



**ORDER OF THE
EASTERN STAR**
BRITISH COLUMBIA
& YUKON CANADA 



Grand Chapter Newsletter

September / October 2024

Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron Happenings

During September and early October Brother Terry Foulds-Worthy Grand Patron, Sister Deb Buxton, Grand Lecturer and I traveled around our Jurisdiction. Our purpose was to meet each Chapter for their Official Visit and School of Instruction. Sister Deb is to be commended for the wonderful way she shared her knowledge. For those Chapters who had a full School of Instruction, the members were treated to a Game of Jeopardy which was created by our WGP and Grand Lecturer. Finishing the SOI with the game received many positive comments. We were told by several members that it was a great way to learn new information. You might want to share what you learned from the Jeopardy game.

Official Visits are almost finished. To date twenty-four Chapters participated in their OV. The last two will take place this week, on the Island. On behalf of the WGP, Grand Lecturer and myself, thanks to all our members for the thoughtfulness, friendship and hospitality shown to us.

A reminder the Grand Chapter 2025 business session will be held on Monday, May 26th – 28th. It is recommended you book your room in the near future. Contact Brother Terry Foulds, WGP if you have any questions regarding hotel bookings. The church service will be held at the Masonic Hall on Sunday, May 25th. For those coming on Saturday or earlier there will be a get together at the Masonic Hall later Saturday afternoon and evening. More information regarding the Grand Chapter Session will be forthcoming in a little while.

Remember the calendar project is taking place. It is still possible to place your calendar order. To date, there are almost 50 calendars ordered. Can you help increase the number of calendars ordered? When this project is finished, our chapters and members are encouraged to think of ideas for raising funds for our Grand Chapter office. Please send your ideas to Sister Daphne Keith, Grand Trustee or Brother Terry Foulds, WGP. The duties of the Ways and Means Committee is to generate funds to support our Grand Chapter office. Please support the Grand Chapter office projects.

Thanks to all the members, friends and relatives who came on the Cruise. There were 104 people who joined us. It was exciting to hear what people enjoyed doing on the Cruise. For many OES members, the most excitement was gaining a potential new member on the cruise. Believe it or not, one member brought petitions with her. Ypres Chapter will be welcoming their new member in November. Were you one of the people who was up early watching the glacier ice flowing down the water? Or were you playing games while on board the ship? Maybe you decided to participate in dancing. Whatever you did, it was bound to be a fun experience.

We look forward to meeting you on the Eastern Star Trail.
Take Care, Star Hugs
Sister Bonnie-Jean Foulds, WGM

In Loving Memory



- * Sister Joyce Sharpe, Chas Maria Chapter No. 76, passed Sept 14, 2024
- * Sister Betty Emblem, Florence Chapter No. 53, passed September 12, 2024
- * Brother Frazer MacDonald, Fraser Chapter No. 30, passed September 11, 2024
- * Sister Beverley Stirling, Edina Chapter No. 33, passed September 9, 2024
- * Brother Robert Windeler Princess Pine Chapter No. 67, passed September 2, 2024
- * Sister Gwendolyn LeMoigne, Jubilee Chapter No. 64, passed July 28, 2024
- * Sister Edna Ferguson, Jubilee Chapter No 64, passed July 19, 2024
- * Sister Mary Lorenz, Sunset Chapter No. 44, passed July 10, 2024
- * Sister Alieta Nataros, Langley Chapter No. 50, passed February 6, 2024

Our condolences to the family, friends, Chapters, Sisters and Brothers of these departed members.

*Sister Muir has added an obituary page to the Grand Chapter website.
You can find it here <https://bcgrandchapter.com/obituaries-2024/>*



40 YEARS

The weather was great for a get together in July at the home of Larry and Joan Holthe. They welcomed friends from the Nile, Masonic Brothers and Eastern Star buddies for a great meal and conversation.

