

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

The Toronto East District survey is now completed and results are being tabulated. The exciting news is that the Lodge Vitality Workshop is going on the road starting in Peterborough District on April 5th serving also Ontario, Victoria, and Prince Edward Districts, Toronto West District in May and ending at our Grand Lodge Annual Communication, July 16th, following the Grand Master's Address. It will address how changes in Canadian society are impacting the future of our Lodges, and what unique value does Freemasonry offer the men in your community, perhaps something by which Masons can be branded. I invite all brethren planning on attending to bring your aprons to Toronto and join in on this most worthwhile and stimulating session.

The MasoniChip program continues to grow under the capable guidance of our Program Director, R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs. He has been placed on the newly named MasoniChip International Committee at the North American Conference of Grand Masters, as the involvement of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario makes it truly international. Congratulations Ray. Once again, this child identification program, in addition to providing a sense of security to parents in our communities, is also becoming a veritable public awareness venture.

In the near future, several thousand Masons will receive newly designed return address labels with a letter from the Grand Master asking for your support in promoting the Child Identification program. Many throughout Ontario have already done so and continue to do so. As a result more work stations have been ordered with many more still needed. In addition to funding, volunteers will be required. If you are so inclined, please offer your services as a volunteer. Brethren, I am so pleased with the manner in which this new program has been embraced.

The lessons of Freemasonry need not be confined to the Lodge room alone. They are just as important practiced in our communities, in our places of business and in all

walks of our daily lives. This is how we as Masons make a difference, by taking outside the door of the lodge those excellent precepts ever inculcated within it.

Safe travels!

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Cancer Snippet:

Establishing a PSA baseline when a man is relatively young, perhaps at 40, may be important because a high PSA level does not necessarily mean cancer, nor is a low level a reliable indicator of a lack of cancer. Having an individual, specific, historic value can be very useful. *Toronto Star*

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

March 2008

7	Waterloo District Reception G.M.	Kitchener
10	Acacia Lodge No. 128 (New York)	Odgersburg
13	Parkwood Lodge No. 695 - 50 th Anniversary	Oshawa
17	Pnyx Baldoon Lodge No. 312 Lewis Jewel Presentation	Wallaceburg
19	Tuscan Lodge No. 99 - 150 th Anniversary	Newmarket
27 - 30	All Canada Conference	Winnipeg

April 2008

3	150 th Convocation of Grand Chapter RAM	St. Catharines
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

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

Again, “*Our job is not to figure out the how. The how will show up out of a commitment to the what.*” – Jack Canfield

Long Range Planning – Daily accomplishments are the building blocks of success.

“*What do you want your lodge to look like in five years from now?*” and “*What are you going to do today and tomorrow to achieve that goal?*” These are two basic questions that Long Range Planning should help every Worshipful Master to ‘lay lines and draw designs.’ Contractors have building plans, executives have business plans, coaches have game plans, and teachers have lesson plans. Have you made a “to do” list for your lodge? A vision, a priority, a plan, and a timeline are on the agenda. “(1) *Determine what needs to be done?* (2) *Decide when it’s going to get done.* (3) *Decide when you are going to do it.* (4) *Commit yourself to that specific time to complete it.*” The Committee on Long Range Planning, R.W. Bro. John C. Green, Chairman, will be ‘on the road’ with several seminar presentations during the coming months. All principal officers are encouraged to attend. Remember “*Whatever the mind can conceive it can achieve.*” – W. Clement Stone

Committee on Lodge Finances (Advisory), R.W. Bro. Giles O. Loshaw, Chairman

A summary of the year-end reports submitted by the District Deputy Grand Masters (2006–2007) prepared by the Committee on the Condition of Masonry indicates that more than 38% of the lodges operated without a Budget. Financial planning is essential in the home, in business – and in the lodge. Particular attention is drawn to those sections of the Book of Constitution governing Life Membership funds. Do the annual dues paid by the members cover the operating costs of the lodge? Resource material to assist the Finance Committee of the lodge is available on request through the Grand Secretary’s Office.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

The following editor’s note (in part) and related website was received at Grand Lodge from Bro. Joseph Clark who has been a Master Mason since April 2004.

“Welcome to *Masonica Illustrated*. This graphic publication is meant to furnish Freemasons with an informal read to further celebrate the tradition and history of the world’s oldest and most noble fraternity.

When I was a candidate for my first degree I saw my commitment as that to a fraternity. As a Master Mason, 32nd degree Scottish Rite member and member of the Royal Arch I now consider myself the member of an order. An order committed to life-long education and duty towards oneself, their brethren and the world around them.

Freemasonry for me, is about personal, fraternal and social equality, a moral spiritual and intellectual pursuit of betterment. It transcends the ritual, regalia, the lodge or temple. It exists in our hearts and minds as Masons.

This book is full of rare Masonic art and vignettes of facts. I’m thrilled to see that Freemasonry, while remaining private, is utilizing technology to engage their membership through the use of websites, podcasts, webcasts and electronic communications. This entire volume was authored using comic life.

My sincere best to my brethren worldwide. May the G.A.O.T.U. watch over you and yours. – Bro. Joseph D. Clark, August 26, 2007.”

Masonica Illustrated can be found at <http://fc.palantir.ca/~Palantir Sales/Masonica>

Terence Shand

As announced in the September 2007 Communiqué, an ad hoc Committee, **The Masonic Temple Advisory**, under the chairmanship of R.W. Bro. Terrence V. Horner, was appointed by the Grand Master to act as a resource for **Temple Boards** and **Temple Corporations**. The upkeep of lodge premises and maintenance of lodge buildings often place heavy demands on the finances available to the trustees responsible, either of a lodge that is a single tenant or a building where several lodges and concordant bodies share the building. The time comes when renovations and improvements are necessary – the roof leaks, the furnace fails, washroom facilities must be upgraded, kitchen facilities must meet codes and health standards, an elevator or lift is needed to serve older and infirm brethren. As some lodges amalgamate and others surrender the Warrant, how can the remaining lodges absorb the cost of keeping the building open? The building exterior and grounds represent Freemasonry to the community. What impression is created? Expert advice and specialized assistance may be obtained upon request through the Grand Secretary’s Office.

In informal conversation and impromptu speeches reference is sometimes made to the three tiered system of the administrative structure of Masonry: “at the Grand Lodge level – at the District level – at the Lodge level.” We should never forget that all Masons are on the same level. Grand Lodge Officers are elected by the brethren to serve the brethren. Committee Chairmen are appointed to serve in positions of added responsibility. Support, assistance, encouragement, and guidance for the work of Freemasonry in your District are always yours for the asking.

“*An open mind is the beginning of self-discovery and growth. We cannot learn anything new until we can admit that we do not already know everything.*” – Erwin G. Hall
Raymond S. J. Daniels