

# BC Grand Chapter Newsletter

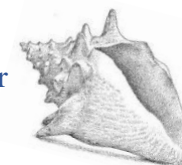
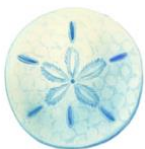
June – July – August 2025



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 – 2026 GRAND OFFICERS

Worthy Grand Matron  
 Worthy Grand Patron  
 Associate Grand Matron  
 Associate Grand Patron  
 Grand Secretary  
 Grand Treasurer  
 Grand Conductress  
 Associate Grand Conductress  
 Grand Trustees

Sister Cheryl Rikley  
 Brother Terry Porter  
 Sister Flo Evans  
 Brother Brian Evans  
 Sister Sue Pfaff  
 Sister Sonia Rockwell  
 Sister Cheryl Pasholko  
 Sister Kathleen Widsten  
 Brother Wayne Woodhouse, PGP (Chair)  
 Brother Robert Palmieri  
 Sister Daphne Keith  
 Sister Heather MacDonald  
 Sister Darlene Taylor  
 Sister Marlene Storrie  
 Sister JoAnne Finley, PGM  
 Sister Fran Pirie  
 Sister Pat Haywood  
 Sister Karen Yoshioka  
 Sister Delia Parker  
 Sister Dene Johnston  
 Sister Pat Schmitz  
 Sister Jan Hermiston  
 Brother Glen Chatfield  
 Brother Gerry Flesh



Congratulations to all of you sea creatures! We hope you have an awesome year ahead serving our Grand Chapter. Oceans of Friendship, Waves of Joy!



## Official Visits

There have been six Official Visits thus far and, from what I have heard, they've all been very good. Congratulations to all those Grand Officers who have been travelling with the new Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. It's been wonderful seeing Sister Mernie Sutton and Sister Carmen Pierce on the Star Trail again as well as seeing some Grand Officers who we've not seen before. Thank you all for being there!

### **Been there, done that:**

May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Alcan Chapter No. 91 / Peace Chapter No. 58	Dawson Creek
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nechako Chapter No. 40	Prince George
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cariboo Chapter No. 71 / Princess Pine No. 67	Williams Lake
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Jubilee Chapter No. 64	Cranbrook
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Minto Chapter No. 79	Castlegar
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Edina Chapter No. 33	Penticton
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Similkameen Chapter No. 78	Oliver

### **Up and coming:**

August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Florence Chapter No. 53	Courtenay	**Special outdoor OV**
September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kelowna Chapter No. 62	Kelowna	
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lansdowne Chapter No. 72	Enderby	
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mizpah Chapter No. 36	Haney	
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fraser Chapter No. 30	Ladner	
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ypres Chapter No. 48	Surrey	
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Langley Chapter No. 50	Langley	
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Burrard Chapter No. 3	Vancouver	
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Electa Chapter No. 20	Abbotsford	
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Queen City Chapter No. 5	Victoria	
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Chas Maria Chapter No. 76	Campbell River	
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Alberni Chapter No. 100	Port Alberni	
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Crescent Chapter No. 10	Nanaimo	
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunset Chapter No. 44	Duncan	
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Arbutus Chapter No. 68	Parksville	

### **FUTURE EVENTS** \*Please refer to the Grand Chapter Website for further information and additional events\*

August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Honour Day WGM / WGP in Nanaimo
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	**Special outdoor OV Florence Chapter No. 53**
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Nechako Chapter No. 40 – Garden Party
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Nechako Chapter No. 40 – Harvest Dinner
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sunset Chapter No. 44 – 100 <sup>th</sup> Gala Event
2026 January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Nechako Chapter No. 40 – 100 <sup>th</sup> Gala Event
2026 February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Big Chill – Nanaimo
2026 May 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Chapter - Nanaimo

# Volunteers are everything!

Sister Pat Haywood sent this in to share with our Star family: "I volunteer at the Vancouver Cancer Lodge and wrote a poem of what I do for the patients. I have volunteered there since July 2004."

## Poem of the Month

We open our doors very wide  
And invite you to come inside  
We take care of you and your family too  
That's why we're here and it's what we do  
Visits to the clinic which is nearby.  
How come this happened  
You must wonder why  
Just remember you're not alone  
And one day your cancer will be gone.  
Cancer can hit you  
But no one knows  
That's how it is  
That's how it goes  
Try to fight as you go along  
Don't be weak, just be strong.  
Volunteers are here to help you  
That is our plan  
To be your friend  
As much as we can  
To give you courage  
To comfort, too  
That's why I'm here  
Just for you.

Once a month at the Cancer Lodge we have a bingo night. In February we held a hockey bingo and trivia night where the prizes were donated by the Vancouver Canucks. We had a wonderful time and the trivia winner got a signed goalie stick. I am demonstrating how it is used. I wasn't the winner but my cohorts think I should be hired by the Canucks!



