

# The Fancred Tower

A newsletter produced by the Acadia Commandery

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*The Tancred Tower* is the official newsletter of the Acadia Commandery of the Grand Priory in Canada, published semi-annually or thereabouts. The opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Order or its editor, who are not responsible for unattributed content. We encourage submissions in English and/or French, and kindly request that you indicate if your correspondence is not intended for publication. Please note that letters may be edited for length and content for inclusion in the newsletter. Permission is granted to reproduce content such as articles and reviews from this newsletter or the Commandery's website for non-commercial purposes, including printing, photocopying, or downloading, provided that proper credit and attribution to the source are provided in all copies. The Commandery holds the position that copyright for material rests with the originating sources, and it is the responsibility of the author to ensure compliance with usage guidelines from their primary sources.

**Postal Address (Acadia Commandery):**

PO.Box 40  
Smiths Cove, NS B0S 1S0  
Canada

email: [chancery@stlazarus.ca](mailto:chancery@stlazarus.ca) (National Office)  
email: [acadia@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia@stlazarus.ca) (Acadia Commandery)

URL: [acadia.i2ce.com](http://acadia.i2ce.com)

**Editor's Note**

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

Thank you  
Chev. David M. Cvet KLJ(J)  
Acting editor (e: [acadia\\_editor@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_editor@stlazarus.ca))

**Commander:**

Chev. David M. Cvet KLJ(J)  
e: [acadia\\_commander@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_commander@stlazarus.ca)

**Secretary:**

Dame Penny Ericson DLJ  
e: [acadia\\_secretary@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_secretary@stlazarus.ca)

**Treasurer:**

Dame Lois A. Stevenson DLJ  
e: [acadia\\_treasurer@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_treasurer@stlazarus.ca)

**Hospitaller:**

Dr. Ken Buchholz MD, CLJ  
e: [acadia\\_hospitaler@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_hospitaler@stlazarus.ca)

**Chaplain:**

The Rev. Canon David R. Staples, BA, Mdiv, JChLJ  
e: [acadia\\_chaplain@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_chaplain@stlazarus.ca)

**Casalier:**

Mr. Bradley Rector, OIJ  
e: [acadia\\_casalier@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_casalier@stlazarus.ca)

**Military Commission:**

LCol David G. Jones, CD, OIJ  
e: [acadia\\_military@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia_military@stlazarus.ca)

**Content**

- 2 Message from the Commander
- 3 Acadia Commandery Website
- 4 Passages
- 4 Hurling for Hospice 2023
- 5 Heraldry 104
- 6 Member Profile: Robbie Sprules
- 7 The Wind Phone
- 8 Motivations for Individuals to Join the Order of Saint Lazarus
- 9 Casalier - Explained
- 10 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1974 - 2024



**Message from the Commander**



As the Commander of Acadia Commandery of the Order of Saint Lazarus in Canada, I am privileged to lead a distinguished group of members and Friends who embody the values of charity, heraldry, and chivalry. Our order, rooted in a legacy of compassion and service, is dedicated to humanitarian

efforts, promoting the noble traditions of heraldry and chivalry, and making a positive impact in our communities. As we continue our noble mission, I would like to share some thoughts on the significance of charity, heraldry and chivalry, the opportunities for recruitment, and a message of inspiration to our members and friends.

Charity, at the heart of our Order, is not just a monetary donation, but a compassionate act of giving that extends beyond material possessions. It is about reaching out to those in need with empathy, kindness, and a genuine desire to alleviate suffering. Charity calls us to be selfless and to prioritize the well-being of others. It is a reminder of our duty to be compassionate and to make a positive difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate. Through our charitable works, we can embody the essence of charity and bring hope and relief to those in need.

Heraldry, with its rich symbolism and history, is an integral part of our Order. The coat of arms that represents our order is not just a decorative emblem, but a visual representation of our values, heritage, and purpose. It is a reminder of the honourable lineage we are a part of and the legacy we carry as knights and dames. Heraldry is a reflection of our commitment to uphold the highest standards of honour, integrity, and loyalty. It inspires us to be worthy representatives of our order and to strive for excellence in all our endeavours.

