



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

Vancouver Commandery



Winter 2008/9

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(The Last) Letter from Commander Poul Hansen

Dear Dames and Knights,

This being the last edition of our newsletter before the Annual General Meeting on April 23rd, it is my last opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make a difference in the progress of the Order during my tenure as your Commander. I've been most fortunate to have had a willing number of Dames and Knights accompany me on this journey. I can now pass the mantle to Chev. Bob Trowbridge KCSJ knowing the Order is, well, in good order!



I am particularly pleased to leave this office on a high note. H.E. Bailiff Gerald McGavin CM, OBC, GCSJ has agreed to take on the role of Honourary Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the Hospice Project. Further, Chev. Ken Mahon KCJSJ reports that total contributions and commitments are now just shy of \$1,000,000. A great start!

Yours in St. John,

Poul Hansen KCSJS
Commander

Note from Commander-Elect Trowbridge:

While Commander Hansen is indeed passing along the responsibilities of Commander to me at the AGM, he has already stepped into the position of Prior of Western Canada, succeeding H.E. Bailiff John Dustan GCSJ. We too can rest comfortably, knowing that Prior Hansen will continue to serve the Order for some time to come.

Annual General Meeting – April 23, 2009

Commander Hansen encourages you to exercise your annual right (and duty) to have your say in the governance of the Commandery. 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.

Remember Your Investiture?

For many of us, our Investiture stands out as a milestone in our time in the Order: the majesty, pomp, ceremony, and so many Members in attendance, magnificent in their robes, welcoming us to the Order.

Please plan to attend this year's Investiture, the most anticipated event on the Vancouver Commandery calendar, to welcome and make an outstanding impression on this year's exceptional Aspirants, as they enter the Order.

The 2009 Investiture and Gala will be held on Saturday, June 13th. Let's make this a day to remember with a record turnout of our Commandery's Members and guests!

Things to Do, Places to Go, People to Meet ...

This edition of the newsletter is chocked full of invitations both within the Commandery and well beyond our borders. You are encouraged to review them in greater detail in subsequent pages, but here are a few highlights to whet your interest.

April 5th: Commemorate “The Tree of Life”

Vancouver Commandery Members have been invited for a celebration to commemorate “The Tree of Life” stained glass windows in Christ Church Cathedral. See page 6 for details.

April 7th: “Healing Touch”

All Members & Aspirants are invited to attend “Healing Touch”, the first in a short series of education evenings on complimentary therapies in the hospice/ palliative care setting. See page 6 for details.

May 25th: Toronto Commandery Luncheon

All Members are invited to a lunch at The National Club, 303 Bay St., Toronto on Monday, May 25th to generate interest among potential new Members in that city. See page 7 for details.



One-On-One With ... Marshal Richard Earthy

In this issue of the Newsletter we continue our series of interviews with members of the Commandery's Executive Committee to offer some insight to Members as to the person and the position. Marshal Richard Earthy KGSJ is the third interview in our series.

Ed.: Thank you for agreeing to this interview, Dick. When did you first become aware of the Order and what led you to accept the invitation to join?

Dick: I was a guest at John Dustan's investiture in 1998. Having gone through COTC training while at university, I was immediately impressed with the ceremony and pageantry. In 2004, Poul Hansen approached me with the invitation to join and I accepted largely because I knew, or knew of, about half of the Members in the Commandery.

Ed.: Having joined in 2005, you've really become involved in the Commandery as you are now the Marshal and Adjutant. Tell us about those roles.

Dick: The Marshal is primarily responsible for ceremonial activities in the Commandery and, in turn, this really means a focus on the Investiture. My job is to ensure the 30 – 40 participants involved in the Investiture, including Members and Aspirants, clearly know their roles during the ceremony. The Adjutant's role is to have a good understanding of what's going on in the Commandery and to assist the Commander in fulfilling his, or her, role.

Ed.: What do you see as a significant enhancement in your role over the past few years?

Dick: I'm particularly pleased we've established an Aspirant's Liaison Sub-Committee, which Lynda-May O'Brien is heading up. We identified a need to engage Aspirants more in the time leading up to their Investiture. Lynda-May and her group arrange gatherings for Aspirants so they can get to know each other before the Investiture and learn some of the protocols around what and what not to do, what and what not to wear, that sort of thing. The goal is to enhance each Aspirant's experience.

Ed.: Your most memorable moment in the Order?

