

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Recently returning from the All Canada Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges A.F. and A.M. of Canada, I am pleased to report the sessions were quite successful and most interesting. We discussed topics such as Grand Representatives, Leadership Workshops, Strategic Plans, Formation of New Lodges, Masonic Libraries, Suspended Members, Motorcycle Clubs, Branding and varied other subjects. Our Deputy Grand Master gave a paper entitled "The Challenge of Freemasonry in a Multicultural Society." I was asked to bring an overview of the development of our Child Identification Program in Ontario and also comment on jurisdictional items. I congratulate our Grand Secretary on being elected once again as the Treasurer of the Conference. Rowan B. Caseley, Grand Secretary of Prince Edward Island, becomes the president, assisted by Pat Hutchison, D.G.M. Saskatchewan, as his vice president and Steve Kane, P.G.M. MB, as the new secretary taking over from Bob Crossley. It was also our pleasure to have had a tour of the Manitoba legislature building, conducted by Frank Albo, specialist in ancient religions and western esotericism and author of "The Hermetic Code," in the light of it being a temple. We viewed the mosaic pavement, the indented tessel and the blazing star and much more. Brethren, should you get the opportunity it is well worth the visit. In fact, this tour was a documentary segment of the CBC news on March 24, 2008.

Over the last two years we have discussed a traveling warrant for our Masonic troops in Afghanistan. I learned that Grand Lodge of Alberta has issued dispensation for such a traveling warrant and it is being sent along with a box of paraphernalia to be used in setting up a lodge for an emergent meeting (no initiations or degree work are permitted) while on tour of duty. Our American brethren also have similar and thus I expect that when those of our troops who might be masons are called to duty overseas they are able to find a Masonic traveling lodge. Ontario is looking into this possibility as well.

From a recent summons came the following questions: "What attracted me to Masonry?" and "What would attract me back to the Lodge?" These two questions have different connotations. One means that we were attracted by something and the other means our interest has waned and what now would bring us back? In my travels, I have met many Masons of considerable years who still enjoy their times in Lodge. What makes the difference I am not sure, but I would say that they have found the secret of Masonry and cherish the values

that Masonry teaches. Each of us is a different person and each joins for his own reasons, but all of us can share the fraternal feeling of brotherhood and affection realizing our mutual bond. This is what should attract one back to the Lodge if Masonry has truly made a difference in our lives.

Take care and safe travels,

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Cancer Snippet:

By starting to accumulate a PSA history at age 40, a man will have measurements to compare with levels obtained in his 50's in order to determine the rate his PSA changed – his PSA velocity – a useful measure of the presence of a life-threatening cancer. *John Hopkins Medical Letter.*

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

April 2008

9	Installation Grenville Lodge No. 629	Thornhill
12	GM Reception Frontenac	Harrowsmith
18	W.M.W. Medal - Nipissing Lodge No. 420	North Bay
19	Penewobikong Lodge No. 487 100 th	Blind River
24	Artic Char Night - Carleton Lodge No. 465	Carp
25	Hamilton Districts A, B, & C - GM Reception	Hamilton
26	Sharon Lodge No. 97 - 150 th Anniversary	Mount Albert
28	Ashlar Lodge No. 610 - Pin Presentations	London

May 2008

2	G.M. Ontario District Reception	Cobourg
3	G.M. Victoria District Reception	Lindsay
4 - 6	Grand Lodge of New York	New York
7 - 10	World Conference	Washington, D.C.
23	Dedication Lodge Room King Solomon No. 329 Reba No. 515 Lodge	Brant District
24	N. Huron District Reception G.M. and 150 th Anniversary Northern Light Lodge No. 93	Kincardine
29	Amaranth Grand Court Session	Burlington
30	Peterborough District Grand Master's Reception	Peterborough
31	Corinthian Lodge No. 96 150 th Anniversary	Barrie

June 2008

7	150 th Anniversary St. Mark's Lodge No. 105	Niagara Falls
9	WMW Medal Present. Lebanon Forest Lodge No. 133	Exeter
11	West Gate Lodge No. 734 Installation	Streetsville
13 - 15	Western District G.M. Reception	Kenora
17	Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 Presentation	Hamilton
17	Centennial Daylight Lodge No. 679 Installation	Hamilton
20	150 th Anniversary Colborne Lodge No. 91	Colborne
29 - 3	Imperial Council Session of Shriners	St. Louis

