

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

With the wild weather of the last few weeks, we are to be thankful that the damage from Hurricane Sandy in Ontario was minimal. Our thoughts are extended to our Brethren in the Wawa area as they recover from the recent flooding. In times of natural disaster, and with the coming of Remembrance Day, we are reminded of the privileged life that we as Canadian Masons lead and the blessings bestowed upon us. A life that enables us to share the warm and friendly confines of the Lodge Room with our Brethren, and to meet in peace and harmony. As we pause to give thanks this month, let us remember those that have gone before, those that paid the sacrifice which allows us to have the freedoms we do today.

Communications

As we travel across our vast jurisdiction, we are constantly reminded that Communications remain our top priority. In the Town Hall sessions that we have been having, it is obvious that we still experience great challenges in getting the messages out to our Brethren.

Communique: This Communique is evidence of the difficulty in getting a message distributed. There are many Lodges that do receive it and pass the information along to their Brethren, but there are also many Lodges that apparently do not receive a copy. I ask you, as the DDGMs in each of your Districts to please ensure that you pass the Communique along to each of the Lodges in your District.

Website: Likewise, I encourage you, as DDGMs, to promote the new Grand Lodge website as a vehicle for communicating with the Brethren. Many are not aware that we are trying to update the Members Only News and Events section almost weekly, with happenings from around the jurisdiction. Sign on – take a look.

Lodges of Instruction: Communicating the proper way to conduct our rites and ceremonies forms a major component of the work of our Lodge of Instruction Team. This year's Fall sessions have now been completed and I would like to personally congratulate the Custodian of the Work, M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby, and all the members of the team for another great season. We extend heartfelt thanks to them for giving of their time and talents to help us 'raise the bar'. To those of you who did attend the Grand Lodge sessions, please don't keep the information to yourselves. Share it with your Brethren; reference our Book of the Work; strive to eliminate those local traditions in effect, Communicate. If your District is having a Lodge of Instruction, please

try to attend.

Grand Lodge Committees: If your District Team or Lodge Officers find that communications about any of our Grand Lodge Programmes or Committees are not getting through, please contact the appropriate Grand Lodge Chairman directly or the Deputy Grand Master. It is their mandate to ensure that we provide the services that you need and responsibilities of this high and important office.

Resurgence:

Brethren, I wish you could see the many Summons that the Deputy Grand Master and I receive monthly. Many, many of our Lodges are full of good news about new applications and pending degree work. As you bring these keen new men into our great Fraternity, please bear in mind that the first impressions they have of you and your Lodge will be lasting ones. Naturally, we must do our best to ensure that the work is performed to a high standard. But we must also prepare these candidates for what is to come and what they have just witnessed. Our Grand Lodge Education and Lodge Resources Committees are working hard to ensure that we have current and relevant educational and instructive materials available to these new men. There is material in existence already however, and I encourage you to take advantage of it. For example, you can download the document "Practical Guide For the New Mason" from the website, and provide a copy to each new member.

Most importantly, I encourage all Lodges to understand and appreciate the difference between Mentoring and Degree Instruction. If in doubt contact the Lodge Resources – Mentoring Committee for assistance.

The Balancing Act:

We must focus on maintaining a proper balance between ensuring candidates are **advancing** and ensuring that they are **educated and engaged**. One can be a detriment to the other.

The warmth and friendliness of your Lodge room awaits your presence!

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master...

Our first Grand Master, William Mercer Wilson, stated in his address at the 13th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in London in July 1868 said sentiments expressed by members of the fraternity led Wilson to believe that some members neither fully understood nor appreciated the original design and aim of our institution, Freemasonry: "If there is to be found in our ranks any individual who has joined us, actuated by no higher motive than self interest, and influenced by the idea that he is thereby making a most judicious investment for himself and family, he will soon discover that he has not only deceived himself and the great objects of masonry."

As leaders in our organization, it's important for us to ascertain our new members' expectations. He may think that becoming a Mason is like getting a university degree: You attend. You learn. You graduate and then - you are done. He may not realize he's expected to stay for life. And that is our responsibility, to ensure his journey will be meaningful and rewarding, by giving him leadership opportunities, utilizing their talents and experience, and making the environment of Freemasonry a friendly place to be.

These young men are showing an interest in Freemasonry and are on a quest of searching for something that society is not providing for them. They are searching for knowledge and a system that will provide it for them. They know more about Freemasonry before they petition a Lodge than have any of their predecessors. It is now up to us to provide for them for what they are searching for. Each one of them, as we do, want to be a member of a quality organization and that is what Freemasonry must be.

R.W. Bro. John Forster leads a group of Masons who are dedicated to education. This year, R.W. Bro. Forster and the Chairman of Masonic Education, V.W. Bro. Charles Singh are tasked to develop education material, not only for our new Masons, but also those men who are considering joining Masonry.

College of Freemasonry (R.W. Bro. Garnet Schenk): "Education is not received – it is achieved." Freemasonry is about education, knowledge, brotherhood and self improvement.

The College of Freemasonry offers a modular course of study. The learner may take an individual module, or

enroll in a whole course, depending on his needs at the time. A certificate will only be awarded upon the satisfactory completion of all parts of a given course.

The following Modules are offered by the College of Freemasonry: (1) Benevolence, (2) Justice in Masonry, (3) Religion in Masonry, (4) Masonry in Public, (5) Buildings and Relations, (6) Philosophy & Symbolism, (7) Protocol and Etiquette, (8) The Beginnings, (9) masonry in North America, (10) Our Jurisdiction, (11) Masonic Lodge, (12) The District, (13) Grand Lodge, (14) Leadership, (15) Communication, (16) Officer Training, (17) Worshipful Master, and (18) Past Masters.

Who is your successor? It's hard to believe your term of office is one third complete, and you and your District should be planning on your successor. Remember, your successor shall be in possession of a certificate of completion of the course as offered by the College of Freemasonry before the Grand Master will confirm his election. Encourage any Past Master who wishes to increase their Masonic knowledge to take this course. The Past Master's Course, formally titled "*District Deputy Grand Master Preparation Course*" is mandatory for those aspiring to the position of DDGM or Grand Registrar as set out in Section 50 (b) of the Book of Constitution. To receive a certificate, the applicant must complete the following Modules; (1) Benevolence, (2) Justice in Masonry, (7) Protocol and Etiquette, (11) Masonic Lodge, (12) The District, (13) Grand Lodge, (14) Leadership, (15) Communication, (16) Officer Training, (17) and (18) Worshipful Master, and Past Masters.

The Past Master's Course is not just for candidates for the office of DDGM or Grand Registrar. It is open for all Past Masters in the jurisdiction who are in good standing.

I encourage all Masons to consider taking courses offered by our College of Freemasonry. If you require further information, please contact the College of Freemasonry at <masonic.college@gmail.com>. Applications for the College Courses can be found on the Grand Lodge Website by logging into the Members Section, then click Membership and then hit "Education Courses". Click on Applications of Prospectus to down load.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

