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

March 2016

State of the Art Facility Making a Difference in the Lives of Residents and Families

The St. John Hospice at UBC is now operating at full capacity, providing care for more than 150 residents since September 2014. See update on page 4 of this issue.

Over the period from September to date, our Committee has been working on putting together an event for the public, called the Bucket List Festival. The Bucket List Festival was started by Dr. Pippa Hawley of the BC Cancer Agency.

The day is premised on being an uplifting day full of excellent information, delivered with good humour and inspirational messages. We will have very well respected speakers in their field who will provide great information as well as allow for participation through Question and Answer sessions.

Accordingly, the event will be held on April 30th at the Van Dusen Botanical Gardens. Lunch and refreshments are provided throughout the day. We highly encourage interested members to register early as well as help us promote it to their family and friends.

Dame Anna Nyarady, DJSJ

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

Vancouver Commandery

ORDER OF ST. JOHN - VANCOUVER COMMANDERY— EVENT CALENDAR 2016

Event	Date	Time	Location
Director's Board Meeting	March 30th.	4PM	Vancouver
Annual General Meeting	April 28th.	5PM	Shaughnessy GC
Bucket List Festival	April 30th.	10AM	Van Deusen Gardens
Director's Board Meeting	May 25th.		Vancouver
Investiture	June 11th	5PM	
Gala	June 11th.	7PM	Terminal City Club

DID YOU KNOW?

In November 2014, the Directors of the Vancouver Commandery established new criteria to formally recognize and honour certain of our long-serving Knights and Dames and bestow the title of Senator.

A Member who meets these criteria is a member of the Sovereign Order for a minimum of fifteen years and who has achieved the rank of Knight or Dame of Justice and is at least eighty years of age – will be invited to become a Senator.

Among other privileges, Senators are no longer obligated to pay annual Oblations but will be called upon to serve the Commandery in an advisory role.

Currently, we have six Senators in the Vancouver Commandery:

- **Senator Allen M. Fowlis, KJSJ**
- **Senator The Honourable John A. Fraser, PC, OC, OBC, CD, KJSJ**
- **Senator HE Bailiff Emeritus Arthur A. Knight, GCSJ, MMSJ**
- **Senator Dwight I. Gregg Peretz, KJSJ**
- **Senator R. Michael Shields, KCJSJ – Senate Chancellor**
- **Senator Leslie A. Strike, KCJSJ**

Submitted by :

Prior Richard D. Earthy, KCJSJ

Message From the Commander

With our busy Spring season approaching and winter almost behind us, your Board and Committees continue to keep the wheels in motion for the Vancouver Commandery.

Our Herald experienced some technical difficulties with his computer at the end of last year and therefore the December/January Newsletter was not issued. I have combined my December Commanders report in this newsletter for your information and I will now bring you up to date on news since that time.

Having defined our direction for the next couple of years to focus on palliative and end of life care initiatives, many opportunities for good works by the Order are presenting themselves. While we are still considering opportunities to be involved in the building of hospices, we are also looking to other areas of need where we can make a difference and where advocacy, education and volunteerism can also make an impact for our community.

The Membership Committee has approved a number of new Aspirants and there are several more still in process. If you are looking to propose a name for 2017, we are accepting nominations in advance. We are excited to be welcoming another wonderful group of candidates into the Order in June.

Bucket List Festival, a public information event sponsored by the Order that will take place on Saturday April 30th at Van Dusen Gardens. With the postponement of the event date, the Hospitaller's Committee has had more opportunity to work on advertising the event through social media and radio. The event will also be videotaped and streamed live for groups to watch in other parts of our province including assisted living facilities, senior's centers and care homes. It is exciting to be able to reach a broader population through technology.

Dame Heather Hamilton and the Member Engagement Committee hosted a most informative discussion evening with guest speaker Dr. Pippa Hawley. The discussion topic of the evening was the book Being Mortal. Over forty members attended. This is the second successful educational event hosted by this new committee. I hope that you will consider attending a future event.

