



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

www.grandlodge.mb.ca

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The Grand Master's Message

Groundhog day at last and the first celebration to herald the eventual arrival of Spring has already occurred. In Manitoba it matters not whether Warton Willie saw his shadow for we still have six weeks of winter left, but it's ONLY 6 weeks! We can survive that long with one hand tied behind our back!!

More importantly it's the time when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. Indeed love does make the world go round and I hope that this Valentine's Day proves a catalyst to put some 'sizzle' in your relationship. Here is a perfect chance to prove to your lady just how much you appreciate all that she does for you throughout the year.

The International Past Masters' Night hosted by Lebanon Lodge No. 34 in Langdon, ND enjoyed the largest crowd ever. In my remarks I observed that we should get used to this as it is the way of the future. Reading through various Lodge notices, I came across a phrase almost unheard of in yesterday's Freemasonry - their Robbie Burns night is already sold out. SOLD OUT!! What's up with this?? Whatever happened to canceling due to a lack of participation? Judy and I attended Ancient Landmark No. 3's Open Installation on December 20th. There were almost 100 sit down to supper and well over that number in Lodge. It was a wonderful, exciting, dignified and impressive evening. They presented a cheque to St. Boniface Hospital which was the first payment on their \$10,000 commitment over the next two years. That is a serious piece of change and again an indication of our ongoing benevolence and support of our fellow man. I delivered the final charge and had many of the non-Masons later tell me

how thrilled they were to share that classic exposé of Freemasonry. What a way to cement positive family support and commitment.

A phrase from that final charge was recently realized: "it even seeks to light up the darkness and gloom of the grave." I have recently revised the letter of sympathy we send to all new widows and received a couple of very touching responses. Let me share one:

"I found your letter to be very beautiful and of great comfort. I delight in the knowledge that (name) was a part of such a caring and noble group such as yours. I too share in your undying faith and in God's plan. I thank you for your prayers and friendship at this trying time."

We try to do the right thing and are rewarded tenfold for our efforts. I am so proud to be a part of a fraternity where such touching sentiments are so freely shared. God bless all of you who extend the hand of friendship, sympathy and brotherhood in good times and otherwise.

People are fascinating to watch. It has been said that our eyes are the windows to our very souls. Recently I enjoyed a young couple obviously very much in love and when unable to hold hands embraced each other with their eyes. As they walked by on their way out of the coffee shop you could sense their passion. Another older lady fidgeted nervously until finally a very proper, slow moving gentleman appeared. They too enjoyed occasional, almost furtive touches and their eyes revealed their commitment. How wonderful it is to live 'on the edge' - to embrace life with a passion and to live it to the fullest.

How are you and Freemasonry getting

along? Do your eyes light up and reveal your passions when responding to a question about the Craft? Do our wonderful lectures and charges still thrill you like the first time you heard them? Age has no bearing on emotion. The flame can be rekindled even if only a single coal glimmers faintly. Lord knows there is fuel aplenty! Young men, who are once again joining our ranks, need to see and feel enthusiasm, passion and commitment to the Craft through our eyes. That will convince them more certainly than all the words ever uttered or written that there is something magical about Freemasonry and that their study and work will be justly rewarded.

By now each Lodge should be completing the Lodge Excellence Award application form. It has been extensively reworked to provide an even larger list of activities that should be on all of our Tracing Boards. I hope that this provides some ideas that you can use to revitalize and energize your Lodge. As well, the Board of General Purposes is finalizing the Strategic Plan for each of its committees. They will include ways that we can assist each Lodge and its membership to “penetrate that veil” which conceals the mysteries

and secrets we have sworn to protect.

I have been holding off this message until after the 1st District Annual Meeting. It lived up to my expectations! V.W. Bro. Dave McDonald presented his JRC Evans Memorial Lecture as we were eating lunch. This would normally be a daunting task but the soup got cold and the sandwiches lay untouched as he grabbed our attention and held it throughout. You’ve got to hear it! In his remarks following the business portion of the meeting R.W. Bro. Victor Popow touched on many of the initiatives that are currently underway and some that are still on the Trestle Board. In my dosing remarks I noted that the Prime Minister had decreed that Jan 8th would be a national day of mourning for the tsunami disaster. On behalf of all Freemasons in Manitoba I laid a rose upon the Altar. I had hoped that the MSA would be mounting a campaign but that is not the case, so we will deal with this as individuals. I urge each of you to make a donation to the charity of your choice to help the survivors.

