



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

www.grandlodge.mb.ca

Volume 61



March 2005

No. 7

The Grand Master's Message

Another month and another reason for a celebration. March 17th, as we all know, is St. Patrick's Day. The patron saint of Ireland is venerated in both ecclesiastical and popular traditions as having converted the nation to Christianity. Ireland has a very long history with the structure at Newgrange dating back to 5000 BC. On Dec. 21st the brilliant rays of the rising sun travel the full length of a 60-foot long passageway and illuminate the chamber at the end. This marks the dawn of a new year, the conquest of light over darkness, life over death. This is one of the oldest examples of man's attempts to understand the universe and the Creator's Plan. We still grapple with the same questions. Throughout their entire history the Irish have endured hardships which have evolved a people with fierce pride and loyalty, warm hearts and in sharp contrast, an often violent temper. It is ironic that a nation known for its beautiful lilting love songs would still today be poised on the brink of civil war and violence. So here's a tip o' the hat on the 17th.

Hats off to Capitol Lodge for their efforts in reactivating the Order of DeMolay in our Grand Jurisdiction. Their first meeting, after a very successful Open House in early January, was February 10th. They will be meeting in the MMT and would welcome any MM to any of their meetings. Currently they have eleven boys enrolled. To form a chapter requires fifteen so they are almost there already. The DeMolay alumni includes a most impressive list of "who's who" and speaks well of the opportunities for fun, growth and service this fine organization provides. There's a link to their website from our own. Check them both out. As well they have outfitted a kids' hockey team with jerseys sporting the square and compasses. Well done!

The Strategic Planning Committee has identified a number of priority items, some for immediate action and others to be dealt

with on a more long-term basis. The various committees of the Board of General Purposes are currently delineating these 'dreams' into firm plans with measurable objectives, timelines and anticipated costs included. This is envisioned as a constantly evolving plan with new ideas coming on line as others are achieved. Lodges should be actively involved in completing the Lodge Excellence Award application forms and in determining the activities they will incorporate next year to provide their membership with opportunities to learn, to serve and to advance.

Our 'Advanced Masonic Degree' ceremony will be history by the time this is read and we are presently in the final stages of planning and rehearsals. We should have twenty-five new Master Masons on the eve of February 19th. They are being strongly encouraged to prove their proficiency as Master Masons and it is our hope that they will become involved in the opportunities and challenges that Freemasonry affords. On March 19th the LEOs will preview the new EA workshop. We hope to present this and also the FC and MM workshops when they are developed, to these and all new Masons and also to those older brothers who would like to learn what is 'beyond the ritual'. Dates TBA.

By now all the Lodges should have received my communications with respect to the 'Bears on Broadway' project. Our strategic planning has reinforced the need to raise our profile in society. The opportunity to do this while making a significant contribution to cancer research is simply too good an opportunity to resist. Young men who are joining want to be a part of a winning team, to be seen and recognized as a vital component in the fight against cancer. I sincerely hope that we all accepted this challenge.

We have had committee meetings to study our possible activity in support of the

Canadian Museum of Human Rights. The idea will be presented to the All Canada Conference with the hope that we might have national input, with all Canadian jurisdictions joining to showcase the beneficial effects which Freemasonry has had over the ages in furthering those ideals of tolerance, mutual respect, brotherly love, relief and a reverence for our Creator, however we know Him. Construction is still a number of years in the future and we have time to formulate plans and fund raise.

According to all reports the Warden's Seminars were very successful. A good number of Lodges are in the enviable position of having young men in the Wardens positions. Their participation in these workshops afforded them the opportunity to network with their counterparts in other lodges, to gain some insight into the scope of the duties they are about to assume and most importantly be provided with motivation and inspiration as they prepare to move to the East and make their contribution to the growth and success of our fraternity. We also proved that old dogs can learn new tricks! Congratulations and thanks to the Education Committee for a job well done!

One of the positives that I am seeing this year is a willingness on the part of the

leadership team to make effective use of the positive aspects of our operation to foster and encourage even greater accomplishments and in general "raise the bar" in Freemasonry. At our last Condition of Freemasonry meeting the DDGMs and the GL officers conducted a critical examination of Form 21A which is the report of the DDGM's Official Visit to a Lodge. It was studied and will be modified so as to be more effective both in terms of providing relevant information to Grand Lodge and as a tool for the Lodge to use in its ongoing quest for self-improvement. It should be perceived as a "snapshot" in a Lodge's evolution by presenting reinforcement for activities that are contributing to the growth of the lodge and its members, and acting as a catalyst to promote improvement in those areas exhibiting deficiencies. The intent is to cause dialogue between my representatives and the Principal Officers of the Lodge, thereby ensuring that the lodge provides an environment which fosters excellence in ritual, expediency in administration and education in any or all of the liberal arts and sciences and those mysteries that lay beyond the ritual.