Chivalry, with its timeless principles of courage, humility, and service, is a guiding light in our modern world. It is not a relic of the past, but a code of conduct that inspires us to be men and women of character and virtue. Chivalry calls us to be defenders of the weak, champions of justice, and advocates for the marginalized. It encourages us to lead by example, to treat others with respect, and to strive for the betterment of society. Chivalry is not just a concept, but a way of life that shapes our character and actions as members of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

As we continue our mission of humanitarian efforts and charitable works, there are ample opportunities for recruitment to our order. We have the privilege of inviting like-minded individuals who share our values and are committed to making a positive impact in their communities. We can seek out those who are seeking a meaningful purpose, who are eager to serve others with compassion and selflessness, and who are inspired by the ideals of heraldry and chivalry. Let us extend our hand of invitation to those who are seeking a higher calling and invite them to join our ranks as knights and dames of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

To all the Members and Friends of Acadia Commandery, I want to extend a message of inspiration. We are part of a distinguished order with a noble legacy and a compelling mission. Let us continue to embrace the virtues of charity, heraldry, and chivalry in our daily lives. Let us become beacons of hope, compassion, and kindness in a world that sometimes seems dark. Let us continue to support each other, to learn from one another, and to inspire each other in our pursuit of excellence. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need and leave a lasting legacy that will inspire.

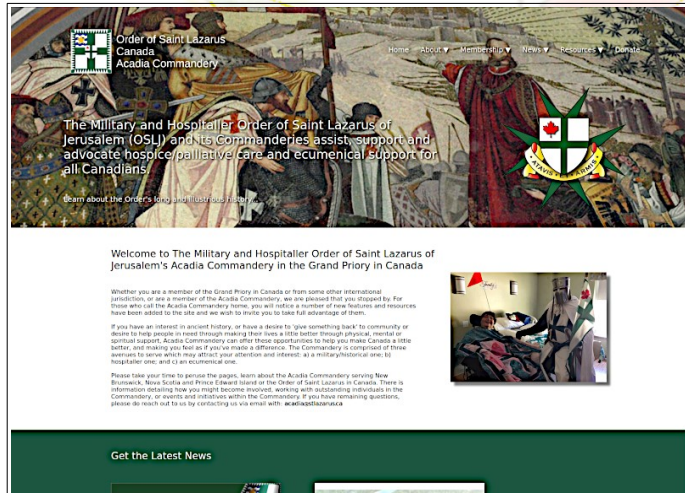
Chev. David M. Cvet KLJ(J)  
Commander, Acadia Commandery



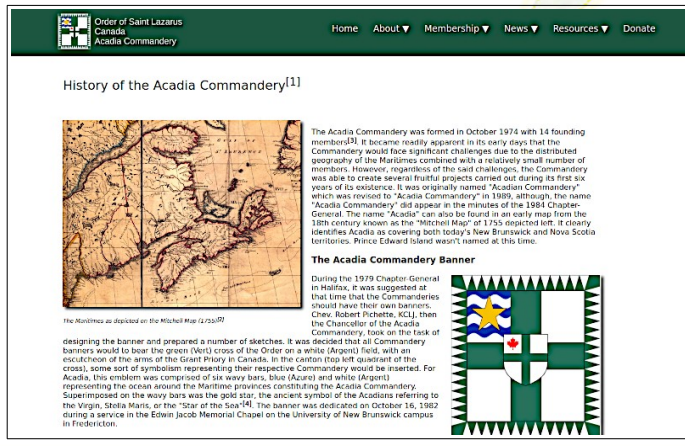
### Acadia Commandery Website

The Acadia Commandery website has been meticulously restored and is now a standalone public website, easily accessible at the URL: <https://acadia.i2ce.com>. Previously, it was a portal on the national website, but now it has been transformed into a virtual store-front for the Commandery, complete with updated content and links.

