



The Tancred Tower is a newsletter of the Acadia Commandery of the Grand Priory of Canada. It is published semi-annually more or less. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Order nor of its editor who are responsible for the unattributed content. We welcome submissions in English and/or French, and ask that you indicate if your correspondence is NOT for publication, otherwise, letters may be edited for length and content for this newsletter. Permission is granted to reproduce (print, photocopy or download) content (articles, reviews) from this newsletter or the Commandery's website or blog without prior permission for the above non-commercial purposes, on the condition that proper credit and attribution of the source in all copies is provided. It is the position of the Commandery that the copyright is held by the originating sources for material, and that in general, it is the author's responsibility to govern his/her ability to use that content sourced from their primary sources.

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Editor's Note

I would like to encourage members to submit any newsworthy material, events, appointments, awards or honours received for *The Tancred Tower*.

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Message from the Commander

Welcome to the first issue of the “*Tancred Tower*”. I suspect that most will know about this tower, and if not, Google will undoubtedly be tapped into to find out what is the origin of the name. The format of the newsletter, header, etc. is an experiment and will probably continue to evolve once we get into a regular issues published, hopefully, at least twice annually. Your thoughts and input would be important and these can be shared with us via any one of the email coordinates provided on the first page.

The Acadia Commandery has a history of “firsts” for the Order, and this continues today with two programs “hatched” in the Commandery and also piloted in the Commandery. The first concept is the notion of “Houses”. The first House established is the House of Fundy which encompasses the area of Digby and Annapolis Counties and then some. The idea of a House is to establish a local community of Saint Lazarites which will enable the Order to have greater impact in local communities by virtue of having a good number of Members and Friends attached to the House. We are discussing establishing the House of Fredericton and perhaps in the future, other Houses across the Commandery.

One particular aspect of the concept of a House is that in general, Houses will focus on a local project. This will resonate with members of the House and which will assist in attracting more people to the Order. In the case of the House of Fundy, its project is the Atalanta Hospice Society whose mission is to establish a residential style hospice in the Digby & Annapolis area. Any Friends of the Order within the House of Fundy would have their annual oblations be directed to this project.

Also piloted in Acadia Commandery is the Friend of the Order program. The Friend program is designed to appeal to individuals within a community to connect with the Order and to expand the Order’s footprint in the region.

The entire Friend of the Order’s oblation is directed towards local and relevant project. This program is a great way to increase the visibility of the Order, and educate more people about the existence of the Order and its works. Although Friends of the Order are not Members as per the Order’s bylaws, they can actively engage with the Commandery through volunteering their time and energy to further the Order’s mission and projects.

That said, the last Chapter General hosted by the Acadia Commandery, held at the Digby Pines Golf Resort and Spa May 23-26, was a smashing success! There were 112 registrations and guests who attended the Gala Dinner Saturday evening. Half of the Chapter General organizing team were comprised of Friends of the Order, and without a doubt, the success of the event could not have been made without their invaluable contributions to that project. Thank you to the organizing team for making the Chapter General in Digby a most memorable event.

The Commandery also hosted a BBQ Social held at the old yacht club in Digby on August 18th. The event was attended by 24 people, comprised of Members, Friends and their spouses/partners including Members from Fredericton. It was a beautiful day, and the event included one of the Saint Lazarus knights and a trebuchet! More on this later in this issue.

Finally, the next important date with respect to the Commandery is the Commandery’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Saturday, October 19th being held at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre in Cornwallis Park. Some material (schedule, minutes and invitation) has gone out via email. Other important docs including the agenda will go out later this month. Hope to see many of you there.

Atavis et Armis
Chev. David M. Cvet KLJ(J)
Commander
Acadia Commandery



Letters

Note: given the first edition, a few comments were sourced from letters and emails received with respect to the Chapter General in Digby.

Just a quick and somewhat belated note to thank you and your team for putting on such a splendid Chapter General, although sadly Edward could not accompany me I had a thoroughly wonderful time. The hotel staff were most helpful and very friendly and your volunteers were ever present to deal with any questions. I totally O.D.ed on scallops “fresh from the sea”, delicious !!! Thank you for all your hard work, I know how much there is to do. I look forward to seeing you in Niagara on 2020.

