

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Brethren, where has the year gone? I am sure you are asking yourselves the very same question. I suspect for each of us we do not appreciate the accomplishments in the heat of the moment but when life slows and we have time to reflect it will be with pride in knowing that we have done our best. I have been impressed when I have been in your districts to see the calibre of the work and to meet the many Masons that form the backbone of our fraternity. I am proud of the work that each of you as District Deputy Grand Masters has performed and I feel that you have represented me well in your districts. As I said at the outset, I am sure that each of you will consider this to be the most rewarding year of your life. The friendships you have made with each other will endure over the years.

As our term of office comes to a close, my wife, Mary, and I thank you and the brethren of your districts for all the courtesies, kindnesses, gifts, and accommodations that have been offered to us in making our travels more comfortable. We appreciate all that you have done for us and the respect your brethren have shown for the Office of Grand Master. It has been an incredible journey. Thank you.

Many lodges have had much degree work. Some have had as many as 20 to 30 degrees during the year. One lodge is finally back on track after holding a Friend to Friend night with their first applicant in over ten years. These nights really do work. This bodes well for the future but I have said before that we do need our Past Masters to be in our lodges. They provide a consistency and a mentorship that can only come through years of experience. As we gain many new members, they will only learn of the past from those who have been there. Every time I present a 50, 60 or 70 year long service award I remind the younger brethren that these brethren were their age when they joined and have found the secret that keeps them coming back.

I thank our Worshipful Masters, for to them falls the responsibility of preserving the rites and ceremonies of Grand Lodge in each of their lodges. I thank our membership as a whole and the many non vocal masons who for a large part are those by whom Freemasonry is judged by the world. The example you set is how others will view Masons.

I have a positive feeling for Masonry in Ontario and

recent exposure in books and movies has brought a new awareness to Freemasonry all over North America. We must be ever ready to share what we love about Freemasonry with others. I firmly believe that *'Masonry can make a difference'* in a persons life.

Your overwhelming support of the Child Identification program known as MasoniChip has been very gratifying over the last two years and I give thanks to our Program Director R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs of Woodstock for his tremendous leadership and expertise in this area. It has been a win-win situation for all districts who have promoted its use, and I do feel it will bring a greater awareness to the Masons in their communities as they bring a greater sense of security to the parents of the children. (www.masonichip.ca)

Take Care.

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Snippet:

As the Grand Master's project (Prostate Cancer Research) comes to a close, I will be pleased to turn over to Prostate Cancer Canada a large donation, possibly close to \$100,000, on the Tuesday morning of Grand Lodge during the Board Meeting.

My original aim was to bring a greater awareness to the need for early testing by PSA screening by age 40 and regular medical checkups. I hope this message has been heard. Thank you for all of your support, brethren.

GRAND MASTER' S ITINERARY

June 2009

18	H.L. Martyn No. 696 50 Yr. Pin Presentation	Toronto
20	Ashlar No. 701 50 th Anniversary	Tillsonburg
26	The Electric No. 495 100 th Anniversary	Hamilton
27	Maple Leaf No. 119 150 th Anniversary	Bath
29	Hanover No. 432 Steak Fry	Hanover
30	Muskoka No. 360 W.M.W. Medal Presentation	Bracebridge

July 2009

5 - 9	Imperial Session A.A.O.N.M.S.	San Antonio
13 - 16	Annual Communication Fairmont Royal York	Toronto

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

On behalf of all the Chairmen of Grand Lodge Committees on the Board of General Purposes, I thank you for distributing and promoting the many programs they provide in the lodges of your District. As you complete the duties and responsibilities of your year in office and prepare to pass the privilege and dignity on to a worthy successor, I feel assured that your knowledge of the Craft has been enhanced and your enthusiasm for Freemasonry has grown exponentially. As you embark on the next phase of your Masonic journey as a respected PDDGM, you will assume the role of an 'elder statesman' – a reliable and valuable resource for your District and Lodge. The reports you have submitted will be carefully reviewed and analysed by the **Committee on the Condition of Masonry**. From your honest insights and frank evaluations we are able to take a proactive approach in serving the needs of the Brethren in the constituent lodges.