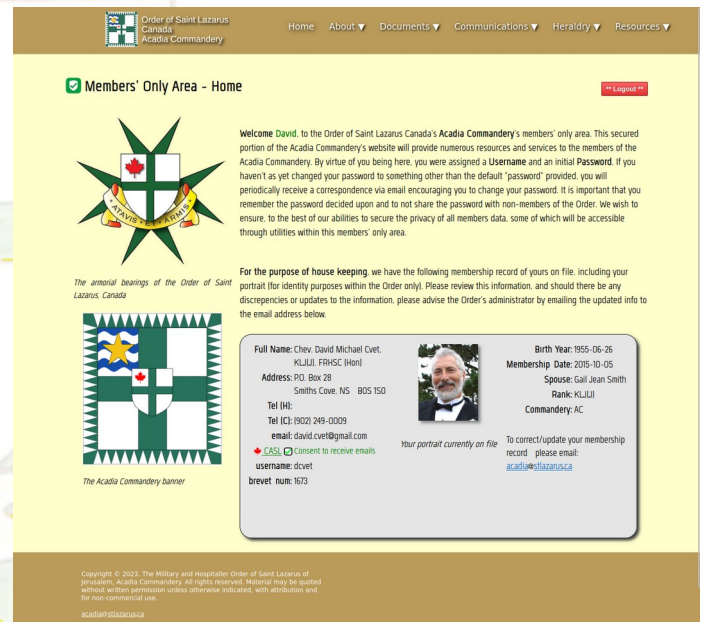
Whether you are a Member or Friend of the Order/Acadia Commandery or from another international jurisdiction, we warmly invite you to visit and explore the website. You can take full advantage of the wealth of material presented, designed to cater to your needs and interests.



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



Acadia Commandery offers its members exclusive access to a members-only area, accessible by logging in through the "Resources" menu item. This private space is dedicated to preserving the Commandery's rich history and features a wealth of resources for members to explore in digital format. These resources include minutes from the Commandery's Annual General Meetings, annual reports, records of past commanders and appointments, archived newsletters, comprehensive information on heraldry, a photo gallery, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and Passages that commemorate the passing of Commandery members.



The members area landing page, as shown above, serves as a valuable resource for members, providing access to their current membership record. This comprehensive record includes essential information such as mailing address, full name, postnominals, telephone numbers, email address, and rank, among others. The membership record is presented in the form of a membership card, complete with a portrait for easy identification and verification. Should any updates be necessary, a convenient email link is provided through which members can submit updates to the Commandery's administration. Questions may be submitted to [acadia@stlazarus.ca](mailto:acadia@stlazarus.ca).



**Passages**



**Supt. Clarence James Dent, KStJ, KCLJ, GOMLJ (January 28, 1928 - October 10, 2022)**

Supt. Dent joined the Order in 1980 with the rank of Officer, promoted to Commander in 1986, followed by Knight in 1987 and Knight Commander in 1989. He was awarded the CMLJ in 1990 and the GOMLJ in 1999. Supt. Clarence James Dent, RCMP (Ret'd) originally from Toronto, joined the RCMP at age the age of 18 experienced numerous career transfers from coast-to-coast-to coast in Canada, resulting with 20 physical relocations - 8 Provinces and NWT with last posting as the Officer in Charge of Criminal Operations in and for the NWT in Yellowknife. It was Commissioner (NWT) Stuart Hodgson who encouraged me to become a member of the Order, which he did in 1979. Our final move to NS (1981), when, unpacking in Dartmouth, NS, a telephone call was received from Commander RCN RTD, Bruce Oland, Halifax, Commander Acadia, inviting me to an Acadia Commandery meeting in Halifax, two days thence, as they were in the initial states of organizing an International OSLJ. Clare has been privileged to be a member ever since.

**Hurling for Hospice 2023**

Harnessing the rich medieval resources at our disposal, including banners, 12th century adornments, and a functional traction-trebuchet, we will curate a captivating and unparalleled fundraising event. This event will be seamlessly integrated with Digby's Scallop Days (August 10-13, 2023) and/or Lobster Bash (July 7-9, 2023), infusing the festivities with a distinct medieval flair.

The goals of this initiative are multi-faceted including:

- Raising funds to support the Atalanta Hospice Society's Fundy Hospice initiative.
- Petitioning the Order's National organization to match the funds raised by this initiative.
- Highlighting the illustrious history and tradition of the Order.
- Providing an engaging opportunity for members of the Acadia Commandery to participate.
- Garnering visibility for the Order with the intention of generating interest in recruitment.



