

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

**March Madness!** The month when we can smell the hint of spring in the air. The month in which we commemorate one of the most familiar patron Saints of Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by a number of different faiths and in many different countries. March 17<sup>th</sup> is the day to wear the green, revere the shamrock and raise a glass to St. Paddy. Did you know that our Brethren in the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador enjoy a Provincial Holiday on March 17<sup>th</sup>? "So, may the road rise up to meet you, may the rain fall soft on your fields, may the wind always be at your back, and may you be in heaven an hour before the devil knows yer dead."

St. Patrick's Day – a multi faith, multi country celebration. Freemasonry, a celebration of the harmony of men uniting in a common bond across multiple faiths and multiple countries.

More to celebrate on March 17<sup>th</sup> than you might first think! In the words of the song made famous by R&B singer Mary Blige, "Be happy."

### **Housekeeping Items:**

**1. District Events:** Many of you have been using the services of our Internal Communications team under the leadership of W. Bro. Eric Lakien to distribute news of your District events. Recently we have had several situations where material sent to Eric was incorrect and not properly validated. We are reminded that information dealing with G.M. Receptions, Lodge Anniversaries, etc., must be sent to the Grand Lodge Office for review prior to distribution. Please ensure that the Grand Secretary has approved your material before sending to Eric for distribution. Eric provides us with a great service, BUT it is up to each of us to ensure the quality and accuracy of the material we ask him to send out.

**2. Use of Electronic Devices:** We are getting more and more interruptions due to cell phones ringing and Brethren utilizing their electronic devices for texting and communicating while in Lodge. I have spoken with R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher and the current issue of P&E Essentials addresses this issue. When you receive it, please give it your attention.

**(3) Survey Says...:** Results of the spring 2011 survey will be coming to an email address near you in the next few days.

### **Looking Ahead:**

We are eagerly looking forward to the spring season of banquets and visitations. What a privilege and honour to be able to meet with so many of you around the jurisdiction. Each time we are out, we are greeted with warmth, friendship and hospitality that is unbounded. As we travel back from these wonderful evenings, I often ask myself if this enthusiasm and excitement carry over to the next Lodge meeting. You honour the Office of the Grand Master and other Grand Lodge Officers by the attendance of you and your ladies at such events. They are exciting nights. Do you share the same excitement on a regular basis at your Lodge meeting or your District events?

If the answer is yes, then I encourage you to understand what the catalyst is for that excitement – is it one Brother, a group of Officers, the Worshipful Master, dedicated Past Masters, new Members, a fundraiser, work on the Lodge premises? Find out what it is and, (a) don't let it get away and, (b) figure out how to capitalize on it in the future.

If the answer is no, ask the question – where do we find the catalyst? Is it an individual or group of individuals, an event not yet planned, an outside trigger? Ask yourself – could I be the catalyst – why not? Have you visited the most successful Lodge in the District and asked them what they do, how they do it and why they are successful. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

When the crowds have gone home after the reception, the glow of that special evening has worn off, and you are looking at the agenda for next month's meeting, remember the warmth, friendship and hospitality and use it generate excitement for your next meeting.

One of the goals stated in our strategic plan is to "**Ensure that a vital membership continues to grow and expand in Ontario.**" Exciting, vibrant, productive meetings would go a long way to contributing to that goal. Look to the future. Be bold. Be creative. Enjoy Masonry. Contribute. The vitality you demonstrate will rub off on those around you.

You don't have to be an officer to be a leader. I believe every Mason is a leader in one way or another. Accept the challenge – Believe in yourself, Believe in Freemasonry – **be the catalyst.**

D. Garry Dowling  
Grand Master

## ***From the Deputy Grand Master. . .***

### **Thinking about serving our membership at Grand Lodge?**

Grand Lodge is seeking qualified, motivated and active Past Masters, who believe in our Mission: *“to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario’s Masonic community and preserve the timeless Masonic initiatory system as a framework for all good men to transform their lives through the ancient and enduring tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.”* Are you that person? If so, now is the time to plan to be part of the team.

