

# The Fancred Tower

A newsletter produced by the Acadia Commandery

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 We welcome submissions in English and/or French, and ask that you indicate if your correspondence is NOT for publication, otherwise, letters may be edited for length and content for this newsletter.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



I have often contemplated why I became involved with the Order of Saint Lazarus, or even why in the world did I join the Order in the first place? I am positive that some of you, if not most have thought about this as well. I will admit to being a medieval history “geek”. For decades I have studied medieval martial arts, formally called “*l’arte dell’armizare*” which roughly translates into “the art of arms/war”. I have studied, translated, practised and instructed this art for decades and without a doubt, the thought of becoming involved with an Order that’s been around for nearly a millennia did pose an attraction to me. It’s history began during the Second Crusade; a period I find very interesting. It was clear that such a chivalric historic order provided an opportunity to establish another tangible connection to that period – from the martial (military) to the heraldry. As I learned more about the Order and its history, it has become clear that the Order is a much grander entity being comprised of three principal components: a) a military one; b) a hospitaller one; c) an ecumenical one. It’s mission, in particular in Canada, in my mind was the gravy that made that association a natural fit. Aside from its interesting historical roots, the hospitaller mission is what initiated me to pursue a local project to establish a residential style hospice in south-west Nova Scotia. I firmly believe that this initiative would most likely not exist if it hadn’t been for my association with the Order. One can conclude that the original “catch” of the Order was the military and historical lure which eventually manifested into helping the community through the hospice initiative – a very practical mission and a relevant one. Interestingly, this also falls well within my credo “*Nemo, vir est qui mudum, non reddat meliorem*” which translates into “What man is a man who does not make the world better?”

The historical connection is evident with an experiment on a cover design for the Tancred Tower which depicts the Tancred Tower also known as *Qasr Jalud* or Goliath’s Castle. No doubt, there will be further graphical evolution and tuning occurring with the cover over time as the design matures into what may become the permanent cover page for this newsletter.

Other Members or Friends of the Order may have joined the Order primarily for their interest in hospitaller-oriented activities which provides numerous opportunities for ways to help those in need in our communities. They will find numerous relevant and interesting initiatives and projects that would help local communities. Although the Order’s history may be of moderate interest, their driver was a hospitaller one.

While others may have joined the Order primarily for their interest in ecumenism, there are a number of activities that one can connect with. Although over the past few years there has been minor activities in this regard in Acadia Commandery, generally, those individuals will become more involved with the ritual ceremony with respect to the investing of Postulants into the Order. This year, there have been some work done on the role of ecumenism with respect to the Caregiver’s Guide, with the possibility of strengthening the spiritual component of the Caregiver’s Guide. This initiative is very early in its development and, hopefully, this may come to fruition in the coming year.

In conclusion, the Order does offer at least three different avenues towards membership, each which may suit one’s particular interests or orientation.

Wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

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



### Quest for Fundy Hospice

The “Knight Ride” which kicked off the capital fundraising campaign “Quest for Fundy Hospice” was successfully executed on September 15 – 19, 2021 in Cornwallis Park which is the location of land donated to the Atalanta Hospice Society. The “Knight Ride” had two objectives: a) to increase the awareness in the communities of the initiative to raise capital needed to build a residential style hospice; b) to raise funds towards that objective. The ride in full 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval accoutrements of a Saint Lazarus knight had the Acadia Commander Chev. David M. Cvet, KLJ(J) and his horse Nya ride 50km per day, doing laps on the 6.63 acres of the future site of the Fundy Hospice. The event raised approximately \$25,000 towards that goal.



The original plan was to ride from Halifax to Digby on the “old road”, Hwy #1 riding through communities along the way, making pitstops at various LTC’s and retirement residences along the way. Unfortunately, due to the significant challenges trying to obtain the necessary permits from the province in addition to significant insurance issues, the original plan became untenable to manage creating fear that the ride may never actually get off the ground. Towards the end of August, it was decided to ride on the property in Cornwallis Park which eliminated all of those issues with respect to permits and insurance.

The kickoff began at 9:00 am September 15 and was attended by a number of local dignitaries including Linda Gregory, Warden for the Municipality of Digby; Beth Earle, CEO of Annapolis Basin Conference Centre (donator of the land for the hospice); Chris d’Entremont, MP, Conservative; Alex Morrison, Counsellor, Annapolis County; Ben Cleveland, Mayor of the Town of Digby; Gordon Balser, past MLA for Digby-Annapolis there representing Jill Balser (his daughter) who is the new MLA for Digby-Annapolis.



