



---

---

# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

---

---

www.grandlodge.mb.ca

Volume 63

January 2006

No. 5

---

---

## The Grand Master's Message

---

The hustle and bustle of the holidays are now over, the gifts have been opened, dad and grandpa are still trying to assemble some of the toys, or are playing with them, while the children play with the boxes they came in. The only thing left now is to put the turkey bones in the soup pot and await the arrival of the credit card statement.

I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed a safe, happy and memorable Festive Season with family and friends and that excitement, glee and laughter rang throughout your homes. Quoting some of the words found in the final charge of the Installation Ceremony "Within your peaceful walls may your children's children celebrate with joy and gratitude the annual recurrence of this auspicious solemnity."

As another year ends and we stand on the threshold of a new one, it is again time to return from refreshment to labour, that labour of love, our Fraternity. Many lodges will now be under new leadership with the elections and installations having taken place in November and December, respectively. I was pleased to have had an opportunity to attend a few of the installations and I am delighted to say that from what I observed Freemasonry in Manitoba appears to be in the hands of some very knowledgeable and dedicated brethren. However these newly installed officers can't do everything themselves. They need you and I, the side benchers, to be there to support them, provide encouragement and prepare to help when called upon. We have all heard it said, time and again, that many hands make light work of any task. If it is not your thing to be an officer of the lodge, so be it, but at least extend a Fraternal hand of assistance to those who have accepted the challenge.

The year 2005 saw some happenings within our jurisdiction, some sweet and

some bitter. Let us attempt to maintain and expand on the sweet ones and overcome and eliminate the bitter ones.

In reviewing the year let me start with the positive side. DeMolay was rejuvenated and is progressing well. The Masonic Family participated in the summer parades and is working together more closely than ever before. A new daylight Lodge, Templum Sion, was started and application was made to reactivate the charter of Seven Oaks Lodge. Bears on Broadway turned out to be more successful than anticipated and I am pleased our Fraternity participated in it. It not only assisted the Cancer Society financially but it brought many positive endorsements to our city. Bro. Bear is hibernating in Kapyong Barracks for the winter and as of now his fate for this year has not been finalized. After many years we were again pleased to have the opportunity to participate, as a Masonic Family, in the New Year's Levee in the Legislative Building.

On the negative side some lodges, even though they have the membership numbers, continue to have trouble filling their chairs and are forced to consider amalgamation. Unfortunately we had a number of those last year. One of our lodges, facing the same problem, surrendered its charter and went into darkness. We suffered the untimely passing of the Potentate of Khartum Shrine, Bro. Howard Law, who had very little time to enjoy his year as Potentate. The Grand Guardian Council of Job's Daughters had their charter revoked as their numbers fell below the requirement of 100 girls. This now places them under direct authority of the Supreme Guardian Council. So as I stated at the outset, and many times before, let us remember the words of a song of many years ago that said "accentuate the positive and

*(Continued on page 2)*

eliminate the negative.” Look at the glass as being half full rather than half empty.

I don't know where the time has gone but I appear to be on the downhill slide of my year. To those who have accompanied me on my visits thus far, my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your company and support. To the lodges that have received me, I thank you for the many

courtesies extended to me, the warmth of your reception and your fraternal hand of fellowship. We did have some great times, didn't we?

*Thought for the month:*

“Eating a sandwich with a friend is better than eating a gourmet meal by yourself.”

Fraternally,  
George

## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

### JANUARY 2006

1 .....	New Year's Levee	MB Legislative Bldg.	2:15 PM
13 .....	Amalgamation of Rivers No. 115 and Prince of Wales No. 14	Minnedosa	8:00 PM
17 .....	Seven Stars No. 180	MMC	8:00 PM OV
22 .....	Grand Master's Divine Service. (Regalia to be worn.)	Charleswood United Church	10:30 AM
25 .....	Acacia No. 111	E.K. Masonic Temple	8:00 PM OV

### FEBRUARY 2006

4 .....	Condition of Freemasonry	MMC	10:00 AM
13 .....	Empire No. 127	Empire Masonic Hall	7:45 PM OV
14 .....	Kilcona No. 183	E.K. Masonic Temple	7:30 AM OV
22 .....	Corinthian No. 178	MMC	8:00 PM OV

(For more information and updates to the Grand Master's itinerary, please browse the Grand Lodge website at [www.grandlodge.mb.ca](http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca).)

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

### THE MASONS CARE "FLEET"



Masons Care vehicles are purchased through the Special Projects of the Grand Lodge provided by donations to the *Masonic Foundation of Manitoba*.

## VEILED IN ALLEGORY

We are all told on our initiation that our system of morality with all of its symbols, lectures and charges is "veiled in allegory." Allegory is, of course, a discourse or narrative in which there is a literal and a figurative sense, a patent and a concealed meaning. We also learn that it is the role of our leaders to "draw aside this veil" and become acquainted with all our mysteries. Yet we continue to take everything at face value and are reluctant to search beyond the obvious and seek out those allegorical lessons presented.

At this time of year with many lodges operating with a new slate of officers many will recall that evening when they were installed into office. We were once again thrilled by the climax of that auspicious solemnity - the Final Charge. It speaks clearly about what Freemasonry has been, currently is and should be, by pointing out that our chief employment is to endeavor to be happy ourselves and to communicate that happiness to others.

