



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



Winter 2013

**Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller Celebrates
900th Anniversary**



The Vancouver Commandery of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller celebrated the 900th anniversary of the Order at a ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral on February 15th, 2013. The event was well organized and attended by members of the Vancouver Commandery and out of town guests and dignitaries. More photos and details inside this issue.

Letter from Commander



Greetings to all :

How proud we can all be to belong to an organization celebrating its 900th Anniversary. For any association to have prevailed for that many years is a tribute to all the Commanders, Knights and Dames who have gone before us as we continue to build the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. I would like to thank all of those who worked so diligently to produce the first class 900th Anniversary Celebration for our Commandery. We have recorded the

event on video and that production is now available to our members on our website.

History records our that Order has endured over centuries despite being persecuted, dispelled and dispersed. Each time the Order was challenged, it was able to re-establish itself and persevere continuing the mission of providing respite to travellers and helping the sick and the poor.

I would, again, encourage members to get involved in the workings of our Vancouver Commandery. I have no doubt each and every one of you has a special talent to contribute and ensure our Order prevails for another 900 years.

As we near the Grand Opening of St. John Hospice, on September 6th, we can share in the pride of those long ago members of our Order as they placed the last bricks and mortar in the early hospitals of those war ravaged cities and towns.

I am, indeed, honoured to have been reappointed to a second term as your Commander.

See you all at the Annual General Meeting on April 18th.

Richard D. Earthy, KJSJ

Commander



Dates To Remember

You are encouraged to attend the **Social Activities of the Commandery**. We have many opportunities for all of our members to become involved in the rewarding work and events of the Vancouver Commandery.

2013 Annual General Meeting will be held at the **Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club, 4300 S.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C. on April 18, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.**

June 8th 2013

Vancouver Commandery Investiture

Christ Church Cathedral - 5 P.M.

Annual Gala to follow

Commandery of Scotland Investiture

Glasgow – August 22nd to August 25th 2013

Official Opening of St. John Hospice

September 6th 2013

Member News



Dame Carla Robin Awarded Jubilee Medal

Dame Carla Robin, DSJ was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal presented by MP Mark Warawa for her work with the Langley Arts Council, United Way and the Langley Horse Federation



Chevalier David Esworthy Awarded Jubilee Medal

Chevalier David Esworthy, KGSJ was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal presented by MP Mark Warawa for his work with the community, the Chamber of Commerce and many local and national contributions.



Chevalier Jim McGregor Awarded Jubilee Medal

Chevalier Jim McGregor, KGSJ was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work with the Langley Christmas Bureau for 25 years. His proud Mother was present for the presentation.



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Appointments

Appointment of Commander

To: All Dames and Knights of the Vancouver Commandery
From: Prior Robert Trowbridge, KCJSJ
Subject: Election of Commander of the Vancouver Commandery



The Nominating Committee did not receive any further nominations for the office of Commander of the Vancouver Commandery. Therefore we are pleased to recommend Commander Richard Earthy, KJSJ be re-appointed to the position of Commander of the Vancouver Commandery at the Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Commandery scheduled for April 18, 2013, as per Appendix 6 of The Rules of the Order.

Yours in St John,



Appointment of Almoner

Chevalier Ross Sharp, KSJ has been appointed as Almoner for the Vancouver Commandery. Chevalier Sharp replaces Chevalier Ron Dumouchelle, KJSJ and we extend our thanks for his contribution.



Chevalier Ross Sharp KSJ

Appointment of Marshal

Chevalier Jack McGee, KSJ has been appointed as Marshal for the Commandery. Chevalier McGee replaces Chevalier Dennis Magrega, KGSJ and we extend our thanks for his contribution.





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900th Anniversary Service and Celebration

The 900th anniversary of the Official Founding of the Order was celebrated at an Ecumenical Church Service at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver on Friday February 15th 2013. The ceremony was officiated by Chevalier The Very Reverend Peter Elliot, KJSJ, assisted by Chevalier Carl E. Armerding, KGSJ and with presentations from Members of the Order and local dignitaries .

A Social Reception was held in the Church facility after the proceedings. The events of the afternoon were very well organized and well received by members and guests alike. A very large thank-you goes out to Chuck van der Lee, KCSJ and the Marshal's Committee and the Events and Social Committee for organizing this first class event to mark this auspicious occasion.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO THE CEREMONY

*H M E H Grand Master Bailiff
David R. L. Rolfe, GCSJ, CMSJ, MMSJ*



PROCLAMATION

Harry Bloy, Member of Legislative Assembly for Burnaby-Lougheed, read out the Proclamation from the Government of British Columbia proclaiming that February 15th 2013 would be recognized as:

“Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller Day”





The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller
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900th Anniversary Service and Celebration



*REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST
900 YEARS*

**H.E. Bailiff Grand Prior John H.G. Dustan,
GCSJ**



Chevalier The Very Reverend Peter Elliot, KJSJ, deserves a special vote of thanks for his attention to detail in the organization of the event.



