Sovereign Order Of
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
Knights Hospitaller c.1048

The Vancouver Commandery

NEWSLETTER

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum
For Faith, For Service to Humanity

Fall 2020

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Virtual technology helped to make SCM 2020 a reality

The virtual Sovereign Council Meeting was very successfully completed in two days, instead of the three days for which it was scheduled, due in large part to the planning, ingenuity and hard work of several of our senior members. Special acknowledgement and congratulations go out to H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Master Ian Reid on his very organized, researched and well presented agenda, and to H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard Earthy on assuming and performing the very difficult task of being the ZOOM Video Conferencing Master as well as providing his knowledgeable assistance with protocol and other details of the Order.

Also, the commitment and hard work of two retiring Bailiffs from our Commandery require acknowledgment. A hearty thank you to H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Counsellor David Petitpierre and H E Bailiff Frank Anfield on behalf of a very grateful Vancouver Commandery.

Additionally, Chevalier Robin Elliott was awarded the Medal of Merit for his dedicated service and Justice George Hungerford was nominated to be one of five justices on the International SOSJ Court. Congratulations Chevalier Elliott and Justice Hungerford. Both are well deserved.

Other Vancouver Commandery members to be congratulated for their re-election are H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid, GCSJ, MMSJ and Bar, and H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard Earthy, GCSJ, MMSJ.

More information on presentations and outcomes of the Sovereign Council Meeting 2020 can be found in the Vancouver Commander's report in this newsletter and in the October newsletter of the International Office.

Dear Knights and Dames of the Vancouver Commandery,

As Covid-19 continues to cause havoc and uncertainty, not only in our personal spheres, but in our community and around the world, I believe it is fitting to begin this autumn message with a Covid-19 prayer sourced by our fellow Commandery member The Very Reverend Peter Elliott that was given as the opening prayer at the recent virtual Sovereign Council Meeting September 17 and 18, 2020.

This prayer reminds us, despite the many inconveniences of the pandemic, how very fortunate we are. It also calls upon us, more than ever, to provide for the Sick, the Poor and the Isolated in the Lower Mainland and around our province.

Commander David Hunt

COVID-19 PRAYER by Cameron Bellum sourced by The Very Reverend Peter Elliott

May we who are merely inconvenienced... Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors...Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home....Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close... Remember those who have no options.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market... Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home....Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,.... Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us yet find ways to be in the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

Amen.

Our Commander's Report

Throughout 2020, our Almoner Committee has remained very active proving our good work can safely continue throughout the Pandemic. However, we are missing people in key positions to keep our momentum moving ever forward.

Our Hospitaller Committee needs volunteers to help provide our Commandery services to the Sick, the Poor and the Isolated on the ground. Despite 6 months of effort to secure a new Hospitaller Chair, this search has not been fruitful. As this committee's work is pivotal to the mission of the Vancouver Commandery, I will be assuming the role of Interim Chair. A Hospitaller Committee with some previous members and some new members has been convened with a number of new initiatives to be discussed and priortized at the first Zoom Meeting in October.

To facilitate funding of new Commandery programs, a Fund Raising Committee has been created with several committed members and I am seeking more members to round out the committee to meet our goals.

If you have the interest and passion to serve on the Hospitaller Committee or the Fund Raising Committee please get in touch with me today at 604- 970-6062!

INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIORIES MONTHLY MEETING
This is a new innovation where Commanders, Priors and more Senior Officers from the entire International SOSJ regularly communicate. ZOOM meetings take place monthly and allow for the exchange of ideas and activities for fundraising and service to the sick and poor during Covid-19. Some Commanderies have had remarkable events with significant dollars raised and service provided. I am hoping that we can use some of their excellent ideas here in Vancouver

OTHER ITEMS FROM SOVEREIGN COUNCIL MEETING 2020

– The Very Reverend Peter Elliott - Provide (For Faith)
The Very Reverend Elliott chaired a subcommittee of the SOSJ Ecclesiastical Council and presented four major and three minor recommendations to the Sovereign Council to infuse our Commanderies with some much needed spiritual renewal.

