

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Please note: This issue of the D.D.G.M. Communique contains (3) pages.

R.W. Sirs, Congratulations once again on your election. This will be an exciting year for Masonry and you should feel proud to be a part of it. My theme is "Masonry, Making a Difference". Let me assure you that as leaders you will make a difference in your own lives and in the lives of those whom you serve.

As a fraternity, Freemasonry provides an opportunity for men such as us to meet and enjoy friendly companionship. Freemasonry, being of a personal nature in our private ceremonies, promotes self-improvement. It offers a chance to grow while learning the basic principles which we are encouraged to practice in our daily lives.

Masonry is something special to each of us and perhaps difficult to explain to those of our friends who are non-Masons. Sometimes, neighbours don't even know neighbours are Masons.

To that end, R.W. Bro. Dennis Hawman, chairman, will be asking you to ask that each lodge in your district support and report on at least one public awareness project, something that we do in our community to show that Masons have a presence. Many lodges across Ontario are involved in their communities in various ways. It might be presentation of bursaries for our needy high school or college students, hosting Blood Donor Clinics, Community BBQ's, Yard Sales, Bake Sales, Pancake Breakfast, presence at Fall Fairs, taking part in parades or some other type of event.

Please look into the Adopt-A-Highway program. It has been quite an active program across Ontario. The M.T.O. assigns a small section of the highway, to be picked up once or twice a year by your members in return for free roadside advertising in view of many motorists. Pick up takes less than a couple of hours. Sometimes wives and friends who are non-masons participate. The camaraderie and fellowship this provides is priceless and the exposure in the community may create interest. Most of the well-traveled sections are already taken by other groups. Please check your county for this opportunity to create awareness in your community.

Another new area of public awareness for Masons might be involvement in our newly launched Child Identification program called MasoniCHIP Ontario under Program Director, R.W. Bro Ray Dobbs. In addition to providing a sense of security to concerned parents, it may bring awareness to the Masons sponsoring the clinics. The plan is to have every district in Ontario become involved in hosting clinics in one of their communities. We now have 10 computer stations that can be used in communities across Ontario.

I am certainly not asking that we give up the personal nature of what Masonry means to each and everyone of us.

However, we each know how difficult it is to break the ice with a neighbour or a friend in discussing our membership in our Masonic Lodge and these outward signs of Masonry may just help us to create a public awareness so that many more may inquire and thus can enjoy the experience of becoming and being a Mason. Isn't this what it is all about? Sharing something that we have found to be good and beneficial in our lives. This my brethren is one way we as Masons can 'make a difference' in our communities.

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Cancer Snippet:

The cause of prostate cancer is not yet known. One in every six Canadian men is expected to develop the disease in their lifetime and one in four will die from it. It is known that as men age, the chance of developing prostate cancer increases. Certain factors can increase the risk of prostate cancer, including age, race, family history and diet. Cancer experts recommend healthy lifestyle habits to reduce your chances of getting any kind of cancer, including prostate cancer.

**** Stop smoking, Eat Low-Fat, High Fibre Foods.**

**** Exercise Regularly, Limit Salt, Alcohol and Caffeine.**

I was pleased to receive on behalf of MF2244 (Prostate Cancer Research) a cheque in the amount of \$1000 from the John Green "Classic" golf tournament, held on August 29, 2007. My sincerest thanks go to R.W. Bro. Green and the participating golfers for their contribution in kicking off the G. M.'s Charity Project.

