

# MASONRY *in* MANITOBA

AUTUMN EDITION  
2014



**F**or our cover we have selected the most important surviving building of classical Greek construction, the temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, located on the Athenian Acropolis, the Parthenon. It is not a temple in the true sense of the word but served as a treasury. It did however house a massive 36 metre tall statue of Athena.

To architects the Parthenon is a peripteral octostyle Doric temple with Ionic architectural features. The term peripteral indicates that the building is supported on columns which in turn support a header or lintel. The term octostyle indicates that there are eight columns at either end. There are seventeen columns on each side. The foundation is a platform or stylobate consisting of three steps upon which the columns sit, without any base. This base has a slight parabolic curvature presumed to shed rain-water but the columns have a slight inward tilt so that extended they would eventually meet. They are 6.2' in diameter, 34.1' high and each is enriched with 20 flutes. As the columns are all the same height the roof echoes this parabolic curve. They are topped with simple capitals and so fit the parameters for Doric construction. These pillars or columns are topped with a lintel or entablature. Above the architrave is a frieze of carved pictorial panels called *metopes* which are separated by triglyphs, again typical of Doric architecture. The roof was of simple gable design covered with large overlapping marble tiles. The gable ends or triangular pediments were originally filled with decorative sculpture, considered some of the high points of Greek art. The east end, which is the one we see on this issue's cover dealt with the birth of Athena, who according to mythology (which need not bear any resemblance to reality or possibility) was born from the head of Zeus, her father. The west pediment featured a competition between Athena and Poseidon, the prize being recognition as the city's patron. Obviously, with her olive fond, Athena was the victor. This structure is 228' long by 101' wide.

This colonnade surrounded an inner masonry structure called the *cella* which is separated into two components. It also contained two additional rows of columns which originally supported the roof. Around the *cella* and across the lintels of the inner columns ran a continuous sculptured frieze in low relief. This element is Ionic rather than Doric in style. This interior *cella* was 98' long and 63' wide.

Some studies suggest that many of its proportions approximate the golden ratio but that statement has been disputed in more recent studies and I have compared lengths and widths and heights and find nothing approaching the magic 1:1.618 ratio.

## MASONRY in MANITOBA

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The structure was begun in 447 BCE and completed in 438 BCE although decorations were added for a further six years. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century it was converted into a Christian church and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Later in 1460, following the Ottoman conquest it was converted into a mosque. Some two hundred years later it was used to store ammunition and on September 26, 1687 this was ignited by Venetian bombardment. The resulting explosion severely damaged both the structure and its statues. In the early 1800s some surviving sculptures were sold to the British Museum in London where they are displayed although the Greek government is committed to their return to their proper location. ∴



A portrait of a middle-aged man with grey hair and a prominent mustache. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

**S**tano Spina was born in Southern Italy in the province of Cozenza on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1943. In 1960, along with his parents and brother he immigrated to Canada and landed in Winnipeg joining family that was already here. The family settled in North Kildonan although for the last forty years he has resided in River Heights in order to be closer to his place of business. For the past fifty years he has owned and operated Stano's Couffures. He has been married to Linda for the past seventeen years and between them they have five children: Giovanni, Luisa, Matthew, (who lives in Ottawa), Kate, and Philip.

They are also Nonno and Nana to nine grandchildren.

Stano has a deep love for opera and has been involved with the Manitoba Opera since 1972, serving in many capacities. He has appeared on stage in over 55 operas, served on the board of directors, served on the guild as president for two years and was a member of the auxiliary. He has chaired many fundraisers for them.

Stano has been a very active member with the Khartum Shrine, having received his twenty-five year pin in November 2010. He has dual membership in Vintage Cars, where he drives a 1970 Spyder convertible and the Pipes and Drums where he plays tenor drums. He served as

president of the Vintage Cars in 2000–2001 and also as their treasurer.

He is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and served as worthy patron of Queen Winnipeg Chapter No. 1 five times. He was given the honour of serving as grand marshall for the Grand Chapter of Manitoba, has served on the board of directors for the Eastern Star Charet and was appointed grand representative to the state of Washington. He has written, produced and directed many plays as fundraisers.

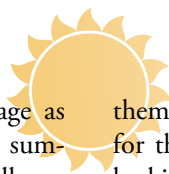
Stano and Linda are members of St. George's Anglican Church in Crescentwood.

M.W. Bro. Spina was initiated into Fort Garry Lodge No. 130 in 1982 and served as their worshipful master in 1990. He served as D.D.G.M. of the Twelfth Masonic District in 2000–2001. At present he is a member of Keystone Lodge No. 185. He has served on the board of directors of the M.M.T. Inc. for many years. He was elected to the board of general purposes and served there for nine years before beginning his journey to the Grand East. He is also a member of the Royal Arch Masons of Manitoba and the Preceptory. Additionally, he is a member of Tongue River Lodge No. 22, in Cavalier, North Dakota. ∴





*Wisdom, to contrive...*



**B**rethren, as I write my first message as your grand master I note that the summer is almost over and the busy fall season will soon be upon us. The summer has just flown by.

We were very busy in June beginning with our own grand communication and then Linda and I attended other grand communications in nearby jurisdictions. We attended the Grand Lodge of North Dakota in Grand Forks, the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan in Regina and the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon in Burnaby. Then in July we attended the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario in Toronto. The grand line officers and myself have just returned from the Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges which was held in Madison, Wisconsin. There we enjoyed a number of informative sessions and exchanged our hopes, dreams, problems and solutions with our counterparts from the other grand jurisdictions from our neighbouring jurisdictions.

