

# THE ST. GEORGE CHRONICLE

Vol 5 No 1

Newsletter

May 2024



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## Welcome

Dear Knights and Dames of our Order,

I continue to be honoured to serve as your Grand Prior and represent you across Canada and now with the Grand Priories of the Americas, the United States and the United Kingdom. For those who may not know, we facilitated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with our brothers and sisters in these Grand Priories in a collaborative partnership that respects our main purposes but collaborates on expertise, administrative support and strategic planning. We already have about eight combined committees looking to share ideas and standardize polices where it adds to the strength of the organization of the Order. This is broadening our international exposure and growth.

We are still very much attending to our own mission and activities in Canada. I have attended our first eastern Investiture hosted by the Atlantic Priory in Halifax that brought in another worthy 40 Knights and Dames. It was expertly coordinated under the leadership of the Prior, Chevalier John Pickford, and his Investiture team led by Chevalier Tony Goode. Many kudos were received!

We are planning another investiture in Calgary this year and plan for two more in 2025: Vancouver in the Cascadia Priory and Toronto in the Toronto Priory. Stay tuned for more information on the timing and logistics. I am also pleased to see a number of social events taking place that bonds us together in our ongoing pursuit of doing good works across our great nation. Plans are also underway for the Order's 700th anniversary. There will be more to follow on this very shortly as we are planning events and commemorative items to mark this historical event.

And thank you to all of you for your help in providing support to the good works and programs of our Order. We continue to make a difference to all those who touch our hearts and souls, and we work diligently to return the favour. You and your efforts make me very proud to be a part of this Order.

Yours in the Spirit of St. George,

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCStG

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

# Halifax Investiture - Congratulations to our Newest Members!

The Halifax Investiture was held on Saturday, April 26th, 2024 at Saint George's Round Church in Halifax, NS. 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 virtually invested in 2020 and completing Investiture:

Mark Dobson (Atlantic)  
Gregory Merrill (Toronto)  
Allen Munroe (Atlantic)

## Members virtually invested in 2021 and completing Investiture:

Nancy Mei Siew (Toronto)

## New members:

Aristo Ariyaratnam (Toronto)	Yew-Thong Leong (Toronto)
Garry Balagathan (Prairies)	Bruno Losier (Atlantic)
Byron Bartlett (Atlantic)	Lawrence Malek (Toronto)
Danielle Chen (Toronto)	Jeffrey Mar (Toronto)
Thomas Chong (Toronto)	Colleen McCourt (Toronto)
Christian Déry (Québec)	Louise Mercier (NCR)
Jacques Dussault (Atlantic)	Debra Merrill (Toronto)
Wendell Eisener (Atlantic)	Joe Michael (Atlantic)
Hubert Fafard (Québec)	Maurice Muisse (Atlantic)
Helene Frechette (Atlantic)	Mark Paine (Kingston)
Daniel Gallina (Atlantic)	Charles Paquin (Québec)
Robert Gilmour (NCR)	Josée Parent (Québec)
Patrick Goulet (Québec)	Randall Stevenson (Atlantic)
Karl Hayes (Atlantic)	Robert Stewart (Atlantic)
Daniel Hennessey (Atlantic)	Bruce Stoddart (Atlantic)
Philip Ho (Toronto)	Shannon Tyrrell (Toronto)
Brett Johnson (NCR)	Albert YH Wong (Toronto)
Clifford Korman (Toronto)	William Chi Hung Wong (Toronto)

# Announcements

## Elevation in Rank

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

Chevalier Gene Kushnir KCStG - January 13th, 2024  
Chevalier John Cody KCStG - April 26th, 2024  
Dame Heather Mackinnon DCStG - April 26th, 2024

## 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 Anthony Goode KCStG of Atlantic Priory was awarded the Grand Prior's Commendation on April 26th, 2024

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 Atlantic Priory were awarded the Prior's Commendation on April 26th, 2024:

Chevalier David Bathurst KStG  
Chevalier Larry Bergeron KStG  
Dame Colleen Calvert DCStG  
Chevalier Gus Cameron KStG  
Chevalier Paul "Trapper" Cane KCStG  
Chevalier Brian Carter KStG  
Chevalier John Cody KCStG  
Dame Barbara Corbett DCStG  
Dame Jocelyn Cousineau DStG  
Chevalier Medric Cousineau KStG  
Chevalier Jacques Dussault KStG  
Chevalier Earle Eastman KCStG

Dame Heather Mackinnon DCStG  
Chevalier Rev Derrick Marshall KGCStG  
Chevalier John Montague KStG  
Chevalier Al Munroe KStG  
Chevalier Steve Rowland KStG  
Field Dame Vickie Russell  
Chevalier Peter Stoffer KCStG  
Chevalier Gerry White KStG

