



# The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller

## Vancouver Commandery



Winter 2007/8

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### Letter from Commander Poul Hansen

Dear Dames and Knights,

I wish you and yours a Happy 2008. There is much for which to be thankful.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow made a wonderful observation about February:

*Afternoon in February*

The day is ending,	Through clouds like ashes
The night is descending;	The red sun flashes
The march is frozen,	On village windows
The river dead.	That glimmer red.

I am personally grateful and, on your behalf delighted, to announce that Chev. Bob Trowbridge KGSJ has agreed to accept the position of Commander Elect. He will succeed me as Commander at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

In the meantime we have a very important 2008 AGM coming up on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Among other business, we will be discussing and approving the Commandery’s revised Mission and Vision Statement. The draft Statement is found on page 2 of this newsletter. Please review it carefully and add your thoughts to the AGM.

Also, come to the AGM and help me congratulate Chev. Bob Trowbridge on his new appointment and dutie.

Yours in St. John,

Poul Hansen KCSJS  
Commander



### Annual General Meeting – April 24<sup>th</sup>

Commander Poul Hansen encourages you to exercise your annual right (and duty) to have your say in the governance of the Commandery. As noted in his letter below, the Commandery’s revised Mission and Vision Statement will be discussed and approved. The AGM for the Order of St. John Palliative Care Foundation will be held this evening as well.

The AGMs will be held at Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club, starting with the AGM for the Commandery at 5:30pm.

### The 2008 Investiture & Gala – June 14<sup>th</sup>

The 2008 Investiture and Gala will be held on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Every Dame and Knight is encouraged to attend this most anticipated day in the Vancouver Commandery calendar.

Please join your fellow Dames and Knights in welcoming new Aspirants to the Commandery and celebrating the promotions of your fellow Members. Your guests would be very welcome!

Let’s make June 14, 2008 a day to remember with a record turnout of our Commandery’s members!

### Feedback From the Autumn 2007 Newsletter

*The following is verbatim correspondence from a Member of the Commandery to Chev. Ian Reid regarding his submission to the Autumn 2007 edition of the Newsletter.*

Ian,

I am most impressed with the tone and practicality of your essay. Setting the stage with reference to your “not particularly empathetic” background, upbringing and mindset, diffuses many of the preconceived notions that our membership probably has about the realities of hands-on palliative care. The greater truth behind your thesis, in my view, lies in the fact that many of the superficially harder-nosed among our membership will be those who are most able to help.

You have removed much of the mystery that surrounds getting involved through your blunt, honest observations. While indeed you are “not Mother Theresa”, your comments bring to mind an article I scanned a few weeks ago that raised the question of whether the philanthropic initiatives of Bill Gates might qualify him as a better candidate for sainthood.



# The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller

## Vancouver Commandery



### Draft Revised Mission and Vision Statement

*The Executive Committee has been reviewing the current Mission and Vision Statement with a view to ensuring it remains true to the Vancouver Commandery. The following draft Statement is for your review and comment at the AGM.*

#### MOTTO OF THE ORDER

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum  
(For Faith, for Service to Humanity)

#### MISSION

To create and deliver benefits for the Lord's sick and poor in both a material and spiritual sense.

In keeping with the Order's mission, the Vancouver Commandery supports and helps to deliver hospice and palliative care programs and services.

#### VISION

The Vancouver Commandery will play a leadership role in the development of hospice and palliative care programs and services to meet the needs of all British Columbians into the future.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Vancouver Commandery will continue to work in partnership with organizations that are active in hospice and palliative care. The Commandery will strive to effectively utilize the skills, experience, networks and resources of the Members, to realize its charitable objectives. To that end the Commandery shall:

- Continue to sponsor the B.C Hospice Palliative Care Association's work to promote and advocate hospice palliative care throughout British Columbia and to assess and evaluate needs.
- Continue to direct financial awards to provincial hospices to help develop their capacity to deliver services.
- Provide orientation and training in hospice and palliative care to 25% of the members in the Vancouver Commandery by the end of 2009.
- Grow the permanent endowment fund in the Order of St. John Palliative Care Foundation to exceed \$1,000,000 by the end of 2008.
- Lead in the development and opening of a new hospice facility on the West side of Vancouver by the end of 2010.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES *(continued)*

- Review the needs for hospice and palliative care in the Metro Vancouver area in 2008 and based on the results make a recommendation to the membership of the Commandery with respect to the development of a second facility.

