

THE ST. GEORGE CHRONICLE

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Newsletter

May 2022



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Welcome

Dear fellow Knights and Dames of our Order,

Now that the pandemic measures have been relaxed enough for us to hold our in-person Investitures, we have embarked on completing two this year, one in the West held on April 22nd-23rd 2022 coordinated by the Cascadia Priory, and one in the East coordinated by the Kington priory to be held on Sept 30th-Oct 1st, 2022. The Western Investiture was a great success, and thanks goes to the Prior of Cascadia, Chevalier Allan Plett and his team for an excellent job on the first Investiture in West. Twenty-seven Knights and Dames were Dubbed, Cloaked and Spurred and welcomed into our ranks. The Prior of Kingston, Chevalier Robert Hamilton and his support team are deep in planning for a successful Investiture in Kingston. You can now register on our website, and I look forward to seeing you there.

A couple of other highlights to share with you: We have installed Chevalier John Wojcik as the Prior for the Prairies, enthusiastically working with his team toward further growth and good works. Also, on behalf of all the Knights and Dames of the Order, we have sent to HM Queen Elizabeth II congratulations on her Platinum Jubilee. This was coordinated by our Chief Herald and is part of our strategy to gain Royal and Vice Regal recognition. A reproduction of the scroll sent is contained within this publication.

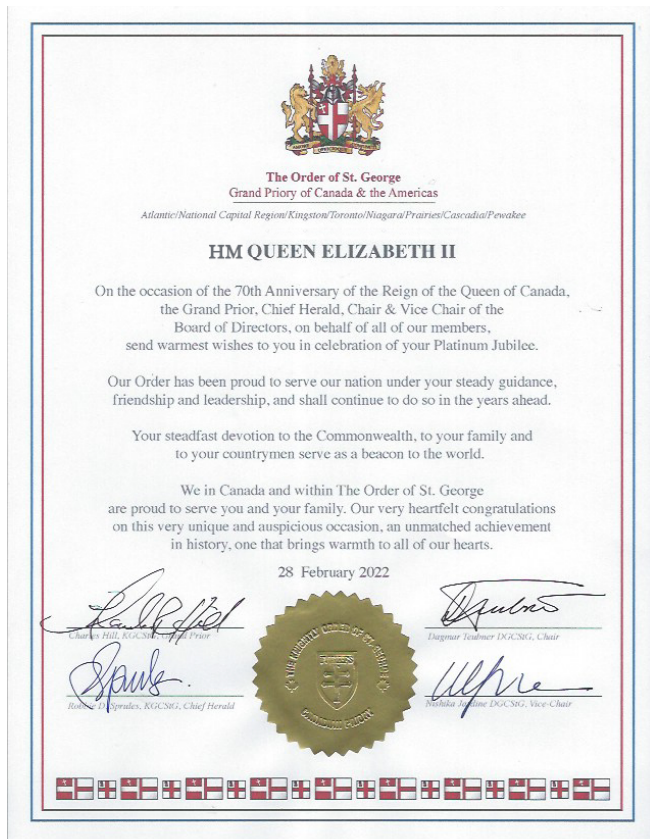
The Board of Directors and Priors of the Order continue to work diligently to broaden our recognition, grow our good works, and focus our engagement. I am honoured to serve as your Grand Prior.

Yours in the Spirit of St. George,

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCStG
Grand Prior

Scroll sent to HM Queen Elizabeth II

Earlier this year, The Order sent to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the following scroll to convey our warmest wishes in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee:



Vancouver Investiture - Congratulations to our Newest Members!

The Vancouver Investiture was held on Saturday, April 23rd, 2022 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Westminister, BC. Congratulations to those members who completed their Investiture by being Dubbed, Cloaked and Spurred and a warm welcome to those

who were fully invested at the same time:

Members completing Investiture:

Karen Baker-MacGrotty
Gordon Barrett
James Douglas Barrett
Jill Bilesky
Paul Byungha Choi
Bruce Docherty
Ronald Donison
Bentley Douglas
Barry Drews
Christina Eden
Kenneth Fung
David MacGrotty
Carolyn Oraziatti
Adrian Pruden
Rowena Rizzotti
Gordon Sands
James Theroux
Yvonne Theroux
Shawn Wade
John Wojcik
Edmund Wu

New members:

Ian Barraclough
Grant Cree
Vincent Reynolds
Garry Jopko
Andrea Chant
Tyrell Kushnir

Announcements

The Order and the Foundation are pleased to make the following announcements and, on behalf of the entire membership, offer their sincere appreciation to the Knights and Dames noted here who have given so greatly of their time and effort:

Chevalier Thomas Burnie KCStG has resigned as Chair of the Order Board Governance Committee effective January 20, 2022.

