

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Summer?...

We seem to have 'sprung' into summer this week. May is here and the great Canadian ritual – the May 24 weekend, will soon be upon us. May and June herald the Installation season for many of our Lodges. We congratulate those who will offer themselves in the service of their Brethren. As you assume your mantle of leadership remember that each month that you serve causes another page to be written in the history of your Lodge. What will be on that page for your successors to read is largely up to you. At the end of each page we may find the words 'just another month' or we may find the words 'Good job, well done'. What gets written will be a direct reflection of the commitment you make to your leadership role.

So too, in the April mailing to all Lodges you will find the list of Brethren who have offered to serve in a Grand Lodge capacity. I encourage you to become familiar with the list. You will also find it published on the Grand Lodge website. In the near future, it will be accompanied by biological profiles of the Brethren seeking election. I encourage you to watch for these, study them and make an informed vote in July. What are the characteristics that you see as essential in your elected leadership?

Part of our **Grand Lodge Mission statement is to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community**. The talent pool available from which to elect your Grand Lodge officers, is that set of capable and qualified leaders that we elect to run our Lodges. As you prepare to elect your Lodge leadership, engage your Brethren in open discussion about the qualifications of those available, the expectations you place on them and the expectations they have of the role they are about to assume. Later conflicts generally arise from a failure to meet expectations, but no one can deliver against unknown expectations. The future of your Lodge depends on your vote. Exercising your franchise is not to be taken lightly.

It only takes a few minutes:

I had the opportunity this week to present a long service award to a Brother from another jurisdiction living near our home. Like many of us, I delayed in getting the job done, because of other seemingly more important things to do. However, after some prodding by Wendy to make time, I finally made it over to visit this Brother. He has not been in Lodge for a number of years due to health issues and he moved out of his own jurisdiction quite a while ago. However, his mother Lodge never lost touch with him. On learning I was coming, he had asked his son to help him get dressed in his suit because a Brother was coming. We chatted about many things in his Masonic memory bank and he had some wonderful stories to tell. I eventually pulled out the certificate and the medal that his Grand Lodge had forwarded. At that point he embraced me and broke into tears. When he regained his composure, he said words failed to express the joy and gratitude

that he felt because he had been remembered by his Lodge and his Grand Lodge.

Many of us, your Grand Master included, are not as good at keeping in touch as we should be. It is an experience such as the one above that opens our eyes and tugs at our heartstrings. This week was a poignant reminder to me that we shouldn't have to wait for a special occasion to call. Any time will do. It only takes a few minutes.

Sidebars:

1. Annual Communication – details of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication will continue to be posted on the Grand Lodge website over the next few weeks. Also see the package mailed to Lodge Secretaries for information about room reservations. Note that extensive traffic disruptions around the Royal York this year may impact the logistics of buses dropping Brethren off at the Hotel.

2. Seminars and Workshops at Grand Lodge: Details have already been posted on the Grand Lodge website. We are delighted to have a keynote speaker this year, in the person of W. Bro. Andrew Hammer, noted Masonic author and lecturer.

The Path...

You know our Vision is to "Ensure the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry". I have spoken about the qualities of vitality, leadership and the ability to listen. This month we add to that list, teaching by setting the example. I used two quotations in my address in Pembroke last week that I want to share with you. From Clarence Kelland, "My Father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it". And from Dr. C. Koop, "Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation". We can err if we think the only path, is the path that we have selected.

Real leadership allows us to understand the risk at each fork in the road, listening ensures we recognize that there is a choice at the fork and teaching by example gives confidence to those that follow that the fork we choose is the right fork.

Providing effective and sustainable leadership – a key factor in staying the course to achieving our Vision, to returning us to Greatness!

Believe it!

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling

Grand Master's full itinerary at –
www.grandlodge.on.ca under events Calendar

From the Deputy Grand Master...

Public Awareness Committee – Community Event – Sunday, August 18, 2013.

M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson was a man of boundless energy, proven ability, and recognized standing in the community. The strengths of our Craft today can be directly attributable to, the sound and wise counsel, and the leadership skills, he displayed during those trying years he spent in office. In one of his addresses he describes a Model Master, and I quote: *“To become the model Master of a lodge should be the ambition of every Brother, and to discharge with efficiency and zeal the duties of that important office should be his most anxious desire. He should be enabled to instruct the Craft, not only as to the meaning and origin of our ceremonies, but also to explain to them the philosophy which is veiled in its allegories and illustrated by its symbols. The Master of a Lodge should also, in his life and in his conversation, be a model for his Brethren to admire and imitate, and should himself practice, out of the lodge, those great moral doctrines and virtues which he inculcates within its walls”*.

M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson was obviously a man of vision. The last years of his life were devoted to extending the influence and strength of Grand Lodge. He provided an almost constant presence at visitations and dedications throughout this jurisdiction. It has been well written of him, that the Craft had lost one of its brightest figures in Ontario, and the Fraternity a shining light, whose large experience, sound judgment, and just decisions commend him as a Masonic authority of the highest order. His services to Masonry have been great and are fully appreciated, though they can never be adequately rewarded, for no man could have done more to advance its interests.

The Public Awareness Committee, under the direction of Chairman R.W. Bro. David Sheen along with the hard work of W. Bro. Rob Foote, presented a petition to the Government of Ontario - Heritage Ministry to officially recognize William Mercer Wilson for all his accomplishments.

From the Grand Secretary...

Grand Master's Banquet - F.R.Y.H.

Please note; William Mercer Wilson Award holders are seated at a reserved table immediately in front of the centre head table podium. Tickets must be paid for, but not included when ordering in a reserved table of eight. Entry into the Banquet Hall is available prior to the general opening for their convenience.

I am pleased to report, that on **Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 1:30 pm**, at the St. Johns Cemetery, Simcoe Ontario, a Historical Plaque will be placed at the gravesite of our first Grand Master. Dignitaries from the Ontario Government, city and local officials along with community leaders will be attending. Congratulations to all committee members of the committee who made this recognition possible.

It is interesting to note, on June 16th, 1922, more than one thousand Masons assembled at St. Johns Cemetery for the unveiling of William Mercer Wilson's granite monument, above his last resting place. On August 18th, 2013, plan on attending and be part of Masonic history. All Mason, including their family and friends are invited to attend this historical event.

The **Finance Advisory Committee's** focus continues to be on “Financial Guidance for the Lodges”. They have developed processes that can help Lodges and more particularly Lodge Treasurers to prudently manage their finances and have offered their assistance to anyone requesting it.

Lodge Corporations are another area of concern. Several Temple Corporations within the jurisdiction have not filed their annual corporate returns. Temple Corporations should be aware if they miss 2 or more years of filing their returns, they are at risk of losing their corporate charter. If this happens, ownership of the building defaults to the Crown.

On-Line Access to the Ontario Mason Magazine: W. Bro. Dan Dignard, a member of the Communications Committee is leading a team to produce an on-line version of the Ontario Mason Magazine. He has already assembled a team of 12 brethren who are assisting him in developing the format, content and other issues relating to this endeavor. Their target is to release the first issue in September 2013 followed by a winter and spring production.

Donald A. Campbell

DIRECT ONLINE HOTEL RESERVATIONS TO OUR 2013 ANNUAL COMMUNICATION ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/afamcanada>

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