

Toronto Commandery

The Bulletin

**INTRODUCING YOUR 2009
 COMMANDERY COUNCIL**

Please join me in welcoming your Toronto Commandery Council for 2009;

Commander	Chev. Glen Timney
Vice-Commander	Chev. Patrick Taylor
Past Commander	LCol. Keith Lawrence
Secretary	Capt. Warren Tracz
Treasurer	Blair Allen
Chaplain	Rev. Fr. Philip Kennedy
Registrar	Dame Marjorie MacKinnon
Postulant Chair	Dame Susan Schaal
Hospitaller	Dame Jackie Wood
Emerald Chukker	Capt. Craig Millar
Emerald Military Ball	Hon. LCol. Gerry Nudds

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sixty-eight members and guests of the Toronto Commandery attended the Annual General Meeting at the Toronto Badminton & Racquet Club on Wednesday, February 11th, 2009.

Treasurer Blair Allen reported on the finances of the Toronto Commandery and the Toronto Commandery Foundation. We continue to operate in a financially responsible manner. As of fiscal year end (December 31, 2008) assets of the Toronto Commandery totalled \$30K and assets (including investments) in the Toronto Commandery Foundation totalled \$374K. **Philip Russel, President of the Toronto Commandery Hospice Inc.** reported assets of \$100K. Collectively the Toronto Commandery, Foundation and Hospice Inc. have assets exceeding \$500K - a great start to reaching our goal of establishing a non-profit hospice in the north Toronto community.

Hospitaller Chair Dame Jackie Wood announced that the Toronto Commandery will be donating \$2,000 to help sponsor the annual Hospice Association of Ontario conference. Funding for this sponsorship has been made possible through the Grand Priory of Canada.



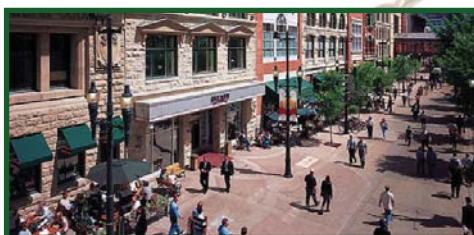
Hyatt Regency - Calgary

**2009
 CALGARY
 CHAPTER
 GENERAL**

Members will already have received a letter from the Grand Prior and registration forms for the 2009 Chapter General in the mail. This year's Chapter General will be hosted by the Calgary Commandery, May 7th through 10th at the Hyatt Regency Calgary, 700 Centre Street (in the heart of downtown Calgary). We hope you are planning on attending to support our three new postulants as they join the ranks of the Order and numerous Toronto Commandery members who will be receiving promotions or awards for distinguished service.

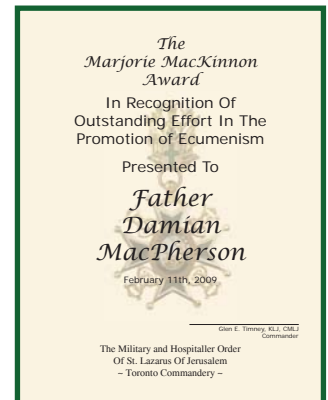
The early bird registration deadline has been extended to March 31st. If you have not registered please do so by the end of the month and take advantage of the \$50 savings per person.

We look forward to enjoying the fellowship and camaraderie this event brings each year.



Historic Stephen Avenue Walk adjacent to the Hyatt Regency - Calgary

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the **Marjorie MacKinnon Ecumenical Award** for excellence in the study and promotion of ecumenism. **Toronto Commandery Chaplain Father Philip Kenedy** presented this year's award to Father Damian MacPherson, Director of Ecumenical and Inter Religious Affairs, Archdiocese of Toronto. Two \$500 scholarships were distributed to Brett Salkeld and Scott Sharman to assist them in continuing their theological studies.



Ecumenical Chair Irene Taylor presented the Toronto Commandery's Ecumenical Bursary to Sub Deacon Pawel Mucha of St. John the Compassionate Mission. \$500 was contributed on behalf of the Toronto Commandery's Ecumenical Bursary Fund and the Toronto Commandery contributed an additional \$500 to assist the Mission in serving the less fortunate in our local Toronto.

A special thank you to **Dame Marjorie MacKinnon** for organizing the AGM and the for countless hours she spends contacting our members and giving the event her personal touch.



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IN MEMORIUM

DAME MARGARET McGUINNESS BURKA GCLJ, GOMLJ



It was with sadness that the Toronto Commandery said goodbye to past Commander (1995-1997) **Dame Margaret McGuinness Burka, GCLJ, GOMLJ**, on January 9, 2009 in her 82nd year. The Governor General Horse Guard also recognized her with a Calvary honour guard outside Holy Rosary Church. **Father Philip Kennedy, CD, ChLJ, OMLJ** presided at her service while the Toronto Commandery proudly served as honour guard.

A fighter to the end Margaret died of complications of a stroke suffered in October from which she remained hospitalized until her death.

Even while in hospital her determination to improve so she could go home to be with "Mac" to whom she had been married for 54 years was obvious.

