



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



Grand Chapter Newsletter

December 2024

From THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON AND PATRON

Greetings to our Members from the land of the snow. The weather changed on Monday, December 2nd to rain. Our two feet of snow is now down to about three inches. Next week the cold and snow may return.

Congratulations to our new General Grand Chapter Committee Members from British Columbia and Yukon. We are proud to announce our new GGC Members. Sister Sue Paugh, PGM is on the Alzheimer's Committee. The Cancer Committee is represented by Sister Jo-Anne Finley, PGM. Our Sister Eileen Howells, PGM is on the OES Journal Committee. Sister Mernie Sutton, PGM is on the Heart Committee. Sister Deb Buxton is on the (Alberta) Alzheimer's Committee and does belong to a chapter on Vancouver Island. We wish that each of our GGCC Members enjoy their three-year appointment.

Brother Terry and I were not able to attend General Grand Chapter despite having our hotel and flights booked. An unexpected issue had to be dealt with at home.

On Monday, December 2nd Nechako Chapter after the closing of the Chapter we drew the tickets for our Special Projects Raffle. The winners of the raffles were:

- Jackie Fleming, Ypres Chapter, won the first prize of a Royal Caribbean swag basket, plus a three-hundred-dollar certificate from the "Travel Agent Next Door."
- Margaret Garnier, Electa Chapter, won the \$400.00 gift basket from Van Horlicks in PG.
- Susan Leslie, Sunset Chapter, won the custom-made Crib Board donated by Garnet Graham (the husband of Dianne Graham from Nechako Chapter.)

Congratulations to the three winners of our raffles. Thank-you to all the members who supported our projects.

On behalf of Brother Foulds, Myself and the Ways and Means Committee our thanks to all the members who supported the Calendar sales. The Committee is thrilled to let our members know we sold 100 calendars. Ways and Means continues to look for other ideas to support the operating of our Grand Chapter. If you have any ideas that would be useful for Grand Chapter, please contact someone on the committee.

Are you ready for Christmas yet? We are excited that our two PG Grand Children have been very helpful decorating inside and out. They have lots of fun organizing our Christmas Village. Every time they come to visit us the village is reorganized. Certainly, it is interesting to watch them in action as they plan the changes in the Christmas decorations. What will make our Christmas extra special is the potential arrival of our four other Grandchildren. It has been a few years since they came to visit us in Prince George. This year, we will have all of our six grand children to spend Christmas with us. Terry and I will be ready for more decoration rearrangement inside and out of the house.

Enjoy a wonderful and exciting Christmas. May your Christmas be filled with lots of fun, laughter, joy, happiness, friends and family. Keep in mind all the happy and friendly memories you made during the holidays. Like Terry and I, not being able to send parcels and cards will make this a different this year. Hopefully, all of us will find inventive ways to send our cards and parcels.

"Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us." —David Cameron

All the best for a wonderful and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Brother Terry and I look forward to seeing you in the winter with lots of happy and fun memories.

All the best for each and every one of our members,

Sister Bonnie-Jean Foulds &
Worthy Grand Matron
oesbfoulds.2024@gmail.com

Brother Terry Foulds
Worthy Grand Patron
thfoulds@gmail.com

WOW...

“An event of importance to the Fraternal Society people in British Columbia was celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday this week in the new Labor Temple of this city.

The occasion was the institution of a Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in the province. It may not be generally known that only Masons and their closely related female relatives are privileged to become members. The Order now numbers on the continent 700,000 members.”

The Vancouver Sun
Fri, Jul 26, 1912 ·Page 4

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HAVE INSTITUTED
NEW GRAND CHAPTER
OF EASTERN STAR

Event of Special Importance
in Masonic Circles Takes
Place This Week in
Vancouver.

LIST OF OFFICERS
WHO WERE ELECTED

Order Has Now a Membership
of Over Seven Hundred
Thousand on Continent.

The Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter was Reverend Willis D. Engle and he was the Instituting Officer calling the Grand Chapter of British Columbia into existence with the following officers:

WGM – Mrs. Mary M. Douglas, Alexandria Chapter No. 6
WGP – Mr. William Coates Taylor, Grandview Chapter No. 8
AGM – Mrs. Elizabeth Bestwick, Alpha Chapter No. 1
AGP – Mr. Hugh T. Fulton, Sharon Chapter No. 4
Gr. Secretary – Mrs. Fannie N. Jones, Grandview Chapter No. 8
Gr. Treasurer – Mrs. Katherine H. Irwin, Burrard Chapter No. 3
Gr. Conductress – Mrs. Anna D. Perry, Vancouver Chapter No. 2
Assoc. Gr. Conductress – **Mrs. S. Coady-Johnson, Queen City Chapter No. 5**
Grand Chaplain – Mrs. Mary Wheeler, Burrard Chapter No. 3
Grand Marshal – Mr. Thomas Proctor, Vancouver Chapter No. 2
Grand Organist – Miss Catherine McTavish, Alexandria Chapter No. 6
Grand Adah – Mrs. Elizabeth Munroe, Grandview Chapter No. 8
Grand Ruth – Mrs. Mary Harries, Vancouver Chapter No. 2
Grand Esther – Mrs. Laura W. Berry, Vancouver Chapter No. 2
Grand Martha – Mrs. Esther Laird, Royal City Chapter No. 7
*Grand Electa – Mrs. Jeanie Bauld, Sharon Chapter No. 4 *or is it*
Mrs. Jane Barnes, Alpha Chapter No. 1
Grand Warder – Mrs. Maggie McKibbin, Royal City Chapter No. 7
Grand Sentinel – Mr. William H. F. Richdale, Queen City Chapter No 5

Committees –

Credentials: Thomas Proctor, Mr. Bestwick, Mrs. Harries

Constitution: B. E. Beers, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Munro

*There is conflicting information as to what is printed in the Vancouver Sun and what Sister Nelda Witt, PGM, wrote in her book. Perhaps the Grand Historian will be able to shed a light as to who was our first Grand Electa – Sister Jeanie Bauld or Sister Jane Barnes.

Who was Sister Coady-Johnson?

As per The Centennial Book compiled by Sister Nelda Witt, Past Grand Matron in 2011, Sister Sarah Jane Coady-Johnson was the first Associate Grand Conductress of the Grand Chapter of British Columbia. She is listed in the Grand Officers of 1912 – 1913, either elected, appointed and installed at the first annual session for the 1912 – 1913 years and is listed again at the second session. Sister Sarah was the second Past Matron of Queen City Chapter No. 2. She served as a school board trustee in 1920 and then began a 30 years long career as a teacher, retiring in 1937. After a brief illness, Sister Coady-Johnson passed away at age 65, in May 1939 in Victoria. She was survived by her husband, E. E. Coady-Johnson and a daughter, Audrey McGonigal of Nanaimo.





The Santa Store – Edina Chapter No. 33 in Penticton has been doing the infamous Santa Store for about twelve years now. Originally set up and started by Sister Elizabeth Wengberg, this magical store opens in the local school gym with a huge selection of donated gifts laid out for the shopping pleasure of many students of thirteen classrooms who would not necessarily be able to purchase gifts for their family members. This year Sister Lorraine Collins proudly represented Mrs. Claus. Everything in the Santa Store is a dollar or less! Community support is also greatly accepted: Safeway gets on board by supplying shopping baskets and Tim Hortons provided coffee and Timbits for the volunteers. Without the assistance of some of the school moms, neighbours and friends, this annual event would not be a successful venture. This year the store raised \$1,096.50 which is handed to the school for bursaries. Well done, Edina members and volunteers all! (Photo found online from 2016)



Merry Christmas Greetings

It is sad that we cannot send Christmas cards in the mail this year. It's something we all look forward to, sometimes, the only time we hear from friends so far away...so, from the desk of yours truly, I am sending greetings to all of our readers. May your Christmas be merry and bright. (strike is over!)

Over the past years as secretary I have enjoyed writing and sending cards to our Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons from Cariboo Chapter...next year!

Special accolades to Sister Judy Stanley-Long, PGM. Sister Judy, in anticipation of the Canada Post strike, sent her Christmas cards out at the end of October. Your card is the only one we received, thank you! Merry Christmas, Judy!!

To the members of our fine Grand Jurisdiction, have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends!
~ Dana

To Olive you from Olive me in Oliver

Happy Christmas to all
And to all a good night
No cards can we send
That is so not right!
But my message to you
Is no less sincere
Thinking of you
Merry New Year!