Dick: It would have to be my Investiture, and I think this would be true of most Members of the Order. What was particularly memorable was walking down the aisle and seeing all of the other Members of the Order in the pews with their robes on, a sea of red capes, there to welcome us as new Members. I would like every Aspirant to feel that way, which is why we encourage attendance at the Investiture.

Ed.: You literally have big shoes to fill, given that "Big Dick" Richards is your predecessor as Marshal. How do you intend to fill those shoes?

Dick: I'll have to rely on good looks and charm, as no one has Dick Richards' presence. I'm still in awe over how he ran rehearsals for the last Investiture.

Ed.: Let's change tack. You've been very involved with the Scouting movement over the years.

Dick: That's true. I was a Scout when I was young and really enjoyed the experience. When my own children were of age, I encouraged them to get involved in Scouting and, like many parents, I offered to help out at the organizational level. That was over 20 years ago and I've held a number of senior roles in the Scouting movement in BC.

Ed.: And I gather you've been recognized for your contribution to Scouting.

Dick: Yes, in 2005 I was awarded the Silver Acorn for especially distinguished service. That was quite an honour and quite a surprise too.

Ed.: I heard about another award worth mentioning.

Dick: You hear too much! In 2002 I was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Ed.: Tell us about your family.

Dick: Anne and I were married in July 1969. We have three married children: Jill (Vancouver), Scott (New York) and Kim (London, UK). We have two granddaughters (Jill's) and both Scott's wife, Carolyn, and Kim are expecting their first children in August and September, respectively – a great 40th anniversary present for Anne and me!

Ed.: What was the last book you read?

Dick: "Fifteen Days" by Christie Blanchard about her time with Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

Ed.: Last question. Do you have a motto?

Dick: "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Ed.: Thanks again for doing this, Marshal.

Next Issue: Ian Reid, Hospitaller



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SOSJ's Annual Christmas Lunch – December 5th

The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, completely decorated for the Christmas Holiday Season, provided a beautiful venue for our 2008 Christmas Luncheon event. The dramatic view towards the ocean and mountains created a wonderful backdrop for this festive event.

Commander Hansen welcomed 80 members and guests and called on Chev. The Very Reverend Peter Elliott KJSJ to give a Christmas Message on the personal and spiritual meaning of Christmas.

Chev. Ken Mahon then provided a brief update on the good progress that has been made to date for achieving our goal of building a free-standing hospice for the west side of Vancouver. Chev. Reverend Nicholas Parker KGSJ was called upon to say grace, after which we enjoyed the bountiful selection of food from the holiday buffet tables.

Following the lunch, Chev. Michael Shields KCJSJ, introduced our keynote speaker, Major Doug Poitras, CD, BA, MBA, CHRP. Major Poitras had recently returned from Afghanistan, and was able to provide us with a very informative and insightful presentation on the importance of the work Canadian forces are providing to the people in that region. His dynamic style and presentation was very well received by the guests, and we were given the opportunity to ask questions. H.E. Bailiff Prior Dustan thanked the Major on behalf of all in attendance. Many of the guests stayed on and enjoyed additional discussions with Major Poitras, after the formal part of the luncheon had been completed.

Yours in St. John,

Dame Drinda Scott, DJSJ
Chair Events and Social Committee



Lt. Grand Master David Rolfe & Dame Margaret Rolfe



Commander-Elect Bob Trowbridge and Judith Trowbridge



H.E. Prior Emeritus Patrick Oswald, Major Poitras & Commander Poul Hansen



Dame Mary Collins



Chev. Alan Wolrige



SOSJ Annual Christmas Lunch – (continued)



*Dame Dewey Parker, Dame Elizabeth Woodward, Mr. Jonathan Parker,
H.E. Prior Emeritus Patrick Oswald, Dame Robyn Woodward*



Chev. Ken Hallet & Chev. Kevin Mahon



Dame Anna Nyarady & Chev. Dann Konkin



Dame Jane & Chev. George Hungerford



Mrs. Marie-Louise & Chev. Kevin O'Neill



Chev. Bernie Fahy & Chev. John Norton



SOSJ Annual Christmas Lunch – (continued)



Chev. Alan Finnie & Dame Joan Finnie



Dame Dewey Parker, Chev. The Very Reverend Peter Elliott & Dame Drinda Scott



Dame Susan Dickson, Dame April Davidson, Dame Wendy Cowan & Dame Jane Hungerford



H.E. Bailiff Prior John Dustan & Mrs. Kay Dustan



Mrs. Elizabeth Beckmann, Chev. Jim McGregor & Mrs. Mariorie Kniht



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Hospitaller's Report

Good news! February and March have seen major progress on the site for the St John's Hospice. We're not at the finish line but we are on the last lap.