With warmest fraternal wishes,

Bro. Don

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

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

MARCH

1	Carberry No. 29	Carberry Masonic Bldg	8:00 PM	OV
5	District No. 8 Annual Meeting	Pilot Mound	2:00 PM	
7	Amalgamation of Cornerstone & Red River Lodges	Charleswood Masonic Hall	8:00 PM	
12	Assiniboine Dist. Annual Mtg.	Brandon Temple	9:00 AM	
15	Lisgar Lodge No. 2	Selkirk Masonic Temple	7:30 PM	OV
17	Amalgamation of Shiloh & Starbuck Lodges	Starbuck Masonic Hall	8:00 PM	
21	Ancient Landmark No. 3	MMT	7:30 PM	OV
22	Northern Light Prince Rupert's	MMT	7:30 PM	OV

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



"A Rose by Any Other Name..."

Our ritual is beautiful for its precise, concise choice of words. In the EA Degree charity is mentioned several times and the NE Angle lecture is devoted entirely to that subject. Charity, it states, "like its sister Mercy, blesses him who gives as well as him who receives." Our flagship program, Masons Care, certainly echoes that fact. The driver's office recently received this thank you letter from a survivor:



"A loud big three cheers to you. Have just completed my round of treatments over recent 4-6 weeks through all kinds of weather conditions. Very impressed by your excellent services. Many a morning would have been tempted to stay home - but not our A-1 drivers. They diligently turned up and deftly maneuvered their vehicles in and out of traffic. No complaints. One felt quite safe. Cannot cheer you on enough. You were all great. Thank you very much.

Accolades as well to the two gals who organized everything. Such a task but always completed as well and smoothly. Best wishes to all."

Chinese proverbs are always gems of wisdom and this one is a classic:

"A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses."

Patient numbers area at an all time high. Occasionally one of our vans sits on the lot for want of a driver. How would you like to "smell like a rose?" Join us!

SHORT TALK COMPETITION

Once again, the Education, Resources & Archives 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. 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, 2005. The Masonic Library is open daily from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm as well as most Saturday mornings 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 5 talks are received, a \$50 second place gift certificate will be awarded. Entries should be submitted to the Education, Resources & Archives Committee, 420 Corydon Ave, Winnipeg, R3L 0N8.



"We are committed to excellence in our lives and we are not willing to compromise ourselves for the sake of popularity. One time, the great German mathematician, Karl Gustav Jacobi, was asked why he decided to spend his life at work in such an obscure field. He replied, "For the honor of the human spirit." That is the reason why we, as Masons, give our lives affirming our beliefs in moral conduct, brotherhood and compassion. We do it for the honor of the human spirit."

- Stanley F. Maxwell -

WHY BUILD A HOUSING PROJECT?

In November we told you we are looking at the possibility of developing the Masonic Memorial Temple's building and property in the heart of Winnipeg's Corydon Village and Osborne Village. We are considering building a housing tower for a few reasons.

Firstly, the proceeds would help us **keep membership fees low** far into the future, even though the number of members is declining and our aging building may need ever-more maintenance in coming years. In fact, we may be able to use some of the funds from the housing project to add new facilities that members would enjoy, such as a snack bar and a workout room.

Secondly, the building project would get people talking about the Masons (in a positive way!) This could help us to **attract new members** who would re-energize us and strengthen our future as an organization.

Thirdly, but most importantly, we see this as a way to **bring our members into closer fellowship**. Ideally, many of your neighbours in this building would be Masons, and getting to and from meetings would be a breeze.

Many of our members are at an age where they are in the market for a residence that is smaller, maintenance-free and where easy transportation will make it easy to remain active. About 30 of you replied that you would likely move in the next two to three years, and that the proposed site is appealing or acceptable.

Our goal would be to make the housing as affordable as possible while keeping the quality as high as possible, so that as many members as wish to can join us here.

We are being very careful to fully explore this opportunity, so that there will be maximum dollars and benefits returned for little to no cash outlay from the Masons. The report is being written now. Stay tuned for the results.

In the meantime, if you would like to complete a survey, or if you know of friends and loved ones who might be interested in living in this housing tower, contact Brian Langtry at (204) 453-7534, or give us your friends' names and addresses so we can get a survey out to them. The same survey can also be completed online at the new Grand Lodge website at www.grandlodge.mb.ca. Your input and ideas can help make the building a real "home".

A NOTE FROM THE GRAND ARCHIVIST

As we go through life it is often the simple things we do that are perceived as acts of considerable kindness by others.

With the number of items on hand in the Archives which are waiting to be processed (more than one hundred boxes full to be precise) you may well imagine that for those of us who are working on this collection, time is of the essence.

Lately I have been working through several thousand documents from the now-darkened Neepawa Lodge No. 24. Many of these are fastened together with one or more staples and/or pushpins. Removing these types of fasteners takes time. The assistance of lodge secretaries who are preparing material to be forwarded to the Archives can assist us by simply fastening items together with plastic covered paper clips.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

- R.W. Bro. Al Brock

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 glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Four weeks prior to the month of issue:
(Feb. 28, 2005 for April 2005 issue)

M.W. Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus,

M.W. Bro. Don Beattie (ex officio) Scott Howarth - Editor