



HL Shari Gillies, Grand Royal Matron
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Grand Court of BC – Newsletter
October 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 – October 25.

We are really excited!!! Amaranthbc.ca, our website, has been renewed. Please have a look and let us know what you think!!

In a nut shell
Dates of Note:



COURT MEETINGS

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

Grand Royal Matron, HL Shari Gillies



Well, it looks like we have the beginnings of Fall weather...lots of rain last night and this morning (Sept 23) and more to come...BUT the forecast is for that last blast of summer in September with lots of sun and hot temperatures. So back to sandals and no sweater for a few days.

I don't really mind the rain. It keeps us green and pretty. And, with the fires to the south of us the rain will help putting them out and clearing the air. We are praying for our members and their families to the south of us.



We have had our own local smoke producer. The Fraser River's edge in New Westminster has been and remains a big problem. The old creosote pilings under the pier caught fire which started September 23 and are still burning. They are in the long process of pulling out the old pilings. Some of the fire is under a layer of pavement and is difficult to access so it continues to smolder. The residents in the area are really suffering from the smoke. I have a friend who lives on the 18th floor across the street and can't open any of her windows!

I've been busy with working 3 days a week at my old job and have spent 2 Fridays helping my sister at her store in downtown Maple Ridge. The first day was helping with a parking lot sale (good thing she didn't wait until this week). I haven't worked retail for 30ish years so Jill did the finance thing with the cash register I didn't have time to learn. She has a great head for business but was shut down for most of March, all of April and May. It was time to clear out old stock to make room for new and that's what I did the second Friday. We unpacked, hung up and priced several boxes of items and by the end of the day I was TIRED! I'm used to a 'sit at my desk' job not a 'haul and hang things' kinda job. But it was fun and would gladly do it again.

Lotus  Lemongrass
Gifts and Decor

I finally found a painter to paint my house trim...I should say he found me...knocked on my door, did a walk around and sent me a reasonable quote that afternoon. He and his wife have been doing a great job but are currently unable to quite finish the job until we have that bit of sunshine forecast for next week.

As with most of you, I am missing my Amaranth friends/family. I miss the social gatherings, the hugs and general bonhomie which has been a trademark of our organization. I also miss the theme dinners we have had – the planning, research for the theme and the actual cooking although at the end of each one I've been bone tired. I look forward to the day I get the go ahead to plan the next one, or should I say, finish planning the Roaring Twenties one which has been sitting on the back burner not even simmering as the stove is off.



I'm also missing my Alberta Girls – daughter-in-law Teri and granddaughters Kelsey and Isabelle. The girls have started back to school and I worry about their safety but I'm far away and can't really help.

My daughter and family are safe in Port Coquitlam, only 20 minutes away. Nat is still working from home, her Terry goes into the office every day and granddaughter Mya is doing the first term of her fourth year university from home and working parttime at a seniors' care home.

So we sit and wait for everyone to smarten up, wear your mask, wash your hands, social distance and stay safe. We don't want those numbers to start rising making the end of this further away. We pray for a vaccine that will work even if we have to have one every year. I already have a flu shot every year so it wouldn't be a big deal to have another one.

Much love, HL Shari

PS... September 30. The rain last week, it was torrential rain, did much to contain/slow/quell the fires in New Westminster, Washington and Oregon. Not so much for California where I understand they are still burning. PLEASE correct me if I'm wrong on any of these.

Grand Royal Patron, SK Bill Duncan

Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights;

We hope all are well, and are keeping busy. We were hoping we would be able to start getting together by now, and begin holding our monthly meetings, but it looks like the virus will be with us for quite some time yet.

At home, Joyce and I are finally getting to our fall yard work. It wasn't Covid-19 that was stopping us, but the thick forest fire smoke followed by a week of heavy rains. Now that we're getting older and the trees and shrubs are getting larger, it has become a much bigger task and takes us a bit longer to complete.

Thanksgiving is approaching, and it appears that many of our gatherings will be quieter and smaller this year, which of course means more turkey for me, and plenty of leftovers for sandwiches. There is always a silver lining.

And when sitting down to dinner, its best to keep in mind this quote by Jay Leno: "You can tell you ate too much for Thanksgiving when you have to let your bathrobe out." That is a good thing to remember, however, we're not sure how many people plan to sit down to Thanksgiving dinner in their bath robes. Anyway, we get the idea.