We are looking forward to the Masonic family picnic in August and trust that this will be well supported by all the fraternal bodies. We are very proud of our Masonic family and the close support we show toward each other. Certainly we are the envy of most if not all of the other jurisdictions. As well we are looking forward to our annual northern trip to visit our brethren in Swan River, The Pas, Flin Flon, and Thompson. We will be leaving Winnipeg in the early morning of September 4<sup>th</sup> and we hope our bus will be filled with our fellow Masons and their partners. Our northern brethren certainly look forward to our visit and it provides a wonderful occasion to get better acquainted with our brethren north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel.

As most of you know I will be continuing with our amnesty program for another year. We are certain that there are several brothers who have returned to the Craft largely because it was made easier for

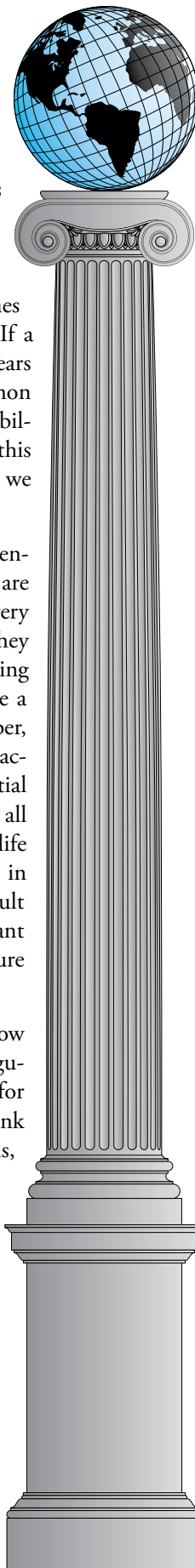
them to do so. Rather than making it easy for these brethren to return we should be looking at the reasons they are being suspended or taking demits. We have to talk to these brothers, ask them why they are requesting a demit or not paying their dues knowing they will be suspended. Is there something we should be doing to help these brothers? We are all in the business of raising money for various charities but sometimes my brothers, charity must begin at home. If a brother has been a Freemason for many years and requests a demit or is suspended for non payment of dues it is our duty and responsibility to find out why and if necessary to carry this brother until times are better. In the long run we will be rewarded.

Remember my brothers, our fundamental tenets of *brotherly love, relief, and truth*. They are not just nice sounding words, they are the very essence of our being. Think about what they should mean to us as Freemasons. Practising these virtues will result in a fraternity where a man is proud and honoured to be a member, not willing to let it all go. Above all let us practice tolerance toward each other. It is essential for the Craft to grow and prosper that we all practice these virtues daily. If we live the life that the teachings of Freemasonry advocates in all of its various lectures and charges the result will be a fraternity that young men will want to associate with and also one that the mature experienced Freemason will never leave!

On a more personal note as many of you know I had emergency surgery in July for a strangulated hernia and I want to thank you all for your good wishes for a speedy recovery. I thank you and appreciate all the visits, phone calls, cards and prayers.

Fraternally,

M.W. Bro. Stano Spina  
Grand Master ∴



## The Grand Master's Itinerary

|                    |  |                                |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| September 19 ..... | Board of General Purposes.....           | 7:00 pm MMC                    |
| September 26 ..... | Union Historical Lodge No. 108 OV.....   | 8:00 pm Austin, MB             |
| October 19.....    | Job's Daughters Fall Supper.....         | 4:00 pm MMC                    |
| October 24.....    | Fil-Can Cable Tow Lodge No. 189 OV ..... | 7:30 pm EKMT                   |
| November 1 .....   | Hands Across the Border .....            | 2:00 pm Dauphin, MB            |
| November 17 .....  | Assiniboine Lodge No. 7 OV.....          | 7:30 pm Portage la Prairie, MB |
| November 21 .....  | Board of General Purposes.....           | 7:00 pm MMC                    |
| December 14.....   | Grand Lodge Christmas Reception .....    | 2:00 pm MMC                    |



he Parthenon, displayed on the cover is an example of classical Greek architecture, which while beautiful and impressive lacks the inspirational grandiose styling which would eventually succeed it and which is referred to as *Gothic*. To be certain Gothic architecture was the pinnacle of man's efforts to create structures dedicated to the Glory of God and examples of Gothic cathedrals are as grand, beautiful, and inspirational as wealth and skill could afford. These towering structures lead the eyes and the heart heavenward and the lovely stained glass windows fill the interior with a subdued light, inducing a feeling of the divine presence while highlighting that light which is from above. The incredible longevity of these structures bears witness to the knowledge of their architects and the skill of their builders.

Gothic architecture is a style embracing the pointed arch, the ribbed vault and the flying buttress. It also often features large rose windows, towers, spires or pinnacles and ornate facades complete with elaborate sculpture work. It is most familiar in the many great cathedrals which were erected between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The pointed arch, probably its most familiar landmark was used in Islamic architecture and some historians believe that this provided the inspiration for the Gothic style. Royal Arch Freemasonry speaks of the *catenarian arch* which basically is the shape that a rope would take if supported at each end and allowed to sag in the middle. This shape inverted becomes an arch however it is limited because of the strong outward forces at the points of support. It was used but mainly underground or in bridges where this outward force could be contained. The taller, pointed arch provides a much more vertical component to the forces at the point of support and the outward forces could now be countered with the addition of a buttress, or more successfully and architecturally appealing, the flying buttress. A sound knowledge of geometry becomes increasingly important as the designs became more complex.

