

THE ST. GEORGE CHRONICLE

Vol 2 No 3

Newsletter

December 2021



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Welcome

Dear fellow Knights and Dames of our Order,

It has been a busy year of significant accomplishments. Our Corporate Services team has improved our administration with financial controls and streamlined processes. The Governance committee has completed a great deal of work in preparing necessary policies and procedures. As well, we have initiated dialogue with the greater international community of Order of St. George brothers and sisters.

Across Canada, the Pories have been active in doing good works toward our mandate of supporting Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans, and their families. Pories have also led the way in recognizing worthy citizens in their respective communities for their contributions and service to society by dubbing them Field Knights and Dames.

Just a few weeks ago, we completed another virtual Investiture in which we joyfully welcomed 13 new Knights and Dames.

The centrepiece of our good works this year has been a commitment to the mental health of veterans with the launch of a national campaign in partnership with True Patriot Love to raise funds for the resettlement in Canada of Afghans who worked side by side with our soldiers during the Afghanistan Campaign, and are now imperilled since Afghanistan fell to the Taliban.

These are just highlights of a year replete with progress and good works. These accomplishments are even more impressive when we consider that we did this all during the difficult times of the Covid pandemic, ensuring safety and appropriate protocols.....Bravo!

Our cherished chivalric virtues of Faith, Service and Honour have been reflected in what we have done; but there is still more to do. I echo our Patron's message to us at our latest investiture that our country is looking for leadership, and the time has come for us to put on the mantle. Lastly, let me wish you, your families, and friends, a safe and joyous holiday season.

Yours in the Spirit of St. George,

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCSG
Grand Prior

Investiture 2021

Welcome

New Members

The 2021 Investiture, conducted virtually on Saturday, October 23rd introduced our new Postulants and invested them through the saying of the Declaration and the Oath. The new Knights and Dames were then joined by all attending members in speaking the Renewal of Vows. We all hope that this will be the last time we have to do this important ceremony over Zoom, and look very much forward to meeting our newest members both from 2020 and 2021 when their Investiture is completed in person in 2022.

Welcome again to our new Knights and Dames of 2021, by Priory:

Chevalier Brian Carter - Atlantic Priory
Chevalier Pierre Bergeron - National Capital Region
Chevalier Thomas Morin-Cabana - National Capital Region
Chevalier Richard Hamilton - Kingston Priory
Chevalier Tony Luk - Toronto Priory
Dame Nancy Mei Siew - Toronto Priory
Chevalier Lawrence McGuin - Toronto Priory
Chevalier John Nolan - Toronto Priory
Chevalier Kenny Tsui - Toronto Priory
Chevalier Peter Ka Kee Wong - Toronto Priory
Chevalier Weibang John Zhu - Toronto Priory
Chevalier Ronald Donison - Prairies Priory
Chevalier James Douglas Barrett - Cascadia Priory
Chevalier Paul Byungha Choi - Cascadia Priory

Announcements

Field Medals:

Atlantic: Field Dame medals were presented to JoAnn Cunningham and Lisa McNiven.

Kingston: Dr. Kieran Michael Moore, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, for his extraordinary and

innovative contribution to the health all Ontarians, especially during this unprecedented public health crisis, in his capacity as the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington and now for the entire province. A video recording of the ceremony is available at [this link](#).

Cascadia: See article under Priory News below.

Membership Fees

There will be a change to the membership policy as part of the work undertaken by the Governance Committee this year and the details will be included in the advance notice email. Please review this carefully when you receive it!

Starting in 2021, the annual membership fee will be due by January 31st. Invoices will again be sent out individually by email starting in mid-December. The membership fee can be paid online by Credit Card, by mailing a Cheque or by sending an Etransfer.

In order to keep the accounting straight, please ensure that you first click on the payment link in the email and then follow the instructions to complete the process.

Remembrance Day

Dame Nishika Jardine DGCStG, Veterans Ombudsman, was privileged to attend the National Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman.