The audience was thrilled by the appearance of the Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth Highlanders who performed "Highland Cathedral" accompanied by Organist Rupert Lang on the Christ Church Pipe Organ. The tune stirred the blood and resonated throughout the Church.





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900th Anniversary Social Celebration





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It's Up To Us

by Chevalier Ian Reid, KJSJ, MMSJ



One British newspaper ran a contest for the most boring imaginable headline. The winner was “Worthy Canadian Initiative”. This article is about initiative but we will try and do a little better than that.

Committees form the backbone of the Commandery. But it is usually individuals that get something new going. Some initiatives may come through committees but are usually created by individual effort.

Most of what we have done and do that lights our day comes from these initiatives. Initiative in this sense is the persuading of others to support a new activity and put in place. The original idea is necessary but may come from anywhere waiting for someone to take it up. Examples from many in the Commandery include:

1980's – renewal of the Order in North America – Fritz Zeigler, Ray Addington. Based on the centennial history of the Grand Priory of the Americas, there were only a few members and no real structure in North America prior to this. They recruited and expanded the Commandery and the Order far beyond the status quo.

1994 – Commandery focus on palliative care as an area of growing demand ill served by Government – Arthur Knight. Other Commanderies have had great difficulty in getting agreement on where to focus. Thanks to Arthur, Vancouver has not had that divisive issue and has been able to execute large projects as a result.

2002 – Annuity program – Ken Mahon. This program has produced the financial resources to do far more than our annual donations would permit. Without it, we would not have had the credibility with either UBC or Vancouver Coastal to build the hospice.

2006 – St John Hospice – Poul Hansen, Ken Mahon. Poul changed the approach to building a hospice from “something to consider” to “how do we do it”, a world of difference. Ken bought breakfast unasked one morning and said in his quiet way that we (meaning he) could raise the money. And he did!

2012 – Christmas carollers – This group was

put together from volunteers to sing carols at institutions, a fine example of a small scale initiative that draws other interested people to participate.

Little of what is best about the Commandery would have happened without these people, their efforts and others like them. We should celebrate their accomplishments.

On a personal level I've been approached by many newer members wondering what they can do for the Order. Most people understand that they have to put something in to get much out. A simple reply of “go show some initiative” is not likely to produce useful guidance or results.

As a Commandery, our biggest challenge is to engage members since commitment comes from engagement. The St John Hospice has been the largest recent project but it involved relatively few members until the last two years. We need more useful activities to challenge and draw in our Knights and Dames. These may interest only a group within the Commandery or may have nothing to do with palliative care but will broaden our appeal and results.

The Choral group is a great example of individual initiative leading to involvement. Limited to those who sing, it drew in members and benefited those less fortunate than we. Other ideas that have been raised but never put into action include monthly business lunches or a volunteer program at hospices.

Are you good at something that could lead to activity that engages us and helps others? A successful initiative might be something beyond our usual focus such as sponsoring a basketball team for a school in a troubled area or cleaning up a beach area. These are examples, not suggestions, to give a flavour of the kind of individual thought and effort that can produce results without detracting from our overall goal of helping palliative care

UBC motto is “tuum est” or it's up to you. Engagement is up to all of us.



Hospice Construction Progress

The St. John Hospice at UBC continues to make great progress. We have now extended the Grand Opening date to September 6th 2013 to ensure the building will be completed inside and out. Recent photographs show the progress and shape of things to come.



This project has been successful from the start only by the hard work and dedication of many of members of our Order. We have had a very successful fundraising Campaign chaired by Chevalier Ken Mahon, KCJSJ, MMSJ and the Foundation members. As the project turned the corner and moved from plans to an actual building, the focus of our energy changed. At the January Director's Meeting it was moved and seconded to give special recognition to the extra contributions made by Dame Anne Rowland, Chevalier Howie Charters and Chevalier Keith Chambers.

The time and energy they are giving to the details of the Hospice will pay off for all of us at completion.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!



Chevalier Howie Charters, KCSJ

Dame Anne Rowland, DGSJ

Chevalier Keith Chambers, KGSJ



Quality of Life at the End of Life

The demand for palliative care services in Vancouver is climbing steadily. Year and after year the numbers grow, and it is no secret as to why. Our population is aging and facing more chronic illnesses with more complexities – cancer, diabetes and heart disease, etc. than ever before.

The importance of ensuring a person has quality of life at the end of their life is not something I need to explain to you. The Order of St. John is already a leader in this area.