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

September

19	London Daylight Lodge No. 735 25 th Anniversary	London
21	Leaders Meeting	Gananoque
21	International Plowing Match	Crosby
	Meet and Greet, Elgin Lions Hall	Elgin
22	St. James Lodge No. 74, 150 th Anniversary	Brookville
29	St. John's Lodge No. 81, 150 Anniversary	Mt. Brydges
30	Hamilton Masonic Center - Byrne Dedication	Hamilton

October

1	Granton Lodge No. 483, 100 th Rededication	Granton
2	Zetland Wilson Lodge No. 86, 150 th Anniversary	Toronto
6-9	Grand Lodge of West Virginia	Charleston
13	Celebration '07 for G.M. and Mary	Woodstock
16	W.M.W. Medal Presentation John Medland	Brooklin
18-22	G.L. of Newfoundland. & Labrador	Gander
27	Royal Order of Scotland	Hamilton

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

True values, being timeless, never change, but the culture that maintains those values does, like the constant sun covered by moving clouds.

It is not in the nature of Grand Lodge to effect radical alteration or initiate revolutionary modification in its organizational or administrative structure. Prudence directs that we advance slowly, but steadily to take the organization to the place we need to go. It has been said that a successful innovator is one who finds new ways to carry on the traditions of an old established organization. As times change and circumstances require, the Grand Master appoints Special Committees to devise programs and initiate projects to serve the Districts, Lodge, and Brethren. For these reasons, some restructuring of the Special Committees was put into effect at the Annual Communication in July, a new committee formed and a committee renamed.

The Lodge Resources Committee chaired by R.W. Bro. David R. Dainard will encompass all of the programs that have been devised and designed to assist lodges to attract new members and keep present members active: Friend to Friend (The world needs more Freemasons) – Mentor (Explaining the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry) – Brother to Brother (Give me a reason for coming to lodge and I will be there) – Officer Progression (Paving the Road to the East) – Protocol and Etiquette (That all may be done decently and in order). Taken together, these programs provide a reliable GPS for the Masonic journey, from the time a man expresses an interest in Masonry, until he becomes the Worshipful Master of his lodge.

To better reflect its extended mandate, the Public Relations Committee has been renamed the Public Awareness Committee. R.W. Bro. Dennis Hawman is the chairman with R.W. Bro. Allen Hackett responsible for Special Events. The Masons of St. Lawrence District under the direction of R.W. Bro. Giles Loshaw will welcome visitors to the 2007 International Plowing Match to be held in Crosby. The “Meet and Greet” with the Grand Master will be Friday, September 21st.

The Ontario MasoniCHIP project was launched in Woodstock by R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs and his committee, August 8, 2007, to an enthusiastic audience of Masons and EMS representatives. Data is recorded (digital photo and video, fingerprints, toothprints with DNA sample, all compatible with the Amber Alert Program) and given to the parent or guardian for use in case of emergency. This program has proven to be hugely successful in several jurisdictions in the United States. The Ontario MasoniCHIP is the first to be implemented by a Grand Lodge in Canada.

A new committee responsible for Youth Initiatives has been created with V.W. Bro. William Atkinson, Sr., appointed as Chairman. Our Grand Lodge has long given token support and made financial contributions to the Masonic related youth organizations active in Ontario – DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls. This committee will explore ways and devise means in which we as members of the senior Maonic body in the province can encourage, support, and assist these young men and women to experience the core values and moral principles of Freemasonry in their formative years.

Masonry is the science of service. The Standing and Special Committees of the Board of General Purposes are always ‘at your service.’ Working together with unity of

vision, diversity of skills, and innovative ideas we will find new ways to solve old problems, thereby generating the processes that will keep our Craft progressing and growing. Interconnectedness means quite literally that we are all in this together. Do something wonderful – People may imitate it!

Raymond S. J. Daniels

Custodian’s Corner. . .