We hope that all are keeping well and we wish you and yours a very happy and enjoyable Thanksgiving, and don't forget to wear a mask on Halloween, or maybe two.

Honoured Lady Joyce,
Sir Knight Bill, Grand Royal Patron

**Grand Secretary, SK John McMurchie, PGRP
And HL Donna-Lee McMurchie, PGRM**

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are all doing well during these strange times.

Well, we are entering into a new phase of our lives. We have purchased a new townhouse on the Langley, Surrey border. Now we have to declutter our house and put it on the market. Lots and lots of work. We will be selling our furniture, living room set, dining room table and hutch & buffet as well as my Grandmother's dining table along with shelving units etc.

We miss seeing your smiling faces and hugs. Looking forward to the day when we are able to safely meet.

Take care of yourselves.
John & Donna-Lee

**You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can
start where you are and change the ending. CS Lewis**

Grand Treasurer, HL Phyllis Fox, PGRM

Here we go again, looking for something exciting in our lives to tell our friends. Life is pretty normal for me, jigsaw puzzles, bowling and golf (Wii) and watching my daughter do most of what is required around here. I am getting truly spoiled.

I have managed to facetime with my grandchildren and to see that their children are managing to go to school. Let us pray that when the second wave of this virus hits us we remember the rules of social distancing.

Kelli and I did have one exciting day; we went up Grouse Mountain. It was a beautiful day and everything was handled beautifully. Masks were required everywhere. We saw the bears and it is hard to believe they are now 19 years old. It was explained how they are handled for the whole year. Then we went on to watch a gentleman show us three different owls and explain how they differ in looks, what they eat and where they usually hang out. You can find more information about Grinder and Coola and the owls at <https://www.grousemountain.com/wildlife-refuge/ranger-blog>

The hardest part for me was the continuous climb up hills. You think you have reached the top and turn around to come down and there is another hill. Anyway, it was good to be able to do it.

Stay safe everyone and hopefully we will all be able to meet again soon.

Phyllis

Definition: Coronacoaster

Noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

HL Pat Haywood, PGRM

The Month of October

This month's name came from the Latin octo, "eight," because this was the eighth month of the early Roman calendar. When the Romans converted to a 12-month calendar, the name October stuck, even though it's now the 10th month.

"Just for Fun" Dates in October

Oct. 4: International Ships-in-Bottles Day

Oct. 6: National Noodle Day

Oct. 16: National Fossil Day

Oct. 24–Nov. 11: World Origami Days

Oct. 25: Frankenstein Friday

October 2020 Brings Two Full Moons

The first full Moon of fall—in this case, the **Harvest Moon**—will appear on Thursday, October 1. Later in the month, on Saturday, October 31 (Halloween), the second full Moon appears. This is the **Hunter's Moon**, which will be special for two reasons: it's a rare [Halloween full Moon](#) and a [Blue Moon](#)!

The Leaves They Are a-Changin'

With the autumnal equinox in late September, foliage season has officially begun across much of the U.S. Did you know that the foliage color is triggered by the amount of daylight (not weather)?

Favorite Fall Recipes

With October's harvest and cooler temperatures, we kick off the fall baking season! Let's get in the mood:

- [Blue Ribbon Pumpkin Pie](#)
- [Pumpkin Spice Cookies](#)
- [Fresh Apple Crumble Bars](#)
- [Apple Cider Bread or Muffins](#)
- [Pumpkin Spice Mix](#)

Joke of the Month

Q. What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?

A. Squash!

Mizpah Court #2

HL Marguerite Gussman, PGRM

An update sent after the last newsletter:

First of all HL Janet Pollard, PRM passed away July 21st after a few weeks in hospital. HL Rae O'Keefe, PRM had a serious fall and had to spend over a month in bed rest. She is up and managing the stairs with care but still needs her rest. Because of the serious health issues with the boys Rae has not been out of the house since the lock-down. To make matters even worse, recently the O'Keefes had water problems in their home and had to relocate to a temporary residence at 4007 Gordon Head Rd. This will be their home for the next several months while repairs are being made to their home. HL Rae's telephone and email remain the same.

