

# THE ST. GEORGE CHRONICLE

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Newsletter

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## Welcome

Dear Knights and Dames of our Order,

As we have now completed our 2024 Annual Members Meeting on June 22nd, 2024, which was our best turnout thus far, we have added new Directors to both the Corporate and Foundation Boards. They have brought with them additional skill sets and experiences that will help us navigate our way to the future success of the Order. We reviewed our new Constitution of the Grand Council and have already crafted our initial strategic plans and said goodbye to our former Chair of the Corporate Board who served us with distinction and professionalism over the past 5 years. There were many challenges that Dame Dagmar Teubner DGCStG lead us through and left a legacy of solid groundwork for us to build our future on.

So now the work has begun to build our plans of strong commitments to our good works, continued improvements on communications, growth in internal and external recognition and a strong pledge to follow our value based responsibilities to our Oath and Chivalric laws. How exciting the future looks for us. Please join with me in welcoming our new leaders and team members.

Yours in the Spirit of St. George,

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCStG  
Grand Prior - The Order of St. George, Grand Priory of Canada

# Calgary Investiture - Congratulations to our Newest Members!

The Calgary Investiture was held on Saturday, October 5th, 2024 at The Cathedral Church of the Redmeer. Congratulations and a warm welcome to the new members who completed their Investiture by being Dubbed, Cloaked and Spurred:

## New members:

### Cascadia:

G. Shawn Coady  
Winston Conyers  
Ross Gulkison  
Christopher Howard  
James Pearson  
Sherry Soll

### Toronto:

Annie Lee Ling Chan  
Winson Chan  
Tike He  
Simon Wells  
A. Paul Williams

### Prairies:

Fuad Al-Wshah  
John-Scott Beaton  
Leona Callihoo-Pearson  
Michael Detheridge  
John Terrance Bruce Eckstadt  
Lori Englert  
Richard Garber  
Edward Allan Paul Gibson  
Melinda Suzanne Griffiths  
Charles Hamel  
Jeremy David Paul Hamelin  
Arthur Hoffman  
Stuart Hunter  
David Ingram  
Howard Johnson  
Micheal King  
Salma Lakhani  
Zaheer Lakhani

Rene Lariviere  
David Martin  
David McKay  
Fiona McLean  
Larry O'Neill  
Thomas O'Sullivan  
Barry Pearson  
Timothy Pearson  
Barbara Pohl  
Anne Sorbie  
Keith Stagg  
Lawson Storey  
Gordon Swaitkewich  
Tina Louise Tung  
Egbert-Jan van Weelderen  
Francis Villiger  
Timothy Woodford

### National Capital Region:

Patricia Bonacci  
Edward Nichol  
Joshua Ryan

# First Calgary Investiture – Belated Congratulations to These ‘New’ Members!

The first-ever Calgary Investiture was held on Saturday, September 16th, 2023, at The Cathedral Church of the Redeemer. Regrettably, news of this event did not appear in our December 2023 Chronicle as planned. A long overdue congratulations and a sincere apology and a warm welcome to:

## New members:

### Cascadia:

George Dersch  
Tony Tsang

### National Capital Region:

Andrew Marren

### Prairies:

Erica Angel  
Richard Cary  
Michael Chant  
Richard Coates  
Bridgit Concannon  
Derwyn Costinak  
Jason Finkbeiner  
Garth Gillespie  
Deanna Gillespie  
Kent Griffiths

Todd Jackson  
Geoffrey Kneller  
Nathaniel Krebs  
Yunxing (Kevin) Liang  
Ryan Mitchell  
Jason Nishiyama  
Robert Stagg  
Ian Stewart  
Nicholas van Aalst  
Zane Williams

### Toronto:

Tian Kuang  
Derek McNulty  
Robert Smith  
Michael Wionzek  
Boby Yuk Choi Yeung  
Thomas Yeung

# Announcements

## Order & Foundation 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 agreed to provide generously of their time and effort in taking on a role in the governance of the Order.

