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# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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## Seasons Greetings

*From the Grand Master,  
M<sup>W</sup> Bro. Ken Butchart,  
His Grand Lodge Officers  
and the staff of the  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba*

### The Grand Master's Message

*I must convey my sincerest apologies to our military brethren, both veterans and those still on active duty for not properly acknowledging Remembrance Day in the November issue. As you may know, in order to allow sufficient time for printing and distribution, these publications are prepared over a month in advance. Both the editor and I managed to accidentally overlook this very important annual occurrence. I ask that you forgive me in this error and that you know within your hearts that it was purely unintentional.*

To all of our veterans and to the families of those who gave the supreme sacrifice, we thank you so much for helping us all to be able to live in a free and democratic country and society. In mentioning our military, the Grand Master's Special Committee is investigating how we can have our military brethren form and attend a Masonic Lodge and be able to meet in war affected areas such as Baghdad or Afghanistan. This has already been adopted by our Nebraska brethren and is called the "Swisher Kit." This is named after a Sergeant Swisher who was killed in Iraq while serving in the U.S. Army in 2004. We have a number of brethren who are serving in such places and if we can help to form a temporary Masonic Lodge for these brethren to be able to communicate with like-minded

brethren, then we will have helped in some small way to ease the rigours of war and separation from loved ones. More information to follow on this subject.

This magic month of December creates a flurry of excitement, not only for our children but also for all of our Lodges who are busy with activities for their members. As we all gather with our families and loved ones celebrating the Christmas season, we reflect over past years and remember family members who are no longer with us. Mary and I have lost a number of friends this past few months, but we will have them with us in our hearts. While it is a joyous season let us never forget those in our community much less fortunate than ourselves quite simply because of circumstances beyond their control. Pause and give a thought as we help by volunteering or giving to the various charities throughout our communities. I feel blessed with a wonderful and healthy family around me, and if richness can be measured by how many friends a person has, I feel truly rich and fortunate beyond any wealth with all my brothers and sisters within our great fraternity that I count as friends. The privilege of being the Grand Master of our beloved fraternity is something I treasure, and although only having the title for a few months, it is an awesome

feeling that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I count that as one of the many blessings in my life. While talking about family let us remember our brethren and families of the Jewish Faith with Happy Chanukah.

A quote I read a short while ago said "Never look down on someone, unless you are helping him up." That quote says volumes. On October 30<sup>th</sup> The Canadian Cancer Society held a Cancer Car Drivers appreciation lunch at MMC. The Deputy Grand Master and myself were guests and it felt pretty emotional to be in the company of so many volunteer drivers with many of them Freemasons from our jurisdiction. The executive director of the Manitoba Division Mr Mark McDonald presented to me, on your behalf, a beautiful clock which will in turn be placed in our library for all to see, so brethren, next time you are in the vicinity please take time to pop in to your library and see

this beautiful clock. I was informed by Mr McDonald that in receiving this award we are in very prestigious company as we are only the third person or organization to be given this accolade, so to all of the Cancer Car Drivers, whose volunteer help made this program such a resounding success we all thank you most sincerely.

Please remember the Lt. Governor's Levee at our legislature on Jan 1st at 1:30 pm.

To all our brothers and sisters of the Masonic Family, from Mary and myself, from my family to yours, may you all have the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE  
AND ALL.*

Till next time,  
Ken

| <b>GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY</b> |                               |                       |          |    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----|
| <b>DECEMBER</b>                 |                               |                       |          |    |
| 1                               | Condition Of Freemasonry      | GM & Comm.<br>Only    | 10:00 am |    |
| 6                               | Viking Lodge No. 175          | Gimli                 | 7:00 pm  | OV |
| 8                               | E.A. Degree Seminar           | MMC                   | 10:00 am |    |
| 8                               | 1st District Spring Meeting   | Charleswood<br>Temple | 11:30 am | OV |
| 10                              | Langdon ND                    | Depart MMC            | 3:00 pm  | OV |
| 12                              | Finance & Administration Mtg  | GM & Comm.<br>Only    |          |    |
| 18                              | Doric Lodge No. 36            | Boissevain            |          | OV |
| <b>JANUARY 2008</b>             |                               |                       |          |    |
| 1                               | Lt. Governor's New Year Levee | Government<br>House   | 1:00 pm  |    |
| 16                              | Finance & Administration Mtg  | GM & Comm.<br>Only    |          |    |
| 18                              | Board of General Purposes     | GM & Comm.<br>Only    |          |    |
| 23                              | Acacia Lodge No. 111          | Kimberly<br>Temple    | 7:30 pm  | OV |
| 25                              | Burns Night                   | MMC                   |          |    |

## ENTERED APPRENTICE WORKSHOP

Some years ago Grand Lodge promoted the Masonic Quiz as a means of stimulating interest and proficiency in the ritual. Today we recognize that was only the beginning. For example we would be asked where the VSL is opened in the EA Degree. Memorizing the name and number of the appropriate chapter and verse does not convey the lessons contained within: Ruth's fidelity, Boaz's charity, compassion and honour. It also speaks to the significance of being slipshod and that opens another avenue of investigation and revelation. These lessons become increasingly significant and meaningful as we proceed into the succeeding degrees.

