The Vancouver Commandery
NEWSLETTER
Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller
Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum
For Faith, For Service to Humanity
Summer 2019

Meet Vancouver Commandery's New 2019 Knights and Dames

Left to right: Chevalier Randolph Murray Pratt, Chevalier Patrick Roy Bonney, Dame Tracy Lynn Wade, Chevalier Kevin Terence England, H M E H Grand Master Bailiff William Douglas Stein, Dame Lorraine Susan Cunningham, Chevalier Edward Papazian, Dame Suvina Devi Mah, Dame Deborah Jean Meredith, and Chevalier Glen Robert Davies.

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One Year and Counting Until Sovereign Council Meeting 2020

The Planning Committee for the 2020 Sovereign Council meeting has been diligently organizing under the chairmanship of Chevalier Jack McGee since the last update. The areas that the committee has been working on include hospitality, accommodations, scheduling, registration, volunteer needs and communications. All while keeping in mind making this event both fun and affordable. An update presentation was made to attendees at the 2019 Investiture gala dinner.

Accommodations have been set at the Pan Pacific for hotel guests and official Sovereign Council meetings and activities. Thank you to Michael Kaile who is the contact point in all hotel activities. The event starts on Monday the 14th of September, with a welcome reception at a well-known destination. On the Tuesday there will be an optional day excursion to Victoria.

Linda Annis has graciously organized the schedule which has been divided into events included in the registration such as lunches, dinners, tours and receptions. Additionally, there are many optional activities available. The "formal" agenda ends with an International Investiture Service followed by a gala dinner.

Many volunteers will be needed to make this event successful. A short-list of spots that will need to be filled include: registration desk, event hosts, bus and travel coordinators, and "local ambassadors". Please contact Dame Heather Hamilton for more information. This is our chance to show Vancouver off to the rest of the Sovereign Order, (albeit on a smaller scale than the recent 2010 Winter Olympics and Expo 86!) and network with peers from around the world. We are expecting hundreds of international members and spouses to join us and are looking forward to introducing them to what Vancouver has to offer.

The 2020 Planning Committee consists of the following members:

Chair – Chevalier Jack McGee
Vice Chair – Chevalier Mark Ballard
Church Services – Chevalier Alex Wood/ Chevalier Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave
Communications/Marketing – Dame Diana Barkley and Chevalier George Higgins
Finance/Receiver-General – Dame Susan Tufts
Hospitality and Excursions: Dame Linda Annis
Hotel– Chevalier Michael Kaile
Registrar-General – Dame Viviane Reid and Chevalier Nicholas Majendie
Volunteers – Dame Heather Hamilton
Senior Officers:
Commander Vancouver Commandery – Judith Trowbridge.
Prior of Mainland BC – Anne Rowland.
Grand Prior of Canada – Stewart Johnston
Grand Marshal – Richard Earthy
Secretary – Sarah Turnbull

While a full list of included and optional events will be posted closer to the date, to help you plan, two optional tours have been organized for when the meetings and investiture are over.

Holland America 5 day Alaska cruise

Rocky Mountaineer 7 day train trip

Cleveland Commandery
Investiture Gala
and Dinner

The Cleveland Commandery of the
Sovereign Order of St. John extends an invitation to
attend our Investiture, Gala and Dinner.

Saturday October 12, 2019

Investiture Ceremony
The Cathedral of St. John The Evangelist
1007 Superior Avenue, Cleveland Ohio

Gala and Dinner
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
24 Public Square, Cleveland Ohio

For more information or to RSVP contact :
Dame Commander Claire Rosacco

Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem,
Knights Hospitaller

COMMANDERY of THE PALM BEACHES

cordially invites you to attend the

Solemn Investiture Ceremony & Gala

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Solemn Investiture Ceremony

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
3395 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
2:30 PM
(Transportation will be provided)

Gala Dinner & Dance

PGA National Resort & Spa

A Letter From Our Commander

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. The weather has been spectacular. I for one have been very busy in my garden and have an ongoing battle with a very chubby bunny in my vegetable patch. I remember as a child thinking that Mr. McGregor was a fussbudget to chase Peter Rabbit out of his garden. Well all these years later it seems I get his point!

As we head toward summer's end, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our June investiture. What a success it was! We Invested 9 exceptional new members who I'm sure will have so much to contribute in the coming years. Congratulations to them all. We will soon be publishing their photos and bios on the website as a way for us all to become familiar with them and their impressive accomplishments.