Once again the **Committee on Seminars and Workshops**, R.W. Bro. Lloyd Hammell, Chairman, has arranged a varied array of learning opportunities for the Brethren attending the Annual Communication on Tuesday afternoon, July 14th. The topics have been carefully chosen to ensure that there is something of interest for all – from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the most senior Past Grand Lodge Officer. The presenters have been selected for their proven ability to communicate, inform and inspire. There will be three sessions (1:30 – 2:20; 2:30 – 3:20; 3:30 – 4:20) with three presentations running concurrently to enable you to select relevant and pertinent topics of personal interest. Computer Resources will be continuous from 1:30 – 4:30. During your remaining Fraternal Visits to lodges in your District, please encourage the brethren to take

advantage of these seminars to discover what Grand Lodge has to offer. The topics and locations are listed on the blue information sheet sent out by the Grand Secretary and will be clearly posted in the hotel.

For the past seven years, Bro. Franz Olberg, Temple Lodge No. 665, Ottawa 1 District (recipient of the Mercer Wilson Medal in 2005) has organized an opera tour in support of the Starlight Children's Foundation. This year Bro. Olberg has chosen a performance of 'The Magic Flute' Mozart's Masonic Opera by Opera Lyra at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, on Monday, 14th September. The conductor will be the world renowned Pinchas Zukerman. The incoming Grand Master has been designated Honorary Patron and will be in attendance, as will the recently installed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, M.W. Bro. Donald Ross. The goal is to sell the entire house for this performance to Masons and their families. For further information and tickets, contact Bro. Bob Conrad (613-757-7461) masonic.opera.tour@gmail.com or R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd fireplug@sympatico.ca. This will be a unique opportunity to enjoy the musical genius of our Bro. Mozart and promote Freemasonry in the artistic community.

The meetings of the Board of General Purposes held in the Ballroom at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel on Monday, July 13th at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm and Tuesday morning July 14th at 10:00 are open to all members of the Craft. Please remind the members of your district that they are welcome to attend as observers in the gallery and especially encourage your potential successor to be present.

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

D.D.G.M.s wishing to join their peers at the Monday evening dinner, Joe Badalis Restaurant, Front St., please confirm your attendance through R.W. Bro. Paul Todd. fireplug@sympatico.ca The deadline date is fast approaching.

Grand Master's Banquet

Be sure to contact all lodges in your district, then place their order expeditiously. Reserved tables of eight are available, but must be booked via the Grand Lodge office. It is your responsibility to obtain individual orders, and then collect monies for submission to Grand Lodge. As the representative of our Grand Master, it is up to you to ensure adequate attendance from all lodges throughout the district you represent.

New – Online donations have come to our Masonic Foundation. Click on the "TO DONATE" button on the Web Page www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

As your term of office is about to conclude, I express my thanks for your cooperation in matters Masonic. I'm confident each of you will leave office with a sense of accomplishment and at the same time having thoroughly enjoyed the journey. Your service and expertise is now needed in support of the district and on the various committees of your Grand Lodge. Make it known to committee chairmen should there be areas you might be available and willing to serve.

Semi-Annual Returns – Attention: Lodge Secretaries Reminder – The due date for submitting your Semi-Annual Return to the Grand Lodge office is July 8, 2009. Avoid negating your principle officers the right to vote at Grand Lodge.

Return of Officers – Please ensure those lodges having May and June Installations expedite their completed Return of Officers Form to enable the newly elected Junior Warden to exercise his franchise by voting at the Annual Communication in July.

REMINDER: Fairmont Royal York Hotel, **Roll Call**, Monday, July 13, 2008 – 9:30 a.m. **SHARP!**

Terence Shand