

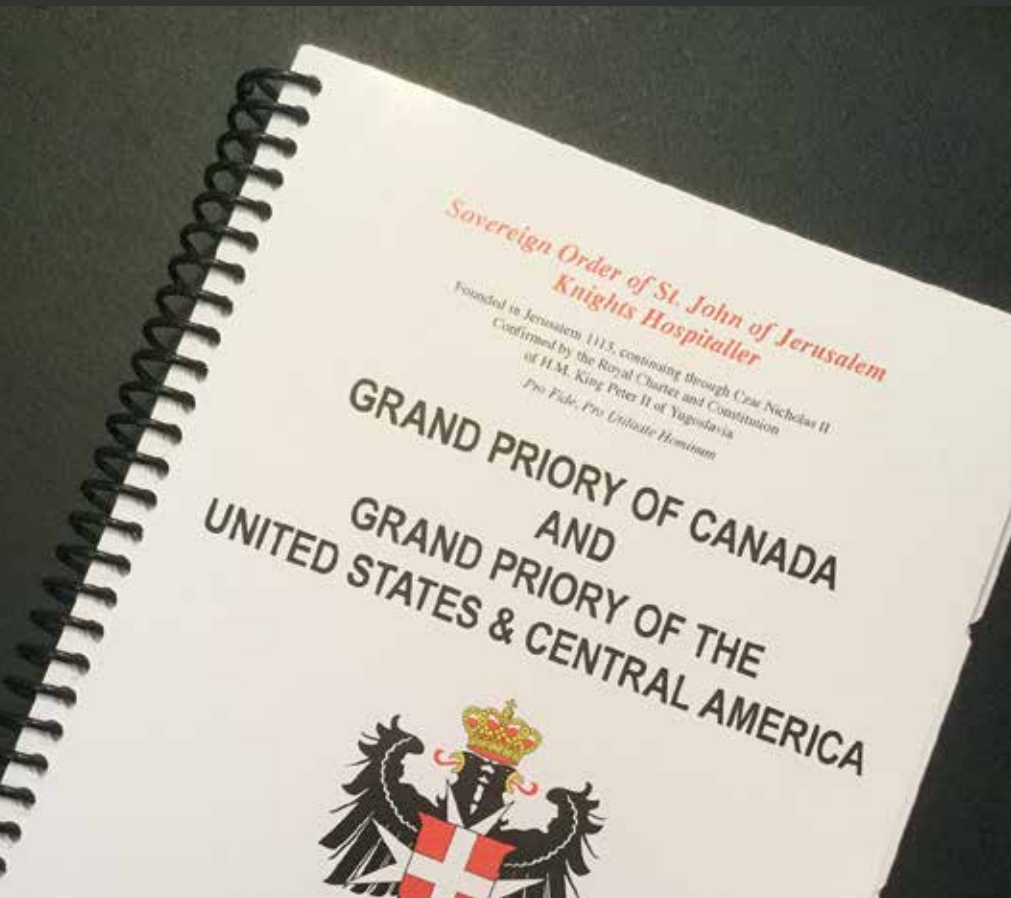


The Vancouver Commandery NEWSLETTER



Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller
Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum
For Faith, For Service to Humanity

Winter 2020



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As an Analog Door Closes, A Digital Door Opens...

As you may have heard, the Grand Priory of Canada Council resolved to discontinue funding the printing of the annual North American directory. The cost for this year's edition was estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000 (which would be shared with the Grand Priory of USA). This expense did not include the cost of distributing the directories, many of which were reported to have gone to waste each year as SOSJ members relied upon other directory sources. As such, we believe the money can be put to better use in assisting in growth of membership in our grand priory.

Commensurate with this decision we have taken steps to ensure that a full international directory is available online at the SOSJ International Website. This includes the European members and is to be updated monthly. Webmaster, H E Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard D. Eathy, GCSJ, MMSJ advises that member photos will soon be included in the online directory.

I know that some members will be disappointed. If you have not already done so, members are urged to go to the SOSJ International website at www.sosjinternational.org, click on Member Registration and fill in the simple form to request access to the website. You will then be granted access to the entire online worldwide membership directory as well as a wealth of additional SOSJ information. Also, we are working on making available a downloadable PDF (and printable) version of the directory should you wish to have a digital or printed version at your disposal.

Yours in St. John,
Stewart Johnston, KJSJ
Grand Prior of Canada

THE SOVEREIGN COUNCIL MEETING IS COMING TO VANCOUVER CANADA SEPTEMBER 14 - 20, 2020



Tour Options During SCM 2020



What a program your SCM 2020 Committee has put together. In addition to a packed week of meeting activities and presentations, a series of optional tours have been arranged.