Thank you to everyone who was involved with the planning and execution of the investiture weekend and ceremony. It takes many hands and hours to bring it all to fruition. And special thanks to Grand Master William Stein. We are so honoured to have him officiated at our investiture. Also, many thanks to Chevaier John-Cave-Brown Cave and his Marshall committee, Mark Ballard and Heather Hamilton and their Social committee, Reverend Peter Elliott and Christ Church Cathedral and their wonderful choir and, as always, to the Seaforth Highlanders for their stirring anthems and pipes.

The gala, this year held at the Terminal City Club was MC'd by our very own Chevalier David Hunt who facilitated a very entertaining evening and for his presentation of the downtown east side project. He got the ball rolling in our DTES campaign by pledging $1000 that opened the floodgates to $41,000 in pledges that night. What spectacular commitment on behalf of our Commandery. Thank you all so much!

I would also like to say thank you to Chevalier Sergio Cocchia and Dame Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia for so generously hosting the Friday night Aspirant reception. It was an elegant evening that kicked-off another successful Investiture weekend. And, of course, I want to recognise the hard work of our administrator Sarah Turnbull who has become an invaluable resource that makes our activities a constant success. What would we do without her?

We are at the one year mark as we turn our focus now to the 2020 Sovereign Council Meeting in September 2020. Next year our Vancouver Commandery Investiture will be held in September to coincide with the Sovereign Council Meetings and will be sure to be a very special event.

Chevalier Jack McGee and his able committee are hard at work planning every detail as you will see in his Committee's report in this newsletter. You can be sure that in addition to the official events Jack and his team have planned a wide range of fun events and tours that are designed to showcase our beautiful part of the world and make these meetings a success.

It is our hope that our members of the Vancouver Commandery will become very involved in supporting and attending the activities of the 2020 SCM. If you wish to volunteer please contact the hardworking Dame Heather Hamilton. There are a great variety of volunteer options that will suit your interests.

In closing, my husband and I hosted a Summer Garden Party to kick off the activities associated with the year ahead as we prepare to host the world at our Sovereign Council Meetings. Photos from the event are in the Social Scene section of this newsletter.

Yours in St. John,
Commander Judith Trowbridge

Our Membership Committee sends this along. When invited to a lunch by the committee chair, then Aspirant, now Chevalier Kevin England rolled up in his immaculate 1931 Ford Model A. We couldn't help but notice it is a perfect match for his new robe.

Almoner Committee Update

Ground breaking partnership with Victoria Commandery

The Vancouver and Victoria Commanderies have forged a joint-venture partnership, the first-of-its-kind in North America, and have announced our first project: The Cowichan Hospice House - a brand new 10-bed hospice in Duncan, that will satisfy the community's need for hospice care and set a benchmark for our province. Together our Commanderies look forward to collaborating, expanding our capacity, and executing many innovative and successful projects together.

Victoria Commandery Town Hall Presentations

In support of our newly formed partnership, members of the Vancouver Commandery were guest speakers at the Victoria Commandery's annual Town Hall meeting on June 24, 2019—St John the Baptist Day. Held at the Union Club, downtown Victoria, approximately 50 dames and chevaliers attended for a lively, informative, and successful event.

Victory Commandery Town Hall Meeting Guest Speakers. From left to right: Deedrie Ballard, Vancouver Island Prior; Maria Dominelli, Victoria Commander; Stewart Johnston, Grand Prior; Kathy Stinson, CEO of CoolAid; Gretchen Hartley, ED Cowichan Valley Hospice Society; Terri Odeneal, ED Comox Valley Hospice Society; Susan Scott Gabe, Almoner Vancouver Commandery; Frank Bourree, Almoner Victoria Commandery; and Kevin Harter, CEO Victoria Hospice

Victoria Commandery guests included Kathy Stinson, CEO of CoolAid, and Dame Susan Scott Gabe and Chevalier Ross Sharp, Almoners of the Vancouver Commandery. We were pleased to invite Terri Odeneal, Executive Director of Comox Valley Hospice Society and Gretchen Hartley, Executive Director of Cowichan Valley Hospice Society to provide context and details about the projects we are currently supporting.

In light of our newly-formed partnership, the Sovereign Order of St. John shared our recently updated proposal vetting system and highlighted information about the Vancouver Commandery's current and recently completed initiatives, illustrating the scope and depth of our achievements.