While SOSJ Commanderies can get very focussed on the business of the Order and delivering programs to support the Lord's sick and poor, the Very Reverend Elliott's recommendations are intended to keep us close to our core values and faith. This subcommittee presented these recommendations simply and convincingly, without frills, and were unanimously adopted by the Sovereign Council. They were subsequently presented by The Very Reverend Peter Elliott to our Commandery Council at our September 30, 2020 meeting. The Council has endorsed all of them. They are certainly not onerous and act as a guide to enhance our spiritual path as Christians. These recommendations will be rolled out to the membership in a separate message.

– Dubbing of Female Aspirants and Existing Female Members
A proposal for the dubbing of female Aspirants with Sword was presented to the SCM by Grand Hospitaller May Storrie from Scotland. It generated a lot of discussion and was viewed as a very positive step. It was decided that the memberships of each individual Priory and independent Commandery would vote on the subject of dubbing of female Aspirants. It was felt that this would be universally accepted in North America. The dubbing of female aspirants was approved by the Sovereign Council, so we await the outcome of the voting with details to be worked out by the Grand Master and the LPC.

The dubbing of existing female members was also endorsed. As they have already been invested, their dubbing would take on a ceremony somewhat like the

(Continued on p.4)

From Our Commander (cont.)

renewal of wedding vows. Regardless, the ceremony of dubbing should be undertaken as soon as possible, be meaningful for the Dames involved, and should take place during an Investiture. The details are yet to be finalized

– Revised and Clarified Promotion Criteria
Prior Anne Rowland chaired a committee which did excellent work in clarifying and standardizing the SOSJ Promotion System. She presented this system at the SCM and it was applauded and approved. A new award has been added which is situated one below the Medal of Merit to recognize exemplary service. Also, a new award has been added to become our top award. Details of the revised Promotion System will be found on the International Website.

– New and Improved Standardized SOSJ Visuals
Grand Prior of Canada Stewart Johnson formed a committee to create modernized uniform and standardized visuals for all forms of communication pertaining to the Canadian Commanderies. Many members of this committee are members of the Vancouver Commandery including Chevalier George Higgins, Chevalier Stephen Simpson and Chevalier Sir John Cave -Brown Cave, the Master of Regalia. The excellent work of this committee was presented to the SCM and received very favourably.

– Chapter General Ballot Form for Voting on the 2020 Proposed Amendments to the King Peter II Constitution
By now, members have received an email from our Administration Office outlining proposed amendments to the King Peter II Constitution, as well as a voting form for the three proposed amendments recently passed at the 2020 SCM. All members in good standing are asked to please exercise their franchise by sending their completed voting form to our Registrar General Dennis Magrega at the International Office by email, fax or mail by the end of business on December 16,2020. As your Commander, I recommend voting for all three amendments.

OTHER COMMANDERY BUSINESS:
– Finalization Of Our Vancouver Commandery Vision And Mission Statement
I am pleased to report that the Almoner Subcommittee has crafted a Vision and Mission Statement which was presented to the Commandery Council on September 30 ,2020 and was unanimously supported.

Our thanks and gratitude is extended to the Subcommittee of The Very Reverend Peter Elliott, Chevalier John Jennings, Dame Susan Scott Gabe, Chevalier Frank Anfield and The Reverend John Bailey for their work in finalizing this important core statement:

VISION: Guided by our motto for faith, for service to humanity, we collaborate on innovative programs and services that benefit the Lord's sick and poor in British Columbia

MISSION: We play a leadership role in the delivery and funding of traditional hospice projects and contemporary community-based programs that advance our Vision based on embracing three priorities: strengthening compassionate care communities of care, training and education, innovation and excellence.

– New Members To The Commandery Council
I am very pleased to announce that a new member of the 2020 Aspirant Class, Hans-Christian Behm, on the strong recommendation of Herald Stephen Simpson, will be assuming a co-chair Herald role. Aspirant Behm has proven to be an energetic, creative, knowledgeable communicator.