UBC President's Priorities and Properties Committee has approved the project. This is the last stage before going to the full Board of Governors for final approval. It is expected the proposal will be submitted to the Board for their meeting in late May/early June. The project then has to be approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education as a lease. Neither of these steps is expected to pose problems other than the passage of time. If we are successful in getting on the agenda for the Board's next meeting, we will be building – or at least digging – this year.

To get to the Board, we do have to finish negotiating the terms with UBC's Treasury Department, which will be underway by the time you are reading this newsletter.

We will be finalizing our selection of architects in the first two weeks of April and proceeding immediately with drawings based on our Functional Specifications, which have been accepted by both Vancouver Coastal Health and UBC.

The site is at the corner of University Boulevard and Marine Drive, where the parking lot for St John's residential college is currently. It is sufficiently large to allow for gardens and decent access as well as a first class facility.

In other activities, we have finalized another 3-year arrangement with the BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association, although we will slowly reduce our contribution to allow for a wider spread of beneficiaries over time. They currently receive 75% of our gifts and we would like to leave room over time to support research and lobbying activities, as well as specific hospice projects. In 2012, they will be receiving \$27,500 annually instead of the current \$35,000. They agree that this small change will be easily made up given their current scale of operations.

We have also modified the two \$5,000 grants we give each year for specific projects to allow for a 12% administration charge to the project by the recipient. We need to contribute our proportionate share to keeping the lights on but are not prepared to increase the total amounts at this time.

Yours in St. John,

Chev. Ian Reid, KGSJ
Hospitaller

A Special Invitation

The Dean and Trustees of Christ Church Cathedral request the honour of your presence to celebrate and commemorate "**The Tree of Life**" stained glass windows, designed by Susan Point CM, a legacy gift from Jean MacMillan Southam CM.

Time: Palm Sunday, April 5th at 4:00pm.

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St.

Reception to follow. RSVP to Vincent Carey (604-682-3848 ext 34 or Vincent@cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca) by March 27th.

It is appropriate that Members of the Order wear robes.

Palliative Care Volunteer Committee Event

Your Palliative Care Volunteer Committee has organized our first in a short series of education evenings on complimentary therapies in the hospice/ palliative care setting. We are excited about our subject for April, **Healing Touch**.

Our speaker, **Ginny Mulhall, BSC, BPT, CHPT-I**, began her interest in energy work as a physiotherapist at St. Paul's Hospital on the palliative care unit. Ginny has taught Healing Touch throughout our community and Canada. Ginny also maintains a private practice. **Please join us** in this non-invasive demonstration and information session. Healing Touch can help all of us as we strive to enhance peace and tranquillity in our lives.

Date: Tuesday, April 7th, 2009

Time: 7:00 – 8 :30 PM
6:30 for conversation and refreshments

Place: Southland's Riding Club
7025 MacDonald Street, Vancouver

Who: Members, Aspirants & guests are welcome!

Cost: No charge. Dame Hilary Oswald has secured the Riding Club. Thank you Hilary!

RSVP: Before April 1st, 2009 – Dame Hilary Oswald
patrickandhilaryoswald@shaw.ca
604-266-9140

After April 1st, 2009 – Dame Susan Dickson
robertidicksonmd@shaw.ca
604-733-6474

Members shall have the opportunity to experience healing touch. This is a non-invasive, hands-off energy enhancing therapy. Please wear comfortable clothing.



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Membership Report

As some of you know, I am not a patient man, or given to compromise. Having established and achieved ambitious recruitment goals for the past three Investitures, I charged the Membership Committee and many of you with achieving comparable results in 2009. I am delighted to report we expect to meet this goal.

At the Vancouver Commandery's Investiture on June 13th, Knights and Dames will witness the induction of another baker's dozen of worthy Aspirants.

It is particularly gratifying and exciting that, among our 2009 Aspirants, are two prominent medical doctors; one a clinical professor and surgeon, the other an erstwhile emergency doctor who has spent the last eighteen years in specialized pain management medicine.

The investiture of these two medical professionals, along with three others from the past couple of years, creates a team of eleven "docs" in our Commandery. The collective experience of these distinguished doctors offers much to our palliative care mission and, more importantly, there is a stated determination within this group to get involved early and often.

In response to this willingness to serve, our Commandery is forming a new Medical Committee to co-ordinate the guidance and research our doctors can provide. This Committee will make a vital contribution to our goal of understanding and pursuing best practices in the evolving world of palliative care.

