



**The Sovereign Military Order
of the Temple of Jerusalem**

Priory of St. James

Annual Report

2005



Index

Page

Message from the Prior	4
History of the Priory of St. James	5
Officers	7
Members	7
Committees	8
Committee Reports	9
Knights Templar Facts	13
Financial Report	14



2004 Templar Investiture

Front row (L –R): Cdr. The Ven. Ron Matthewman; Dai Gaasenbeek; Capt. George McNeillie;
Kelly Webb; Michael Willson

Second Row: Jo Perrin; Joan Peters; Nola Crewe; David Kraisosky

Third Row: Capt. Rob Tyler; Julia MacDonald; Cam Hourd; Capt. Barry Bousfield

Fourth Row: Peter Russell; Maj. Tim Zack; RADM James J. Carey; Lake Trevelyan; Matthew Gaasenbeek

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR

March 31, 2006

Welcome to the first annual report of the Priory of St. James, the Toronto branch of Ordo Supremus Militi Templi Hierosolymitani, the only international order of Knights Templar that has been recognized in Special Consultative Status by the United Nations. I invite you to visit our website at www.osmth.org to learn more about our organization.

Elsewhere, you will be able to read about our local history and activities, but I wanted to note a few of the past year's highlights:



H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie KCTJ is sworn in as Prior I of the Priory of St. James

- The Commandery of St. James was elevated to Priory status by H.E. Rear Admiral Chev. James J. Carey, GCTJ, GNTJ, Grand Master, and H.E. Commander The. Ven. Chev. Ronald Matthewman, GCTJ, Grand Prior of Canada at our annual Convent & Investiture in October 2005.
- Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ received the OSMTH Meritorious Service Award (one of only 15 awarded worldwide).
- Five members were elevated to the rank of Knight/Dame Commander: Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, RCTJ; Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ; Chev. Peter Russell, RCTJ; Chev. Michael Willson, RCTJ.
- Honorary member, Capt. Arjeh van der Sluis, OMTJ, was invested into the Order of Merit at the United States Military Academy at West Point.
- Priory members Capt. (N) Chev. Chris Korwin-Ruczynski RTJ and LCol Walter Perchal, RTJ were part of a Canada-U.S. Templar effort to assist the Canadian military and RCMP with the transportation of 5,000 teddy bears at Christmas to children in New Orleans who had lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina.

As you read through this report, you will gain an appreciation of the history and ceremonies of the Templars. As important as these traditions are, they are not our primary purpose: we are an ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to helping the less fortunate at home and abroad. Our philosophy is perhaps best expressed by our Latin motto (taken from Psalm 115) Non nobis, Domine, non nobis: sed Tuo da Gloriam ("Not for our sake, Lord, but to Thy name be given Glory").

H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ
Prior

HISTORY OF THE PRIORY OF ST. JAMES

The Priory of St. James of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem officially came into being on Saturday 1 October 2005 at the Second Annual Convent & Investiture of the former Commandery of St. James. In a little less than one year, the Toronto organization has grown from 15 members to more than 30 members

In April 1998, RADM Chev. James J. Carey, the then-Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of the United States, invited his friend and fellow Zeta Psi Fraternity Board member, Capt. George G. McNeillie III, to be invested into the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. He became a member of the Priory of St. Patrick in a ceremony at the Cadet Chapel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Because there was no Templar group in Canada at the time, Chev. George remained a 'long distance' member of the Priory of St. Patrick, unable (due to the 500 mile distance) to participate much in that Priory's activities.

In August 2003, Chev. George met with Chev. James (who had become International Grand Commander of Ordo Supremus Militi Templi Hierosolymitani --OSMTH-- the international governing body of the Knights Templar) at their fraternity convention in Orlando, FL and discussed opportunities for bringing the organization to Canada. Chev. James noted that he was already working with a group in Windsor, Ontario, but that he was sure they would welcome Chev. George's participation.

In late January of 2004, Chev. George arranged for Chev. James to be a guest speaker at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. This speaking engagement was organized by Chev. George's friend and brother officer in the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, LCol Ed Rayment, and was most enthusiastically endorsed by the club's president Matthew Gaasenbeek, III.