As H.L. Phyllis has been doing I am on my fourth jigsaw puzzle but of course no extra help. I went for a drive just to get out of the house; other than that I have not been out myself. Fortunately with the help of my daughters here and several businesses I am managing with delivery of necessary supplies.

On Mothers' Day my daughters and the grandchildren came over and we had a "Space picnic" on the lawn outside of the building. We are under very strict rules re visitors here and so far our residents are remaining healthy.

Stay safe, HL Marguerite

**HL Carolyn Adams, Grand Fraternal Correspondent
Washington Grand Court**

September 24, 2020

I cannot believe it has been six months since we have been able to go to Canada. Mom and I miss going to meetings, just on a whim. Train is not running to Bellingham since the border is closed and they can't do the turnaround in Vancouver, so that idea got scratched. They are only running a bus, what is the adventure in that? Communication with my brother in Montreal has been through messenger facetime.

Mom and I are doing fine. Mom "putters" around the house and yard. We have a rabbit that lives under our back deck which we have not discouraged. But... When we spent 5 days on the Oregon Coast in early July with the Pavliks from Pennsylvania, the rabbit ate the beans. Was it because our lawn got mowed and it disturbed the clover patch? This is the only place we have gone other than local trips around the area from Bellingham to Lynnwood and one trip to my sister's in Maple Valley. Oh, and we made a trip to Wenatchee to buy peaches (so good!) and the butcher in Cle Elum.

Richmond Court has not met since February 20. I am Secretary so I am not wanting for things to do. Do you think the membership will remember if the minutes need correcting when we return? I have been sorting and organizing membership records and merging records we received when Corinthian Court merged with us. There is a lot missing. I did finally find a 75+ year member who turned out to have died in 2015. I had been trying for a couple of years. Not everything hits the internet, but I found a newsletter from Seattle City Light where her husband had worked. Dues notices, changes in investments and updating our officers Supreme Constitutions and Grand Court ByLaws and a myriad of other tasks. A Secretary's work is never done. We also have a monthly zoom "caucus" each month with most of our officers plus a few members present.

All Grand Officers were extended for another year. Our Grand Court just missed having the session due to COVID. This means I am still Grand Fraternal Correspondent. I don't know who is in and who is out in the jurisdictions. I want to send Christmas greetings when the time comes but that may prove interesting.

I have taken a few classes online. Good time for this as most are free! Daughters of the Nile, Ladies Oriental Shrine and Eastern Star are in standby mode also. It is my first time as an officer in DoN and I was installed virtually. Eastern Star was installed by a declaration of the Worthy Grand Matron. Someday we will meet again. I miss the busyness of it all.

Social events have been mostly limited to Fred Meyer. Costco, Arlington Hardware and Home Depot. We have seen a couple of our Amaranth and Eastern Star members but only for a short social distancing time. We have had a few visits with my sister and brother-in-law and some medical appointments (some in-person and one virtually). That is about it.

Mom and I enjoy hearing from you. We wish all the best health and sanity for all our friends in BC.

**H is for Humour
Another funny from HL Pat
'Chicken Soup for the Soul'**

It was almost midnight and my husband was sound asleep, tired to the bone. With the weekend's back-to-back thunderstorms, he had already worked 30 hours of overtime to help restore power and might be called out again. So I tiptoed past him to the bathroom just 5 ft. from his side of the bed.



I was exhausted too. And sad. We had moved recently and missed being a part of our military community. As I squeezed the toothpaste onto my brush, I thought about our friends back in Texas.

About 2 seconds into brushing my teeth I realized something was fishy. I mean, it *smelled* fishy. The natural toothpaste I use does have a weird smell and a unique taste, but this was weirder than usual. Looking at the lack of foam of my brush, I sniffed it, shrugged, added water, and continued brushing. There were still no bubbles, so I leaned toward the mirror to look at my teeth.

The white stuff I saw was a little too pasty and a tad too white. I looked into my toiletry basket sitting on the sink. There, right next to my toothpaste, sat a long-forgotten tube of Preparation H. At first, I felt foolish and thought it was a stupid thing to do. But as I took a closer look at the ointment snuggled nice and tight between my teeth, I thought, *Oh dear, this can't be good. Will my gums shrink and make my teeth fall out?*



I felt the giggles coming and managed to stop them. I rinsed out my mouth over and over, and wiped my gums with a washcloth. Then I re-brushed my still intact teeth. With toothpaste.

