

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2008/1 - 5

January 2008

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From the Grand Master . . .

I hope each of you had an enjoyable, relaxing festive season and suitably rang in the New Year with many resolutions. As always the problem will be sticking to your resolutions.

I recently received results of an online Lodge Vitality and Long Range Planning survey being carried out by the Toronto East District Long Range Planning Committee. The survey has been expanded to include all districts. Almost 1000 Masons across the jurisdiction have responded thus far. If you have a few minutes of spare time I have asked that the survey be open until the end of February, should you and the brethren of your district care to participate. The questions identify your age group, your experience level in the lodge, how long you have been a Mason and then goes on to explore membership, community awareness, and some other questions related to the well being of your lodge. (www.torontoeastdistrict.com)

This year, as you recall, I had asked each of the D.D.G.M.s to file a report indicating one public awareness project from each of the lodges in your districts for our interim feedback meeting of January 5th. As the interim reports started to come in, I could readily see that many Lodges were in fact very involved in some sort of community public awareness venture whether it be community barbecues and dinners, sports team sponsorships, donations to hospitals for medical equipment, breakfasts for school children, floats in parades, bursaries for high school students, food bank donations, Christmas hampers, Sunday brunches and pancake breakfasts open to the public, highway cleanup, sponsoring blood donor clinics, charity bike rides, booths at fall fairs, pumpkinfests and malls, giant yard sales, participation in "Doors Open," manning phone lines in a CTV Christmas telethon, Variety Village Toys-for-Kids, out of the cold program, coats for kids, or MasoniChIP-Child Identification. Brethren, the list could go on and on, in addition to Divine Services, Remembrance day Cenotaph participation, open houses, Masonic memorial services. In fact one lodge participated in eleven different public awareness projects.

It brings me to the conclusion that the citizens of Ontario should have a good idea who the Masons are. Many communities have our road entrance signs. It bothers me that there are those in Ontario who might ask "Who are the Masons?" We really are right there and in front of them.

As one D.D.G.M. said in his report, "It is my firm belief that when the lodge brethren are proud of their Masonic membership and recognize its benefits, they will consider the opportunity to participate in their lodge as a priority. In turn, the pride of their Masonic membership will attract new members." Be proud of who you are and what you represent.

I thank each of you for your condition of Masonry reports filed at our Interim Meeting and for your full and thoughtful participation. Many districts are enjoying a renaissance in Masonry while some are suffering apathy problems. These problems can be cyclical and I would ask that you work through them. Utilize the Advisory Board of your Districts to your advantage. Brainstorming and good planning can help uncover the problems and bring about a solution. Please don't overlook our excellent Grand Lodge Programmes. Call on our Grand Lodge Chairmen at anytime.

Safe travels

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Cancer Snippet:

Annual PSA Screening

The secret to defeating prostate cancer lies in early detection. Caught before it has a chance to spread to other body organs, it can often be treated successfully. Early treatment may help you live longer!

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

January

18 Century Lodge No. 457 50 Yr Pin Presentation Merlin
19 London SR Family of Freemasonry London

February

14 - 20 N.A. Conference of G.M.'s & G.S.'s Louisville

March 2008

5 True Blue Lodge No. 98 - 150th Bolton
7 Waterloo District Reception G.M. Kitchener
10 Acacia Lodge No. 128 (New York) Odensburg
17 Pnyx Baldoon Lodge No. 312 Lewis Jewel Presentation Wallaceburg
19 Tuscan Lodge No. 99 150th Anniversary Newmarket
27 - 30 All Canada Conference Winnipeg

April 2008

3 150th Convocation of Grand Chapter RAM St. Catharines
9 Installation Grenville Lodge No. 629 Thornhill
12 GM Reception Frontenac Harrowsmith
19 Penewobikong Lodge No. 487 100th Blind River
25 Ham Districts A, B, & C - GM Reception Hamilton
26 Sharon Lodge No. 97 - 150th Anniversary Mount Albert
28 Ashlar Lodge No. 610 - Fraternal Visit & Presentation London