Chevalier Stephen Simpson has done an amazing job as our Commandery Herald. His experience in communication and advertising has resulted in many innovative improvements. He has worked closely with our administrator, Sarah Turnbull and together they have streamlined our office operations. While continuing in his Herald role, with the assistance of Hans-Christian, Stephen will be taking his skills into some projects for the Grand Priory of Canada and International Order office, as well as providing assistance to other Commanderies. Thank you, Stephen, for your energy and foresight.

The position of Chairman of the Membership Committee has been vacant since Chevalier John Rogers resigned his position last March. Although Chevalier Rogers has been very busy winding up his law practice, he very kindly ushered in the nomination of Kirk Hamilton through the process. I would like to personally acknowledge and thank Chevalier Rogers for his ongoing service.

I would also like to acknowledge Chevaliers George Higgins and Matthew Casey, current members of the Membership Committee, who have agreed to co-ordinate the activities of the Membership Committee. George has assumed the Chair and Matthew the Vice-Chair. They both are experienced members with a record of significant service to our Commandery.

We have ten vetted Aspirants for 2021 including one new candidate who was vetted in March 2020.

– SCM 2022 Planning Committee
We are most fortunate to have Chevalier Jack McGee remain as the Chair of the 2022 SCM Planning Committee. All of his 2020 Planning Committee members have also agreed to continue. Hopefully, Covid-19 will only be a bad memory by the fall of 2022 and we will be able to offer Vancouver, Lower Mainland, Victoria and Vancouver Island excursions to our fellow National and International Knights and Dames.

This 2022 committee met by ZOOM on Tuesday September 29 and is charging ahead with planning.

– **Vancouver Commandery MAiD Project**
Co-Chair Dame Valerie Jenkinson and Commander David Hunt are receiving first draft submissions from the various contributors to this project. It is hoped that these will all be submitted shortly and circulated so that the discussion phase can begin.

– Liaison Group
This is the new Vancouver Commandery group established to encourage communication and information flow between our membership and senior officers. There will be one representative member from most of the past Aspirant classes. The aim is to have this group informally meet three to four times a year with the Commander, virtually by ZOOM and face -to-face when permitted.

This project was launched shortly before the summer, and a number of interested members have been identified. I will be setting up ZOOM meetings with each of the Aspirant classes of recent decades, not yet represented, to get their input and hopefully have a member of each class ideally recruited for the Liaison Group.

– BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association(BCHPA)
Our Commandery has been a strong supporter of this organization for many years as it connects almost all the Palliative Care Societies and Hospices in BC (large and small). Through its representatives, it promotes grass roots communication, best practices, holding province wide annual conferences and supporting regional day-long seminars. More recently, through the work of Dame Susan Scott Gabe and Chevalier John Jennings, our Commandery Almoner has played a key role in the BCHPA Working Group's authoring of the Path Forward, a document that proposes standards and goals for hospice palliative care in BC.

I have been elected to stand as a Director-at-Large along with Jane Webley, RN LLB with the goal to enhance liaison and advice from SOSJ to Vancouver Coastal Health and the BCHPCA. Jane Webley is a senior program developer and Lead with Palliative Care Programs with Vancouver Coastal Health. She sat on a panel with Dr. David Hardwick, Dame Susan Scott-Gabe and Dr. Peter Edmunds at one of our earlier Town Hall Meetings.

At the time of writing this report, it appears we are in for a long winter with stringent expectations for all British Columbians to remain diligent in their Covid19 safe practices.

Please be well and stay safe.

Yours in St. John,
Commander David Hunt
KJSJ

As part of the expansion of the 100 Mile House Palliative Care facility, (a Vancouver Commandery funding project) this mural was commissioned for patients as the windows are too high for a view to the outside.

SCM 2022 Update

Now that the 2020 Virtual Sovereign Council Meeting has been completed successfully, the SCM Planning Committee is turning its mind to the next meeting.

The Vancouver Commandery is honoured to host the International meeting for the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller in 2022.

The SOSJ Sovereign Council meetings must be held every two years to conduct important business that will set the course of the Sovereign Order for the coming years. Normally, the meetings alternate between continents. It is also a unique opportunity for members from across the globe to learn more about the Sovereign Order by observing its deliberations and decision-making.

