



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

www.grandlodge.mb.ca

Volume 61

January 2005

No. 5

The Grand Master's Message

Let me begin by wishing each and every one of the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction and their families my best wishes for a 2005 filled with health, happiness and prosperity. May you find the time and energy to ensure that our efforts whether within our individual Lodges or on behalf of the Craft in general are undertaken with enthusiasm and zeal and are successful!

On November 11th, at their New Connections Conference kickoff, the Canadian Cancer Society honoured the Freemasons of Manitoba with their prestigious 'National Lifetime Achievement Award' for our ongoing support of their transportation program. Our Masons Care program has been in operation for just over 20 years now and continues to meet the needs of those 'on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel.' At our last Board meeting we endorsed the continuance of this program for a further five years. This will involve the purchase of a new van every year. To make the program work we volunteer approximately 10,000 driver hours and transport just over 12,000 patients to and from treatment each year. It is interesting to note that many of these

patients are in fact rural Manitobans who are staying in Winnipeg, either in hotels or with friends, relatives or family, for the period of their treatment. It is truly a provincial program and is worthy of our support - wherever we dwell within our jurisdiction.

I have spent a lot of time recently promoting the Advanced Masonic Degree ceremony which will be conducted by Northern Light Prince Rupert's Lodge No. 1 on February 19th. I find myself often quoting a portion of the Raising ceremony: "who by improving his faculties to the Glory of God and the good of mankind has answered the great 'end' of his creation." I use that quotation to stress the concept that *where* a man chooses to become involved in the wide scope of our Masonic family is not important. The fact that he answers our challenge is important. Some or even many of the men Initiated, Passed and Raised on February 19th may well become Shrine Masons. We must not overlook the fact that we are a family and may contribute to the good of mankind in whichever of the concordant bodies we choose.

There are some occasions that are pure magic. Such was the situation on a Sunday afternoon in December when the Golden Chordsmen, a barbershop chorus, performed their Christmas concert. This group of men used their musical talents to portray the wonder of Christmas, the joy of winter and the miracle of Hanukkah. They also honored our aboriginal friends with 'The Huron Carol.' There were a couple of local quartets who also performed, and one beautiful haunting solo performance. There were a few occasions when we could join in and try to match their harmonic rhapsody. They held our rapt attention with their beautiful, crystal clear voices portraying the ageless message of peace and love. It was truly a soul stirring event and reminded us of the real meaning



Mr. Jack Murray of the Canadian Cancer Society presented the National Lifetime Achievement Award to M.W. Bro. Don Beattie.

of the festive season.

Could we get through a January without paying tribute to that immortal Scotsman, Bro. Robbie Burns? I trrrrust not! There will be many a Haggis toasted and devoured with great gusto and delight, toasts with the 'sweet nectar of the gods' and the wailing of the pipes. Aye laddy, it'll bring tears to your eyes! To all you Scots and to those who wish they were, have a great Robbie Burns Celebration.

Lately I have been stressing the fact that new members are on our doorstep and it is imperative that we have programs in place to employ them when they arrive. Might I draw to your attention the number of Petitioners on the December Circular. I will be promoting the Lodge Excellence Award criteria as a means of encouraging

a full spectrum of activities within our Lodges. Please give your Worshipful Masters your support as they work toward revitalizing your Lodge and making it the focal point of our new brothers' fraternal activities.

As January is the traditional time for self-evaluation and resolution, let us in our daily lives ensure that we truly reflect the tenets of our venerable institution. Men join our fraternity to emulate someone they know and respect. We each need to display "Freemasonry personified." See that all your words and actions continually enhance our image!

Fraternally,
Bro. Don

**GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY
JANUARY 2005**

8	District 1 Annual Meeting	Charleswood	12:00 PM	
9	District 5 Open Installation	Rivers MB	2:00 PM	
10	DeMolay Open House	MMT	TBA	
11	Kilcona No. 183	E.K. Temple	7:30 PM	OV
12	Shiloh No. 70	Roland MB	8:00 PM	
17	Assiniboine No. 7	Masonic Temple, Portage	7:30 PM	
18	Seven Stars No. 180	MMT	8:00 PM	OV
20	Brandon Lodges	Brandon Masonic Temple	8:00 PM	OV
24	District 13 Annual Meeting	MMT	7:30 PM	
26	District 11 Annual Meeting	MMT	TBA	
29	Warden's Seminar	Brandon	9:00 AM	
31	District 12 Meeting	MMT	8:00 PM	

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

KIDS ID IN OPERATION

On Sunday November 14, 2004 The Khartum Komediens hosted a "Photo with Santa" event for children and ran a "MoM & KIDS" (Masons of Manitoba Kids Identification Service) identification program for the parents in attendance. This was held at Shrine House and the Komediens were "in face".



There are now 35 more children who have their personal identity on disk. Your lodge can get involved—just call the Grand Secretary for details!

IMPORTANT MEMO TO LODGE SECRETARIES

The Grand Lodge Office is attempting to update the information on all members. We would like the Secretaries of the Lodges to send in the birthdates of the members of their constituent lodges. It would be greatly appreciated if you would send the names of your members' ladies at the same time. You are also reminded that you are to submit the names of your officers for 2005 on Form 12B. Thank you for your assistance.

