



The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller VANCOUVER COMMANDERY



Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller

The Knightly News November 2006

Hospitaller Activities

Vancouver Hospice Society

We are beginning to make real progress on helping build a West side hospice. There are two sites for free land that are at various stages of investigation, UBC and Jericho. Conceptual/Functional plans have been drawn up by Dame Grace Gordon-Collins for a 10,000 ft facility, including a 12% contingency. The plans have been accepted by the Vancouver Hospice Society and will serve as our basis for moving forward on land and the subsequent fundraising. These drawings will be on display at the Christmas buffet.

Subject to the Members' approval, the Commandery has committed to raising \$3 million for this building in exchange for naming rights. The funds are expected to largely come from non-Order sources but some is expected to come from Commandery sources. Chev. Ken Mahon will lead the effort with Dame Barbara Brink. The Hospice Society will have responsibility for capital over \$3 million, operating costs and governance.

Currently, the Society and Commandery are developing capital and operating budgets and initial support (non financial) sought from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. This will allow us to assemble a package useful in lobbying the owners of the land, a Commandery responsibility, and subsequently the first phases of the fund raising campaign.

This is the beginning of the Commandery's effort to increase the facilities available so we can "advance living at the end of life". Success will bring about a sorely needed facility and one we will all be able to be proud of. To succeed, however, we will need the active support of our Members in volunteering, fundraising or donating.

Strathcarron

Six members of the Commandery who went to Scotland visited the Strathcarron Hospice, a very impressive Scottish 24 bed facility that also provides community care, day care and Medical School level education. Bluntly, they are 15-20 years ahead of Canada, especially regarding their broad services to the community. We can't get there from here in a short period, especially as their Health financing arrangements are very different and they are more acute care focused than any but hospital based hospices in BC i.e. they are more hospital/institutional than we have chosen to be. Nevertheless, their facility is still very welcoming to visitors

and new residents. We did pick up a few architectural ideas but the main gain was an increased understanding of the value of day and respite care which may affect the final designs of the Vancouver Hospice.

BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association Activities

Discussions are ongoing about changing the format of our \$10,000 annual project awards currently made up of five more or less equal grants. There were only five applications last year, all from Vancouver Island, indicating that the awards may need reformatting to increase their appeal. The Hospitaller's Committee has decided to offer the Association the choice of whether to apply the \$10,000 to central resource centre available to all hospices or to a modified award program of one \$5000 and two \$2500 awards.

Chev. Ian Reid, KSJ
Hospitaller

Concept Design on page 2

News in Short

2007 Oblations will be increased to \$400, the first such increase in many years. The extra funds will be used for administration and support for palliative care. The good news is that your tax receipt will also be increased to a total of \$200!

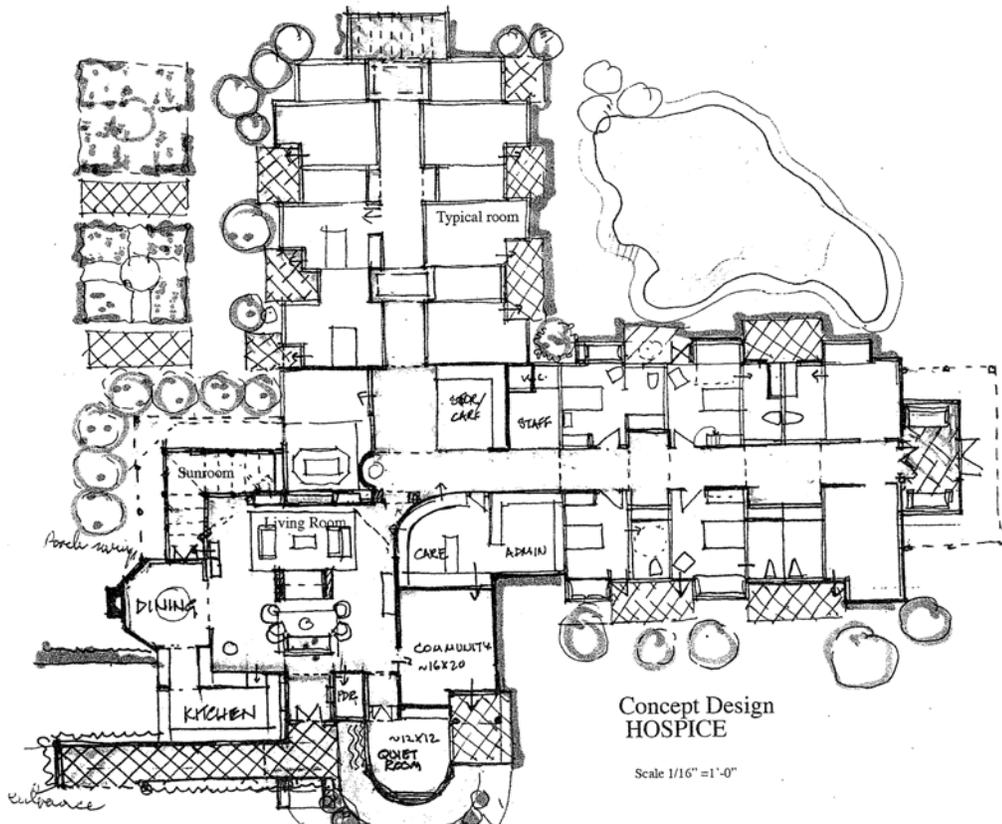
Chev. Jim Delgado, Marine Archaeologist was given The City of Vancouver book award for "Waterfront" about how Vancouver was formed by its role as the meeting place between the water and the country's rail line.