The highlight of the event would be a thrilling activity called "hurling," where a group of five individuals would work together to launch a projectile (such as a melon or squash) into the Annapolis Basin from a yet-to-be-determined location along the Admiral's Walk in

Digby. The team would consist of one "loader" responsible for placing the projectile into the sling and holding it in position, and four "haulers" who would grip hauling ropes at the rear of the trebuchet. Each volunteer would be encouraged to make a donation of \$5 to support the cause, resulting in a collective cash contribution of \$25 per "hurl." To ensure safety, two Saint Lazarus knights, dressed in 12th century attire, would manage the trebuchet and its operation throughout the event, prioritizing safety in every aspect of the activity. The total funds collected will be petitioned to national for their matching grant application and donated to the Atalanta Hospice Society.



### Heraldry 104

This article on heraldry is the fourth in the presentation of various aspects and history of heraldry, both within the Order of Saint Lazarus and the general application of heraldry in the public domain. In this edition, we shall examine the role of blazonry.

First, a definition of blazon: *Blazon is the language of heraldry. Its intent is to provide a description in words of a coat of arms so that an experienced heraldic artist can produce an accurate picture of the arms.*[1]

One of the most distinctive aspects of blazonry is its specialized language, known as blazon. Blazon uses a precise set of terms and conventions to describe the elements and colours of a coat of arms, allowing for accurate and consistent identification of heraldic symbols. Understanding the basics of blazon is essential for interpreting coats of arms and appreciating their beauty and significance.

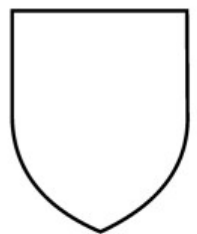


Figure 1



Figure 2

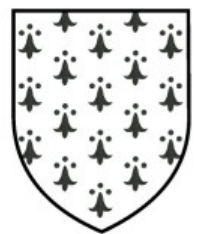


Figure 3

At the heart of blazonry is the coat of arms (the field), which is the central element of heraldic design. A coat of arms typically consists of several key components, including the shield, charges, and field. The shield is the central part of the coat of arms and serves as the canvas for the other elements. Charges are the individual symbols or objects that are placed on the shield, such as animals, plants, weapons, and mythical creatures. The field is the background of the shield, which can be divided into different areas or colours known as tinctures.

Tinctures play a crucial role in blazonry, as they determine the colours and patterns used in the arms.

There are two main types of tinctures: metals and colours. Metals include gold (represented by yellow or), and silver (represented by white or argent - figure 1). Colours include red (gules), blue (azure - figure 2), green (vert), black (sable), and purple (purpure). Tinctures are used in combination with charges and fields to create a wide variety of designs and patterns, each with its own symbolic meaning and significance such as ermine (figure 3).

Blazon also employs a unique set of terms and conventions to describe the placement, orientation, and arrangement of charges on the shield. For example, charges can be depicted facing different directions, such as dexter (right), sinister (left), or in fess (horizontally). They can also be positioned in specific locations on the shield, such as chief (top), base (bottom), or in pale (vertically). These conventions allow for precise and standardized descriptions of coats of arms, enabling heraldic artists and enthusiasts to recreate and interpret heraldic designs accurately.

The significance of blazonry goes beyond aesthetics, as coats of arms are rich in symbolism and convey important messages about the history, achievements, and values of the individuals or organizations they represent. For example, animals and plants often have symbolic meanings associated with their characteristics, such as strength, courage, or wisdom. Charges can also be combined in complex ways to tell stories or represent allegiances. Additionally, the colours and patterns used in a coat of arms can carry cultural, religious, or personal significance, adding layers of meaning to heraldic designs.

In conclusion, blazonry is a unique and fascinating language that has been used for centuries to describe and interpret coats of arms and other heraldic symbols. Its precise terminology, conventions, and symbolism make it an essential tool for heraldic artists, historians, and enthusiasts.

Chev. David M. Cvet, KLJ(J)  
"Heraldry Geek"