One of the finest examples of Gothic Architecture is Chartres Cathedral which is located some 80 kilometres southwest of Paris. It has also been selected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The current cathedral was largely constructed between 1194 and 1250 CE and is the last of at least five cathedrals which have occupied this site since it became a bishopric in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. This site had been recognized as a special sacred mound long before that. The preceding structure was home to a medieval mystery school where the philosophies of classical Greece were reinstated into the mainstream of Christian philosophy.

Following its time as a mystery school Chartres became an important pilgrimage destination. That was because of an important relic which it holds. Although Charlemagne never visited the Holy Land, tradition has him receiving the tunic worn by the Blessed Virgin Mary at the time of Christ's birth from the Emperor Constantine VI which he presented to Chartres Cathedral. Nevertheless the relic exists and it is believed it was a gift from Charles the Bald, who was the King of France from 823 to 877 CE and who despite the nomenclature was extremely hairy. Today it continues to draw pilgrims from around the world many of whom walk slowly around the labyrinth with their heads bowed in prayer, an entirely modern devotional practice symbolically leading to the centre and a reunion with the Creator.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1194 a fire caused extensive damage to the cathedral with only the western towers remaining undamaged. Work was immediately started to completely rebuild the cathedral, incorporating the intact western portion. The size of the structure is impressive, being 430' long and 105' wide, extending to 151' at the transept. In area it covers just over 117,000 square feet. The nave is 121' high while the northwest tower stretches an incredible 371' toward the heavens.



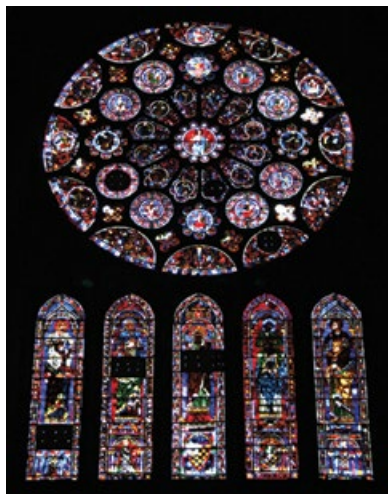


The west facade, which predates the remainder of the church features three portals, each focusing on a different aspect of Christ's life: his earthly incarnation on the right, his second coming on the left, and his eternal aspects in the center. On the right side is a female figure representing the Virgin Mary, emblematic of wisdom with the earliest curriculum, the seven liberal arts and sciences above, possibly recalling the glory days of the mystery school which operated from Chartres. Our revered Pythagoras is also displayed. The left side represents the death and ascension of Christ into heaven and further represents the twelve signs of the Zodiac which is reinforced by scenes depicting common activities during these seasons, such as a planting and harvesting of crops. In the center is represented one of the visions of Ezekiel, with the figures of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. These figures also represented the banners of the four divisions of the army of Israel. In the center Christ is shown within the vesica Pisces, representing the age of Pisces. This is all over fourteen figures, the twelve apostles plus two Old Testament prophets, Elijah and Enoch who, it is thought, did not die but ascended into heaven in bodily form and who will return with Christ.

The north transept is deeper and carries much more statuary and carvings. It traditionally deals with the Old Testament. On the right we see Solomon and Sheba as well as personalities such as Ester, Samson, and the prophets. In the center is the coronation of the virgin and the tree of Jesse. On the left *the visitation*, *the adoration of the magi*, and the personification of the virtues and vices.

The carvings are shown in greater detail and more natural poses than the earlier sculpture from the west facade. In one example we see Mary and Gabriel, facing each other and engaged in a conversation. There is also Mary and Elizabeth in what is commonly referred to as *the visitation*. The folds in their dresses and the expressions on their faces are extraordinary. The Creation is depicted in several scenes: the separation of land and water, the creation of fish and birds, then animals and ultimately God forming his son Adam. Also featured is a panel depicting the suffering of Job which is believed to also speak to the suffering of the Church at that time, the

pressure from the Cathars and the Albigenses and also the loss of the holy land to Islam.



Below most of these statues are small statuettes called *socles* which are intended to give a fuller meaning to the statue above. For example the Virgin Mary (pictured below) is supported by the burning bush, through which God spoke to Moses. As the bush burned but was not consumed so too Mary gave birth but was still a virgin. Between the doors we see what at first glance would appear to be the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus but in fact it is St. Anne, the mother of Mary holding Mary as an infant.

The south transept concentrates on the time from Christ's death until his second coming, the centre featuring the apostles, the left the martyrs and on the right the confessor saints.

The interior of Chartres is relatively dark but richly coloured, despite the abundant window openings, which is caused by the fact that nearly all of the 176 windows are filled with stained glass. The majority of these windows were made and installed between 1205 and 1240 CE however there are four panels of Romanesque glass dating from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. They are located beneath the Rose window in the west, the Passion window in the south, the infancy of Christ in the centre and the tree of Jesse in the north. All of these windows tell an important story. However, the south transept rose window dedicated to Christ is most impressive. In the centre it shows Christ, his arms raised in benediction. The central lancet shows the Virgin carrying the infant Christ, flanked on each side by the four evangelists sitting on the shoulders of four prophets, depicting the principle that the New Testament builds upon the Old Testament.



It is amazing that the cathedral was not damaged during the many wars and revolutions although its lead roof was once removed to make bullets. All of the glass was removed in 1939, prior to the beginning of hostilities. Following the war it was cleaned and re-lead prior to being replaced. The numerous restorations over the many centuries have not diminished its reputation as a triumph of Gothic art and it continues to inspire all who enter into its holy space. ∴

## The End of the Beginning, and the Beginning of Hope...

By W. Bro. James Christie



As I hover over the keyboard, I am suffering from conflicted feelings. Several days ago, I deleted all that I had written on the *Freemasons of Manitoba Award in Human Rights*, sensing that I needed to start again.