It was a special honor for Peace Chapter Worthy Matron Sister Myrna Jones to present Sister Diane Mamalick with her 40 year pin as a member of the Order. Past Grand Patron Larry Holthe also presented Diane with a teddy bear named Princess, which is his pet name for her.

The following day, Past Grand Patron Keith Glen presented Diane's daughter, Sandy Bellemare, with her 40 year pin. Mother and daughter were initiated at the same time in Kelowna. Congratulations and many more Star years to you both.

~ Submitted by Sister Joan Holthe



RIDDLES

I have hundreds of ears but I can't hear a thing... what am I?

A corn field

I am tall when I'm young, short when I'm old and once a year I make a heavy pumpkin light...what am I?

A candle

Why don't mummies take vacations?

They are afraid they will relax and unwind.

Are OES members walking away?

Some reasons a member of our Order leaves (or any other organization) can be as simple as moving, responsibilities may have increased, or perhaps health issues. Many times, though, when they leave (or quit) it's because of something the Order of the Eastern Star did or didn't do. There are many reasons why a member walks away and we need to know what those reasons are. When a member leaves, does anyone ever follow up? When he/she stops showing up, reach out to them! Not all members will say they're leaving. Most, in fact, will simply disappear, especially if they're leaving because of how the organization is run. Holding an "exit interview" is imperative. It is your opportunity to see the organization from the members' point of view. We are all limited in our perspectives, so something we think is working well may be broken from the point of view of another. Perhaps a well conducted exit interview can identify those things.

TIPS

- * Start with thanking the member for their time and dedication.
 - * Show sympathy and support for their decision. Now is not the time to guilt or pressure them into staying, in fact, it is never time to guilt or pressure a volunteer. If you find you're doing that, you may just have discovered the reason they're quitting.
 - * Provide an environment where the member feels safe.
 - * Explain the purpose of the interview which is to make things better for everyone.
 - * Don't become defensive at any comments made, even if the criticism is directed at you. Simply thank them for their honesty. *
- Remain calm and open, you might defuse any latent hostility and increase the member's sense of safety.
- * Ask open-ended questions that allow the member to express their thoughts and feelings freely.

SOME SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- * What prompted you to leave? What support and/or resources could we provide to make it a better or an easier experience?
 - * How could we utilize your skills or abilities better? Please describe any incident that made you uncomfortable/unwelcome. *
- How can we improve our orientation/training/onboarding? Do you have any other suggestions to help us improve?

Asking for suggestions for improvement is important because people see tasks differently than you and they may have very valuable ideas about how to make things more efficient. Be open to that. Once the interview is over take a look at the answers. Ignore any biases or snap conclusions you may have. Dig deep into the insights the member gave you and use them as a learning opportunity, even if that means changing your own behavior. Finally, stay in touch with them. When a member quits, it doesn't mean the entire relationship has to end. They may still care about your cause and be interested in fundraisers or other events your organization holds. And maybe, just maybe, once changes are implemented to solve the problems that caused them to leave, they may just come back.

Why are they leaving?