### Position Changes

Chevalier Allan Plett KCStG was appointed the Grand Prior's Aide-de-Camp effective April 30th, 2024

## Upcoming Events

Calgary Investiture, October 4-5, 2024  
Mark your calendars - details tbc

## Purpose of the Membership Fee

Did you know that your membership fee (or dues) pays for the administration of the Order of St. George, including the administration costs of our Foundation? This is what allows the Order to disburse, through our Foundation, 100% of donations received. Other charitable organizations usually either ask donors to pay an administration fee or they simply pay the administration costs of the charity from the money they bring in. In other words, the members of the Order cover the administration costs of our charitable arm, our Foundation, thereby ensuring that we can flow 100% of donated amounts to the charities we support. The membership fees also covers the costs of such things as:

- Our contracted Administration Officer and Bookkeeper
- The website, the membership portal and the two online point of sale terminals (one for donations only and the other for everything else)
- Purchasing regalia
- Directors and Officers Insurance
- Storage and Post Office Box

- Videoconferencing
- Cadet Medals
- Events where necessary

Remember to send your membership fee and your donations separately!

### Membership Fee:

Etransfer to [treasurer@orderstgeorge.ca](mailto:treasurer@orderstgeorge.ca)

Cheque made out to The Order of St. George

### Donations:

Etransfer to [foundation@orderstgeorge.ca](mailto: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

## How to Donate - by Dame Helga Rausch

The Order of St. George Member 365 donation tool is the best way to support the charitable activities of the Order and Foundation. It is the only method I use.

It's purpose-built for the Order, completely secure, and easy to use. Unlike other online donation tools like Canada Helps, it will never ask for extra money to cover admin fees. Every penny goes to the charity you designate.

- Log into the Order of St. George 365 Member Portal
- Select "Donate" from the black toolbar across the top.
- Scroll down the fundraising page, and you will see big tabs for all our charitable campaigns. 3

Click on your desired tab. You will be directed to a page that describes the campaign and a green button on the right inviting you to “Donate Now.”

- When you click the green button, you will be taken to another page where you can choose an amount and frequency (one-time, monthly, etc.). Then, click on the green button at the bottom to execute the donation.
- For a one-time donation, you can choose a cheque, credit card, or e-transfer. For a recurring donation, say monthly, you will provide your credit card information.

You can download your receipt right away, and you will receive a confirmation email with your tax receipt within minutes.

The tool tracks donations by year and issues tax receipts. At tax time, you can go to “My Account” and review and download all your tax receipts.

If you would like assistance with any of these steps, you can contact our own administration officer, Field Dame Vickie Russell, at 416-371-5823

Sincerely,

Dame Helga Rausch DStG

## How Your Donations Get to The Charities We Support

The Foundation of The Order of St. George is a not-for-profit corporation with charitable status. This means that we must disburse donated funds to registered charities whose purpose aligns with ours, which is the same as that of the Order: *“to better the health and well-being of members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans and their families, and supports the Canadian Cadet and Junior Ranger Programs.”*

All fundraising programs initiated by the Priors

must be approved by the Foundation to ensure that they meet our charitable purpose and requirements to maintain our charitable status – primarily this means that any charity we want to support must themselves have registered charity status in Canada.

Over the past year we have seen some amazing Priory fundraising campaigns come through the Foundation, with these disbursements:

- Citadel Canine Society - \$10,000 (Cascadia Priory)
- Kingston Military Family Resources Centre - \$7,100 (Kingston Priory)
- Soldier On - \$3,750 (National)
- Support our Troops - \$3,750 (National)
- Vets Canada - \$107,000 (NCR Priory)
- Wounded Warriors - Paws Fur Thought - \$52,481 (Atlantic Priory)

Every dollar that is raised by a Priory fundraising campaign, or even donated directly to the Foundation, can be disbursed to the charity because your membership dues cover the administration costs of the Foundation. This is the great thing about the Order – membership dues cover the costs of executing our mission, and reinforcing once again the principle that the strength of the order is its members.

Thank you all so much for your generosity!  
Chevalier Lindsay Dencsak KStG  
Foundation Chair

## Invitation to Membership

Membership in our Order is by invitation only. With the Calgary 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:

<https://orderstgeorge.ca/postulant-petition/>

## Priority News

### Atlantic Priory:

The Order of St. George Halifax Investiture and associated events are now behind us and from all reports, the event was highly successful. It was the first investiture east of Ottawa and the Atlantic Priory mustered a dedicated team to support the Deputy/Acting Prior, Chevalier Tony Goode.