Chevalier Robbie Sprules KGCStG, has been appointed Chief Herald effective February 15, 2022.

Chevalier John Wojik KStG has been appointed Prior of Prairies effective April 22, 2022.

Ms Elaine Smith has been engaged under contract as Bookkeeper for both the Order and the Foundation effective January 1st, 2022.

Save the Date - Annual Members Meeting

While the formal notice shall be sent out by email within the required notice period, please take note that the AMM will be held by Videoconference on **June 10, 2022 at 2:00 pm Eastern.**

Invitation for Kingston Investiture September 30 – October 1, 2022

The Invitation with links to register for the events can be found at this link:
<https://orderstgeorge.ca/kingston-investiture-2022/>

Bilingual Website

Work is being undertaken to make our website bilingual. The approach will be to use an online tool for the initial content translation, with review and refinement by a volunteer bilingual member of The Order prior to publication. Our expectation is that this should be complete by year end.

Invitation to Membership

As you all know, membership in our Order is by invitation only. With the Kingston Investiture fast approaching, now is the time to extend invitations to those whom you would like to be considered for membership in The Order.

An invitation for membership is not based on an individual's personal or financial success; rather Members of The Order are distinguished by a lifetime of accomplishment and service to others. What prospective Postulants need to know:

- There is an initial Fee of Passage of \$750 which covers the cost of the Investiture Ceremony as well as the new member's personal regalia, scroll and vestments.
- Annual membership dues of \$150 are required to maintain membership and the right to wear the Insignia and use the post-nominals.
- There is an expectation that members will support the Order's charitable and good works with their actions, efforts and resources according to their means.

Once you have extended an invitation and the prospective member accepts, they become a Postulant. The next step is to send them this link to the Postulant Application and Petition:
<https://orderstgeorge.ca/postulant-petition/>

“Pertinent Thoughts”

I feel so privileged to be a member of the Order of St George (Atlantic Priory). I was invested 1 April 2016 after having been nominated by the Past Commander of the Atlantic, Colonel John Cody (ret'd).

I find the history and the aims of the Order of St George to be very significant and it encourages me and fellow members to do the best we can in order to remember our history. As Winston Churchill once said "A Nation that forgets its past has no future". Let me explain: Growing up in Norway, I was a young boy when the Second World War ended. I can recall the havoc of war but was probably too young to understand the danger. Several times I witnessed planes attacking one another and luckily, I was in a county where the German soldiers were less fanatical than in other locations in Norway. As I grew up, I became more aware of the history of Norwegian veterans who were trained in Canada, that included the navy (Camp Norway, Lunenburg NS), to a certain extent the army (trained a bit in Lunenburg then transferred to Scotland), and, not least, the air force (Little Norway, Toronto Island/ Muskoka, Ontario). The Norwegian veterans always

spoke so fondly of Canada. After finishing my education in Sweden, I served in the Norwegian Air Force for the one-year mandatory service. After working as an engineer in the marine industry in Norway, I received an employment opportunity to work in Switzerland or Montreal, Canada. I chose Canada because of all the good information I had received from the various Norwegian war veterans. After arriving in Montreal in June 1966, I was transferred to Halifax, NS in the fall of 1967 to look after ships' equipment for Canadian vessels. It was very interesting to work in the Atlantic Provinces and I learned a lot about the war convoys out of Halifax and about Camp Norway. Being the Honorary Consul of Norway for the Province of Nova Scotia, from 1989 to 2013 gave me a platform where I started to work with veterans both from Norway and Canada and some of the other Allied countries. That resulted in the Camp Norway Foundation and later the Convoy Cup Foundation where we honoured and awarded more than 1500 war veterans with Camp Norway and Convoy Cup medallions. These veterans very much appreciate the recognition received and it shows us how important it is to remember history. The veterans have always told me "whatever you do, never create a Third World War" and they are the ones who fought for our peace that we have so much enjoyed since 1945. When we think about the convoys during the Second World War, there were approximately 324 that left Halifax Harbour (Bedford Basin), 68 out of Sydney NS and 174 from New York enroute to the UK and some to Murmansk and Archangel in Russia. These veterans made it possible to bring peace back in 1945. We must never forget that and I'm so pleased that the Order espouses support to them.

