



## The Grand Master's Address

**B**rethren, here it is October already! 2004 will go down as the summer that wasn't. Despite all the things we complain about — especially the weather — we need only watch the news to see the many locations around the world where people are enduring tragedy, be it war or hostage taking or the fury of Mother Nature. We should remind ourselves of what really is important in life and as long as we have our health, family and friends, a roof over our heads and three square meals a day then really, things are pretty good. This Thanksgiving let us count our many blessings and give thanks to the Great Architect.

I have been fairly busy since Grand Communication in June. One of the members of my Mother Lodge, Assiniboine No. 7, R.W. Bro. Gord Ebel was installed as the Grand Master of Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada in Courtenay BC, and I was present at his installation. I reminded the brethren of the importance of supporting their Craft Lodges. The concordant bodies embellish the lessons presented in Craft Masonry but our first loyalty should always be for the Blue Lodge. Then I represented Manitoba at the Grand Lodge of BC and the Yukon in Salmon Arm. In the middle of July I attended the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. What a thrill to sit down to dinner with over a thousand brethren! They are operating several of the programs that we would like to get started or expand upon; education, public relations and long range planning. In August I was among the many Manitoba Masons who attended the International Peace Garden Lodge. The next day we saw quite a good number of Masons and their ladies attend Divine Service at the historic "St. Andrews on the Red." The complete Grand

Line and Grand Secretary attended the Midwest Grand Masters' Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 10 grand jurisdictions in attendance and each gave a report on their activities. Each of them is involved in a major activity such as Child ID and are not only performing a valuable public service but are increasing the visibility of the Craft within their communities. They too are reporting an increase in initiations among young professional men and a couple are reporting very modest INCREASES this year!

By now the Northern trip is history. Thanks to those brethren and their ladies who accompanied Judy and myself and to those Northern brethren and their ladies who proved such wonderful hosts yet again! One does need faith as only a few days prior to our departure we still had only a few make the commitment. Save George the anxiety and register early next year.

There are two major events in October. The first is the Conference of the Four Western Jurisdictions, which is held in Canmore. Each year the Senior Wardens deliver a paper designed to challenge our imagination and we also get the opportunity to share ideas and programs. The second event will be the Hands Across the Border meeting which will be in Brandon on October 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information on this delivered to each Lodge Secretary.

I am also unable at this time to report on the first meeting of the Board of General Purposes and how we progressed in developing our strategic plans for the next several years. However, I am confident that we are united in our efforts to make Freemasonry more rewarding for the membership and also to increase our visibility and value in our communities.

Fraternally,  
Don

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# GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

## October 2004

13-15	Western Canada Conference	Canmore AB		
18	PDDGMs Night	Portage la Prairie	7:30 pm	
30	Hands Across the Border	Brandon Temple	TBA	OV

## November 2004

9	Keystone No. 185	MMT	7:30 pm	OV
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*Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on his Official Visits*

### **The Winnipeg Chapter of the Order of DeMolay is Back**

DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to lead successful, happy and productive lives. Basing its approach on timeless principles and practical hands-on experience, DeMolay opens doors for young men, with or without a Masonic background, aged 12 to 21, by developing their civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today. DeMolay combines this serious mission with a fun approach that builds important bonds of friendship among members in more than 1,000 chapters worldwide.

The Winnipeg Chapter of the Order of DeMolay was the very first in Canada, chartered in 1924. As with Masonry, the Winnipeg Chapter has had its ups and downs, and ceased to exist several years ago. As there is no DeMolay chapter in Manitoba, it is imperative that the Winnipeg Chapter be reinstated.

On start-up, the group will actually be called a CLUB until such time as sufficient members are enrolled. At that time, DeMolay Chapters from Minnesota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and/or Ontario will be asked to come to Winnipeg to install the officers to the Winnipeg Chapter.

The ADULT ADVISOR is the key to success. We must have 12 - 15 advisors signed up, trained, and security cleared before any meetings can take place. I therefore request that any Mason, or other interested party who wishes to be part of this wonderful initiative email the undersigned NOW, providing your full name, email address, telephone number and mailing address. A registration/educational seminar will be held in November for all interested advisors.

A membership committee will be put in place shortly, and details regarding membership in the Winnipeg Chapter will be in the next issue of Masonry In Manitoba.

- R.W. Bro. A.B. Taylor  
taylor@merlin.mb.ca

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### **WANTED** (by the Grand Master)

Dinner theatres are a very popular means of fund raising and many community groups are taking advantage of this current trend. The talent that can be found in every community is very impressive.

Skilled ritualists are really actors who play their parts in isolation. But they do enjoy having the crowd in the palm of their hand and the satisfaction of a job well done is like no other. The interplay between actors gives a whole new dimension to the challenges that ritual offers.

I had mentioned that I would like to present "A Rose on the Altar" sometime this year, probably in February or March. I visualize several presentations over a couple of weeks with the proceeds going to a charity or charities of our choice. It would obviously be held at MMT and would include a banquet.