I find myself preoccupied with thoughts of two very different young Manitoba women: different origins; different lives; different fates, yet still deeply connected.

One is 15 year old Tina Fontaine, whose murdered body was pulled, by happenstance as it seems, from the murky depths of the Red River. The other is Ruth Vanstone, whose bright and lovely countenance graced grand lodge in June, as Grand Master Douglas Webster presented her with the inaugural Freemasons of Manitoba Award for Human Rights.

Both young women stood at the threshold of life; both full of promise and possibility. Ruth, with her 4.35 grade point average and university career in human rights and sociology, is already beginning to flower. Tina's future was cruelly nipped in the bud. What connects them is human rights. Tina's were violated, and her life taken. Ruth is beginning a career to champion the human rights of all people, including those of her too often ignored sisters, like Tina. Ruth's poise, charm, and grace enchanted the assembled brethren and their distinguished guests. But it is her mind and her commitment which will pursue the quest for a world in which the Tina Fontaine's may also have their day in the sun.

Manitoba Freemasons, with the support of grand lodge, have demonstrated which side of the struggle we embrace.

Past Grand Master Kristjan Goodmanson's *Just a Buck* campaign in support of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which set the bar for Masonic championing of human rights in Manitoba and beyond, and his commitment to new partnerships with the first peoples of Western Canada, inspired the Freemasons of Manitoba to support The University of Winnipeg's fledgling Human Rights degree.

With the establishment of this award, undergraduate students from a host of disciplines – Human Rights, Conflict Resolution, International Development – and graduate students in the fields of Indigenous Studies, Development Practices and Dialogue Theology will receive additional encouragement to pursue careers which will change the world, moving the human community forward in human rights, human dignity and human potential.

Contributions to this new and significant venture may be made through the Special Projects Fund of the Masonic Foundation, or directly through The University of Winnipeg Foundation. In each case, the *Freemasons of Manitoba Freemasons Award in Human Rights* must be clearly designated.

On September 20, 2014, The Canadian Museum for Human Rights will open its doors and reveal its galleries, sharing its

stories for the first time. Manitoba will welcome Canada and the world. It has been a long time coming, and it is only the beginning.

Almost three quarters of a century ago, as light began to break through the dark clouds engulfing Adolf Hitler's *Fortress Europe*, Sir Winston Churchill, the great British prime minister, declared, "This is not the end; it is not the beginning of the end; but, pray God, it may be the end of the beginning."

The Masonic brotherhood, in the footsteps of the forget-me-not heroes of the Masonic underground of World War II, will stand with the CMHR for a better world for all. ✧

## Masons Care



The flagship of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba's charitable activities is our partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society, where we are acknowledged as a *gold sponsor* of their transportation program.

This program began in 1983 under the leadership of Past Grand Master M.W. Bro. Reesor Bingeman. Over the years, as the need has increased, so too has our commitment. Today we operate six vans, four in Winnipeg and two in Brandon, transporting cancer patients from their homes to the treatment facilities and then safely back home. As much as possible these vans are driven by Masons, volunteering their time to assist those temporarily on *the lowest spoke of fortunes wheel*, although there are times that non-masons do drive them. Those who do volunteer recognize the impact that this service affords those who are receiving treatment, indeed some of our patients claim this service is as important as the treatment itself, for without it in many cases there would be no treatment. A heartfelt and sincere thank you constitutes a fair wage for a day's efforts and we receive several of them every day!

Last year the Canadian Cancer Society hosted a driver's appreciation dinner and presented the grand master with a pair of clasped hands, symbolizing our 30 year partnership. Over those years we have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase cars and later vans for the program and volunteered countless hours in support of the program. Last year alone we made over 10,000 trips, driving over 500,000 kilometres and logging more than 7000 volunteer hours.

The Freemasons of Manitoba and the Canadian Cancer Society enter into a *Memorandum of Understanding* every five years, pledging their ongoing commitment to the program. The last one signed extends our involvement until 2019.

This is a wonderful program but unfortunately it is one that many of our members cannot support directly because they are working, live outside of either centre or are unable to drive at all. However there is not one of us who cannot support the program with a donation. You will recall that lecture delivered in the northeast angle of the lodge at your initiation. You were admonished to practice that virtue you then claimed to admire and advised that regardless of the amount you donated, it would be thankfully received and faithfully applied. ✧



## Special Appeal



Many thanks to all the brethren who have generously contributed to the Masonic Foundation of Manitoba and the Grand Lodge of Manitoba's Special Projects over the years. Since 1975, the Freemasons of Manitoba through the Masonic Foundation of Manitoba have raised over \$1 million dollars in support of many worthwhile endeavours.

We as Freemasons have continually shown our commitment to making the world a better place to live in through these community projects and we should be extremely proud of these efforts.

### *But did you know...*

...currently only 12 percent of Masons in Manitoba contribute and support the Foundation and our Special Projects? Imagine how many more projects we could undertake if more of us contributed to the Foundation.

Please consider making a donation. Even the smallest amount will make a difference.

### Special Projects

In 2014 the Masons of Manitoba are continuing this legacy of community support and philanthropy with the following projects:

#### 1. Mason's Care Transportation Program – \$25,000

The Grand Lodge and all the Masons of Manitoba have recently celebrated 30 continuous years of support for this program and have signed a new five year commitment to continue to replace the vehicles required for this program during this new term of agreement.