#### PRINCIPLES

The Vancouver Commandery believes:

- In visionary leadership that welcomes innovative approaches, builds on strengths, models inclusiveness of its membership and takes appropriate risks.
- In order to be successful in its community work it must strive to access, utilize and engage the skills, experience, networks, volunteer time and resources of all Members in the Commandery.
- In addition to the financial resources that the Vancouver Commandery can generate, it also brings an entrepreneurial and business orientation that is an added value to its charitable work in the community.
- In order to create a greater organizational capacity to achieve its charitable purpose, the Commandery must invest in orientation training and education of its membership.
- In collaborative relationships among Members, volunteers and other organizations.
- The Vancouver Commandery will work in partnership with government in the creation of hospice and palliative care in British Columbia, but will not supplant the government's responsibility in this area.



### One-On-One With ... Commander Poul Hansen

*In this issue of the Newsletter we commence a series of interviews with members of the Commandery's Executive Committee to offer some insight to Members as to the person and the position. Commander Poul Hansen was gracious enough to be our first interviewee.*

Ed.: Thank you for agreeing to this interview, Poul. Let's start with when you joined the Order and the community work that led to the invitation to join.

Poul: I was invested in the Order in 1995, probably on the basis of work I was doing for Children's Hospital. Like most Aspirants, I was surprised and delighted to be invited to join the Order and quite certain the Membership Committee had made a mistake in doing so.

Ed.: Well, you must have impressed some senior Members in the Order in the intervening period, given that you were promoted to Commander in June 2006.

Poul: Yes, well that was a pleasant surprise too.

Ed.: Assuming that getting the final approval for a new hospice is your #1 goal during your tenure as Commander, what's your #2 objective?

Poul: I think it would be fair to say that the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Commandery was not optimal when I became Commander. It still isn't, but we are getting better all the time. I would hope that I could hand over a smooth running organization to my successor.

Ed.: How many hours a week do you spend on affairs of the Order?

Poul: If I give you an honest answer to that question, Judy will get angry with me, and Bob Trowbridge will rescind his agreement to take over from me! But seriously, I do spend a fair amount of time on the Order and, for the most part, it is greatly fulfilling. Also, I have a great Executive who are a dream to work with and take on a tremendous amount of work as well.

Ed.: Aside from chairing the Executive Committee of the Commandery, what takes up most of your time for OSJ?

Poul: Coordination of the work of the Committees and Events, and ensuring that Members are kept informed of our work.

Ed.: Without being indelicate, you certainly can't be a believer in a mandatory retirement age, given that you are 76 and still working most days a week.

Poul: After retiring as President of Highland Valley Copper in 1995, I teamed up with Dr. Tony Sperling to start a new firm, Sperling Hansen Associates. We have grown over the past 13 years and enjoy recognition as an engineering consultancy specialized in providing solid waste management services to municipal and corporate clients.

Ed.: Congratulations on your success. During your career was there one person who you looked to as a mentor?

Poul: My first boss, Jack Christensen, has been my mentor throughout my career. It was great that he was willing to assist a young kid just starting out. Coincidentally, we share the same birthday – November 9<sup>th</sup> – he's 14 years older than me and is still going strong.

Ed.: Behind every successful man is a surprised woman. Tell us about Judy and the rest of your family.

Poul: Judy and I were married on December 30, 1960. We have three children: Tani (1962), Sian (1963) and John Poul (1967) and five grandchildren. Of course, they are all the apples of my eye.

Ed.: What was the last book you read?

Poul: "The Black Swan" by Nassim Nicholas Taleb. It presents a fascinating disbelief in forecasts.

Ed.: What is your favourite vacation spot?

Poul: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Ed.: What is your favourite pastime?

Poul: Gardening and reading a good book.

Ed.: Thanks again for doing this, Commander.

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*Next Issue: Bob Trowbridge  
Membership Committee Chair &  
Commander Elect*



The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller  
Vancouver Commandery



**SOSJ's Annual Christmas Lunch – December 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Order's Annual Christmas Lunch was a great success, attracting over 70 Members and spouses to RVYC.

We were entertained by a talented duo on piano and violin. Chev. The Venerable Dr. Dennis Popple, KJSJ offered Grace, Commander Poul Hansen extended greetings, and Chev. Rev. Nicholas Parker, KGSJ gave an informative speech about the important role of the Seaman's Mission. It was a thoroughly enjoyable few hours together.

Dame Drinda Scott, DCSJ  
Chair Events and Social Committee



*Chev. Dick Earthy and Dame Anna Nyarady  
flash their pearly whites*



*We were entertained by wonderful piano and violin*



*Dame Susan Dickson, Viviane Reid & Dame Wendy Cowan*



*Chev. Dick Richards and Marilyn Richards*



*Chev. Peter Hebb*



*HE Lt. Grand  
Master David Rolfe*



SOSJ Annual Christmas Lunch – (continued)



*Chev. David Hardwick (right) instructs Chev. Ron Dumouchelle on the art of one hand clapping (or the size of his latest fish)*



*Chev. Ron Dumouchelle (right) listens intently to both Chev. John Norton (left) & Chev. Peter Hebb (centre)*



*Dame Lynda-May O'Brien, Terry O'Brien & Chev. Dick Earthy*



*Chev. William Clarke & Dame Janis Clarke*



*HE Prior Bailiff Regent Arthur Knight, Dame Anne Wood, Marjorie Knight, Chev. Rev. Nicholas Parker & Chev. The Hon. John Fraser*



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## Vancouver Commandery



### Membership Report – Growth Begets Growth

Great teams don't happen by accident.

