

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

Brethren, Grand Lodge has been on a tear all fall. Many of the committees have been meeting and formulating plans. The Lodge of Instruction team toured the north this year with good results and enthusiastic participation. Many districts held their own Lodges of Instruction in the absence of the Custodian and next year the LOI team will be in southern Ontario.

Newsletters have been sent out, retitled, "*REFLECTIONS*" printed quarterly, the subscription is \$18 per year. Is it possible that many of you are not even aware of this great little publication? For a sample you can go on line at the GL Website: [www.grandlodge.on.ca](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca) where the last 25 years or so is archived. They do make entertaining reading. Even though it is a self sustaining booklet, only about 700 Masons subscribe to it. We have 50,000 Masons or so in this province. You may wish to consider a subscription that is available through the Masonic Education Committee with R.W. Bro. David Cameron as the chairman.

*Facilifacts* have been sent out. This is a Lodge Resources B2B informational resource taken from the Tool Kit and is emailed to about 500 or so people every couple of months by Team Leader, V.W. Bro Ian Wates. It is very helpful for the Worshipful Master and brethren of the Lodge wishing to address problems or avoid problems. It will soon be archived on the G.L. Website.

The *Ontario Mason* magazine was on time with a new Editor and committee. It has received good reviews and it was to be mailed to all Masons in Ontario. We are aware that out of nearly 53,000 copies sent out at least 7,000 were undeliverable. The good news is that 46,000 Masons must have received it, featuring the soldier on the front cover wearing his Masonic apron. Every time we see another cortege of hearses along the highway of heroes it graphically reminds us that property, nay, even life is not too dear for the protection of innocence and virtue, and for the defense of truth.

The magazine also comes with a yellow appeal envelope from your Masonic Foundation . . . the charity of choice for Masons. Your donations can be channeled generally or can be designated for several different projects by just indicating the project number on the cheque.

As the *D.D.G.M. Communique* has been regularly published at the beginning of every month and circulated largely by email, it should be distributed to all Lodge Secretaries by the D.D.G.M. who will pass it on to his brethren. As well as a message from the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, it contains a current version of the Grand Master's Itinerary and a Prostate Snippet.

The 2008 Proceedings of the Annual Communication has been published and mailed to all Lodge Secretaries. It should be available at the Lodge Secretary's desk for viewing by the brethren of the Lodge perhaps on a rotational basis. (See D.G.M.s message).

The annual G.L. calendar was mailed out featuring Lodges celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Used as a fundraiser for special

programmes including the Ontario Mason, if you did receive one, I hope you responded accordingly. Only 10,000 were mailed out.

MasoniChip (*MFO # 2552*), our Child ID program, has been going steady all fall and we have processed nearly 12,000 youngsters. Money continues to be received in support. We now have 45 workstations, which are available for use across the province. The Program Director and Grand Lodge are very thankful to the Sunnyside Community Corporation of Trillium Lodge No. 575, and Bros. Bert Lynas and Bill Wharton, for their generous donation of \$100,000 acknowledged recently at the Trillium Christmas party. I personally extend my thanks to all across Ontario who have embraced this community outreach program.

Our Youth Initiatives Committee continues to pick up steam and is providing a visible presence at our Demolay, Rainbow for Girls and Jobs' Daughters meetings. A new Chapter of Demolay is being instituted in Toronto West District in February, at Port Credit. I attended the institution of Colonel Bridgeford Chapter last spring at Richmond Hill. Just when you think you are ahead on membership many reach the age of 21 and must move on. I sincerely hope that all Demolay young men would consider Masonry as their next step.

Taken from the Corona Lodge No. 454, Burks Falls summons, the book, *Level Steps* by Jonti Marks talks about the words the Worshipful Master speaks just before he closes lodge.

ay he continue to preserve our order by cementing and adorning it with every moral and social virtue. The reputation of Freemasonry, the power it has to be a force for good in the world, even its very existence, is in the hands of every Freemason. If we are to be open about our membership in the order we must also accept the responsibility to be its ambassadors. It is far easier, of course, to keep silent and only own to being a Mason among other Masons. But what message does that give to the world, to our families, and even to our inner selves? That we are ashamed of what we profess to admire? That Masonry has no value beyond being a self-serving clique? If we truly believe that Freemasonry has any worth in the world, we must also believe that we are of worth to Freemasonry. The ritual makes it clear here that the survival of our order is inextricably linked with the behaviour of every Mason. It is by the demonstration of every moral and social virtue that the Craft will be preserved. May we make this our New Year resolution as we begin 2009. Be proud of who you are and be proud of what you do.

Safe travels.

