

The 2017 Victoria Investiture weekend took place October 20th and 21st. The weekend started with a cocktail party at the lovely home of Chevalier E. Nicholas Gudewill, KJSJ and Ms. Waan Bunsri. The guests were made to feel very welcome and their beautiful home was abuzz with conversation and cheer.

The following morning the eight Aspirants to be invested, senior officers of the Sovereign Order in attendance, and sponsors of the Aspirants met for breakfast at the Union Club of British Columbia where introductions were made and the history and structure of the Sovereign Order was explained. We were honoured to have H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Counsellor David J.R. Petitpierre GCSJ, H E Bailiff Grand Prior Suzanne Turner GCSJ, and H E Bailiff Prior Richard D. Earthy GCSJ with us to address the group.

The Investiture Service was held at Christ Church Cathedral and was presided over by H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Counsellor David J.R. Petitpierre GCSJ and Chevalier The Reverend Ian Powell KJSJ both of whom put all in attendance at ease and kept proceedings on schedule. Marshal, Chevalier William Donald Macnamara, OMM, CD, KGSJ, assisted by Deputy Marshal Chevalier The Honourable J. Parker MacCarthy, KSJ kept all in order and their combined military and judicial experience was evident.

One again, a highlight of the Investiture service was the lively reading of the Allocution by Dame The Honourable Mary Collins, PC, DCSJ, who imagined that she was reading a story to her grandson. Those in attendance were spellbound throughout the recitation.

The following members of the Victoria Commandery were promoted:

From the rank of Knight of Grace to Knight of Justice:

Chevalier The Reverend Ian Powell, KJSJ

From the rank of Knight/Dame of Grace to Knight/Dame Commander of Grace:

Chevalier Charles R. Burkett, KCSJ

Dame Maria Dominelli, DCSJ

From the rank of Knight/Dame of Honour to Knight/Dame of Grace:

Chevalier Christopher G. Denford, KGSJ

Dame Virginia Leigh MacCarthy, DGSJ

Dame Susan K. McMillan, DGSJ

Dame J. Pauline Rafferty OBC, DGSJ.

The following Knights and Dames were invested into the Sovereign Order:

Chevalier Bernard Beck KSJ

Dame Hazel Short Braithwaite DSJ

Chevalier David William Cowen KSJ

Chevalier Warren John Fensom KSJ

Chevalier Gordon Gunn KSJ

Chevalier Jeffrey Kevin Morgan Jakobsen KSJ

Dame Kimberly Dawne Legeard DSJ

Dame Eileen Florence Pepler DSJ

All eight have excellent credentials and we are honoured to include them in our Commandery.

The service was enhanced with the beautiful music of Canon Michael Gormley and the Christ Church Cathedral Choir and concluded with a performance of Ode to Joy and the stirring Highland Cathedral performed by The Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band.

Following the service the group enjoyed cocktails, dinner and dancing at the Union Club of British Columbia. An excellent selection of silent auction items assembled by awaited us. These were collected by Chevalier Francis Charles (Frank) Bourree KGSJ, Dame Maria Dominelli, DCSJ, and Chevalier Daniel H. Parker, KGSJ. We set an attendance record for the Victoria Commandery with 104 attendees from Victoria, Vancouver, Okanagan Valley, Florida, Nevada, and California. The social events were all organized by our extraordinary Deputy Commander, Dame Deedrie Dawn Ballard, DCJSJ. All in all it was a successful and memorable weekend. My sincere thanks to all who participated and made this such a lovely occasion.

Commander Stewart Johnston, KCSJ