



## The Grand Master's Message

### MASONIC HYDRAULICS

I work in the Fleet Department at Manitoba Hydro. We look after all the vehicles and equipment, including bucket trucks, diggers, assorted cranes, forklifts and construction equipment. All of this equipment works on the principles of hydraulics.

In a hydraulic system energy is put into the system, usually through some sort of pump. The pump creates a flow of hydraulic oil through the system and where there is resistance, it creates pressure. This pressure lifts and extends booms, spins augers, lifts and moves huge weights, digs trenches, etc. It does work. In a hydraulic system there is no energy dissipated. Energy in equals energy out. The energy out comes in two forms. The one I just described is the work the system is intended to do.

However, there can be restrictions - partially blocked or poorly functioning valves, or contaminants that prevent the oil from flowing properly. When the oil does not flow properly the energy does not do work - it creates heat. In mechanical parts the same phenomena occurs through friction. When moving parts rub together without proper lubrication, the energy that should do work generates heat instead.

When systems overheat they shut down. If the system gets too hot, or is allowed to overheat for too long, it can be permanently damaged. Hydraulic systems can become so hot

they can cause serious harm to the people working with them or trying to repair them.

We all put energy, in varying degrees, into Freemasonry. And like a hydraulic system, all that energy goes somewhere.

What happens when the system works properly? Degrees, installations and other ritual is performed well, to the appreciation of all present, brethren benefit from Masonic education of various forms, charitable work is well supported, social events are successful, brethren assist each other and their families in a spirit of benevolence, and harmony prevails amongst the brethren. We are happy together and we communicate that happiness to others.

However, sometimes there are restrictions in the system. And when those restrictions get in the way we get heat - anger, frustration, hostility, disharmony. And if it gets too hot people get hurt and relationships, even lodges, are permanently damaged.

What are the blockages? Often it is intolerance - "Things are supposed to be done this way and those guys just don't get it." Sometimes, usually in fact, it is inflated egos. Sometimes it is the rules, the Constitution or By-laws. You can quickly tell when the system is getting blocked - you can feel the heat. But there is a strange thing about human systems. Hydraulic oil has to be blocked to get hot, but people just have to *think* they're blocked. Sometimes what is

*(cont'd on next page)*

getting people annoyed is just the system working as it is supposed to.

So when you sense the heat rising, brethren, step back and have a look. What you have decided to take personally and get hurt, angry, offended et cetera about, is likely just a blockage in the system. And it can be fixed. Sometimes just taking the

time to explain why things are done the way they are can diffuse a lot of tension, and get the energy flowing productively again.

- M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas,  
Grand Master

PS. I bet you thought this was written by an engineer, not an accountant.

**GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY**

*Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on official Lodge visits.*

**MARCH 2004**

2	Three Pillars No. 169	Windsor Temple	6:00 PM	
3	Patricia No. 125	Spelding MB	8:00 PM	OV
4	Norwood Lodge No. 119	MMT	7:30 PM	OV
5	Capital No. 136	East Kildonan Temple	7:30 PM	OV
6	District 8 Annual Meeting	Starbuck MB	2:00 PM	OV
9	Brandon No. 19	Brandon Temple	8:00 PM	OV
13	District 7 Annual Meeting	Brandon Temple	10:00 AM	OV
16	Lisgar No. 2	Selkirk Temple	7:30 PM	OV
21	Daughters of the Nile	1155 Wilkes	2:00 PM	
23	Comerstone No. 179	Charleswood Temple	7:30 PM	OV
25	Grand Lodge of Minnesota	St. Cloud MN	all day	
26	Grand Lodge of Minnesota	St. Cloud MN	all day	
27	Grand Lodge of Minnesota	St. Cloud MN	all day	
28	Grand Lodge of Minnesota	St. Cloud MN	all day	
30	Library Opening	MMT	7:00 PM	
31	Quatuor Coronati	MMT	7:00 PM	

**APRIL 2004**

1	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort	7:00 PM	
2	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort	3:00 PM	
3	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort	all day	
6	Vermillion No. 68	Dauphin	6:30 PM	OV
8	Scottish Rite	MMT	6:00 PM	
10	District 2 Annual Meeting	Portage la Prairie	2:00 PM	OV
13	Brandon Lodges	Brandon Temple	7:30 PM	OV
17	Condition of Freemasonry	Portage la Prairie	10:00 AM	
22	Mound No. 118	Pilot Mound	6:30 PM	OV
23	Royal Arch	Holiday Inn South	7:30 PM	

**SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE:**

The Official Circular has now been cleared for distribution by electronic mail. Lodge secretaries wishing to receive a copy of Masonry In Manitoba and the Official Circular should send their e-mail address to the Grand Secretary at [glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca](mailto:glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca). Upon proper verification, the Grand Secretary will arrange for these documents to be sent to them by e-mail on a monthly basis. Note that only the Lodge secretaries will receive these e-mails. It will be their responsibility to distribute them to the brethren of their lodge with e-mail addresses that are verified by the lodge secretary.

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

*"Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future."*

- Writer Ray Bradbury -

**IMPORTANT**

## A REMINDER TO ALL BRETHREN

It's time to pay your 2004 dues! At the 2003 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge passed a motion to change the suspension date for non-payment of dues from June 30th to April 30th of each year. If your dues are not paid by April 30th, 2004 you will not be admitted into your lodge meetings!

This was done to assist your lodge secretary and the Grand Lodge office to complete a lot of necessary paperwork before the summer recess. With so many members away on vacation over the summer months it was a very difficult task to contact them about unpaid dues.

