



“CPCA”

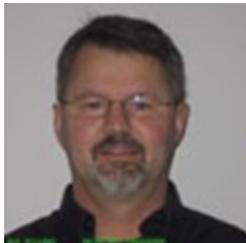
Canadian Police Chaplain Association

Winter 2016

THE CHAPLAINS CHAIN NEWSLETTER LE LIEN DES AUMONIERES LA NOUVELLE



From the President’s Desk



Greetings to all,

It was great to see so many of you at St. John’s for our ATS last month. For me it was the first time to visit the Rock. Of course, I am greatly appreciative that I had the opportunity to be “milked in” and become an “Honorary Person of the Rock.” I’m sorry for those of you who missed that incredible opportunity. I hope many of you had the opportunity to get out to see what I believe is one of the most unique and character-filled cities in Canada.

As we discussed in our annual meeting on Wednesday, the number one priority of CPCA is quality training for police chaplains across Canada. To accommodate as many as possible, we rotate through three regions; east, central, and west. Rotating regions gives the opportunity for chaplains, who may not receive funding to be able to attend, the chance to attend an ATS which is in their area and therefore may be more affordable.

The Executive will continue to search out ways to deliver high quality training in an effective and cost effective manner. We will be exploring avenues such as online courses and other options. I hope that you gained some new information, inspiration, and encouragement to continue in your chaplaincy. Remember, even your presence adds value to the lives of those you serve.

I was awed and amazed as we were able to worship together in the Anglican cathedral in the memorial service. It was both a wonderful way to
(Please see President’s Desk →page 2)

Inside this issue

- Beloved Chaplain Passes..... 2
- CPCA ATS Held in St. John’s 3
- CPCA Business Items from ATS ... 4
- The Lighter Side 4
- Guard Your Heart 5
- From the Editor’s Desk.....6
- Contacts for CPCA Executive..... 7

Special points of interest

- Highlights from the Canadian Police Chaplains Association Annual Training Seminar with group photo
- Begin to make plans to attend the CPCA 2017 ATS to be held in Saskatoon, SK in October. The exact dates will be confirmed soon.

(→ page 1)

close the ATS, and also a somber reminder of the price that is sometimes paid by police and peace officers in the protection of our safety across Canada. May that inspire us to serve them well.

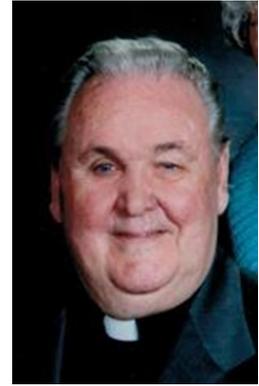
I close with my appreciation and thanks to Ed Keeping, Richard van der Vaart and the 2016 ATS planning team. Much work and time goes into planning these events. Thank you for a job well done. Our next ATS will take place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in October 2017. Dates should be confirmed within the month. And looking further ahead, the ATS's in 2018 will be in Orillia, Ontario, and potentially in Nova Scotia in 2019 – more to come.

Thanks to each of you who contributed to our ATS experience through your presence and participation. We look forward to seeing you all at our next CPCA ATS in Saskatoon, SK.

