



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

Grand Chapter Newsletter

April 2025

Greetings from Bonnie-Jean Foulds, WGM and Terry Foulds, WGP

Today is a lovely sunny day in Prince George. Happy Spring and Happy Easter to everyone! Brother Foulds and I have been busy working on our reports and the COA members are helping us plan the upcoming Grand Chapter. We are looking forward to having everyone join us for a fun time.

On the Saturday evening, prior to the official start of Grand Chapter, we hope you will join us at the "Round Up" event in the Masonic Hall. There will be food, games, and fun times. A bus tour has been arranged to take our members to various points of interest in and around Prince George on Saturday, May 24th. This will give you a great tour of our Northern Hub City of PG, lunch included!



Brother Terry Foulds and I look forward to seeing you at the Jewels of the Northern Sky Grand Chapter Session in Prince George.

All the best,

Sister Bonnie-Jean Foulds, WGM

Grand Chapter Notes

Documents have been forwarded to the Secretary of each Chapter. If you haven't received any information or your credentials as of yet please contact your Secretary.

114th Grand Chapter Session will be held May 26, 27, 28 at the Coast Inn of the North
770 Brunswick Street, Prince George, BC

Phone for Jenna Pratt 1-250-277-4112 of

reservations: Stephanie Young 1-236-423-6388

Group Code: CIN-GFC16063

Booking Name: Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star 2025

Block Cut-off Date: Friday, April 24, 2025

All relevant documents can be found on the Grand Chapter website: <https://bcgrandchapter.com/grand-chapter-2025/>

Congratulations to Sister Heidi Hauka of Langley Chapter and Sister Laura Olufsen of Ypres Chapter, who are the lucky winners of the draws for three nights hotel stay at the Coast Inn of the North and the \$100.00 restaurant gift certificate!! YAY for each of you!

Remember the 50/50 draw? We have a winner!! Congratulations to Sister Carolyn Grant, Langley Chapter No. 50, winner of the Haffer draw. Her win? \$1735.00. Thank you to those who supported this fundraiser.

In Loving Memory



- ★ *Sister Lee Hickson, Jubilee Chapter No. 64, passed February 28, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Doreen Brow, Lansdowne Chapter No. 72, passed February 14, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Charlotte Miller, Queen City Chapter No. 5, passed February 13, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Heather Spicer, Nechako Chapter No. 40, passed February 11, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Janice Evans, Burrard Chapter No. 3, passed January 28, 2025*
- ★ *Brother Mike Solecki, Past Grand Patron, Edina Chapter No. 33, passed January 25, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Charlotte “Dollie” Kaetler, Cariboo Chapter No. 71, passed January 19, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Margaret Rogers, Arbutus Chapter No. 68, passed January 14, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Brenda Balahura, Minto Chapter No. 79, passed January 4, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Kobi Vanderlinde, Alcan Chapter No. 91 passed January 4, 2025*
- ★ *Sister Norma McCormack, Ypres Chapter No. 48, passed December 24, 2024*
- ★ *Sister Marion Fern Hope, Lansdowne Chapter No. 72, passed December 22, 2024*
- ★ *Sister Doreen Innes, Adah Chapter No. 16, passed December 10, 2024*
- ★ *Sister Gala-Mae Johnson, Princess Pine Chapter No. 67, passed November 23, 2024*
- ★ *Sister Lorna Branchi, Crescent Chapter No. 10, passed November 23, 2024*
- ★ *Brother Lyndon James, Florence Chapter No. 53, passed November 2, 2024*

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



<https://bcgrandchapter.com/obituaries-2024/>



New Grand Representatives

Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter...