Please note that this does not really represent a significant change. Dues have *always* been payable on the first day of the new year. Your secretary would greatly appreciate your co-operation in submitting your payment—now.

*THANK YOU!*

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## KidsID SESSIONS SCHEDULED

The KidsID program will hold identification sessions on March 28th, April 25th and May 30th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. All sessions will take place at the Masonic Memorial Temple, 420 Corydon Avenue in Winnipeg. Please bring your kids and grandkids out to have them photographed and identified, just in case the unthinkable ever happens. This is a public program, initiated in 2003 by M.W. Bro. Clay Munz, and operated by the Masons of Manitoba. Be sure to tell your relatives, friends and neighbours to bring their children as well. Remember, you can't be *too* careful these days!



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## PRESENTATION TO PAST GRAND LIBRARIAN

At the Board of General Purposes Meeting on January 22, 2004, M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas was pleased to present R. W. Bro. Charlie Merrick with a rarely-seen Past Grand Librarian's Apron. R.W. Bro. Merrick served the Masons of Manitoba in the Grand Lodge library for almost 25 years, 18 of them while holding the Office of Grand Librarian. Congratulations to R.W. Bro. Merrick for his extraordinary dedication during his lengthy term serving Freemasonry!



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## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Anagram 17 from the February issue has given me a great deal of difficulty. I imagine it has something to do with my Initiation. I mean, they took me down to the basement, the TANK'S HOME, to get prepared. I was really nervous and wanted to do nothing more THAN SMOKE. I could have used a Tom Collins, if it was a TOM SHAKEN not stirred. They then tied a knot around me, the kind of knot they tie on criminals, a kind of SHAME KNOT. They then taught me a token but I forgot it and had to give a SHAM TOKEN instead. Then they told me I was on the lunch committee: "M, TAKE NOSH." At this point you interrupt to say, "No, it's about one of our greatest Grand Masters." "Aha!" says I, "You must mean K. MATHESON." "No," you reply, "I was thinking of someone more recent, and besides he was S. Matheson." At this point you give up and I decide to ask Ken Thomas for help.

Sincerely, Sad Jean Minor

*(The editor wishes to thank R.W. Bro. Mason Jardine, a distant cousin of S. J. Minor, for forwarding this letter.)*

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## Solutions to last month's Anagram Puzzles

Congratulations to everyone who solved them all!

1.	<b>DANGER SMART</b>	GRAND MASTER
2.	<b>RAG HUDSON RON</b>	GRAND HONOURS
3.	<b>NANCY PAIL TENET</b>	ANCIENT PENALTY
4.	<b>DRAW JOE IN RUN</b>	JUNIOR WARDEN
5.	<b>ARE LINGER ME GUT</b>	REGULAR MEETING
6.	<b>DINNERWARE SO</b>	SENIOR WARDEN
7.	<b>SECT ERR NOON</b>	CORNERSTONE
8.	<b>LANE DORIC IN NOW</b>	CORN WINE AND OIL
9.	<b>CHAIN IN ROT</b>	CORINTHIAN
10.	<b>AMAC EVEN ITS MOP</b>	MOSIAC PAVEMENT
11.	<b>OLD MEN SMOG US</b>	LODGE SUMMONS
12.	<b>TONIC IN STOUT</b>	CONSTITUTION
13.	<b>SMART SAM ONE</b>	MASTER MASON
14.	<b>WART CELL OFF</b>	FELLOWCRAFT
15.	<b>ANTI GOB OIL</b>	OBLIGATION
16.	<b>AS CRY TREE</b>	SECRETARY
17.	<b>THANK ME SO</b>	KEN THOMAS

### **The International Peace Garden Lodge of Freemasons**

The International Peace Garden Lodge of Freemasons was formed in 1993 with Warrants granted by the Grand Lodges of Manitoba, North Dakota and Minnesota. The Grand Lodge Of Saskatchewan became a chartering Grand Lodge in 2000 by motion of the members. Its purpose is *"to promote and enhance fraternal relations among Freemasons of North America and to assist in the expansion and maintenance of the International Peace Garden."*

Membership in the International Peace Garden Lodge of Freemasons is open to any Master Mason for a once-in-a-lifetime fee of \$50.00, providing the Mason is, and remains, in good standing in any jurisdiction in the world which is recognized by the chartering grand jurisdictions. Total membership stands at 731 with members from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Norway, Australia and the Bahamas.

The \$775,000.00 Masonic Auditorium was dedicated in 1981 as a Centennial project of the 20,000 Masons of Manitoba and North Dakota. It is built in the shape of the Square and Compasses and has seating for 2,000. It is the only building of its kind in the world.

The 12th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2004. Registration is from 1 - 2 p.m. The meeting is from 2 - 4 p.m. Self-guided Garden Tours are from 4 - 5 p.m. A buffet dinner will follow at 5 p.m. in the Masonic Memorial Auditorium.

This year, our Master, Right Worshipful Bro. Jerrold Rhoads, Deputy Grand Master of Minnesota, will continue with the open meeting ceremony. He has invited our ladies, family members and friends to attend. After the meeting everyone can enjoy the International Peace Garden's beautiful Formal Garden and the surrounding park. The guest speaker will be Illustrious Brother James R. Smail. He is originally from Australia and retired from the Royal Navy. Jim is a member of the Scottish Rite, 33rd degree, and former S.G.I.G. of his province in Australia. He is currently Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

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

(February 29, 2004 for April 2004 issue)

M.W. Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus

M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas (ex officio) R.W. Bro. Scott Howarth - Editor