The image on the left depicts Joe Van Heerden (Friend of the Order) who volunteered to help out the ride including numerous other Friends of the Order as well as a number of Members of the Order helping out during the 5 day trek. The event also attracted media attention with articles and interviews on CBC NS, CTV and Global News.

To view the CBC interview, click on the link: [https://www.instagram.com/tv/CT7y4nLLdRN/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CT7y4nLLdRN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link) to access the CBC Instagram link.

The Atalanta Hospice Society wishes to thank all those volunteers, both Friends of the Order and Members of the Order who made this initiative possible and successful.

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



### Hospitaller Roundup

The 2020-2021 year continued to be dominated by COVID-19 pandemic, but despite the challenges, there were notable successes, both in the Acadia Commandery and Nationally. First of all, let me thank all those that have made our commandery so vibrant and successful. My particular thanks to Mike and Kathy Kayo and the intrepid Friends of the Order who, collectively, have made all of the Commandery initiatives a success. I would also like to thank all those with whom I have worked in this role, especially David Cvet, our Commander, who I credit with sparking my interest in the Order and Medieval History, not to mention Medieval Martial Arts!



The pandemic certainly stymied fundraising everywhere, including in New Brunswick. Dr. Jennifer Dobbelsteyn who is planning to deliver a train the trainer program to have one of her team members teach the rest of her research team the Home Caregiver Support Program at *Elsipogtog* First Nation. That is going to take place hopefully in November. She, like many other volunteers, has been helping with immunization as part of this effort to get the public immunized. Jennifer's research study has been extended until June 2022 so she have more time to accomplish her work there.

From a National perspective, I am pleased to report that OSLC has adopted an evidence-based decision matrix to determine funding for projects/requests, the first of its kind in any NPF organization as far as I know. Developed by myself and revised by Dr. Rob Boyko and the Medical Commission, the OSLC now has a transparent, objective, evidence-based tool with which to determine funding for grants and projects. It has already impacted the process for reviewing funding for a variety of projects and helps to ensure transparency,

objectivity, sustainability, and security for the Order's various interests.

A final note. I am planning to step away from my role as Acadia Hospitaller in May 2022. I understand that I am being nominated to the position of National Hospitaller, after having been in the Deputy position for approximately the past 18 months. However, I expect there will be a number of excellent candidates who, too, have been nominated along with me, and a voting process to take place at the AGM in May in Niagara Falls. While I might not be elected, rest assured that I will continue to support the new Acadia and National Hospitaller in every way that I can. I have engaged in a number of projects which have a national and international impact, including supporting efforts for Leprosy and TB vaccine research, working with the OSL USA on bringing the decision matrix to their grant process, working a home-grown Nova Scotia group exploring support for collaborative palliative home and hospice care, and continuing my interest in supporting research for a portable, digital-based early disease detection platform, with a particular interest in its application for leprosy and TB. I am also exploring, with the assistance of members of the Medical Commission (especially, Dr. Ron Davidson), a process to support funding research on "Neglected Tropical Diseases" world-wide (which also includes TB and leprosy, and a host of other illnesses).

Ken Buchholz, MD, CCFP, FCFP, CLJ  
Hospitaller, Acadia Commandery  
Deputy Hospitaller, Grand Priory in Canada



### Passing of a Friend and Deputy Commander

Neil had joined the Order in 2017 and stepped in to take on the role as Deputy Commander. He passed away on April 03, 2021. Neil had attended Digby Academy and had graduated from Digby Regional High School. He was honoured to have been a commencement speaker at DRHS later in life. He moved to Toronto in 1956 to follow Doris, who moved there with her family from Centerville. He travelled there with a childhood friend, Wayne Wentzell. Wayne and his wife, Jane Flood, were with Neil and Doris through thick and thin. They all loved entertaining, parties and dancing. Neil began a long career at TransCanada Pipe Lines starting as a clerk in the accounting department. While at TransCanada, he attended night school to become a Certified Management Accountant and a member of the Financial Executives Institute, all while raising five children with Doris. The hard work paid off as he eventually rose to the roles of Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President. He later joined Key Span Energy Corporation in Brooklyn, NY, as a Senior Vice-President and President of Key Span Energy Development Corporation. He was also a Board Member of Keyera through 2016. Neil and his family continued to visit and stay in Nova Scotia for many weeks a year until he moved back permanently, as did his children. He was heavily involved in many community organizations through the years, including the Salvation Army, the Order of Saint Lazarus, Digby and Area Health Services Foundation, the Annapolis Basin Conference Center (ABCC), and the Jordantown Acaciaville Conway Betterment Association (JACBA) Center of Excellence. He shall be missed.