Like you, we believe that every person has the right to die pain-free with dignity, and with family and friends nearby. For some, that means in a hospital, for others in a hospice and, for a growing number of people, it means at home.

Dr. Beverly Spring is the medical director of the Vancouver Home Hospice Palliative Care Service which supports people in their homes who are living with a life-limiting illness. In the 2011/2012 year the program had:

1561 patients (with a prognosis of less than 1 year) had palliative services in Vancouver

Over 450 palliative patients being cared for in the community on any given day

948 active referrals to Palliative Care Consult Team (Clinical Nurse, Social Worker, Spiritual Care consultant)

Over 600 patients referred annually to the Palliative Care Consultant physicians (daytime)

Vancouver Hospice - 236 patients admitted

As the need for this service increases, so do opportunities for support. VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation would be pleased to work with us as well as the Vancouver Home Hospice Palliative Care Services to identify areas where the Order of St. John's financial support would have the greatest impact in this critical area of community health care. Funding by the Order of St. John would help ensure patients, their loved ones, and the professionals who care for them have access to the

support, resources and continuing education they need to provide the very best care possible in the remaining days of life.

Donations are needed for three important areas:

1. Benevolent patient and family fund
2. Homemaking care fund
3. Staff education fund

The Benevolent Patient and Family Fund

The idea behind this fund is to help the person and their family who are experiencing financial difficulties or hardship during this very complicated time. Easily, 40% of the clients that the Vancouver Home Hospice and Palliative Care Service supports would benefit from this type of assistance.

Homemaking Care Fund

For those that choose to remain at home, homemaking care is provided for a maximum of 4 hours per day. A fund that will enable the health care providers to increase the homemaking care hours on a case by case basis will allow more people to stay at home during their final months, weeks or days and to do so safely.

Staff Education

An educated workforce is required to provide palliative care. There is a desire to send nurses to hospice courses for certification, training, testing and new educational opportunities such as international/national conferences. Unfortunately, there is no budget to do so.

Funding for these three areas would have a significant impact on patients, their families and the dedicated health care providers. It would ease concerns and focus on financial hardships, and make this extremely difficult time a little bit easier. Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by Chevalier Ron Dumouchelle, KJSJ



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2012 Christmas Lunch

The Annual Christmas Luncheon was held in the beautiful setting of the Arbutus Club on December 6th.

Our guests were entertained by the Essonance Chamber Choir. The Essonance Chamber Choir is an a capella group based in Vancouver, BC. The group aims to reach out and spread the joys of singing to the local communities. The choir has been active in community events in the Lower Mainland since 2008. The choir is currently led by founder and musical director, Livia Gho.

We enjoyed a wonderful lunch and great fellowship that carried with us throughout the Holiday Season.

I wish to thank Dame Anna Nyarady, Chevalier Dann Konkin, Dame Teresa Mitchell-Banks and Administrator Gail Dunn for organizing such a fine event.

Richard D. Earthy, KJSJ

Commander



Dame Anna Nyarady, DGSJ
Chevalier Dan Konkin KGSJ
Dame Teresa Mitchell Banks, DSJ





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2012 Christmas Lunch



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!



A choir of hearty souls travelled through the community bringing joy and good will to many facilities throughout the Vancouver area during the Christmas season.

Reports indicate a wonderful time was had by all including the hours at the rehearsals that preceded the performances.



OBITUARY



**Senate Chancellor Chevalier
Henry K. Litherland,
KJSJ, MMSJ**

It is with profound sadness I convey the news of the passing of Senate Chancellor Chevalier Henry K. Litherland, KJSJ, MMSJ. Chevalier Litherland has been a proud and active member of the Order since he was invested in 1993. His contributions to the Order as Grand Hospitaller and Chancellor of the Senate of the Grand Priory of the Americas earned him a Medal of Merit. Many of our new Knights and Dames have been impressed, upon their being invested into the Order, to have such a truly distinguished vascular surgeon tasked with tying on their Medallions! A service for Chevalier Litherland was held on December 5th.

We will miss him!

Yours in St. John,

Commander Richard D. Earthy, KJSJ



**FAREWELL BUT NOT
GOOD-BYE!**

Dame Barbie Hislop was the Guest of Honor at a tea held to bid her farewell as she leaves for England. Dame Hislop was recently recognized for distinction in volunteer services for the Vancouver Board of Trade in January of this past year. Dame Hislop has been a tireless worker for Variety Club and a member of the Vancouver Commandery since 2008 and will be joining the England Commandery. She didn't stay away long; she was back doing her part at the 2013 Variety Show of Hearts Telethon in February.

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@shaw.ca or

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

Please visit our website: www.sosjvancouver.org