Chev. Donald Rix was named Chair of Canuck Place Children's Hospice.

Dame Karen Baker-MacGrotty was appointed the first female Honorary Colonel for the Royal New Westminster Regiment.

As a member of the Reframe Group, **Dame Grace Gordon-Collins** participated in a show at Whistler, exhibited some of her photographs.

Chev. Michael Kaile has returned from managing Fairmont Hotels' resort hotel in Dubai. He has now been appointed General Manager of Fairmont Chateau Whistler.



Promotions Lunch

Due to other commitments Chev. Dal Richards, KGSJ and Chev. Gerald Strongman, KSJ had been unable to attend the 2006 Investiture at which they were scheduled to receive promotions.

Instead Commander Poul Hansen hosted a Promotions Lunch on October 27 attended by Members of the Executive Committee and Officers of the Order.

Former Commander Michael Shields, KCJSJ spoke of the contributions made to our community and to the Commandery and by these two Members. Chev. Dal Richards was promoted to Knight Commander of Grace and Chev. Gerald Strongman became Knight of Grace.

During lunch, the Hospitaller, Chev. Ian Reid, KSJ, gave

an update on the Vancouver Hospice Society's plans for a hospice care facility on the Westside of Vancouver, including questions of land and finance.

Commander Poul Hansen, KCJSJ





Sovereign Council Meeting Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane, Scotland

The Bi-annual Sovereign Council meeting was held at the Dunblane Hydro Hotel in Dunblane, Scotland from 27th - 30th September 2006. The conference was attended by approximately 135 Knights and Dames and 65 guests for a total of 200. It was certainly the largest gathering of Knights and Dames of our Order in recent history.

The Sovereign Council is made up of a maximum of 20 Bailiffs plus any Priors who are not also Bailiffs. It met this time in the excellent facilities of the Dunblane Hydro Hotel with an additional audience of 30 to 40 Knights. In addition to the meetings which were held on 28th and 29th there was also a plenary session for all Knights and Dames which was held on the afternoon of the 28th.

The Sovereign Council recognized two new Bailiffs, Bailiff Paul Beckmann, a former Chairman of our Supreme Court and Commander Bill Stein, current Commander of the San Francisco Commandery and a former Judge of the Supreme Court. The Council also recognized the retirement to emeritus of former Prior Bill Beaton of the Priory of Scotland and Grand Prior Sir Albert McQuarrie, the Grand Prior of Europe. They both received emeritus status and were recognized for their contribution to the Order and the Sovereign Council.

Bailiff Grand Marshal Al Wagner and Bailiff Grand Prior Sir Albert McQuarrie both stepped down from le Petit Conseil after many years of service to the Order. The following were elected to le Petit Conseil for a two year period - Grand Commander Bailiff Owen Brown, Grand Marshal Bailiff David Rolfe, Grand Hospitaller Bailiff Jan Stein, Grand Counselor Bailiff Grand Prior Glen McLaughlin and Bailiff Grand Conservator Rene Tonna-Barthet. Bailiffs Stein and McLaughlin were elected for the first time and Bailiff Stein is the first Dame to serve on the LPC.

The Sovereign Council spent a significant amount of time updating the Rules of the Order under the Constitution of H.M. King Peter II of 1964. Most of the changes related to the tidying up of wording and clarifying some of the existing rules.