Allan J. Petrisor

## **Prostate Snippet:**

The prostate is a small gland the size of a walnut located below the bladder and in front of the rectum found only in men. I recently had the DRE and the PSA test and have come out clear once again. It only emphasizes in my mind how important it is to start early with these annual checks. Nearly 60% of all prostate cancers are caught before the spread and are curable at this stage. (*MFO # 2244*)

## *From the Deputy Grand Master. . .*

*“The great thing in the world is not so much where we are but in what direction we are moving.”* – Oliver Wendall Holmes

During the months of December and January the Ceremony of Installation of the Worshipful Master and the Investiture of the Officers is held in many Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction. It is no coincidence that this annual solemnity takes place around the time of the Winter Solstice when the traditional Masonic Festival of St. John in Winter was celebrated in days past. The seasonal cycle, marked by the gradual increase in daylight hours, coincides with the beginning of the new Masonic year when, with the ‘changing of the guard’ and the promise of renewed enthusiasm in the leadership of the lodge, the new ‘captain and crew’ will chart the course for the year ahead. May your lodge enjoy a calm and prosperous voyage! Be more than a caretaker – be an inspiring ruler and leader of the Craft. Give every Brother a reason for attending lodge. Endeavour to “communicate light and instruction to the Brethren of your lodge.” Assist them to discover the true meaning of Masonry. Ensure that every candidate initiated during your term of office is guided, encouraged, and instructed in the interpretation of our symbols and the understanding of our philosophy.

*“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.”*  
– William Jennings Bryan.

Long range planning ought to be an essential agenda item for the Committee of General Purposes. Ask yourself two basic questions: 1) What do I want the lodge to look like in five years? 2) What am I going to do tomorrow morning to achieve that goal? One wit has observed: *“If you think that one person cannot make a difference, consider what one cigar can do in a crowded restaurant.”*

The **2008 Grand Lodge Proceedings** were published and distributed by post to all lodges in early December. Although this annual volume is sent to the lodge Secretary, it is intended to be shared with all members of the lodge. The Book of Constitution states: “The Master shall cause to be published in the summons or shall read or cause to be read at

## *From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .*

I trust all have enjoyed happy hours over the holiday season and now look ahead to many happy days in the coming year 2009.

Masonic Education, Correspondence Courses, for both the “College of Freemasonry” and the “Masonic D.D.G.M. Course” are now under the chairmanship of W. Bro. Dale Graham, FCF, Principal, College of Freemasonry, 658 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. West, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 4M3. The 2000 registration forms are discontinued and updated forms are available at the Grand Lodge office or our website, as follows: *Open site – open G.L. Education – open the pertinent Course – Download the form.*

Note: The D.D.G.M. Course is only available at a one-time \$30 fee for all three segments.

Please ensure those already enrolled have the correct mailing address of our new chairman, Dale Graham, that their course submissions are accurately directed.

Terence Shand

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.” (Section 240). One suspects that *“it is a custom more honour’d in the breach than the observance.”* Read the Grand Master’s Address, the reports of the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer, the reports given by the Chairmen of the Standing and Special Committees, the reports submitted on the state of the art in the 44 Districts by the District Deputy Grand Masters, and the Fraternal Reviews of other Grand Lodges. The membership statistics are given for all the lodges. There is a list of all registered delegates at the Annual Communication. Names and addresses of all current Grand Lodge Officers are also included.

I am eagerly anticipating the meeting in Scarborough on January 10, 2009, when we will receive and review the midterm reports from the D.D.G.M.s. Thank you for sending copies by e-mail in advance as requested by the Grand Master.

January is the ‘doorway’ of the year. In ancient Rome, the gate-god Janus had two faces; one looked forward, the other looked back. We reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and make sincere resolutions to plan for, work at, and complete those projects, enterprises, and commitments that are our responsibility. May these lines inspire all of us in our endeavour.

*This I would like to be – braver and bolder,*

*Just a bit wiser because I am older.*

*Just a bit kinder to those I may meet,*

*Just a bit manlier taking defeat;*

*This for the New Year my wish and my plea –*

*Lord, make a regular man out of me.*

Bro. Edgar A. Guest (1881–1959) quoted by R.W. Bro. Wallace E. McLeod, the Grand Historian, in his Report to Grand Lodge (Proceedings 2008, p. 115).

Raymond S. J. Daniels

## **GRAND MASTER’ S ITINERARY**

### January 2009

8	Burns’ Lodge No. 153 - Installation	Wyoming
10	D.D.G.M. Interim Meeting	Scarborough
16	Vienna Lodge No. 237 Pin Presentation	Vienna
20	Madoc Lodge No. 48 - Installation	Madoc
22	Management Committee Meeting	Hamilton

### February 2009

13 – 17	North American Conference	Anaheim
20 – 21	Strategic Planning	Hamilton