Chev. James came to speak at the RCMi on Wednesday, 28 January 2004. Among the invited guests were: Cdr. The Ven. Chev. Ronald Matthewman, Prior of the newly-established Canadian Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord in Windsor; Cdr. Chev. Frederick Knight, Chancellor; Col. Chev. Rae Martin; LCDr Chev. Peter Kelly and Chev. Terry Davis, Prior of the Priory of St. Clair in Detroit (from which the Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord had sprung).

Thereafter, throughout the spring, correspondence took place among Chev. Ron, Chev. James and Chev. George. Chev. Ron and Chev. George also met in Toronto to discuss a strategy for creating a new Commandery and Chev. George set up a meeting for Chev. Ron with The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Anglican Dean of Toronto, to seek approval to use the Cathedral Church of St. James to host the first investiture (Chev. George was, at that time, Chair of Sidespersons at the Cathedral). The Dean graciously consented and offered to participate in the ceremonies. A date was then set for the first Toronto Convent & Investiture: Saturday 2 October 2004. In honour of the Dean's kindness, it was decided to name the new Toronto group the Commandery of St. James (although it should be noted that this did not imply either a formal or legal relationship between the Cathedral and the Commandery).

Matthew Gaasenbeek indicated great interest in the Templars and was immensely helpful in the formation of the new group. He kindly offered the new organization a special class of membership at the RCMi for not-for-profits.

Chev. George then set about to recruit new members. A Templar information evening and reception was held on 24 June 2004 at the RCMi to introduce prospective members to the group. This was attended by 25 guests, seven of whom became Postulants.

In July 2004, Chev. George met with Maj. Timothy Zack, a Postulant to the Priory of St. Patrick, who had missed his investiture due to military service. He asked to be invested at the Toronto group's planned investiture ceremony, and he introduced Chev. George to Wing Cdr. Benjamin Lee of Hong Kong; to Capt. Arjeh van der Sluis (who was recently invested into the Order of Merit); to Col. Chev. Maurice Janeczko (also of St. Patrick's and who has become an associate of St. James); to his wife Christina Zawierucha-Zack (who became a member of the Priory of St. James in October 2005) and to LCol Walter Perchal, Commanding Officer of the Royal Regiment of Canada (who was invested in November 2005).

In August 2004, Chev. George asked his friend Jo Perrin if she would host a reception for Chev. James. She generously put her gracious home at our disposal and this splendid event occurred on Tuesday, 10 August 2004. Chev. James' presence helped obtain an additional seven new Postulants, bringing the total number to 14 which, with Chev. George, accounted for 15 members -- enough to acquire Commandery status.

It would be difficult to fully describe the amount of work required to set up the new group in Toronto. Literally hundreds of hours were spent recruiting Postulants, setting up receptions, liaising with what (in May 2004) would become the Grand Priory of Canada; processing applications; ordering mantles, insignia and brevets; arranging for a piper, photographer, sexton; organizing the banquet; printing programs, etc. Needless to say, none of this could have been undertaken without the immense help of: RADM Chev. James Carey (who was the 'eminence gris' and a prime moving force in making this all happen); Cdr. The Ven. Chev. Ron Matthewman, Grand Prior of Canada and his wonderful group (too numerous to name, but Chev. Sred Knight, Chev. Rae Martin, Chev. Peter Kelly certainly stand out); H.E. Chev. Terry Davis (then Prior of the Priory of St. Clair); and also then-Postulant Matthew Gaasenbeek.

The first Annual Convent & Investiture of the Commandery of St. James took place at the Cathedral Church of St. James on Saturday, 2 October 2004. Fifteen Postulants were invested (including Maj. Timothy Zack, who was being invested on behalf of the Priory of St. Patrick), and Chev. George was elevated to Knight Commander and invested as Commander of the new Commandery. The beautiful and moving ceremony was conducted by the Members of the Priors of the Ascension of Our Lord and St. Clair, assisted by the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto and the Rev. Canon David Brinton, OGS, Vicar of the Cathedral. Music was provided by the Cathedral's Director of Music and Organist, Michael Bloss and by Pipe Major John Wakefield.

Since the Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord did not hold its own Investiture until the following month, the Commandery of St. James' Investiture was, coincidentally, the first Templar Investiture performed by the new Grand Priory of Canada on Canadian soil. It proved to be an excellent 'practice session' for the Grand Priory -- and was much appreciated by the new members in Toronto. The ceremonies were followed by a cocktail reception and banquet at the Royal Canadian Military Institute where the new members were awarded their brevets.