On Tuesday, September 15 there is an optional tour to Victoria and its world-famous Butchart Gardens that is being repackaged at this time.

Following the Sovereign Council Meeting SOSJ members have their choice of an optional Alaskan Cruise or a special Rocky Mountaineer Rail Tour. Both are world class tours and are offered at special SOSJ rates.

For more information go to the SOSJ International website under Vancouver SCM 2020.

The 2020 Planning Committee

Chair – Chevalier Jack McGee

Vice Chair – Chevalier Mark Ballard

Church Services – Chevalier Alex Wood and

Chevalier Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave

Communications/Marketing

– Chevalier George Higgins

Finance/Receiver-General – Dame Susan Tufts

Hospitality and Excursions – Prior Anne Rowland

and Dame Kimberly Legeard

Hotel– Chevalier Michael Kaile

Registrar-General – Dame Viviane Reid and

Chevalier Dennis Magrega

Volunteers – Dame Heather Hamilton

Senior Officers:

Commander Vancouver Commandery

– Judith Trowbridge.

Prior of Mainland BC – Anne Rowland.

Grand Prior of Canada – Stewart Johnston

Grand Marshal – Richard Earthy

Administration – Sarah Turnbull

Have you registered for SCM 2020? It's time to spread the word.

In slightly less than nine months the world of SOSJ will be coming to Vancouver for the 2020 Sovereign Council Meeting. Please make sure you have registered and, while we are at it, we need your help to raise the profile of the event with other members you may know to encourage them to participate.

Sovereign Council Meetings are held at a different city every two years. The last time Vancouver hosted was in the year 2000. Over the years our members have travelled to British, European (Mediterranean) and other North American destinations. Ask our fellow members how they have developed friendships with both local and visiting members, and learned more about their cultures and beautiful homelands and the vital work of the Sovereign Order being done around the globe for the Lord's sick and the poor.

And what a program the Vancouver 2020 SCM will be. Registered members and guests are invited to observe the Sovereign Council Meetings on Thursday and Friday, a presentation Wednesday on the history and future of the Sovereign Order by a former Grand Master, and get to meet like-minded members and their guests who have already registered from Denmark, England, Finland, France, Hungary, Scotland, the United States, across Canada and Australia. And, talk about value for money! We have managed to reduce the usual SCM cost by 25%, a substantial reduction from recent Sovereign Council Meetings.

The week starts with a welcome reception hosted by the Grand Priory of Canada, includes a Vancouver Harbour Tour with lunch on Wednesday, a dinner at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Thursday and a reception on Friday hosted by the Vancouver Commandery. Saturday, September 19, will be Vancouver's Investiture Service at Christ Church Cathedral followed by the Gala Dinner in the Pan Pacific Hotel Crystal Ballroom.

For those staying at the Pan Pacific, the room rates negotiated over two years ago are stunningly less than the current rack rate and even a better bargain when considering the declining number of hotel rooms and the number of events being held in Vancouver this coming September.

Optional tours following the Sovereign Council Meeting include an Alaskan Cruise and a special Rocky Mountaineer Rail Tour. On Tuesday, September 15 there is an optional tour to Victoria and its world-famous Butchart Gardens. (The tour is being updated following the business closure of one of the vendors. It is hoped to be able to post the new details on the International website in the near future.)

The Sovereign Order website has all of the current information where members are able to register for the Sovereign Council Meeting and the Pan Pacific Hotel rooms. Have the registration page from the emails to refer to when you enter the deposit or full payment amount and the hotel access code.

Chevalier Jack McGee, CD, KJSJ
Chair, Vancouver 2020 Sovereign Council
Planning Committee

SCM 2020 Program September 14 - 20

Monday, September 14

- Registration/Hospitality Suite – Pan Pacific Hotel.
- Welcome Reception Hosted By Grand Priory of Canada– Pan Pacific Hotel.
- Grand Prior of Canada Stewart Johnston, KJSJ.

Tuesday, September 15

- Free Day – see optional tours.
- For those pre-registered for Optional Victoria Excursion assemble at 07:30AM.
- Free Evening (To join others for dinner destination, gather at Hospitality Suite).

Wednesday, September 16

- Grand Priors, Priors & Commanders meeting(s) by Invitation only.
- Vancouver Harbour Tour with Lunch nestled between the City and the Mountains.
- Open to All - History, Archives and Future of SOSJ: By Grand Conservator Joe Rudé III.
- Free evening (To join others for dinner destination, gather at Hospitality Suite).