Margo Stephens - Langley Chapter No. 50 – of Saskatchewan
Trish Hoffman – Alberni Chapter 100 – of Arkansas
John Dunning - Langley Chapter No. 50 – of Delaware
Georgia Holmes - Arbutus Chapter No. 68 – of Philippines
Barbara Holme - Florence Chapter No. 53 – of Virginia
Dodie Castonguay - Florence Chapter No. 53 – of West Virginia
Lynn Radbourne - Ypres Chapter No. 48 – of North Carolina
Mary Gowan - Fraser Chapter No. 30 – of Scotland
Ann Tams - Sunset Chapter No. 44 – of California
Lillian Robinson – Alberni Chapter No. 100 – of Kansas
Peter Walch – Nechako Chapter No. 40 – of Washington
Ivy Debono – Queen City Chapter No. 5 – Nova Scotia & PEI
Sarah Redd – Nechako Chapter No. 40 – of Texas
Roberta Kovacs – Edina Chapter No. 33 – of Idaho
Bill Walsh – Crescent Chapter No. 10 – of Michigan
Sheena Dannelsa – Edina Chapter No. 33 – of New Jersey
Del Cyr – Cariboo Chapter No 71 – of North Dakota

...enjoy your appointment!



Where will you go?

The next Grand Chapter Newsletter will be out in mid-May. Please send your submission to Dana at CaribooStar@gmail.com by May 5th Let's make it an interesting read! Tell me what you'd like to see.

Last of the Winter Ramblings

Garbage is out...the driveway is icy! I didn't slip but it definitely is slippable! My only plan for today is to change bedding, then waltz the mop, and if the temperature comes up or if the sun shines, I will work at getting some stuff put back into the shed from the deck which at the moment looks like a 'jumble sale' and it wouldn't surprise me to find buyers out there one day picking through the odds and sods choosing its and bits for next Christmas! That might not be a bad thing...clean and tidy it all up and who knows...make a buck??? I'd miss those stuffies though, and those huge baubles looked kind of nice on my tree out front. The wreath should be put in a bag...and I suppose I could take the packaging from the poinsettia to recycle...that poor thing started to die as soon as it realized it was no longer on a shelf in Costco! There was just no coaxing it to be happy!

I am not sure what I should do with the cookie tins...they will come in handy I think, (don't know when or where) they are out there with the box full of "railing decor" next to the milk crate full of Christmas lights which I should just plug in, turn on, and excite the neighbours! There are also a couple of Rubbermaid tubs which I was going to use when I defrost the freezer...eventually. I think the lids are out there too, but I am not sure. The raccoons have not been back since I cleaned up the last of the tealight shrapnel...I brought the recycle bin into the house which has restricted movement in the laundry room...which reminds me, there is stuff from yesterday to go into the dryer...I would have found it when the sheets were washed...so I guess that *should* happen today!

The temperature is rising and I have a porch to clean anyway! If I get started today I could be finished by Thursday if uninterrupted! I may have to shovel a path out back...I'll think about it. So there you have it. Upwards and onwards. The best way to get it done is to get started! I should start with some breakfast and a shower. Wish me luck accomplishing all my hopes and doings! If you don't hear from me it will probably be because something fell over and I'm stuck under.

Here it is...GAME DAY! I want so badly to enjoy it even half as much as I enjoy watching the girls at the Olympics! And that's coming next year in Italy! So get prepared to put your feet up and get ready to holler (maybe pre-warn your neighbours!!) and get some stuffies or socks to throw at the TV if and when necessary...I am hoping we will not need a crying towel! The team seems pretty confident...and that's good.

Otherwise it will be a relatively quiet day around here. I see the garbage is still at the curb so either nobody has been by - which is odd - or somebody is just not looking. I don't use the black bags because 1) they are too big (what a waste) and 2) they attract the ravens who look at that as free lunch! I use the small Glad bags and then only the bottom third. So it's not much that is out there. I've got to go find some breakfast; porridge has been the usual each morning, I finished the last of the blueberries yesterday so maybe I'll do eggs today, not ON the porridge!!

Thank you for the giggles!

The Legend of the Easter Lily

(Taken from the internet - ancestralbird)

The Easter Lily is a beautiful trumpet shaped white flower which symbolizes purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life, the spiritual essence of Easter. It is also called the Madonna lily and was the first flower ever recorded in ancient Macedonia. History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are rife with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

Since the beginning of time, lilies have played significant roles in allegorical tales concerning the sacrament of motherhood. Roman mythology links it to Juno, the queen of the gods. The story goes that while Juno was nursing her son Hercules, excess milk fell from the sky. Although part of it remained above the earth (thus creating the group of stars known as the Milky Way), the remainder fell to the earth, creating lilies. Another tradition has it that the lily sprang from the repentant tears of Eve as she went forth from Paradise.

