

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2011 / 2012 – 2

February 2012

Published by
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

From the Grand Master . . .

Happy Ground Hog Month! February is always an interesting month. Many will by now have broken their New Year's resolutions. The small determined few will be hanging on. Some will be looking eagerly towards Ground Hog Day and the annual forecast for spring's arrival. Others will be carefully planning how to treat their loved ones on Valentine's Day. Can we apply Masonic principles to our behaviour around the events of February? Last month I spoke of our ability as successful leaders in the Craft to demonstrate the accountability and ownership necessary to make our own personal resolutions a success. How are you doing? As Masons, we place a high regard on family and loved ones, so it would come as no surprise to learn that many Masons hold a special place in their hearts for Valentines Day. Finally, as Masons we must accept that change is inevitable, a way of life and a force to be used to our advantage. So why wouldn't we think of Ground Hog Day as an omen of change, a premonition of spring – a renewed sense of fraternal feeling. February – a great month for the application of Masonic principles!

Housekeeping Items:

1. D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course: At our mid-term meetings, we again stressed the need to ensure that each District has one or more Brethren enrolled in or already having completed the D.D.G.M. course. We requested that if you know the names of potential candidates for the office in your District for July 2012, that you forward them along to the Deputy Grand Master. This is the only way that we can monitor the progress of candidates for the Office and let you know if you will have a successor. From what I have seen to date, we have very few Districts with candidates who will be qualified.

2. Grand Lodge Website: By now you should have received the announcement for the new Grand Lodge website. Allow me to congratulate R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman, Team Leader, R.W. Bro. Norm McCarthy, Chairman, all the members of the Committee and our Partners at Imagination Plus, who helped to make this possible.

Looking Ahead:

Another one of the questions posed in last year's Grand Lodge survey was, "**Does Your Lodge Do Enough To Retain Quality Members? Yes – 44%; No – 40.3%; Not Sure – 15%.**"

Think about the implications. In the eyes of the respondents, only 44% of the Lodges are doing enough to retain quality members. In Ontario last year we initiated approximately 1500 new Masons. Could that mean that we are at risk of losing 660 of those men because we aren't going to meet their expectation?

Several of the strategic goals in our long range plan address the issue of new member expectations. I draw your attention to two of them: (1) To better understand, serve and support the needs of our current members and their families. (2) To create high quality educational programs and training courses for all Brethren in the jurisdiction.

Our Grand Lodge working plan for this year contains several initiatives which address these goals. First, the survey itself provided insight into our members' expectations and needs. We are using the survey results as input to our strategic planning for 2012–2013. The continuing efforts of our Protocol and Etiquette team and several new initiatives of the Masonic Education Committee, including the renewal of the Monthly Bulletin, the Masonic Conference planned for Ottawa in June and a proposal to expand our College offerings, all address the need for making high quality education available to our members. During 2012, we commemorate the bicentenary of the War of 1812, in which Freemasons played a prominent part. Our third Sankey lecture scheduled for May 6, 2012, will provide us another rare opportunity to learn much about Freemasonry during this time.

And finally, our new website and other communication initiatives are all designed to open up our communication channels to the Brethren and enable the delivery of a great deal more information timely and effectively.

And so, we come full circle back to the key focal points of your Grand Lodge for his year – communication, education and understanding of the real condition of Masonry (the expectations) in our Lodges. Your Grand Lodge continues to do its part to provide opportunities for our new members to meet their expectations.

Last month I spoke of *Vitality* and how it impacts viability. The *Vitality* we bring to the Craft as Grand Lodge Leaders, District Leaders and Lodge Leaders, will go a long way to stimulating the spirit necessary to motivate our **existing members** so they take up the challenge. And **that challenge is** – further our own self improvement as we engage our new Masons in the satisfaction of their expectations.

