



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 We welcome submissions in English and/or French, and ask that you indicate if your correspondence is NOT for publication, otherwise, letters may be edited for length and content for this newsletter.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 is provided in all copies. 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



Well, it does appear that 2021 will share many attributes of 2020, however, with the arrival of vaccines and the increasing number of “jabs” made, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel..... I hope! The pandemic has certainly put a

kaibosh on the initiatives planned for 2020, and which continues to have an impact on our plans for 2021. First, I’ll touch upon some important developments with respect to the Grand Priory in Canada.

As you may know, the Chapter General, which was scheduled for last May, 2020 hosted in Niagara Falls by the Western Ontario Commandery was initially deferred to May 2021. This decision was revised late last year to move the Chapter General to May 2022, which happens to be the Order in Canada’s 60th anniversary. The status of the schedule is re-visited every six months, so no doubt, we will probably discuss the planned 2022 Chapter General sometime in June and probably again in September/October. It’s all based on how we (Canada) are doing with tackling the pandemic and getting the “jabs” out there in a timely manner.

The Order has embraced virtual meetings with Zoom. The Order has a professional account allowing up to 200 active connections. The Zoom account has been used extensively by the Board of Governors, the executive and Commanderies as well. People are becoming used to it, and becoming more proficient with it. I anticipate that even if the pandemic gets under control, we probably continue using Zoom for meetings. Canada is a big country, and Zoom certainly has made individuals become engaged with the Order without the need to incur great expenses in terms of travel and lodging. Although meeting in person is more fun, we do need to be pragmatic and be more inclusive despite the great distances that separate us from each other.

A significant milestone in the evolution of the Order in Canada materialized at the virtual AGM, where the structure of the governing body was changed to conform to the Canada Not-for-profit Act. Being a charity in Canada, there are comprehensive rules on structure, management and administration of a charity. We still have a few more hills to climb, but are well on the way to conforming.

Locally within the Acadia Commandery, the past year has been relatively quiet. Recruitment has all but ceased. Unfortunately, we lost a few due to the strains caused by the pandemic and individuals suffering from burning out in health care. All completely understandable during these trying times.

The Commandery is planning to resurrect the “Emerald Gala” event this fall, scheduled for Saturday, November 13th. We plan on holding the Commandery’s AGM beginning with a luncheon on that day, followed by the black-tie dinner hosted at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre. This dinner event will have two purposes: a) an opportunity for Acadia Commandery members to get together and socialize and donate; b) an opportunity for friends in the community to socialize with Members and help with fundraising for the Atalanta Hospice Society. The event will have a co-emcee by none other than Cindy Day, the Martimes favourite meteorologist!

The final big initiative is the planned “Quest for Hospice” scheduled September 10-19, 2021. Yours truly will be dressed in the accoutrements of a 13th century Saint Lazarus knight, as well as his horse “Nya” who will be dressed in the Order’s colours along with head and neck armour. This is to be a fundraising event for the Atalanta Hospice Society to raise capital to build the Fundy Hospice. Details in an article in this issue of *The Tancred Tower*.

Chev. David M. Cvet KLJ(J), SCLJ
Commander, Acadia Commandery



Quest for Hospice

The concept is to ride on horseback as a medieval knight where both the horse and rider are wearing the accoutrements of a 13th century hospitaller knight of the Order of Saint Lazarus. The “quest” will begin in Lower Sackville area and continue to Digby. This campaign’s



purposes are to raise awareness of the Atalanta Hospice Society’s existence and its initiative, and to raise funds for capital during the campaign.

The “quest” would be approximately 250 km in length riding most of the way on the “old road” (Hwy #1) beginning at a staging area in Lower Sackville and continuing on to downtown Digby. It is planned to have two trucks accompanying the rider, one truck preceding the rider, and a second truck with horse trailer following the rider throughout the ride. The trucks and trailer would be garnished with large graphics promoting the “Quest” and sponsors. The ride would be partitioned into roughly 20+/- km segments organized into the following segments in the route:

1. Lower Sackville => Lakelands (Fri, Sep 10)
2. Lakelands => Windsor (Sat, Sep 11)
3. Windsor => Wolfville (Sun, Sep 12)
4. Wolfville => Coldbrook (Mon, Sep 13)
5. Coldbrook => Aylesford (Tue, Sep 14)
6. Aylesford => Middleton (Wed, Sep 15)
7. Middleton => Bridgetown (Thu, Sep 16)
8. Bridgetown => Annapolis Royal (Fri, Sep 17)
9. Annapolis Royal => Bear River (Sat, Sep 18)
10. Bear River => Digby (Sun, Sep 19)

The desire is to raise at least \$250,000 or \$1,000/km. The funds could be in the form of individual pledges, such as \$1 to \$10 or more per km. We hope to mobilize the network of the Friends of the Order to solicit pledges/donations from individuals using a pledge signup sheet or similar. The Atalanta group are also considering to setup a go-fund-me account on Facebook for the quest. There is planned a number of “asks” for donations and support from businesses local to Digby and Annapolis and as well to provincial corporations such as Home Hardware, Kents, Sobeyes, etc.

The segments of the quest include stops along the route as depicted above with a hospitaller perspective looking towards the opportunities to highlight hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, seniors residences or palliative care along the route.

Clearly, there may be the odd opportunity for increased visibility for Acadia Commandery which may generate increased interest in joining the Order and participating in the good works that it does. However, that is not the principle objective of the Quest. It is oriented entirely towards raising funds and awareness for the Atalanta Hospice Society which will facilitate the dream of the AHS to build the Fundy Hospice on the land donated located in Cornwallis Park, NS.



FundyHospice



Hospitaller Roundup

In New Brunswick, Acadia members and Friends have been busy raising money for the endowment fund for **Hospice Fredericton** and other activities that provide funds to support the Hospice programme. When the Fredericton Hospice was originally constructed, it was built with more room than was initially needed for the 10 bed Hospice requirements. To make use of the extra space, a day centre for the respite of family members caring for an individual with Alzheimer's disease was created. The programme had been very successful, but it had to close with the pandemic. Likewise, many services, office rentals and other programs had to be postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19, a familiar message we have all heard across this nation as we come to grips with the enormity of the pandemic.



Both the Gala and the **Hike for Hospice**, the two big fundraisers in New Brunswick, saw changes. The Gala was postponed, but the revised "Hike to your wallet to help Hospice" was very successful!

On September 27th, 2020, Hike for Valley Hospice 2020, featuring our own **OSLJ Fundy Hospice Team**, helped raise an amazing \$20,000!

Around the region, many other activities in support of hospice and palliative care occurred despite the pandemic. Here are a few of the highlights from around the Maritimes in support of hospice....

Hike for Hospice Halifax raised an incredible \$78,160!

PEI 2020 **Hike for Hospice** has been the most successful Hike to date. With the new virtual format, Hike participants were able to raise \$17,000 for Hospice PEI!

Unfortunately, the 9th Annual Hospice PEI Dancing with the Stars was postponed due to the pandemic.

An important milestone was reached on Tuesday, July 28 2020, as the sod was turned to begin construction of the new Hospice, expected to be completed in 2021. Hospice Cape Breton is building this much-needed facility for the citizens of Cape Breton County. The \$5.6 million project will complete the circle of care for those needing end-of-life care in Cape Breton. This ten-bed facility will offer ample space for families to gather, to share meals, music or simply enjoy the abundance of nature that will surround the Hospice.

The third Tuesday in November marked the annual **National Bereavement Day** in Canada. On this day, the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association encourages Canadians to engage government and all sectors of Canadian society in a national dialogue to identify and support access to the necessary resources for those living with grief and bereavement. A variety of resources are made available online for download from their website located at www.chpca.ca

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day takes place on the second Saturday of October every year and Voices for Hospices takes place on the same date every two years.