As has been documented, I have the honour of succeeding Commander Poul Hansen at the AGM on April 23rd. In turn, I am delighted to announce that Dame Karen Baker-MacGrotty, DGSJ will succeed me as the Chair of the Membership Committee.

In this, my last report as the Membership Committee Chair, I want to take the opportunity to thank those who have served on the Committee, both formally and informally, over the past few years. My last act is to remind my successors that an active and ambitious recruitment process is critical to ensuring our Commandery continues to enjoy a vibrant membership and our important mission can be achieved.

Yours in St. John,

Bob Trowbridge, KGSJ
Membership Committee Chair
Commander-Elect

Other Invitations

Toronto Commandery – Lunch (May 25th)

A few years ago, Chev. John Rogers, KGSJ moved from Vancouver to Toronto with his firm, Davis LLP. He has since been appointed Acting Commander of the Toronto Commandery, in formation. This Commandery has five Members and requires ten in order to become a recognized Commandery.

Commander Rogers is inviting prospective Members, and has extended the invitation to the Vancouver Commandery, to attend a lunch at The National Club, 303 Bay St., Toronto on Monday, May 25th. If you cannot attend, Commander Rogers would be pleased to receive addresses of your friends and acquaintances who you think might have an interest in becoming Members.

Confirmed attendees from the Vancouver Commandery include Lt. Grand Master David Rolfe, Dame Margaret Rolfe, Prior Hansen and Chev. Reid.

Commanderies of San Francisco, St. Joseph and St. Francis Military – Combined Investiture (March 28th)

Members of the Vancouver Commandery are cordially invited to attend the combined Investitures of the San Francisco Commandery's Investiture later this month.

Mar 27th: Cocktail Reception, 6:00 – 8:00pm
St. Francis Yacht Club

Mar 28th: Investiture, 5:00pm sharp
Grace Cathedral

Mar 28th: Dinner - Dance, 6:30pm
The Pacific – Union Club

Cleveland Commandery – Investiture (May 30^h)

The Cleveland Commandery has extended a warm invitation to all Members of the Vancouver Commandery to attend their Investiture on May 30, 2009.

May 28th: Dinner
Home of Chev. Rustom and Dame Mary Khouri

May 29th: Rehearsal & Dinner
Old Stone Church / Home of Dame Helen Moss

May 30^h: Investiture
Old Stone Church

May 30th: Gala
Renaissance Hotel



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Vancouver Commandery



Events at a Glance

Vancouver Commandery

APRIL 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Palliative Care Event: "Healing Touch"
Southlands Riding Club, Vancouver

APRIL 23, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

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

JUNE 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Investiture of 2009 Aspirants and Promotions
Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

JUNE 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Reception and Gala Dinner
Vancouver Club, Vancouver

DECEMBER 4, 2009 at 12:00p.m.

Christmas Luncheon
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, Vancouver

Other Events

MARCH 27 – 28, 2009

San Francisco Commandery – Investiture & Gala
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA

APRIL 5, 2009 at 4:00pm

Commemorate "The Tree of Life" stained glass windows
Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

MAY 25, 2009 at 12:00pm

Toronto Commandery – Luncheon
The National Club, Toronto

MAY 28 – 30, 2009

Cleveland Commandery – Investiture & Gala
Old Stone Church, Cleveland, OH

SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

2010 Sovereign Council Meeting
Budapest, Hungary

Please let us know of any events that Commandery Members may be interested in attending. Contact Gail Dunn at admin@sosjvancouver.org.

Kudos & Other News

On December 9, 2008, Chev. David Esworthy was announced as the winner of the 2008 Langley Citizen of the Year, awarded by the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce. Chev. Esworthy was presented with the H.D. Stafford Award which recognizes his mentorship to local businesses, commitment to many Boards of Local and Provincial organizations and his tireless work in the Langley community. Congratulations, David!

On May 11, 2009, Chev. The Very Reverend Peter Elliott, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral will be conferred with the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* by the Vancouver School of Theology at its Convocation. Congratulations, Peter!

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 Gail Dunn (admin@sosjvancouver.org).

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The newsletter is published four times per year, coinciding with major events in the Commandery calendar:

Winter – Jan/Feb (post Christmas Lunch)

Spring – May (post AGM)

Summer – Jul/Aug (post Investiture & Gala)

Autumn – Oct/Nov (gearing up for the New Year)

The Editor welcomes your comments and suggestions for content. Contributions that pertain to the Commandery or the Order are also welcome.

Please submit your contribution or suggestions to Gail Dunn at admin@sosjvancouver.org.