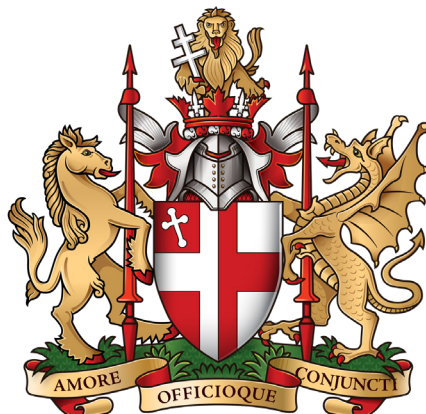


# THE ORDER OF ST GEORGE

Vol 1

Newsletter

December 2020



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## Welcome

Welcome, dear Knights and Dames of the Order of St. George, to our new quarterly Newsletter!

Improving communications within the Order is one of our top priorities. The Boards of Directors of both the Order and the Foundation, together with our support staff, have been hard at work largely behind the scenes, and as you will soon see, there are more great things planned. We are streamlining our finances, strengthening governance and looking to broaden and formalize our program scope. Let us know what you think!

This past year has been a year of great change, not only because of the pandemic, but also within the Order and our Foundation. Indeed, this year has given us the opportunity to renew and re-energize, while remaining committed to doing good works for our Canadian Armed Forces, our Veterans and their families, and for youth with our support to Cadets and Junior Rangers.

To all of you who give so much of your time, energy and experience to the continued growth and success of the Order of St. George, thank you. I am honoured to serve as your Grand Prior and to represent you, our Dames and Knights, in our enduring dedication to Service. In these challenging times, our Chivalric values of Faith, Charity and Selflessness couldn't be more appropriate. Blessings, Good Health, and Seasons Greetings to everyone.

In the service of St. George,

CHARLES HILL, KGCSTG, Grand Prior

# Annual General Meeting 2020

Conducted over Zoom, this year's AGM saw 60 members in attendance, and went very well despite the unusual format. The new Board of Directors consists of 11 Directors and 3 Ex-Officio members as follows (note that a decision was made to not appoint a President this year):

## Directors:

Dame Nishika Jardine  
Dame Dagmar Teubner - Chair  
Chevalier William Foote  
Chevalier Vaughn Hughes  
Chevalier John Pickford  
Chevalier Steven Mohns  
Chevalier Robert Hamilton  
Chevalier David Sutton - Secretary  
Chevalier Paul Henry  
Chevalier Gil Taylor  
Chevalier Cameron Diggon

## Ex-Officio:

Chevalier Charles Hill - Grand Prior  
Chevalier David McDonald - Treasurer  
Chevalier Cameron Diggon - Foundation Chair (interim)

During his Annual Report the Grand Prior announced that in keeping with the shift from "Grand Master" to "Grand Prior" earlier this year, the Commanderies will be known as "Priories" and Commanders "Priors".

# Investiture 2020 Welcome New Members

The 2020 Investiture, conducted virtually on Saturday, October 3rd introduced our new members

and invested them through the saying of the Declaration and the Oath. The new members were then joined by all attending members in the Renewal of Vows. A well-practiced choir we might not have been; but it was nevertheless meaningful!

Welcome again to our new Knights and Dames of 2020, by Priory:

## Atlantic (Prior - Chevalier John Pickford):

David Bathurst	Duncan Miller
Angus Cameron	Allen Munroe
Mark Dobson	Jacquelyn Stevenson
Timothy Hosford	Gerald White

## National Capital Region (Prior - Chevalier Paul Henry):

Thomas Burnie	Dermod Coombs
Roger Chabot	Scott Healey

## Kingston (Prior - Chevalier Vaughn Hughes):

Ernest Beno	David Parker
Dean Davidson	Randall Wakelam

## Toronto (Prior - Chevalier Gil Taylor):

Paul Buckwalter	Ian Steingaszner
Erica Courtney	Bart Womack
Daniel Hutt	John Wong
Greg Merrill	

## Niagara (Prior - Chevalier Bill Foote): (none)

## Prairies (Prior - Chevalier Cameron Diggon):

Cameron Diggon	Adrian Pruden
Michaela Koch	John Wojcik
Jonathan McCully	

## Cascadia (Prior - Chevalier Steven Mohns):

Gord Barrett	Carolyn Oraziotti
Jill Bilesky	Rowena Rizzotti
Bruce Docherty	Gordon Sands
Bentley Douglas	James Theroux
Barry Drews	Yvonne Theroux
Christina Eden	Bill Truelove
Kenneth Fung	Shawn Wade
Raymond Nadolny	Edmund Wu

# Announcements:

## New Priors

The Following Priories have had a change of Prior effective as of the termination of the AGM:

Toronto Priory: Chevalier Gil Taylor

Prairies Priory: Chevalier Cameron Diggon

The Order thanks Dame Nishika Jardine (Toronto) and Chevalier Doug Stinson (Prairies) for their leadership and contributions to their respective Priories.