Corporation Board of Directors as at the completion of the June 22nd AMM:

Chevalier Thomas Chong KStG (Secretary)  
Dame Gillian Federico DStG  
Chevalier Justin Fogarty KGCStG (since resigned)  
Chevalier Bill Griffis KStG  
Chevalier Scott Healey KCStG  
Chevalier Dan Hutt KStG (Chair)  
Dame Nishika Jardine DGCStG (President)  
Chevalier Art Lamarche KCStG (Chair Audit Committee)  
Chevalier Larry McGuin KStG (Vice-Chair)  
Chevalier Ian Steingaszner KCStG (Treasurer)  
Dame Jacquelyn Stevenson DStG (Chair Governance Committee)

Foundation Board of Directors as of the completion of the June 26th AMM:

Andrea Chant DStG  
Chevalier Lindsay Dencsak KStG (Chair)  
Chevalier Ron Gibson KStG  
Chevalier Bill Griffis KStG (Secretary)  
Chevalier David Parker KStG  
Chevalier Imran Qayyum KStG  
Dame Louise Siew DStG (Vice-Chair)  
Chevalier Ian Steingaszner KCStG (Treasurer)

Grand Council:

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCStG - Grand Prior  
Dame Linda Colwell DGCStG - Secretary  
Chevalier Gene Kushnir KCStG - Chair Priors Committee  
Chevalier Dan Hutt KStG - Chair Corporation Board  
Chevalier Lindsay Dencsak KStG - Chair Foundation Board

## New VPs!

Congratulations to our four new Vice-Presidents who have taken on specific tasks, reporting to the President but for the benefit of the entire Order:

VP Regalia: Chevalier Gord Barrett KStG

Chevalier Gord has already submitted his report on options to make our two rank insignia more “wear-friendly” for our Dames. The Breast Star for the Dame/Knight Commander is too heavy for most ladies’ evening wear, and the Riband (sash) for the Dame/Knight Grand Cross is designed to be worn under a gentleman’s jacket, not over a lady’s evening gown. The report is with the Priors and we are looking forward to their feedback.

VP Merchandise: Chevalier Shawn Wade KStG, assisted by Chevalier Bruno Losier KStG

Chevaliers Shawn and Bruno have submitted their report together with a list of several branded products ideas. The Priors have the report and we should be making a selection to procure soon.

VP Translation: Chevalier Pierre Bergeron KStG

Chevalier Pierre has done a review of the French translation of our website and has provided corrections to our Administration Officer, Field Dame Vickie Russell. The website has a built-in translation program that automatically translates updates on the English side; however, it sometimes gets the words wrong, and Chevalier Pierre will help us to keep the French accurate on an ongoing basis.

VP Newsletter: Chevalier Ron Gibson KStG

Chevalier Ron has edited this issue of The St. George Chronicle! From this point forward, please send him your articles and photos (as separate files please, not embedded in documents). Our intent is to publish at least three times annually. Please note as well the invaluable copy edit support provided by Dame Helga Rausch.

With sincere thanks to each of these newly minted VPs!

Dame Nishika Jardine DGCStG  
President

### Message from VP Newsletter

Thank President Dame Nishika Jardine DGCStG for the privilege and opportunity to serve the Order as your VP Newsletter. I look forward to continuing her excellent work with Dame Helga Rausch and Field Dame Vickie Russell. I also look forward to working with all the Priors and their representatives. I encourage you to continue to share the events of your Priory. People want to see it, and it is one of the key measures of the health and vitality of our Order.