Thursday, September 17

- Sovereign Council Meeting Day 1
- All Registrants invited & encouraged to attend/observe the SCM meetings.
- Dinner Royal Vancouver Yacht Club – see Vancouver's scenic mountain skyline.

Friday, September 18

- Sovereign Council Meeting Day 2
- All Registrants invited & encouraged to attend/observe the SCM meetings.
- SCM 2022 Presentation at end of SCM meeting.
- International Reception Hosted by Vancouver Commandery (otherwise free evening).

Saturday, September 19

- For All Registered Members & Guests - Free Day until:
- SCM 2020 Investiture and Service at Christ Church Cathedral.
- Gala Reception at Pan Pacific Hotel.
- SCM 2020 Gala Dinner Pan Pacific Hotel Crystal Ballroom.

Sunday, September 20 – Optional:

- Church Service at Christ Church Cathedral
- Tours/departures

A Letter From Our Commander

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy 2020! So far it has been an interesting start to the year. Mother Nature certainly has given us a run for our money. The snow and arctic temperatures followed by incessant rains were a bit challenging but now it seems that spring is just around the corner and so is our Sovereign Council Meeting.

Mark your calendars. September 14 to September 20. If you have not yet registered please do so, and encourage other members to do the same! We are hoping to have a wonderful representation from the Vancouver Commandery since we are hosting it! It promises to be an elegant, informative and entertaining meeting and you get to meet and mingle other SOSJ members from around the world. Thank you once more to Chevalier Jack McGee and his 2020 Committee for their continued hard work to bring this all to fruition.

On the subject of hard work, our Membership Committee has had a great start putting forward impressive Aspirant candidates to be invested in September. Thank you to all of you who have recommended names for them to consider. Well done Chevalier Rogers and team!

The Almoner Committee continues to be tireless in its efforts in partnerships and programs that build new levels of awareness for our Sovereign Order and making SOSJ a respected authority in the palliative care community. I'm sure Co-Chairs Susan Scott Gabe and John Jennings will have an interesting update for you all to read. We have accomplished and participated in so many meaningful community endeavours. For example, we have an exciting collaborative project with the Victoria Commandery underway for a Cowichan hospice. Details will be in the Almoner report. Our Almoner committee is highly motivated organized and respected by all. Huge gratitude to you all.

I would also like to extend sincere congratulations to Chevalier David Hunt on his election as our new Commander. I have been so very honoured to serve as your Commander for the past two years. Thank you to all of you for your kindness and support during that time. My term is completed in March and Chevalier Hunt will be taking the Baton. His devotion and dedication to the mission and ideals of the SOSJ is well known among us and we are so very fortunate that he

has agreed to take on this proud task.

Special thanks also goes out to the members of the Commandery Council and all of their committee members. The amount of work and organization that goes into every completed task and every meeting is easy to take for granted. So I express deep appreciation to all of you on behalf of the Vancouver Commandery.

Last but certainly not least my deepest appreciation to Sarah Turnbull, our office administrator. Her 'can do' attitude, pleasant demeanour, talent and assistance to us on so many fronts has been invaluable.

Best wishes to you all. It has been a pleasure.



*Yours in St. John
Commander Judith L. Trowbridge
DGSJ*

New Guide to Regalia Regulations of the Sovereign Order and Protocols of Use

On behalf of Le Petit Conseil, I am pleased to announce that a new and much improved guide to Regalia Regulations of the Sovereign Order and Protocols of Use is now available on the SOSJ International website.



Log in to the Members Section and look for Regalia and Protocols.

*Yours in St. John,
Conventual Bailiff
Grand Marshal
Richard D. Earthy,
GCSJ, MMSJ*

Attributes and Approval of a Member

Becoming a Member of the Sovereign Order's Vancouver Commandery

The Membership Committee is always seeking nominations of potential members of the Vancouver Commandery of the Sovereign Order of St. John, Knights Hospitaller (the "Order"). What attributes in a proposed member are sought? What is the process for one's becoming invested as a member?

