

THE ST. GEORGE CHRONICLE

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Newsletter

December 2023



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Welcome

Dear Knights and Dames of our Order,

I am so pleased with what we have accomplished together this year. Our membership has grown with another successful Investiture in Calgary, with thanks to the hard work of Prairies Priory. If you have not seen the [Address](#) by the Prairies Priory Dean, Reverend Captain Derwyn Costinak, I would strongly encourage you to take a few minutes.

Of significance, we have engaged with The Orders of St. George in the UK and the USA, and planning is underway for our participation in the celebration of 700th Anniversary of The Order of St. George worldwide. As was just recently announced, we have taken a significant step in establishing the new USA Priory. We will henceforth be known as The Order of St. George, Grand Priory of Canada. The new USA Priory, while still connected to us, is essentially a separate Priory in the USA. We look forward to seeing their progress.

Most importantly, thank you for your support of our good works this year. Through our Foundation, Atlantic Priory and NCR Priory have both accomplished their charitable fundraising goals for Paws Fur Thought and VETS Canada, respectively. The members of Kingston Priory have been generous in their ongoing support of the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre, and of course, many of you participated in the Canadian Walk for Veterans – thank you to Cascadia, Prairies, Kingston and NCR Priors. As well, the Foundation was pleased to present cheques on behalf of us all to Soldier On and Support Our Troops during the Fairways for Heroes Golf Tournament.

Looking forward to 2024, I am encouraged by the Priors' continuing plans for good works, and by the Board's commitment to refining governance as well as the necessary policies and procedures that support our growth and activities.

As this eventful year draws to a close, on behalf of the Priors and the Boards of Directors of the Order and the Foundation, I humbly thank each and every one of you for all that you have done in advancing our mission. Together with our Patron, Chevalier General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier KGCSG, warmest wishes to you and your families for a safe and joyous holiday season and every blessing in the New Year!

Yours in the Spirit of St. George,

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCSG

Grand Prior - The Order of St. George, Grand Priory of Canada

Announcements

Elevation in Rank

For their invaluable contributions to The Order, the Grand Prior is pleased to have made the following elevations:

Chevalier Gordon Kelley KGCStG - October 26th, 2023
Chevalier Art Lamarche KCStG - October 13th, 2023
Chevalier Scott Healey KCStG - October 21st, 2023
Chevalier Ian Steingazsner KCStG - October 21st, 2023

Commendations

The Grand Prior's Commendation is awarded to a Dame or Knight who has demonstrated a series of singular deeds or activities over time or in exceptional circumstances, a single significant accomplishment that have/has supported The Order beyond the workings of an individual Priory.

Chevalier Steinar Engeset KStG of Atlantic Priory was awarded the Grand Prior's Commendation on May 2nd, 2023.

The Prior's Commendation is awarded to a Dame or Knight who has demonstrated a series of deeds or activities, or in exceptional circumstances, a single activity, that have/has supported the Priory and its purpose in a manner well beyond the level of effort normally expected.

The following Knights and Dame of Prairies Priory were awarded the Prior's Commendation:

Chevalier John Wojcik KStG on August 18th, 2023
Dame Andrea Chant DStG on August 23rd, 2023
Chevalier Ty Kushnir KStG on August 23rd, 2023

Position Changes

Chevalier Allen Plett KCStG was appointed the 700th Anniversary & International Liaison Officer effective October 15th, 2023.

Chevalier Barry Drews KStG was appointed Acting Prior Cascadia effective October 15th, 2023.

The Order thanks Chevalier Allan Plett KCStG for his leadership and contributions to Cascadia Priory.

Upcoming Events

Halifax Investiture April 26-27, 2024

Hotel Halifax, 1990 Barington St., Halifax, NS

Meet and Greet - Friday April 26

Hotel Halifax - Bluenose Room

Cocktails: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Investiture Ceremony - Saturday April 27

Saint George's Round Church

2222 Brunswick St., Halifax, NS

Seating: 1:00 pm

Ceremony: 1:30 pm

Investiture Banquet - Saturday April 27

Hotel Halifax - Baronet Room

Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Halifax Investiture
Information & Registration

Establishment of The Order of St. George Priory of the United States of America

As was recently announced by the Grand Prior, the new USA Priory was established earlier this fall, and Chevalier Steven Mohns was appointed Prior of the new USA Priory effective October 26, 2023.

The newly-established USA Priory will retain important links to The Order of St. George Grand Priory of Canada, as well as to the Grand Priory of the Americas.