Chevalier Romeo Daley attended the Remembrance Day Service in Fort Erie on November 11th, 2021. Romeo carried the Canadian Flag during the ceremony and laid two wreaths, one for the Korea War Veterans and one for the Order of St. George, per attached photos. Romeo proudly wore the St. George Insignia around his neck, and he wears the following medals: the Korea War Medal, Volunteer Medal for Korea, United Nations Medal,

Governor General Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (Nov 2019), Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal (Jul 2012), as well as the Minister of Veteran Affairs Commendation (Jul 2019).



National Campaign

As you are all well aware, in partnership with True Patriot Love, The Order of St. George has launched a fundraising campaign to support the mental health of Canadian Veterans by assisting with the resettlement of Afghan interpreters, cultural advisors and locally employed people who were essential to Canada's mission in Afghanistan. Our Goal is to raise \$50,000 by December 31st, 2021, and as we publish this edition of The St. George Chronicle, we have raised \$50,646!

A personal note from our National Campaign Chair, Chevalier Scott Healey, KStG:

"I served in Afghanistan for ten months in 2008-2009, interacting with Afghan interpreters in the course of my duties. For me the Order's Afghan Interpreter Resettlement & Veterans' Mental Health Campaign is personal. I assumed the responsibility of National Fundraising Campaign Chair because I wanted our Order to succeed in this fundraising campaign.

As your National Fundraising Campaign Chair I am happy to report the Order has reached its goal of \$50,000. Thank you to all members and non-members who have contributed. The campaign is not over until 31 December 2021, so you still have time to [contribute](#)."



On November 12th KCStG George Seehaver and his wife Marianne present a cheque for \$5,000 to the Grand Prior KGCSStG Charles Hill and Campaign Chair KStG Scott Healey at the Afghanistan Memorial at the Hamilton Warplanes Museum. Thank you George and Marianne.

Media coverage of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the uncertain situation with Afghan Interpreters and its impact on the mental health of Canadian Armed Forces veterans' has been extensive for the past four months. The interview by Steve Paikin (TVO: The Agenda) with Corey Shelson, and the conversation between Kevin Newman and Cpl (Ret'd) Chris Dupee on November 10th are two of the more profound and informative discussions on the Afghan Interpreter Resettlement and Veterans' Mental Health issue.

<https://www.tv.org/video/saving-canadas-afghan-interpreters>

<https://truepatriotlove.com/kevinandchris/>

Priory News

Atlantic Priory:

On 6 October, Atlantic Priory held its first fundraising golf tournament in support of Paws Fur Thought (PFT) – a local service dog provider that is a project of the benevolent fund of the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. As well, PFT is a recognized service dog provider by Wounded Warriors Canada.

Except for 2020, Atlantic Priory has held black tie dinners to raise money for PFT. But given the uncertainty of what provincial COVID rules for gatherings would be in the fall, it was decided in January 2021 to host a golf tournament in the fall at Glen Arbour Golf Course (www.glenarbour.com), Hammonds Plains, NS.

A small team worked hard to organize a resounding success with 86 participants, 6 volunteers, great support from Glen Arbour staff; and, it was a lovely, sunny day. There were swag bags for the players, trophies for on-course skills, (or luck?), a 50/50 and raffle tickets for prizes valued at \$4500.

Several Atlantic Priory members golfed, volunteered, made generous donations over the months, and donated items for raffle prizes. Local

retailers really came through with merchandise, pub, or restaurant certificates for prizes - we even had a new TV donated, as well as a framed/signed NHL player's sweater, and a handmade Queen size quilt. There were 25 hole sponsors for 18 holes!