Our guest, Terry Odeneal provided details regarding the Comox Valley Hospice Society's project: Caring Connections — Upstream Volunteer Navigator Program. This program is designed to improve health outcomes and reduce hospitalizations for seniors by empowering caregivers and the community. It will leverage volunteer navigators to establish relationships with clients and families, connect them with community services and resources. The Vancouver Commandery dedicated $7,500 to Comox Valley Hospice Society in support of its Caring Connections—Upstream Volunteer Navigator Program as part of our 2019 small grants program.

Our second guest, Gretchen Hartley, brought the high demand for end-of-life care within the Cowichan District to the attention of the Town Hall meeting attendees; currently 7% higher than the provincial average, the need is expected to continue to grow as the local population ages. Based on facts and projections, the need for this 10-bed Cowichan House Hospice, is clear. The impact of this state-of-the-art, purpose-built hospice will serve the community's needs, advance the quality of end-of-life care, and align SOSJ with innovative hospice palliative care (HPC). This compelling presentation contributed to Victoria Commandery ratifying its support of this worthy project.

Cowichan House Hospice Sod Turning Event

Construction of the Cowichan House Hospice project was kicked off on Thursday, July 18, 2019, with a sod-turning ceremony. This long-awaited event was led by Health Minister, Adrian Dix, and attended by spokespeople, politicians, and many other groups, agencies, and individual supporters who have worked hard to see this project move forward. The theme of the event focused on the local community that recognized their need for a hospice house and committed to raising the $10M required for the project. Expected to be completed by 2020, the facility will offer expert, compassionate care to people with advancing illness who can no longer be cared for at home.

The Vancouver-Victoria Commandery partners are delighted to sponsor the children's room at Cowichan Hospice House in support of this project. Leah Hollins, board chair of Island Health, said Cowichan Hospice House "will ensure that people will maintain their dignity and comfort as they near the end of their life journey." A sentiment that fits perfectly with our mandate.

Establishment of the Provincial Hospice Working Group

Since December 2018, the Sovereign Order of St. John has been a driving force in the formation of the Provincial Hospice Working Group alongside representatives from BC Centre for Palliative Care, BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, and Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices. This group of dedicated professionals stands to sit at the provincial table to improve the quality of hospice palliative care. The group has finalized its terms of reference and has aggressive plans to gather inputs from hospices and related organizations in BC throughout September. Its newly formed provincial advisory panel plans to meet in November to review the current environment and propose solutions—this significant meeting is expected to set the foundations and shape the future improvements of hospice palliative care in BC.

NCHS launches Community Outreach Vehicle

On August 19th, 2019 the Nanaimo Community Hospice, a non-profit charitable organization unveiled their Community Outreach Vehicle in August. This vehicle was the dream of long time educator and child & youth counsellor at NCHS, Jim Nelson. He wanted to take the already successful Child & Youth program, which has been operating at Hospice House for over 16 years, out to the children where and when they needed it.

This 37 ft. mobile counselling room, along with professional counsellors and trained volunteers will travel to schools, libraries, gathering centres and people's homes.

Yours in St. John,
Dame Susan Scott Gabe

Yours in St. John,
Chevalier John Jennings

We Mourn the The Loss of a Lion

On Friday August 9th, I had the honour of attending the Celebration of Life for Chevalier Harry McWatters KGSJ of the Okanagan Commandery. SOSJ was well represented with members from the Okanagan, Vancouver and Ontario Commanderies. Harry passed away peacefully in his Summerland home on July 23, 2019 at the age of 74.

Harry's untimely death was a shock to us all and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Known as the Grandfather of British Columbia Wine his contributions to the Okanagan Community and the BC wine industry were immense and he will certainly be missed by his fellow Knights and Dames in the Order. Our heartfelt condolences to Harry's partner Dame Lisa LaLonde DGSJ and to Harry's family.

Prior Anne Rowland

Vancouver Commandery Investiture 2019

The Investiture was held at Christ Church Cathedral, followed by a Gala dinner reception at the Terminal City Club.

The Vancouver Commandery Investiture weekend kicked off Friday night with a reception for new Aspirants, officers of the Order and spouses graciously hosted by Chevalier Sergio Cocchia and Dame Wendy Lisogar-Cocchio at C|Prime Restaurant in their Century Plaza Hotel.