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

I had the privilege of accompanying the Grand Master and Grand Secretary to the 26th Annual Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges A.F. & A.M. of Canada, held in Winnipeg, the geographical centre of the Dominion. The theme of the conference was 'Freemasonry's Contemporary Challenge.' A common feeling was expressed that we as Freemasons need to get our own house in order first – Freemasons understanding Freemasonry. If asked to explain, do we have a short, accurate definition to give a serious inquirer without simply parroting the ritual line beginning, "a beautiful system of morality?" We are always willing and eager to explain what Freemasonry is; we might better demonstrate who Freemasons are, and show what Freemasons do. Precepts may lead - examples draw. This challenge was issued: To learn – to unlearn – to relearn. These conferences of Masonic leaders provide an opportunity to share ideas and concepts, to learn from each other, and to get to know our counterparts in other jurisdictions across Canada – all to our mutual benefit.

The Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, R.W. Bro. Brian Rountree, shared with us exactly the information needed to assist our Committee on Library, Museum, and Archives to complete the on-line catalogue of our Grand Lodge Library. Before moving to Winnipeg, Bro. Rountree was initiated in Dominion Lodge No.598, Essex, Windsor District, in 1971. His Master of Library Science degree is from UWO in London. He is well-known as a lecturer, and serves as Secretary of the Masonic Library Association, of which our Grand Lodge is a subscribing member. At the invitation of R.W. Bro. Charles Reid, Chairman of the Museum, Library, and Archives Committee, Bro. Rountree will visit Hamilton to meet and consult with our Committee later in April.

The Committee on Seminars and Workshops, R.W. Bro. Lloyd Hammell, Chairman, has programmed an instructive and informative series of 11 topics to be presented by some of the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters ever assembled at our Annual Communication. The full schedule for Tuesday afternoon will be sent to all lodge secretaries

later this month by the Grand Secretary with the package of information for the 153rd Annual Communication. For the first time, a special presentation will be given in Grand Lodge on Wednesday morning following the Grand Master's Address. Members of Toronto East District will present a special version of their immensely popular Lodge Vitality and Momentum project conducted earlier this year. All Masons attending the Annual Communication as either delegates or observers are urged to bring their regalia to be worn when in Grand Lodge. Each D.D.G.M. is asked to promote this event, and make all those travelling on the District buses to the Royal York aware of this unique learning opportunity. Perhaps the organizers of the District buses could arrange an earlier arrival time to enable the maximum number of brethren to benefit from this inspiring motivational presentation.

A few years ago, a young Mason giving the Toast to the Visitors at a Masonic Festive Board made this clever analogy. He said, "Visiting is like watching television. Going to your own lodge is like having your set plugged in; you get only the local channel. Visiting neighbouring lodges in the District is like having 'rabbit ears' when the reception is extended to a few more channels. When you travel around Ontario to other Districts, that's like being on cable, and when you go even farther abroad to visit in other Grand Jurisdictions, that's like being on satellite." From the days when our operative brethren travelled from job site to job site, visiting has been one of the great privileges of our world-wide Masonic fraternity. Now past the Vernal Equinox, with the prospect of better weather and improved driving conditions, the season of Receptions, Official Visits, Installations, Workshops, and other special events is in full swing. Enjoy the privilege of fraternal visitation and pleasure of social intercourse. The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder. Expand your horizon and extend your vision. 'Vision' and 'Visit' come from the same Latin root: 'visus' - to see; 'visio' - sight. To 'visit' literally means 'to go to see.' Think of your 'cable-tow' more as a 'bungee cord.'

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

The following information received at the office might financially assist those lodges that utilize a print shop to produce their lodge summons:

Ministry of Revenue, Ontario Retail Sales Tax Guide No. 507 (page 5 -Newspapers and Bulletins) states as follows:

Definition: Newsletters and bulletins qualify for exemption from RST if they:

- are printed
- are produced by or for a group, club, society, or organization for the interest of its members
- contain information or literary matter of a non-promotional nature, **and**
- do not contain paid advertising

There are, as of April 4, 2008, **twenty five** lodges that have not filed their July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007, semi-annual return and **two** lodges who have neglected to file their January 1, 2007 to July 30, 2007 semi-annual return. These lodges are not eligible to receive the 2008 half-yearly return until receipt of the former resulting in a prohibition of voting at our annual communication in July 2008.

Is your lodge one of this group?

Terence Shand