Does that happiness referred to involve more than enjoying the company of like-minded men, of sharing a drink and a laugh after a meeting or even the joy of contributing to a brother (in the widest sense of the word) in distress. It goes much deeper and is much more profound!

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child we are reminded of His immortality and too, of our belief in the immortality of our souls. We read that we exist in the image of the Creator but it is not a physical likeness but a spiritual one. We are told of that vital and immortal spirit that dwells within our tabernacle of clay which gives us the potential to aspire to perfection. The ceremony of being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason exemplifies our victory over death, with our eventual transformation from a physical to an eternal spiritual existence.

Quite simply, that is the reason we can be happy; the lack of worry or concern, the contentment and joy that comes from understanding our place in the universe. Realize that the perfection we seek is not to merely observe the lessons of the Working Tools and the various charges but to cultivate that spark of Divinity that dwells within each of us so that we may arrive at that state of perfection displayed by the ultimate jewel in Freemasonry, the perfect ashlar which lies open in the Lodge for the brethren to moralize on.

Grand Lodge continues to work at presenting workshops in the three degrees and attempting to explain the allegorical lessons presented. Plan to attend the EA Workshop which will be held at MMC on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

---

## KILCONA'S TABLE LODGE A HUGE SUCCESS!

On November 22, 2005 Kilcona Lodge No. 183 presented a table lodge at East Kildonan Masonic Temple. We are pleased to announce that this event was completely sold out -- packed to the rafters! We hope that our success will inspire other lodges to take on the challenge of trying something new. Yes, it does involve a lot of work to plan and prepare for such an event, but as Benjamin Britten wrote, "Many hands make labour light." Look for Kilcona's announcement of next year's table lodge. We had so much fun that we plan to do it every year.

- RW Bro. Ken Butchart

---

## TRIVIA TIDBITS

- Brother "Buzz" Aldrin, a member of Clear Lake Lodge in Texas, when he stepped onto the surface of the moon, carried a special deputation from his Grand Master to claim the moon as being in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. And so it is.
  - The first evidence of Freemasonry in North America appeared in Nova Scotia. A stone engraved on the top with a Square and Compasses was found on the shore of Goat Island in the Annapolis Basin in Nova Scotia. In the center of the flat slab was the date 1606. Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston wrote about it in 1829, calling it the "Annapolis Stone." The stone is said to have become a part of a wall for a building; it was covered with cement and never found again.
-

## ENTERED APPRENTICE WORKSHOP

The simple question "What is Freemasonry?" is responded to in our ritual, however it does not really address our query. We continue to search for suitable answers as we go through the three degrees and afterward. Our responses will change and evolve as we gain a deeper understanding of the symbolism and mystery of the Craft.

Freemasonry offers to those capable of appreciating it a working philosophy and a practical rule for life. The teachings of Freemasonry include more than simply reciting the ritual. There are lessons concealed within the ritual. Students of ritual agree that it is characterized by its ability to generate emotions such as feelings of tranquility, ecstasy, security and awe. It may also result in a mental state which they would explain as spiritual transcendence. Granted, our routine meetings may not regularly arouse these emotions but I dare say that we do on certain occasions experience those feelings of tranquility, security and a closeness to the Creator. Freemasonry discloses the scheme of the universe. It indicates our place, our purpose and our destiny in the Universe.

It is our responsibility, as we make daily advancements in Masonic knowledge to try to unravel this mystery. Whether you are an EA or a MM who is still asking that question "What's it all about?", this workshop is designed for you. Besides clarifying the ritual and procedures we experience during the opening and closing ceremonies it will touch upon the important lessons that are *concealed in plain view*, between the lines of the ritual.

The *Entered Apprentice Workshop* will be conducted at the Masonic Memorial Centre on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 commencing with registration and coffee at 9:00 am. Registration forms and more detailed information will be forwarded to Lodge Secretaries.  
- MW Bro. Don Beattie

---

## SHORT TALK COMPETITION

Once again, the Masonic Education and Training Sub-Committee is holding the Annual Short Talk Competition. You don't actually have to give a talk, just write one. It is open to all Masons of this jurisdiction.

The competition will be divided into two categories; the first will be for Masons with five years of membership or less and the other for members with more than five years of Craft experience.

You may select any Masonic subject you wish and prepare your short talk. It should be no more than 5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced with a one inch left margin. On a **separate sheet of paper** indicate your name, address and Lodge name.

Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2006 so there is lots of time for creativity. The Masonic Library is open daily from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm for research and reference.

Judging will be based on topic, content, style and presentation. A \$75 first prize gift certificate to the Grand Lodge "Store" will be awarded to the winner. If more than five talks are received in any category, a second prize of a \$50 gift certificate will be awarded. Entries should be submitted to the Masonic Education and Training Sub-Committee, 420 Corydon Ave, Winnipeg, R3L 0N8.



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

Tel (204) 453-7410 or 1-800-665-2712 (MB)

Fax (204) 284-3527 e-mail: glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Four weeks prior to the month of issue.

(December 31st for February issue)

MW Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus

MW Bro. George Forzley (ex officio)

RW Bro. Scott Howarth - Editor