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# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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## The Grand Master's Message

My brothers, I feel very, very proud to inform you that Masonic history was made at Brandon Lodge No. 19 AF& AM on January 8th, 2008. Your Grand Line and a number of brethren from Winnipeg and the surrounding areas travelled there to honour four brothers who are preparing to depart for a military tour of duty in Afghanistan. The Grand Master, on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Manitoba presented these brothers with dispensation that will allow them to hold Masonic Lodge meetings while on their tour of duty. This was made available because of a committee chaired by MW Bro. Stuart Allen, who, together with the Grand Secretary formulated a kit containing all the basic tools that are required for these brothers to be able to hold Masonic Lodge meetings. Thanks to you, Grand Secretary, for working so hard at locating all the required components in order for this kit to be available for the Grand Master to present to our Brandon brethren. To add Masonic identity to this collection of tools we have honoured two very respected Freemasons who are no longer with us. We have named it "The Doug Byers/Les Iles Kit". We feel extremely proud of these brethren from Brandon Lodge No. 19 and of their dedication to their country. We also have pride in being able to provide this project. To all of the brethren who were part of this we thank you all most sincerely. Of all the Masonic meetings I have attended this was indeed the most emotional. These young men, as countless others are doing and have done before them, are leaving their own country to help in the fight for democracy and alleviate poverty in a foreign land. We have taken some photographs but because of security reasons we might be restricted in showing them, but I am led to believe that photographs of this historic and

memorable event will be placed in the Brandon Temple and at our own Masonic Memorial Centre. This will commemorate the evening's visit. To the departing brethren in the names of Worshipful Bro. Troy Walton (the current Worshipful Master of Brandon Lodge No. 19), Brother Jesse Tait (who proved up in the MM degree this very evening), Brother Brian Kooistra and Brother Brian Brickell, may you all fare well in these foreign lands and may the Most High be always at your side. We look forward to your return. God bless you all. Thank you Brandon Lodge for granting us the privilege to be in the company of this "Band of Brothers."

Recently there have been a number of lodges who are performing the open installation ceremony. Besides being an invitation to our families and the public to be able to show what I consider an extremely beautiful ceremony, it also gives an insight into what we as Freemasons do when we are at lodge meetings, and this they should know as many of us spend a lot of time away from our homes because of our commitment to our respective lodges. The Grand Line attended two open installations in December, at Viking Lodge No. 175 on Thursday Dec. 6th which was held in a condominium complex, and at Capitol Lodge No. 136 on Friday Dec 7th. It was a pleasure to be invited to share these special occasions with both lodges and the public. Congratulations to both lodges.

To all of the officers and Worshipful Masters who are being installed at this time of the year we wish you all every success in your term of office. The Grand Line would dearly love to be at all of these installations but time constraints will only allow us to be in a few places during this short period. We feel mention should be made of the installation of one Worshipful Master.

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that being W. Bro. Tim McIsaac of Charleswood Red River No. 184. I have known Tim for a number of years and I have every confidence that he will lead his Lodge on a straight and successful course during his term. Brethren, I do believe we might have the first worshipful Master in Canada, if not the world who is blind, and if anyone has ever sat in lodge with Tim you will see a dedicated freemason at work. Charleswood Red River lodge's work is performed in the emulation work (Canadian work.) W. Bro. Tim has a book of the work in braille while we have a similar book of the work in our

library. Congratulations Tim and Charleswood Red River Lodge. You are very fortunate to have such a dedicated freemason in your lodge and we wish you all success in your endeavours.

All of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba Brethren send good wishes and success in the year ahead to the new potentate of Khartum Temple Illustrious Sir Morley Kabernick. To you sir, to your Divan and all Nobles of Khartum Temple may the Most High be with you always.

Till next time Brethren.

Fraternally,

Ken

## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

### FEBRUARY 2008

2	Condition of Freemasonry	Brandon	10:00 am
11	Empire Lodge No. 127	Empire Hall	7:45 pm
22	Institution of Fili-Can Lodge	Kimberly Temple	TBA

## MASONS CARE DRIVERS HONOURED



On January 8th, 2008, Grand Master Butchart was pleased to present the specially struck Masons Care Drivers' medals to a large group of volunteer drivers from Brandon and south-western Manitoba.

