

**Hamilton Commandery****Editors Comments**

The last newsletter was my first and mistakes I made were numerous. I will not tell you about all but for one that really stands out. I forgot to give credit to Lynda Murdoch – Furchner for the wonderful photographs used. Lynda supplied numerous photos but I had to pick just a few to highlight our events.

I became aware of this Order many years ago however no one recruited me and my awareness was lost over the years. If not for an old friend, Col. Jim Stokes mentioning this Order I would have not even thought about it. It is time to search our own databases and remind some friends and potential candidates of the Order and the good works we do locally.

An updated Pilgrimage Flyer is available in a PDF format. For members in the area a visit to London Ontario's St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica and the tomb of Robert Land in Hamilton Cemetery across from Dundurn Castle in Hamilton earns you a Silver Shell. Applications and proof of your visit are required. A nice day trip as I did with lunch in London and back to Hamilton was an enjoyable day.

A Hospitaller Order of St. John Insignia Catalogue in PDF format is also available.

London Commandery has a Facebook page for those interested in keeping up with their activities. Search Facebook for HOSJ London and request to join.

**Grand Prior's Message**

Happy New Year!

Fellow Hospitallers, greetings to you!

We stand at the cusp of this New Year with hopes of fresh starts, new promises and resolutions. We talk about changes with the intent on becoming better people and we can take solace in knowing that we do not face the future alone. It is my hope that, whatever lies before us in 2024, we know that God is with us. I pray that we become more generous, more aware and more informed about the communities we live in and that we have grateful hearts. Peace be with you!

A prayer for the new year from Southward Cathedral, London, U.K.:

God of new beginnings,  
Of hope and deliverance,  
Dawn us with fresh opportunities,  
Equip us for new tasks,  
Fill us with eager longing,  
Thrill us with fresh starts,  
That with the past behind us  
We may look to all that lies ahead  
With faith in Jesus,  
Hope in you  
And love for all.

Amen

Yours in Christ and St. John

HE Bailiff Glenna Swing, DH



### **Hamilton Commander's Message**

A belated Happy New Year to all. Wishing everyone good health and I'm looking forward to seeing all at our future events. Please remember former member of our Commandary Col. Jim Forsythe, who passed away recently. Many of us remember him from the military, having worked for him over the years. A quick reminder of our upcoming General Meeting and of course the Spring Dinner. Stay safe and continue your good work.

Yours in Christ and St. John

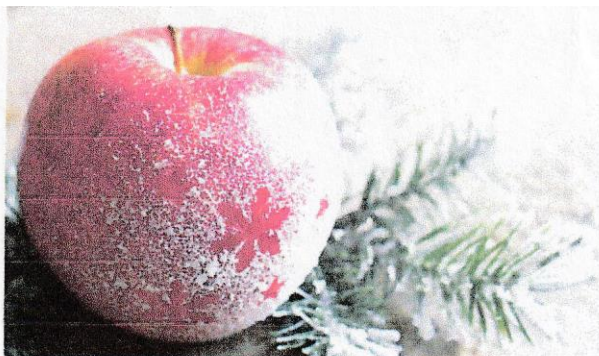
KCdr. Allan Blackborow

## Your Dollars at Work



Through our efforts at the Summer and Christmas events we were able to donate \$5000.00 to Hamilton Food Share just before the festive season to provide \$25,000 worth of food to the various Hamilton Food Share partners in our area. This was a gift well received as the needs of the communities in and around the Hamilton area have increased significantly over the previous year.





# THANK YOU



December 15, 2023

Mr. Allan Blackborow  
Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights  
Office of the Grand Chancellor  
146 Glenariff Drive  
Freelton, ON L8B 1A5

Dear Mr. Blackborow and Members of the Hamilton Commandery of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights:

This donation means so much to our neighbours experiencing hunger this season and with more households relying on food banks than ever before, this couldn't have come at a better time.

This can be a difficult time of year for those already worrying about how they will keep food on their table, let alone celebrate the holidays. Your support means our food banks will be prepared to feed every family that is in need, so thank you for caring.

This gift will give peace of mind to parents, security to seniors, and comfort to children. Everyone deserves that at this time of year.

Your contribution of \$5,000.00 will raise \$25,000.00 worth of nutritious food for our member agencies supporting over 12,000 households in the month of December.

Thank you for providing our families, children, and seniors with hope.

May your holidays be filled with love and cheer.

Sincerely,

Radhika Subramanyan  
Chief Executive Officer

Allan, thank you so much  
for bringing this kind gift from  
the Knights Hospitaller's down.  
We appreciate your support  
and care for those facing  
hunger in Hamilton!  
Ashley



## **Christmas Social and Silent Auction**



The Silent Auction bidding was fast, furious, and extremely competitive.



Friends from London Commandery with Mike and a wonderful evening of food and friendship at the RHLI Officer's Mess.

Once again, I wish to thank Lynda Murdoch – Furchner for the pictures. I have now located my camera and will try to augment Lynda's photography.

## **Robert Land Vault**

Mike Rehill has supplied pictures of the refurbishment of the Land Vault at Hamilton Cemetery. This is one of your requirements towards a shell.



## **Last Post**



It is with great sadness that the Forsyth family announces the passing of Colonel (Ret'd) James Charles Forsyth, CStJ, CD, CA, on 11 January 2024, at the age of 85.

James was a tireless campaigner for the RHLI, both in Canada and overseas on numerous regimental trips to France, Holland and Belgium for World War II memorial functions. He was also a member of the Dieppe Veterans' Memorial Park committee, leading to the construction and dedication of a long-overdue monument that pays tribute to veterans of The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and other Hamilton area veterans who participated in the raid on Dieppe, France in August 1942.

He also kept active with volunteer and community service work with St. John Ambulance (Burlington Branch), the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (Hamilton Division), the Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario), the Hospitaller Order of St. John (Hamilton Commandery) serving as Treasurer, the XIIIth Regiment Foundation and Reserves 2000.

## **Closing**

Being new at this your comments and criticisms are welcomed but they may be ignored. Not really as I need all the help and encouragement, I can get. Should you wish to provide pictures or articles for future newsletters please send them to me at [r.dewolfe2023@outlook.com](mailto:r.dewolfe2023@outlook.com)

## **Save The Date**

Hamilton Commandery Annual Meeting Saturday March 16, 2024 at Church of the Resurrection on Mohawk Rd. West in Hamilton.

Spring Dinner at Burlington Golf & Country Club Friday May 31, 2024

Summer Social to be advised.

Investiture in Montreal 18 & 19 October 2024

Robert (Bob) DeWolfe CD,CET,CH