At the end of the Investiture weekend in June, Marshall Jack McGee decided it was time to analyze the planning process leading up to this most important yearly event to see if there were ways to make the process more streamlined and efficient. This meeting was jointly held with the Membership Committee Chair Chev Matthew Casey and incoming Membership Chair for next year Chev Dann Kokin. The outcome of these meetings has been extremely positive with the collaboration of both committees. Timelines and deadline dates have been set well in advance with the goal of providing a comfortable amount of time to process new aspirant applications and reducing the number of new aspirant orientation sessions.

Jack McGee and the Marshalls Committee are well underway with the planning of our next Investiture weekend which takes place on June 10/11, 2016. Please be sure to put this important date in your calendars. Our Social Committee are also well organized in their planning for this event with a dinner/dance scheduled to take place at the Terminal City Club.

You may also notice some changes to our Newsletter over the next few publications. Herald Chev. Jim McGregor has included the new "Hospice News" section that will keep you updated of the activities at St John's Hospice on a quarterly basis.

Our Chair of Finance Chev Robin Elliot is working on a new budget for 2016 and will present this at the upcoming AGM The Foundation Board met in Sept and Chair Chev. John Norton welcomed Chev Terry Holland as Chair of investment. You will be updated on activities of the Foundation at the AGM as

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the passing of two of our members, Wendy Cowan in November and David Esworthy in December. Wendy passed in St John Hospice which was a great comfort to herself and her family. Both funerals were attended by many of our members. We will miss them both.

Just a reminder that the AGM will take place on April 28th at Shaughnessy Golf Club. This year we will be emailing the Committee Reports and Financial Statements one week ahead of the meeting so that you will have an opportunity to review them in advance. Happy Spring to you all.

Yours in St John, A Rowland

Commander Anne Rowland, DCSJ, MMSJ

HOSPICE NEWS

To all Vancouver Commandery Members

Life at St John Hospice this past year has been full of memorable moments that I would like to share with you all.

Since the reopening in Sept 2014 we have operated at a full capacity from the beginning of this year. The demand for hospice beds keeps increasing and with these requests for hospice care, Providence Health Care and Vancouver Coastal have supported the opening of St. John's two extra beds. Since Sept 2014 we have had the pleasure of caring for more than 150 residents and their families & friends.

With your generation donations at the fundraiser in June, residents have benefited from additional equipment, furniture and resources. There is now a lovely patio set on the patio off the TV room where many people enjoyed resting and visiting in the beautiful Vancouver sunshine.

As well, we have table fans for each room that prove therapeutic for residents with breathing issues. The folding tables and chairs allow larger families the space to have celebratory meals together either in the common areas or directly in residents' rooms. The resident room floor lamps are a warming addition to create cozy spaces for reading and watching television. Our well stocked tool kit has come in handy on many occasions.

Commode chairs are available in each room now and the alarm mats help us care safely for residents. I know with the hard work of your volunteers the hospice purchases are still in the works so thank you in advance for the kindness of your donations.

We are thrilled to share the opening of the St John Hospice Library as a result of your generosity. This loaner library was the idea of one of our amazing Providence Health volunteers and with her tireless efforts she was able to create a literary resource for residents, families, & staff.

Banyan Books kindly supported the ordering of these books and offered discounts with the purchase. Topics include: Health & Spirituality, Coping & Loss, Prayer & Meditation, Helping & Supporting, Poetry & Short Stories Chinese Language & General Reading. The books are catalogued and inventoried weekly and signed out for all use. As well, we ordered 3 magazine subscriptions that are enjoyed by many at the hospice.

The staff and myself would like to extend a big thank you for your consideration of the residents who reside at hospice and the extras that you have donated to ensure the hospice feels like home.

Warmest regards,

Kelly Konyk, RN BSN CHPCA(C)

Clinical Site Coordinator

St John Hospice

Hospice Activities

A friendly work environment and first class equipment, combined with a calming interior and gentle landscaping, provide a warm and welcoming stay for hospice residents and their families.