For this to become more than a dream we need both actors and a director, who need not be male nor a member of the Craft. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please advise the Grand Secretary.

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## Masonic Charity



**Cornerstone Lodge No. 179** has supported the programs at Cecil Rhodes Junior School in Winnipeg for some time now. The latest cheque was to help fund a math program for grade one. The donation was funded by the lodge with assistance from the Grand Lodge Masonic Enhancement Committee. The school principal, Mr. Jim Hudson and a student are shown here accepting the donation of \$900 from W. Bro. Scott Trapwell and R.W. Bro. John Windsor.

**St. James Lodge No. 121** presented the Grace Hospital Foundation with a donation of \$2070 to fund the acquisition of a commercial washer for the new Palliative Care facility. W. Bro. Ronn Anderson and the members of the lodge are shown here making the presentation to the Honorable Pearl McGonigal.



**Acacia Lodge No. 111** made a special donation of \$2400 to Concordia Hospital for the purchase of a Brody wheelchair for hip replacement patients. W. Bro. Douglas Scott and M.W. Bro. Stuart Allen made the presentation.

**The lodges of District No. 7** and the District itself were pleased to make a donation to the Brandon General Hospital's "A Bed For You - A Bed For Me" campaign. The campaign is to replace the hospital's aging patient beds with state-of-the-art models that are safer and more comfortable for the patients, and require less heavy lifting for the hospital staff. R.W. Bro. Randy Vandermeulen is shown here presenting a cheque for \$4000 to Mr. Ron Ryan, campaign organizer.



### **KHARTUM SHRINERS**

Khartum Shrine is now accepting petitions for membership. Sign up now and attend our fall ceremonial this October. All Master Masons in good standing are eligible. For more information call 925-1430 or ask any Shrine Mason.

## **THE CABLETOW LENGTH By W.Bro. W.A. Rattray**

The word "cabletow" is purely Masonic and not heard of in general use outside of the Lodge Room. In Medieval days the cabletow was worn when taking an obligation, as a symbol of submission, inferring that it could be used to inflict the penalty if a breach of that contract was committed.

In speculative Masonry it is symbolic of our obligations and teaches restraint, self-discipline, prudence, temperance, etc. Elsewhere in the ritual "cable length" is a measure of length used at sea defined as being 200 yards. A ship's cable can vary according to prevailing conditions of sea, wind, size of ship, weight of vessel to be towed and the length is given as 100, 120 or 130 fathoms.

The trade guilds of the middle ages were leaders of social life and laws to protect their crafts and skills. They assisted the needy, sick and aged, and generally promoted goodwill and fellowship and encouraged church attendance. Our Freemasonry of today has a strong resemblance to those guilds, and has made symbolic adoption of their trade customs and skills for moral instruction, and in some respects, there is a close relationship to the wording of their apprenticeship obligations.

Indentures of Apprenticeship which no doubt some will possess have a clause giving the apprentice the right to cancel his Indenture should his employer go out of business and cannot place him with another employer within a distance of three miles, in some, in others five miles. According to ancient laws of Freemasonry every brother must attend if he be within the length of his cabletow.

Old writers define the length of a cable length as three miles, others five to fifty miles. Three miles was generally recognized as a reasonable walking distance. The Master Mason promises to obey all signs and summonses sent to him if within the length of 'my cabletow.' When we take the full sentence the word 'My' in this phrase is very important. It is personal, it represents the individual. So the length of each of our cabletows can vary according to each of our own personal commitments - sickness or self or family, work obligations, transport problems.

It is doubtful that in Speculative Masonry the cabletow was ever intended to have any physical length but purely as a means of impressing the individual Mason that he was committed to fulfill his obligation to his Lodge and the Brethren, in regard to his attendance, to the utmost of his ability and not to let trivial things prevent him from discharging his responsibility.

The compilers of our ritual were men who saw that it was only by attendance of our Lodge that we as Master Masons can be instructed in the spiritual and symbolical teaching of our Craft, a fuller realization of the Fatherhood of God and the universal Brotherhood of man, a greater understanding of the principles of Brotherly love, relief and truth. By emulating the virtues displayed in the Five Points of Fellowship we will find that although our duties and obligations have increased, that which was once a tie has now no longer length or distance lost in the satisfying reward of love, peace and harmony in fraternal nearness and fellowship.

Symbolically the length of the cabletow is the scope of Freemason's responsibility to God, his neighbour and himself in the light of his ability to discharge that obligation. This is summed up briefly in the words of an American Brother; "It is as long as the arm that stretches out a helping hand. It reaches as far as the Brother's cheering voice. It goes as far as charity's dollar can travel. Wherever the mails can carry a letter, it can be carried. The length of a Master Mason's cabletow is precisely equal to the extent of his influences."

*- From The Ashlar, U.G.L. of Queensland -*

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