Wise leadership, a proud history, and a keenly focused sense of purpose are all prerequisites for organizational excellence; but, without exception, there must be growth.

As a young agency manager in the insurance business, the message was clear to me. Recruit or die; mere maintenance was not an option. Ninety-five percent of sales organizations were “managed” by custodians; the top five percent were led by builders.... and built by leaders.

Potential recruits would often “kick the tires” of two or three agencies, sometimes branches of the same company, a few short city blocks apart. Invariably these candidates would sign on with the office that was buzzing with recruiting activity; then applying the art and science of careful selection. Later, careers launched, these rookies would comment on the differences; the stale air, the cliques and whispering in the hallways of one agency; the electric atmosphere, the laughter and *joie de vivre* in the other. So growth begets growth.

The Vancouver Commandery of OSJ, happily, can be compared to that second agency. With a vibrant membership that now approaches one-hundred and fifty Dames and Knights, we have “Mo” on our side; precious momentum that must never be taken for granted or squandered. Once lost, the “*je ne sais quoi*” magic of momentum can be irretrievable.

From time to time veteran OSJ members or new Aspirants ask me, “Are you looking for quantity or quality in your recruiting?” to which my response is “Yes!”

Certainly quality comes first. We seek honourable people from both genders. We are interested in community-conscious leaders who are “difference makers”. We want to encourage an infusion of talented new blood from a balanced demographic, in terms of age and domicile. We are eager to tell the OSJ story to people who understand and support our mission to improve palliative care in our community.

It is precisely this mission that allows us to believe that we can attract robust numbers of Aspirants without compromising quality. The progress and reality of our hospice project is considered to be a worthy and vital objective by a growing list of respected philanthropists in the Lower Mainland. Internationally and nationally renowned leaders from the medical community are providing us with their bios, including their measurements for scarlet capes.

While the Membership Committee is doing its utmost to sustain this precious momentum, our growth is really dependent on the eyes and ears of our entire Commandery; almost one hundred and fifty community heavyweights. While not excelling at high school physics, I do recall that mass in motion creates centrifugal force; then centrifugal force creates gravity; and that gravity attracts. Accordingly, I ask each of you to get your mass in gear, and commit to suggesting a name or two to our Membership Committee. We'll do the rest while keeping you posted; fully in the loop. With your help, we'll never let our precious momentum slip.

After all..... great teams don't happen by accident.

Yours in St. John,

Robert E L Trowbridge, KGSJ  
Membership Committee Chair

### Bob's Request of OSJ Members

Consider your personal and corporate relationships to determine if anyone on your list would make a good candidate for the Order. There must be at least one person on your list! Call Bob at 604-689-8289 or email him at [btrowbridge@worldsourceinsurance.com](mailto:btrowbridge@worldsourceinsurance.com).

### New Aspirants Getting Involved

The Membership Committee introduced 24 Aspirants to the Order in 2006 and 2007.

An inquiry at a recent meeting of the Executive led to the realization that over 50% of these Aspirants are now engaged formally in some activity of the Commandery. The Executive is delighted by this high level of engagement by the new Dames and Knights in the Order.



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### Hospitaller's Report

We continue to make progress in obtaining the free land that is the prerequisite for the St John Hospice. Our confidence in obtaining the land has increased sharply over the last month and we have every reason to believe we will have approval within a very few months, subject to the usual legal agreements.

Once that decision is announced and the site finalized, a Building Committee made up of Order and Vancouver Hospice Society representatives will begin the process of selecting architects and proceeding with the design of the Hospice up to the stage needed for permits. Detailed drawings and construction will be undertaken when we have final agreements on the land and with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, subject to the usual multi year budgeting caveats. The Order representatives on the Building Committee will have a mixture of hospice and development or construction experience.

Concurrent with that, we expect Vancouver Coastal Health will provide operational funding in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2010 – the earliest year we can be ready. As a Government body, Vancouver Coastal Health must issue a public tender for the operation of the Hospice but not for the capital (our) part.

Time now becomes a constraint. We have just over two years to our targeted opening day of April 1, 2010. Design and contractor selection will require 6 months, and construction will take a further 14 months or so, including contingency. That leaves us 5 months to finalize our land agreements. If we slip, it will push opening back in the fiscal year; there is no hard deadline, just lost opportunity for service to the community.

