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From the Grand Master . . .

Remembrance Day causes us to seriously reflect on the freedoms we enjoy. From the *Alberta Freemason* (in a short tribute to Bro. Cpl Jordan Anderson who perished earlier this year, along with five others in a roadside bomb attack) reads the following, “He knew he was making a difference in helping the people of Afghanistan,” his family said in a statement, “and knew the ultimate sacrifices that he may need to make”— *a man who in vicissitudes does not despair and who will be resolute in the hour of danger.*

Brethren, Remembrance Day, falling on a Sunday this year, will provide many of us the opportunity to attend our church and/or local cenotaph to pay tribute and silently and reverently offer a prayer of thanks.

Later this month, the *Ontario Mason* magazine (Editor, R.W. Bro. Robert Beckett, M.B.G.P.) will be mailed to every Mason in Ontario. In it will be the yellow envelope appeal of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. President, R.W. Bro. Sam Kalinowsky (M.B.G.P.), tells me that if every Mason set aside \$1 (a loonie) per week which at \$52 per year times 50,000 Masons adds up to \$2.5 million per year. Please consider making the Masonic Foundation your “Charity of Choice”, whether it be in aid of your District projects, the needy projects supported by the yellow envelope appeal or the Grand Master’s charity for prostate cancer research (MFO No. 2244).

Interest in MasoniChIP, our Child Identification Program, continues to develop across Ontario with additional funds being received from Lodges, Districts and individual Masons (via MFO No.2552) for the purchase of additional work stations to handle a growing demand for clinics throughout the jurisdiction.

The D.D.G.M Orientation Sessions (Chairman, R.W. Bro. Barry Hutton, M.B.G.P.) are now taking place for those prospective candidates for the office of D.D.G.M. this year and also for Prospective District Secretaries in the coming year.

Finally, from a John Maxwell book, talking about the personality traits that define integrity, comes the following . . . Be honest, be trustworthy, admit your weaknesses, exemplify humility, demonstrate your support of others, fulfill your promises and embrace an attitude of service, for it has been said “the service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth.”

Brethren, ask yourself if all of the above apply in

your life, for each of us has an obligation to ‘*Make a Difference*’ for good in the world and the first step begins with ourselves.

Prostate Cancer Snippet:

A urologist and surgeon at St. Joseph’s Hospital states: “The da Vinci robot acts like an extension of my hands, but with 7 mm instruments, it can facilitate maneuvers that even my hands can’t.” Benefits include: reduced trauma to the body, less anaesthesia, less post-operative pain and discomfort, less risk of infection, less scarring, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery and return to normal activity . . . BUT . . . perhaps the most important benefit is a greatly reduced risk of sexual dysfunction and incontinence, which are side effects of “open” surgery that sometimes deter men from having surgery at all. (Cost of the robot is approximately \$3 million.)

GRAND MASTER’S ITINERARY

November

3	Beaver Lodge No. 83, 150 th Anniversary	Strathroy
5	King Hiram Lodge No. 37, 50 Year Pins	Ingersoll
6	RAM 150 th and DRD Recognition	Scarborough
8	Orono Lodge No. 325, Dedication	Orono
9	Moore Consistory Luncheon	Hamilton
12	PGM Meeting, GLO	Hamilton
16	Amalgamation Lodges No. 470 & 249	Victoria Harbour
17	Manito Lodge No. 90 - 150 th Anniversary	Collingwood
29-3	Annual Communication G.L.N.F.	Paris

December

8	Amalgamation – Lodges No. 126 & 633	Campbellford
10	Amalgamation – Lodges No. 119 & 228	Bath
18	Amalgamation – Lodges No. 75 & 16	York Temple

Ontario MasoniCh.I.P.

Lodges desirous of further program information or undertaking Work Station sponsorship contact:

R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs, Program Director

Phone No.519-539-3669

Email: raydobbs@sympactico.ca.