Her dancing blue eyes would sparkle when family was near, or there were discussions of her dear Grandchildren of whom she was so proud.

Margaret was born in Toronto, attended Sacred Heart School in Montreal, Bishop Strachan School in Toronto, and the University of Toronto where among other things she was a high scorer on the women's hockey team and made life member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. A business and sports woman all her life, Margaret was a director of McGuinness Distillers and a founding partner of The Answer Salon, a successful woman's specialty store.

Her sports interests were divided between the Granite Club, Lambton Golf and Country Club and the Eglinton Hunt Club. At the Granite Club, Margaret was on the winning rink of Emily Wooley in the 50s and played in many provincial bonspiels. At Lambton, Margaret was a former president of the Women's Executive Committee, and organizing member of the Bridge section.

With the Eglinton Hunt Club, Margaret started her life long love of horses. All horses, whether running at the track, show jumping or troop horses of the Governor General's Horse Guards. She started as a Pony Club member, and graduated to a winning Hunt Team. She supported the Royal Winter Fair Horse Show, first as

a competitor, then a judge and later a volunteer. In recognition of her tireless work as Convener of the International Agribusiness division, Margaret was made an honorary Life Governor of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Margaret was a woman of extraordinary strength of conviction and dedication to everything and everyone with whom she met in life. Whether it be the Commander of the Toronto Commandery, or former president of Dellcrest Children's Centre, or the Ontario Epilepsy Association, or any of her other volunteer endeavors.

Margaret was a mentor with kindness and would encourage everyone with whom she worked to aspire to be the best they could be while quietly offering suggestions to improve the project at hand.

The rank of Grand Dame in the Order was never more deserved for her years of service to the Toronto Commandery. Margaret always ensured that our events would go smoothly and with dear friend Dame Marjorie MacKinnon that our attendance was maximized.

Margaret's knowledge of history in the Order was vast and she would provide reasonable calm guidance when challenging issues arose. After her years as Commander she was not complacent, but sat on the Hospitaller committee at a time when the seed of our own hospice, the Toronto Commandery Hospice was born. She felt that the Hospice would not only address a great need in Toronto, but she also saw it as a way to give the Commandery focus and a means to recruit new members.

Margaret was greatly loved by her husband of fifty-four years, A. Macdonald "Mac", and their four sons, Patrick (Kerry) and their children, Katie 3 years and Jamie 5 months, of Toronto; John (Tricia), Brian of Las Vegas and Bruce (Samantha) and Hunter the Grandson whom she never had an opportunity to meet.

Her family and extended family in the Order, Governor General Horse Guards and all who knew and loved her will sorely miss Margaret.



REGISTER NOW FOR THE SPRING ECUMENICAL!

Have you registered for the
Spring Ecumenical Pilgrimage
and Luncheon?

When: Sunday, April 19th, 2009
Where: Grace Church on the Hill
Service Time: 11:00 am. (gather at 10:45 am.)

Luncheon to follow at the residence of John & Phyllis Lill



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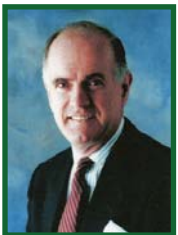
CAPT. LLOYD QUEEN RECEIVES CMLJ AWARD

Capt. Lloyd Queen, MC, KCLJ received a CMLJ meritorious award for service to the Order from Commander Glen Timney on March 7th, 2009.

Lloyd, now 92 years old, actively served with the Fort Garry Horse Guards from 1940 through 1945. As battle captain of his squadron, he was wounded one day following D-Day while crossing the Rhine in Germany and was personally awarded the Military Cross from King George VI.

Lloyd joined St. Lazarus in 1988 as he wanted to serve his community and develop charities. He resides in the Veterans "K" Wing at Sunnybrook Hospital where he has served as President of the Veterans Council for the past six years. Lloyd was instrumental in developing the K-Wing Garden which is enjoyed by all residents and visitors to the centre.

"UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL" GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS



R. KENNETH "KEN" ARMSTRONG

Ken Armstrong is a well-known member of the Peterborough community.

Ken served with the R.C.N. prior to joining the Peterborough County Board of Education where he taught for thirty three years. He is the author of a number of historical books and is a frequent contributor to local media outlets. Ken is also host of a popular community call-in show "Politically Speaking" on local Cable T.V.

He is the present chair of the Board of Trustees of our National Canadian Museum of Nature located in Ottawa. He is also currently serving as the provincial appointee on the Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board.

Ken has been married to wife Audrey for the past forty-five years. They have two married children and two granddaughters.

He is a former Peterborough Citizen of the Year (1997) and has been the recipient of the Ontario Medal for Citizenship and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



DERWIN MAK

Derwin Mak is a chartered accountant, certified management accountant, and certified fraud examiner with a Master of Accounting degree from the University of Waterloo. He also has a Master of Arts degree in Military Studies from American Military University. He has been the

chief accountant of three provincial government ministries and is currently the facilities manager for those ministries.