As part of the process for the SCM 2022, your planning committee will be creating a new program based largely on what had been previously planned. It is still the goal of the planning committee to explore excursion options for visitors to enjoy the sights and experiences of Beautiful British Columbia.

As we move forward into the next year and agenda items are either confirmed or changed, we will be posting updates regularly to both the SOSJ International and Vancouver Commandery websites.

Also, through email communications, members can expect to periodically receive notices regarding the SCM 2022 planning to keep you informed. For an idea of what features are being planned, check the Explore Vancouver & Beautiful British Columbia section of the SOSJ International website.

Planned Program and Excursions
(subject to change)

Monday, September 12
- Registration/Hospitality Suite – Pan Pacific Hotel.
- Welcome Reception Hosted by Grand Prior of Canada – Pan Pacific Hotel.

Tuesday, September 13
- Free Day – see optional tours.
- Optional Victoria Excursion - to be confirmed.

Wednesday, September 14
- Grand Priors, Priors & Commanders meeting(s) by Invitation only.
- Activity TBC
- Open to All – History, Archives and Future of SOSJ.
- Free evening

Thursday, September 15
- Sovereign Council Meeting Day 1
- All Registrants invited & encouraged to attend/ observe the SCM meetings. Otherwise Free Day
- Dinner – Location TBC

Friday, September 16
- Sovereign Council Meeting Day 2
- All Registrants invited & encouraged to attend/ observe the SCM meetings. Otherwise Free Day.
- SCM 2022 Presentation at end of SCM meeting.
- Grand Priors of Canada & USA meeting – open.
- International & Aspirant Reception Hosted by Vancouver Commandery.

Saturday, September 17
- Aspirant Breakfast (By Invitation Only)
- Investiture Service Rehearsal (By Invitation Only)
- For All Registered Members & Guests – Free Day until SCM 2022 Investiture and Service at Christ Church Cathedral.
- Gala Reception at Pan Pacific Hotel.
- SCM 2022 Gala Dinner Pan Pacific Hotel Crystal Ballroom.

Sunday, September 18 – Optional:
- Church Service at Christ Church Cathedral
- Post SCM Tours/Departures

The 2020 Aspirant Garden Party

While the Covid-19 virus necessitated postponement of the June Investiture of 2020 Aspirants, the Vancouver Commandery's Marshall and Social Committee were still intent on arranging an event to introduce the 2020 Aspirants to Vancouver Commandery Council members.

An outdoor, socially distance compliant garden party was hosted at the Vancouver home of Dame Heather and Kirk Hamilton. Their meticulously cultivated garden was awash with colour and fragrance.

Aspirants Mary Jordan, Charlie Kiers, David MacGrotty, Reverend Christine Magrega, Stacy Robertson, Marvin Storrow and yours truly, Hans-Christian Behm were present. Miranda Lam, Suzanne Lewis and Dr. Vladimir Krajina sent their regrets.

For me, it was a moment filled with curiosity and anticipation. Past Membership Committee head Chevalier John Rogers watched with interest at the interaction between the seasoned SOSJ members and the Aspirants.

Floating on superb liquids and delectable tidbits, the conversation was animated and welcoming. Topics ranged from: "How do you know your sponsors?" to" Where do I fit in?" The answer was: " Don't be in a hurry, listen and watch. You'll find something to suit your talents."

Yours in St. John,
Hans-Christian Behm
Aspirant & Herald

I, for one, left filled with a sense of generosity and goodwill emanating amongst the women and men I had met, with a special bonus: to discover the Bowen connection between our Commandery Administrator Sarah Turnbull and my family. What a gracious introduction into the first stages of membership to this exalted Sovereign Order.

THE VANCOUVER COMMANDERY

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

Annual Christmas Lunch

DECEMBER 2ND or 8TH, 20

11:45 - 2:30

THE ROYAL VAN CLUB

ERSON (*cash bar)

REGRETABLY CANCELLED DUE TO NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE REQUIREMENTS

To follow safety protocol be two luncheon D e c e m b e and t h other on the 8th with a maximum of 40 guests at each. Commander David Hunt will be at both giving welcome speeches.