We were fortunate to have the founders of Paws Fur Thought (PFT), Chevalier Medric Cousineau and Dame Jocelyn Cousineau, with Medric's service dog Thai present, as well as guest and golfer veteran Blair Gorman with his service dog Cessna. Medric and Blair spoke about how a service dog can make a difference and save the life of one suffering with PTSD. Those words really resonated with the participants. A major sponsor, Commissionaires Nova Scotia, represented by Chevalier Dusty Miller, presented a donation of \$1K in front of all the participants during the welcoming remarks.

At the end of the day we raised just over \$14K. The 50/50 brought in \$475 for the charity, the prize raffle approximately \$1200, and a small par 3 contest almost \$500. Medric donated the proceeds of the sale of his book to the pot too!

A small planning team of Chevaliers John Pickford, Al Munroe and Tony Goode met virtually, on a regular basis since February, discussing next steps, running ideas past each other, and assigning tasks. Another key member of the team was Field Dame Vickie Russell, the Order's Administration Officer and web master. Vickie set up the tournament website on Member 365 so that everything from registrations to donations to ordering lunches to receiving official tax receipts could all be done online. And, if one had finger problems Vickie was there, on the end of the phone, to assist as required. This was the first event to use the abilities of Member 365 and Vickie made it happen and adapted as needed. Their efforts were instrumental in our collective success.

It was a most successful event. While with lower corporate sponsorship, it didn't raise as much money as our previous black-tie dinners, we did get

great support from the local business community and promoted the Order to those, including non-member golfers, who might not have attended a formal dinner.

We received lots of kudos for the day's events and for the ease of registering and donating through Member 365. Participants said they would play again or volunteer next year if we hosted another. So, we are looking at repeating this event in late summer 2022, and applying all the lessons learned in our first go around.

Photos of the event can be found on the Atlantic Priory dropdown on the Order's website.

John Pickford KGCStG
Prior Atlantic

Cascadia Priory:

Canadian Veteran, Champion of Afghan Interpreters, Welcomed As a Field Knight in the Order of St George



Major (retired) Stephen Peddle

On Sunday November 14, 2021, Major (Ret'd) Stephen Peddle was welcomed into the Order of St George as a Field Knight in recognition of his tireless efforts to help his former interpreter, Sangeen Abdul Mateen, get himself and his family members to safety in Canada.

Peddle first met Mateen in 2007, when he served in Kandahar as part of a Canadian mentoring team

sent to help about 500 Afghan soldiers develop the military skills they needed to take on the Taliban; a job he would not have been able to do without the support of his translator Sangeen Abdul Mateen. "These are the Afghans that helped us," said Peddle. "These are the ones that made it as safe as they could for us while we were there. So I do feel a sense of obligation as well. We packed up and left and some of them are still stuck there under a very evil regime."

To date Peddle has helped evacuate 12 of Mateen's 13 family members stranded in Afghanistan. Mateen himself came to Canada in 2012 with Peddle's help and became a master electrician with a successful commercial business in Oshawa Ontario.

The Canadian military has been a proud part of the Peddle family for four generations and Stephen is no exception. He sees his family's legacy of service as more than protecting Canadian values at home, however, and is committed to supporting efforts to export those ideals abroad. Rescuing those who served Canada's military in Afghanistan is an important testament to those ideals. "It's representing Canada on the world stage and that's what it really means to me to be a soldier. It is to exemplify the best of what our society represents," he said.



Ron Theroux, Allan Plett (Prior), Kerry-Lynne Findlay(Conservative MP, Opposition Defense Critic), Matt Kane(Veteran and friend Of Stephen) Stephen Peddle (New Field Knight), Ben Whiting

Allan Plett, KCStG and Prior of Cascadia Priory of the Order of St. George officially Knighted Peddle as a Field Knight at the All Saints Parish Church in Burnaby, B.C. Chevalier Plett noted that Peddle's efforts on behalf of Afghan Interpreters who were instrumental to Canadian efforts in that country more than met the criteria for this recognition. "It's an honorary rank for anybody, veteran or civilian, that goes above and beyond the call of duty, in the area of community service," said Chevalier Plett. "In this case, that community service was a military or veteran community service doing something that was just plain the right thing to do because he knew how to do it."

