

Did you know???

Labour Day began in Toronto, Ontario and has spread to a number of countries around the world. In Canada and the USA it is celebrated the first weekend of September but other countries have chosen other meaningful days for their celebration.

It began in 1872 with the printers' strike in Toronto and their victory for a 9 hour day was a major milestone in the changing relations between Canadian workers and their government.

Many parades were held and in 1894 the government of Prime Minister John Thompson passed a law making Labour Day official.

HL Shari Gillies, Grand Royal Matron
SK Bill Duncan, Grand Royal Patron

Grand Court of BC – Newsletter September 2020

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Note from the Editor, HL Shari Gillies

Please feel free to call, email or text me with or for more information.

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**I would love to hear from you and would gladly add any message you have to this newsletter
Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter – September 25**

Diet Tip: Laughter burns the most calories.

In a nut shell Dates of Note:



COURT MEETINGS

That wretched COVID-19 Virus is still keeping us cooped up...so still no meetings.

One day you'll just be a memory to some people.
Do your best to be a good one.

Grand Royal Matron, HL Shari Gillies



Summer is quickly turning into Fall -- what have you been doing??!?? Our new norm is stay home if you can; be careful when you do go out; wear a mask; stay socially distant. It was difficult in the beginning but has become quite natural to wear the mask and stay six feet apart when visiting.

Natalie took me to VanDusen Botanical Garden for my birthday. We spent a lovely hour there seeing some of the things I have in my garden, things I would like to have in my garden if I had a fulltime gardener and some very exotic items. We tried out the maze; thankfully Nat has a better sense of direction than I do. I might still be lost there without her. Because the virus has changed even going somewhere like the gardens we were given a time to be there and a time to leave so only an hour. We finished up with an amazing lunch at the restaurant attached to the gardens. It's always a treat to spend time alone with my daughter. The last few years she has gone out of her way to find different things for us to do for my 'special' day.

I'm still sewing and crocheting. The parcel to my granddaughter went out and I think she's pleased with the matching outfits for her and her doll, Little Isabelle. It's really fun to create for them both. Neither one has any fitting issues, (LOL) and they are both quite happy to have whatever I create!!



I went back to work in August!! They called to see if I was interested in a little work and after a few minutes of thought I decided it wasn't the worst idea. If I can't travel why not work and save some extra \$\$\$ for when I can. I'm sure looking forward to that 'when'. It was nice to go back and see all the folks I'd been missing especially with this 'virus thing' limiting our social lives. I was getting used to sleeping in but that had turned into not getting dressed until 10am which meant not showering (UGH!) til then. (Yeah, I know some people don't get up and get dressed until much later than that but my habit has been up by 6, showered and dressed) My daily routine was off kilter so my eating habits were a mess. The cat couldn't figure out why I was home and spent his time requesting to go out, then in, then out...You can definitely see I needed some structure to my days. LOL It's only 3 days a week with the request it be only for a short time. We will see whether my short time coincides with their short time.

Now to AMARANTH!!!

What a monumental pain C19 has caused us!!! No meetings, no get togethers, no fund raisers. Some phone calls, emails, messaging but not enough to sustain us. We are a social group and we are missing our social time!! Or, at least I am.

Many of our members are still not comfortable with starting up the meeting schedules and we acknowledge and accept their decision. The opening up of many venues has definitely caused a bit of a rise in the number of cases here so we will continue to observe the recommendations of our Provincial Health Officer, Dr Bonnie Henry. Hopefully this increase will be a short one!!!

With the lack of Amaranth activities I look forward to hearing from any of you who are feeling the same isolation. I would love to hear how you are coping!!!

Amaranth love, HL Shari

**No matter how serious life gets, you still gotta have
that one person you can be completely stupid with.**

**I have several of them!!
(and you know who you are!!)**

Grand Royal Patron, SK Bill Duncan

Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights;

Greetings to all; we hope you have had a safe summer. We spent our summer tending to projects around the house and yard, and replacing some of our aging appliances and gadgets.

We're enjoying our new purchases, including the new office chair I'm sitting in right now which is very comfortable. We are also enjoying our new voice controlled TV system, although sometimes it's frustrating if the remote doesn't understand you and you have to repeat yourself two or three times.

Our newly painted fence and deck look great, and the young ladies from the Student Painters did a very nice job painting the high trim on the house. We even replaced our old wooden deck chairs, and found that the backs of the old chairs, after applying a fresh coat of paint, make very decorative fence partitions for our garden.



I hope you've been enjoying the great weather we've been having during the last part of the summer; unfortunately it appears that some people may be forgetting their social distancing. As you know, the number of covid-19 cases has been increasing, and it would appear that it may still be too early for us to get back together.

Hopefully, as we near 2021, the situation will improve and we will be able to get together again; in the meantime, we wish you all the best.