1. Dr. Kevin Greaves, FRHSC. *A Guide to Blazonry*. Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. November 2014.



**Member Profile: Robbie D. Sprules, KCLJ(J)**



Robbie became a member of Saint Lazarus Canada in 2016, promoted to Knight, and in 2022 was promoted to Knight Commander (KCLJ). He is also the recipient of the Cross of Justice (J). His Arms were granted to him in 1990 by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, augmented by differenced Arms for his four children in 2005, and an additional Crest in 2007 in memory of his father, Dr. W. M. Sprules. Robbie also bears the Arms of his ancient ancestors granted in 1296 and 1555. A further Crest of a Palm Tree was granted to his family in 1722 after they undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A member of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, he has been a Member of the Board (Director) and the Marketing Manager off and on for many years, and recipient of the Meritorious Service Award. He is a recipient of the QEII Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In 1977, he founded Taylor|Sprules Corporation in Toronto, practicing Architecture, Industrial Design, Branding and Marketing for a global clientele. As President and CEO, he guided the firm during some of the most exciting business times with the emergence of high tech; International awards followed, including the prestigious American Institute of Architects Award, several Design Canada Awards, the Art Directors Club of Toronto Awards and numerous others. He recently retired after 46 years at the helm in February 2023. He holds the Barony of Pulverbatch in Shropshire, and five Manorial Lordships that make up the current Barony.

With his spouse Lucinda, they owned a Hanoverian breeding horse farm near Uxbridge for over 34 years. Thornfield-Bred Horses was active until their retirement in 2012. Here they raised their four children, two boys and two girls, spent part of their summer months at their Muskoka cottage

‘Hoodwink’, while Robbie travelled the world extensively to undertake design commissions. His work was varied, including Underwater Marine Sanctuaries for President Ronald Regan, the Lillehammer Olympics, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, boundary disputes between Canada and the US, between Newfoundland and St. Pierre et Miquelon, an international dispute between Canada and the US on the source of manufacturing for Honda automobiles, and interesting projects with Steve Jobs of Apple, Bill Gates of Microsoft, IBM, Hewlett-Packard and many more. The Montreal Gazette wrote an article in their early years entitled “Biting the Hand that Feeds.” Robbie, Lucinda and their four children own a property development and management company in Ontario, and they manage a private family foundation to financially support those in need.

Robbie is also a Knight of the Order of St. Joachim (Bronze Benefactor Medal), and is the Officer Commanding of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, York, where he received the Garrison Benefactor Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and is a member of the Honourable Guard. He is a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. George where he was appointed Chief Herald by the Grand Prior, and was a recipient of the Grand Master’s Gold Medal. He was chair of the Order of St. George Foundation for three years. He initiated the Small Acts of Kindness program for Saint Lazarus, founded the GoForwardTeam and hosted it for several years, is a Governor of Saint Lazarus, and the Vice Chancellor, Strategic Development. He has designed several brands for Saint Lazarus Canada, and for the Acadia Commandery, including Atalanta Hospice Society and the Fundy Hospice. He holds a Bachelor’s degree and a Master’s degree. In 2022, the entire clan of four children and six grandchildren stayed at Beaver Lodge, Robbie and Lucinda’s summer home at Algonquin Park, where their children threw an enormous 50th wedding anniversary party for them, lasting over two weeks. They are still recovering.

Chev. Robbie D. Sprules, KCLJ(J)  
Director, Board of Governors (National)



### The Wind Phone

Thirteen years ago (2010), a garden designer by the name of Itaru Sasaki, from Ōtsuchi (Iwate Prefecture, Japan), after his cousin's death, set up a telephone booth in his garden, to continue to feel connected to his cousin by "talking" to him on the phone. According to Sasaki, the idea of the wind phone came to him as a way to reflect on his loss. Because his thoughts could not be relayed over a "regular" phone line, he hoped they might be carried to his cousin on the wind.



The concept of speaking with the departed is not new. People are frequently seen at cemeteries, speaking over the gravesite, or praying at a marker. A wind phone (風の電話, *kaze no denwa*) is a "disconnected" telephone where visitors can communicate with deceased friends and family. Usually located in a private quiet place, the phone offers a more familiar and tangible connection with which to speak with the metaverse. Since its opening to the public in the year following the earthquake and tsunami in 2011 which killed over 15,000 people in Japan, the original wind phone has received over 30,000 visitors. Several wind phones have now been installed around the world, and it has served as the inspiration for several novels and films.

The original wind phone was a white telephone booth containing a black, disconnected telephone with a notebook placed next to the telephone for messages of remembrance. They provide a safe, quiet space for survivors to speak with their departed friends and family. Some phones are in real phone booths, while others are simply installed in a forest or along a trail. The physicality of the phone, with which we are all familiar, perhaps "destigmatizes" the act of speaking with the departed.