Blessings,

Chaplain Rod Willems
CPCA President

Well Beloved Ontario Chaplain Passes



Obituary for The Reverend Canon John Roberts

Born in Liverpool, England on December 4th, 1935. Passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the Trillium Hospital, Mississauga on December 12, 2016 in his 82nd year. Loving husband of Roberta (nee Henry) for 51 years and brother to Joy Giles (Boston, Mass). Starting his career as a Structural Engineer in Liverpool after an injury brought his ambitions to an end of playing football for Liverpool FC, John accepted a Fulbright Scholarship and moved to the United States in 1961 to study Social Group work and Community Development. Discerning a call to ordained ministry John entered Wycliffe College, University of Toronto in 1962 where he and Roberta were married in 1964. Ordained in 1965 John began his long term relationship with Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services by serving as Chaplain to youth offenders at the Hagersville Training School from 1965-1975. Thereafter he served as Training Chaplain at the Ontario Correctional Centre in Brampton affiliated with the Toronto School of Theology from 1975 – 2002 and became President of the Canadian Association of Pastoral Education. John's other appointments included being Chaplain to "O" Division of the RCMP since 1982, Teaching Professor at Wycliffe College and St. Augustine's Seminary, Interim Priest at St. James Anglican Church, Guelph, St. John's, Nassagaweya, St. Stephens, Hornby and Priest Associate at Grace Church, Milton. A humble man by nature, throughout his life John shared God's Word by touching and improving the lives of thousands. Although he will be greatly missed in this life, God willing he will be granted peace and eternal joy in the presence of the Lord whom he faithfully served to the end.

The funeral service was held at Grace Anglican Church 317 Main St. E. Milton on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers the family requests donation to The Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) or World Vision.

This obituary is protected by copyright by McKersie - Kocher Funeral Home. Proudly Serving the Communities of Campbellville, Milton, Oakville, Georgetown, Acton, and Burlington. McKersie - Kocher Funeral Home is located in the province of Ontario, Canada.

All rights reserved. This obituary is also archived at ObitsforLife.com

For more information on the CPCA, please visit our NEW website at

<http://www.canadianpolicechaplains.com/>

CPCA Annual Training Seminar Held in St. John's, NFLD

On November 14-18, approximately 40 police chaplains gathered in St. John's, Nfld for a time of training and fellowship at the ATS. Warm hospitality and a laughter-filled kitchen party when some of the first-timers to the Rock were "milked in" provided a welcomed relief to the heavy topics covered during the workshops.

Some of the highlights of the week included sight-seeing around the oldest and most easterly city in North America, a tour of the HQ of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, and the Memorial Service held at the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, featured as the backdrop for the photo below. Without doubt, however, it was the time spent in the company of other police chaplains, listening to the stories of God at work through tragedy and grief, and coming together to encourage and comfort each other that left a lasting impression on those who were there.

Workshops were held on both basic and advanced levels. "Responding to Crisis," presented by Aubrey Vincent, gave an overview of Emotional and Spiritual Care and recognized the unique role chaplains can play even as they participate in the doing things like passing out coffee. Jim Turner, RCMP Chaplain with "E" Division opened a window on his private grief in the session, "When the Chaplain Needs Care". An afternoon spent with Dr. Rick Singleton gave those who attended a wealth of information on breaking bad news and walking through the grief process with others. "The Role of Chaplains in Natural Disasters" was explored by RCMP Chaplains Bob Harper and Robert Parmenter. Other workshops were offered on other pertinent topics such as Mental Health, Achieving Balance and Self-Care, as well as a fascinating presentation entitled, "Don't Call Me Killer" by Retired FBI Chief Division Counsel Kelly McEniry and Sgt. Mike Shiraishi on Officer Involved Shootings (OIS).

Our next CPCA ATS will be held in Saskatoon, SK in October, 2017 with dates to be confirmed shortly. Now is the time to mark this event on your calendars and begin making plans to attend.



Photo Courtesy of George Powell

On The Lighter Side



In a small Southern town there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a "Quick Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You Yankees never do read the Bible!" I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said, "See, it says right here, 'The three wise man came from afar.'"

CPCA Business Items from ATS

President Rod Willems presided over the CPCA 2016 Annual Meeting on November 16, 2016. After calling the meeting to order, guests were greeted and the Minutes from Oct. 27, 2015 approved and business arising from the Minutes noted.

Among items brought before the meeting and approved were Annual Training Seminar Guidelines, a Code of Conduct which is included in the New Member Handbook, and the Canadian Police Chaplaincy Start Up Handbook. These documents are available on the CPCA Website: <http://www.canadianpolicechaplains.com>

Reports were received from the President, ICPC Representative and Secretary/Treasurer Gordon Demchuk. Among the New Business, 2017 Objectives were identified as completion of the Academic Standards and continued dialogue with the ICPC, and compiling a speaker/instructor database, registrar records upgrade, and an ATS Curriculum Team & Regional Host Planning Team review.