Financial statements were presented to the Council indicating that the International account had been audited, was in good standing and with a small excess of revenue over expenditures, was in sound financial condition. Auditors were appointed for 2007 and 2008 and for the first time an Audit Committee was elected consisting of Bailiff Gerald

McGavin as Chairman, former Commander Michael Shields and Chevalier Iain Mackay.

The Council ratified the members of the Ecclesiastical Council and also of the Supreme Court where a replacement was required for Bailiff Paul Beckmann.

The social side of the meeting was a great success and included attending a presentation of Sherahazade by the primary school in Dunblane. The Knights and Dames made suitable contributions to the school funds. The Gala Dinner at Sterling Castle was an incredible success. We were met by a pipe band at the gates, were provided with an excellent dinner and wonderful after dinner speeches by Lord Robertson (a former cabinet minister in the UK and former head of NATO) and Chevalier Judge Len Murray (who is a renowned after dinner speaker, particularly on Robbie Burns events). We are aware that some Knights and Dames of the Priory of Scotland contributed heavily to support this event and they should know that every member of the Order felt honored and proud to be there.

On Saturday 30th September a service was held in Dunblane Cathedral. The service was beautifully done led by our chaplains David Mill, Graeme Longmuir and Nicholas Parker. In addition, we were fortunate to have the 120 member Phoenix Choir not only assist us with our hymns but providing us with the most beautiful musical anthems. This choir is world renowned and was formed after the famous Glasgow Orpheus Choir ceased to be.

Following the service everyone returned to the hotel to enjoy cocktails and gala dinner. There were few speeches but special recognition of thanks was extended to Dame May Storrie and her committee for their contribution in making the social events a great success. The evening ended on a high note with all participating in the great Scottish Ceilidh.

There are 19 Commanderies and Pries in the Order and representatives from all but one of these units attended the Sovereign Council meeting. This is a remarkable performance. It should also be mentioned, and not casually, that the Order raised \$1,200,000 for various charities in the two year period since the last Sovereign Council meeting. This is not an insignificant amount and makes it very clear that the Order is all about helping Christ serve the sick and the poor.

Following the Sovereign Council events two bus trips were arranged. One was led by Sir Albert and Lady McQuarrie which went to Iona and the other was led by David and Margaret Rolfe, and went to the Outer Hebrides.

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(Sovereign Council Meeting continued)

Approximately 65 Knights and Dames went on these tours which on the final evening came together for cocktails and dinner at the Holiday Inn at the Glasgow airport. A great evening to end up a grand week.

Many of you who came to the Sovereign Council meeting can add their memories and anecdotes to what I have written but hopefully this will give all of you an overview. Congratulations should go to Prior Donald Storrie, Dame May Storrie, Deputy Prior Glen Wales and their committee for organizing an excellent conference and social events and Chev. Maurice Taylor for spearheading the hotel renovations and treating us all so royally. Special thanks also to Bailiff Grand Prior Sir Albert and Lady McQuarrie for arranging the church service and to Margaret Rolfe who co-coordinated the North American registrations and together with Lady McQuarrie arranged the post conference trips.

Bailiff David Rolfe, GCSJ



Fundraising Drive for West Side Hospice

As reported by the Hospitaller, Ian Reid, our Commandery has made a commitment in principle to raise \$3.0 million for the naming rights for a hospice to be built and operated by Vancouver Hospice Society on the West side of Vancouver. A Special Meeting will be called for the Members to discuss this objective and if agreed, to approve of the fundraising plans.

The Best of the Highlands & Islands of Scotland

After The Sovereign Council Meeting in Dunblane, two (2) large travel buses set out – ours with Dame Margaret Rolfe and H.E. Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal David Rolfe, in command. Aboard were Vancouverites H.E. Bailiff Christine Dryvynsyde, Chevalier Alan and Dame Joan Finnie, Chevalier Allen and Ruth Fowlis, Chevalier David and Sally Petitpiere, Dame Lorna Phillips, Chevalier Michael and Mary Shields and Dame Elizabeth Raines, joined by Commander John and Joan Walton from Victoria. We also had members of St. Joseph Commandery, Palm Beaches and San Francisco, to make a congenial group of thirty-six (36), plus our stalwart Driver, Morris.