Derwin is a member of the St. John Ambulance Fellowship, an Officer of the Order of St. John, a vice-chairman of the Royal Canadian Military Institutes library committee, and a speaker at the Institute's Military History Nights. He also supports the Canadian, Japanese, and Mongolian Red Cross Societies..

Derwin is a science fiction writer. His stories have appeared in several anthologies and magazines. His story "Transubstantiation" won the 2006 Aurora Award, Canada's science fiction award, in the English short fiction category. His first novel, *The Moon Under Her Feet*, was published by Windstorm Creative in 2007, and he's writing its sequel now.

As a result of Derwin's interest in the relationship between science and religion, he became a member of the Science and Faith Reflection Group of the Newman Centre, University of Toronto. He has also lectured on the role of the Shinto religion and Yasukuni Shrine in Japanese nationalism.



ANDREW "ANDY" DUNCANSON, KLJ, OMLJ

Andrew was born and raised in Toronto and graduated from Trinity College School and from Queen's University.

In the early 80's he emigrated to the United States with his family where he perused a career in the automobile business. Andrew owned two car dealerships in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Dunlo Motors was sold in 2005 and Friendly Chevrolet was sold in 2007. Andy served on many national and local boards during his career. Retirement is not a word Andy likes so he thinks of himself as "between opportunities".

Andrew has two children: Caitlin Dowling (30) and Noble Duncanson (28) (both living and working in the Twin Cities area), and one granddaughter Juliet Ruth age 9 months.

Andrew emigrated back to Canada in October of 2008 and transferred from the Manitoba Commandery to the Toronto Commandery at that time.



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CAPT (RET) WARREN TRACZ, CD, KLJ, MMLJ, CET

Warren is very happy to be joining Toronto Commandery and to be able to contribute to the Order. He joined the Order in 1996 and was made a Knight of Justice in 2004. Warren received an MMLJ in 2008 in Thunder Bay. He is currently the National Editor of the Gazette.

Warren was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario and received his college education in Electrical Engineering at Confederation College. On graduation, he joined Ontario Hydro as an Assistant Nuclear Operator at the Pickering B Generating Station. Later he returned to Thunder Bay to work as a Protection and Control Technologist serving the vast area of Northwestern Ontario. With a large retirement program in effect, Warren transferred to Sarnia, Ontario as a Supervising Technologist in 2000 and then took on training positions at the Hydro One training center in Orangeville in 2003. His last position in Hydro One was as Training Manager for Station Maintenance, Construction and Corporate Services.

In May 2008, Warren left Hydro One to become an Electrical Engineering Professor in the School of Technology, Environment and Apprenticeship at Georgian College in Barrie, ON.

Warren also served for twelve years with the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment and 736 (Thunder Bay) Communication Squadron. He retired in 2000 having achieved the rank of Captain. Warren was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration and was made armigerous in 2002 by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

Warren is a Past Master and Past Secretary of Lakehead Lodge No 709, A.F. & A.M and a member of Port Arthur Lodge No. 499 A.F. & A.M. He is also a certified member in the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.

Warren is currently working on his Bachelor of Education (with concentration in Adult Education) from Brock University. In his spare time he enjoys woodworking.



MAJ. (RET) PAUL E. HENRY CD, OLJ, BA(HON), M. ED.

Paul obtained his masters in education from the University of Toronto and has been working in education and related fields for close to 20 years. A teacher at the elementary, high school, collegial and university levels in addition to fulfilling functions with the Ministry of Education in Ontario, he has also been involved with adult continuing education, special education, and alternative education. Once an educational counsellor responsible for the coordination of various cultural-related projects with the Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario, he later became a high school vice principal where he also directed the LifeSkills Academy dedicated to expelled pupils. In 2002 Paul became principal of an elementary school, École élémentaire catholique française St-Antoine in Noelville. He is currently principal at École St-Denis in Sudbury, celebrated as a "School On The Move" by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat of the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Paul has taken numerous courses and workshops on leadership conducted by the Canadian Armed Forces and specialized educational agencies in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. He received the Canada Decoration (CD) for 12 years of meritorious service to his country. He has been an education officer for the Arts at the provincial level and participated and presented at various symposiums on education. Paul has completed the supervisory officer's certification in pursuit of his long term goal to be appointed superintendent of a French school board in Ontario, and is completing the requirements towards achieving the Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP). He is also pursuing doctoral studies at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

Paul is the current President of the local association of principals and vice principals of the Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario and a member of the Council of Administration (CA) of the Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes. He is a CA member of the Sudbury Counselling Centre, presided on the Risk Management Committee for the Catholic School District, has served on a province-wide expert panel of francophones from the Ministry of Education to help boost student achievement, as well as an accreditation panel member of the College of Teachers. Paul is a member of local provincial and national committees in the areas of pedagogy, physical fitness and leadership development.

Paul is married and a father, has unlimited enthusiasm for golf and a collector of fine wines (Bordeaux and Tuscany).



*Father Damian Pherson
receives the
Marjorie MacKinnon
Ecumenical Award at the
Annual General Meeting*