Sincerely
Sheila Meijer CLJ
Thunder Bay Commandery June 19, 2019

Thank you so much for the great job you did organizing our Chapter General last weekend. It was a wonderful meeting in a lovely setting and the work you and your colleagues di make it a memorable experience. It was a great location and a most enjoyable time spent together for our members.

Cheers and thanks! Chev. Peter Milliken PC, OC, FRSC, GCLJ Immediate Past Grand Prior May 26, 2019

A belated note, David, to thank you and your team for a great event in Digby. You were indeed fortunate to have The Pines in your community which made for a superior setting, especially since we were “the only show in town. “ With its CP tradition The Pines most certainly matched the traditional ambience of the Order!

Moreover, you and your team were magnificent hosts. Your hard work definitely paid off. Well done.

PS. I was delighted to get my second Order of Good Cheer certificate to match my first received in 1958!

Chev. Robert Clarke MSM, CD, GCLJ Edmonton Commandery

Chapter General 2019, Digby Nova Scotia

This year’s annual Chapter General was organized and executed by a dedicated team of volunteers that had, from all accounts, created one of the most successful and memorable Chapter Generals in recent history. Thanks goes out to the members: Lois Stevenson CLJ, Neil Nichols OLJ, Ken Buchholz OLJ, Jolene Buchholz OLJ, Doug Irvine OLJ and a hearty thanks to Friends of the Order including: Joe Van Heerden, Sharon Cookson, Mike Kayo, Bert Heembrock, Barb MacBeath with special thanks to Kat Kayo. David Cvet KLJ(J) was the organizing chair.



Figure 1: a shot of the organizing team working through the details in the dining room of David’s residence in the Cove.



Based on overwhelming positive responses, the Chapter General was a grand success. Members came to the Town of Digby with high expectations for a unique experience and most assuredly, delivery was spot on. As one member said “Bravo Zulu!”

Although the weather may not have been warm, our **Céad míle fáilte** (Gaelic for a hundred thousand welcomes) warmed everyone's heart and spirit. New friendships were formed, old ones rekindled; but above all, the Order came together as brothers and sisters in service to one another, our communities and The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.

Jane Anema was confirmed as our Grand Prior and spoke to the strategic pillars that will guide our thinking and actions over the next few years. After a fine lunch and ‘conversation with the Grand Prior’, the delegates made their way to Trinity Anglican Church for a unique Investiture experience with our Men at Arms, wearing 13th century accoutrements, leading the procession while bearing the banners of our Order.



Figure 2: The debut of the Saint Lazarus knights in classic 13th century accoutrements at the Trinity Church, the location of the Investiture.

The Grand Prior's Reception in the Veranda Room at The Pines gave everyone an opportunity to see the quaint layout of Digby Town and the majestic splendour of the Annapolis Basin as members and guests one chatted up a frenzy of conversation and

excitement; everyone arrayed in their finest regalia. We were honoured with the presence of Chevalier Kenneth Moritsugu, Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of America, accompanied with Lisa Kory who made a rather arduous trek to join us for the long weekend. We honoured our past Acadia Commander Dame Dennice Leahey for her 13 dedicated years of service in this role while outgoing Grand Prior Peter Milliken received a beautiful hand-painted scroll marking his service with The Order with many thanks and our esteemed appreciation.

Attendees received certificates honouring their induction into the Order of Good Cheer. The music was lively and the dancing brought all to their feet after plenty of good food and drink, but not before a donation of \$1,605 from The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal and announcement of an anonymous donor pledge of \$50,000 to the Atalanta Hospice Society!



Figure 3: Dame Dennice Leahey presented with a gift of appreciation from the MC of the evening, Chev. David M. Cvet on behalf of the Acadia Commandery for her years of service as Commander.