The vista of Halifax Harbour from the hotel was magnificent and provided a very maritime background to the meet and greet and formal dinner. A registration desk in the hotel lobby responded to any queries and gave out Atlantic Priory grab bags to postulants and out-of-town guests. A delicious maritime culinary menu was served at all events: 98 for the meet and greet and 129 for the dinner, serenaded by the vocal group Nova Voce. A London double-decker bus was

organized for the short bus ride from the hotel to the church, St George's Round Church, where 40 postulants were invested in a modified process that reduced overall time yet provided a full chivalric recognition to each new member.

As Chevalier Goode noted, "Events such as this do not just happen, they need the contributions of a group of dedicated volunteers such as you, the members of the Atlantic Priory. Many of you were involved in the planning and execution of the investiture and I would like to thank all of you for coming together to support our Prior, John Pickford, at a difficult period in his life. Without your willing assistance and many contributions, we would never have been able to make this happen".

I would like to share the comments I made: "...willing volunteerism and friendship were definitely on display. Without this commitment and camaraderie, you would have not achieved the success you did in executing the investiture weekend. Having been a member since 2014 and the Prior since 2017 I can attest that we are investing the right folks with the right stuff .....BZ!"

It was an honour and privilege to host the fall investiture in Atlantic Canada. Our goal was to ensure genuine maritime hospitality while providing for an unforgettable experience throughout and especially at the church. It was a fabulous weekend.

Chevalier John Pickford KGCStG  
Prior Atlantic





### NCR Priory:

The National Capital Region (NCR) Priory through the Order of St. George Foundation today donated \$107,000 to Veteran’s Emergency Transition Services Canada (VETS Canada), a charity that supports veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) facing personal and financial difficulties of any kind.

“When we launched our end of year fundraising campaign at the end of October 2023, our initial goal was to raise \$5,000 by December 31, 2023,” says Kelly Williamson, Prior of the NCR Priory. “Thanks to the generosity of our members and a substantial donation from a local benefactor, the Order of St. George Foundation is able to make the largest single donation in its history to a single donee.”

“We are extremely grateful for the support from the NCR Priory of the Order of St. George. With the current housing and affordability crisis, the need has never been greater, so this generous donation couldn’t have come at a better time. There simply aren’t words to adequately express our gratitude and appreciation”, says Debbie Lowther, Co-Founder and CEO of VETS Canada.

Founded in 2010, VETS Canada has provided over \$1.2 million in direct support to veterans and CAF personnel. In Ontario, nearly 1500 veterans, of which almost 600 are from the Ottawa region, have benefitted from their exceptional services. The organization is truly a beacon of non-judgmental hope during difficult times.

The NCR Priory of the Order of St. George salutes the efforts of VETS Canada and their committed and dedicated volunteers and we are honoured to support them.

Dame Kelly Williamson DStG  
Prior National Capital Region



## Prairies Priory: Quarter 1 Social

On an extremely cold and frigid January night in Calgary, members of the Prairies Priory got together to do some great things:

- Share some camaraderie;
- With the assistance of the Deputy Prior Andrea Chant and our Grand Prior via Zoom, Chevalier Gene Kushnir, our Prior was elevated to Knight Commander
- Presented a cheque to the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre for \$1,273.29, the Proceeds of the 2023 Canadian Walk for Benefit.

### Investiture - October 2024

On the 2nd of May, our Grand Prior approved Calgary to host the October 2024 Investiture Service! Work is underway to change pencil bookings into confirmed bookings. We currently have 30 postulants and are working on increasing that! All are welcome at the Investiture to be held on 4-5 October 2024. More details to follow!

Chevalier Gene Kushnir KCStG  
Prior Kingston

# Aide-de-Camp's Report:

## Septcentennial Celebration Update

The NCR Priory has stepped up to the plate and will be the Host for this prestigious event. We have just under 2 years to go but we are starting the planning process now. This will be a team effort and plans are to host a spectacular Gala event. The 700th Anniversary of The Order of St. George will only happen once so mark April 25th, 2026 on your calendars!

The official OStG Septennial Commemorative Medallion has been designed and the costs approved. We have placed our initial order and hope to offer this item for sale sometime in June, with details to follow.



Chevalier Allan Plett KCStG  
Aide-de-Camp

## 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

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### Chevalier John Underhill KStG

On May 1st, we learned that we had lost one of our members - Chevalier John Underhill who succumbed to a four year battle with cancer. He was a naval officer who had served in the Navy with me during the Gulf War. On leaving the Navy, he became a lawyer and King's Counsel, and was a renowned horn player especially in Big Band music. Over his time in the Order he made every effort to attend meetings, dinners and golf tournaments. He never let cancer define him and was an inspiration to me as we take/took this cancer journey. We spoke frequently and as late as last week. (Chevalier John Pickford KGCStG)

Obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/halifax-ns/john-underhill-11795141>