*Oh, Sister Pat, we think you have a lot of fun while you volunteer. Thank you for all that you do!*



## SUMMER FUN!

Thank you to Sister Betty MacDuff for sending these pictures of members who met for lunch and other shenanigans in Gibsons.



*Two past Grand Organists (standing) and our present Grand Organist (sitting)*



# History of a PGM Jewel...

The Province  
Sun, Jun 29, 1930 Page 51

## Grand Matron of O.E.S.



**JPGM Sister Bonnie-Jean Foulds** chose a jewel that was first worn by Sister Emily Evelyn Maxwell in 1931, then by Sister Margaret Olts Royston in 1968 followed by Sister Hill-Tout in 1975.

← **Sister Emily Maxwell** was a member of Queen Esther Chapter No. 12 in Vancouver. That Chapter opened in 1913 and closed in 1989.

In 1923 Sister Maxwell was part of a ceremony at the 12<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Session in North Vancouver held at the K.P. Hall. She was Grand Chaplain. In attendance was a Grand Representative from Arkansas. In 1930 she was elected Worthy Grand Matron. In 1931, she founded the first Job's Daughters Bethel No. 1. It was the first Bethel outside of the United States and necessitated a change in the name of the organization from Order of Job's Daughters to International Order of Job's Daughters. She attended regular Grand Sessions of Job's Daughters in British Columbia until the age of 90. Sister Maxwell passed away at the age of 96 on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1965.

**Sister Margaret Olts** was a member of Nechako Chapter No. 40. She was widowed in February 1959. She served as Grand Marshal in 1963 – 1964 and then began her journey to the Grand East, being elected Worthy Grand Matron, 1967 – 1968 under the name Margaret Royston. Her Worthy Grand Patron was Herbert Hill-Tout. There were 1500 delegates at that Grand Chapter. She was married to Cedric John Royston when she died on August 1, 1972 in Prince George.



← **Sister Mildred Hill-Tout** was the first school teacher in Hixon! She was Worthy Grand Matron in 1974 – 1975, a member of Adah Chapter No. 16 and she and her husband Herb lived in West Vancouver. She was a General Grand Chapter Committee Member on Education and assisted with youth organizations of Job's Daughters and DeMolay. Sister Mildred passed away on June 5, 2006 in New Westminster where she had been living for many years. Adah Chapter closed in 2025.



**HONOUR DAY** – Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron will be celebrated on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Moose Hall in Nanaimo. Dress is formal. In lieu of gifts, donations to the Special Projects – Pancreatic Cancer or Service Dogs – are welcome. RSVP to Dene Johnston, [oesarbutus68@gmail.com](mailto:oesarbutus68@gmail.com) or Brian Evans, [crescent10oes@gmail.com](mailto:crescent10oes@gmail.com) Pickup from ferry available upon request!

**2025 Fraternal Golf Tournament** – a change of date due to conflict with another event is necessary. The new date is September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you require information please contact your Chapter Secretary. **BIG NEWS** - there will be a raffle held, prize is an all inclusive seven day vacation for two valued at \$5,000 at the beautiful El Cid Marina and Yacht Club in Mazatlan, Mexico. Tickets will be available soon \$25.00 each. Watch for more information!

Another successful **Joint Official Visit** was held with Princess Pine Chapter No. 67 Williams Lake and Cariboo Chapter No. 71, Quesnel on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. A delicious luncheon was served before the meeting and a delightful cake served after the meeting. It was a great meeting, well attended and so nice to have all the chairs filled. Where attendance would have been slim individually, together we were great! General Grand Chapter Committee Members, Past Grand Matrons and Grand Officers and their escorts were all welcomed. It was so nice to see so many visitors.

Worthy Matrons Sister Lynn Schwehr (front, far left) and Sister Val Fleming (front, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) shared the duties of the Worthy Matron as did the Associate Matrons, and the Conductresses shared the floor work. The two Secretaries took their own minutes but one was busy playing the piano - it was so nice to have music! I received *many* accolades and was pleased to play. The Grand Officers were well represented, Sister Dene Johnston was standing directly behind Sister Jan Hermiston in the original photograph. I thought I could/should photoshop her in – and so I did! 😊 - Dana



## Grand Representative Appointments

The following appointments have been awarded since the beginning of 2025

**Missouri**

New Brunswick

**New Hampshire**

Puerto Rico

**Arkansas**

Washington

**Alberta**

California

**Georgia**

**Sister Navarr Firbank**

Sister Denise Brownlee

**Sister Erin Schultz**

Sister Eileen Palmieri

**Sister Trish Hoffman**

Brother L. Peter Walch

**Sister Christine Todd**

Sister Ann Tams

**Sister Jaclyn Jaeger**

Idaho

**Kansas**

Nevada

**New Jersey**

Nova Scotia & PEI

**Saskatchewan**

Scotland

**Texas**

Virginia

**West Virginia**

Wyoming

Sister Roberta Kovacs

**Sister Lillian Robinson**

Sister Margaret Garnier

**Sister Sheena Dannelsa**

Sister Ivy Debono

**Sister Margo Stephens**

Sister Mary Gowan

**Sister Sarah Redd**

Sister Barbara Holme

**Sister Dodie Castonguay**

Sister Nicole Reid

*Congratulations!*



# BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SERVICE DOGS • OSI-PTSD SERVICE DOGS

## GOING TO THE DOGS

The relationship OES has with the BC & AB Guide Dogs is a great one, so great in fact that we have been given the privilege of naming THREE puppies this coming year. Another contest will be held, watch for communication from the Grand Chapter office. In the meantime get your thinking caps on for great names!