This contribution will meet our commitment to the Canadian Cancer Society for the ongoing support of the fleet of vehicles used for transporting cancer patients to appointments.

#### 2. Freemasons of Manitoba Award in Human Rights – \$10,000

The establishment of the *Freemasons of Manitoba Award in Human Rights* coincides with the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in the grand jurisdiction of Manitoba and the 150<sup>th</sup> year in which Freemasonry has been present in the Red River Valley.

This award will support a student enrolled at the University of Winnipeg majoring in human rights, conflict resolution, international development or an area dealing with global ethics. Students pursuing a master's degree in indigenous studies, development practice or theology

(with a focus on dialogue theology) will also be considered. Successful candidates will have demonstrated both high academic achievement as well as financial need.

This will see the creation of a \$10,000 endowment at the University of Winnipeg with the annual award to the recipient being \$500.

After funds have been raised for the above two projects and the annual administrative costs has been covered for a total of approximately \$40,000, any additional funds raised over and above this \$40,000 with the exception of designated gifts (such as the Milk Program or last year's contributions to Philippine relief) are to be divided equally to the following worthy projects:

#### 3. The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

This Manitoba charity is dedicated to helping children living with special needs & disabilities become more independent. The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation raises funds through special events, donations and grants in order to purchase specialized equipment and fund adapted recreation programs. The proceeds will be directed to provide specialized equipment such as an adult trike (\$1,362.54), an iPad Mini (\$1,110.83) and a Trailmate Low Rider bike (\$1,215.00).

#### 4. International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts at the International Peace Garden

Their mission is one of "*enriching lives through artistic expression and personal growth*" the I.M.C. strives to offer the best summer school of fine arts in North America.

The proceeds will be directed to the scholarship endowment fund to provide scholarships to students who have yet to experience the International Music Camp, and to provide limited scholarships to students who may have difficulty affording a week at I.M.C.

These projects can only happen through your continued support. Please help us make this goal as soon as possible by sending in your pledge now!

Please complete the form on the flysheet that accompanied this magazine and send it in the enclosed envelope to the Masonic Foundation of Manitoba or drop it off at the grand lodge office. Every contribution helps and all donations will be issued receipts for income tax purposes. We also accept monthly contributions and can help you make arrangements for that type of contribution.

Thank you for your generous support of the 2014 Special Projects. Together we'll make a difference! ∴

We all learn that Freemasonry is spread over the whole of the earth's habitable surface however there is no overall governing authority. Indeed, each jurisdiction's grand lodge holds the supreme power and authority, limited only by the ancient landmarks which we purposely choose not to identify specifically and the provisions within the act of incorporation and its constitution. The grand master presides over the annual communication and is the supreme authority over all matters concerning the peace, harmony and good government of the fraternity. At the annual communication the decisions of the board of general purposes are ratified and its recommendations are considered and dealt with. Here too, members are recognized for their various contributions. Awards are presented and finally the new officers are invested with their new rank and installed into their respective offices. It is a time of celebration, acknowledging the events of the previous year and outlining the actions planned for the immediate and long term.



*Led by the grand lodge standard, borne by V.W. Bro. Robbie Green and under the protection of the grand sword bearer, V.W. Bro. Kevin Barnowich the grand lodge officers make their formal entrance into grand lodge, accompanied by the skirl of the pipes, skilfully played by the grand piper V.W. Bro. Troy Blair. It is a simple but quite impressive ceremony!*

The official opening is attended by representatives from the province, the city, guests from visiting jurisdictions, our partners such as the Canadian Cancer Society and the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and the various concordant and appendant bodies, all of whom bring greetings, extend their congratulations on a successful year, and offer wishes for a successful communication and productive upcoming year.

The afternoon is devoted to administrative duties, receiving the reports from the various committees, considering amendments to the constitution and approving the financial reports and considering the budget for the upcoming year.

Saturday morning we again take on a more festive atmosphere as it is now time to present a number of awards and honours.



## Y.R.S.C. Gold Honour Award

The first award to be presented this year was made by the grand master on behalf of the York Rite Sovereign College. It was their *Gold Honour Award* which can be awarded to any master mason for his service to the Craft. The recipient was Bro. Chris Pleasants from Assiniboine Lodge No. 7, recognized for his expertise in graphic arts as seen in this magazine, the new master mason certificate, many of the certificates currently in use and many other little jobs for many of the concordant bodies. Certainly the Craft has enjoyed the handiwork of this skilful young brother.



## Human Rights

We will read more of this award on the Special Projects page. The award was made possible by the timely donations of Bros. Beattie, Christie, Clement, and Goodmanson. This *group of four* presented the concept of an accredited bursary to be presented by the University of Winnipeg to a graduate in a field related to human rights. This year's recipient was Ms. Ruth Vanstone, who has an incredible GPA of 4.35.

## Meritorious Service Awards

Our regulation provide for an award known as the *Certificate of Meritorious Service* which may be granted to



any master mason who is deemed to have given exceptional service to the Craft. This year there were five recipients: M.W. Bro. Ken Butchart, R.W. Bros. Richard Lacoursiere and Al Brock, W. Bros. Thor Weidenbacher and Roz Iwanicki.

## William Douglas Medal

M.W. Bro. William Douglas hailed from St. John's Lodge No. 4. He served as the grand historian from 1939–1963 and was the author of *Freemasonry in Manitoba 1864–1925* which was published in 1925 in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations. He was also the editor of *Masonry in Manitoba* from 1945–1963. He was the grand master for the 1929–30 year. There is an award bearing his name which may be awarded to a member of a lodge who has not attained the rank of worshipful master.