There are wind phones in the USA, Ireland, and several in Canada, including Quebec, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia, in Digby County. The known locations of wind phones around the world can be found on the website [www.mywindphone.com](http://www.mywindphone.com) The original wind phone installation has been the catalyst for a number of films, and Sasaki, the creator of the original wind phone, wrote a book of reflections. Several other books have been written, including *The Phone Booth in Mr. Hirota's Garden*, a novel by Canadian writer Heather Smith, which was inspired by a CBC podcast about the wind phone.

Speak from your heart and let your words take flight in the wind! Close your eyes and listen closely for the answers in the gentle sounds of the wind in the trees, the waves along the shore, or the songs of birds around you. Such is the magic of the "Phone of the Wind"!

The Acadia Commandery is working with the Historic Gardens, Annapolis Royal in having one installed in the gardens.



("Kaze no Denwa" is "The Phone of the Wind" in Japanese)  
Visit <https://youtu.be/XIR89qCEYLA> to view "Phone of the Wind Trailer".

Dr. Ken Buchholz K LJ  
Hospitalier, Acadia Commandery  
Hospitalier, Order of Saint Lazarus, Canada





**Motivations for Individuals to Join the Order of Saint Lazarus**

The Order of Saint Lazarus is known for its commitment to palliative and hospice care, military traditions, historical preservation, ecumenism, and chivalry. But what motivates individuals to consider joining this esteemed organization? Let's explore the motivations of individuals in relation to the hospitaller, military, history, ecumenical, and chivalric aspects of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

***Hospitaller Motivations:***

One of the primary motivations for individuals to consider joining the Order of Saint Lazarus is the hospitaller aspect of the organization. The Order has a long-standing tradition of providing compassionate care and support to those in need, particularly in the area of palliative and hospice care. Members of the Order are actively involved in advocating for, developing, and supporting palliative and hospice care programs in their communities. For individuals who are passionate about healthcare and making a positive impact on the lives of those facing serious illness or end-of-life care, joining the Order of Saint Lazarus can provide a meaningful avenue to contribute to these causes.

***Military Motivations:***

The military aspect of the Order of Saint Lazarus can also be a motivating factor for some individuals. The Order has a distinguished history of military service and valour, dating back to its origins as a medieval military and hospitaller Order during the Crusader era. Today, the Order continues to uphold military traditions and values through participation in commemorative events, military ceremonies, and the preservation of military history. For individuals with a background or interest in military history, strategy, or service, joining the Order of Saint Lazarus can provide a unique opportunity to be part of an organization that

honours and upholds these military traditions.

***History Motivations:***

The rich history of the Order of Saint Lazarus is another motivating factor for individuals considering membership. With a history that spans over nine centuries, the Order has a wealth of historical significance and heritage. Members of the Order are often engaged in research, education, and preservation of historical resources related to the Order's origins, evolution, and accomplishments. For individuals with a passion for history, genealogy, or historical preservation, joining the Order of Saint Lazarus can offer a chance to immerse oneself in the organization's fascinating past and contribute to its ongoing legacy.



***Ecumenical Motivations:***

The ecumenical aspect of the Order of Saint Lazarus can be a compelling motivation for individuals who value interfaith cooperation and mutual respect among different Christian denominations. The Order welcomes members from various Christian traditions and promotes ecumenism, fostering unity and understanding among different faiths. For individuals who are committed to interfaith dialogue, cooperation, and promoting ecumenical values, joining the Order of Saint Lazarus can provide a



platform for meaningful engagement and collaboration with like-minded individuals from diverse religious backgrounds.

**Chivalric Motivations:**

The chivalric aspect of the Order of Saint Lazarus is a significant motivation for individuals who resonate with the ideals of chivalry. Chivalry encompasses virtues such as honour, courage, loyalty, and service, which are highly valued by the Order. Members of the Order participate in ceremonies, rituals, and activities that reflect



these chivalric ideals, promoting a code of conduct that aligns with the principles of knighthood. For individuals who are inspired by the concept of chivalry and wish to live out these values in a modern context, joining the Order of Saint Lazarus can provide a unique opportunity to be part of a community that upholds and promotes these noble ideals.