- M.W. Bro. C. Rae Haldane-Wilson, Grand Secretary

FROM THE GRAND LODGE ARCHIVIST

During our work in organizing the collection of the Manitoba Masonic Archives we have come across a number of items which bear absolutely no identification as to the originating lodge or district. Unfortunately we are neither psychic nor mind-readers. In consequence of these two major deficiencies in our mental makeup we would ask, yea even beg on bended knee, that you indicate in some intelligible manner to which segment of our noble organization each item should be attributed.

- R.W. Bro. Al Brock

A Common Thread — A mini-drama in two scenes

Scene 1:

A middle aged man, Robert, is visiting an old friend in a personal care home. He speaks.

Robert: "I had a visit with Mary yesterday Tom."

Tom: "Mary?"

Robert: "Yes. She's your wife. Remember?"

Tom: "Wife?"

Robert: "Yes Tom, your wife! She fell and broke her hip since I was here on Monday. She will be in the hospital for a while before she goes home."

Tom: "Hospital?"

Robert: "Yes. Jenny and the kids are coming from Calgary for a couple of weeks and then Susan has her holidays starting the first of the month."

Tom: "Susan?"

Robert: "Yes. Your younger daughter. Remember?"

Tom: "No."

Robert: "Had any visitors since I was here last?"

Tom: "Haven't had any visitors in months!"

Following a half hour of similar conversation in which Robert consistently leads and Tom responds with a single word question or nothing more than a grunt, Robert excuses himself and prepares to leave. On his way out of the room he is met by Margaret, one of the nursing staff.

Margaret: "Hello Robert. How did you find Tom today?"

Robert: "Not very good. I hope I'm wrong, but I think he's slipping."

Margaret: "I'm afraid you're right. And what a pity! Tom was always such a nice man and had such a keen mind. That Alzheimer's is such a terrible disease."

Scene 2:

Later, on his way home Robert stops at the Grand Lodge office building and speaks to the Grand Archivist.

Robert: "Hi Mike. How are you today?"

Mike: "Just fine thanks Robert. What can I do for you?"

Robert: "I'm trying to put together a piece on Art Nicholson, our Grand Master in 1928. He was a member of Temperance Lodge No. 37 in Teulon. That would probably be a good place to start as that was also his mother lodge."

(Continued on page 4)

Mike: "Well, we have the Grand Registers which will give the dates of his degrees, suspensions and reinstatements if any."

Robert: "O.K.! That sounds like a good place to start but that won't take too long to go through. How about attendance registers and minute books? The minute books can give me an idea of how much he contributed to his lodge in terms of ideas and leadership."

Mike: "Sorry! But all that stuff was lost in the fire that destroyed the lodge building in Arborg in 1940 after the amalgamation."

Robert: "How about the records from, what would it be...District Seven?"

Mike: "Gee Bob! I hate to say it but after the secretary for District Seven died, the DDGM called on his widow to pick up the district records. Mrs. Francis showed him where they were stored in the garage. He brought them in to us but they were in such bad shape from moisture, mould damage and insects that there was little left that we could salvage in terms of conservation. What it all boils down to is that we don't have the budget, and most of District Seven stuff went into the garbage. If lodge and district secretaries could just learn that paper records are not indestructible!"

Robert: "Boy! That's bad news. It looks as if I have run out of options. Maybe I should scrap this idea and look for something else to work on."

Mike: "No, Bob. There are still a couple of options available yet. As Grand Master you must certainly have held one or more of the Grand Line offices and, in all likelihood, had some involvement with the Board of General Purposes. We have all the minute books for the Board as well as a complete set of the Proceedings of the Annual Communications from day one of this Grand Lodge. I'm sure you'll be able to find something there even it's just records of his membership on committees and attendance at meetings."

Robert: "That's great! I guess the best place to start would be his year as Grand Master and work back from there. Oh, by the way, not long ago I heard someone refer to the archives as the documentary memory of an organization. Had you heard that comment?"

Mike: "Yes Bob. I have heard it referred to in that manner. And it is such an accurate way in which to refer to an archives."

Robert: "Then if that's the case, our archives has a great deal in common, in terms of what I am looking for, with an old member of my lodge whom I visited just before coming here. His memory is so bad that he cannot remember any of his family. He has Alzheimer's disease."

Mike: "You're absolutely right. An archives which does not have a complete collection is very much organization with Alzheimer's disease! It's too bad that so many of our men who are in a position to do something about it are not aware of the importance of an organization's historical records."

Robert: "Or possibly don't care!"

Mike: "That's right! And then there are those who are holding onto things that should be tuned in."

Robert: "By doing so they are depriving others of access to material which could be useful to someone else. Well, thanks for your help. I must be on my way."

As Robert makes his way home the similarities between the state of his friend's health and that of the Grand Lodge archives keep going through his head.

The Manitoba Masonic Archives is similar in some ways to the one which Mike is looking after. Are you a part of the problem, or a part of the solution?

MASONRY IN MANITOBA is published monthly except June, July, and August by authority of **The Grand Lodge of Manitoba A.F. & A.M.**, 420 Corydon Ave, Winnipeg MB R3L 0N8

Tel (204) 453-7410 or 1-800-665-2712 (MB) Fax (204) 284-3527
e-mail g1sec@grandlodge.mb.ca.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Four weeks prior to the month of issue:
(Dec. 31, 2004 for Feb. 2005 issue) M.W. Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus,
M.W. Bro. Don Beattie (ex officio) Scott Howarth - Editor