The Fascinating Life and Achievements of Chevalier Harold E. Charters KJSJ MMSJ

The Man That Made Library Square

Visitors to Vancouver marvel at the beauty of Library Square. The coliseum-inspired style, the bright airy spaces and classic contours often leave the impression that it has been a permanent fixture in the Vancouver skyline. But for locals who remember the early resistance to the project it was never a sure thing that it was going to happen. And for those, like Chevalier Harold E. Charters that made it all possible, it is now quietly remembered as a personal victory.

Chevalier Charters is an affable man in his early 70s with a broad smile, energetic handshake and natural storytelling ability who has the power to invigorate an entire room with his vivid narrative. From the sweeping views of the Vancouver Sun building where he now works at his dream job he weaves a fascinating tale of his improbable journey from personal family tragedy to well-known real estate executive and Knight of Justice.

Born in wartime Calgary, the son of a flight engineer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Chevalier Charters spent his early years as a "barracks brat" moving constantly from one military base to the next. In the early 1950's his father was posted to the RCAF base at Vancouver Airport in what would prove to be his final assignment. After narrowly surviving the Asiatic Flu and a bout of pneumonia, he tragically died 4 weeks later from a brain tumor leaving his mother with 3 children to feed and no source of income.

"Those years were full of tragedy," explains Chevalier Charters, "But I suppose there were many others that were far worse off."

In time, his mother found herself a job as a school secretary and Howie, then 14, and his 2 sisters were able to continue on with their education. Later, his mother remarried a man named Jack Gourlay who came from a Westside family and ran the mail-order division of Simpson-Sears. With heartfelt memories Chevalier Charters recalls how Gourlay accepted him as his own son and formally adopted him.

"I owe a lot to that man," Says Chevalier Charters, "In a lot of ways he was the only dad I ever knew."

With newfound family stability Chevalier Charters was able to focus on his studies and soon after graduating was accepted into Royal Roads Military College. He initially thought he would follow in his birth father's footsteps and join the Air Force – but in a move that surprised even him, he turned down the offer on the advice of his new father who saw no future in aviation and convinced him to enroll in the Bachelor of Commerce program at the University of British Columbia. He largely credits this as an inflection point in his career – as a newly minted member of the Zeta Psi fraternity he made a new circle of friends that positively changed the direction of his life.

From University he was introduced to the land development industry and worked on building single family homes, townhomes and subdivisions projects in greater Vancouver and Hawaii. After approximately 7 years the assets of the company he was working for were sold and he spent the next couple of years as a real estate contractor to the Federal Government. During the government growth period of the early 70's his work evolved into a permanent position with the Department of Public Works.

Chevalier Charters spent the next 25 years working for the Canadian Federal Government in a variety of positions that eventually saw him as the Fed's Director of Real Estate Operations for Western Canada and the Arctic.

During his time in government he worked on a variety of interesting projects including Sinclair Centre, Canada Place, the New Westminster Penitentiary, the old George Derby Veteran's Hospital, the New Westminster Railway Bridge and of course, Library Square.

"It was a great opportunity to utilize some of my real estate development experience and get away with introducing creative and entrepreneurial approaches because I was located so far away from Ottawa".

At lunch one afternoon Chevalier Charters outlined to Chevalier Dick Richards KCJSJ a rough sketch of an idea for a consulting practice that would assist government with projects that he already knew well, and at the same time allow him to attract private sector clients unfamiliar with working with government.

"Although it was just an idea at that point, Dick suggested that if I was going to setup that kind of consulting practice that I should do it within Colliers".

For the last 18 years Chevalier Charters has worked with clients in all levels of government – federal, provincial, municipal as well as universities, colleges, hospitals, First Nations bands and a diversity of companies in the private sector. His enjoyment comes from the interesting people he meets and the wide variety of projects he works on. Recently he stepped back from his Managing Director role and now works exclusively on projects that interest him – the flexibility allows him to devote even more time to various volunteer efforts such as his involvement with the Order of St. John.

"I ran into Chevalier Peter Hebb at the Vancouver Club one afternoon and he mentioned that an organization he belonged to wanted to build a hospice - could I help? After hearing about the plans I thought 'sure' – it is the kind of thing that I believe is very important. So that's how I got involved in the project initially – not as a member, but as a volunteer consultant."