The second Annual Convent & Investiture was held on Saturday 1 October 2005 at the Cathedral Church of St. James and was again followed by a cocktail reception and banquet at the RCM. The Commandery was elevated to Priory status and five members were advanced to Knight/Dame Commandeur (please see 'Awards & Promotions').

Priory of St. James - Officers 2006-2007

(Elected 16 May 2006)

Prior - H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ
Chancellor - (H) LCol Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III RCTJ
Secretary - Chev. Michael Willson, RCTJ
Treasurer - Chev. George Goldsmith, RCTJ
Inspector - Chev. Frank Chen, RCTJ
Director of Protocol - Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ
Registrar - Dame Julia B. MacDonald, DCTJ
Aumonier - Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ
Avocat - Chev. Michael Skutezky, RCTJ
Armourer - Chev. Lake Trevelyan, RCTJ
Secret Councillor - LCol Edward Rayment, RCTJ
Membership - Chev. Robert MacMullen, CD, RCTJ
Chaplain - Maj. The Rev. Canon Eric Reynolds, CD, RCTJ
Knight Protector - Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ
Councillors - Capt. (M) Chev. Chris Korwin-Ruczynski, RCTJ; Chev. Alastair McIntyre, RCTJ; Chev. Peter Russell, RCTJ
Crucifer - Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ
Sword Bearer - Capt. Chev. Robin Tyler, RCTJ
Herald - W/Cdr. Benjamin Lee, RCTJ
Archivist - Dame Anne Matthewman, DCTJ
Chirurgion - vacant
Standard Bearer - Dame Kelly Webb, DCTJ

MEMBERS:

Members (as at 31 December 2005)

Capt. Chev. Barry Bousfield, RCTJ
Chev. Frank Chen, RCTJ
Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ
Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ
Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III, RCTJ
Chev. George Goldsmith, RCTJ
Chev. Cameron Hourd, RCTJ
Chev. Rim Hunter, RCTJ
Capt. (M) Chris. Korwin-Ruczynski, RCTJ
Chev. David Kraisosky, RCTJ
W/Cdr. Chev. Benjamin Lee, RCTJ
Dame Julia MacDonald, DCTJ
Chev. Robert MacMullen, RCTJ
Dame Anne Matthewman, DCTJ
Chev. Alastair McIntyre, RCTJ

H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ
Chev. Harold Nelson, RCTJ
LCol Chev. Walter Perchal, RCTJ
Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ
Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ
Maj. The Rev. Canon Chev. Eric Reynolds, RCTJ
Chev. Peter Russell, RCTJ
Chev. Michael Skutezky, RCTJ
Chev. Lake Trevelyan, RCTJ
Capt. Chev. Robin Tyler, RCTJ
Dame Barbara Walsh, DCTJ
Chev. John Walsh, RCTJ
Dame Kelly Webb, DCTJ
LCdr. Chev. Alan Williams, RCTJ
Chev. Michael Willson, RCTJ
Dame Christina Zawierucha-Zack, DCTJ

Associate Members

Col. Chev. Maurice Janeczko, RCTJ - Priory of St. Patrick
Capt. Arjeh van der Sluis, CD, OMCJ (Order of Merit)
Maj. Chev. Timothy Zack, RCTJ - Priory of St. Patrick

COMMITTEES OF THE PRIORY OF ST. JAMES

Executive Committee

Chair: H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ

(H) LCol Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III RCTJ

Chev. George Goldsmith, RCTJ

Chev. Peter Russell, RCTJ

Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ

Chev. Alastair McIntyre, RCTJ

Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ

Chev. Lake Trevelyan, RCTJ

Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ

Chev. Peter Russell, RCTJ

Capt. Robin Tyler, RCTJ

Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ

Dame Kelly Webb, DCTJ

Charitable Activities Committee

Co-Chairs: Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ and Chev. Lake Trevelyan

Chev. Frank Chen, RCTJ

Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ

Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, RCTJ

Dame Anne Matthewman, DCTJ

Membership Committee

Chair: Chev. Rob MacMullen, RCTJ

H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ

(H) LCol Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III RCTJ

Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ

LCol Chev. Ed Rayment, CD, RCTJ

Social Committee

Chair: Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ

Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ

Dame Julia MacDonald, DCTJ

Dame Barbara Walsh, DCTJ

Audit Committee

Chair: Chev. George Goldsmith, RCTJ

H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III RCTJ

Chev. LCol Matthew Gaasenbeek, III RCTJ

Chev. Peter Russell, RCTJ



2005 Templar Investiture

5th row: Kim Hunter; Capt. (N) Chris Korwin-Kuczynski; Harold Nelson

4th row: Maj. The Rev. Eric Reynolds; Michael Skutezky; George Goldsmith; LCdr Alan Williams

