

# THE ST. GEORGE CHRONICLE

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Newsletter

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## Welcome

Dear Fellow Knights and Dames of our Order,

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter, now named *The St. George Chronicle*. As we had stated at our last Annual General Meeting, we continue to focus on improving communications and hardening our administrative capabilities. You will see within this issue how our efforts are beginning to bear fruit. This is due to the dedication of the volunteers of our Board who donated a great amount of their time and expertise to get things done. We are not finished yet, but are on track with our plans to be able to support fundraising efforts as well as grow the understanding of our members of what we represent and do. Our attention will now begin to focus on good works with greater zeal, professionalism, and participation.

In these turbulent times, the Order is as relevant now as it has ever been in its 700-year history. There is a hunger in our society for more social fairness and a desire to see a greater display of the fundamental values –compassion, kindness, courtesy– that we, as Knights and Dames, strive to practice in our day-to-day lives. You should all take a measure of pride in upholding and modelling these values.

As for the pandemic, there will be a day when we can look back and recognize how these hardships have tempered our resolve to work for the betterment of society. Please keep yourselves safe, as there is still much to do for family, friends, loved ones and those in need of our support. It is such an honour for me to be a fellow Knight in our Order.

Yours in the Spirit of St. George,

Chevalier Charles Hill KGcStG  
Grand Prior

# Newsletter Name

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Newsletter naming contest! The Naming Committee, comprised of Chevalier Tom Meredith KGCStG, Chevalier Dave Clark KGCStG and Dame Dagmar Teubner DCStG deliberated over the 12 excellent and creative submissions received and eventually chose *The St. George Chronicle*. Congratulations to Chevalier John Pickford KCStG, Prior of Atlantic, who submitted the winning name!

# Corporate Updates

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 Robbie Sprules KGCStG has stepped down as Chair of the Foundation Board, a post he has held since May 25th, 2018. Appointed as Chair is Chevalier Cameron Diggon KStG effective November 23rd, 2020.

Chevalier Greg Bailey KStG resigned as Vice-Chair of the Foundation Board, effective October 31st, 2020.

Chevalier Steven Mohns KCStG has stepped down as Prior of Cascadia effective March 1st, 2021. For the time being, Chevalier Cameron Diggon KStG has agreed to be the Prior for both Prairies and Cascadia, and will rely on the respective Deputy Priors to assist in managing the day-to-day. Chevalier Allan Plett KCStG remains the Deputy Prior for Cascadia and a new Deputy Prior for Prairies will be appointed soon.

Chevalier Vaughn Hughes KGCStG has stepped down as Prior of Kingston. Chevalier Robert Hamilton KGCStG has stepped down as Vice-Chair of the Order Board Governance Committee and has

been appointed Prior of Kingston, both effective March 1st, 2021.

Dame Linda Colwell DStG was appointed a Director of the Foundation Board on January 20th, 2021.

Chevalier David McDonald KCStG has stepped down as Treasurer of the Order, and Chevalier Gary Titley KCStG has stepped down as Treasurer of the Foundation. Accepting both positions is Chevalier Ian Steingaszner KStG effective March 1st, 2021.

Chevalier Thomas Burnie KStG has been appointed Chair of the Order Board Governance Committee effective February 17th, 2021.

Ms Alexis Starling has been engaged under contract as Bookkeeper for both the Order and the Foundation effective January 1st, 2021.

Field Dame Vickie Russell has been re-engaged under contract as the Order's Administration Officer effective January 1st, 2021.

# Membership Categories

Did you know that the Order automatically converts your Regular Membership to a Lifetime Membership in the calendar year that you attain the age of 80? See this excerpt from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Order of St. George held on Thursday, November 20th, 2014 (paragraph 3):

*“Following discussion, it was agreed that effective 2016, members in good standing who have reached the age of 80 years will no longer be required to pay dues. Further, it was noted that Honouraries of the Order are not required to pay dues.”*

# Process for New Members

As you all know, membership in our Order is by invitation only. Now is the time to start thinking about whom you might like to invite to join our 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. Prospective members are called Postulants and this is what they 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.

# Postulant Petition Process

Once you have extended an invitation and the prospective member accepts, they become a Postulant. Very shortly, you will be able to provide your Postulant(s) with a link to the online Postulant Petition in our new member portal. Detailed instructions will be sent soon to the membership by communiqué.

# Chivalry as Inspiration for the Dames and Knights of The Order of St. George

The word chivalry comes from the French Chevalier, which meant "horseman." This was a term used in Old French from 1330 - 1500 AD. In a report from Roman Julius Caesar in the late 1st century, he was surprised to see women of Gaul on horseback fighting the Roman invaders—a Chevalress. There is a symbolic duality in these terms that see the horse as representative of the body with its energies and emotions. The rider, on the other hand, represents the higher spiritual self of the individual, specifically the best and noblest self to which we aspire. The rider symbolizes our transcendent "Quest for Self."