And from up in the North
Where the wind doth blow
There's me and the cows
And it's forty below!
With Joan in an apron
And me with one glove
We wish you the best
In a bucket of love.



From Sister Alice Mathews, PGM and Brother Larry Holthe, PGP

Hello from some of our Grand Chapter Officers:

Wayne Woodhouse – PGP & Grand Trustee & Present Worthy Patron of Electa

Wayne enjoys listening to jukebox oldies and playing golf. He likes songs by Roy Orbison, The Everly Brothers, Connie Francis, and Patsy Cline.

Sharon Hards – PM , Grand Ruth

Hello everyone! I'm Sharon from Fort St John. Things have been a bit "wintery" up here lately but we love it and wouldn't change anything, except for a heated sidewalk and driveway! I've even a member of OES since September 2002. I grew up in a Masonic family and started as a Jobie. Over the years I've raised my family in the north and was part of creating 3 wondering children. We have 3 grand kids and as some of the kids say "lots of grand pets." Finding a passion is something that binds us thru volunteering and fellowship. Talking about Eastern Star and trying to build our order in a new way that includes the youth of today is one thing I love to do.

Flo Evans – PM, Grand Conductress

When I was born our family lived in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Through a series of moves my parents dream of owning a farm was fulfilled in 1967. Our home town was Biggar, Saskatchewan (New York is big, but this is Biggar). One of my personal highlights was as a Ballroom Dance instructor. I had the opportunity to dance at the Empress Hotel in Victoria and in Chicago. When I met Brian I was soon introduced to the world of Masonry. In 1991 I joined Eastern Star and after few years, following our daughter becoming a Majority Member of Job's Daughters I returned to Eastern Star along with Brian. Following a 30 year career as a Floral Designer, and retirement I found myself on the road to the East in Crescent Chapter #10. As Paul Harvey would say, now you know the rest of the story.

Brian Evans – PP, Grand Sentinel

I was born in Kindersley, Saskatchewan in the very early hours of April in the middle of the last century. That year in April, 6-foot snow banks remained on the prairies. The 13 mile trip home from the nearest rain station was more than eventful, I am told, riding home in a caboose pulled by a D-4 caterpillar. My interests include reading (non-fiction), baking, needlework for meditation and travel. At the age of 21 I joined the local masonic lodge. In a family of three boys I the youngest was the 3rd to be 'raised' by our father. I have always considered how fortunate I was as my father died four months later. In our teen years our parents joined the local Eastern Star Chapter. What you may not know about me is I had the opportunity to meet now King Charles III in a walk-about on a visit to Saskatoon April 2001. There's more to the story.

Deb Buxton – PGM, Grand Lecturer

Hi. I'm Deb Buxton, a PGM from Alberta. I was WGM in 2017-2018 with Sister Jo-Anne Finley. I joined Edith Cavell Chapter #25 (Calgary) in April 2000. We purchased a winter home in Duncan/North Cowichan Dec 2020 and I was able to attend the various chapter meetings via Zoom during COVID. Thank you to everyone who kept me informed on the various events and Zoom meetings during COVID. I affiliated with Sunset Chapter #44 in Duncan when the COVID restrictions ended. In 2022, after the US border re-opened, we purchased a home in Palm Bay FL and became snowbirds. I worked for AGT/TELUS from 1977 to 2006 and for Devon Energy from 2008 to 2014, primarily in the IT department. I am the webmaster on the Alberta OES website. I was very excited to be asked to be the Grand Lecturer for Sister Bonnie-Jean and Brother Terry. Alberta does not have the Grand Lecturer position so this was totally new for me. I reviewed the C&L and R&R and took the Proficiency test. After chatting with Sister Bonnie-Jean and Brother Terry on their wishes and expectations, I decided to focus the education component on General Grand Chapter, the Ritual, and how our jurisdiction fits into the larger picture of OES. Brother Terry created the Jeopardy game and I assisted with some of the questions. Some of the questions came from the Proficiency test, some were based on observations and common questions asked by the members. The game was a nice ending to the Schools of Instruction and was well received by all who participated. General Grand Chapter was held in Myrtle Beach SC Oct 24-Nov 1, 2024. We had 32 resolutions to consider, covering Rules and Regulations, Voting (who & how), Membership, Ritual and Standing Committees. Some of the resolutions applied only to the subordinate chapters under Grand Chapter (those jurisdictions without a Grand Chapter), others were universal. Twenty-two (22) resolutions passed, six (6) were defeated, and four(4) were withdrawn. I'm sure the newsletter will have more details on the resolutions that passed. I'm excited to be a GGCCM (General Grand Chapter Committee Member) for Alzheimer's, covering the jurisdictions of Alberta and Saskatchewan, for the next 3 years. The next General Grand Chapter will be in Phoenix AZ Aug 27-Sep 3, 2027. I was able to travel with the WGM and WGP for the majority of the official visits so I never had to worry about finding the Chapter meetings. Thank you to the Chapters and members for the accommodations, meals, gifts, and for being so welcoming and friendly. It was great to travel this beautiful jurisdiction, meet so many of our members, and attend the Chapter meetings. I visited many places I had never been to before and met many of our members. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Prince George for Grand Chapter.