Fraternally,
Don

GRAND MASTER’S ITINERARY

Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on his Official Visits

FEBRUARY

1	Vermillion Lodge No. 68	Dauphin Masonic Hall	8:00 PM OV
5	Condition of Freemasonry	Portage la Prairie	
12	District No. 5 Annual Meeting	Masonic Hall, Rivers	
14	Empire Lodge No. 127	Empire Masonic Hall	7:45 PM OV
19	Advanced Masonic Degrees	Masonic Memorial Temple	
20	Conf. of Grand Masters of N.A.	Calgary	

MARCH

1	Carberry No. 29	Carberry Masonic Bldg	8:00 PM OV
5	District No. 8 Annual Meeting	Pilot Mound	TBA
12	Assiniboine Dist. Annual Mtg.	Brandon Temple	TBA

Please check the Grand Lodge website at www.grandlodge.mb.ca for the most current information on the Grand Master’s Itinerary

M.o.M. & K.I.D.S. ID Program

We need your Lodge. Kids ID is a public service, free of charge to your Lodge and the public. Get trained and start becoming VISIBLE in your community. You can make potential new members aware of your Lodge through action in your community. If M.o.M. & K.I.D.S. is going to get done it's up to you. Please contact the Grand Secretary for more information.

The William Douglas Medal

Many of you are aware of the highly coveted William Douglas Medal which may be awarded annually to a deserving brother. If you have knowledge of someone in your Lodge (not a Past Master) whose name should be submitted in nomination for this medal, please send the necessary details to the Grand Lodge office. (See Section 67 of the Constitution, below)

1. That there be established in the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, an award to be known as the "William Douglas Medal" for exceptional service to the Craft by any member of a lodge in this jurisdiction, who is not a Master or a Past Master.
2. The award shall be made by the Grand Master at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.
3. Nomination of a prospective recipient of the award shall be made by resolution of the lodge of which he is a member, and the nomination shall be endorsed by the District Deputy Grand Master.

The nomination must be accompanied by a full account of the services rendered to the Craft by the nominee and forwarded to the Grand Secretary.

4. A committee consisting of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary shall consider the nominations and review the qualifications of the nominees. Final selection shall be made by the Grand Master.
 5. The award shall carry no Masonic rank.
 6. A suitable medal shall be presented to the recipient of the award.
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Can You Help?

A note from the Grand Archivist

In 1881 Belmont Lodge in Morden established the Freemasons Hospital. This required a major effort for a small Lodge but with the support of Grand Lodge and the Masons of Manitoba this hospital and a succeeding institution grew and served that community and district for more than one hundred years, and continues to serve today.

One of the programs offered by this institution was a school of nursing. As everyone knows, each nursing school issues a pin to all graduates. One of the distinctive features of the pin which graduates of this teaching hospital received was the incorporation of the Masonic symbol in its design.

Within the collection of the Manitoba Masonic Archives we have the minute books of the Morden Masonic Hospital but we do not have a Nursing School pin. If any of our brethren knows of anyone, a mother, sister or aunt who happens to have been a graduate of that nursing school who has one of these pins and who would be prepared to donate it to our collection we would be pleased to accept it with thanks.

Please contact R.W. Bro. Al Brock at: rkiv@shaw.ca

The New Grand Lodge Website

The official Grand Lodge website at <http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca> is up and running. We engaged the services of a professional web designer to create a very modern, world-class look. The layout is easy to read and simple to navigate. Some of the features on the site include:

- Pages dedicated to the Masonic Resource Centre
- Pages for information from the Education & Training Committee
- Links to other Grand Lodges and pages of Masonic interest
- List of all Manitoba lodges, where and when they meet
- Calendar of Masonic events for all concordant and appendant bodies
- The Grand Master's Page, including a biography, his portrait and official itinerary
- A password-protected area with information for lodge secretaries

New material is being added almost daily. We encourage everyone to submit their papers and other educational materials so they can be shared with other brethren both in Manitoba and around the world.

One of the most important functions of this new site though will be to publicize information on upcoming functions for all related bodies. We hope that by placing notice of these events on the site there will be better attendance at the events, and scheduling conflicts can be reduced. A form is provided online on the "Events Calendar" page to submit news of upcoming events. Please feel free to send us information on any special events being organized. A link for these submissions is available on the site.

As of January 9th (when this notice was written) there have been over 1,800 "hits" or visitors to our website. They come from every province in Canada and nearly every state in the U.S.A, as well as from many countries around the world. We've already had visitors from every continent except Antarctica!

The "World Wide Web" has already become the preferred source for information on any subject for today's young men and women. We hope that by making our presence known through this very modern technology we will be better enabled to spread more knowledge to our brethren and help to dispel some myths and misinformation about our Craft.

Please feel free to let us know what you think about the new website. The webmaster's email address is: webmaster@grandlodge.mb.ca. We look forward to your comments.

- The Information Technology/Communications and Editorial & Library Committees

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