As we prepare for our Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on the third Wednesday of July and the Thursday following (July 18, 19, 2012), many of our Past Masters are considering being a candidate for the office of Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Registrar, or a Member of the Board of General Purposes. If that is your intention, then your nomination application must be received by the Grand Secretary on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Because April 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Sunday, the closing for 2012 nominations will be 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2012. Don’t test the system; get your applications in early. There are no exceptions. I strongly recommend prospective candidates familiarize themselves with Sections 36 to 41 inclusive, of the Book of Constriction (2011).

**No Brother** shall be eligible for office in Grand Lodge unless he has attained the rank of Past Master. Candidates, other than G.M., D.G.M. and D.D.G.M.s, are nominated, in writing on a prescribed form, by any member of Grand Lodge. The Nomination Form, which will have an attached passport-size photo of the candidate (colour preferred), must be signed by the nominator and the candidate.

**Grand Lodge** consists of its Grand Lodge Officers, its Past Grand Lodge Officers, Past Masters and the Masters and Wardens of all lodges duly returned on the Grand Lodge registered. *Any lodge which has neglected to deliver to the Grand Secretary its returns and payments to Grand Lodge on or before July 8, 2012, Masters and Wardens will not be able to vote at Grand Lodge, including voting for the elective Grand Lodge Offices and the Board of General Purposes. This includes proxy votes.* D.D.G.M. that is why you have been directed by Grand Lodge to ensure lodges in your District have submitted their returns to the Grand Secretary.

## ***From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .***

Due to a lengthy ongoing internal dispute of Masons within the Grande Loge Nationale Francais (G.L.N.F.), fraternal relations between our two jurisdictions has been regrettably suspended, effective February 24, 2012.

Subsequently, Ontario Masons are no longer permitted to visit lodges under the jurisdiction of G.L.N.F. unless they hold G.L.N.F. membership. Likewise G.L.N.F. members are not permitted to visit an Ontario lodge unless membership is held in Ontario.

Formal recognition of the Grande Loge Nationale Francais is not affected, at this time, in the hope a speedy resolution is achieved to the mutual satisfaction of those French Masons affected by the dispute.

All constituent lodges in Ontario who attend our Annual Communication of Grand Lodge should have an opportunity to exercise their right and vote for their Grand Lodge Officers. Let’s make this happen.

**Grand Wardens:** The office of Grand Warden is an elective Grand Lodge office for one year. Aspirants may be nominated by any member of Grand Lodge and submit that nomination to the Grand Secretary. The candidate receiving the majority of votes will be declared elected by the Grand Master. The Grand Wardens, whenever directed, shall attend the Grand Master and act as his Warden. Further, the Grand Wardens have an important role in the Ceremony of Constituting and Consecrating a Lodge, dedicating or re-dedicating a Cornerstone, Ceremonies of Amalgamation and Extinguishing the Lights of a Lodge. More importantly, the Grand Wardens are expected to know their Work, such as, Opening and Closing in all Three Degrees, calling from Labour to Refreshment and vice versa, opening and closing a Board of Installed Masters and/or Grand Lodge, together with, the Ritual Work of a Warden. I can assure you, when you attend a Lodge and sit in the chair, lodge Junior and Senior Wardens will be watching you. You will need proficiency in the Mechanics of the Work and of our Ritual.

**Grand Registrar:** The nomination and the election process of the Grand Registrar is the same as the Grand Wardens, with an additional qualification. The applicant must comply with Section 50(b) and be in possession of a certificate of completion of the course for the prospective District Deputy Grand Master, as offered by the College of Freemasonry. This qualification relates to the duties of the Grand Registrar found in section 114: “The Grand Registrar may, at the pleasure and direction of the Grand Master, take charge of any District for which there is not a District Deputy Grand Master.” Therefore, the Grand Registrar must be familiar with the duties and responsibilities of a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Registrar will also visit and report on the activities of the Heritage Lodge.

So, what is next? If you have the energy, time and qualities, consider being part of your Grand Lodge team.

Donald A. Campbell  
Deputy Grand Master

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