I must say, I treasure not only the history of the Order but its purpose; and, I reiterate the importance for us to do our best to be good and effective members of this organization. In my opinion, this world absolutely needs the Order of St George!

Chevalier Steinar Engeset KStG, Atlantic Priory



Nils Okland, Norwegian Second World War veteran. Mr. Okland was a merchant mariner who sailed from Halifax three times in convoys; each ship was an ammunition carrier. He was an inspiration to Steinar and fostered Steinar's reverence for veterans. Mr. Okland turned 107 in February 2022 and lives in Bergen, Norway.]

British World War II Veteran fights for her pension

This article is included at the request of Ms. Edwina Melville-Gray, partner of the late Chevalier Covell Brown KStG. Edwina manages the Covell and Edwina Foundation, and she currently serves as a Director on the Board of the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners.



Anne Puckridge is a 97-year-old British veteran who served in the army, navy, and air force of the Allied forces during the Second World War, plotting the movements of aircraft and warships as an intelligence officer. She dutifully paid her pension contributions into the National Insurance program throughout her working career in the UK. On reaching retirement age, and for the following 17 years, she received her pension and an annual inflationary increase from the British government, known as 'uprating'.

When she decided to move to Calgary in 2001, to be near her family, she was surprised to find out that her pension would be frozen in time from that point forward. Today, she receives the same £72 per week as she did in 2001 when she moved to Canada. Meanwhile a British pensioner who retired at the same time, with the same contributions but lives in the UK, US or European Economic Area will be receiving £185.15 each week from April 1, 2022.

Over the life of a pensioner this adds up to a significant loss of income. It is estimated that the cost to the Canadian economy is \$500,000 per annum and affects 130,000 British pensioners living in Canada. Interestingly the Canadian government provides an annual increase to all Canadian pensioners who live in the UK.

Anne Puckridge has campaigned tirelessly, along with the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (CABP), to lobby MPs in Britain to change the law. Her view is straightforward, "All pensioners pay the same contributions; all pensioners should get the same." Efforts by CABP include lobbying MPs in Canada to get them to influence their British counterparts.

The Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners is a not-for-profit group of volunteers who work tirelessly to lobby the British Government to change this policy. They provide advice to individuals who have worked in the UK for a minimum of three years on how they can potentially increase their contributions to be eligible for a British Pension.

If you, or someone you know, has worked in the UK, or is a British Pensioner who has already retired to Canada, please ask them to contact CABP by email: info@britishpensions.com or visit our website at <https://britishpensions.com>. We will keep them up to date on our efforts to bring about change and keep you informed on how to maximize your British pension.

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 Covell Brown KStG



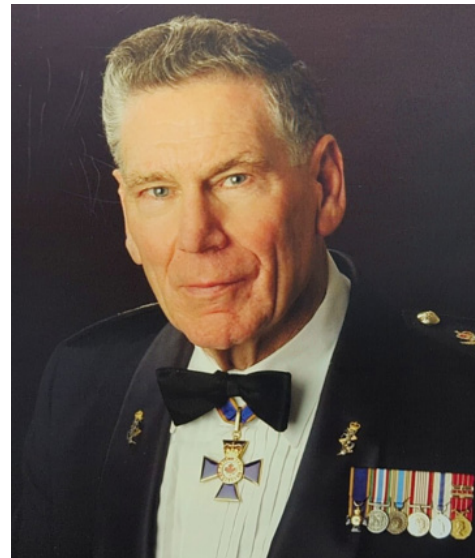
October 17, 1937 - February 12, 2020 “The purpose of my life is to help other people succeed,” Covell always said. This purpose was at the heart of all his relationships; in business, personal life, and even in chance encounters with cab drivers, restaurant workers, folks on the ski lift. Covell had a magical gift for perceiving hidden truths, and motivating people to affect change in their lives. “I didn’t choose it,” he said. “I was born that way.” He took this gift and made a business of it. Covell was the founder and CEO of Veritas Consultants, a boutique consulting firm with large Canadian and international clients. He went on to be Chairman and CEO of WGI Heavy Minerals, then Chairman of