3rd row: Alastair McIntyre; Anne Matthewman; Barbara Walsh; W/Cdr Benjamin Lee; Robert MacMullen

2nd row: Peter Russell; John Walsh; Cdr. The Ven. Ron Matthewman; Dai Gaasenbeek; Michael Willson; Julia MacDonald; Frank Chen

1st row (l-r): Capt. Robin Tyler; Matthew Gaasenbeek, III; Joan Peters; Jo Perrin; Col. Maurice Janeczko; Capt. George McNeillie; Christina Zawierucha-Zack; RADM James Carey; Jack McConnell; Nola Crewe; Kelly Webb; Dr. Everton Morris

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings

With some minor exceptions, regular business meetings are held on the second Tuesday in each month at 1930 hours at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. Meetings are followed by the distribution of minutes to all members within two weeks (thanks to the dedication and hard work of Chev. Michael Willson RCTJ). Past minutes are also kept in a minute book and are available for review by all members at meetings.

As the Priory continues to grow, it has been determined that, after the elections on 16 May 2006, only the Executive Committee (consisting of a 50% quorum of the Prior, Chancellor, Treasurer, Secretary, (3) Councillors, Aumonier, Inspector, Chief of Protocol, Avocat, Armourer, Knight Protector and Sword Bearer) will meet every month. The various committees (Charitable Activities, Membership, Finance, Audit, Fundraising, etc.) will meet separately and report in to the Executive Committee.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee reviewed and approved the financial statements and produced the Annual Report.

Promotional Activities

Chev. Alastair McIntyre, RCTJ has offered to help the Priory set up its own website.

Charitable Activities

It has been decided to focus the charitable activities of the Priory primarily on children's charities, but also on Veterans of Canada's Armed Forces. Dame Joan Peters and Chev. Lake Trevelyan are Co-Chairs of the Charitable Activities Committee. In the fall of 2005 they presented an excellent and well-researched report on a number of possible charitable organizations on which the Priory could focus. The report has been tabled until new members of the Priory can have an opportunity to review it and make their suggestions.

Early in 2005, the Dean of St. James Cathedral was contacted to see if there were any charities supported by the Cathedral, that the Commandery could assist. It was determined that the Foot Clinic for Homeless People desperately required socks. Chev. Peter Russell sourced a socks manufacturer and members of the Commandery contributed over \$800 (more than 400 pairs of socks) to this worthy charity.

The Priory collected toys for underprivileged children at Christmas 2004 and 2005. Seven large bags of unwrapped toys were collected at the Priory's Second Annual Christmas Party on 12 December 2005 and were delivered the next day to a local fire station (along with a 'Silent Knight' card) for distribution to needy families.

Two members of the Priory of St James LCol. Chev. Walter Perchal and Capt. (M) Chev. Chris Korwin-Ruczynski, were involved with the Canadian military's and the RCMP's collection and distribution of 5,000 teddy bears as Christmas presents for children affected by Hurricane Katrina. The bears were trucked by the Canadian Forces to the Windsor-Detroit border, where members of the Priors of St. Clair in Detroit, Michigan and the Ascension of Our Lord in Windsor, Ontario arranged the border crossing. The bears were delivered to New Orleans, where members of the Priory of St. Bernard de Clairvaux assisted with their distribution.

Armourer

Chev. Lake Trevelyan was tasked with looking into the following items: a lavalier (or lapel pin); a Commandery/Priory medal; and a rosette. He has produced a beautiful lapel pin, which is being sold to members at \$25 apiece with the profits going to support charitable activities. The other items are pending review and approval.

Templar Fellowship

In April 2005, H.E. Chev. George McNeillie, Dame Joan Peters, LCol Chev. Ed and Mrs. Carey Rayment, Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek and Dame Dai Gaasenbeek travelled to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to attend the annual Convent & Investiture of the Priory of St. Patrick. A similar trip took place on 8 April 2006, with the following attendees: H.E. Chev. George McNeillie, Dame Joan Peters, Dame Anne Matthewman, LCol Chev. Alan Williams, Chev. John Walsh, and Dame Barbara Walsh. Capt. Arjeh van der Sluis was invested into the U.S. Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem Order of Merit.