As I crawled into bed next to Jeff those giggles bubbled up again. Trying to hold them in only made the bed jiggle, and I snorted, which jolted him awake.

"What in the world... What's so funny?"

Now, with permission to let loose, it took a minute to contain myself. "I brushed... my teeth...? Jeff was already laughing. "with Preparation H."

"With what?"



"Do you think my teeth will fall out?"

We laughed until we were wrung out. Like kids at a slumber party, we breathed deeply to calm ourselves. "Okay, for real, we gotta get some sleep." And then one of us would snicker and start it all over again --- good cleansing belly laughs with the works: snot, tears, and tissues. Eventually, we fell asleep and woke up feeling lighter.

I tried to remember the last time we had laughed like that. Somewhere in the stress of missing our friends, and adjusting to new jobs and a new home, we let too much seriousness sneak into our days. Everyday irritants and busyness pressed in and squeezed out life's funny side. That laughter was just the medicine we needed.

The History of Thanksgiving in Canada

Believe it or not, Thanksgiving in Canada, or at least the land that would become Canada, has its own history, separate from our American counterparts.

Traditions of giving thanks long predate the arrival of European settlers in North America. First Nations across Turtle Island have traditions of thanksgiving for surviving winter and for receiving crops and game as a reward for their hard work. These traditions may include feasting, prayer, dance, potlatch, and other ceremonies, depending on the peoples giving thanks.

When it comes to European thanksgivings in Canada, we have a few tales to tell.

English explorer Martin Frobisher and his crew had the first Canadian Thanksgiving in 1578.



As the story goes, in 1578, English explorer Martin Frobisher and his crew gave thanks and communion was observed, either on land at Frobisher Bay, in present day Nunavut, or onboard a ship anchored there. The explorers dined on salt beef, biscuits, and mushy peas and gave thanks through Communion for their safe arrival in then Newfoundland. This is now accepted as the first “Canadian” Thanksgiving, forty-three years before the first “American” Thanksgiving.

Forty-eight years later on November 14, 1606, inhabitants of New France under Samuel de Champlain held huge feasts of thanksgiving between local Mi'kmaq and the French. Though not known at the time by the settlers, cranberries, rich in vitamin C, are credited with helping avoid scurvy. The neighbouring Mi'kmaq likely introduced the French to cranberries, or as they called them, *petites pommes rouges* (little red apples).

Champlain's feasts were more than an annual affair. To prevent the scurvy epidemic that had decimated the settlement at Île Sainte-Croix in past winters, the *Ordre de Bon Temps* (Order of Good Cheer) was founded, offering festive meals every few weeks. Medical treatises recommended better nutrition (more food) and entertainment to combat scurvy.



However, despite this history of uniquely Canadian thanksgivings, our modern concepts of Thanksgiving were influenced by our American neighbours. Foods that are associated with a “traditional” Thanksgiving, such as North American turkey, squash, and pumpkin, were introduced to citizens of Halifax in the 1750s by the United Empire Loyalists, who continued to spread this “traditional” fare to other parts of the country.



Today Canadian Thanksgiving is held on the second Monday of October every year, or at least it has been since Canadian Parliament declared it so on January 31, 1957. Before this, Thanksgiving in Canada had been held sporadically, often coinciding with other major events and anniversaries.

In 1879, Thanksgiving was officially declared a national holiday to be held on November 6th.

Thanksgiving in Canada coincides with the completion of harvest in much of the country.

The most recent date change to the second Monday in October was largely a result of the first and second world wars, which we officially remember each year on November 11, Remembrance Day. This was so that the two holidays would not fall on the same weekend.

As Thanksgiving in Canada has historically been celebrated on several different dates, it is fitting that, even though it is observed on Monday, families are equally as likely to celebrate on Saturday or Sunday.

Most Canadians embraced the change of date to October, since that period better coincides with the actual completion of harvest in much of the country.

Parliament officially declares Thanksgiving as “a day of general thanksgiving to almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.” While this mandate for Thanksgiving may not be observed by all Canadians in its entirety, the ideas of being thankful, of spending time with family, and sharing a delicious meal still remain.

Amaranth and Masonic Vests for order
\$50 per vest

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

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