This year the brethren of Acacia Lodge No. 111 nominated Bro. Dennis McQuade for this award citing some of his many achievements over his long association with the Craft but not limited to his involvement with Acacia Lodge. He is a regular in the kitchen at the Kimberley Temple. He loves to “clown” and is an active member of the Khartum Komedians and was honoured as “clown of the year” in 1999 and again in 2002. Bro. Dennis has been Santa for the lodge’s Christmas parties for many years and even more impressive, he has been Santa Claus for the City of Winnipeg Santa Parade for the past 40 years. He was acknowledged by the city last year for his outstanding service to the community.

## Lodge Excellence Award

The Lodge Excellence Award is designed to provide a template upon which worshipful masters may develop an annual plan, ensuring that whatever interest their brethren may wish to pursue, an avenue is provided. This year nine of our lodges qualified for this award. They are: Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 (Dan Freeman), Assiniboine Lodge No. 7 (Chris Pleasants), Empire Lodge No. 127 (Richard Hassan), Capitol Lodge No. 136 (Gary

Sawchuk), Mystery Lodge No. 174 (Kevin Barnowich), Seven Stars Lodge No. 180 (Jeff Chartrand), Keystone Lodge No. 185 (Greg Musk), Millennium Lodge No. 182 (Anthony Fernando) and Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge No. 189 (Noel Regalado). The worshipful masters or their representatives are shown receiving this award.



## Grand Lodge Office

The grand lodge office has taken on a whole new appearance this year with both Joy Derhak and M.W. Bro. Steve Kane retiring last fall and the grand secretary, M.W. Bro. Ted Jones retiring in June of this year. Both Steve and Ted received plaques in recognition of and thanking them for their contributions to the Craft.

M.W. Bro. Steve Kane was initiated into the Craft in Capitol Lodge No. 136 in September 1974, serving as their worshipful master in 1982. He was elected D.D.G.M. of the 13<sup>th</sup> Masonic district in 1988 and to the board of general purposes in 1991. He served as grand master in 1995–1996 and finally as executive secretary from 2007–2014. He was honoured with the Grand Master's Award for Merit in 2003. Bro. Steve is a wonderful ritualist and has installed the grand masters for many years. Enjoy a well earned retirement!



He served as the grand director of ceremonies for 2004–2005, grand master in 2008–2009 and grand secretary

M.W. Bro. Ted Jones was initiated into Freemasonry in Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 in 1992 and served as their worshipful master in 2000. He was appointed to the board of general purposes in 2002 and elected the next year.



2010–2014. He was honoured with the Grand Master's Award for Merit in 2012.

Today, should you visit grand lodge you will be welcomed by M.W. Bro. Don Beattie who calls himself the "grand office boy" while M.W. Bro. Doug Webster occupies the grand secretary's office. R.W. Bro. Brian Langtry still spends a good deal of his time in the Scottish Rite office and consequently is able to be in the grand lodge office daily to deal with the grand treasurer's duties.

The prestigious Grand Master's Award for Merit was awarded to M.W. Bro. Stuart Allen.



At the conclusion of the awards the results of the election were announced; W. Bro. Tom Love was successful in his bid for the office of grand junior warden and R.W. Bro. Brian Langtry is the new grand treasurer. M.W. Bro. Webster delivered his final address as our grand master. Lunch on Saturday was hosted by the Masonic family and was well attended.

The agenda for the afternoon was the open installation of the 2014–2015 grand lodge officers. The installing grand master was M.W. Bro. Don



Beattie and we see his back as he administers the grand master's obligation to M.W. Bro. Stano Spina. The installing grand director of ceremonies, M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmansson invested the remaining officers with the collar and jewel of their respective offices. R.W. Bro. Ron Church advanced to the

office of deputy grand master, R.W. Bro. Stan Barclay moved to the west and R.W. Bro. Tom Love began his journey to the grand east by being placed in the south.



*R.W. Bro. Ron Church is installed as the deputy grand master. Part of his duties include acting as the president of the board of general purposes. He will also be the W.M. of the International Peace Gardens Lodge in 2015.*



*Left to right: R.W. Bro. Grant McMulland, R.W. Bro. Doug McKechnie, R.W. Bro. Peter Barclay, R.W. Bro. Milt Goble, R.W. Bro. Andy McLennan, R.W. Bro. Fred Heinrichs, R.W. Bro. Cam McDonald*

The grand master's eyes and ears in the several districts, his district deputy grand masters were invested with the regalia of their office and charged with the responsibility they will assume for the upcoming year.

Finally, everyone installed into office, gifts exchanged, and certificates presented the new officers pose for their official picture, eager to assume their role in leading the Craft forward for their term of office. ∴





*R.W. Bro. Stan Barclay moves to the west as senior grand warden. Since he has become a member of the board of general purposes he has promoted the Partners for Life program encouraging brethren and their families to donate the gift of life.*



*Probably the finest and most expressive piece of ritual, much of which, incidentally, originated in Canada, is the final charge to the newly installed officers. It explains much of the vision and mission of Freemasonry and concludes with a flowery description of the ideal of a Freemason. W. Bro. Dan Freeman W.M. of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 provided a lively and vivid presentation of this masterpiece of prose.*



*M.W. Bro. Dr. John R.C. Evans, a past grand master, past president of the University of Brandon was himself a highly skilled orator. In his honour and memory the J.R.C. Evans memorial lecture was created. Over the years since its inception many skilled craftsmen have provided a wealth of information to the brethren. This year the presenter is V.W. Bro. Dan Garroni W.M. of Templum Sion Lodge of Freemasons No. 186 and past master of Keystone Lodge No. 185. These lectures are designed to promote an interest in the craft and also to entertain. V.W. Bro. Dan's topic relates the teachings of our beloved Craft to those concept originally taught in the ancient mysteries. Please contact the grand lodge office to arrange a presentation.*