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## Field Dame

The Grand Prior is pleased to advise the membership of the award of Field Dame to Vickie Russell, our stalwart Administration Officer in recognition of her outstanding service to the Order for many years. Indeed, without Vickie's invaluable support – she truly goes “above and beyond” – we could not have pivoted so easily to the Virtual Investiture and Virtual AGM this year. Congratulations, Field Dame Vickie!

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## Membership Dues 2021

As usual, membership dues for 2021 are due on Friday, January 15th, and you will receive an invoice by email shortly. Payment on receipt is greatly appreciated! Please note that effective immediately, dues and donations can no longer be accepted in one payment. They must be remitted separately.

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## Name the Newsletter Contest Prize – Free Dues for 2021

Let's get creative! Our new communication tool needs a name. Dames and Knights are invited to forward suggestions to [ostg@orderstgeorge.ca](mailto:ostg@orderstgeorge.ca). The one whose suggestion is chosen by the Board of Directors will be awarded a prize of free dues for 2021! All submissions must be received by 6 pm EST on Friday, January 15th, 2021.

## Website and New Member Portal

The Order is delighted to announce the upcoming launch of a modernized website, and more importantly, the establishment of a new and exciting Member Portal! This portal will be password protected and will provide members with an easy to navigate set of functions:

- Update and review profile and contact information
- Account and donations
- Member Directory
- Events Calendar
- Event Registration
- Dedicated workspaces for Priory and National communications and discussions

More to follow!

# New Mission Statements for the Order and its Foundation

Change is a necessary part of the growth of any organization and the Order has had its fair share of late. As a result, the Board of Directors felt it was time to review the current state of the Order and what will be necessary to move forward. Two new Board Committees were created to do this important work: a Governance Committee to review and develop operating policies, and a Strategy Committee to re-consider the Purposes of the Order and the Foundation, with a view to renewing our Mission and establishing Goals and Objectives for 2021.

The Strategy Committee has completed its discussions and has tabled its report titled “A Plan for Renewal and Growth 2020-2021” with the Board, and a copy will be available soon on the website. We encourage all members to read this short document. While the two mission statements are necessarily

different to reflect the individual nature of each organization, their ultimate purpose has to be the same. Therefore, the new Mission statements of the Order and its Foundation are:

### **Mission of the Order of St. George:**

*The Order of St. George is a Chivalric Order which, together with its Charitable Foundation, seeks to better the health and well-being of members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans and their families, and supports the Cadet and Junior Ranger Programmes.*

### **Mission of the Foundation of the Order of St. George:**

*The Foundation, as the charitable arm of the Order of St. George, seeks to better the health and well-being of members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans and their families, and supports the Cadet and Junior Ranger Programmes.*

## Why Contribute to Order Fundraising Campaigns?

Members have asked, “Why should I donate to a charity through the Order? Why wouldn’t I just donate directly?” This is an excellent question. The Order will offer to our Knights and Dames a curated suite of Programs that have been thoroughly researched and then endorsed by the Board of Directors as meeting our Mission (or Purpose). In other words, the Order adds value by selecting programs for our collective support.

Programs can be either established charities or good works that may not yet be deemed charitable. Donations to charities will be made through the Foundation and donors will receive a charitable tax receipt. Good works undertaken by the Order’s members can be considered for support out of the membership dues, provided they meet the criteria

that will be set out by the new Program Selection Committee. One such good works program that is already being undertaken by the Order is the Cadet Medal Program. Cadets who attend summer training at one of the Cadet Training Centres are eligible for nomination by their leaders to receive the Cadet Order of St. George Medal which they are permitted to wear on their uniforms.

Our members choose to support the Order’s suite of Programs because of the value added by our targeted Program Selection process that ensures that their support meets the Order’s Mission and in so doing, makes a difference in the lives of the people we seek to support.