Attributes Sought

The Membership Committee ("MC") and Commandery Council ("CC") have recently approved "Policy and Procedures" guidelines for the conduct of the MC. The guidelines set out the following attributes to be possessed by a male or female person who is nominated to become a member of the Order (a "Nominee"):

- Is a person of integrity
- Believes in charity and the traditions of chivalry
- Wishes to serve in a group of like-minded individuals
- Is Christian and believes in an ecumenical focus
- Supports charity based on need and not religion
- Has a significant record of philanthropy through a commitment of time, talent or treasure
- Is 23 years of age or older
- Considers membership to be an honour and recognition of their community involvement, personal reputation and integrity

Steps in Approval Process

The first step in the approval process is for two members of the Order who are in good standing to complete and sign a Nomination form as "Proposers" and deliver the completed nomination along with a curriculum vitae or biography for the Nominee (often available by Google or LinkedIn), to the MC for vetting, which is the second step.

Following vetting approval by MC, the third step is for the Nomination material to be delivered by the MC to the CC, for a second vetting.

Once the Nominee has passed vetting by both MC and CC, the fourth step is for the Proposers to meet with the Nominee to review a MC membership brochure containing a Petition for Admission and informational material. Only then may the Proposers inform the Nominee that a vetting process for him or her has been completed successfully.

The fifth step is for the Petition for Admission to be completed by the Nominee, as "Petitioner", and the two Proposers, as "Guarantors".

The sixth and final step is for the completed Petition, along with two passport type photos of the Petitioner and his/her cheque for the required fees, to be delivered to the Chair of the MC who will sign the Petition and send it to the Administrator of the Commandery for signature approval by the Commander, the Prior of the Lower Mainland BC and the Grand Prior for Canada. Once those signatures have been obtained, the Petitioner will become an "Aspirant" who, with other aspirants, will receive orientation by the Marshal and eventual Investiture in Christ Church Cathedral by the Grand Master, who will dub the Aspirant as a Knight or Dame, then receiving a red cape bearing the white cross of Malta and various regalia of the Order.

Final Comment

Nominees who have the above attributes and pass vetting by MC and CC can then Petition to become admitted to the Order and be invested as Knights and Dames. They become the lifeblood of our Sovereign Order.



*Yours in St. John,
Chevalier John Rogers
KJSJ*

Almoner Committee Update

2019 was a Year of Building Partnerships and Showing Leadership in Hospice Palliative Care



Since December 2018, the Sovereign Order of St. John has been a driving force in the formation of the Provincial Hospice Working Group (PHWG) alongside representatives from BC Centre for Palliative Care, BC Hospice Palliative

Care Association, and Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices. This group of dedicated professionals stands to sit at the provincial table to improve the quality of hospice palliative care. In 2019 the PHWG membership finalized its terms of reference and has gathered inputs from hospices and related organizations throughout British Columbia.

With the information garnered from our information gathering in 2019 a review of the current provincial environment was conducted, resulting in proposed solutions to set the foundations and shape the future improvements of hospice palliative care in BC.

It was learned, with the rapid increase in the number of seniors in Canada who are living with chronic conditions and have complex needs, the demand for community-based integrated care to support Canadians to age and die well in their residence is growing exponentially.

A recent study showed that Canadians who received hospice palliative care are 2.5 times more likely to die with dignity at home or home-like settings. The overall goal of hospice palliative care is to improve the quality of life for patients and their families facing serious illness. Palliative care is especially effective in improving outcomes of older adults with serious illnesses, including their families, when started as early as possible, independent of their place of residence.

In BC, there are more than 70 hospice societies located across the province in remote, rural, suburban and urban communities. Hospice societies provide integrated, person and family-centred care and support in hospices, long-term care facilities, hospitals

and the community. Well-trained hospice volunteers and clinical staff provide a number of services to the community such as psychosocial programs, bereavement counselling, service navigation, caregiver support and advance care planning, all part of hospices' model of integrative care.

The Provincial Hospice Working Group (PHWG), represented by the BC Centre for Palliative Care, Victoria Hospice, Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices, Sovereign Order of St. John, and BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, envisions a collaborative network of organizations that will be instrumental in improving access to community-based whole person care to patients and their families in BC.



BC Care Providers Association Conference in 2019.

The PHWG and your Sovereign Order Almoner Committee participants will be presenting its findings and views at the BC Care Providers Association Conference this May in Whistler. The conference theme, entitled 20/20: A Vision for Seniors will take a retrospective view of the past 20 years, and focus on what seniors' care and living should look like 20 years from now. The presentations will be followed by an engaging group discussion to identify the needs of participants' communities and ways to collaborate to meet those needs.



The Dugout has been providing food, comfort and a warm place for over half a century.