As you will read on the next page, this volunteer effort is a fulfilling and heartwarming experience for both the drivers and the patients they transport.

There is an ongoing need for more drivers. If you have a few spare hours, even once a month, please contact the Grand Lodge office at 453-7410 or toll-free at 1-800-665-2712 for further information and application forms. Your help is urgently needed and greatly appreciated!

## MASONS CARE!

Especially in the winter months there are stormy days when I would rather not venture onto the highway or fight the traffic in Winnipeg all day but I have persevered. The reason became apparent the other day when I received a particularly touching thank-you letter from a really special lady. It was addressed to me and the Masons - so if you are a driver or have contributed to the Foundation which supports the purchase of the vans, then her remarks are directed at you:

*To all the Masons;*

*What do I say and where do I begin to say "Thank-you."*

*Up until November of 2006 I knew really very little about your organization. I had no idea of the major contribution(s) that you all make to Manitoba and Manitobans. I do now.*

*For a year, beginning in November 2006 the Masons have played a very important part in this year of my life by picking me up for an appointment and driving me home. I could not have ever driven myself to and from my weekly Wednesday visits to 675 McDermot, St. Boniface Hospital or to 330 Booth Drive. The cancer treatments and my fear prohibited my ability to drive. You all were there to help me.*

*Your friendship and I did make a lot of friends during that year, contributed to my 'doing well medically.' Thank you so much.*

*Heck! There were times that I didn't want to get out of the van - (and once I went for a 3 hour great ride.) I was having such a good time and visit! You all listened to me, laughed with me and shared a part of your life with me. Again, thank you. That made going in for a treatment or visit with the Oncologist(s) a whole lot easier.*

*I am truly grateful to all of you and your wonderful organization. For each of you to give up a day of your personal time to help victims of Cancer and some of their family members is appreciated more than you will ever know, not to mention supplying the vans and maintaining them.*

*You will always hold a special place in my heart.*

*At this very special time of the year, my wish for you is a very memorable and special Christmas. May your 2008 bring you and your families happiness and good health.*

*Keep well and take care.*

*Regards*

*Linda Tuchiwsky*

This project really is our flagship and we should all be justifiably proud of our combined efforts. Since historically less than 20% of us contribute to the foundation I hope this letter gives us cause to rethink that decision. We do make a difference in thousands of lives each year. Your support is critical to the future of this wonderful program.

Don Beattie  
A proud driver!



## MASTER MASON DEGREE WORKSHOP

The Grand Lodge Education and Training Committee will be presenting a workshop dealing with the symbolism of the Master Mason Degree at MMC on Saturday, February 23rd commencing with coffee and registration at 9:00. There will be a soup and sandwich lunch with closing remarks sometime about 3:00 PM.

This degree is referred to as *'The Sublime Degree of a Master Mason'* and is the ultimate that a Freemason can attain. He may from time to time be given appointments or be elected to offices of high rank and importance but he will never be more than a Master Mason. The dictionary defines sublime as *'of very high quality, causing great admiration or extreme'* but these adjectives pale in comparison to the allegorical truth we will discover at this workshop. In the previous degrees we have had great truths unveiled to our view; we looked beyond the narrow limits of both civil and religious institutions and learned to view all mankind as brothers of the dust. We had unveiled the 'wondrous faculties' God has endowed the being created after His own image. In this degree we prepare ourselves for eternity.

It's all there in the ritual but until you connect the dots the picture remains invisible to our view and incomprehensible. Join us on February 23rd. Together, we will connect the various parts and rejoice in the ultimate conclusion.



Kilcona Lodge No. 183 volunteered at Siloam Mission, on Saturday, December 22nd. They served lunch and cleaned up afterwards from 11:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. *"It was a very humbling experience which we all enjoyed. It was our first time but will certainly not be our last."*

(L to R) Ken Butchart, Peter Slimmen, Terry Kindierzierski, Harry Adamson, Heather Adamson, Iain Cassels, Kimberly, Mary Butchart, Margaret Ashcroft, Gordie Ashcroft, Wally. (missing is Keith Davidson)

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