

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Welcoming the New Year: Welcoming the New Year can be an exciting time, filled with high anticipation and expectations for the months to come. All around the world, New Year's is celebrated. It doesn't matter if it is only you and your partner, or you and your family, or you and the whole town together, New Year's means celebration. December 31st is celebrated as New Year's Eve. People gather and wait till the clock strikes twelve midnight. They perform the countdown; then, when the New Year has embarked, everyone is enthused with an ecstatic feeling of prosperity. To some a New Year brings with it hope of change; change of luck, change of profession and for some, perhaps a change in relationships. Welcoming the New Year can be an exciting time, filled with high anticipation and expectations for the months to come. Whether you slide into a New Year easily; or go kicking and screaming, 2014 is here and we, as Masonic leaders, have a responsibility to enhance Masonry for the members of our Craft.

Installation of the Worshipful Master: Remember when you were elected as the Worshipful Master of your Lodge? The brethren placed their confidence in you to lead them for the ensuing Masonic year. That means making certain that the activities are well organized, that the members have fun, learn and grow, and that your Lodge is a happy, positive and enjoyable place to be. The members look up to you to be their leader and ensure they have a good experience. As an elected leader, you have been entrusted to provide the opportunities for the membership to achieve their goals. It is important that you do your best to meet those expectations.

Our Role as a Past Master: We are naturally proud to have served as Master of a Lodge. A fact which further brings home the responsibilities a member owes to the Craft as a whole and to his Lodge in particular. As a Past Master, we must set the example, especially in the area of the Mechanics of the Work and our Ritual. If we fail to set the example, why should you expect Lodge Officers to do any better? Everything you do and say should be the best possible example of the way the ritual must be done. When you set the example, you help facilitate the results our Work demands. Setting the proper example is one way members will learn to be better officers on their journey towards the East. While a very simple competency on the face of it, none is more important. Setting an example is one way Past Masters can influence the progress of Freemasonry in his Lodge. It will be difficult to achieve this goal, if you don't have a current copy of the Book of the Work and the Ceremony of Installation & Investiture booklet.

Returns and Payments to Grand Lodge – D.D.G.M. Duties: By now, all lodges should have sent in their returns and payments to Grand Lodge. They were due on or before January 8, 2014. 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 forwarded 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.”

Ontario Mason Magazine: Welcome the first issue of our online Ontario Mason and I congratulate the Editor, W Bro. Daniel Dignard and thank all those responsible for its e-publication. Brethren, like it or not, we are in an age of electronic communications. In today's social media networking, we need to use all available mediums to communicate with our members. The task of the Communications Committee and the Editor of the online Ontario Mason is to bring you up to date with the new age of electronic communications.

Cast your minds back to the mid 1990's and just think for a moment, how many members of your lodge were using computers or, indeed, if the lodge secretary even possessed a computer! How dramatically different it is today. The internet has had a radical impact on our everyday life, including the rise of near instant communications by electronic mail, instant messaging and the world-wide-web, with its discussions forums, blogs, twitter and social networking. The internet continues to grow, driven by even greater amounts of online information and knowledge.

The challenge for your Grand Lodge is simple: first how best to communicate with our members so that they are both informed and feel included; second, how best to communicate with the non-Masonic community so that we can put correct and accurate information to them about Freemasonry.

I suspect that the majority of our members now communicate electronically and, what's more, they are expecting their Grand Lodge to communicate with them and to their lodge electronically.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy

Happy New Year to everyone, welcome to 2014.

Brethren as I often say at Installations this is a time of renewal and the opportunity to look forward with optimism while remembering and cherishing our history. These recent times will likely be long remembered as the year of the ice storm in many areas of South Western Ontario while the North and East were challenged more with significant amounts of snow. While there has been a certain level of inconvenience and, in some cases sickness and suffering, we as proud and strong willed Canadians have met the challenges with steadfastness and determination. That is the make-up and attitude we inherit from our forefathers when they decided to open this country.

Brethren, this is the type of attitude we should also address when choosing life's direction as masons. You know we too often forget our aims and ideals as members of the craft on how we should treat and respect each other. This sometimes creates challenges in lodges, districts and Grand Lodge in general. Then all of a sudden there are piques and quarrels when our emotions override good sense of tolerance and respect of our fellow man. Brethren our teachings are about **BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUTH**. So the next time you might be aware of dissention in our ranks please recall these pillars by which we are taught to live honourably and respect others and their opinion. We don't always have to agree but we should always tolerate the consideration of others. When politics prioritizes our goals and objectives as masons we are not pursuing life properly.

As we embark on a new year that marks the halfway point of our masonic year let me remind you that the next five months will have a great number of lodge activities most prominent will be many Official Visits as well as significant celebrations such as presentations and recognizing various contributions to masonry and community. If you and your lodge are to be involved in such activities I would urge to make every effort to see that the work is completed in a proper form. This of course means lodge practices as well as rehearsing in part in your own way. You know in days of the past in the rural area of the province I come from it was often said that the

livestock was more familiar with masonic ritual better than anybody. Brethren there is old adage that practice makes perfect now while we realize perfection is a difficult to achieve, doing your work to best of your ability is recognized and admired by those around you. The protection of our ritual is vital to our masonic future. As many of you have heard me say before

BE PROUD OF WHO ARE –BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO –BE PROUD TO BE A MASON

Brethren, there is in my thoughts two types of Masonic Education. One of course is our ritual that I have mentioned as well as our history which gives us an understanding of FREEMASONRY which includes the philosophy and symbolism on which our craft was founded and has continued to flourish through the years. This is how Masonry was founded and built over time and now it is our opportunity and duty to protect and preserve especially as we fast approach the **300TH ANNIVERSARY** of modern Free masonry **in 2017**. This will be a significant celebration for **MASONS** throughout the world. We as **MASONS** today are quite blessed to witness this great time of our history. We are also obligated to carry out those celebrations to ensure that we will all be proud of our masonic involvement

Brethren I also want to remind that during and after the holiday season there is always an extra need for blood donations. If you have the opportunity to give the gift of life it would be greatly appreciated by those who require that need. Remember this is a contribution you make to your fellow man that the only cost is time

MAY YOUR 2014 BE HAPPY, HEALTHY AND FRUITFUL.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master