June Star Gazer 2025, Lloydminster Chapter (continued)

On behalf of the Chapter our WM Sister Colleen Hozack, GGCM for Service Dogs and PGM presented dual member Sister Kim McMinis WGM of AB, with a gorgeous quilt which had been crafted by our very talented Sister Robin Isabelle, Grand Ruth.

In April, our Chapter members visited Glenda Campbell who resides at the Dr Cook Extended Care home in Lloydminster. She was really thrilled to see us.

Back row: Sisters Bev Otsuka, Laurie Costello, Grace Hill, Cheryl Rann, Judy Harrison, Idella Barr
Front Row: Sisters Glenda Campbell and Colleen Hozack

While we were there, Sister Colleen and Sister Cheryl presented Sister Judy Harrison with a Grand Representative Commission to New Brunswick in Saskatchewan

Sister Bev Otsuka, looks on while Sister Colleen Hozack, presents a birthday card to Sister Grace Hill, in honour of her 92nd birthday!

Later, at the meeting, Sister Laurie Costello, was presented with a Grand Representative commission to Georgia in Saskatchewan, and her sister, Sister Lynda Greuel was notified of her Grand Representative commission to Wisconsin, in Saskatchewan.

We had an active contingent attend our Grand Chapter in Moose Jaw, with our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Billie Bradfield in attendance.

Sister Cheryl Rann, and Sister Colleen Hozack were recognized at the Honours luncheon for their three-year General Grand Chapter Committee appointments.

Sister Cheryl Rann, GGCCM, Regenerative Medicine PGM was introduced by Sister Bev Otsuka, PGM

Sister Colleen Hozack, GGCCM, Service Dogs, PGM was introduced by Sister Idella Barr, PGM

Sisters Colleen Hozack, Robin Isabelle, Judy Harrison and Laurie Costello sang in the choir, and Sisters Robin Isabelle, Judy Harrison, Marion Kelly, and Laurie Costello, participated in the Drill team.

Chapter 76 hosted the 50+ tea, which was well attended, including by our MWGM. A lovely lunch and some table favours were well received by the honourees.

Idella Barr, PGM installed the Grand Conductress, Mary Ann Couse at Saturday evening's installation.

May proved to be a busy month with our new WGM Jenny Guest hosting and participating in the fundraiser Fashion Show in Saskatoon, on May 14.

Sister Colleen Hozack showed her true calling as she was one of the models as well.

But of course if she changed careers, we would all miss her top notch catering which we all benefit from throughout the year!! Chapter 76 under the guidance of Sister Colleen provided the lunch treats.

At our May stated meeting, Sister Idella Barr PGM was given a Grand Representative commission for Maine.

Sister Debra MacDonald received her five-year membership certificate, from her sister, Sister Cheryl Rann.

Update – we mentioned in the last Star Gazer of the Lloydminster connection to the Regenerative Medicine committee which Sister Cheryl Rann is representing this triennium. Dr Jim Till was born and raised in Lloydminster and was a pioneer in the field of stem cell research. We are sad to report that Dr Till passed away in May. Please see below for an obituary.

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. James Till
May 23, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we honour the passing of Dr. James Till, a pioneering Canadian scientist whose work, alongside Dr. Ernest McCulloch, laid the very foundation of stem cell research. As a quiet visionary, it was Dr. Till's landmark research that proved the existence of stem cells in the early 1960s and fundamentally changed the future of medical science, opening the door to a new era of regenerative medicine. His groundbreaking work has had far-reaching implications across cancer treatment, transplantation, and beyond — and ultimately led to the creation of the Stem Cell Network itself.

Choosing a career in science, he received scholarships from the University of Saskatchewan (B.Sc., 1952; M.Sc., 1954) and a Ph.D. from Yale University (1957). He was recruited to the Ontario Cancer Institute at Princess Margaret Hospital, where he worked with Dr. Ernest McCulloch. Throughout his remarkable career, Dr. Till remained deeply committed to science and education. In addition to his groundbreaking scientific contributions, he was a thoughtful leader in bioethics and an early advocate for the use of the Internet in advancing research. He held numerous leadership and academic roles and received many prestigious honours, including the Gairdner Foundation International Award, appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada, and election to the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Dr. Till was admired not only for his scientific brilliance but for his humility, generosity, and enduring sense of curiosity. Canada and the global research community are forever indebted to him.