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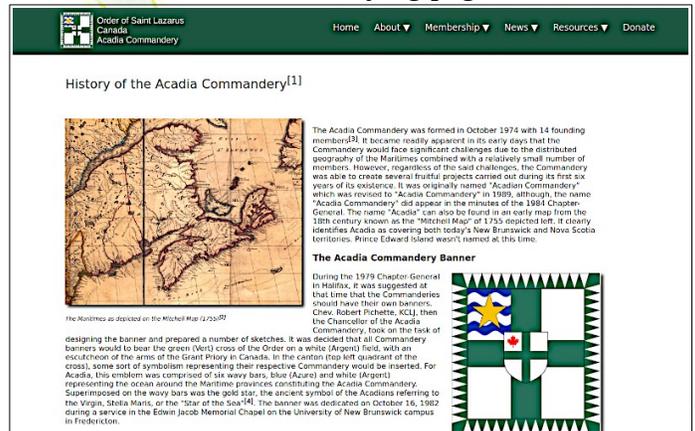
### Acadia Commandery Portal Overhaul

If you weren't aware, the Acadia Commandery has its own portal on the national site. You can reach it by going to <https://acadia.stlazarus.ca> A portal is essentially, a mini-website within a much larger website. Most of the Commanderies have a simple place-holder page, but the Acadia Commandery's portal contains interesting and useful information on the Commandery, its history, organization, the works it has conducted in the Maritime, past Commanders, donation page and much more.

We invite you to visit and explore the portal whether you are a Member of the Order/Acadia Commandery or from some other international jurisdiction and wish to take full advantage of the material presented.



The image above depicts the home page of the portal, while the image below depicts the standard structure of all of the underlying pages.





### Coat of Arms, Heraldry 102

In the March 2020 issue of *The Tancred Tower*, we looked into the basics of the history of heraldry, the petition one can invoke to obtain their own personal coat of arms, and the rough cost of the petitioning and rendering of one's arms. The Order's international arms were also depicted, and conveyed that the Grand Priory in Canada has its arms registered with the Canadian Heraldic Authority in Ottawa in 1991 differenced with the addition of a red maple leaf in the upper left corner.



In this edition of Heraldry, we will preview the arms of those armigerous current and past members of Acadia Commandery. By the way, the term "armigerous" defines an individual who is entitled to use a heraldic achievement (i.e. to bear arms) by hereditary right, grant or matriculation. In the case of the following members, these arms were all a grant from the Canadian Heraldic Authority operating under the office of the Governor General of Canada.



Chev. David M. Cvet, KLJ(J)  
Grant: Canadian Heraldic Authority,  
Ottawa, 2004



Dame Dennice Leahey, CM, DCLJ  
Grant: Canadian Heraldic Authority,  
Ottawa, 2008



Chev. Robert Pichette†, ONB, AIH  
Grant: Canadian Heraldic Authority,  
Ottawa, 1994



Chev. Robbie Sprules, KLJ(J)  
Grant: Canadian Heraldic Authority,  
Ottawa, 1990



Rev. Canon David Staples, JchLJ(J),  
CMLJ  
Grant: Canadian Heraldic Authority,  
Ottawa, 1999



Chev. Kent Sweeney, KCLJ, CMLJ  
Grant: Canadian Heraldic Authority,  
Ottawa, 1991

These are also listed in the Order's members' roll of arms under the members only area ("resources" ==> "armoury & heraldry" ==> "members' roll of arms". They include the arms and crest blazon (a text-based description of the appearance of the arms) and if available, a symbolism sheet which describes the inspiration for the symbols on the arms.

Also note that these arms are also available on *The Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada* site located at:  
<https://www.gg.ca/en/heraldry/public-register>

The search function is relatively easy to use by simply typing in the surname of the individual you wish to search on for their arms. To see the Grant Priory in Canada's entry, simply type in "Lazarus" without quotes and hit enter to peruse the registration of the Grand Priory in Canada's registration.

The next edition of Heraldry, we'll examine the components and their attributes which make up typical armorial bearings.