Transworld Garnet India Pvt. Ltd. He was Director of the Harvard Business School Club of Toronto and served on its board. He was a Director of the Canadian Forces College Foundation and a Friend of the Regiment, Guild of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. In 2016, he was made a Knight of the Order of St. George for his contributions and service. Covell was born in 1937 in Vancouver, Washington, USA. When he was very young, his parents divorced, and he moved with his father and stepmother to a farm in rural Washington State. It was a rough, hard life, and it shaped the boy’s deep belief in work and self-reliance. Lacking parental guidance and support at home, he trudged miles to church, alone, on Sunday mornings, to find sustenance for his soul. In this unusual and independent action Covell began a lifelong practice of taking full responsibility and ownership for his life. His childhood and adolescence would make the kind of book you read under the covers with a flashlight, full of adventure and daring. One night when he was fifteen, Covell climbed out the farmhouse window and sneaked down the road into a waiting car that would take him towards a new life in Anchorage, Alaska. There, he lived in a tent outside his mother’s cabin, and ate C-rations that a friend procured for him. Undaunted by hardship, he was cheerful and optimistic. He helped found the Anchorage Youth League with his high school classmates, whose integrity and intelligence impressed him all his life. After high school, he spent a year working construction in the Alaskan wilderness on America’s nuclear Defense Early Warning system. Though underage, he was the construction camp bootlegger and a good one at that. With his earnings in hand and his debts paid, he bought himself a ticket on a boat to Europe. “They have manners in Europe,” he reflected. So he bought himself a book of etiquette and learned it. “Life is an apple, take big bites!” was one of his dictums. Another was: “Budget the luxuries first, and the necessities will look after themselves.” As a student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, he was one of an elite group chosen for Project India, a precursor to the Peace Corps. In meetings with Prime Minister Nehru, these

young men and women represented the flower of American youth. At UCSB, he lobbied for the Finance Chair of the Student Council to have their tuition waived. Then he got himself appointed Finance Chair. The president of the university called up the Dean of the Harvard Business School and said to him, "You gotta take this guy." Covell showed up at HBS at a time when only 6,200 MBAs were awarded worldwide each year. His daughter Tracy was born while Covell was in Business School, and for three months while her mother was in hospital, he took her to class in a bassinette made from a dresser drawer. "I'm a country boy who grew up and bought a suit," he was fond of saying. But he was always a sharp dresser and as time went on, he had his suits tailored on Savile Row. A lover of the fine things in life, he started a French wine collection, which remained a lifelong passion. One of his first international jobs was to help advise the head of the Bank of Ireland how to integrate into the European Common Market. During his months working in Dublin, he met Mary Montgomery, a radiant, mischievous girl with a magnificent sense of fun. Back in Toronto, Covell called Mary long distance and asked her to marry him. She was just as adventurous as he was, and she flew right over. Mary taught Covell how to love. She taught him how to build a family. Covell and Mary had a warm and inviting household, where there was always a cup of tea or a glass of wine on offer, and laughter around the kitchen table. Their three children, Winsome, Victoria, and Nicholas, had an open-door policy for friends. "Covell was a father to many of us," said one family friend. "He provided wisdom, advice, mentorship, support, and a swift kick in the pants when we needed it. For many of us there was no one else like that in our life." Over the years, Covell mentored many, many acquaintances and friends. Said the friend: "There was a fearlessness in his advice." Covell excelled in his chosen athletic fields. A hunter and gun enthusiast, he shot with Canada's best shooters and enjoyed yearly duck-hunting trips to Saskatchewan, where he loved to watch the sun rising over the prairie. In his 70s he began to spend part of each year in Vail, Colorado, and grew to ski like an expert. Never stop learning,

he taught by example. He took up racecar driving at age 63 at the invitation of a neighbour and eventually became Canadian champion in his class. Mary died in 2012 and her passing was greatly mourned. In 2016, Covell began a relationship with Edwina Melville-Gray, and together, they continued the traditions of hospitality and conviviality. Covell was called to serve and teach. "Be excellent," he said. "Search for the definition of excellence in your field, and then seek to achieve that." His teaching lives and grows in hearts and minds here and far beyond. Covell is survived by his children Tracy Koll West, Winsome, Victoria, and Nicholas Brown; Edwina Melville-Gray, the cherished companion of his last years; and his grandchildren Ian Koll, Maud and Philomena Arpels, and Hugo Brown.