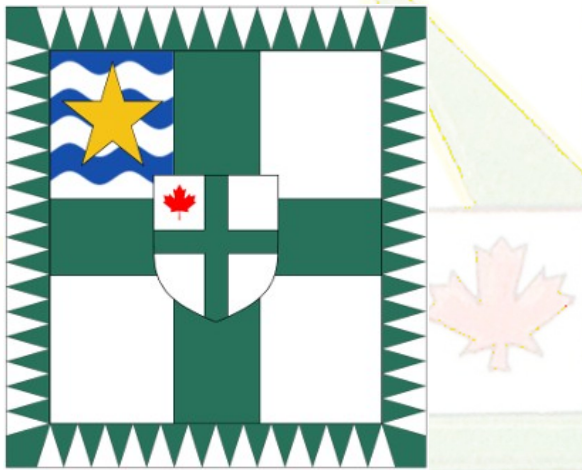
Both days offer opportunities for OSL members to join with like-minded community supporters of hospice care for a day of remembrance and hope. And hope we must, that in the not-too-distant future, members of Acadia Commandery will once again be able to join with communities throughout the region to support hospice and community-based palliative care programs.

Dr. Ken Buchholz, CLJ
Hospitaller, Acadia Commandery
Deputy Hospitaller, Grand Priory in Canada



History of Acadia Commandery tidbits

The history of the Order of Saint Lazarus in Canada actually begins in New France or Nouvelle France with a nobleman and Marshal of France by the name of François-Gaston de Lévis, Duc de Lévis (20 August 1719 – 20 November 1787).



He was appointed by King Louis XV of France as a second in command to the Marquis Louis-Joseph de Montcalm to take over the French forces in North America. New France was colonized by France beginning with the exploration of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence by Jacque Cartier in 1534 followed with the cession of New France to Great Britain and Spain in 1763. The Duc de Lévis was appointed Chevaliers de Saint-Lazare by King Louis XV for his valuable services to the crown. With the fall of New France in 1763, after an absence of almost two hundred years, the Order returned to Canada in 1962.

Sometime after the establishment of the Order of Saint Lazarus in Canada in 1962, the initial creation of Commanderies at that time included: Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City. Later in the early 70's, Montreal and Western Canada Commanderies were formed.

It wasn't till October 1974 that the formation of the of the Acadia Commandery materialized comprised

of the four Atlantic Provinces including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador. The first Commander was Chev. John MacPherson between 1974 - 1979.

The Acadia Commandery over the years had delivered a number of "firsts" for the Order. For example, the Acadia Commandery banner was the result of the recommendation at the Chapter-General in Halifax in 1979 that the Commanderies should have their own banners. Shortly after, a proposal of the designs of some banners, including the Acadia Commandery was produced by the then Commander, Chev. Robert Pichette, KCLJ at the 1979 September Commandery meeting. In 1981, the Grand Priory authorized the purchase of two banners for each Commandery including poles, finials and bases. The Acadia Commandery banner was dedicated on October 16, 1982 during a service in the Edwin Jacob Memorial Chapel on the University of New Brunswick campus in Fredericton.

The Grand Priory in Canada's first Commandery investiture was held in Acadia Commandery on October 16, 1982 on the Fredericton Campus. Other Acadia Commandery Investitures where held in 1985, 1992, 1993, 1997 and 2019 at the Chapter-General in Digby, NS.

Acadia Commandery also proposed the concept of "Houses" and "Friends of the Order" as mechanisms to spur individuals associated with the Order and to create community-based organizations under the Commandery to help improve the connection between members and individuals with the Order, given the relatively sparsely populated and distributed members and individuals in the Maritime. The trial for the Friends of the Order program was conducted in Acadia Commandery, and later was implemented in some Commanderies west of Atlantic Canada.

Historical details to 2004 were sourced from "*The History of the Acadia Commandery*" authored by Chev. Brian T. Newbold, KCLJ, GOMJL, D.Sc.



**Member Profile: Chev. Brian T. Newbold DSc.,
GCLJ, GOMLJ, CMLJ, OMLJ, FCIC, FRSA**

Brian, born in Manchester, UK in 1935, gained an Honours B.Sc. from the University of Manchester. He graduated from Université Laval, Quebec, with a DSc (magna cum laude) in chemistry. After a post-doctoral year there, he had a 45-year teaching, research, and administrative



career at Université Saint Joseph and Université de Moncton. He also taught biochemistry at Mount Allison University. He was visiting professor at five universities in Canada, France, Brazil, and Japan, and holds numerous honours including: Founding member, National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Emeritus Professor (Université de Moncton), Union Carbide Chemical Education Award and Knight of the Order of the Academic Palms of France.

Brian T. Newbold, while Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Contribution to Society of Computer Chemistry, Japan award.