The Dugout, as it is known on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, is a safe place where people in need can come for hot food and beverages, good company, and a safe place to rest their street-weary bones. Sort of a cross between a coffee shop and a soup kitchen, the Dugout, the creation of Reverend Bob Burrows, opened its doors to those who are in need in December 1967.

A Vancouver Sun article summed up Rev. Burrows as follows... "Bob Burrows, the Dugout's founder and 52 years later still its treasurer, is a fascinating study in altruism, public service, Welsh-choir singing and, in his early days, as a bush pilot who took his United Church ministry to remote lighthouses, logging camps and dozens of other remote ports of call from his base in Alert Bay."

Volunteer, and one-time client of The Dugout, David Williams says, "There is no judgment at the Dugout, there's no attitude, and it's all because of Mr. Burrows. He's the architect of the Dugout."

"We wanted to provide a beer-parlour atmosphere, but have coffee instead of beer," said Burrows. "A group of (church) volunteers scraped and painted the place to get it ready." In December 1967, just months after 'the plunge,' the Dugout opened its door. It has been serving soup and offering a haven every single day since — 600 people a day enjoy its hot meals and comfort. The Out-To-Lunch Bunch, legends in Alcoholics Anonymous circles, have been meeting every single day as well, for almost as long as the Dugout has been in existence.

In 2019 the Dugout made an application to the SOSJ Almoner Committee. In January of this year the Almoner Committee visited The Dugout and presented Rev. Burrows with a cheque for \$11,500 to support his work on behalf of the Downtown Eastside's needy.



Susan Scott Gabe and John Rogers of our Almoner Committee presenting a cheque to Rev. Burrows and volunteers at the Dugout.

New Grant Application Process Now Online

We are excited to announce the launch of our new online grant application format, effective for our first-quarter deadline of March 1, 2020. In response to the feedback we have received from our former grant recipients, we have incorporated their input into the new format.

The goal of the new format is, above all, to better enable applicants to successfully complete the required information.

Under the Grants section of the Vancouver Commandery website, applicants will find a web-based Application Form, along with an informative Application Guide, and a Grant Evaluation Guide.

So whether someone is applying for a grant for the first time or has applied before, the information in this improved form and guide will help applicants complete the Sovereign Order of St. John (SOSJ) grant application as easily as possible.

Take the time to visit our website and familiarise yourself with our Grant process and criteria. We welcome feedback from SOSJ members.



*Yours in St. John,
Dame Susan Scott Gabe
DCSJ*



*Yours in St. John,
Chevalier John Jennings
KCSJ*

2010 - A Look Back To Year Of The Olympics

And a look back into our Vancouver Commandery that year.

With the Sovereign Council Meeting due to arrive in September 2020, I was immediately brought back to another significant event to visit Vancouver a decade earlier - The 2010 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XXI Olympic Winter Games.

Approximately 2,600 athletes from 82 nations participated in 86 events in fifteen disciplines. Both the Olympic and Paralympic Games were organized by the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), headed by John Furlong.

For the first time, Canada won gold in an official sport at an Olympic Games hosted at home, clinching our first gold medal on the second day of the competition. Canada went on to become the first host nation since Norway in 1952 to lead the gold medal count. With 14, Canada broke the record for the most gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.

So how could I not resist going into the "Way Back" machine (thanks to our website) and have a look at what we were up to in 2010? Our Commander was Robert Trowbridge (then KJSJ) now KCJSJ, who, with the various Committees were busy in preparations for the 2010 Investiture.

2010 was also the year for our SCM to be held in Budapest, Hungary which was significant in our Reunification into one 'Order of the Orders,' a process of Alliance that had begun in the year 2000. Locally we were hard at work raising funds for the St. John Hospice project at UBC. How much has been done in a decade! Then, as now, we were blessed with a first-class field of Aspirants who have gone on to do much good work for our Commandery today. Here are a few photos from 2010. The year that was!

Herald Stephen Simpson, KCSJ





On The Social Scene

Christmas Luncheon 2019

It's amazing how bright and lively a winter's day on the west coast can be when you are with a group of good friends, a spectacular view and sumptuous food, all to celebrate the Christmas season. Such was the case with the 2019 Vancouver Commandery's Annual Christmas Luncheon, this year held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. The event was very well attended, with members enjoying turkey or roast beef (or both)!



A Night at The Opera

As they say in Monty Python, 'And now, for something completely different"! The Social Committee and our very own Chevalier Bill Maclagan (who is Chair of the Vancouver Opera) organized a night at the opera for SOSJ members and guests.