Sister Daphne Keith – Grand Trustee.

My mother chapter was Richmond #73. I belong to Mizpah Chapter #36 and Langley Chapter #50. I am a Grand Trustee under Mizpah Chapter. There are 3 of us in Mizpah Chapter who are Grand Trustees. I'm not going to say a lot about myself but I will say I love riding a Harley Davidson and driving my convertibles with the roof down, of course. Did you know if you are driving with the roof down in the rain you don't get wet until you come to a stop? Too bad this didn't work with a motorcycle. Mizpah Chapter has been able to establish a good relationship since Covid, with one of the lodges in our hall by catering some of their dinners and supporting them with their social events. For example one of us donned an Easter bunny costume for their Easter Egg Hunt when they did not have a brother to do it. We help with the annual spring cleanup and attend their annual steak and lobster bbq. They in turn support us by allowing us to do special events in the hall rent free and by attending our social functions. The lodge also sends us their monthly notice and we send our monthly notice to them. On the Grand Master's Official Visit we catered the dinner and ladies social. Mizpah Chapter has hosted a visit by a Past Grand Master who spoke on Freemasonry. We also had a presentation on Prince Hall Masons by their Worshipful Master and lodge secretary because so many did not know about PHM. Locally we support a workshop for adults with developmental disabilities and the Royal Canadian Legion. We celebrated our 100th anniversary in September not knowing how much longer we could go on but at our October meeting we were able to fill all but one elected position for the coming term. Now that eligibility requirements have been changed at GGC it's our hope that we and all our chapters will grow and we will be stronger.

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your story with us! Good to hear from you!!

MIX UP - unscramble the holiday words...

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. PULRDOH | 17. AHRTEW |
| 2. MHCISTARS | 18. TNIGERGSE |
| 3. GSTKCNOIS | 19. RMYER |
| 4. UHANKHA | 20. OTFYRS |
| 5. ERTE GISHTL | 21. TAYRP |
| 6. KBLCA DFYRIA | 22. TTOSNEAIIP |
| 7. PGNIWRPA RPEAP | 23. ERETALCBE |
| 8. ECOIKSO | 24. SOANSE |
| 9. YLOHDIA YPRTA | 25. MAIYFL |
| 10. ANSTA UALCS | 26. LJLOY |
| 11. EGSLIH IDRES | 27. TIPISR |
| 12. WNMSOAN | 28. TIOTSEMLE |
| 13. VELES | 29. RETE |
| 14. EYDEIULT GLO | 30. HLAODYI |
| 15. YCNAD EANC | 31. EEIRERDN |
| 16. ARODET TSNCHTSUE | 32. CYINEHM |

In memory – condolences to the family and friends of the following members:
 Sister Sharon Ford, Langley Chapter No. 50 – passed September 21, 2024
 Brother Felix Kraus, Lansdowne Chapter No. 72 – passed October 10, 2024
 Sister Myrna Bartlett, Sunset Chapter No. 44 – passed October 11, 2024
 Sister Margaret Gregory, Fraser Chapter No. 30 – passed October 21, 2024
 Sister Phyllis Cousins, Cariboo Chapter No. 71 – passed October 29, 2024



The next edition of the Grand Chapter Newsletter will be out mid-February 2025. Please email your submissions to Dana at cariboostar@gmail.com

Let's make it an interesting read!!