"Ensuring The Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry". Believe in it. Believe me when I say – Your enthusiasm and vitality will determine the Masonic future of the men we are initiating today. **Make it happen!**

D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

Grand Master's full itinerary at –
www.grandlodge.on.ca UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

Annual trip to Jamaica

January has proven to be a very busy month for all of us. Several Masons from Ontario and I had the pleasure of visiting Lodges in Jamaica, in the Montego Bay and Negril area. Brethren of Jamaica and Canada were able to meet in fraternal fellowship, share a common hope in the pursuit of a common ideal. Later in the week, M.W. Bro. Allan J. Petrisor and Mary were able to join us. I wish to take this opportunity to thank V.W. Bro. Frederick (Buddy) McIntosh for making the necessary arrangements and making our visitation most enjoyable. M.W. Bro. Terence Shand and Lyn are currently enjoying a well earned vacation in Kingston, Jamaica. While there M.W. Bro. Shand will be visiting lodges in that city and the U.G.L.E. District Half-yearly Communication.

D.D.G.M. Mid-Term Meeting

On January 14, 2012, the Grand Master, R.W. Bro. John Hay, chairman of Condition of Masonry and I, held a Mid-Term Meeting in Hamilton with the D.D.G.M.s. This session allowed the District Deputies to share their successes and express any concerns. What became quite evident during this meeting, all the District Deputies expressed that visitation was one of the most successful activities in their District, and electronic communication was the single most effective communication tool available to them.

Appreciation Night for R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd

Also, on January 14, 2012, several Members of the Board and I attended a reception at Carp, to honour R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd for all the contributions he made to this Grand Lodge in general, and more particular, as a great ambassador for Brethren of the Ottawa Districts. R.W. Todd served on the Board for 10 years and was a member of the Management Committee when he retired last July. The room was packed with over 177 Masons and their ladies in attendance. We thank you for your service to our Craft.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

Would the D.D.G.M.s of the following lodges, ensure the noted lodges Semi-annual Return is completed and submitted to the Grand Lodge office expeditiously.

23 Richmond
29 United
31 Jerusalem
65 Rehoboam
66 Durham
72 Alma
98 True Blue
103 Maple Leaf
116 Cassia
174 Walsingham

231 Lodge of Fidelity
279 Mystic Tie
357 Waterdown
358 Delaware Valley
375 Lorne
417 Keewatin
437 Tuscan
439 Alexandria
446 Granite
467 Tottenham

479 Russell
481 Corinthian
483 Granton
530 Cochrane
537 Ulster
547 Victory
644 Simcoe
676 Kroy
727 Mount Moriah
733 Anniversary

Robbie Burns Day

Every January, many lodges and districts celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national poet, Robbie Burns. A special pudding is served called Haggis which is cooked inside the lining of a sheep's stomach. I attended several lodges that held a special evening to celebrate Robbie Burns' Birthday. I also had the pleasure of attending the York District Robbie Burns Celebration. Among Burn's many poems is one called "Ode to the Haggis," in which he describes the dish as that "Great chieftain O' the puddin'-race." While the haggis is ready to be served, a brother marches into the room playing a bagpipe. Behind him, two Brethren march in carrying the haggis on a silver tray. The appearance of the famed pudding causes the crowd to cheer. Every Burns' dinner has its own unique style and individual taste. It was great to hear that many Lodges and Districts celebrate this event, more importantly, they included the ladies, neighbours and friends of Masons. But the highlight was seeing the many young people demonstrating their musical and dancing talents.

Returns and Payments to Grand Lodge – D.D.G.M. Duties

By now, all lodges should have sent in their Semi Annual Returns and payments to Grand Lodge. They were due on or before January 8, 2012. The D.D.G.M. must be aware of Section 97 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge: "The D.D.G.M. shall visit all the lodges in his District during his term of office, and shall see that they are working in the authorized manner, and that returns have been regularly forward to Grand Lodge, together with all moneys owing to it. Should any lodge refuse or neglect to make that required returns and payments he shall immediately report the fact in writing to the Grand Master."

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

Terence Shand