Elections were held with the following results: President—Rod Willems; Vice President—Richard vander Vaart; Second vice President—Katherine Bourbonnierre; Past President—Les Schrader; with the Secretary Treasurer currently vacant.

We Are Looking For Your Stories and Input

CPCA chaplains serve in many different contexts and places across Canada. We would like to highlight some of the work you do.

If you have a story to tell about your experiences with police chaplaincy, consider writing a short article to share with other chaplains.

Have you read a good book or do you know of an upcoming training event in your area? Deadlines for our quarterly publications are the 15th of March, June, September and December. We would like to hear from you. Submissions may be sent to:

marion.jamer@gmail.com

Guard Your Heart . . .

By Walter Kelly



After more than 11 years as the TPS head Chaplain, I haven't seen it all but I have walked with our officers through the good, the bad and the very ugly. I have been with officers and their families as they buried a child, been charged with murder, investigated by the S.I.U. and by-passed in the promotion process.

I have celebrated with them at their weddings, the baptism of their children, the blessing of their houses, and when they have been newly promoted. I have been there when a child has been found. I've had the honour of being a part of every ceremonial event that the Service could have for its members.

I have been on more than 350 'ride-alongs' and have seen shooting victims, drug busts and grow ops. I've been on scene at sudden deaths, suicides, domestics, fires, break-ins, accidents, and high risk take downs. I have officiated at the funeral of an 'on duty death' of an officer. I've travelled to Edmonton and to Moncton to support the RCMP when they buried their own. I have read the 'press' opinions about our officers and know the impact that they have had on them.

Yes, I know firsthand the incredible pressures that are on our front line officers and their families from within and without the Service. These pressures have destroyed families, individuals and marriages. Many have become bitter and struggle with the meaning of it all. Some get hooked on alcohol, drugs and gambling. Some, I'm sorry to say, have seen their lives as valueless and their worth meaningless and have wrongly concluded that it would be better to take their own lives to deal with their pain, losses and disappointment.

Our Service is blessed to have exceptional equipment, training and mentoring of our officers. We

have the EFAP, Peer Support, Psych Services, great wages and benefits including Shepell Family Assistant Services. But the area that I'm most proud of is the TPS Chaplaincy Program that cares for the spiritual and religious needs of our members. I believe that to care for the spiritual needs of our members goes right to the core of the individual. I believe that when the core is healthy and good it will impact the rest of the person's life. I believe it is the spiritual beliefs and values of a person that impacts every other area of his or her life. Those who come to us with faith traditions and beliefs come with values already learned....how to treat others. Their moral and ethical behavior will have been impacted by their beliefs.

"The problem is that here in Toronto it only takes a few shifts before our newest of recruits have seen and experienced the dark side of our city."

The problem is that here in Toronto it only takes a few shifts before our newest of recruits have seen and experienced the dark side of our city.

Every time I speak to the new recruit class as I did this week, I base my talk on this text: 'Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.' Proverbs 4:23

My belief is this: that there is so much that we cannot control, but we can control our hearts. We can learn how to keep them from getting polluted, damaged or hard. We must also learn how to share our deepest of feelings; the good and the bad with someone who cares about us. That could be our spouse, our partner a parent or a friend.

We have heard the saying; 'to thy self be true'. When we are honest about what we have seen, heard, read and experienced with someone who loves us, we are going to keep our heart in good health. There is no shame in admitting that some **(Please see Guard Your Heart . . . →page 6)**

Guard Your Heart . . .

(→ page 5)

thing has impacted you. I also believe that when we can pray about something that's bothering us it is of great help. God wants us to be healthy and strong from the inside out. When we can do this with our spouse, partner or friend our relationships will be better, our marriages will be stronger and we will have a better family life.