The ideal of chivalry finds its origins in the years after the fall of the Roman Empire. It was a response to the increasing barbarism of the Dark Ages and set the stage for the compelling and visionary legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The Dark Ages was a time where there was little left in the world in the way of charity, loyalty, justice, or truth. Enmity, disloyalty, injustice, and falsehood had become the norm. The subsequent rise of chivalry was a return to the ideals of justice and honour, and an effort to restore balance, justice, and truth in an unjust and brutal world.

The true Knight is not perfect, but is always on a path towards perfection. Hence, the physical and mental trials all Knights go through. They sometimes fail, as in the portrayal of the Quest of the Holy Grail. Cultures and belief systems going

back 7,000 years exhort their adherents to strive for perfection. It is our destiny as human beings to constantly aspire to achieve the divine within ourselves. This quest was frequently expressed in terms of Middle Age alchemy, or the transmutation of the base person, as lead—earthly, heavy, and opaque—into the person of gold—shining, incorruptible, pure, and selflessly giving.

The hallmark of chivalry is nobility—not of blood, but of character. And what is nobility of character but the transcendence of one's lower traits to achieve the higher? It is the ability to resist base and self-serving impulses and strive instead for the benefit of the greater good. In this sense, chivalry is more than a reactive product of the European Middle Ages: a universal ethical vision for all Humankind.

The popular revival of chivalry achieved its peak around the twelfth century. Most scholars agree that it was inspired by the Islamic world, encountered by medieval Europeans through the Crusades. These campaigns led to a massive revival and popularization of the Arthurian cycle of stories, drawn from old legends and romantic sagas, now put into literary form. The formalizing of the legend required that the Knight overcome honour-based trials and difficulties, often in the context of magical adventures, frequently against impossible odds.

These popular tales of myth or legend typically involved a trial, such as braving danger to rescue the allegorical “damsel in distress”; and a purifying element, like a spring gushing from under a rock. These symbols represented the higher element of the soul, a spiritual purity, and through adversity—the refiner's fire—the questing Knight's transmutation from base to noble elements. Facing and overcoming trials in a contemporary context, can lead Dames and Knights to discover who we truly are—a question which I think many of us would love to be able to answer.

St. George symbology represents the Dragon and the Knight locked in mortal combat, the Dragon wielding tongue and claws while the Knight defends with the lance and shield. This illustrates the fact that chivalry is not only about external battles, but also, most importantly, about the inner battle between the higher and lower selves of all human beings.

How many of our fears are illusions are created by our own minds? A Dame or a Knight faces and defeats their own fears in order to better know and more fully become their true selves. This mastering of self can free the soul to better help others. By understanding and overcoming personal challenges one is better able to understand the challenges, fears and barriers with which others struggle.

The virtues of a Dame or a Knight and their inner conquests are more important than physical prowess: the Knight who practices chivalric values with respect to the body but does not practice those of the soul is not a friend of the Order of Chivalry and cannot offer honour and justice to those around them.

There is a rich symbolism in the colours of the Shield of St. George associated with ancient alchemy. Colour changes signified the stages in the creation of the most sought goal in alchemy, the Philosopher's Stone, and the transmutation of base metals into noble ones. White represents simplicity and innocence and in heraldry is used to show purity. Red signifies fire and blood and is associated with energy, war, danger, strength, power, and determination in balance with passion, desire, and love. In heraldry, red is used to indicate courage.

What then, is the goal of a Dame or a Knight? Through courage we become pure. The Philosopher's Stone symbolizes the achievement of all powers: the mastery over oneself and nature; and the power to heal and to make whole. In Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival, the Holy Grail is described as a stone. Like a cauldron of plenty, it

has the power to nourish endlessly and, if the right questions are asked, to heal the King (the Self) and the Kingdom (the World).

To achieve that goal, the Dame or Knight must work towards personal spiritual transformation. The long labour of purification, symbolized by the transformative trials and adventures of the Knight, included righting wrongs and protecting the innocent. When a Knight in bright, polished armour arrived to protect a person or community, they were perceived as a light of hope in a dark world. The Knight in shining armour today is not some outdated, romantic myth, but a timeless symbol of selfless efforts to change the world. To make it a better place for all.

Watch a recounting of the story of Saint George here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=G5dC1ozTVls>

Yours in St. George,  
Chevalier Steven Mohns KCStG  
Former Prior of Cascadia

## Member News

### Meritorious Service Decoration

#### (Civil Division)

Chevalier Colonel (Ret'd) Mark Hutchings KStG has been awarded a Meritorious Service Decoration from the Governor General's office for his work in leading a fundraising campaign for the creation of a monument to commemorate the 1917 Battle of Hill 70 in Loos en Gohelle, France (<https://www.hill70.ca/>). The campaign raised \$6 million for the monument, which was dedicated in April 2017 to commemorate the significance of the battle and to honour the sacrifice of the 1,877 Canadian soldiers who gave their lives.