As is the requirement by our Commandery, Saturday morning all Aspirants were required to attend an early breakfast followed by a rehearsal in preparing for the afternoon Investiture. The Investiture was held at Christ Church Cathedral and began promptly at 5PM with the Processional entering the church with the cathedral choir singing Praise My Soul The King of Heaven. The ceremony was officiated by H M E H Grand Master Bailiff William Douglas Stein, GCSJ, MMSJ, H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Counsellor David J.R. Petitpierre, GCSJ, MMSJ, H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard D. Earthy, GCSJ, MMSJ, H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid, GCSJ,MMSJ & Bar and Commander Judith L. Trowbridge, DGSJ, Vancouver Commander.

A total of 9 Aspirants were invested into the Vancouver Commandery. Honours, Inductions and Elevations were also recognized. The ceremony ended with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipe Band accompanied by Rupert Lang, Cathedral organist playing Highland Cathedral. The evening ended with a splash as all retired to a Gala Evening at the Terminal City Club.

Congratulations to all who were invested into the Sovereign Order and to those Knights and Dames who received Promotions and Honours today. Thank you to all who attended. It was a memorable event for all.

Commander Judith Trowbridge, DGSJ
Chevalier Mark Ballard, KCSJ, Events & Social Chair

A Night To Remember - Investiture Gala 2019

On The Social Scene

Yours in St. John,
Dame Heather Hamilton,

A Recap of Summer Events

It was a glorious summer marked with the perfect combination of sun, fun and just enough rain to keep gardens and lawns happy. Four events were held between May and August - an evening with author Pippa Hawley, a wonderful Summer Garden Party and of course our annual AGM and the Investiture and Gala both featured elsewhere in this newsletter.

An Evening with Pippa Hawley

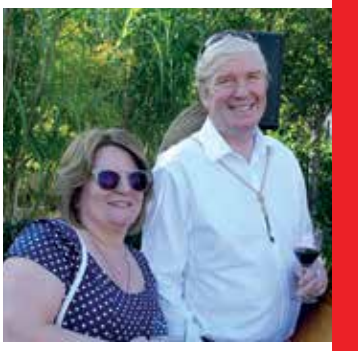
I had the pleasure to host an evening with author Pippa Hawley, a renown doctor specialising in palliative medicine. Her book, Lap of Honour is an informed and compassionate guide to making the most of that last lap of life's journey. For those who did not attend, and wish to know more about how to help people handle the demands and limitations of illness so that they can focus on living her book is available at most book sellers online.

A Summer Garden Party at the Trowbridge Residence

Commander Judith Trowbridge, DGSJ and her husband Prior Emeritus Robert Trowbridge, KCJSJ threw open the doors to their lovely home in Southlands to host the kick off start of planning and organizing for the September 2020 Sovereign Council Meetings. The party was well attended as guests enjoyed a sunny summer day of camaraderie, food and refreshments on the lawn overlooking the banks of the mighty Fraser River.

Coming Up This Fall and Winter

Your Social Committee is hard at work planning some exciting and fun new events. To give you a teaser we are working with Chevalier Bill Maclaghan, who is also Chair of the Vancouver Opera to organize a Vancouver Commandery evening at the opera, preceded by a dinner. La Traviata and Barber of Seville are two of the fall/winter season offerings. Stay tuned and we will be back to you with more information via email.



2019 Annual General Meeting and Town Hall

The 2019 Annual General Meeting and Town Hall of the Vancouver Commandery, as always, was very well attended.

The 2019 AGM was held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at our usual venue at the Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club. Commander Trowbridge called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer, introduced the senior officers present, and read the objectives of the meeting as listed in the Agenda.

After Commander Trowbridge's welcome, the Palliative Care Foundation conducted its AGM. Chevalier Harold Charters, Chairman of the Foundation acted as Chairman of the meeting.

The meeting opened with Chevalier Terry Holland, Treasurer presenting the Financial Report which was carried as was the appointment of Baker Tilly WM LLP as Auditors for the Society for the ensuing year. This was followed by the election of Trustees and Directors for the Society as well as election of Chevalier Harold Charters as Chairman and Chevalier Terence Holland be elected as Treasurer of the Society. The minutes of this portion of the AGM are available in the minutes of the meeting including the report of the Chairman of the Society.