Tickets are $80 each (include gratuity and GST) and are first come, first serve. Lunch will be plated, rather than buffet and you must choose your entrée in advance.

By now you have received an email from Administration with ticket order form and menu.

Getting To Know Dame Susan Scott Gabe

This is the second in a series of interviews with members of your Vancouver Commandery Council. Your Herald, Chevalier Stephen Simpson and Aspirant Hans-Christian Behm, sat down with Almoner Dame Susan Scott Gabe via a Zoom call.

SS: Are you a Vancouver gal or are you a transplant?

SSG: "Like many Vancouverites, I was born out of province in Sudbury, Ontario where my dad was an engineer and my mum was a nurse. When I was five years old, my parents decided to go west to the tight-knit community of Trail, British Columbia. My dad served as an alderman and was awarded the Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow recognition for his commitment, and my mother was a school board trustee and United Way board member. Our family of six (four girls) was very active in the community and the principle of giving back was instilled early on."

SS: When you left Trail to come to the west coast, did you have designs to work in the health industry?

SSG: "No, in my first year of university, I studied sciences; however, I wanted more of an applied approach so I enrolled in a nursing program. This turned out to be a pivotal decision in my career given the many opportunities I was presented with. Since graduating in the early 80s, I collaborated on a number of pioneering projects with amazing teams that have impacted the quality of care of patients and families. To name a few, I was involved with the first in vitro fertilization program at UBC and the first-of-its-kind methadone research program with UBC Hospital and the Province of BC. A few other instrumental programs include the development of community based palliative care programs. To further enhance my administrative skills, I attended Queen's University's Strategic Planning and Leadership Executive programs that were the catalysts to forming an independent health-care consulting firm. In 2013, I co-founded Care At Home Services, a community home care agency that specializes in supporting people to remain at home as long as possible, particularly those with complex, palliative care needs."

SS: For decades health care operated in separate streams of patient care and administration. Yet, you have managed to be involved in both. How has this helped your professional career?

SSG: "While enjoying front-line nursing where I had direct patient interaction and a chance to work with families and make a difference, I decided early on that administration and project management was where I could better influence and impact care delivery. While in an administrative role and to plan well—it was incredibly important for me to stay connected with the clients, families, and loved ones we served and our staff. I have always made a point of spending time in the field, especially when difficult situations arose. I believe that without listening and truly understanding the client experience, all the planning and benchmarking in the world can't improve health care."

SS: Was it the business case of palliative or the shortfall of palliative services that drove you to become as involved as you are today?

SSG: "Actually, it was neither. It was personal. I was 25 years old and manager of a neurosurgical orthopaedic unit at Fraser Health when my sister-in-law was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour. Back in the mid-eighties, there was very little community palliative support and we, as a family, made the commitment to care for my sister-in-law and to coordinate the support needed for her to die at home. I left my job, and it took a village to muster such support. This experience sparked my passion for palliative care and set the stage for the rest of my career."

SS: Having been on both sides of the health care industry, how do palliative organizations and facilities play a vital social and economic role in the quality and costs of health care?

SSG: "Unfortunately many people are still dying in tertiary, acute-care beds. If you look at the estimated costs of an acute-care medical or emergency room bed, versus a hospice bed, such as ours at St. John Hospice, there are considerable savings for people ending their life in a hospice bed or at home. More importantly, we know that from a quality of life perspective, most Canadians (~76%) would prefer to die in their home with support.

"I can share with you an innovative program that was developed on the North Shore. When a frail, elderly person came into ER, who probably would have difficulty returning home, community services were alerted immediately and planning to support the individual's return to community began. The target was to transition these high-risk

individuals home within 12 to 72 hours. The sooner intervention and planning occurred, the sooner we could get these people back home with supports. That is just one example of success. However, there are incredible opportunities within health care to create similar innovative, cost saving measures where hospice palliative care can play a critical role."