This honour is bestowed on Mr. Newbold for his work as a member of the editorial board and proofreader of two journals of this company for more than 15 years. This collaboration follows a visit by Mr. Newbold to Japan in 1985 as a visiting professor at Saitama University.

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proofreader of two journals of this company for more than 15 years. This collaboration follows a visit by Mr. Newbold to Japan in 1985 as a visiting professor at Saitama University.

Mr. Newbold is one of the founding professors of the programs and of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Moncton. He was director of the Department of Chemistry twice (1963-1969), while being vice-dean of the Faculty of Science. He was also interim rector and vice-rector of the Université de Moncton. He received several other accolades during his career. Brian is author of three books and over 150 research publications.

He became member of the Order of Saint Lazarus in 1982 and served the Order continuously having achieved the rank of Grand Cross in 2005. He served the Order in a plethora of ways including: Vice-Commander of Acadia Commandery 1990-1992, Commander of Acadia Commandery between the years of 1992 and 1998, Archivist/Historian 1997-2004 and served on the Nominations Committee as Chair between 1997-2003, and was chair of the Honours and Awards Committee 1992-1995, Chair of the National Unity Commission 1983-1988.

He had also written a comprehensive document entitled "*The History of the Acadia Commandery 1974-2004*". This fascinating work continues to be distributed to new Postulants joining the Commandery.



Member Profile: Chev Bernard Poirier CM, KCLJ, OMLJ

Bernard, born in 1933 in Grande Digue, New Brunswick studied in arts (BA) at the Université Saint-Joseph 1953-57 and earned a Certificate in Public Administration from the Université de Moncton in 1980. He began work as a translator for the French daily paper *l'Évangéline* (originally launched in Digby, NS on November 23, 1887, moved operations to Moncton, NB in 1905 and continued to serve the French/Acadian community till 1982), and eventually was promoted to become the Chief Editorial Writer and Managing Editor (1957-1967).



Under the Louis J. Robiicaud's Government, Bernard took on a position in the Provincial Secretary's Office in 1967 and moved to the Cabinet Secretariat and Board of Management. Later in 1974, he was appointed Official Languages Commissioner for the Province of New Brunswick.

Bernard was active in community. He chaired a study group that produced the report entitled "*For the Equality of Official Languages in NB*" during 1980-1982. He took on the post as Assistant to the President of the newly created New Brunswick Health Commission in Moncton in 1991.

His energy did not stop there as during his professional career, he found the time in 1978 to develop, in Fredericton, the first French School and Community Centre in Canada (*Le Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne*). In 1981, he founded the first French speaking Catholic parish in Fredericton (*Sainte-Anne des Pays-bas*).

Bernard was also instrumental in setting up a Credit Union, a Community choir, Boy Scout group, Historical Society "*Rivière St-Jean*" and was involved with the Knights of Columbus. He also sat on a number of Boards of Governors including the University of Moncton, the New Brunswick Museum and other organizations, and presided over the Canadian Citizenship ceremonies in N.B. between the years of 1996 and 2011.

Bernard was recognized for his contributions to community with an appointment to the Member of the Order of Canada in 1980 (his CM citation: *This journalist and senior New Brunswick official, one of the pillars of the Acadian and New Brunswick communities, has worked for over 20 years for a host of social and cultural organizations, in particular the Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne de Frédéricton.*), an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Moncton in 1988 and received the Canadian Citation for Citizenship in New Brunswick in 1990. He was also recognized by the Fredericton Francophone community with naming their community theatre in the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne as *Théâtre Bernard Poirier*.

Bernard is married to Antoinette for decades (celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2020) and have four daughters. He had joined the Order of Saint Lazarus in 1983. He was Treasurer-Receiver for the Acadia Commandery between 1990-1998, Vice-Commander 2005-2006. He has contributed significantly to the Order and to the Commandery over the years, promoted to Chevalier in 1987, awarded the Companionate of Merit of the Order in 2004 and promoted to Knight-Commander in 2015. Bernard had contributed his French translation expertise to the Order during the time of the "overhaul" of the Order's website 2016-2018. Bernard's strong willingness to contribute assures us that he would offer his expertise again for the Order if needed.