

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Fall is upon us and the Masonic season is in full swing again. To the many Lodges that participate in Fall Fairs and Craft shows - your participation in these events provides the opportunity for you to let the community know who we are and what we do. In this regard, I trust you are prepared to answer any questions that come your way, with honesty and sincerity. If you have not thought about your response to the 'who we are or what we do' type of questions, please take some time to think about how you would answer - before you get caught off guard. Don't be like Charlie Brown's good friend Linus and wait for the ball to hit you on the head.

May you enjoy the Thanksgiving season and may the Pumpkin Patch put a smile on your face.

Lodge Building Compliance: Some concerns are being raised and rumours being spread about the compliance process. While we are not in a position yet to publish details of how the process will work, I can say that the Ad Hoc committee under R.W. Bro. Perry McConnell has done a lot of investigative work, but there are still many items to resolve. I can however make some comments on the nature of the project by responding to some questions:

First, some of our physical premises have been neglected over many years. For just as many years, we have talked about the issues of electrical, fire, and health standards for the safety of our Brethren, without taking the necessary steps to resolve the issues. We can not hide these issues under the rug any longer. Our Lodge and Grand Lodge leaders must take action now.

- Do we care about the health and safety of our Members: absolutely yes.
- Do we recognize that some premises are not meeting current safety standards: yes
- Do we recognize the liability issues involved for the Lodges, Temple Corporations and Grand Lodge: yes
- Is it time for us all to become involved in making any necessary upgrades or improvements to meet standards: yes
- Do we recognize that having taken years to reach this state, we will not be able to rectify things and achieve compliance overnight: yes
- Do we recognize that compliance to standards must be an ongoing process: yes
- Do we acknowledge that the process of compliance will involve a financial commitment on the part of Lodges and Temple Corporations: yes
- Do we recognize that changes and upgrades to meet

standards will take time to implement: yes

- Do we understand that Lodges and Temple Corporations that are not compliant will have to put together a plan for the changes required to become compliant and that this plan may be short term for some and longer term for others: yes
- The first step in the compliance process will, of course, be to determine if a Lodge Hall or Temple building is compliant. This may generate a list of required upgrades or changes. If standards for compliance are not met, then a plan must be put in place to make those required changes.

Our current expectation is that every Lodge and Temple Corporation must **initiate this first step** prior to July 2013.

Brethren, this project is not intended to put any Lodge out of existence. It is however necessary for us as the keeper of our Masonic homes, to ensure that each and every member of each and every Lodge can be assured that when he attends Lodge, **his health and physical safety is of the uppermost importance.**

As the details of the process become solidified, they will be communicated. In the meantime, if you have any serious concerns about the compliance process, do not hesitate to contact R.W. Bro. Perry McConnell, myself or the Deputy Grand Master.

Looking Ahead:

Grand Lodge Website: The website is continually being updated, especially the Members News Events section. If you haven't yet got your Login (GL Certificate) and browsed around, please accept the challenge and go for a test drive.

Our third release, which contains significant additional functionality will be released later this fall. It is currently being tested. One of the main features will be a "My Grand Lodge" section.

Official Visits: As our fall season of DDGM Official Visits is well underway, I would encourage our members to check their local District Trestle Boards and find a night where they can support the District team with their attendance. Your travelling and support of other Lodges, will no doubt, be reciprocated with a return visit to your Lodge. It is almost a guarantee that any visit to a Lodge within or without your District will be an educational experience.

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

Grand Master's full itinerary at – www.grandlodge.on.ca
UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR.

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

In 1994, M.W.Bro. C. Edwin Drew said; “let us seize the opportunity to rejuvenate our Craft by endeavoring to improve our communications with our Lodges, our neighbour’s and friends by all available means. Let us pursue excellence in all our activities; Let us involve all our members and their families as we move to the 21st century.”

The best communication tool in Freemasonry is us. We are the ambassadors to our Craft. Our actions, attitude and first impressions will eventually decide if a man wants to belong to Freemasonry. The way we portray ourselves in our community; by being a good citizen in our everyday life, demonstrating our kindness, being honest, courtesy towards others, but more importantly, being proud to say we are a Mason; we can be a better advertisement for Freemasonry than all the brochures, open houses, mall display booths or other programs currently in use.

By the Lodge Summons I receive, visitors and perspective candidates are visiting lodge buildings and lodge rooms in an increasing number. Most active lodges, after several years of declining membership, are experiencing new, younger and better educated men joining Freemasonry. In our Grand Jurisdiction, we recently conducted a province wide survey asking a number of questions. We asked our membership why they joined Masonry. The top three responses were; Brotherhood; Self Improvement; and Knowledge. The results do, however, indicated that charity was low on the totem pole as a reason for joining. Most brethren seem to feel satisfied with their lodge level of charitable activity and community involvement.

The Lodge Resources Committee, under the direction of R.W. Bro. David Cameron, has five sub-committees that are designed to help a man who wants to become a Mason, or retaining membership, or becoming an officer of a lodge, or assist you to make your lodge into an active and healthy lodge in your community. No one said being a Mason is easy; it takes work being a Mason. For those lodges that are experiencing difficulties, I would suggest you take the time and review some of the current programs offered by Lodge Resources.

Friend to Friend - Team Leader: V.W. Bro. Robert Lindsay. The program will assist lodges to enlighten friends of Masons in getting to know us better and to increase membership. It has been developed to exhibit Masonry and its philosophy to the non-Masonic public, especially those men considered to be potential quality candidates. It forms an integral part of other initiatives to bring Masonry to the forefront of public exposure through the use of display booths at International Ploughing Matches, public Open Houses in our lodges rooms and Information Booths at Shopping Malls.

Mentors – Team Leader: R.W. Bro. Leonard Feldt. The purpose of the Mentor Program is to ensure that every Candidate accepted into the Craft is properly instructed in the fundamental principles of each Degree attained. It is necessary that the candidate is provided guidance, instruction and assistance until he is a Master Mason.

Brother to Brother – Team Leader R.W. Bro. Charles Woods. The Brother 2 Brother Program is designed to expand the interest generated in the individual Mason by the Friend to Friend and Mentor Programmes. In essence, it is a program that will provide challenge, recognition and support in order to retain, revitalize and renew our membership. It is aimed at better lodge management, better and more diverse programs in lodge, more participation by members, a better sense of belonging to a fraternity, more activities that include family and friends, and simply making all members feel that they belong and are an important part of the lodge.

Officer Progression – Team Leader Kevin Smith. It is meant to reach out to the brethren with the intention of providing a consistent message in accordance with the direction provided by The Grand Lodge, through numerous publications such as the The Book of Constitution, the Masonic Manual, Meeting the Challenge and Book of the Work. Although designed with the Worshipful Master in mind, it should be directed towards lodge members well before they reach the Worshipful Masters Chair.

Cornerstone Project – Team Leader Ronald Findlater. The primary purpose of the Cornerstone Project is to encourage and recognize lodges that plan, implement and manage a well-rounded yearly lodge program that promotes lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and involvement in the community. The Cornerstone Project is not a competition between lodges. I would suggest if you want to improve the Condition of Masonry in your lodge, look at implementing a Cornerstone Program that meets your needs. When a lodge makes the decision to participate in this program they acknowledge their desire to increase the value of the experience that they provide to their membership. Participation will bring many value added benefits.

We have two choices: Action vs. Procrastination. Now is the time to encourage our members to call their Worshipful Master and ask, what can he do to help improve Masonry in his lodge and in his community. Nothing will get done if we just sit back and talk about it.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