HCB: "If I may interject here, like you, Susan, I also went through a very personal experience with health care, but mine was a rough journey. On the last day of 1998 my wife was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. We were totally unprepared, in shock and unwilling to accept. No one explained, nor gave us options to avoid the death sentence. I fought for a cure, even up to three days before she died. It was not until eighteen months later, when I was accepted into the palliative volunteer program at Lions Gate Hospital that I saw the benefits of the public and community systems, working together, including public education and volunteering. My first experience with the St. John Hospice at UBC was to say goodbye to my 105 year old uncle. It was then I saw this bastion of peace, this arm of care surrounding him and I immediately felt I could be of service there."

SSG: "Thanks Hans for sharing your personal experiences. That nicely segues into Steve's question as to my first introduction to SOSJ. As part of my role within palliative care at Vancouver Coastal Health, I attended the opening of the St. John Hospice at UBC. I was impressed by the quality of the home-like environment, the attention to detail, and SOSJ's commitment to quality care.

"During the opening ceremonies, I was fortunate to connect with an old friend and colleague architect, Grace Gordon-Collins, member of SOSJ. Grace was involved in the design of the hospice and shared how much she had enjoyed being part of the development team. With our synergies and common interests in palliative care, Grace suggested I consider joining the Order. As well, with my volunteer work with the food program at Christ Church Cathedral, former rector, Dean Peter Elliott, suggested that I investigate the opportunity to support the Order. As a result of these discussions, I was invested in 2014."

SS: Our Order is known for its 'quiet' work, but as the size and scope of our projects grow, so too will be the need to raise funds, including more support from those outside our organization. Your thoughts on this?

SSG: "Historically we have worked quietly to support the Lord's sick and poor, but this has changed significantly in the past few years as we have set a goal to establish ourselves as leaders in hospice and palliative care across the province. To achieve this goal, we have been actively engaging with organizations to raise our profile as contributors to this sector. For example, pre COVID-19, we made a concerted effort to visit recipients of our small grant program board members, staff, and clients to hear first-hand how our grants have impacted small communities. Additionally, we attended and spoke at a number of key hospice palliative care conferences and were exhibitors at the 2019 Canadian Hospice Palliative Care conference in Ottawa. Most recently SOSJ has been integral in the development and funding of the Hospice Care Alliance of British Columbia. This groundbreaking initiative will be meaningful in improving and sustaining hospice palliative care in years to come in BC.

"We have recently gone through a year-long process to review and revise our mission and vision statements, where we have defined three strategic priorities: firstly, to support compassionate communities; secondly, to develop educational and training programs; and finally, to invest in innovation and excellence in service delivery."

SS: You are famous for a seemingly inexhaustible energy level and commitment. Is there anything left at the end of the day for Susan and personal life?

SSG: "First of all, I have to recognize that I could not do the work I do without the support of my family, particularly my husband Tim of 37 years, and our son Graeme, both of whom are committed to public service. In addition to my support of SOSJ, I am involved with the Seniors' Advisory Committee with the City of Vancouver, and also the financial committee of the Vision Loss Rehab Canada (CNIB).

"This month, our dreams came true as we embarked upon our retirement plan to enjoy a quiet, rural life in North Cowichan. Along with the property comes a tractor, which I expect to learn to drive in the coming months. Steve Simpson, former farmer, has promised to provide lessons.

"I am always ready for new beginnings and adventure."

Next month we interview Susan's counterpart on the Almoner Committee, Chevalier John Jennings.

Almoner Project Updates

- Cowichan Hospice House

Yours in St. John,
Dame Susan Scott Gabe
DCSJ

Yours in St. John,
Chevalier John Jennings
KCSJ

In June, Dame Jennifer Clarke visited the Cowichan Hospice site in Duncan and was quite impressed. At the time of her visit, it had come a long way toward completion. She was guided in a walk-through with Gretchen Hartley and Andrew Fox from the Cowichan Hospice Society and two representatives of the family foundation contributing to the build out of the hospice family room.