At the Stem Cell Network, we extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Till's family, friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and forever celebrated. We also recognize that our very existence is built upon the foundational work of Dr. Till. His legacy lives on in every discovery, every trainee, and every patient who has benefitted from stem cell research.

CORINTHIAN #89, GOVAN

Brother Bruce Farrer, PGP – Reporter

Corinthian Chapter had a quiet start to 2025 although Sisters Ruth Scott, Bernice Scott, Brieanna Osier and Cheryle Svab did liven things up before the spring activities got underway. Sister Ruth managed to suffer a long and deep cut to her arm which required many many stitches.

Sister Bernice had a mild stroke but she's already back driving her own car. Sister Brieanna tore three tendons in her ankle when she was at work, and Sister Cheryle Svab had back surgery which didn't go as smoothly as everyone had hoped. Sister Cathy and Brother Bruce Farrer tried to outdo these sisters by colliding with a moose. No human injuries whatsoever and they didn't even manage to kill the animal so only the car was "hospitalized" for a few weeks. All the sisters and we presume the moose are doing much better now.

Our Chapter has a number of Grand Representatives and in March we added one more, as Sister Lynne Moffatt presented Sister Merle Sawatsky with a commission to Vermont; however, our Constitution requires that any member who has not served as a Grand Representative for over a year has to resign if he or she becomes a Grand Officer, she had to give up that commission.

WM Janet Haryett, WGM Lynne Moffatt, Grand Representative Merle Sawatsky, WGP Ray Moffatt, WP Bruce Farrer

Since that quiet beginning our Chapter seems to be getting busier and busier. In April we welcomed two new members by affiliation, Sisters Margaret Jensen. and her daughter, Michelle Woroniuk. Congratulations to Sister Michelle and Sister Merle who were both recent recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Many of our members were involved in a number of ways in activities relating to Grand Chapter, which was held this year in Moose Jaw, which turned out to be a wonderful location. Various members donated baskets and individual items for money raising projects. Sisters Judy Brown and Lorraine Sobchyshyn were Grand Officers. Bro Bruce Farrer was Parliamentarian and even more members were installed for the coming year: Sister Merle Sawatsky, Grand Trustee , Sister Grace Griffiths, Grand Martha, Sister Kayla Ingram, Grand Esther, Sister Michelle Woroniuk, Grand Organist. As well, Sister Merle was appointed special page in charge of projects, but as she is a Grand Officer her designation had to be changed to the WGM's Project Coordinator. Maybe we should just call her Grand Money Raiser.

Sister Merle's first major project was the May Fashion Show, which was highly successful and raised over $2000. Two Corinthian members, Sisters Cheryle Svab and Janet Haryett were models and Sister Donna Sanders was the very popular M.C.

Our new WGM and WGP chose to have a Brush Up Day at Govan coordinated to be held in conjunction with our stated meeting. While there were of course some extra preparations needed, it was worth the effort that our members made in order for it to be as successful as it was. Everyone was too involved to even think about taking pictures so none are available. Then as soon as that event was concluded a few of our members journeyed to Manitoba to attend their Grand Chapter. Before our Official Visit in June there is one more event some of us will have attended – Alberta's Grand Chapter.

You can see that we no longer have time for stitches, strokes, surgeries, work related injuries or animal encounters. We're too busy finding ways to raise money, connecting with our Grand Representative counterparts, and planning addenda. or preparing food for the next banquet, which as it turns out, will be very soon as our Official Visit will be June 28th.

YORKTON #92

Sister Ruby Lee, PGM – Reporter

Surprisingly, it is time to prepare another report. Must be because I have been busy with many activities. We are enjoying a gorgeous, sunny, warm morning at the lake. Our garden and our flowers have been planted so now we have to be patient and wait for them to grow.

Our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Lynne Moffatt and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Ray Moffatt were in attendance at our March meeting. Following our ritualistic opening, regular business was dealt with along with discussion of the Resolutions which will be presented at Grand Chapter. We have opted to discontinue our High School Scholarship which had been awarded at Yorkton Regional High School and replace it with Bursary which will be available to a student enrolled in the nursing program at the Sun Crest Community College.