The pure white lily has long been closely associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child.



*...he that believeth in me,
though he were dead,
yet shall he live...
John 11:25*

This is what the Order of the Eastern Star is all about...



Sister Mary M. White of Maple Leaf Chapter No. 19 was our Worthy Grand Matron in 1990. Her Worthy Grand Patron was Brother John Branson of Sharon Chapter No. 4. The pair were installed as WGM and WGP in Chilliwack at the 79th annual session. After what we can only assume was a year full of travel, visiting, and report writing, they had their World of Love Session at the Richmond Arena May 27, 28, 29, 1991. Their Club name was Merry Hearts - were you a Merry Heart? Her watchwords were: Faith Love Truth and one could guess that spring is her favourite season as her prayer was, "Open my eyes to the beauty of spring, my ears to the song of the wind, and my heart to the joy of living."



Sister Arlene Hallam, PGM asked members for cards to be sent to Sister Mary on the occasion of her 100th birthday on February 10th. Sister Sharon White, her daughter, writes:

"On behalf of our family, I wanted to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Chapters and members who sent celebratory birthday cards to my Mom, Mary White PGM, for her 100th birthday. When Mom saw the huge stack of cards for her, her face just lit up! She was so delighted.

It was such a beautiful outpouring of good wishes from the Chapters and members. Many wrote of how Mom had been such a positive part of their lives with the Order or of stories of fun times with Mom. It was a wonderful trip down memory lane for us and we enjoyed them all so much. Receiving all of those wonderful birthday cards made a very special occasion even more special. We are so grateful for your love and support. Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness."

Star Love,
Sharon White and Mary White

Sister Mary received messages from King Charles and Queen Camilla, Prime Minister Trudeau, Mary Simon, Governor General, David Eby, Premier, John Rustad, Conservatory Leader BC, and Ken Sim, Mayor of Vancouver! Indeed a special birthday to be acknowledged by so many dignitaries!!

Sister Arlene, PGM and Brother Terry Hallam, PGP are often in touch and visit with Sister Mary and report she's doing very well. She still loves elephants and reading.

Bless you, Sister Mary, our newest centenarian.
We are wishing you a lovely spring!

Happy Birthday



To those who took time to send a card, thank you! More than 100 cards were received! Well done to our members! You are a true Star!



From our Grand Officers

Associate Grand Conductress – Hi I'm Cheryl Pasholko. I am really excited to be part of this team, the Grand line of this jurisdiction. This is the first station in the journey to the Grand East, Worthy Grand Matron 27/28. I have been an active and involved member in Eastern Star for over thirty-six years. At the Chapter level, I have served as Worthy Matron six times, and I am currently Treasurer in Edina Chapter No. 33. I have served on various committees at both Chapter and Grand Chapter levels.

I have significant personal and professional achievements: attaining a degree in criminology with courses in human studies, serving on various community committees and having received the exemplary service medal from the Sheriff's Department. I enjoy walks on the trails and lakes around my area, spending time with family, friends and grandkids plus curling up on a sofa with a glass of red wine and a good book. I would say that I'm motivated, creative, encouraging, and friendly. May love and laughter light your days with a little sparkle in your heart!

Grand Trustee

I am Heather MacDonald. I was born in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. My Dad joined the Air Force as a cook and we moved to Clinton, Ontario so he could be trained as an Electrical Instrumental Technician; he would say that he was too good of a cook for the Air Force, so they had to find something else for him to do! We then moved to North Bay, Ontario and while living there, a little international crisis happened, the Cuba Crisis also known as the Bay of Pigs. The base in North Bay at the time was a nuclear weapon site and its proximity to Ottawa made it a target. My Dad was on 24 hour alert and only came home for what he called the three s's "shower, (clean) shirt and I will let you guess what the third one was! It was a very concerning time.