Later, his good friend Chevalier Dick Richards asked him if he'd like to attend the investiture ceremony. At the ceremony he ran into a lot of old friends like Chevalier Al Wolrige, Chevalier Jake Kerr, Chevalier Stephen Rogers, Chevalier George Hungerford and others – many of whom he had known from his days at UBC. It seemed like a natural fit. He was invested into the order the following year in 2007.

"There's a lot to know about palliative care before you can build a hospice," says Chevalier Charters, "Thankfully I had the benefit of many members of the Order that could help bring me up to speed, most notably Chevalier Ian Reid who taught me 'Hospice 101'. I learned a tremendous amount from Ian."

Not long after becoming a Knight, Chevalier Charters was invited to lunch with Prior Emeritus Poul Hansen and Chevalier Ken Mahon who asked him if he would like to become the project manager for the construction of the hospice. He immediately accepted.

"Soon after Dame Ann Rowland came onto the team and was fabulous – she is a very accomplished designer, full of energy and pays close attention to detail. She was wonderful to work with."

It was a team effort that involved a wide cast of Knights and Dames – first in setting up a competitive selection process for an architectural firm and then in finding a general contractor. Chevalier Charters' extensive experience allowed the team to drive aggressive bidding to help reduce building costs.

"We wanted to create the platinum standard for how hospices are built and equipped," says Chevalier Charters, "And we did just that. Chevalier Reid was in charge of looking at functional programming, Dr. Keith Chambers was brought in to evaluate the medical requirements, Chevalier Norton was successful in negotiating the final agreement with UBC and Vancouver Coastal Health, Dame Ann Rowland was in charge of the interior design, and Dr. David Hardwick, helped facilitate the partnership with the UBC medical faculty. We wanted something that looked like a Shaughnessy Mansion but with west coast flair that would last 100 years and never go out of style – and that's exactly what we got."

Chevalier Charters also credits the thoughtful counsel he received from Chevalier Ken Mahon, who was also his banker, and office support from Gail Dunn who tracked and paid the many invoices.

When Chevalier Charters isn't working at his dream job or volunteering in the community he likes to spend time with his wife of 44 years, Jane, their two sons Geoffrey and David and their 5 grandchildren. He has been a member of the Vancouver Yacht club since 1968 and eventually realized his dream of becoming a pilot. These days, rather than pilot the skies or navigate the seas he prefers to spend time at the family getaway in Roberts Creek with close friends and family.

Submitted by roving reporter, Chevalier Les Jickling, KSJ

Member Engagement Committee

The Member Engagement Committee had 30 people in attendance on October 15 for the discussion of "Being Mortal" lead by Dr. Pippa Hawley. Pippa had the members of the SOSJ engaged in thinking about their own mortality and what steps should be taken to address this very important issue. There was thoughtful discussion about having open dialogue with family members of all ages and Pippa provided good suggestions on how to start that conversation. Dr. Hawley, Palliative Medicine Specialist and cancer physician, started the BC Cancer Agency's Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care Program in 1997. She is the medical leader of the Vancouver team doing mainly outpatient clinic consultations. Thank you Dr. Hawley.

Dame Heather Hamilton DSJ - Member Engagement Committee

Okanagan Commandery Inaugural Investiture

At 16:30 on Saturday, 31 May 2014 over 100 Knights, Dames, Aspirants and Guests gathered at The Cathedral Church of St. Michael & All Angels in Kelowna, British Columbia, to witness the launch of Canada's newest Commandery in twenty years.

It all started eighteen months prior, when Prior Robert Trowbridge, KCJSJ, Prior of Canada appointed Dame Lynda-May O'Brien to the position of Deputy Prior of Canada with a mandate to found new Commanderies across Canada. The Okanagan was chosen as the location for the first new Commandery and for the next year work was done to prepare the infrastructure for the new Commandery and the Commandery Foundation, as well as researching, profiling, vetting, and interviewing to identify a group of individuals that not only were making significant contributions to their community through their professional and/or philanthropic activities; but also embraced our history and mission; shared our core values and desired to make a difference in their community.