The USA Priory is incorporated in the State of Wisconsin and its Tax Free 501C (3) status has been approved with the Internal Revenue Service. Their Employer Identification Number, also known

as a Federal Tax Identification Number, has been registered and is now valid for donations and distributions within the USA.

Going forward, the USA Priory will manage its own membership and charitable causes and importantly, conduct its own Investiture ceremonies for new Postulants. Prior Steven Mohns has indicated that they intend to support veteran and humanitarian causes and programs within the USA, as well as “hands across the border” support for programs that exist in both Canada and the USA. Members of the USA Priory will be invited to donate to similar charitable causes and will receive a USA tax receipt.

All Knights & Dames resident in the USA are hereby welcomed to transfer their membership to the USA Priory, if they wish. The yearly membership fee is \$150 USD and the USA Priory will provide a US tax receipt for \$100 USD of the membership fee.

Congratulations to Chevalier Steven Mohns KGCStG, Chevalier Gordon Kelly KGCStG and the members of our former Pewaukee Bury for their vision and invaluable efforts in realizing this significant development.

Please contact our Administration Officer, Vickie Russell at vrussell@gmail.com if you wish to be transferred to the new USA Priory. The membership fee is \$150 USD, payable by cheque to:

The Order of St George

and sent c/o:

Chevalier Gordon C Kelley KGCStG
Apt. # 276
15100 West Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151

Prior Steven Mohns may be reached for questions at 307-752-9359 or ostgpusa@duck.com

2024 Membership Fee

You will receive an email invoice for the 2024 membership fee of \$150 over the next couple of weeks.

Please use the link in the invoice to remit the fee. Payment on receipt is greatly appreciated.

The membership fee **MUST** be paid separately from any donations as they go through separate online point of sale terminals, with different transaction rates. Help us to keep our administrative costs down!

Membership Fee

Etransfer to treasurer@orderstgeorge.ca

Cheque made out to The Order of St. George

Donations

Etransfer to foundation@orderstgeorge.ca

Cheque made out to The Order of St. George Foundation - please note which active fundraising campaign you wish your donation to be made to, or if left blank, donations will be disbursed at the discretion of the Foundation

Mailing address for cheques:
The Order of St. George
PO Box 112,
Tillsonburg, ON N4G 4H3

Invitation to Membership

Membership in our Order is by invitation only. With the Halifax Investiture only a few months away, it is not too early 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:

[Postulant Petition](#)

Letter from Greg Tanner, CD - Recipient of a Service Dog from Paws Fur Thought

Chevalier Pickford,

First and foremost John, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers and we look forward to seeing you again soon. When Kim Gringell from Paws Fur Thought (PFT) contacted me about

attending your fall fundraiser dinner at the Wardroom several weeks ago I was honoured to represent PFT again with my service dog, Barrett a three year old Labrador retriever. We have been paired for just over two years, but still I was also anxious at the same instant. This would be the first time that I would have been in such close quarters with a large amount of people mostly unknown in many years besides attending the golf fundraiser last year. Even though that event was outside it was a slightly overwhelming. When Medric Cousineau asked me how I was doing I told him that I was about to jump out of my skin. This was going to be the first time that I was going to publicly, how ever briefly, talk openly about my PTSD, and what a service dog has done for me. A few calming words of understanding and support from Medric helped me get through the day.