After adjournment of the Foundation's Annual General Meeting, the Society's Annual General Meeting continued with Chevalier Terry Holland presenting the Financial Report and invited any questions. Baker Tilly WM LLP was appointed as Review Engagement Accountants for the Society for the ensuing year

Election of Directors was the next order of business with Commander Judith Trowbridge, Chevalier John Jennings, Dame Susan Scott Gabe, Chevalier Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave, Chevalier Harold Charters, Dame Heather Hamilton, Chevalier Terence Holland, Dame Annie Li, Chevalier John Norton, Chevalier John Rogers, Chevalier Stephen Simpson, and Dame Nancy Van Laeken elected as directors of the Society for the coming year.

Outgoing Directors thanked for their tireless efforts Chevalier David Hunt. Chevalier Mark Ballard, and Chevalier Dann Konkin.

HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid spoke on behalf of International. He spoke to several topics that included among other items expansion plans to bring a new group into the order from Australasia, potentially adding 250 members to the Sovereign Order, a new Commandery formed in Dagmar, Denmark. He also spoke to several items under review in preparation for presentation at the 2020 Sovereign Council Meeting here in Vancouver.

Vancouver Commandery Marshall Chevalier Sir John-Cave-Brown-Cave addressed the attendees with a report on the progress of plans for the Investiture and sought volunteers for participation in the service.

In closing remarks Commander Trowbridge provided closing remarked on the impressive qualifications of our proposed nine new aspirants as well as to report on recent changes to the chairs of the Membership, Social and Almoner Committees.

At the conclusion of business attendees enjoyed refreshments at a no host bar followed by dinner.

SCM 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE

VANCOUVER

Upcoming Events, Vancouver, Victoria & Okanagan

October 18 - 19, 2019
Victoria Commandery Investiture

December 4, 2019
Vancouver Commandery Christmas Luncheon
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

December 6, 2019
Victoria Commandery Christmas Luncheon

September 14 - 20, 2020
Sovereign Council Meeting - Vancouver 2020

Upcoming Events, Worldwide

September 7, 2019
St. Joseph Commandery Summer Garden Party

September 28, 2019
Western Military Commandery Sixth Crusade

October 11 - 12, 2019
Commandery of Cleveland Investiture

October 18 - 19, 2019
Victoria Commandery Investiture

November 8 -9, 2019
Commandery of the Palm Beaches Investiture & Gala

November 11, 2019
Western Military Commandery Veterans' Day Service and Luncheon

November 22, 2019
Western Military Commandery Trek to Reno City Lights

November 22, 2019
Commandery of the Sierras Reno City Lights

November 29, 2019
Western Military Commandery Assist in Taco Bar on Black Friday

February 8, 2020
Western Military Commandery Pre-Valentines Dinner

May 25, 2020
Western Military Commandery Memorial Day Event and Luncheon

June 20, 2020
Dagmar Commandery Investiture

June 20, 2020
Western Military Commandery Fundraiser - St. John's Summer Solstice Soiree

June 21, 2020
Western Military Commandery St. John's Service and Luncheon

August 30, 2020
Commandery of Central Finland Investiture

November 20, 2021
London Commandery Investiture

** See SOSJ Vancouver and International websites for more information and updates.*

How many Knights does it take to dress a mannequin?

A picture most often speaks for itself, but in this instance we felt these photos needed a little explaining. H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard Earthy is presently deeply engaged in the production of a new manual to guide members in appropriate items of apparel and wearing of regalia associated with our various ceremonies and events. Who better to oversee the process other than our very own expert in protocols Chevalier Sir John R.C. Cave-Browne-Cave assisted by your Herald Chevalier Stephen Simpson. And yes, even when dealing with the formalities of dress and display of our precious past we know how to make it fun. Special thanks must go out to photographer Kent Kallberg who lent his world class photography expertise gratis to our project whilst having to to put up with the occasional silliness of grown men playing with dolls as he went about his photographic business on our behalf.

The Vancouver Commandery
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Herald - Chevalier Stephen Simpson KGSJ
(Please send contributions, articles of interest and story ideas to steve@beachgrove.ca)

Special thank you to Commander Judith Trowbridge, Chevalier George Higgins, Dame Heather Hamilton, Dame Susan Scott Gabe, Dame Annie Li, Dame Phyllis Grady, Prior Anne Rowland and Sarah Turnbull for their contributions.