By 14:00 guests were streaming into the Cathedral and Knights, Dames and Aspirants were beginning to gown and have professional photos taken. The room was buzzing with excitement as collars were straightened and lots of hugs and good wishes shared. At 16:30 precisely, Chevalier Wood called the attention of the guests in the Cathedral, the organ started and the **Inaugural Investiture** procession into the Cathedral began to the singing of *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Leading the Investiture Team and presiding over the Inaugural Investiture **was Grand Master H.M.E.H. Bailiff David R.L. Rolfe, GCSJ, CMSJ, MMSJ.**

Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Knights and Dames and their spouses, from the Commandery of the Okanagan, Commandery of Ontario, Commandery of San Jose, Commandery of Vancouver and the Commandery of Victoria for attending the Inaugural Investiture and in particular to the Inaugural Investiture Team.

Yours in St. John,
Commander Lynda-May K. O'Brien, KJSJ
Deputy Prior of Canada

Town Hall Meeting

The Town Hall meeting, held on January 28th was relatively well attended with 55 members attending. The major focus of the meeting was to present the Abbotsford Hospice project following an 8 month due diligence process.

The evening was also videotaped in an effort to share the details of this project with all of our members.

Thank you for your comments and feedback on this project. We are still waiting for a contract with Fraser Health and Abbotsford Hospice Society to be signed at which point your Board will vote to approve the project.

There are several other new exciting projects on our plate which the Almoner and I will report about in more detail at the AGM.

A Rowland

Commander Anne Rowland, DCSJ, MMSJ

Christmas Luncheon

The Annual Sovereign Order of St. John Hospitaller Christmas Luncheon was held at the Terminal City Club on December 9, 2015. We enjoyed a wonderful festive lunch and great fellowship that carried with us throughout the Holiday Season.

After lunch, our guests were entertained by an acapella group under the direction of Tzu-Han Chen based in Vancouver, BC. This is the fourth time this group has entertained us at our Christmas luncheon. This group aims to reach out and spread the joys of singing to the local communities and they performed at our St. John Hospice during the Christmas Season in 2014 and did so again in 2015. The choir has been active in community events in the Lower Mainland since 2008.

I wish to thank Dame Teresa Mitchell-Banks and Administrator Gail Dunn for organizing such a fine event.

Chevalier Dann Konkin, KGSJ

Member News

Chevalier David Esworthy KCSJ - January 29th, 1929 – December 19th, 2015

David was very active throughout his life the business, horse and health communities of Langley and Vancouver. He received many prestigious awards throughout his life in these areas.

A highlight was being inducted into the B.C. Sports Hall of fame. For his outstanding work in the equestrian field. David joined the Sovereign Order of St. John in 2006 and attained the rank of Knight Commander of Grace, having served on various committees, particularly the Membership Committee.

David is predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Patricia. Survived by his son Philip (Sandy) and his granddaughter Patricia (Bob).

A memorial service was held February 6th, at 1:00 P.M. in the riding arena at 1036, 208th, St, Langley, B.C.

Dame Wendy Cowan, DCSJ - April 3rd. 1940 - November 10th. 2015

On behalf of the members of the Vancouver Commandery, I want to express our sincerest condolences to Robert Cowan & Family on the recent passing of Dame Wendy Cowan, DCSJ. Dame Cowan has been an active member of our Vancouver Commandery since being invested in 2005. Wendy passed away in the loving care given at our St. John Hospice. Her funeral was held at St. John Vancouver Anglican Church on November 27th .

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Once again, I thank all those members who contributed articles or photos. Please remember, if you have a Commandery event or a personal special occasion, we would like to record it on these pages.

Please send any information to: Chevalier Jim McGregor - nine-1@telus.net or

Gail Dunn - Administrator - admin@sosjvancouver.org - (604) 682– 2938

Please visit our website: www.sosjvancouver.org

A special thank –you to Dame Phyllis Grady and Dame Heather Hamilton for their wonderful photos in this issue.

Chevalier Jim McGregor, KCSJ, Herald