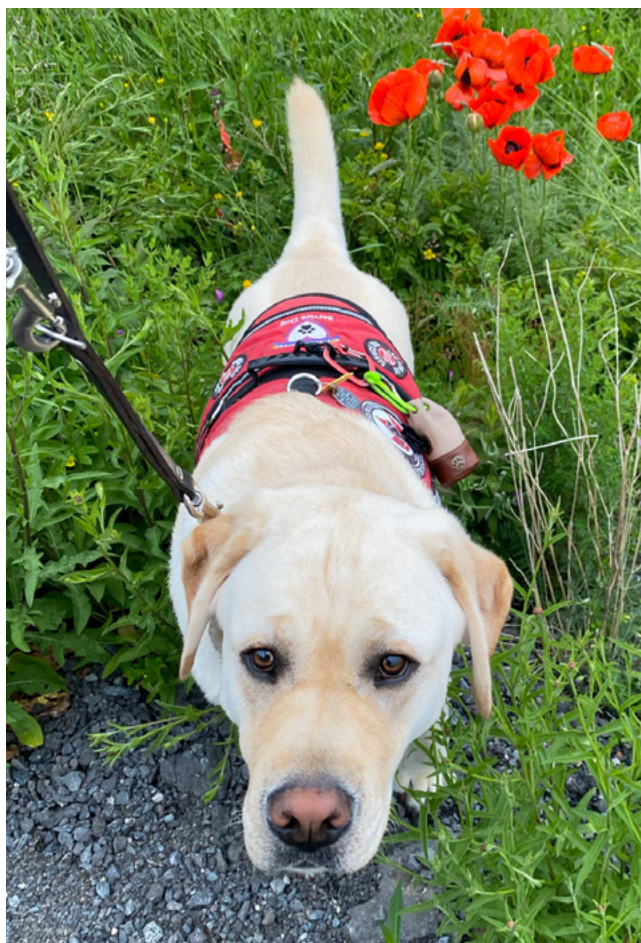
How do you express your Gratitude for such a tremendous gift, a Service dog? You let him work for you, helping as he has been trained for. Not all days are good days, but the bad ones are not as frequent or severe. Barrett knows when I'm not in the right frame of mind and nudges me with his nose, or a paw on my foot. My mobility has been challenged from a fractured vertebrae and consequently nerve damage to my right leg and foot which is where he has helped get back to walking from a few 100 meters with the aid from a cane November 2021, to our regular two km morning walks we currently do three to four days a week.

Talking with many members of the Order that night I conveyed my thanks for the support that has been given and also a chance for an up close look at Barrett and some very nice conversations about the week of training in Kansas that we do before the trip back to Canada with a service dog. Having the opportunity to meet with some of the great sponsors and discuss their service relationships with Veterans was a nice extra.

In closing I hope that the fundraiser surpasses last year's check you presented to Barrett and myself

on our first meeting and I hope that we will meet again soon.

Sincerely,
Greg, Margret, and Barrett Tanner



Priory News

Atlantic Priory:

Gala Fundraising Dinner November 18th, 2023
This wonderful sold-out event raised thousands of dollars for Paws Fur Thought, which is a charitable organization that provides service dogs for military and RCMP veterans suffering from PTSD. We were honoured to have as our guest speaker Mr. Kevin Vickers, the form Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons and former Ambassador to Ireland. Of note, we were honoured to invest Mr. Terry Kelly and Mrs. Anne Kelly as Field Knight and Field Dame of The Order of St. George. Terry is an

amazing musician, most well-known for his song, A Pittance of Time, which honours our Veterans and reminds us all about the meaning of the two minutes of silence during Remembrance Day. Atlantic Priory also wishes to send out a special thank you to Vickie Russell, for her invaluable assistance during the dinner and the silent auction. Our Master of Ceremonies, Chevalier Tony Goode, put it best when he said, "It was great as members, family and friends to get together once again." We are all excited for the upcoming Investiture that we are busy organizing here in Halifax on April 26-28, 2024 at the lovely Hotel Halifax and Saint George's Round Church. Knights and Dames together with their families are invited to come to Nova Scotia for what promises to be a wonderful event!

Chevalier Peter Stoffer KStG on behalf of Chevalier John Pickford KGCSG
Prior Atlantic





groceries or a power bill, or an emotional or mental health crisis, VETS Canada provides much needed support to veterans across the country.

During the NCR Holiday Lunch, Chevalier Art Lamarche presented NCR Prior, Dame Kelly Williamson, with a donation of \$1000 on behalf of Holy Redeemer Church towards the NCR's fundraising campaign for VETS Canada. Thanks to the teamwork of the members of the NCR Priory and through the generous support of members of the Order of St. George, the NCR Priory has surpassed its original goal and to date has raised \$5,225 for Veterans in need. The campaign remains open, and end of year donations can be made [here](#) until 31 December.



NCR Priory:

NCR Priory Celebrates the Holiday Season and sets its sights on achieving Fundraising Goal for VETS in need.

A few Ottawa-based members of the Order of St. George enjoyed some time together to celebrate the holiday season on December 10th at a Holiday Lunch in Kanata. The team enjoyed lively conversation and shared stories, in the spirit of St. George.

