

THE COMMUNIQUE

Published by

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

2018 – 2019 Issue 1

September 2018

From the Grand Master ...

It was truly an amazing summer. After long hot days, lots of sun and just enough rain to nourish the crops, it is now time to lift up our “Working Tools” and return to the quarries of Masonry. Of course, some of our Lodges have worked through the long hot summer months so they might stand down from the quarries in the cold winter weather.

We begin a new Masonic year with a review of 163rd Annual Communication. The annual communication of Grand Lodge was very successful. Much was accomplished this year, working within the framework “effectiveness & efficiency moving forward”.

We paid tribute to outgoing Grand Secretary M.W. Bro. Terence Shand by naming him Grand Secretary Emeritus and holding a surprise get-together for him, at the end of Grand Lodge, presenting him with a “Thank You” gift for his years of service.

With the passing of the necessary Constitution amendments, which gave authority to the Office Manager position, R.W. Bro. Lou Domjan has accepted full time employment. Bro. Domjan brings much experience of operations a modern office to the position.

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling was elected Grand Secretary and has begun his duties, which cover but not limited to, Constitutional matters, rites & ceremonies, meetings of Grand Lodge and the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master appointments.

M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby was appointed to the position of Custodian of the Work by the Ritual committee for which he comes well qualified having held that position for several years.

One of the highlights of our Grand Lodge Communication is the pomp and ceremony of the official opening of Grand Lodge. Led by the Grand Piper V.W. Bro. Brian A. Arnold, accompanied by perhaps the largest group ever of pipers and drummers, definitely made a very dramatic statement - that Grand Lodge was about to open.

I know by their comments, that the many visiting Grand Lodge Officers from other Grand Jurisdictions were very impressed, especially those who have never seen the parade.

I must tell you about a young Master from Prince Edward District who was in the parade for the first time. He stopped me later in the morning to tell me how proud he was to be part of the parade and he said he was going home to tell all the Masters what they missed and was going to tell the next year’s Masters, “You just **have to** be here!”

I would be remiss if I did not mention two of our Past Grand Masters, who now attend the Grand Lodge above, were

very much missed at this year’s Grand Lodge Communication. In my address to Grand Lodge I said the following;

“M.W. Bro. William Russel Pellow Past Grand Master – 1987-1989, was a true “son of the North”. Dr. Pellow’s commitment to Freemasonry and his desire to place our public persona in the best light possible were the legacies of his service.”

“M.W. Bro. Charles Edwin Drew Past Grand Master – 1993-1995, was always a voice of moderation and wise counsel. The impact his kindness and willingness to serve others has made on Masons of all ages will long be felt and remembered.”

My Mother had a saying that “one bad apple will spoil the whole bushel of apples”. This year, as in past years, many Districts and some Lodges had Hospitality Suites. In the **vast majority** of cases, those who attended the rooms renewed old friendships, made new friends, and spoke with Brethren who had allowed their name to stand for various Grand Lodge positions and, of course, they may have enjoyed an adult beverage and some finger foods.

Unfortunately this year, bad behaviour was perhaps more evident to the general public. The actions of a few were in the simplest of terms “disgusting” and in my opinion a public relations disaster. Insulting Ladies in the elevators or rude remarks in the hallways, public drunkenness, passed out in the hallway with a Masonic marked shirt, to name just a few. What happened to the practice of social and moral virtue and to act as a good citizen thereby setting an example for others to emulate?

After listening to the incoming DDGM’s at the Regionals, I, along with the Grand Secretary and Deputy Grand Master, will meet with the Fairmount Royal York Hotel staff in attempt to understand how the Hospitality Suites were not contained to the first two floors, as had been the plan for the last two years; with elevators unlocked for those two floors, thereby having hospitality suites staying clear of the public guests’ rooms.

I will also consult with the Management Team along with the Past Grand Masters for their suggestion on the best way to treat this minority.

It is after all every Mason’s responsibility ultimately to control their own behaviour.

“Behaviour is the Mirror in Which Everyone Shows Their Image” ~ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe 1748-1832

***Paul E. Todd
Grand Master***

From the Deputy ...

Brethren,

"When you want to build a boat, don't start by collecting wood, cutting planks and assigning tasks, but instead awaken in the hearts of men a desire for the great and vast sea." ~ Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Every good Strategic Plan starts there, and ours is no different. There are four main themes influencing the Strategic Plan:

Theme 1

Ensuring the long-term growth and effectiveness of Freemasonry in Ontario: Vitality is enhanced when the enthusiasm of Lodge members facilitate the delivery of near-perfect ritual; when they address the needs of elderly members and when members reach out to the extended families of their Lodge; when the operational and financial needs of both the Lodge and the Temple are properly attended to, ensuring their existence for future generations of brethren. Most importantly, vitality is demonstrated when the growth and development of our newest members is seen to be an utmost responsibility of the entire membership.

Theme 2

Reaffirming the Lodge room as the dynamic center of the Masonic experience: A Lodge's success can only be measured in its ability to facilitate personal transformation in the lives of its members. This is achieved through the effective delivery of ritual and the practical instruction of Masonic philosophy.

Theme 3

Building the future of Freemasonry in Ontario one man at a time: This Strategic Plan aims to stress the vital importance of mentoring individual craftsmen who have chosen to take upon themselves the obligations and commitments of a Freemason.

Theme 4

Aligning Freemasonry's timeless value to today's modern culture: Freemasonry exists primarily to transform men.

During this time in history when anxiety and confusion is on the rise, Freemasonry offers a model of personal development and inner strength, guiding a man based on timeless and proven virtues, regardless of the changes we experience in the world around us.

Today, men at the West Gate are looking for truth embodied in an ancient moral framework that can be applied to their personal life. They seek the strength of group experience and the benefit of access to wisdom from those men who have come before them. They seek mature masculinity at its finest, embodying those virtues that have underpinned humankind's proudest achievements. They seek an opportunity to partake in inspiring conversations, marvel at ancient wisdom, and share their deepest fears and delight in the simple joy of spending quality time with other good men who are on a similar journey.

The whole Strategic Plan is available on our website. It holds a vision of where we want to go and a solid plan how to get there – for both Grand Lodge and individual Lodges! At first glance, it may seem simplistic, but given that we no longer have 100,000 members, that is part of its beauty.

"Any fool can make things bigger, more complex and more violent. It takes a touch of genius – and a lot of courage – to move in the opposite direction."
~ E. F. Schumacher

David J. Cameron
Deputy Grand Master