Worthy Grand Patron, Ray Moffatt presented Brother Wayne Stephens, PP with a Grand Representative Commission to Brazil.

Our Chapter is busy selling squares for the upcoming Stanley Cup Final Game. This is one of our annual fundraising projects.
Our April and May meetings were well attended. We enjoyed our noon luncheons and social time prior to both meetings. Marches were practiced. Preparations were started for our Official Visit in June. We will once again have a potluck banquet, Afghan raffle and silent auction.

Members of Yorkton Chapter No. 92 at Grand Chapter Sister Angela Bothner, PM; Sister Kathy Gordon, WM; Sister Judy Stone, PM; Sister Janet Zondervan, Grand Secretary Emeritus; Brother John Zondervan, PGP; Sister Angela Oleskiw, GGCCM, PGM; Brother Joseph Poitras; Sister Lorraine Poitras

Brother Roderick Lee, PGP and Sister Ruby Lee, PGM attended the Funeral Service for Brother Gerald Busch, PGP on May 15, 2025 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Saskatoon.

Our Worthy Matron, Sister Kathy Gordon, PM was a model at the Spring Fashion Show held at The Mall at Lawson Heights, Saskatoon.

REGAL #132 – SASKATOON

Sister Thea Howe, Grand Secretary, PGM–Reporter

Regal Chapter has had a busy few months with some catering.

Our WGM and WGP presented Sister Penny Bradwell PM with the first Grand Representative Commission of Philippines in Saskatchewan. Sister Jennifer Whalley PM received a commission to Iowa at the next meeting, Sister Joan Thomas PM, dual member with Regina No. 7 received a Grand Representative commission to Australia.

Twenty-five-year certificates and pins were presented to Sisters Lynn Maas, Michelle Woroniuk, Margaret Jensen (pictured with acting WM, Sister Angela Bothner, Brother Doug Hoffman WP, Sister Jenny Guest WGM and Brother Dave Hartley WGP)

Sister Thea Howe PGM, Grand Secretary and Brother Robert Hudlow, Triennial Assembly Chairman – Vendors, PGP Illinois and Grand Representative of the United Grand Chapter of Australia, with such long titles they both became lovingly referred to as Blah, Blah #1 and Blah, Blah #2. 😊 Brother Bob celebrated his 50th anniversary of joining OES at the Informal Opening of Grand Chapter.

Donna Rederburg PGM (4), Shilora Hudlow Ambassador to Tiawan – PGM Nevada, Thea Howe PGM – Grand Secretary, Bob Hudlow Triennial Assembly Chairman – Vendors PGP Illinois and GR Australia, George Frederick PGP-AGP.

When we attended the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon at the end of May. Sister Donna Rederburg PGM (4) and Sister Sandi Simmons (former member of Regina Chapter No. 7) were able to catch up.

We also visited with Sister Margo Stephens Grand Representative of Saskatchewan in BC and Yukon (pictured with Sister Jenny WGM) who is Sister Heather Jackson's PM (132) counterpart.

We look forward to inviting you to the Official Visit and Homecoming of our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Jenny Guest and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Dave Hartley on October 18th. This year the theme for the Homecoming will be a Halloween Party – costumes are encouraged for that event.

CHAPTER REPORTERS

Mizpah #1, Moose Jaw-Lloyd Pethick, PGP
Acacia #3, Biggar-Urla Tyler, PM
Saskatoon #4-Bev Otsuka, PGM
Regina #7- Donna Sanders, GGC, Ambassador to Quebec, PGM & Marianne Woods, WM
Lloydminster #76-Laurie Costello
Corinthian #89, Govan-Bruce Farrer, PGP
Yorkton #92-Ruby E. Lee, PGM
Regal #132, Saskatoon-Thea Howe, Grand Secretary, PGM

Thanks for the articles and pictures. Members, please contact your Chapter Reporter with news.

The Star Gazer is a publication of the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan and is designed to enhance communication within the Order by providing timely, interesting, and educational information. **The Star Gazer** will be emailed to Chapter Secretaries (or to another Chapter member if the Secretary does not have email access)

Deadline for next submissions: October 1, 2025

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