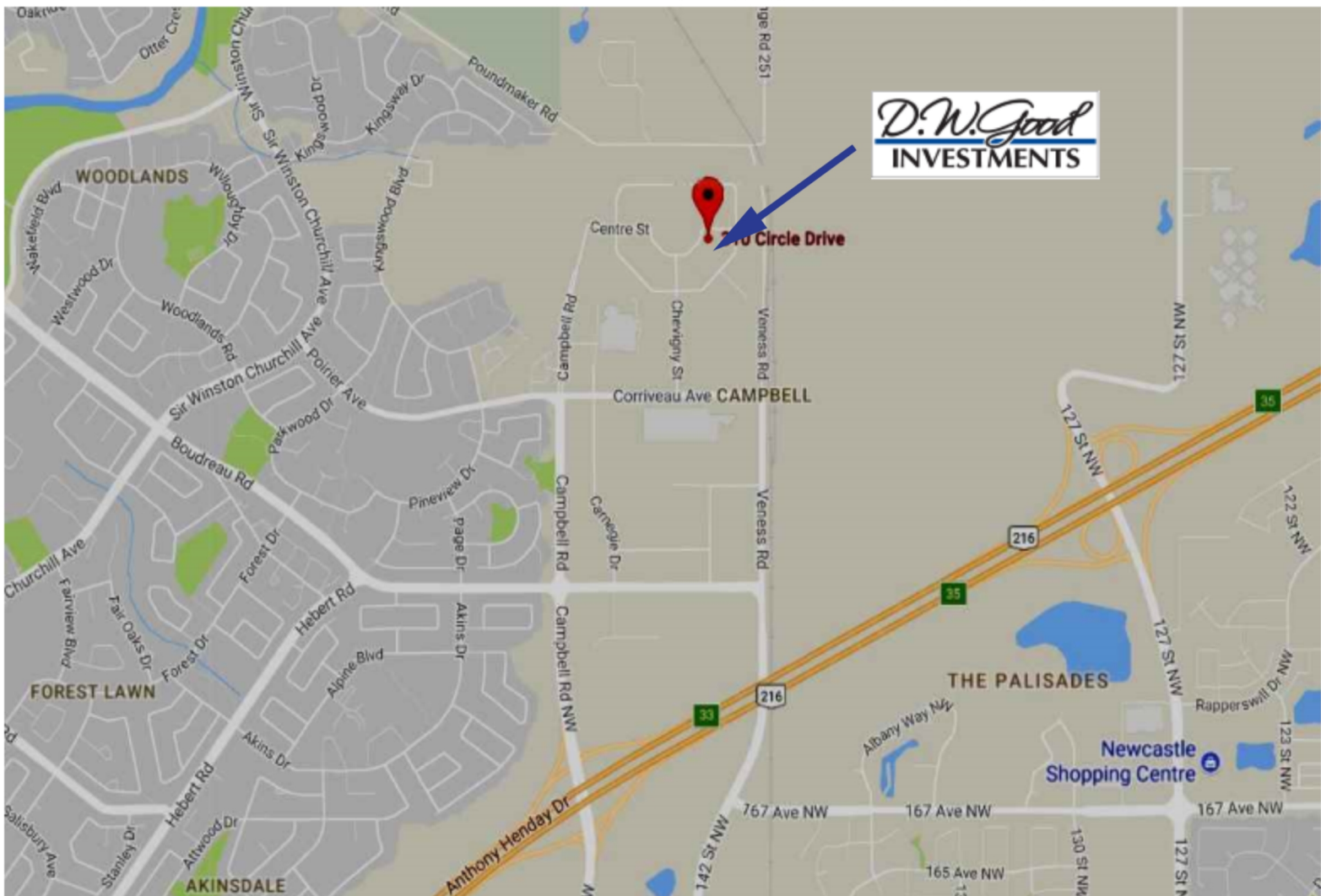
We are now updating our computer server so there has been some interruption in access off and on. These should be completed by the time you open your June 30th statements.

With all the recent news around the world regarding computer viruses and ransomware, we thought it would be prudent to upgrade our email and internet safety to the highest levels possible. In any upgrade, there are interruptions, but we have tried to keep them minimal.

We have created a consistent login for those that require access and upgraded its' security. Data integrity is very important to everyone.



To get to our office in St. Albert, the simplest way from Edmonton is the Anthony Henday and taking the Campbell Road exit Northbound. From there, drive north until Centre Street to Circle Drive.



WILL's, ESTATES and EXECUTORS

Not everyone's favourite topic, but a necessary one. Did you know more than 50% of people don't have a valid personal will? Well, let me restate that, everyone has a will, but if you didn't write it or get one done professionally, you have the government's legislated will. This is what it says on the Alberta Government web site: *If you die without a will, Part 3 - Distribution of Intestate Estates in the [Wills and Succession Act](#) sets out how a deceased person's estate will be distributed and who will inherit.*

https://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/wills/Common_Questions/WhatHappensIfDieWithoutWill.aspx/DispForm.aspx?ID=3

The will is just one aspect of your estate plan. Choosing an executor is also very important. Susan Glover, who is in our office, wrote this following article regarding Executors.

If you have been named an executor to someone's estate, there are several things you should be aware of before committing to the appointment. While being chosen to be an executor may feel like an honor, it is a role that needs careful thought before being accepted.

An honest discussion needs to take place between the testator (the person who you will be an executor for) and yourself.

The role of executor is often complicated by the fact that the majority of the time, the executor is a relative or close family friend. This brings into play the personal grieving process as well as dealing with family dynamics while maintaining loyalty to the deceased and the beneficiaries. Being aware of this fact at the onset and being prepared for it by having support in place can be very beneficial.

There are several aspects of being an executor that need to be taken into consideration before taking on the role. Ask yourself if you have the time to commit. There is the initial time required for locating the will, assessing the safety of assets, and planning the funeral. There are also long term time requirements, considering that it can take anywhere from 12 to 24 months to wrap up an estate, plus the potential for trustee duties that may last for several years after the estate closes. The scope of the role of executor may also require the assistance of dozens of professionals in areas of estate appraisals and sales, insurance, accounting, real estate, and government benefits to name a few.

It is helpful to be prepared for your role by knowing some important information ahead of time, like the location of the will and important ID, as well as a list (or the location of a list) of security codes and passwords. Know also who you can turn to for assistance, for example, who is the testator's lawyer, financial advisor/insurance broker, realtor, business partner, etc and how to get ahold of them. It is also advisable to know the testator's funeral wishes, and the location of any pre-arranged funeral plans if they exist. Ask questions while you can – get clarity on issues that are vague and make notes. If the testator honestly believes you are the best person for the role of executor, they should respect your request for clarification.

It is important to be aware that being an executor is a fiduciary duty, and you are operating in a position of trust and responsibility for other people, and in doing so you can be held liable for your actions. If the scope of the position of executor is not something you are comfortable with, it is easier to not accept the role at the time of being named so that the testator can make other plans. You are not doing any favors by accepting and declining at the last minute or by needing to be recused (officially excused from the task) after your duties have begun.

Being an executor can be a daunting task. Preparation and clarity ahead of time are important both on the part of the testator and the executor.

Written By Susan Glover, CEA (Certified Executor Advisor)

I have also contacted someone in the St. Albert Area that specializes in drafting wills and managing/being an executor on estates.



Stacy L. Maurier BA, LLB • Lawyer
Estate Connection • Taking care of you and your family
now....and forever!
t. 780-458-8228 | f. 780-458-5074
e. stacy@estateconnection.com
w. www.estateconnection.com
s. #220, 200 Carnegie Drive, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 5A7