Read the full story here:

<https://www.thewhig.com/news/a-pair-of-kingstonians-to-receive-governor-general-awards>

### The Hour of Heroes Radio Show

Chevalier Peter Stoffer KStG former Nova Scotia Member of Parliament, has for the past few years hosted a radio show that gives his audience an opportunity to listen to and learn about veterans, first responders, health care workers, coast guard and other community volunteers. These folks—many of them in uniform—and their organizations represent the men and women of our municipality, province and country.

The Hour of Heroes was first broadcast in May 2017 on CIOE 97.5 ([www.communityradio.ca](http://www.communityradio.ca)), a community radio station in Lower Sackville N.S. with a worldwide reach. Peter started this program to promote these veterans, first responders and others whose story would otherwise not be known. His interview style allows his guests to tell their own stories: about why or how they joined the military, for example; and expound on what they did in the service and a little bit about their family life too.

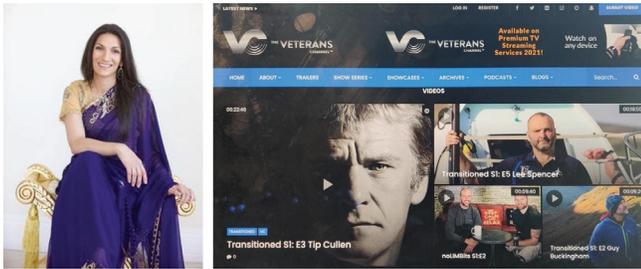
He has been very fortunate to have interviewed over 150 guests: the stories of their experiences, hopes, ambitions, and troubles is truly amazing. Most of these are retired; but he also interviews those who are still working or serving.

Peter believes that in order for all us to really understand those who have very stressful occupations we need to listen very carefully to what they are saying. In this way, when they seek assistance for their concerns we, and our governments, can support them in a more efficient and compassionate manner.

Peter is a well-known advocate for veterans and veteran's issues. The son of Dutch immigrants he has never forgotten the sacrifice made by so many Canadians in freeing his country of birth. Peter's mantra is "Never regret growing older, it is a privilege denied to so many".

Chevalier Peter Stoffer's efforts truly reflect the aims of the Order of St George.

## The Veterans Channel Nominated for the 2021 Gracie Awards



Dame Henah Hannah DCStG the Founder/Chair of Veterans Media Corp, is a woman of ethnicity who created The Veterans Channel and is the Executive Producer of all its show series, episodes, features and documentaries.

The Veterans Channel is the private, 24/7 on demand digital broadcasting channel and free video-streaming service dedicated, on a global scale, to the education, upliftment and edification of the women & men who serve in the Armed Forces, Veterans and First Responders. It produces and airs home-grown, original episodic show series by Veterans for Veterans, uniting Veterans from all branches of service around the world. It is the first and only media service of its kind: the premier destination for Veteran storytelling in 40+ countries.

The Veterans Channel has been nominated for a 2021 Gracie Award in the digital media category for best National Information/Entertainment website. This award honours outstanding websites that engage the audience while sharing information or entertainment.

This is an important time for women in media, and The Gracies play a unique and relevant role in recognizing women and women's platforms through powerful, passionate storytelling and content from across television, radio and digital media, in front of and behind the camera and microphone.

In addition to her Veterans Channel's nomination, Dame Henah has also been selected to serve as

a category judge for this year's Awards. She will select the best in individual achievement and programming by, for and about women including entries from students as well as local and national media sources in news and entertainment.

## Prory News

### Cascadia Prory:

Dear Knights and Dames of Cascadia Prory,

It has been my pleasure to serve you and our Mission Statement first as your Commander, then Prior. In representing the Order of St George in many parts of both Canada and the US from the beginning, there were many challenges, accomplishments and education.

I know I have left you in good hands and hope you will give the new Prior the same enthusiasm and respect you have me these last 6 years. I look forward to seeing and still contributing to the goals and accomplishments we all started. Know I support you and will still be engaged as a member of the Order here in the West.

Thank you and all our Leadership of the Order.

Yours in St. George,  
Chevalier Steven R. Mohns KCStG  
Former Prior of Cascadia

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### Toronto Prory:

To my friends of the Toronto Prory,

So, the Covid march goes on as we approach the third month of '21. No doubt we are all tired and bored with the measures we must take to fight this evil adversary but take them we must because this battle is far from over. I'm sure you agree that we have had enough of anti-maskers, anti-vaccers, conspiracy theorists and those who flaunt the safety of us all like the little fellow in Toronto who

threw open the doors of his restaurant in defiance of good sense, the law and the health of his fellow man. But all this will pass if we just stay the course until the sun comes out tomorrow. And we can do this, it's just a little inconvenience now for a happy, healthy future.