Cowichan Hospice House is building a stand-alone 10-bed hospice in Duncan BC to support local communities. SOSJ Vancouver and Victoria Commanderies have partnered with the society to support the Children's Room. Vancouver Commandery provided $80,000 to this project. It is one of the few Vancouver Island Health Authority projects that continued construction through the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order and is on time and on budget. Thankfully, there were no infections on site as strict protocols were in place.

The children's play room, which SOSJ is sponsoring, is adjacent to and visible from the large family room with its comfortable seating for lounging and eating next to an open plan family kitchen. The playroom size is approximately 9' × 13' with 9 foot ceilings. It is designed for young children and will have a tick tack toe colourful game pattern on the floor, a low window for little people to be able to see outside, cubbies and drawers for toys and games and a white board wall for washable marker drawing.

We thank Dame Clarke for sharing her visit experience and her contribution to the newsletter.

- Canuck Place Children's Hospice

Canuck Place Children's Hospice is BC's recognized pediatric palliative care provider. They support children with complex life-limiting illnesses, and the families who love them, through a continuum of 24/7 medical care, respite, pain & symptom management, recreation therapy, music therapy, counseling, end-of-life care, and grief and bereavement support services. With two hospices, located in Vancouver and Abbotsford, they together support over 818 children and families throughout BC and Yukon via a combination of in-patient and out-patient care.

In May of 2019, SOSJ awarded Canuck Place Children's Hospital with a Vancouver Commandery small grant of $7,150 towards a new project of Serious Illness Conversation Guide-Pediatrics (SICG-Peds) workshops.

Providers of pediatric palliative care pointed out that the SICG did not use family-centered language, consider a child's developmental stage, or address the issue of estimating trajectories in children with rare and/or life-threatening illnesses. In July 2017, specialist pediatric palliative care clinicians at Canuck Place Children's Hospice (CPCH) adapted the adult SICG process to use with parents of children with serious illnesses.

With thanks to the support of SOSJ, Canuck Place Children's Hospital created SICG-Peds workshops to train care providers on providing better advance care planning and improving clinicians' confidence in serious-illness conversations with palliative care teams and improve patient and family quality of life. To date, CPCH has trained over 200 pediatric physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers and other allied professionals in the use of the guide.

- New Wing Taking Shape For Palliative Care Patients At 100 Mile House.

The 100 Mile District Hospice Palliative Care Society is partnering with Interior Health to create a much-needed space for palliative care patients with high-level medical needs.

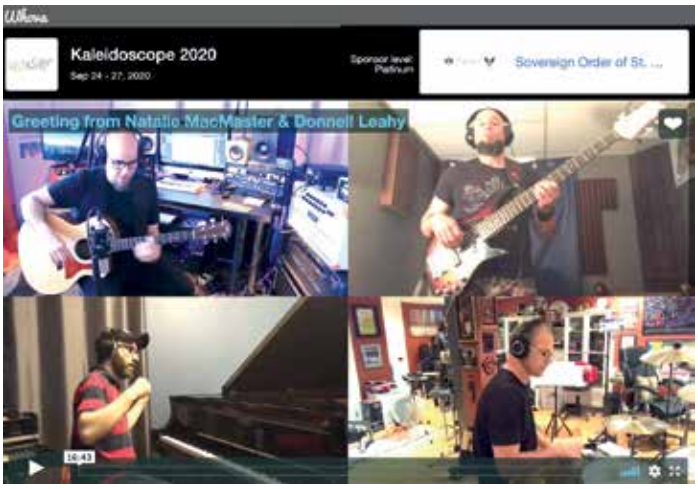
The intention is to develop a palliative wing within the 100 Mile District General Hospital in acute care where there will be two client rooms, a roll-in shower room, an area that will be set up as a family space with a mini-kitchen, bathroom and sleeping spaces. Interior Health is funding the structural renovations for the rooms, and have updated the electrical, plumbing, lighting, drywalling painting and flooring. 100 Mile Hospice's goal is to provide specialized equipment to ensure quality care for the patient.

The Vancouver Commandery Foundation has just approved $40,000 toward this project. Our Almoner Committee heads are quite excited about the impact this funding will make to 100 Mile House patients and surrounding remote communities.