This is a registered charity in British Columbia, having been incorporated June 1996. There are more than 250 volunteers, 361 graduates, 191 active teams and 74 communities served. The Order of the Eastern Star is a founding patron of the Autism Service Dogs. It takes two years and upwards of \$35,000 to produce one certified dog which is provided free of charge to the recipient.

How can we continue to help with this wonderful project:

- ♥ Donate – the quickest way to help the BC & Alberta Guide Dogs achieve their goals is by making a donation to the Capital Campaign; Sponsor a Puppy; Leave a Legacy; Fundraising Partner
- ♥ Visit the website to make your tax deductible donation and get your receipt immediately:  
<https://bcandalbertaguidedogs.com/ways-to-give/donate/>
- ♥ Sponsor a Puppy options:
  - starting at just **\$15 per month** you can help a puppy become a guide or service dog from birth to graduation.
  - Kinderpup **\$50.00**
  - Puppy Pal **\$100.00**
  - Puppy Scholarship **\$250.00**
  - Mom & Pups Fund **\$1,000.00**
  - Puppy Naming **\$5,000.00**
- ♥ Three ways to sponsor:
  - Call 1-877-258-0819;
  - Visit the website and click and purchase a sponsorship;
  - Print a form and mail it in with your cheque.
- ♥ There is a multi-year waiting list for autism service dogs. They are no longer taking names. By continuing to donate we can help reduce the wait.
- ♥ There are three puppies who are now in training and awaiting sponsorship: Audrey, Rosco and Bridget.
- ♥ Let's do this!!

- ♥ **Call the BC & Alberta Guide Dogs or**
- ♥ **Ask your Chapter Secretary for assistance**

*The next newsletter will be out towards end of September. Send your submissions to [cariboostar@gmail.com](mailto:cariboostar@gmail.com)*

## The Best for Last...

### ...from our Worthy Grand Matron

Wow what a busy time it has been...incredible, exhilarating, gratitude, humility and sometimes exhaustion (in a good way). It has been an absolute honour to represent British Columbia and Yukon in four other Grand Chapter jurisdictions thus far.

After Grand Chapter in Prince George we headed out to the Official Visits. There have been seven visits with two of those being joint Official Visits. I was so encouraged, and amazed, on how some of our Chapter members manage to hold more than one office just to have a meeting, there is so much creativity out there, and this tells us that our members continue to do whatever it takes to keep on with Chapter meetings. There is great value in this. Thank you all for the very warm reception that we received at each Chapter.

After the Official Visits we headed east to Alberta Grand Chapter in Olds. Some of you may be aware that the Worthy Grand Matron of Alberta, Sister Bonnie Nelson, has Scottie dogs for one of her emblems. She gave a wooden Scottie dog to each Grand Officer with direct instruction that they find a foster parent for their dog while they travel this year. I received a dog from the Worthy Grand Matron herself. We are to take the dogs as we travel and send pictures to their website. I am to document the dog's travels with me and return the dog at their session next year. It is so much fun. Many of you will be able to meet "Rory" on the continuation of our travels.

After being home for a just a few days Sister Jo-Anne and I headed to Washington State for their Grand Chapter. The border has never been so simple both going and coming back! We enjoyed our time with our Sisters and Brothers to the south. The very next day we headed to Truro, Nova Scotia to attend the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and PEI. And it was wonderful!! We had the opportunity to speak with our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Billie, and Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Mike who was looking better than ever.

Indeed, it is interesting to see how other jurisdictions are just slightly different and yet we are the same. I can tell you this – I have never been so proud as when I was presented as Worthy Grand Matron of British Columbia and Yukon. Sister Jo-Anne Finley, General Grand Chapter Committee Member (Cancer) and Sister Jacquie Clearwater, Past Grand Matron were also presented. British Columbia and Yukon was well represented and we were certainly noticed! I have to say that as soon as we arrived at the hotel for the sessions we knew we were with family. Sisters and Brothers, this is what we are all about! Many thanks to Sister Jo-Anne for her vast knowledge of the area and for touring us around. I cannot forget to mention the opportunity to stay in her family's haunted farmhouse! Perhaps more on that another time!

Sisters and Brothers, **Starfish Wishes** to all of you for a wonderful summer filled with fun, frolic and family!

Star love,

*Sister Cheryl Rikley*  
*Worthy Grand Matron*