My sisters Donna and Sandra entered the picture when we lived in North Bay. We were then transferred to Val-d'or, Quebec, where I learned to speak French which I spoke until we moved to BC. I still know some swear words, but I couldn't put any of them into a sentence. We transferred to Loggieville, New Brunswick and here, my sister Alexis was born. I almost attended a one room school. I do not know if it was all of New Brunswick or just that particular School District, but Kindergarten was not offered and they would not let me jump ahead to grade one. I would watch my friend walk to the white school house when the teacher would ring the hand bell. This is where I remember singing in church for the first time where the boys and girls were in separate classes. We lived on the banks of the Miramichi River just one house up from the ferry that crossed the river to Newcastle. In the winter it was put up on blocks out of the river to protect it from the ice. The Christmas hymn "I Saw Three Ships" became one of my favourites as I was amazed at the ships sailing down the frozen river. In 1966 - 1967 the Canadian Armed Forces changed the uniforms and Dad, in my opinion, did not look as good in the mustard colour as he did in the blues. Members with three or more dependents were not being posted overseas and I think Dad saw Gander in his future, but being that he did not want to move there, he retired. There had been talk of staying on my Mom's parents farm in Miami, Manitoba which was my favourite place to be by Dad's mom lived in New Westminster and as she was a widow, we moved to Port Coquitlam. This was our fifth province in just six years. My sister Katherine was born nine days after my 7th birthday and I have always considered her my birthday present.

I continued to sing in church, played the trumpet (badly) in high school, but I do love music. My sisters and I were all involved in Jobies and I am the only one who is in Star. I was Honoured Queen in '78-'79 in Bethel 41, I have been on Bethel Council and was Grand 4th Messenger. My Grandmother, Anne Oakes, was visiting to see me initiated; she was Worthy Matron many times both in Miami and Morden, Manitoba. Mom and I joined Coquitlam Chapter No. 23 nineteen years ago. My daughter Rachel and my niece Bethea were also Jobies and are members of Eastern Star. I am very lucky that Rachel and I are in the same Chapter. I have been Worthy Matron several times, was Grand Representative of Manitoba, with pure joy, am honoured to be a Grand Trustee. Another Manitoba Star connection is Bob McMillian PGP of Manitoba. He went to school with one of my aunts, and told Mom and me of the time when my Grandfather, Tom Oakes, picked up Bob to take him to his first Lodge meeting for initiation. The Star World is indeed a small World.

I have been happily divorced for 25 years. I moved to Kelowna eighteen years ago, have been cleaning houses for seniors for about fifteen years and am now semi-retired. I have a ten year old cat named Boo, I love to bake, crochet, watch CFL, hockey and curling; movie musicals are my go to at any time. Bonnie-Jean asked what my favourite gem/jewel is and I have to say, my four beautiful children and grandchildren. In May I will be blessed with my eighth grandchild.

Grand Marshal - I am Lorraine Collins and like many of our members Free Masonry runs in my blood. My 5x great grandfather came over with General Wolfe and became the first Provincial Grand Master of Canada by Patent of Appointment on November 2nd 1767 and he served until 1786. My brother Doug served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon from 2015 to 2016.

I am a Past Honored Queen and Majority member of Job's Daughters and have served as Guardian Secretary, Guardian Treasurer and Bethel Guardian. I have had the honour of serving as Grand First Messenger and I am a member of Job's Daughters Alumni.

I am a very active member of Eastern Star for over 30 years and have served on various committees both at the Chapter and Grand Chapter level. I have been Worthy Matron three times and had the privilege of having my father serve as my Worthy Patron on all three occasions. I currently hold the position of Conductress in Edina and Associate Conductress pro tem in Similkameen. I have had the honour of being a Grand Representative to Saskatchewan and currently am extremely honoured to be your Grand Marshal. I also belong to Zarah Temple #72, Daughters of the Nile, and have served as a Temple officer on several occasions.

My husband and I have four children – three daughters and a son. We have sixteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They keep us very busy and we enjoy being able to spend time with them and being an important part of their lives.