- * Perhaps the challenge isn't big enough. People with significant leadership gifting respond best to significant challenges. Under challenge they and they won't stay engaged for long. Don't worry about giving them too much responsibility – that might be exactly why you don't have enough high capacity members.
- * Your vision, mission and strategy are fuzzy – people want to serve a cause bigger than themselves. Mission is the what. Vision is the why. Strategy is the how. In BC & Y, our mission, has changed. We need to find a new mission. We need to find a new vision and then come up with the strategy. It happened in the 1940s with the inception of cancer dressing stations across the province. We don't have that, it was taken away from us. What can we do instead? Our members need motivation – which IS the vision. Motivation is the why behind the what.
- * Be organized. Few things are more demotivating than giving your time as a volunteer only to discover that the persons responsible didn't set you up to succeed, the tools to do the job are missing and the rest of the team is late OR they're not even sure of what they're supposed to do or how they are supposed to do it. Some members will always put up with disorganization but some members will simply give up. And some will just head for the door.
- * Don't let members off the hook too easily. We all know that all members are volunteers and it is said that you can't hold volunteers accountable but can you? Yes, you can and should – for everyone's sake. If a volunteer is late it's really no different than a paid employee is late. Address it, kindly, but do address it. It is disheartening for a motivated member who did their homework and showed up early only to find that others didn't, and then for the leader to just brush it off and say, "we're just glad you're here." The motivated member is going to get sick of hearing those words spoken. And then, quite possibly, that member, the one that is highly organized, motivated and the best leader, will leave and the slackers will stay.
- * It's not easy being "the leader." As soon as you find a high capacity volunteer our next step should be to recruit more and move others alongside them. We need to nurture this team, build them, honour them, encourage them and help them. Sadly we don't always do this and our highly motivated members / leaders will walk away, demotivated.

Eastern Star needs to grow. In order to survive, we must grow. You can keep learning from your own mistakes or you can fast-track your growth and learn directly from people who have been in our shoes before. Let's look to our ancestors. Let's go forth with a new vision and mission and strategy. It's sad and frustrating when our members stop coming to Star or cease membership but it can be a learning experience and actually make our Organization better in the long run. Don't let them disappear!

Our members

Sister Coby van der Linde was initiated into Fort St. John Chapter on February 13, 1974. Last spring Sister Alice Mathews, JPGM had the pleasure to visit with Sister Coby in her home in Penticton to present her fifty year pin. Through conversation Sister Coby shared that she was a knitter and showed her collection of completed pieces – baby sweaters, blankets and hats, including 55 purple toques for shaken



baby program, too many to count – chemo hats for children (17) and for adults (25). Sister Coby's work is impeccable and truly beautiful. Sister Alice asked if she could purchase a sweater for her great-grandson and she was told, "Most certainly, pick what you'd like and no charge!" What a pleasure it was to see little Owen wearing one of her masterpieces.

Congratulations on your 50 years in Star and thank you, once again Sister Coby, for the sweater!



Grand Representative

Congratulations to Sister Sylvia Bockus, who was presented with her commission as the Grand Representative to the Grand Chapter of Tennessee by our WGM Sister Bonnie-Jean Foulds. Sister Sylvia is a member of Lansdowne Chapter No. 72 in Enderby. So happy for you, Sylvia! Enjoy your commission!

From our Webmaster – Sister Mary Ann Muir

If any Chapters have events to add to the Grand Chapter Calendar, please send the information to oes.bcy@gmail.com Please include the following things:

- Date & Time
- Location
- Contact information (if not provided, this will default to the Chapter Secretary)
- If you want to have a graphical announcement, please make them landscape so they are wider than tall. If you create a .jpg, then 1280x720 pixels is a good size. Check out Arbutus or Fraser Chapter's events in November as some good examples!

Once an event has been completed, please send an optional, short write-up and pictures and these can also be posted to show the public what we are doing! At least one image should be in a wide format for the feature image. Events can include travels of Grand Representatives, Honour Days, Fundraisers, Donations to the community, etc.

Who was...

Captain A. B. (Adam Brown) Watson was a well-known Master Mariner and Marine Surveyor in Vancouver. He was born in England in 1891. He married Miss Mabel Alma Brown on June 10, 1919 and they lived a happy life together in Vancouver. They had one son, Norman James, who sadly died at 4 1/2 years old in June 1932.