Honoured Lady Joyce,
Sir Knight Bill, Grand Royal Patron

**The most romantic story isn't "Romeo and Juliet" who died together.
It's Grandpa and Grandma who grew old together.**

Grand Associate Conductress, HL Karen Yoshioka

Greetings from HL Karen

I'm following Dr. Bonnie's advice and travelling and visiting in BC. I'm currently in Kelowna visiting an old friend. We went to school together in Winnipeg.

Next week I'm going to Powell River to see an old nursing friend. I see her frequently but it's nice to visit knowing I don't have to be somewhere else and can take my time.

Much as I would like to be travelling with and to my Amaranth friends it's just not doable right now. So it's really good to visit old friends right here in BC.

Amaranth love, Karen



Grand Treasurer, HL Phyllis Fox, PGRM

Greetings to all!

Like everyone else, I miss seeing my friends. My daughter Kelli came home just before the virus hit us and for that I am thankful, but sorry for her as she missed four shows she had lined up and like everything else has been cancelled. BUT it means she is here to do most of the cooking, shopping and a huge big help with jigsaw puzzles. We have even resurrected the Wii game so are bowling and playing golf. It would be much better in an actual bowling alley with friends or on the course in the fresh air but fills the time.



One good piece of news in June, a new little great-grandson was born – Joey Fox. He is the second son for my grandson Kyle and his wife. It was social distancing for a long time but I just recently got to hold him. About two weeks after he arrived he ended up back in hospital. He was there for a week and after many tests arrived home and is doing great.

Hope everyone is doing well and keeping safe. I have spoken to Don Yerxa a couple of times and he and Helen are doing well, also Ed and Julie. Even having a phone conversation is more difficult because of not being able to go anywhere so, not much to tell.

Amaranth Love, HL Phyllis

Grand Secretary, SK John MccMurchie, PGRP

I hope that everyone has stayed safe during these troubled times.

It is going to be hard for some of us to get back into the swing of things having been isolated and not thinking about our Organizations or pretty much anything else.

It is hard to believe that it has been over 5 months since we all got together. I am sure you all feel the same way and you all miss having contact with our members, but when we do return with no hugging or shaking hands, which is a big part of our Organization, it will be hard for most of us but something we must do for everyone's safety.



To my understanding the Agnes Street hall has put out hand sanitizer dispensers in various locations and will be sending out a list of updated standard operating procedures to all the tenants for safe use of the hall.



The Grand Secretary's office is again open so if I can please ask everyone to send me their contact information so that I can make sure that the directory is correct. I understand there are still some errors that have been repeated from previous directories.

Stay safe!

Submitted from the desk of the Grand Secretary

S.K. John McMurchie

HL Kerri Grant, PGRM

Note to everyone!! This was supposed to be composed last year but it has been hard to write this.

Hi everyone,

So what a way to kick off the Amaranth year huh? Grand Court in March, installations in April, me ending up at VGH Spinal Clinic then G.F. Strong, Supreme with HL Dorothy Kippie being installed as SRM. So much excitement!

Oh sorry, you're asking about the 3rd thing on that list of exciting things. You mean me ending up at VGH Spinal Clinic then G.F. Strong. Ahhh yes, that. Well that is a story. Well let me tell you a story all about how my life got flipped turned upside down..... no wait that's The Fresh Prince theme song (sorry have to maintain a sense of humor, kinda mandatory).

Let me try this again.

Hi! I'm HL Kerri Stutt-Grant, DSRM, PGRM, PRM, and Grand Court's honorary paraplegic. I think I'm also a Grand Commissioner of Appeal. So where was I, oh yes, I'm a paraplegic. Now many of you have sent messages & cards (thank you, by the way), inquired with my parents (PGRM Kathy & PGRP Don Stutt), or even have come to visit me at VGH Spinal Clinic then G.F. Strong (thank you again). But I guess I'm skirting the issue, how the hell did this happen?

It's called an epidural spinal abscess. No, I don't know how it happened or how I got it. No, I wasn't in a car accident or any accident. No, I've never used IV drugs (I say this cause some of you, like me, would have Googled what an epidural spinal abscess is and this is one of a few causes of them), and no, I didn't have anything traumatic happen to my body. So I have no FREAKING clue how this happened. But it did. I ended up at Richmond hospital and then got rushed to VGH. After being there I was transferred to G.F. Strong Rehab hospital. I lived there for 4 months.

There's a lot more I could go into, a lot more detail but that would be a bit difficult for me and a bit boring for you. My life is very different now. A lot of you are taller than me now (again humor is mandatory). I'm home now, ALL THE TIME. I have good days and I have bad days (a lot of bad recently but hopefully they will get better soon).

We now have a van for getting around. We can get out to visit with our friends and family like we did at Christmas 2019. It's great when I can go with my family to my appointments and not on my own. I am also now able to go to Amaranth meetings. I got to go to my first one in over a year (March 2020) and right before Grand Court as well.

And speaking of Grand Court, I was able to see some of you at our Grand Court in March 2020. It was wonderful to see so many of you. Many of you were so worried for me and we had a good cry. Many of you were also so happy, but I'm glad I didn't get tackled. We had a beautiful memorial ceremony and a wonderful banquet. I wish I could have been there for the whole weekend.