I had an officer tell me that after one very bad shift all he wanted was to be held tightly by his wife....and she did. He was encouraged, loved, and prepared to face another shift....all because he honestly shared with his wife. He looked after his own heart. You can be sure his marriage is still intact and others are glad to serve alongside of him

I'm sure that, like me, you know someone who is bitter, caustic, unhappy and miserable. It didn't hap-

pen on graduation day and my guess is that things aren't good at home. It likely happened over a period of time. Their heart got colder and harder with a strong wall built around it.

We have a personal responsibility to guard our own hearts. It's not always easy but policing is not always easy. We choose to do the right thing and as far as I know it's the very best armour and protection that we could have. 'Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life'

—the Rev. Walter Kelly recently retired as the Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services for the Toronto Police Service [TPS]. He and his wife Lynda live in Toronto.

This article is reprinted from The Blue Line magazine.

From the Editor's Desk

As I write these words, the world is getting ready for the Winter Solstice—the longest night of the year. In my neighbourhood, Christmas lights and decorations gladden the hearts of passersby as the evening's darkness is banished by their multi-colored display. Advent candles also remind Christians of Jesus, who was born to be the Light of the World. In Jewish homes, it is time to prepare for the lighting of the Menorah candles in remembrance of the miraculous burning of oil in the temple that extended from one day's worth to eight days. In a cold, dark world, light is an especially welcome visual symbol of hope.

Desmond Tutu is quoted as saying, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." As Chaplains, we are called to bring hope into situations that are filled with tragedy and violence. We see people having the worst days of their lives. We spend time with police officers whose job it is to counteract the deeds that come out of the darkness of human hearts. We need to be agents of hope as we serve those who serve.

Through eyes of faith, we see beyond the darkness of despair and with love, we offer comfort in the midst of the coldest circumstances of life. After all, winter is actually the season that begins to see the days lengthen and grow warmer. Sometimes we can become so focused on the dark, that we fail to see the tiny sliver of light that is breaking through on the horizon.

I have talked with many people over the last few weeks who are glad to see the end of 2016. They express hope that 2017 will ring in better things. If this has been a tough year for you, let me encourage you not to lose hope. May all of us have our eyes opened to see that there is hope because the longest night still gives way to a new dawn. As we stand at the threshold of 2017, may faith, hope and love be your constant companions in the New Year!

Chaplain Marion Jamer, Editor



VOS REPRESENTANTS-EXECUTIF/EXECUTIVE

January Is A Good Time to Pay Your 2017 CPCA Dues. Before March 31: \$60.

CPCA dues prior to March 31 are \$60, thereafter are \$75.

Please make cheque payable to:
Canadian Police Chaplains Association
c/o Brian Krushel, Registrar
2803 – 55th Street
Camrose, Alberta
T4V 4A3

Updating Training Information

The 2017 CPCA Executive is focusing on training this year. Have you updated training record? Send transcripts to our Registrar for possible credit. For more information, check out the CPCA website under Information/ Membership Certification Program.



President / Président

[Chaplain Rod Willems](#)

15118 102A St., Grande Prairie, AB., T8X 0J8

Work: 780-532-8836

Home: 780-882-6402/Cell: 780-380-0910



1st Vice-president / 1er Vice-president

[Chaplain Richard Vander Vaart](#)

69 Flora St., St. Thomas, ON N5P 2X7



2nd Vice-president / 2ieme Vice-president

[Chaplain Katherine Bourbonniere](#)

39 Osprey Way, Lawrencetown, NS B2Z 1M5

Work: 902-462-1818



Membership / Societariat

[Chaplain Brian Krushel](#)

2803-55th Street, Camrose, AB, T4V 4A3

Work: 780-672-3461/Cell: 780-679-9032



Past President / Passé Président

[Chaplain Les Schrader](#)

4221 Kendall Av., Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 5H9

Cell: 250-720-3077/ Home: 250-723-9117



Canadian Police Chaplain Association