A workshop explaining some of the lessons concealed within the ritual of the EA Degree will be conducted at MMC on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with registration and coffee beginning at 9:00. We will commence at 9:30 sharp with opening remarks from the Grand Master. A soup and sandwich lunch will be provided. We will conclude by 3:00 PM with a short discussion of the day's presentations and closing remarks.

Registration will be \$30 that will include morning coffee, lunch and a copy of the lessons presented in an appropriate binder. Everyone who pre-registers prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> is assured of receiving all the printed materials and any other handouts that may be included.

Please ensure that your EAs are aware of this opportunity to begin their quest into the secrets and mysteries of our gentle Craft.

-RW Bro Phil Zubrycki, Vice Chairman  
Education and Training Committee.

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## Volunteer Drivers For the Masons Care Program Are Still Needed!

I, like you, stood in the N.E. Angle and heard the words "by making such a claim upon his charity as his circumstances in life may fairly warrant." As time would have, I realized that my circumstances in life had changed, which permitted me to honour that claim by donating my time to our Masonic Drivers Program. Little did I know how such a small amount has been thankfully received and faithfully applied by those in need.

- Submitted by a Brother Masons Care Driver -

- ♦ *Can you and a lodge brother (or friend) split a day and help out?*
- ♦ *Can you ask your partner if they would be interested in helping out?*
- ♦ *Can we all consider our circumstances, and spare those few hours so much appreciated by others who are less fortunate?*

Please contact one of the brethren listed below:

Bill Evans  
663-1070  
wbevans@mts.net

Ted Jones  
757-9280  
tedandshirley@mts.net

In Brandon:  
Morley McKay  
725-3585

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## NO MASONIC NEW YEAR'S PARTY THIS YEAR

Bro. Roy Switzer, the manager of MMC has informed us that there will be no New Year's Eve party this year. Over the past several years there has been a decline in attendance, and it has now reached a point where it is no longer feasible to conduct such an event. Regretfully, brethren will have to make alternate arrangements for their New Year's festivities.

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## PRESENTING A GALA ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT



From the painting by Thomas, National Portrait Gallery.

*Robert Burns*

At the request of the Grand Master, MW Bro. Ken Butchart, and in cooperation with many of the Winnipeg lodges, a Gala Robbie Burns Evening has been planned for Friday January 25th at the Masonic Memorial Centre. It is NOT a Grand Lodge function but is a co-ordinated effort of multiple Lodges.

This will be a first class evening with the Address to the Haggis, a prime rib dinner, wine on the tables, Scottish entertainment, dancing and, other than a few obligatory toasts—no speeches!

The preferred dress will be Highland or formal attire.

Festivities will commence with a cocktail hour at 6:00 pm with the haggis to be piped in at 7:00 pm, then dinner, entertainment and dancing to follow.

Tickets available from most Winnipeg lodge Junior Wardens or from the Grand Lodge Office at \$50 each.

The Grand Master would like to thank the Lodges who have so kindly set aside their own usual Burns nights to help this one gala evening be a success.

- MW Bro. Steve Kane & RW Bro. Bruce Taylor, Event Co-ordinators

### MASONIC SONG

by Brother Robert Burns

*Ye sons of old Killie, assembled by Willie,  
To follow the noble vocation;  
Your thrifty old mother has scarce such another  
To sit in that honoured station.  
I've little to say, but only to pray,  
As praying's the ton of your fashion;  
A prayer from the muse you well may excuse,  
'Tis seldom her favorite passion.*

*Ye powers who preside o'er the wind and the tide,  
Who marked each element's border,  
Who formed this frame with beneficent aim  
Whose sovereign statute is order,  
Within this dear mansion may wayward contention,  
Or withered envy ne'er enter,  
May secrecy round be the mystical bound  
And brotherly love be the center.*

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Four weeks prior to the month of issue (Nov. 30 for Jan. issue)

MW Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus

MW Bro. Ken Butchart (ex officio) S. Howarth - Editor

Send article submissions to: masonry\_in\_manitoba@grandlodge.mb.ca