## Wearing The Miniature Medal

The older Order miniature medal was no longer available from the manufacturer so a new miniature medal was designed and improved upon that better aligns to the Insignia (Neck or Bow Order). This is a replacement miniature medal so both are recognized but only one miniature can be worn at a time. If you would like to replace your existing miniature medal, the new one will be available again soon for order, and once received, replace the existing older version.

## Priory News

### **Atlantic Priory:**

On Wednesday, November 18th, the Atlantic Priory was delighted to have held a Field Knight Medal presentation, with appropriate social distancing, at the Hammonds Plains Community Centre, Nova Scotia. Four highly deserving Canadians were invested as Field Knights in the Order of St. George for their exemplary services to Veterans. After being dubbed, each recipient received their medal, lapel pin, certificate and a hand sewn lap quilt. The latter is a donation from two local

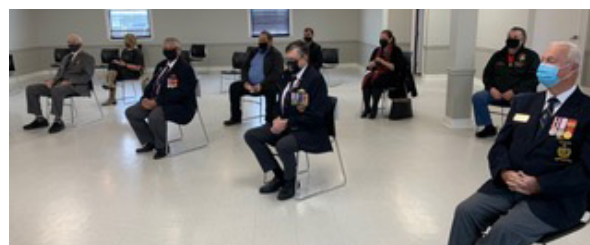


veterans, who have so generously supported our Field Knight/Dame events for the past two years. Congratulations to Brian Lapierre, Jim Northrup, Barry Keeler and Paul O'Boyle, all of Halifax Regional Municipality.

Of note, Barry Keeler and Paul O'Boyle are both also members of the Last Post Fund, and the following note was sent out to their membership: "...in recognition of their significant contribution to the care and well-being of Veterans over many years of voluntary service with the Last Post Fund, the Royal Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund and other organizations, two Nova Scotia Branch members, onetime Last Post Fund National President Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Barry Keeler and Past President, Nova Scotia Branch Master Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Paul O'Boyle, were made Field Knights of the Order of St. George. This prestigious recognition, which is awarded to those deserving Canadians who have made a significant difference in the lives of Veterans, was acknowledged at a medal ceremony presided over by the Head of the Atlantic Priory, retired Navy Captain John Pickford, MSM, CD, KCStG...Please join us in offering them our sincere congratulations on this well-merited recognition of their voluntary service."



Front row L to R New Field Knights Brian Lapierre and Jim Northrup. Back row Field Knight Dinger Bell and an unidentified veteran.

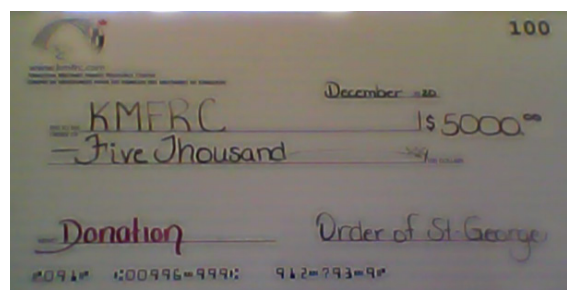


Recipients awaiting their investiture with social distancing. L to R Barry Keeler, Brian Lapierre, Jim Northrup and Paul O'Boyle.



### Kingston Priory:

On Monday, December 7th, Kingston Priory members, Chevalier Robert Hamilton, Chevalier Don Haisell, Chevalier David Sutton and Chevalier John Cowan presented, on behalf of the Order, a cheque in the amount of \$5000 to the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre (KMFRC). Present to receive the cheque were the CFB Kingston Base Commander, the Chair of the KMFRC Board of Directors and KMFRC staff. As this presentation could not be done in person, the Priory arranged to do so virtually, a fact greatly appreciated by the KMFRC.



Representing the Priory in the absence of its Prior, Chevalier Robert Hamilton spoke to the Order's charitable purpose and the decision by the Priory to choose the KMFRC as its preferred recipient. The presentation represents the practical expression of the Order's mission and all of the Priory members are proud of the achievement.

The KMFRC responded with a very appreciative letter, which in part reads: "Members of The Order give their time and resources to the community, providing leadership and support in many areas. The KMFRC was honoured to be the recipient of the Members of The Order's generous donation of \$5000. The Order's donation empowers KMFRC with the support and financial resources to provide much needed quality programming, services, and support for our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) families; and, supports KMFRC's Mission "To provide quality services and programs to support the evolving needs of all members of our CAF family."