Held at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, La Traviata was on the menu so on Thursday, October 24 SOSJ opera enthusiasts gather in the lobby bar for a quick libation before the curtain went up on a truly spectacular performance. The success of this event is causing our Social Committee to look at another opera evening for our members this spring. So stay tuned!

Coming Up This Spring...

An event called Hike for Hospice is coming up Sunday May 3, 2020 organized by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. This will be a Walk-A-Thon national fundraising event across Canada that brings together organizations working together in hospice palliative care to raise funds and awareness in their community! There will be local Hikes For Hospice events in the lower mainland that day so check the CHPCA website (www.CHPCA.org) for the event near you and sign up!



*Yours in St. John,
Dame Heather Hamilton,
DCSJ*

2020 Annual General Meeting and Town Hall



This year's AGM is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020 at our familiar venue of the Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club. All members of the Vancouver Commandery are encouraged to attend as the evening will focus on the business of our Commandery and the Palliative Care Foundation. For members old and new, the AGM is the best opportunity to be brought up to date and become more familiar with our Commandery's projects and activities as well as to meet and make many new friends within our Sovereign Order.

Following the AGM and various presentations, including an update on the upcoming Sovereign Council Meeting 2020, the evening wraps up with a cocktail social followed by a buffet dinner. Because of the SCM 2020 in September, and the decision to hold the Investiture of Aspirants at that time, there will also be something added to the schedule of events for the AGM. The ceremony for promotions of Vancouver Commandery members will be added to the agenda for the evening.

So be sure to put April 23, 2020 into your calendar and look for a reminder email coming soon from our administration office with an RSVP invitation and payment form. See you there.

**Thursday April 23, 2020
Shaughnessy Golf &
Country Club**





Upcoming Events, Vancouver, Victoria & Okanagan

April 23,2020
Vancouver Commandery Annual General Meetings

June 20,2020
Victoria Commandery 'Medieval Faire'

September 19,2020
Vancouver Commandery Investiture

September 14 - 20, 2020
Sovereign Council Meeting - Vancouver 2020

October 16,2020 - October 17,2020
Victoria Commandery Investiture

Upcoming Events, Worldwide

March 19,2020
Grand Priory of Canada Council Meeting

May 1,2020 - May 3,2020
Priory of Western USA and San Francisco Area Investiture

May 18,2020
St. Joseph Commandery 2020 Golf Tournament

May 25,2020
Western Military Commandery Memorial Day Event and Luncheon

June 13,2020
Budapest Commandery Investiture

June 17,2020 - June 24,2020
Dagmar Commandery of Denmark Inaugural Investiture

June 20,2020
Western Military Commandery Fundraiser - St. John's Summer Solstice Soiree

June 21,2020
Western Military Commandery St. John's Service and Luncheon

June 26,2020 - June 27,2020
Commandery of the Sierras Investiture

June 27,2020
Priory of Brittany Investiture

September 14,2020 - September 20,2020
Sovereign Council Meeting - Vancouver 2020

September 19, 2020
Vancouver Commandery Investiture

September 26,2020
St. Joseph Commandery Summer Garden Party

October 3,2020
Ontario Commandery Fun Run

November 20,2020 - November 21,2020
Commandery of Central Finland Investiture

November 28,2020
London Commandery Investiture

* See SOSJ Vancouver and International websites for more information and updates.

Vancouver Commandery Council

Commander

Commander Judith L. Trowbridge, DGSJ

Almoner

Chevalier John Jennings, KCSJ
Dame Susan E. Scott Gabe, DCSJ

Events & Social

Dame Heather Hamilton, DCSJ

Foundation

Chevalier Howard Edward Charters, KCJSJ, MMSJ

Herald

Chevalier Steve Simpson, KGSJ

Hospitaller

Vacant

Marshal

Chevalier Sir John Cave-Brown-Cave, Bt.,KJSJ

Membership

Chevalier John L. Rogers, KJSJ

Receiver General

Chevalier Terence Michael Holland, KGSJ

Solicitor General/ Governance

Chevalier John Norton, KCJSJ, MMSJ

Secretary

Glen Mitchell KSJ



The Vancouver Commandery NEWSLETTER



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Vancouver Commandery
6389 Stadium Road, Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6T 1Z4

Herald - Chevalier Stephen Simpson KGSJ
*(Please send contributions, articles of interest
and story ideas to steve@beachgrove.ca)*

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Chevalier George Higgins, Dame Heather Hamilton,
Dame Susan Scott Gabe, Dame Annie Li, Dame Phyllis Grady,
Prior Anne Rowland and Sarah Turnbull for their contributions.