Heading for the Isle of Skye, we had an informative stop at the Glencoe Visitor Centre, at the foot of the glen, overshadowed by mountains, the site of an infamous massacre in 1692. After lunch and a visit to the Caledonian Canal Visitor Centre and delightful Eileann Donan Castle, we arrived at our destination, the Royal Hotel in Portree. Happy Hour was happy indeed as we assumed our relaxed vacation personas, getting to know our fellow travelers better, then dining well, and early to bed. If only David Rolfe had not left Margaret's luggage back in Dunblane, all would have been perfect!

On our second day we drove around Skye via Dunvegan to Uig to catch the ferry to the Isle of Harris, a pleasant voyage. And from Tarbert we drove on to the Isle of Lewis and our two-night stay in Stornoway at the Caladh Hotel. Tuesday, our third day, was the highlight of our Tour, partly thanks to our excellent guide, Chris Ryan, but mainly to the rugged coastal scenery of the Butt of Lewis, the fascinating Arnol Blackhouse Museum, with an original Blackhouse made from sod and used to house both people and farm animals in the early 1800's. Then on to what was one of the highlights of our Tour, the Calanais Standing Stones. Set in a cross shape these stones, dating to 3,000 B.C., are truly enigmatic. Little is known about their purpose or the beliefs of those who raised them. But the atmosphere there was haunting.

Our fourth day brought us back from Lewis, and on to the Golf View Hotel in Nairn, from which on our fifth day we visited Fort George (the largest fortified fort in Great Britain), Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre (great battle enactment by a rugged Highlander), a Cashmere Centre, and on our sixth day, we toured Scone Palace, "The Crowning Place of Scottish Kings" (including Macbeth, Robert the Bruce, Charles II) still the home of the Earls of Mansfield, but with the elegant drawing rooms and dining halls open to the public, including the bedroom where Queen Victoria slept, needlework of Mary Queen of Scots, a unique treasury of furniture, paintings, porcelain.... Fabulous! And of course set in beautiful parkland. From there: Back to Reality! And a meeting with our fellow Tour Group at the Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport, for a Gala Evening hosted by H.E. Bailiff Emeritus Sir Albert and Dame Lady Rhoda McQuarrie, before flying home.

Dame Lorna J. Phillips, DGSJ



The Order of St. John Awards Making a Difference to End of Life Care

In May of each year, the Sovereign Order of St. John, Knights Hospitaller, makes end of life care easier and the programs delivered by members of BC Hospice Palliative Care Association (“BCHPCA”) stronger. BCHPCA serves the province to enhance end of life services, and The Order demonstrates commitment to the work of the member hospice societies and programs by making available unique Awards for Enhanced End of Life Care for British Columbians. The Awards are granted at the annual Conference of the Association and to the fortunate recipients, provide considerable benefit to enrich programs’ end of life care delivery. The Awards, granted up to five programs, are intended to supplement direct care to patients and families at the end of life. In 2006, one such award recipient was able to expand distribution of a resource book for those in the Campbell River community. The Campbell River Hospice Society reports as follows:

“The Society’s “One Day at a Time” booklet was developed by a 4th year nursing student from North Island College. It was created for individuals who are dying and their caregivers. This booklet has the information and resources needed to guide them through a very emotional time. Our goal for this booklet is to reach as many people in our community that we can, who are dealing with end of life issues. We want to let them know that they are not alone and help is out there. Caring for a loved one who is dying is a stressful and very emotional time. With the guidance of this booklet we hope that we have been able to reduce some of that stress that goes with all the questions someone may ask if their loved one is dying. We will deliver this booklet to all seven of our Medical Clinics, 2 of our LTC facilities and to our hospital. We will also have a supply at the Hospice society office. We hope to supply these facilities with approximately 30 booklets to start with and restock as needed.”

BCHPCA greatly values the commitment of the Order in having the vision to establish these awards, for they afford direct benefit to BCHPCA member programs in end of life care. The Association is grateful for the partnership commitment of the Order to make these awards a reality.

Janice Waud Loper, CFRE
Executive Director
BC Hospice Palliative Care Association

Important Dates

Christmas Lunch

Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
Thursday, December 7, 2006 at Noon

Special Meeting of Members

Vancouver Club
Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 4:30pm
To consider an undertaking to raise \$3 million for the naming rights for Vancouver Hospice Society’s Hospice

Annual General Meeting

Shaughnessy Golf Club
Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 5:30pm
followed by **Dinner** at the club

Investiture

Christ Church Cathedral
Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 5:00pm
followed by **Gala Dinner** at the Vancouver Club