In conclusion, the motivations for individuals to consider joining the Order of Saint Lazarus are multi-faceted, encompassing the hospitaller, military, history, ecumenical, and chivalric aspects of the organization. For those who are passionate about palliative and hospice care, the Order offers a platform to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. For individuals with a background or interest in military history and service, the Order upholds military traditions and values. The rich history of the Order provides an opportunity for engagement in historical research and preservation. The ecumenical aspect of the Order fosters interfaith cooperation and understanding, appealing to those who value religious diversity. Lastly, the chivalric ideals of honour, courage, and service resonate with individuals who are inspired by the concept of chivalry.

Joining the Order of Saint Lazarus is not only an opportunity to contribute to worthy causes and engage in meaningful activities but also a chance to become part of a global community of like-minded individuals who share similar values and aspirations. Whether one's motivations stem from a passion for healthcare, military history, historical preservation, ecumenism, or chivalry, joining the Order of Saint Lazarus can offer a unique and fulfilling experience for those seeking to make a positive impact in the world while upholding the organization's noble traditions and values.

**Casalier - Explained**



During the era of the Templars, their organizational structure was meticulously defined, with each position holding a specific role and responsibility within the overarching Templar organization.

One crucial unit under the Commander of the Lands of a Chapter of the Templars was comprised of assets such as houses, castles, and farms [1]. If these lands included remote farms or villages, separate from the main House or Castle, a local Casalier (m) / Casaliera (f) was appointed to administer and manage these assets. Interestingly, a Casalier would possess two horses and be assigned a single squire. In the Acadia Commandery, the Commander currently possesses two horses and one part-time squire! The Casalier's responsibilities also extend to overseeing Houses established by groups of Friends of the Order in their respective areas. Currently, there is only one House, known as the House of Fundy, where oblations donated are directed towards a sanctioned local project of the Atalanta Hospice Society.

It is with immense honour that we announce the appointment of the Acadia Commandery's first-ever Casalier, Mr. Bradley Rector, OLJ. His role in this capacity will evolve as he becomes the first Casalier in the Order in Canada.

1. S.T. Munro. *Templar Organization*. 1<sup>st</sup> Books Library.2000.



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1974 - 2024**



Having been in existence now for over 900 years, there is no doubt that the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is one of the most ancient chivalric and hospitaller Orders. Its history is intimately connected with

that of Nouvelle France, and consequently with that of Canada. King Louis XIV (1643 - 1715), le Roi Soleil, created a number of Chevaliers Saint-Lazare for valuable services rendered, one of them being the Duc de Levis. With the fall of New France in 1763 the activities of the Order of Saint Lazarus in North America came to an abrupt end. However, after an absence of almost two hundred years the Order returned to Canada in 1962.[1]

The Acadia Commandery was formed in October 1974 with 14 founding members of whom included: John Dickey, Patrick Duncan, Hugh J. Flemming, Most Rev. James Hayes, John Keith, Ian MacDonald, William MacLeod, John MacPherson, Bruce S. Oland, Desmond Piers, Stuart Smith, Della Stanley, George Stanley and Ruth Stanley. Chev. John A. MacPherson took on the job as the Commandery's first Commander.

Following MacPherson, the next Commander was Chev. J. Robert Pichette, ONB, AHI, FRHSC (1979 - 1984). He was a fascinating individual with respect to the arts and science of Canadian heraldry, having been the Dauphin Herald Extraordinary with the Canadian Heraldic Authority in Ottawa.

Following Pichette, Chev Stuart A. Smith, Ph.D., KCLJ (1984 – 1985). Not much is known of Chev. Smith.

Following Smith, Comm. Bruce Sidney Oland ED, CD, CM, KCLJ, GOMLJ (1985 - 1986) of NB. A veteran of the Second World War, he became a master brewer and successful business man. He was former president of Oland and Son Ltd, a family brewing company which was embroiled in an

infamous court case involving the murder of Bruce by his son, Dennis. Although his son was found not guilty of murder, the trial became sensational in the Maritime.

Following Oland, Supt. (Ret'd) Clarence J. Dent, KCLJ, GOMLJ (1986 – 1990), a retired RCMP and a great story teller. After Dent, William "Boots" MacLeod took the Commandery's reigns (1990 – 1992).

Following "Boots", Chev Brian T. Newbold, GCLJ, GOMLJ, D.Sc. became Commander (1992 – 1998) and who also played a very large role as the Commandery's historian and archivist, as well as the national historian.