Next year's Chapter General, May 28-31, 2020 will be hosted by the Western Ontario Commandery in Niagara Falls chaired by Chev Dr. Robert Boyko, MD, KCLJ(J).

Douglas Irvine, OLG
Gazette Correspondent
Acadia Commandery



BBQ Social

The Commandery hosted a BBQ Social in Digby at the old yacht club on Sunday, August 18th between 4pm and 8pm. The event began with an informal presentation on the history and origins of the Order in the days of the Crusades. The presentation included one of the Saint Lazarus knights dressed in 13th century accoutrements.



Figure 4. One of the Saint Lazarus knights (Friend of the Order Joe Van Heerden) posed by a reproduction of a 13th century trebuchet.

This was followed with a brief presentation on the history of the Acadia Commandery.

Then the floor was taken by the combination of Lois Stevenson and Dr. Ken Buchholz who presented details on various aspects of hospice and palliative care in the area, along with some details on the newest initiative, the Atalanta Hospice Society project of establishing a residential style

hospice in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia.

The guests were treated to a demonstration of the trebuchet situated outside the old yacht club with four volunteers operating the throwing arm and a fifth volunteer loading the sling with canteloupes and hurling the projectiles into the Annapolis Basin.



Figure 5. A shot of the guests enjoying the BBQ and conversation.

The BBQ included burgers, dogs and sausages. It was a pleasant way to end the weekend. Guests who attended included Jimmy MacAlpine (Warden of Digby Municipality and Friend of the Order), Penny Ericson and Dr. Jennifer Dobbelstynne hailing from Fredericton.

Acadia Commandery Annual General Meeting

The Commandery's AGM is scheduled for October 19th to be held at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre (ABCC) in Cornwallis. Initial details were sent via email the end of August. For those out-of-province Members, ABCC has accommodations with Standard Queen @ \$79.20 and the Deluxe Suite @ \$95. Please book your room directly with the ABCC at 902 638 8602 ext. 0 or toll free 1-888-830-4466 ext. 0 Please RSVP to acadia@stlazarus.ca and if possible, email the funds to the same email or mail a cheque to PO Box 40, Smiths Cove, NS B0S 1S0.



Atalanta Hospice Society

The Atalanta Hospice Society was founded by a group of Members of the Order, all part of the House of Fundy which has as its mission, to establish a residential style hospice in the Cornwallis location (between Digby and Annapolis Royal). The 20 Friends who are attached to the Order in the House of Fundy have their entire annual oblations (\$50/year) directed towards this project in support.



Figure 6. A view of the land located in Cornwallis, NS.

Earlier this year, at the Chapter General, it was announced that the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre had donated 6.63 acres to this project. Also, at the black-tie dinner at the Chapter General, two pledges of donations, the first with \$1,605 from The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal followed later by a \$50,000 pledge anonymously.

Palliative Approach to end-of-life in First Nations Communities in Atlantic Canada

A project spearheaded by Dr. Jennifer Dobbelsteyn CLJ from Fredericton was approved by the Acadia Commandery with funding to kickstart this project. This project is to a) assess the level of knowledge of healthcare staff in First Nations Communities about a palliative approach to end-of-life care; b) to assess where community members are dying now

And how satisfactory the current process is; c) to educate healthcare staff on the topic of a palliative approach to end-of-life care. Jennifer has worked with the First Nations in New Brunswick for many years. The hope is that this framework when completed may then be applied to PEI and NS.

Membership Update for 2019:

New Members (Postulants):

- Mr. Gordon Ferris MLJ, Smiths Cove, NS
- Mr. Peter J. McDougall, OLJ, Fredericton, NB
- Ms. Lucinda Sprules, OLJ, Port Hope, ON

New Friends:

- Mr. Darren Ashe, Marshaltown, NS
- Ms. Sharon Cookson, Clementsport, NS
- Ms. Sonya Frost, Weymouth, NS
- Mr. Terry Thibodeau, Weymouth, NS
- Mr. Robert Wilkinson, Digby, NS
- Mr. Jurgen Griegoschewski, Digby, NS