The entire letter can be viewed at: [orderstgeorge.ca](http://orderstgeorge.ca)

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### **Toronto Priory:**

To members of the Toronto Priory;

Three months ago or more, the Grand Prior asked me to take over as leader of the Toronto priory. After a period of due diligence and not without considerable trepidation, I agreed to do so for a period of one year after which we can consider whether or not I will continue. My reluctance arose from the knowledge that the Order, along with its Foundation, is experiencing some serious problems. I am now encouraged that these problems will be overcome by the timely action and hard work that is presently underway.

When I took my place as your representative on the Order's board of directors, I soon learned the full extent of the difficulties that are substantial, but by no means insurmountable. And, let me hasten to add there is not the slightest hint of wrong doing

by any individual. Rather it is a case of some key positions being filled by individuals who have been unable to fulfill the responsibilities for which they volunteered. This can happen in volunteer organizations even when each participant might have the very best of intentions. The most important thing is to recognize problems and do something about them. And that seems to be what is happening, right now, within The Order.

On the brighter side, there is a small handful of exceptionally, capable people who have stepped up to take on the most difficult tasks to get the organization back on track and up to date. I have great faith in the principal players who are leading the way and with all Board Members providing them with the support they need, I am optimistic that a bright future lies ahead for the Order in Canada.

To be fully successful however, every member must do their part and that has not always been the case. Among the Order's severest problems, is the reluctance or tardiness of Knights and Dames to pay their annual fees. At the end of December last year more than half the Toronto membership had yet to pay and there was nearly, \$10,000 in delinquent fees. Most other priories faced the same situation. Obviously, this is crippling for the Order, a disservice to fellow members and just plain unacceptable, particularly within an organization that is founded on the integrity of its adherents. Some of those fees were more than a year overdue, and remain unpaid to this day. In an organization where honour is a mainstay and part of the very commitment to which we all give oath, this is intolerable. Up to now delinquent members have not been publicly identified or approached but it can't go on this way. If an individual has lost interest, he or she should do the honourable thing and resign. If the situation continues to exist, by early next year we will be forced to initiate a more aggressive collection campaign. Frankly, I don't want to be a fee collector nor should I be required to do so, but it might become necessary.

So please, show your support by fulfilling all your commitments now.

It will come as good news to most of our members that our intent is to change the profile of the Order in Canada, from one that simply honours its members to one that actively raises charitable dollars and initiates projects to support past and present members of Canada's military community and their families. I am confident that the Order's members will be eager to volunteer the necessary hours to make this exciting and challenging undertaking a success.

At present the effort of both boards is focussed on getting the St. George house in order. Little progress can be made within The Toronto priory until that happens. Of course Covid made matters all the worse but, hopefully, with the advent of a successful vaccine and if we all continue to mask and distance as we move well into 2021 we will beat the plague into submission during the months ahead. Simply, we must all stay the course.

Meanwhile I encourage you to:

- Contact me with your ideas of how we can turn the Toronto Priory into an example of success.
- Tell me what sort of active role you would like to play going forward.
- Let me know about your personal experiences as we move around in this strange and demanding new world.
- Provide us with project suggestions for Board consideration.

This year, holiday celebrations will be markedly different from any we have ever known. Gatherings will be smaller, restricted to those who live together, Carolers will still sing but at a distance, Santa will do his Ho Ho Hoing bereft of any crowds, but that doesn't mean we should be any less joyful. The true spirit of the season is within each one of us and we should do our best to pass that along to

friends and family by phone, by Zoom, by traditional letters and cards even. And really, that will be the very best gift of all. So, warm wishes to each one of you and every good thing for a healthy and vastly improved 2021.

Gil Taylor  
giltaylor@rogers.com

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### **Cascadia Priory:**

Happy Holidays to you all!

Two of our members are closely involved in a \$312M project to build Legion Veterans Village, a state-of-the-art facility focusing on PTSD: Chevalier Tony Moore is head of the Surrey Whalley Legion and Dame Rowena Rizzotti is an employee of the Lark Group. Please see the link for more information. <https://www.larkgroup.com/portfolio/lvy/>

In other news, Cascadia Priory registered a new program called "Service to Soldiers Society." Financed and packaged by Dame Christina Eden, the Program shipped boxes to 3,000 soldiers. Recently received directives from DND halted future overseas shipments for security reasons; however, we were able to shift gears and focus on raising funds for our Food Bank program and Citadel Canines, which provides PTSD Service animals to qualifying veterans. Further initiatives under the Service to Soldiers Society – including a new media room and Order of St George Military Veterans library at the Village, and support to Homes 4 Heroes projects – will be detailed at a later date.