Many contribute to projects like this but I would like to draw attention to the extraordinary efforts of two members. We are all aware of Chev. Ken Mahon's commitment to get the land and take responsibility for fundraising. These are the two most fundamental problems to solve for this to succeed. His effort and capability have gone beyond any reasonable call to duty in making this project happen. Many members may be less aware of the contribution of Chev. Ron Dumouchelle. His intimate knowledge of both the Health Authority senior staff and processes, and his close connection to UBC Hospital has allowed us to proceed where others might not for lack of knowledge of the way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on your behalf.

Yours in St. John,

Chev. Ian Reid, KGSJ  
Hospitaller

### Hospice Project Team

As the acquisition of a land lease for the hospice is coming closer, the following "project leaders" have agreed to serve on behalf of the Commandery, viz.:

Design & VHS Liaison	Chev. Ian Reid, KGSJ
Land & Fundraising	Chev. Kenneth Mahon, KJSJ
Land Lease	Chev. Ron Dumouchelle, KSJ
Legal	Chev. John Norton, KGSJ
Construction	Chev. Howie Charters, KSJ

This team will be working in close liaison with Vancouver Hospice Society, the operating partners in this venture.

Our "project leaders" will require support by other Members of the Commandery. You are welcome to indicate your interest in helping out by making direct contact. And if you are contacted, I encourage you to respond positively.

Yours in St. John,

Poul Hansen KCSJS  
Commander

### Palliative Care Education Workshops

By the time you read this we will have completed another course on palliative care.

Fourteen Members and spouses will have participated in a course held over two evenings at the homes of Dame Susan Dickson and Dame Hilary Oswald on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

We will be arranging another course during the balance of 2008.

Yours in St. John,

Dame Susan Dickson, DGSJ  
Chair, Palliative Care Volunteer Committee



# The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller

## Vancouver Commandery



### Events for Your Calendar

#### *Vancouver Commandery*

**APRIL 24, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.**

AGM's of the Commandery & the Foundation  
Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club, Vancouver

**JUNE 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.**

Investiture of 2008 Aspirants and Promotions  
Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

**JUNE 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.**

Reception and Gala Dinner  
Vancouver Club, Vancouver

#### *Other Events*

**MARCH 29, 2008**

Priory of the Western USA – The Investiture Service  
Grace Cathedral & Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco

**JUNE 21, 2008**

Commandery of the Sierras – The Investiture Service  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno, NV

**SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2008**

2008 Sovereign Council Meeting  
Washington, D.C.

### New Secretary of the Executive Committee

Between a move of residences, Chev. Peter Hebb, KGSJ and Mrs. Hebb have decided to spend time abroad from early April. In the circumstance, Peter has decided to resign his position of Secretary of the Executive Committee. He has diligently carried out those responsibilities for the past three years as well as organizing the Placement Committee and generally participating in the work of the Commandery. Peter's insightful comments and contributions to the Executive Committee meeting will be missed. However, he shall be back in other guises by the late summer.

Chev. Dan Tidball, KSJ, who was invested in May of 2007, has agreed to assume the Secretary's duties.

### Kudos & Other News

On November 15, 2007 the UBC Alumni Association bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award on Chev. Professor Emeritus Dr. David Hardwick KSJ. In receiving this award, Chev. Hardwick is being recognized "for exceptional achievement in his field and exemplary behaviour as a contributing member of society." Congratulations, David!

*Don't be shy or overly modest! The Editor is pleased to include your "Kudos & Other News". If you don't offer freely, we may have to make something up! Please send submissions to Chev. John Jennings ([john.jennings@cibc.com](mailto:john.jennings@cibc.com) or [john@jennings.ca](mailto:john@jennings.ca)).*

### Welcome to SOSJ's New Administrative Assistant

In February, the Vancouver Commandery welcomed Ms. Gail Dunn as our new Administrative Assistant.

Gail's office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9:00 and 4:30.

She can be reached by phone (604-682-2938) or email at [gdunn@sosjvancouver.org](mailto:gdunn@sosjvancouver.org).

### The Order of St. John Palliative Care Foundation

The new office of the Foundation is:

Suite 210, 1095 West Pender St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 2M6.

Ms. Kay Pearson will conduct the administrative duties. She can be reached by phone at 604-681-5508, fax at 604-681-9684 or email at [kathryn@wardpearson.com](mailto:kathryn@wardpearson.com).

### Passings

We regret to inform the Commandery that Major Emerson Claude Short, CD, KGSJ died peacefully in the early morning of Saturday, January 19, 2008 at the age of 88 years young.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances Dorothy Short; two daughters: Ellen and husband Shawn, Terry and partner Don; grandchildren: Nicholas, Lisa, Stephanie and Brett

Chev Short was invested in the Order of St. John in November 1990. He resigned in 2005 for health reasons.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.