Ron Gibson KStG  
VP Newsletter

### Elevations in Rank

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

To Grand Cross:  
Chevalier Don Haisell KCGStG  
Dame Henah Hannah DGCStG  
Chevalier Allan Plett KCGStG  
Dame Salma Lakhani DGCStG  
Chevalier David Sutton KCGStG

To Commander:  
Dame Andrea Chant DCStG  
Chevalier Steinar Engeset KCStG  
Chevalier Ty Kushnir KCStG  
Chevalier Doug Stinson KCStG  
Dame Kelly Williamson DCStG

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 has supported The Order beyond the workings of an individual Priory.

Chevalier John Nolan KStG  
Chevalier Mike Wionzek KStG  
Chevalier Derwyn Costinak KStG

### Position Changes

Chevalier Tony Goode KCStG has been appointed Atlantic Prior

Dame Linda Colwell DGCStG has been appointed Secretary of the Grand Council

Dame Debbie Merrill DStG has been appointed Director of the Corporation effective October 24th, 2024.

## Annual Membership Fee

The Membership Fee is due on January 31st every year. **Please 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** - noting 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.

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, please begin the Postulant Petition Process:

1. Send them the link to the Postulant Application and Petition.

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

2. You, as the Sponsor, will receive an email inviting you to provide your written support for the prospective Postulant; when complete, send it back as instructed.

3. Once the Grand Prior has approved the Petition, the Postulant will receive a letter of welcome and an invoice to pay the Fee of Passage.

4. Once the Postulant has paid the Fee of Passage, they will start to receive communications from the Order and will be invited to attend the next Investiture.

**Your kind adherence to these instructions is deeply appreciated and will ensure efficient processing of the applications.**

# Upcoming Events

**Toronto Priory Veterans Gala Dinner Supporting Homes for Heroes**

**Saturday November 2nd 2024**

**Armor Heights Officers Mess**

Registration is now closed for this event.

**Atlantic Priory Fall Fundraising Dinner Supporting Paws Fur Thought**

**Saturday November 16th 2024**

**CFB Halifax Officers' Wardroom**

Registration is now closed for this event.

**NCR Priory Festive Cinq À Sept Fundraising Soiree Supporting VETs Canada**

**Thursday November 28th 2024**

[Register Here!](#)

# Priory News

## Kingston Priory:

Members of the Kingston Priory continue to meet regularly on Zoom to discuss Priory and Order issues. This virtual gathering allows us to keep everyone up to date and always ends with the sharing of some interesting and at times humorous stories!

One moment of sad reflection was our learning of the passing of our good friend Chevalier John Pickford. He was a great friend of our Order, and we will really miss him.

For the first time, the Priory presented a certificate to one cadet from each of 2587 Princess of Wales Own Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (2587 PWOR RCACC), 58 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron (58 RCACS) and Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps St Lawrence (RCSCC St Lawrence). The certificate reads: "to the cadet who demonstrated kindness, friendship, and support for your fellow cadets." The recipients were selected by the Cadet Corps/Sqn staff and presented by Prior Don Haisell and Prior Emeritus Robert Hamilton at the Annual Ceremonial Reviews (ACRs) held in June.



During the summer, two members of the Priory presented cadet medals at graduation parades. On 9 August, Chevalier Robert Hamilton KGCStG presented the medal at the final graduation ceremony at HMCS Ontario held in the Thompson Drill Hall at CFB Kingston. On 23 August, Chevalier John Cowan KCStG presented the medal at the Glider Wings Parade held at the CF Detachment Mountain View which is located near Trenton, Ontario. Of note, among his many achievements, Chevalier John is a pilot with about 6,000 hours in the air, having flown 64 types of aircraft, including four glider types and some 4,000 hours in Harvards so a fitting choice to support the air cadets.

Chevalier Robert was given the honour of acting as reviewing officer for the Sail 1 Graduation Parade held at the Royal Military College parade square on 19 July. Chevalier Robert served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 35 years retiring with the rank of Commodore so a great person to recognize navy cadets. Chevalier Robert presented, on behalf of the Priory, a certificate to the staff acknowledging the efforts they made during the summer to inspire the naval cadets to learn new skills on the water and further develop their leadership skills.