I was employed by the City of Penticton for over 32 years, retiring in 2012. I hold degrees in Business Administration, Local Government Administration and Computer Science, the last one obtained quite by accident. I love learning and could be a professional student. I am very proud of the rewards I have received during my career however my prize possession is the mini replicate RCMP cruiser and plaque I received from our local Detachment when I retired.

I am very involved in Genealogy and am enjoying connecting with old and new family members. I am the Membership and Cemetery Coordinator for our local Genealogical Society. Last year I was able to spend four wonderful weeks travelling by bus with nineteen family members to attend an amazing family reunion in Georgia and yes, we are still talking and are still friends. We are currently planning another trip in the fall of 2025. I enjoy skiing, skating, cooking and reading in the winter and swimming, hiking as well as gardening and canning in the warm summer months. I am passionate about Somatic Yoga and was so lucky to have been able to have my cousin (in-law) Eleanor Criswell-Hanna Roberts to instruct me. In 2023 I enrolled our five year old great grandson in Taekwondo and I so enjoy being able to work with him as we learn the sport together. I love life, my family and my friends. See you in Prince George.

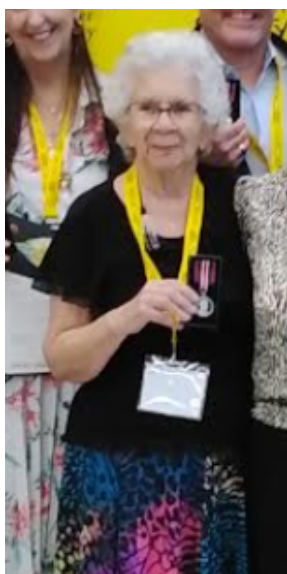
Grand Adah - My name is Brenda (Martens) Sewell. I have lived in Vancouver most of my life, however, as a young child I lived in Powell River and Victoria. I am delighted to have been installed as Grand Adah this year. Having grown up in a Masonic family, it is indeed a significant part of my life.

I joined Bethel 12 Job's Daughters when I was fourteen years old, in Vancouver, and enjoyed it immensely. I made many lasting friendships.

In 1960 I was initiated into Trinity Chapter No. 74 in Vancouver and when that Chapter closed, I affiliated with Fraser Chapter No. 30 which is closer to home. Throughout my time in the Order of Eastern Star I have had the honour of serving in various roles: 2004-2005 I was Worthy Matron which I greatly enjoyed. I have been Secretary for the past ten years which is very rewarding. I have kept my connection with Job's Daughters and cherish the time spent with Majority Members and adults. I was Guardian of Bethel 40 in Richmond where my two daughters were each Honoured Queen.

My parents were Grand Guardian and Associate Grand Guardian of the IOJD. In 1982 I was installed as Grand Guardian of British Columbia and enjoyed a very memorable year working with the Jobies and adults of the jurisdiction. I also held the position of Grand Secretary for five years and one year as Supreme Secretary. As I look back on my journey with the Order of the Eastern Star and Job's Daughters I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities, experiences and friendships it has brought into my life. I look forward to Grand Chapter in Prince George to finalize this memorable 2024-2025 year.

*Thank you for sharing!
See you all in Prince George!!*



King Charles III Coronation Medals were presented to two of our Sisters. Sincere congratulations to:

← Sister Pat Haywood (for her many years of volunteering at the Vancouver Cancer Lodge) and to Sister Honey Affleck → (for her several years of community volunteering in Quesnel). So proud of you both. Well done!



Congratulations to the newly installed officers for 2025-2026. How many first time Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons are out there? Let me know!!





20 Easter words to unscramble - Good luck!

1. LIYL _____
2. DEHI _____
3. ELEALBJYNS _____
4. ASETER _____
5. HICKC _____
6. PRILA _____
7. SEWLORF _____
8. OMALMSWAHLR _____
9. POH _____
10. USDNAY _____
11. PPEES _____
12. BNNYU _____
13. STKEAB _____
14. SARSG _____
15. NACDY _____
16. NTUH _____
17. GGES _____
18. YED _____
19. NSET _____
20. OTCACHOEL _____

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Newsletter will be out mid-May. Please email
your submissions by May 5 to Dana at
cariboostar@gmail.com

Let's make it an interesting read!!