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

*“Solemn the drums thrill: Death, august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.”* — Laurence
Binyon (1869-1943)

Remembrance, for many in recent years, was a part of history. Today, with Canadian heroes serving and dying on the battlefields of Afghanistan, remembrance is personal and immediate. The section of 401 east designated, “Highway of Heroes” and the several roads in Ontario now signed “Veterans Way” are daily reminders of the unpayable debt of gratitude we owe to them. As in all conflicts where Canadian troops have fought for freedom and peace in the world, there are significant numbers of our Masonic Brethren serving in all ranks. As lodges hold the annual Memorial Service at the November meeting and attend the ceremonies at the local cenotaph on Remembrance Day, we honour the valour and patriotism of the veterans and serving men and women of the armed forces. Section 143(a) permits the wearing of regalia by brethren taking part in laying a wreath at any public Remembrance Day Ceremony. Section 384(a) gives authority to wear the traditional poppy and military or civil orders, decorations, and medals at the November meeting when a Remembrance Service is held in the lodge. *“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”*

The **Condition of Masonry** – the health and vitality of our lodges is of primary importance. It is in the constituent lodges that Freemasonry lives, moves, and has its being. Through fraternal and Official Visits, the District Deputy Grand Master observes, assesses, evaluates, and reports on the ‘Condition of Masonry’ in the lodges within his district. These reports are analysed

by the standing Committee on the Condition of Masonry and where need is, assistance is offered by the appropriate committee. At the present time, verbal reports are submitted in January when the D.D.G.M.s gather at mid-term in Scarborough (Saturday, January 5, 2008) and when year end written reports are deposited with the Grand Secretary (on or before the 1st day of June). To expedite the process, to be more efficient, and in an attempt to be proactive rather than reactive, thereby addressing obvious problems before it is too late, R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd, the Chairman of the Committee on the Condition of Masonry invites all D.D.G.M.s to participate on a volunteer basis in an experiment. Rather than waiting until the end of the year, the D.D.G.M.s are encouraged to submit their reports of the Official Visits as soon as they are completed. [e-mail fireplug@sympatico.ca] This would enable assistance to be offered and remedial action to be taken. As in all things, the sooner the remedy can be applied, the faster health and vitality may be restored. **NB: Participation in this experiment does not replace the submission of annual reports to the Grand Secretary as required by Section 104 of the Constitution.**

With the publication of the November edition of the Communiqué, I am reminded that the first quarter of the Masonic year has been completed. Oliver Wendall Holmes wrote: *“The great thing in the world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.”* The five-pointed star enclosed by the Square and Compasses in the jewel of the D.D.G.M. is a symbolic reminder that you are the chief navigator in the district. *“Whither are you directing your course?”*

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

On November 24, 2007, the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador will be consecrating the formation of University Lodge. It is specifically designed to encourage students and young persons to join our Craft, meet together and talk Masonry in the hope that, following education, they would remain active members in the communities where they establish roots. Their bylaws make it possible for interested brethren to become founding members. Brethren from lodges in other jurisdictions, who complete a petition for affiliation, pay the \$34 fee, request to be considered founding members and subsequently receive a favorable ballot of the lodge within two months after consecration, will be considered founding members of University Lodge. All Ontario Masons are invited to join and/or attend the celebration at St John’s. Further information: gnfld@nf.sympatico.ca.

Lodges desirous of obtaining updated portrait size photographs of Queen Elizabeth II. Our W. Bro. K. Copping advises that a brief telephone call to the Office of the Governor General at 1-800-465-6890 will cause a complimentary photograph(s) to be mailed direct.

Several Masonic lodge building corporations are receiving correspondence from Revenue Canada, which establishes a business account number requiring back dated tax return forms be completed. I am advised this is a newly established ad hoc type group that is believed set up to work toward integrating a single Federal and Provincial return and it is directed to all not for profit organizations. Attempts are underway with the group to establish a suitable means for all Masonic corporations to respond appropriately in a format mutually acceptable with Revenue Canada. Appreciating this is not a Grand Lodge issue per-say, I will endeavor to share whatever information is gleaned on the process.

Terence Shand