Chevalier Ernie Creber KStG



Major General Ernest Basil Creber, CD, CMM, passed peacefully away at home, surrounded by his loving family. Survived by his wife, Tina, the love of his life and best friend for 72 years, his children Michael (Monique), Catherine (Ernie Wong), Christopher, grandchildren Jeff Wong (Haley), Andrew Franklin, Doug Wong, Grace Rei (Andrew), Michelle Creber and great-grandchildren, Sawyer Wong and Rayla Rei.

Second only to his love of family, Ernie took enormous pleasure and pride in his career as a member of the Military in service to Canada, especially as a member of the RCEME Corps.

Ernie was born in Vancouver and graduated from the University of British Columbia with a degree in electrical engineering and married Tina in 1951. He joined the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) and began a busy military career; a life of service and dedication he shared with his wife and family.

He was posted frequently in the early years in various staff and field assignments in Canada including intensive studies in the latest technologies: RADAR in Kingston, Guided Weapons in Huntsville Alabama, and Fire Control systems at the Military College of Science in Shrivenham UK. His career also included 2 years at Staff College in Kingston and a year as commander of the UN Workshop at Camp Rafah in 1966, where he had to close the camp just before the Seven Days war. Returning home, he attended National Defense College in 1969 before a posting to Mobile Command in St. Hubert. After an intense course in French, Ernie was promoted to Brigadier General and assumed the position of Director General Land Engineering and Maintenance at NDHQ. In 1979 he was promoted to Major General and assumed the position of the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Defense (Materiel).

Throughout his career, his Corps remained extremely important to him; he was dedicated to ensure that RCEME officers had the technical knowledge to lead and provide strategic direction and he worked to ensure that RCEME remained a separate entity with the Army.

In 1982 he was awarded the Officer of Order of Honour, PEO. In the same year, Ernie received the Commander of Military Merit for outstanding service to his country and retired from the Armed Forces.

He immediately went to work for Bristol Aerospace and was the founding president of the Canadian office of SAIC in 1986 before moving to Intercon Consulting Inc. in 1996. Retirement included positions on the Board of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club and as President of the Rideau Club.

Ernie lived a life exemplified by honesty, hard work, gentle humour and love of family. Tina and Ernie shared a life of happiness. Leisure time was spent fixing and building things, including a boat (which featured in many family outings), cross country skiing, swimming, Scuba diving and, his favourite, looking after the family cars. Golf became a great passion in retirement and he and Tina spent many wonderful years golfing and travelling. He always enjoyed classical music, especially cello pieces with Sunday family dinners including a rotation of favourite records on the phonograph. The RCEME Corps remained close to his heart and the new flag, presented to him at the 75th Anniversary of the Corps flew proudly at his home.

He was much admired by his many friends and associates and adored by his family. Ernie will be greatly missed.

Much appreciation is owed to the Palliative Care Teams at Montfort Hospital and the Home and Community Care services and all the caregivers who looked after him so well.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ernie's name to the RCEME Foundation or the UN Ukraine Emergency Relief fund or to the Order of St. George.

Chevalier Donald Grant KStG

The Order of St. George lost a great Canadian, Don Grant, who passed away peacefully at his home in Ottawa on December 26, 2021, at the tender age of 86.

After spending his earlier years in the Royal Canadian Navy, he attended law school and he

had a very illustrious law career. He was Honorary Counsel to the Navy Association of Canada and to the Saint Vincent de Paul Association. He was a very distinguished lawyer to thousands of clients and generations of families. Client appreciation was his priority for the human problem behind the legal needs. Transforming legalese into client-ease was the hallmark of his career.

His belief and support for our democratic process will be his lasting legacy. He was a tireless political activist and fundraiser. He supported and consulted many politicians at all levels of our of society.

His commitment to community philanthropy and the arts have made a difference in Ottawa. He was a recipient of numerous awards in recognition of dedicated community service, including The Bi-Centennial Law Society of Upper Canada Award, the Canada 125 medal, the Queen's Diamond and Jubilee medal, and The Senate of Canada 150 th Sesquicentennial medal.

A very respected gentleman - none finer - Don will greatly be missed.

Chevalier Art Lamarche, KStG