The additional amenities, aimed at making the end of life journey "less clinical and more supportive together with exceptional palliative medical care," are anticipated to cost an estimated $120,000. The Hospice Society has already raised $60,000 from the community, businesses and private donations but is seeking more community support and grants to complete the project. A small patio will also allow patients and families to have access to fresh air.

Once the renovation is complete, the Hospice Society will have transformed the space into a well-equipped area for care and a warm and comfortable place. A mural artist will start painting in one of the bedrooms, where the windows are too high for a view, while a Hospice society member will create and donate a stained glass for additional privacy in the area.

- Camp Kerry 2020 Kaleidoscope Conference



Kaleidoscope 2020: the Camp Kerry Society's first National Virtual Grief Convention for Families and Professionals was held from September 24 through 27. Guest speakers and workshops included Dr. Lorraine Hedtke, Ann Douglas and Dr. Patch Adams, alongside notable experts in the fields of health, grief psychology & counselling, parenting and education.

The "professional stream" was attended by therapists, educators and health care providers who work with clients of all ages impacted by serious illness, grief and loss. The "family stream" of the conference offered professionally facilitated grief support groups, as well as engaging workshops for children, youth and adults including music-making, puppetry, art and photography.

Some of the more traditional Camp Kerry activities such as an evening campfire, a community memory service and self-care sessions were also part of the four day event.

The opening ceremony included a very special performance by two of the world's best fiddle players, Natalie MacMaster and her husband, Donnell Leahy. SOSJ is proud to have been a Platinum Sponsor of the evening for the Camp Kerry 2020 Kaleidoscope conference. Our very own Dame Alanna Donahue did an amazing job speaking to our long-standing commitment to the organization.

Upcoming Events, Vancouver, Victoria & Okanagan

December 2, 2020
1st Vancouver Commandery Christmas Lunch at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

December 4, 2020
Victoria Commandery Christmas Lunch and General Meeting

December 8, 2020
2nd Vancouver Commandery Christmas Lunch at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

June 25, 2021 - June 26, 2021
Vancouver Commandery Investiture

October 16, 2021
Victoria Commandery Investiture

Upcoming Events, Worldwide

November 13, 2020 - November 15, 2020
Priory of Brittany Investiture - CANCELLED

November 20, 2020 - November 21,2020
Commandery of Central Finland Investiture - CANCELLED

November 28, 2020
London Commandery Investiture - CANCELLED

November 28, 2020
Dagmar Commandery Christmas Dinner

April 10, 2021
St. Joseph Commandery Investiture

June 19, 2021
Commandery of the Sierras Investiture

September 17, 2021 - September 19,2021
Dagmar Commandery of Denmark Inaugural Investiture - Tentative (Awaiting LPC Approval)

September 24, 2021 - September 26,2021
Grand Priory of St. Henrik, Finland Investiture - Tentative (Awaiting LPC Approval)

November 13, 2021
Commandery of The Palm Beaches Investiture

Vancouver Commandery Council

Commander
Commander David Hunt, KJSJ

Almoner
Dame Susan Scott Gabe, DCSJ
Chevalier John Jennings, KCSJ

Events & Social
Dame Heather Hamilton, DCSJ

Foundation
Chevalier Howard Charters, KCJSJ, MMSJ

Herald
Chevalier Stephen Simpson, KGSJ
Aspirant Hans-Christian Behm

Hospitaller
Vacant

Marshal
Chevalier Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave, Bt., KJSJ

Membership
Vacant

Receiver General
Chevalier Terry Holland, KGSJ

Solicitor General/ Governance
Chevalier John Norton, KCJSJ, MMSJ

Secretary
Chevalier Glen Mitchell, KSJ

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Knights Hospitaller
Vancouver Commandery
6389 Stadium Road, Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6T 1Z4
sosjvancouver.org 604-682-2938

Herald - Chevalier Stephen Simpson KGSJ
and Hans-Christian Behm
(Please send contributions, articles of interest and story ideas to hcbehm@gmail.com)