In the midst of all this, The Order of St George in Canada is working hard to get its house in order and clean up the mistakes of the past. It can't be denied that things have not always run as smoothly as they should. It's not difficult to find fault with the management of our records, efficiency of our budgeting and fee process, successful application of our membership system and more. But the picture is not all bleak. Along with your Board of Directors there is an impressive cadre of dedicated volunteers working hundreds of hours to fix some rather intimidating problems. They know how to do it, they have the experience and they are applying it to the Order to make impressive changes in a timely fashion. In my opinion we must clean up these bigger problems before we can direct our efforts to any new projects. At least that's how I think it should happen in the Toronto Priory before we take on any new and worthwhile charitable tasks.

One of the most daunting challenges is the number of members who simply fail to pay their membership fees. In Canada, fully one third of our Dames and Knights don't live up to their vows of honour and this damages the Order to the tune of \$20,000 or more each year. This is one of our greatest problems and it simply must stop. It is unfair to the Order and unfair to all those members who pay their fees faithfully and on time. It saddens me to say that we, here in Toronto, are right at the top of the list when it comes to delinquent members with more than 40 people failing to live up to their responsibilities. In the very near future there will be a vigorous campaign, right from the top, to bring these neglectful individuals up to date. We really want to keep them in the fold because now more than ever, we need the support of every honourable member. But

if they want to stay with us they must bring their overdue accounts up to date.

Let me assure you that the picture is not totally grim. Positive changes are already happening. Our membership communication programme has left much to be desired, but with the introduction of our newsletter *The St. George Chronicle*, we have taken one small step forward to keep the membership informed. And the installation of Membership 365, our new membership management system, will provide all members with a chance to have their voices heard as they receive the latest news from the Order. This is just the beginning as we set out to solve difficult situations that have been several years in the making. I encourage all of you, my Toronto colleagues, to be in touch with me if you have any ideas, comments or concerns that will contribute to our success as we work diligently to achieve the successful future that is ours for the taking.

My very best wishes to all as we look forward to a spring full of promise for better things to come within the Order and in our lives.

Chevalier Gil Taylor KStG  
Prior of Toronto

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### **Kingston Priory: The Kingston Priory Honours Kerralyn Kaye (Kerri) Hollywood**

Under the authority of Grand Prior Charles Hill, the Kingston Priory formally recognizes Kerri Hollywood for her contribution to veterans' wellness by bestowing upon her the honour of Field Dame.

Field Dame Kerri is a member of the CFB Kingston component of the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS). She is Ambassador and Champion for the Kingston Military Veterans Plus (MVP+) initiative. This trial project focuses on

the health, wellness and well-being of veterans; and its elements are aimed at their physical, emotional and mental health. Communication with veterans is a key strategy of Field Dame Kerri and her dedicated team; and feedback has resulted in fitness and emotional health promotion, sponsorship discounts and gift cards, to mention but a few benefits. With Field Dame Kerri as Head Elf-Engineer, the MVP+ “Holiday Express” initiative delivered gift bags in December to some 400 veterans in the Kingston area. The MVP+ project continues to develop: most recently its “Focus on One” venture helps veterans choose an area of life in which modification or improvement would be helpful.



Field Dame Kerri Hollywood  
Military Veteran Ambassador - Military Veteran Plus (MVP+) Program

Kingston has a long military and naval history dating from 1672. It is currently home to headquarters, operational and training elements of all three services and about 500 veterans and their families. The MVP+ initiative has gained enormous popularity and sponsor support and Field Dame Kerri is recognized as synonymous with its success. Chevalier Ian Poulter KStG the CFMWS national leader acknowledges that Field Dame Kerri is recognized as a star.

The concept, focus and practical actions of this admirable trial are entirely consistent with the

objectives of our Order. As the Kingston Priory seeks to strengthen its constituency of respect, recognition and admiration for our Priory and our Order, we recognize the strategic advantage of being seen to acknowledge commendable veteran support initiatives efforts in Kingston. In honouring Kerri as a Field Dame we acknowledge merit in an allied cause, bring a meritorious individual into the Order and in so doing gain valuable community recognition. We have shared this Priory initiative with national officials of both the RCL and the ANAVETS who support its merit and will share it further within their own constituencies.

A presentation event will be held when circumstances permit. Invitations will be extended to the Kingston military community and national officials to optimize visibility and recognition.

Yours aye,  
Chevalier Robert Hamilton KGCStG  
Prior of Kingston