But then COVID-19 happened. We are dealing with a pandemic that is changing everything. Many Grand Courts have been postponed. I don't know if we have lost members to this pandemic. Of course I'm thinking of others while others worry about me.

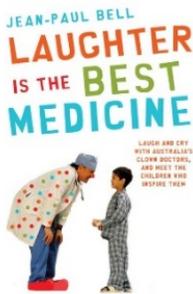
So that is just an update on me. Please feel free to reach out. My Email is kerristutt@yahoo.ca so please reach out. I hope everyone is doing ok and I hope once we are able to get together again, we do so soon.

Talk soon,
Kerri Stutt-Grant, PGRM, PRM, and Grand Court's honorary paraplegic

**One minute you're young and fun,
and the next you're turning down the car stereo to see better.**

HL Pat Haywood, PGRM

Greetings from Down Under via Heather Weston, Grand Representative to BC from NSW.



They had their session the second weekend in March in Bankstown, not too far from Sydney heading west. The presiding Grand Royal Matron was Judy Prince and Grand Royal Patron Stuart Lang. Their session was called "All Things Bright and Beautiful". The GRM from Queensland was in attendance along with 5 officers with her. They had about 50 in attendance. Their new GRM is HL Sylvia Lowe and GRP is SK Alan Bover. This was their 74th Grand Court Installation. The GRM's songs include "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "How Great Thou Art". Their watchwords are Be-Do-Have, Live with Passion, Never Give Up. The charity for the year are the clown doctors who work in partnership with

medical professionals to divert children during painful procedures. Using humour the Clown Doctors can lighten the hospital environment. The GRM resides in the state of Victoria, as does the GRP. Unfortunately HL Heather will not be able to attend our session next year.

From 'Chicken Soup for the Soul'
(Thanks to HL Pat who never fails to send me something interesting!)

"Family Viewing"

When "Titanic" hit the movie theatres, the whole world was mesmerized by its grandeur and magnificence, the music, the photograph. It was totally amazing. It was also one of the movies our whole family could agree to see.

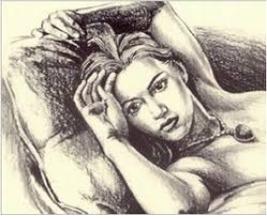
With 3 older sisters, my 8 year old son was always outvoted when it came to entertainment. The girls wanted love stories, while he wanted action and adventure. "Titanic" fit the bill on all accounts. It was perfect.



Loaded with popcorn and candy, we found out seats right in the middle of the theatre. For once everyone was happy. We settled in to watch the movie.

As soon as the previews ended and the spectacle of the movie began, we were enthralled. Occasionally, I'd steal a glance at my children, delighted to see them captivated by the story unfolding before them. The theatre was quiet with each moviegoer pulled into the scenes.

I'd managed to find something they could all enjoy. I can still feel the joy that oozed through me.



Then the scene changed. Jack was creating a portrait of Rose, who was nude. The entire audience drew a collective breath and grew completely still. Silence absorbed us as we all watched the artistic scene unfolding on the screen.

Then a young boy's voice rang out "Look at the boobs". The seemed to hang in the air, growing and expanding with each syllable. I recognized the voice instantly. This was not some boy – it was my son. Mortified, I turned crimson, practically illuminating the darkness with my shame.

A ripple of laughter rolled through the room like a wave, gathering speed and value as it went. It wasn't funny. I didn't want to laugh, but I couldn't help it.

Not surprisingly, this has become a frequent tale shared at family gatherings in our house. I find myself wondering how many other families who were there are still laughing about it too.



It's still my son's favourite movie.

Just for Fun! Just for Fun! Just for Fun! Just for Fun!

UNSTOPPABLE VIRUS

I thought you would want to know about this e-mail virus. Even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one. It appears to affect those who were born prior to 1955.

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
Done that!
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail!
That too!
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
Yep!
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
Aha!
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
Well well!
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished.
Oh, no not again!
7. Causes you to hit "DELETE" instead of "SEND."

And I just hate that!

8. Causes you to hit "SEND" when you should "DELETE."

Oh No!

IT'S CALLED THE "C-NILE VIRUS."

Have I already sent this to you?

Or did you send it to me?

Don't tick off seniors!!



I was in the McDonald's drive-through this morning and the young lady behind me leaned on her horn because I was taking too long to place my order.

"Take the high road," I thought to myself. So, when I got to the first window I paid for her order along with my own.

The cashier must have told her what I'd done, because as we moved up she leaned out her window and waved to me and mouthed "Thank you", obviously embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with a kindness.

When I got to the second window I showed them both receipts and took her food too.

Now she has to go back to the end of the line start all over.

Don't honk your horn at old people.

Amaranth and Masonic Vests for order
\$50 per vest

Please contact SK John McMurchie to
order or for additional information.

jmcmurchie@shaw.ca