Throughout the fall, the NCR Priory has been working to raise funds for Veterans Emergency Transition Services Canada, a federally registered non-profit charity with hundreds of dedicated volunteers across the country. VETS Canada has evolved from assisting homeless veterans to also providing support to those facing difficulties of any kind. This could mean the inability to afford

Dame Kelly Williamson DStG
Prior National Capital Region

Kingston Priory:

12 Oct OStG Event at the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre (KMFRFC)

The Kingston Priory has a long history of supporting the KMFRFC. With the KMFRFC now formally established as its charitable donee of choice, a recent initiative generated not only financial donation but, perhaps equally importantly, contributed to a positive and favourable image of our Order with the Kingston military community (some 8000 military and DND employees net of families!) as well as the city of Kingston. (The KMFRFC and our Order were featured on local cable TV in support of the Walk for Veterans in September.)

On the 12th of October, members of the Priory and the Grand Prior gathered at the KMFRC building. The subject event was conducted as planned; its aim was to explore opportunities for mutual KMFRC/OSTG benefit through a process of information sharing and discussion. The event was well attended and the presentations by the KMFRC and the OSTG were comprehensive and well received; there is solid evidence and testimonial from all parties that the event was a complete success.

The financial contribution of members of the Kingston Priory to the KMFRC during the past 12 months has been in the order of \$27,000. Taking into consideration the accruals expected from the September Walk for Veterans (the numbers expected shortly) the sum may reach \$30K. It is clear that leveraging on the KMFRC registered charity status yields material benefit.

The KMFRC is an Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporation and is a Registered Charity. Its purpose is to support the broad military family community associated with Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Kingston or residing in the CFB Kingston geographic area. The term military family embraces current and veteran Canadian Armed Forces personnel (both regular and reserve) and their families and includes Non-Public Fund (NPF) and Department of National Defence (DND) civilian employees during a deployment with the CAF to a mission area outside of Canada.

The purposes of the OSTG and the KMFRC are closely aligned. While the contribution and support by the OSTG has been principally financial in nature rather than service delivery, the KMFRC, on the other hand, is fully engaged in service delivery. In this regard it may be viewed as operationalizing the purpose of the Order by flowing donation to action. An informal partnered relationship between the two entities constitutes a genuine synergy yielding mutual benefit. The KMFRC benefits financially from donor contribution and contributing members of the Kingston Priory have

the satisfaction of honouring their commitment to the Order.



New Field Dame Colleen Fairholm – Director, Kingston Military Family Resource Centre
Colleen Fairholme was originally hired onto the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre staff as the Manager of Child and Youth Development in March of 2010. She was later appointed Director of Services and then Acting Executive Director before being hired as Executive Director in a permanent capacity in December of 2015. Through these roles she has provided exemplary service to the military community. She has provided leadership and helped to establish and grow the services available in an effort to continue to rise to the developing needs of our members, veterans, and their families. She continues to show her tireless dedication to the organizational mission to deliver services and resources that enhance military family resilience stabilization in the face of unique military challenges.



Chevalier Don Haisell KStG
Prior Kingston

700th Anniversary & International Liaison Officer Report:

My main focus at the moment is the 700th Anniversary international celebration in 2026 of The Order of St. George worldwide. I have asked the Priors and will be approaching the Corporate Board for their ideas on how we should celebrate. Currently, we are considering either regional events or one big event, possibly in either Ottawa or Kingston - but there is a lot of consultation to do before we decide.

Also, I have been invited to join the International OStG committee to discuss/plan an International event as well. No meetings have yet been held, but I will keep the leadership apprised.

While the GP is communicating with the other Grand Priors, he has also asked me to liaise at my level with the other international Grand Priorities. I am happy to say that is going well, and we are communicating often. It is possible that we will be participating in other international committees.

More to follow!

Chevalier Allan Plett KCStG

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 William Roger Pike KStG

Passed away October 11, 2023. Roger was an extraordinary businessman & entrepreneur. He was one of the founding members of Central Dairies & was instrumental in the early development of the dairy processing business in NL. He also had a profound love of flying & built a fledgling airline,

Labrador Airways, into the regional airline Air Labrador. He flew one of the few remaining DC3 aircraft onto the Hr. Grace Airfield & donated it to the town as a tribute to the history of aviation in the area and the "Spirit of Hr. Grace". He was also involved in the NL fishery with plants in Comfort Cove & Twillingate and was an important part of the transport industry through his companies Pro-ex & Pikes Transport. He was President & CEO of Harvey & Co. St. John's & Corner Brook as well as many other business ventures. He was a recipient of the Order of St. George as well as Honorary Colonel of 103 Rescue Squadron RCAF Gander NL. His passion for horses & farm life was realized on his North River Ranch where he loved getting close to nature.

[William Pike Obituary](#)