Peddle remarked that being able to do something positive for the Afghans who supported Canadian efforts in that country lifted him up. Heartbreaking as it has been to see Afghanistan fall to the Taliban, it helps Peddle feel a lot better about all that has happened over there; and this is why the values of the Order of St. George resonated with him. In partnership with True Patriot Love, the Order of St. George has launched the "Afghan Interpreter Resettlement and Veterans Mental Health Campaign" which aims to raise money to help relocate Afghan interpreters and support the mental health of veterans which Chevalier Plett says has taken a hit since the recent "total abandonment of Afghanistan."

Watch Cascadia's recording of the ceremony filmed by Field Knight Marc Burchell:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5EtfxphwE>

Additional news article links:

Global BC News: <https://globalnews.ca/video/8373722/afghan-war-veteran-knighted-in-burnaby-service>

CTV Vancouver News: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/canadian-veteran-knighted-in-b-c-for-helping-afghan-interpreter-and-his-family-escape-taliban-rule-1.5666051>

CTV also shared the news clip on their iHeartRadio network:

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/ctv-news-content/canadian-veteran-knighted-in-b-c-for-helping-afghan-interpreter-and-his-family-escape-taliban-rule-1.16485954>

A special note to all Knights and Dames of the Order: as a result of the media coverage on this story the Order of St George has been mentioned in print and other media in almost every province across Canada. As Prior, I would like to thank my team in Cascadia for stepping up to the plate and hitting it out of the park.

Chevalier Allan Plett KCStG
Prior Cascadia and Prairie Priory

In Memoria

Like all associations, our Order experiences the cycle of life and mourns the loss of our brothers and sisters. We honour them and are grateful for their dedication to the Order and their service to others. On behalf of all the Knights and Dames of the Order of St. George, I wish them and their families our blessings. They are remembered.

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCStG
Grand Prior

Chevalier Gary Titley KCStG

In honour of the passing of Chevalier Gary A. Titley KCStG on September 21, 2021, and on behalf of all the Knights and Dames of the Order of St. George, we remember him for his significant contributions to both the Order and the Order's Foundation.

Gary proudly served for many years in the Royal Canadian Navy, retiring at the rank of Petty Officer First Class. Being a Veteran, every year on Remembrance Day, Gary and his wife Beverly purchased, placed and lighted candles on the resting places of all Veterans in their community

to honour them. He and his wife were married for 54 years and they are very proud of their daughter Melinda and their two grand-daughters Zoey and Maizie.

Gary owned and managed Gary Titley and Associates in Waterdown for 35 years and was well-known in the community as a strong supporter of local interests. He served as Treasurer for the Waterdown BIA, Treasurer of the Waterdown Royal Canadian Legion Branch 551 for over 30 years, was a member of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association, was a civilian instructor for Burlington Air Cadets (flying scholarship), was a volunteer for the Town of Flamborough for ten years, coached T-ball in Waterdown, and Amateur Radio VE3 DBL has gone silent. He loved to travel, especially to his favourite Caribbean paradise in Barbados. He was an avid hockey fan, attending games to watch his son-in-law Mike coach and to cheer on the team.

Gary was invested into the Order of St. George in 2009. He held several leadership positions with both the Order and the Foundation, including Treasurer of both organizations, Deputy Commander and Commander of Niagara Command (Priory), and as an accountant provided his expertise as The Order applied for incorporation. One of his most significant achievements as a member of the Niagara Priory was his personal contribution and efforts in the funding and the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Niagara Falls.

Chevalier Gary was a man of love and laughter and he gave of himself in so many ways. He truly embodied the chivalric virtue of Service. We miss his contributions to the Order and wish his family well.

Chevalier Bill Foote KGCStG, Prior Niagara
Chevalier Dave Clark KGCStG
Chevalier Charles Hill KGCStG, Grand Prior