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, *“To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.”* As we cross the threshold of another year of Masonic service, may we resolve to *‘Be more and do more.’*

At the Gate of the Year, during late December and early January, many lodges hold the annual Ceremony of Installation and Investiture. Traditionally, this coincided with the Feast of St. John in Winter (27th December), one of the two Masonic Festivals. When the new Worshipful Master and Officers assume the duties and responsibilities of managing and directing the affairs of the lodge for the coming year, it is a time of high hopes and great expectations. The committees of Grand Lodge and the chairmen of those committees are ready and willing, either directly or through their counterparts in the district, to encourage, advise, assist, and support every lodge in its endeavours: membership, education, finances, officer training, ritual, et al. Remember, your Grand Lodge, properly considered, is a part of – never apart from – your lodge. May every Worshipful Master enjoy success and satisfaction in the Chair of King Solomon.

“Success means doing the best we can with what we have. Success is in the doing, not the getting - in the trying, not the triumph.” Wyn Davis

The **Proceedings** of the 152nd Annual Communication of Grand Lodge 2007 have now been distributed to all the lodges. It is usually kept in the custody of the Secretary, but *“should always be available for use by all members of the lodge.”* Section 240 of the **Book of Constitution** directs: *“The Master shall cause to be published in the summons or shall read or cause to be read at one or more regular meetings of the lodge such portion of the Proceedings of the last annual meeting of Grand lodge as in his opinion will prove most instructive and beneficial to the membership of the lodge.”* This is, I fear, ‘a custom more honoured in the breach than in the observance.’

This volume contains a wealth of information: membership statistics for each of our 588 lodges, financial statements of Grand Lodge receipts and expenditures, reports of all Grand Lodge committees, and District Summaries from the 44 District Deputy Grand Masters. Also published and of particular interest are the **Grand Master’s Address** delivered by M.W. Bro. Gary L. Atkinson and the **Fraternal Reviews** of the Annual Proceedings of 30 Grand Lodges around the world: Canada (8 provinces), the United States (16 states), Europe (4 countries), New Zealand, and the Philippines. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence (R.W. Bro. James D. Kingston, Chairman, and R.W. Bro. Colin C. Heap, Reviewer) provides in these summaries a window on the wider world of Freemasonry. Worshipful Masters, Chairmen of Masonic Education, and District Deputy Grand Masters will find therein a rich resource when preparing short talks and printed messages. Any Brother wishing to have a personal copy of the Proceedings, may obtain it from the Grand Secretary’s Office (\$10.00).

All beautiful the march of days,
As seasons come and go;
The hand that shaped the rose hath wrought
The crystal of the snow;
Hath sent the hoary frost of heaven,
The flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness
On hill, and wood, and field.

Frances Whitmarsh Wile

Take extra care and safe travels as you drive through this winter wonderland on the highways and country roads in Ontario. As the M.T.O. warning sign says: *Drive according to road conditions.*

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

The following is a paraphrased excerpt of an email received at Grand Lodge:

I am the spouse of one of your new members. Admittedly when proposed to join the Mason’s I was feeling slightly leery. I don’t like to keep secrets from him and in turn expect the same. I was concerned about what he was getting into and of course worried about what it was all about.

His enthusiasm was obvious and his desire and commitment was something that I could not deny. I went along supportively and gave him the freedom to become a new Mason.

Although I still don’t understand the details, what I do understand is the pride that he has in himself and his lodge. I believe that it has bolstered his self-confidence and it’s wonderful to see him being a part of the community and fellowship. The fact that he looks amazing when he gets all dressed up to go is an extra special bonus for me.

Thank you to the lodge and his fellow members for supporting him and encouraging him to be the best that he can be. I have peace in my heart now that I see the joy in his for belonging to your organization.

Grand Chapter 150th Anniversary – Gala Banquet, Friday, April 4, 2008

Social 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. – Quality Inn, Parkway Convention Centre, St Catharines.

Featuring noted tenor, *John McDermott & Friends* – Banquet tickets \$50.00 each.

Further information: www.royalarchmasons.on.ca phone: (905) 522-5775

Terence Shand