Captain and Mabel were members of Queen Esther Chapter No. 12 where he served as Worthy Patron. Sister Mabel hosted teas in their home and I'm certain it was with her best linens, china and crystal. In November 1930, as reported in the Province, Queen Esther Chapter was getting busy with another bazaar in the K.P. Hall, opened by the Worthy Matron, Mrs. O. W. Brown, assisted by Mrs. G. S. Barker and Mrs. R. B. Bell, donations received by Mrs. H. Davidson. Others assisting are: fancy work: Mrs. A. B. Watson assisted by Mrs. C. Daniels, Mrs. J. H. Watson and Mrs. J. Wilcox; aprons: Mrs. A. Phillips and Mrs. H. Fletcher assisted by Mrs. W. Hutchinson and Mrs. J. Lamb; wools: Mrs. W. J. Forbes and Mrs. Mary Duff assisted by Mrs. G. Holtby and Mrs. C. Graham; candy: Mrs. F. Slight and Mrs. K. Archibald; grab bags: Mrs. A. Cumming assisted by Mrs. R. Braddick; novelties: Mrs. H. Galbraith and Mrs. A. Cochran, and so many more...ladies contributing to the musical programme numbered four and twelve presided at the urns. A court whist party was held in the evening in the same hall commencing at 9:00 p.m. I think this would have been a FABULOUS event.

On June 18, 1937, Mrs. Evelyn Baillie of Kamloops was elected Worthy Grand Matron at the session held in Kamloops. Other officers are J. R. Hartley, Worthy Grand Patron, Estelle Robinson, Associate Grand Matron, Captain A. B. Watson, Associate Grand Patron, Hazel Freeze, Grand Secretary, Fanny McCleery, Grand Treasurer, Katherine Irwin, Grand Conductress and Agnes Smith, Associate Grand Conductress. At the session in Nanaimo, June 22, 1938 Captain Adam Watson was installed as Worthy Grand Patron alongside Sister Estelle Robinson, Worthy Grand Matron. During their term, Sister Robinson and Brother Watson constituted a new Chapter in Creston. The 1939 Grand Chapter session was held in Chilliwack. Together again, Sister Robinson and Brother Watson opened the afternoon session in June 1941 session. Mrs. Agnes McMaster from Nanaimo was elected Worthy Grand Matron.

Captain and Mrs. Watson were very involved in the Order of the Eastern Star, attending and organizing functions from bazaars and teas to balls at the Peter Pan Ballroom. There are few articles published between 1941 and June 1945 when Captain Watson passed away at the age of 63 after many long term health issues. The funeral was conducted by the members of Queen Esther Chapter. Sister Mabel Watson continued to be involved in OES through the 1950s but there's nothing into the 1960s or 1970s. She passed away on November 13, 1977.



Happy (belated) Thanksgiving wishes to you – May the warm glow of autumn surround you as you celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends.

The next edition of the Grand Chapter Newsletter will be out mid-December. Please email your submissions to Dana at cariboostar@gmail.com

Let's make it an interesting read!!

Halloween Doesn't Scare Me

I'm not scared of skeletons or ravens or bats.
I'm not scared of witches in their big witchy hats.

I don't care about spiders or monsters or cats.
I don't care about goblins or mummies or rats.

I don't hear the wind when it howls and howls.
I don't hear the hoots of the midnight owls.

So don't try and scare me you're not going to win.
I love Halloween, I dress up and pretend...

I'm brighter than the moon I'm braver than the dark.
I'm the flame in the pumpkin that sizzles and sparks.

So don't try and scare me with a boo and a ghost.
I'm the one that loves Halloween the most.



A puzzle for your enjoyment...**I don't know about you but I can never stay awake long enough to see the northern lights.**

Northern Lights

Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



ALFVEN WAVES

ATMOSPHERE

AURORA

AUSTRALIS

BLUE

BOREALIS

BRIGHT

COLLISIONS

DANCING

ELECTRONS

ENERGY

FLUORESCENCE

GAS PARTICLES

GREEN

ICELAND

IONOSPHERE

LEGENDS

LIGHTS

MAGNETIC FIELD

MANY COLORS

NITROGEN

NORTHERN

OXYGEN

POLES

PURPLE

RED

SOLAR WIND

SOUTHERN