*Back row left to right: V.W. Bro. Kevin Barnowich, V.W. Bro. Frank Anania, V.W. Bro. Frank Terra, V.W. Bro. Jack Goods, V.W. Bro. George Paterson, V.W. Bro. Bill Gilchrist, V.W. Bro. Jim Devlin, R.W. Bro. John Baptista, V.W. Bro. Cliff Hardy, V.W. Bro. Hans Peper, V.W. Bro. Darwin Agustin, R.W. Bro. Andy McLennan, R.W. Bro. Doug McKechnie, R.W. Bro. Grant McMullan, R.W. Bro. Fred Heinrichs*

*Front row left to right: R.W. Bro. Milt Goble, R.W. Bro. Brian Langtry, M.W. Bro. Doug Webster, R.W. Bro. Tom Love, R.W. Bro. Ron Church, M.W. Bro. Stano Spina, R.W. Bro. Stan Barclay, R.W. Bro. Junn Manalang, R.W. Bro. Bernie Gross, M.W. Bro. Chibu Usen*

## Castle Island Virtual Lodge No. 190 “not your ordinary lodge”

Castle Island Virtual Lodge No. 190 (CIVL-190) is a tyled Masonic lodge which meets virtually via established secure video conferencing technology used throughout business and industry worldwide.

The lodge is opened in the entered apprentice degree and business conducted accordingly. After the lodge meeting we have fellowship and encourage discussion amongst the brethren like any lodge, except we all take part in the conversation.

The driving factor or purpose of the lodge is Masonic education; we have had keynote speakers and visitors from all over the world. With such a breadth of visitation, each meeting is a wealth of information that would take many years and many thousands of miles of travel to glean.

So why did we embark on this journey?

Many brethren today find their lives in the *fast lane* – unable to apportion their time as taught in the entered apprentice degree with the aid of the 24 inch gauge. For many others, Father Time has limited their ability to travel at night to communicate with their brethren. The infirm find the stairs into their beloved sanctuaries of peace and brotherly love a physical challenge. Businessmen may be on the road when their lodges meet. Police, contractors, military brethren may be posted into the remoteness of the world where lodges don't meet. Many find it difficult to attend meetings without sacrificing the time they owe to their families and vocations.

You get the point. It's a combination of time and commitment, not to the Craft but to the *length of your cable-tow*. With almost any device and an internet connection, you can participate in lodge and enjoy the fellowship of your brethren.

CIVL-190 has achieved a number of significant firsts in Freemasonry.

Our Petition was granted on January 15, 2010 and we have regularly held meetings virtually since the institution of CIVL-190 on April 20, 2010 making it the first virtual lodge in history. Since June 29, 2010, we have entertained Masonic guests from around the globe.

### Questions and Answers

#### How do you conduct a degree virtually?

We don't. CIVL-190 is essentially a lodge of instruction, emphasizing education and employing the assistance of

members and visitors to provide presentations in oral, video and combinations thereof.

#### How do you know cowans or the profane are not amongst you?

We take CIVL-190 membership extremely seriously. To be a member or visitor of CIVL-190, a brother must prove beyond a doubt via full investigation that he is a member of the Craft and that he holds a current dues card issued from a Craft lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

#### What if someone hacks into one of your meetings?

We use the same software that many multi-billion dollar businesses use to conduct their meetings. Businesses using this same platform conduct financial and cutting edge technology world-wide.

#### What if I want to visit but I'm not yet a master mason?

You will be tried and proven. CIVL-190 is a regularly constituted lodge. We will conduct our meeting in the degree accommodating the lowest ranking brother. Likewise, education will be specific to the lowest ranking attending brother.

#### What type and rank of Freemasons make up the membership of CIVL-190?

Most of our officers are a mix of senior brethren. These are past grand masters, past grand lodge officers and past grand secretaries. There are probably no questions the officers can't answer when it comes to education and the condition of freemasonry. The officers of CIVL-190 are experienced, long term members of the Craft who have witnessed most every issue brought before a lodge *including* the decline in membership and the need to accommodate brethren via the concept of virtual meetings.

#### How much does it cost?

The same thing it costs for me to visit your lodge. Nothing. If you find CIVL -190 is a lodge you would like to affiliate with, the standard affiliation and membership charges are in place but, I would rather suggest you visit us first, or maybe a few times, before making a decision to apply for membership.

Want to visit CIVL-190? Email our membership committee chairman, Nicholas Laine:

NLaine@esitechnologies.com

If you'd like to invite CIVL-190 to visit your lodge, Email our secretary, M.W. Bro. C. Rae Haldane Wilsone:

crachw@gmail.com ∴



## Ephraim Kirby Award

M.E. Comp. James Barratt of Red River Valley Chapter No. 22 of the Royal Arch Masons of Manitoba was presented the Ephraim Kirby Award by M.E. Comp. John Parsons, Deputy High Priest, General Grand Chapter International at our 2014 Convocation in April.



This award serves as an opportunity for General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International to recognize special companions who have attained the rank of grand first principal in their grand chapter and who have then gone on to continue their work and commitment to service even beyond the term of their office, or beyond the normal boundaries of dedication.

This is the first award for this jurisdiction. ∴

## Royal Arch Masons of Manitoba Philanthropic Fund Presentation

The Royal Arch Masons of Manitoba were proud and pleased to present a cheque of \$4500.00 to Lois Weidman, representing Camp Quality Manitoba – an organization whose objective is *"Lifting the spirits of children with cancer"*. This donation will assist children and their companions in attending a week long camp at Brereton Lake.