At a special ceremony in Aug at the historic Fort Frontenac Officers Mess, the Grand Prior promoted Chevaliers Haisell and Sutton to the rank of Knight Grand Cross. This was a special moment, attended by members of the Priory and the leadership team of the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre including their Executive Director, Field Dame Colleen Fairholme.



The Walk for Veterans was held on 22 September, a beautiful sunny day in Kingston. It was supported by Princess of Wales Own Regiment pipers and drummers and the colour party from 560 Royal Canadian Legion. The Order, represented by Kingston Priory, featured on the WfV website. Chevalier Robert was interviewed on the local Cogeco TV station called 'Your TV Kingston' (<https://youtu.be/NpvSi2sFTPk>).

On behalf of the Priory, Prior Don Haisell and Prior Emeritus Robert Hamilton presented a cheque for \$8,000 to the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre (KMFRC) which represented the funds donated by members of the Priory during the 2024 year.



The year has been busy and successful. We are a small Priory but one with spirit, dedication and comradery.

Chevalier Don Haisell KGCSG  
 Prior Kingston

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### Prairies Priory:

Over the weekend of 4-5 October, the Order got bigger! The 2024 Fall investiture was able to accomplish so much, and many things were done.

The list:

- Invest 47 new knights and Dames from Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario
- Dub 4 Field knights and Dames from the Calgary area for their extensive help and assistance to the Order and Order initiatives
- Invest 1 Honourary Knight, Dr. Zaheer Lakhani
- Invest the first Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, the 19th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta as Honourary Dame Grand Cross and install her as the Honourary Vice-Regal Patron for the Order in Alberta
- Celebrate the elevation of Chevalier Allan Plett to Knight Grand Cross
- Celebrate the elevation of Dame Andrea Chant and Chevaliers Ty Kushnir and Doug Stinson to Knight Commander
- Present a Grand Prior's Commendation to the Dean of the Priory, Chevalier Derwyn Costinak
- Appoint Chevalier Ty Kushnir as the Chancellor for Prairies Priory, which is a new role responsible to manage event planning.

In true western hospitality, we had a visit from Tourism Calgary who conducted the coveted White Hat Ceremony for our Grand Prior.

For anyone who missed the live stream of the Investiture Service, you can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/F5TdUjT9Y2I?si=Va6BPrAn6tTBArfA>

Photos from the event can be viewed at the following links:

- Meet and Greet - [Click Here](#)
- Investiture - [Click Here](#)
- Gala Dinner - [Click Here](#)

The Priory is fast working on plans for an end of year social as well as some other initiatives.

Chevalier Gene Kushnir KCStG  
 Prior Prairies

# In Memoria

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 will be remembered.

Chevalier Charles Hill KGCSStG Grand Prior

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## **Chevalier John Pickford KGCSStG**

It is with sad and heavy hearts we have learned of the death of Chevalier John Pickford MSM CD KGCSStG , former Prior of the Atlantic Priory of our Order of St George. John passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 5th, at home with his loving wife, Heather, and his two daughters, Sarah and Jessica, by his side.

His calm, peaceful demeanour and courage during a recent illness was inspirational and exemplary to us all, and he was a great credit to, and leader of, our Order. He shall be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Please keep Heather, Sarah, Jessica and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/halifax-ns/k-pickford-11977491>

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## **Chevalier Gerald White KStG**

Chevalier Gerry was a beloved member of the Atlantic Priory. His big smile and warm personality will be sadly missed.

Obituary: <https://www.dartmouthfuneralhome.ca/obituary/gerald-gerry-white>

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## **Chevalier Cameron Diggon KStG**

Chevalier Cameron was a principled and dedicated member of the Order with service as the Foundation Chair in 2020. Later, Toronto Priory was privileged to learn from him about the great work being done by Homes For Heroes.

Obituary: <https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/cameron-diggon-1090047820>