In early May 2005, H.E. Chev. George McNeillie and Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek met with BGen Chev. Patrick Rea, the International Grand Commander of OSMTH. Chev. Patrick offered to provide any help he could to Chev. Matthew with respect to the RCM's membership drive and he also sought Chev. George's public relations expertise to help communicate his key messages to members of OSMTH.

A reception for prospective members was held at Dame Jo Perrin's house in late May 2005, and a luncheon for new members was held at the home of Chev. Lake Trevelyan and his wife Debbie during November 2005.

In November 2005, H.E. Chev. George McNeillie, Chancellor Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek and Capt. (N) Chev. Chris Korwin-Ruczynski, along with Postulant LCol Walter Perchal, travelled to Windsor for the Convent & Investiture of the Priors of the Ascension of Our Lord and St. Clair (where Chev. Walter was invested).

In December 2005, the Second Annual Templar Christmas Party was held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. Prospective members were invited, Santa Claus paid a visit, carols were sung and toys were collected for underprivileged children.

International Expansion of the Order

At the request of the International Grand Commander, Capt. (N) Chev. Chris Korwin-Ruczynski, LCol Chev. Walter Perchal and associate member Major Chev. Timothy Zack have provided assistance to OSMTH in its attempts to establish a Priory in Poland.

H.E. Chev. George McNeillie has put W/Cdr. Chev. Benjamin Lee in touch with OSMTH Grand Officers interested in establishing a Priory in Hong Kong.

Awards and Promotions

On 1 October 2005, the following members were elevated to Knight/Dame Commander: Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, Dame Jo Perrin, Chev. Peter Russell, Chev. Lake Trevelyan and Chev. Michael Willson

In May 2006, H.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III was elected Grand Herald of Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani, the international governing body of Knights Templar.



The Prior (centre) with new Knights/Dame Commander (l-r): Michael Willson, Jo Perrin, Peter Russell and Matthew Gaasenbeek (Lake Trevelyan absent).



Visit to West Point April 2006

Front row (l-r): LCdr. Alan Williams, George McNeillie, John Walsh, S/L Terry Reid
Back row (l-r): Arjeh van der Sluis, Barbara Walsh, Anne Matthewman, Joan Peters



RADM Chev. James Carey, Grand Master of the Order and Chev. Joseph Ouellette receive the Eucharist from The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto and The Rev. Canon David Brinton, Vicar of St. James Cathedral.



Pictured are members of the Royal Regiment of Canada, the RCMP, Canadian Navy, U.S. Army, EMS Services, and the Pories of Windsor, Detroit and Toronto as they help 5,000 teddy bears cross the U.S. border on their way to New Orleans

Knights Templar Facts

- The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem is an international order of Chivalry with members in over 40 countries worldwide. There are approximately 5,000 members of the Order.
- Knights Templar support a number of domestic and overseas charities.
- Membership is open to Christian men and women of all denominations who have demonstrated a commitment to public service.
- Among the more prominent members of the Knights Templar are members of the European High Aristocracy, Chiefs of Scottish clans, Bishops of the Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, diplomats and officials of several countries, of the United Nations or of intergovernmental organizations.
- The organization has no connection to the Freemasons.
- The order does not engage in politics.
- The Order is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and has been designated in Special Consultative Status to the United Nations.
- The order has a NATO Prioory comprised entirely of senior serving military officers.
- One of the cultural aims of the Order is to represent and defend the values of Christianity. Accordingly, full membership is open to Christians. We recognize that there are many other worthy traditions, and we appreciate and cherish the participation of non-Christian friends and supporters. Associate membership is open to non-Christians through the Order of Merit.

Member Grand Priorities - Austria, Canada, England and Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, NATO, Serbia and U.S.A.

Autonomous Priorities - Association of Scottish Knights Templar and Japan

OSMTC Administered Priorities - Belgium and Norway

Expansion Efforts - Expansion is currently underway in the following countries:

Argentina, Cyprus, Romania, Bulgaria, South Africa and Korea



For further information contact:

**Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi
Hierosolymitani**

Grand Priory of Canada

**B.E. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III, RCTJ
Prior
Priory of St. James, Toronto**

ggmiii@hotmail.com

w w w . o s m t h . o r g