Back Row – R.E. Comp. Al Hadley, M.E. Comp. Jim Barratt, M.E. Comp. Jack Hooper, R.E. Comp. John Duff, Lois Weidman, M.E. Comp. Gary Dunn, R.E. Comp. Ernie Smith

Front Row – M.E. Comp. Vic Bryll, R.E. Comp. Ivan LeBlanc, R.E. Comp. Neil McMillan

Camp Quality is a not for profit, volunteer based organization with year-round activities conducted with both medical professionals and volunteers. Its programs are

designed to give affected children ranging in age from 3 to 18 years an opportunity to *"just be kids"* and to provide support for their families. This presentation was made on Tuesday, July 22, at the Shrine House on behalf of the Royal Arch Masons of Manitoba's Philanthropic Fund.

This is an annual presentation for which money is raised by the companions and their families. The Philanthropic Project has given out a total of \$113,500.00 to non-profit organizations and groups in need of financial support since 1983. Each year, at the Annual Royal Arch Masonic Convocation, all Manitoba chapters are asked to nominate an organization or group they deem worthy of receiving the funding. All the attendees vote on which organization will be the worthiest one to receive our funding. This year Camp Quality Manitoba was the chosen recipient. ∴

## Cryptic Rite News

The Grand Council of Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada, Royal and Select Masters is composed of eighteen Cryptic Rite Councils located from Winnipeg to Courtney, BC. Other jurisdictions include Eastern Canada, England, Germany, Israel, Philippines, Scotland, and the USA.

Their lessons are cryptic in nature explaining how the lost word of the master mason degree, rediscovered in the royal arch degree was preserved in the first place, in a crypt below Solomon's Temple.

In the *ancient mysteries* a vault was symbolic for the grave and initiation was symbolic of the passage of death where alone the *divine truth* could be found. Freemasonry has adopted this same concept, teaching that the secrets which were lost are to be found in the eternal existence which is found beyond the grave.

At their annual convocation held in Regina in May, the new slate of officers was installed. The thrice illustrious grand master, M.I. Comp. Donald Murray (centre) hails from Brooks, AB. The illustrious deputy grand master, R.I. Comp. David Grange (left) calls Surrey, BC home while the illustrious principal conductor of the work R.I. Comp. Don Beattie (right) resides in Portage la Prairie, MB. ∴





n Greek mythology Athena is known as the goddess of wisdom, courage, civilization, law and justice, strength, and the arts. There are many others as well. She was reputed to have the mind of God and to know of things divine.

There are several variations to the story of her birth but the most popular one depicts Zeus laying with Metis. It had been prophesied that she would bear children more powerful than their sire and to forestall these dire predictions he swallowed her. However, she had already conceived and the child would develop within him. In due time he developed a terrible headache and Athena, fully grown and armed, would emerge from his forehead.

Athena enjoyed a special relationship with the city. She competed with Poseidon to be its patron deity. They agreed to give the city one gift and the city would be named in honour of the one selected. Poseidon struck the ground with his trident and a salt water spring gushed forth and although Greece was prosperous because of her trade over the seas, the salt water from the spring was not suitable for drinking. Athena provided them with an olive tree which would provide wood, oil and food. Her gift was accepted and the city was named Athens in her honour. It was here in the Athenian acropolis that the Parthenon, the temple dedicated to Athena would be erected.

Athena never had a consort or lover and is known as the Virgin Athena. Thus is recognized her role as an enforcer of sexual modesty and she defined appropriate female behaviour in the patriarchal society of the day. One of the priestesses in the temple, Medusa, was particularly beautiful and Poseidon lusted after her. He had his way with her within the temple, desecrating the holiness of that structure. In retaliation Athena changed Medusa's form to resemble that of the Gorgons, who had live venomous snakes for hair and whose gaze would turn any living man (and presumably that would include the gods, such as Poseidon as well) to stone.

Both of these famous ladies is represented in the Manitoba legislature. Over the entrance is a bust of Athena representing law, justice, and wisdom, enduing all who enter with a portion of those attributes to assist them in their deliberations. Facing outward, at the top of the staircase Medusa stares into space with sightless eyes that would strike fear into the heart of and turn to stone any evil force which dares to enter.

Within the cella of the Parthenon was the statue of Athena Parthenos sculpted by Phidias and dedicated in 439 or 438 BCE. This stood an impressive 36 metres high and was constructed of gold and ivory. Although we cannot know for certain it is believed that she was depicted wearing armour with her helmet raised on her forehead. Her shield or aegis had the head of a gorgon in the centre and snakes around the edge.

Over the ages Athena has evolved. The rise of Christianity in Greece largely ended the worship of Greek deities and their

mythology, however she resurfaced in the Middle Ages as a defender of sagacity and virtue and her warrior status remained intact. During the Renaissance she became a patron of the arts and human endeavour and later she personified freedom during the French Revolution with a statue of the goddess, centered on the Place de la Revolution in Paris. In 1990 a gilded 41 foot tall replica of Phidias' statue was erected in Nashville, Tennessee while the state seal of California features an image of Athena kneeling next to a grizzly bear. Today she is a natural patron of universities and her helmet appears upon the shield of the US Military Academy at West Point. The international social fraternity Phi Delta Theta has also adopted her and her owl is a symbol of that fraternity.

And we talk of Freemasonry  
withstanding the destroying  
hands of time. This lady  
has done very well  
for herself! ∴