Following Newbold, Supt. (Ret'd) Ronald Bourne, KLJ, MMLJ (1998 – 2002) also having had a career with the RCMP. Following Bourne, Chev. Edmond E. Landry, CM, KCLJ, CMLJ (2002 – 2004) who is noted for founding the Pope's Museum located in the village of Grande-Anse, NB, North America's only museum dedicated entirely to the papacy.

Following Landry, Chev. Richard Smyth, CLJ, MMLJ took the reigns between 2004 – 2005. After Smyth, D/Comm Anthony MacAskill, CD, Ph.D, KLJ, MMLJ became Commander between 2005-2006. He was a career soldier who served with the Canada Provost Corps for over 30 years. Following MacAskill, Dame Dennice M. Leahey, CM, DCLJ became Commander between 2006 and 2019 and remains as Immediate Past Commander.

An expanded review of the history of the Acadia Commandery from 1974 to 2004 is recorded in Brian Newbold's publication entitled "The History of the Acadia Commandery" available in pdf format to anyone who asks. It is also available on the Acadia Commandery's members only area.

Although the past Commanders prove interesting, from the onset, the Acadia Commandery has had a

1. Chev. Brian T. Newbold, KCLJ, GOMLJ, D.Sc. *The History of the Acadia Commandery*. Acadia Commandery..2004.



strong interest in Ecumenism and had become involved in a number of activities in that area. The Commandery has donated up to \$31,500 over the years to the bursary account held by the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) in Halifax. Early donations went towards the purchase of badly needed reference books. Later donations were directed towards their bursary program which helped dozens of students in their educational initiatives.

In the area of our hospitaller mission, the Commandery supported a number of causes with modest donations. In 1982, the main charitable efforts was concentrated on the giving of financial aid to the Peruvian leper colony of San Pablo. This funding direction had lasted for 13 years. Later in 1995, the focus of charitable donations changed its direction for donations towards palliative care. It's first donation of \$1,000 was set aside for the Haematology, Oncology and Bone-marrow transplant unit of the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax (later becoming the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre). The funds were used to purchase furnishings for the recovery room/solarium in the Palliative Care Unit. Another donation of \$1,000 was made to the Palliative Care Unit of the Dr. Georges Dumont Regional Hospital in Moncton, NB in 1998. In 1999, thanks to the efforts of The Hon. Archibald Johnstone, KLJ, MMLJ and The Hon. Mr. Justice Kenneth MacKay, KCLJ, GOMLJ, a worthy palliative care project was identified in PEI of \$1,000. Continuing with the work in the hospitaller mission, a donation of \$1,000 was made to the Queen's County Palliative Care Unit in Liverpool, NS in 2001. The generosity of the Acadia Commandery amounted to more than \$14,000 to a variety of medical projects at local, national and international levels.

Other areas of contributions made by members of the Commandery included a visit by the Saint Lazarus Knights visiting a home for special care (Tideview Terrace) in Digby, NS in September 2019 where a pair of Saint Lazarus knights, dressed

in the accoutrements of 13<sup>th</sup> century visited the patients and thrilled them with our presence. In 2020, the Commandery donated two sets of iPads, stands, power supplies and the necessary apps to provide the means of patients to Facetime/zoom/skype with their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In 2021, the Commander rode his steed "Nya" for 250 km raising funds and awareness for the Atalanta Hospice Society's Fundy Hospice initiative. This knight ride event raised nearly \$25,000 for the hospice project.

In addition to the hospitaller, medical missions of the Order, the Commandery branched out during times of conflict to donate \$2,000 towards the Humanitarian Appeal for Ukraine in 2022 through the Red Cross. This donation was then matched by the Federal Government of Canada. In a similar vane, the Maritime was hit hard by Hurricane Fiona, and another Red Cross Relief Effort was created to help those who lost everything in parts of Atlantic Canada. The Commandery was able to donate \$5,000 having accessed the Acadia donations account of \$2,500, matching this with the matching grant request to the Grand Priory in Canada. The \$5,000 donated to the relief effort was matched by the Federal Government of Canada.

We are proud of our track record in making a difference in Canada through these initiatives and will continue in our endeavours to help communities in Atlantic Canada. We will be looking into ideas to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for next year.