**Member Profile: Dennice Leahey, CM, DCLJ**

Dame Dennice Leahey, CM, DCLJ from Edmonton, Alberta, has a BA from Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. She started in banking as a junior clerk rising through Royal Bank of Canada's Human Resources, Corporate Banking and Independent Business to be Regional President of Manitoba, Nunavut and North-western Ontario, retiring as Senior Vice President and Ombudsman for the organization's employees and customers world-wide. Dennice had spent more than 30 years helping Canadians with their money. And she was careful with her own – allowing her to enjoy a second career that's just as rewarding.



Volunteering throughout her career and in retirement, she sat on Hospital, University, College, Aboriginal, Government, Cultural Institution and Community Boards and is currently Past Chair of Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and a director of 5 other Non-profit organizations. As recognition of her community activities, she was awarded The Eagle Feather by the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, Woman of the Year by the Winnipeg YWCA and Honourary Citizen of Winnipeg. In June 2005 she was named a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition for her extensive volunteerism, in 2012 received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and in 2014 received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Mount Saint Vincent University. Hidden among the family photos in her living room sits one of her with philanthropist-composer Peter Buffett, son of billionaire Warren Buffett, whom she helped to lure to Halifax in 2012 for a sold-out Community Foundation fundraiser.

Today, she splits her time between Halifax and Pugwash, N.S., a two-hour drive away; when she's not travelling or with her grandchildren, community work gets her full attention.

Dennice entered the Order in May of 1995 under the Acadia Commandery. Since 1995, the Commandery had supported the Atlantic School of Theology's (AST) bursary program and in 2003, Dennice replaced the late Major Donald Deacon, OLJ as the Commandery's representative on the AST's selection jury. She also served at the national level as Director of Publicity during the early 80's. Dennice took on the role of Commander of Acadia Commandery in 2006 and held that position till May 2018. From there, she became a member of the Grand Priory in Canada's Senate where she continues to serve today, and who offers mentoring to the current Commander of the Commandery. Over the years, she was recognized for her contribution to the Order with a promotion to CLJ in 2002, followed by her promotion to DLJ in 2009 and finally, her promotion to DCLJ in 2014. Dennice also currently serves on the Admission, Promotion and Awards Committee as well as the Investments & Endowments Committee.

**Membership Update for 2021**

I'd like to welcome Mr. William Bradley Rector, OLJ to the Order, who was invested into the Order virtually during this past October's virtual investiture. Bradley, married and a father of four is the branch manager at Scotiabank, Digby and Clare, supports the missions of the Order and offers whatever he can in time and energy to further the mission of the Order within the Acadia Commandery.





**Good Works of Acadia Commandery**

**Quest for Fundy Hospice (Sep 2021, NS)**

The highlight of 2021 was the 250km awareness and fundraising campaign which was the kickoff for the Quest for Fundy Hospice. The Grand Priory in Canada showed their support with a generous donation, and members and Friends of the Order came together through volunteering to make this event a great success. With the help of the volunteers, and the 12th century knight on horseback, the knight ride was able to raise nearly \$25,000!



**Bringing family/friends in virtually (Jul 2020, NS)**

The Commandery underwrote the costs associated with the “proof-of-concept” unit comprised of iPads, goose-necked floor stands, wiring and ease of use setup. These units were installed at Tideview Terrace in Digby, NS (a home for special care) in July 2020. The objective for these units is to allow the staff to setup the Zoom/Skype/Facetime session with the patient’s family/friends and position the tablet close to the patient without the need for the patient to operate the devices. These also frees up the staff to focus on their tasks of the day by not having to be physically with the patient holding the device for their access.



**Emeg tan tleaooltieg (We are home where we belong) (Mar 2020, NB)**

This is the mantra of the *Elsipogtog* First Nation Elders with respect to the elderly requiring health care services in New Brunswick. Dr. Jennifer Dobbelsteyn OLJ, Principal Researcher and her consulting group was awarded \$1.2 million grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada in late 2019 to conduct a community-driven study to determine and identify the needs and requirements needed to enable First Nation Elders to live independently at home as they age. Dr. Jennifer Dobbelsteyn is also Deputy Hospitaller for the Commandery.



**Saint Lazarus Knights visit a home for special care (Sep 2019, NS)**

The Saint Lazarus Knights captured the hearts of both the patients and staff with the thrill of their visit at the [Tideview Terrace](#) in Digby, NS (a home for special care). Working with the staff, each Saint Lazarus Knight took a wing in the facility and visited each and every patient in their rooms. Working with the facility’s Recreation Therapist, worked out the timing of the visit, and each knight was accompanied with a staff member throughout the walk and visit.