Lodges of Instruction – Fall 2007 Location, Date and Times

North Bay

7:00 p.m., Mon., Sept. 24, 2007
North Bay Masonic Temple, 183 First Ave. W.
(Muskoka P-S., Nipissing E., Temiskaming)

Sudbury

7:00 p.m., Tues., Sept. 25, 2007
Sudbury Masonic Temple, 845 Regent St. S.
(Muskoka P-S, Sudbury-Manitoulin)

Thessalon

7:00 p.m., Weds., Sept. 26, 2007
Thessalon Masonic Temple, 162 Main St.
(Algoma East)

Oil Springs

7:00 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 27, 2007
Masonic Temple, 4581 Victoria St.
(Chatham, Erie, Sarnia)

Hanover

7:00 p.m., Fri., Sept. 28, 2007
Hanover Masonic Temple, 415 24th Ave.
(Bruce, North Huron, South Huron)

Woodstock

7:00 p.m., Weds., Oct. 3, 2007
Woodstock Masonic Temple, 10 Brock St.
(Brant, Wilson North, Wilson South)

Orangeville

7:00 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 4, 2007
Orangeville Masonic Temple, 71 Fifth Ave.
(Georgian S., Grey, Toronto York)

Oakville

7:00 p.m., Fri., Oct. 5, 2007
Oakville Masonic Temple, 125 Thomas St.
(Hamilton A, Hamilton C, Toronto West)

Scarborough

9:00 a.m., Sat., Oct. 6, 2007
Scarborough Masonic Centre, 2201 Ellesmere
(Tor. D.V., Tor. East, Tor. Humber)

Frankford

7:00 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 11, 2007
Frankford Masonic Temple, 33 King Drive
(Peterborough, Prince Edward, Victoria)

Brockville

7:00 p.m., Fri., Oct. 12, 2007
Brockville Masonic Temple, 2815 Second Conc.
(Eastern, Frontenac, St. Lawrence)

Ottawa

9:00 a.m., Sat., Oct. 13, 2007
Ottawa Masonic Centre, 2140 Walkley
(Eastern, Ottawa 1, Ottawa 2)

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

The following is provided as the result of discussions with our Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master:

GUIDELINES TO SEEKING GRAND LODGE OFFICE

It has long been established that there exists “unwritten rules” with regards to seeking election to Grand Lodge Office. Since we are governed by our Constitution of Grand Lodge, one might ask, “Why do we support such rules and why do they exist?”

This document is intended to serve as the perceived intent of the existence of such a recommended courtesy and practice.

Given our voting process, it is reasonable to accept that highly populated Masonic areas might (on a yearly basis) dominate the selection of those elected to serve Grand Lodge by continually selecting from among their number, all three offices of Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, and Grand Registrar.

In an attempt to provide equitable opportunity to anyone desirous of serving Grand Lodge in those offices, it was devised that the aforementioned three elected offices be distributed and/or made available to a cross section of Urban, Suburban and Rural areas of the Province.

As such, a gentleman’s agreement was established as follows:

- The office of Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden would alternate yearly between eligible candidates of the GTA and those of other Urban/Suburban areas
- The office of Grand Registrar would be made available to candidates from the more Rural areas of the province. Thus, affecting representation from throughout Ontario.

Further, it was recognized that serving in any Grand Lodge office required an arduous commitment of the member which, in turn, placed a heavy burden on his family. Given these factors, members leaving Grand Lodge office were required to take a minimum one year sabbatical prior to deciding to seek further election to Grand Lodge office in a subsequent year.

Successful candidates, would then be leaving a two-year term between vacating one office and assuming another.

These guidelines are provided for information purposes and, although not constitutionalized, are considered an accepted courtesy and practice that should be adhered to.

Traditionally, Temple Corporations are independent bodies within our constitutional structure. A number have recently turned to Grand Lodge for assistance.

M.W. Bro. A.J. Petrisor has commissioned an Ad Hoc Committee, “The Masonic Temple Advisory,” comprising senior business executives with special expertise in all aspects of business, real estate, buildings, maintenance and financing.

MANDATE: To assist Ontario Masonic Temple Corporations and/or Sole Proprietor Lodge Trustees to resolve their individual building, planning, organizational or financial concerns.

Chairman: R.W. Bro. Terrence V. Horner

Secretary: W Bro. H. Alan Fryer

This specialized assistance is available upon request, to the Grand Lodge office.

Terence Shand