



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

www.grandlodge.mb.ca

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No. 7

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren, as I was putting this together it was minus 39.5 without a wind chill rating. For our American Brothers 40 is the point where Fahrenheit and Celsius equal out at the minus point or otherwise its cold. It was only a short 30 days ago I had proffered that we may not see this kind of weather this winter. Well its here to stay apparently for awhile however at least its sunny and clear. Keep smiling its February and its almost over.

The last week of January was most enjoyable for Lady Marie and I. We took in the Installation of Officers for Jobses Daughters Bethel #9, at which I had the very pleasant duty of presenting three Past Honour Queen certificates on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. We were the guests of Khartum Shrine and present for the Potentates Reception and Dinner where we celebrated Illustrious Sir Jack Hooper's Official investiture. It was good to see my old friend assume the helm of Shrinedom. Best wishes to you and Lady Faye in your upcoming term as Potentate, I look forward to working with you for the balance of my year moving the message of Freemasonry and the Shrine forward. I also wish to thank Khartum for the presentation of a Grand Masters Fez which was totally unexpected, however I will wear it with pride Nobles.

As we ended the month I was scheduled to be present for the Installation of the new Master Councilor of Winnipeg Chapter #1 Order of Demolay, however since I was on the inaugural Incident Safety Officer Course at the Fire College the Senior Grand Warden R.W. Bro. Ted Jones attended on behalf of Grand Lodge and myself. By all accounts all went well and the lads are off and running for the new term. As part of the Grand Master's Youth Initiative I have pledged funds for us to send up to four of the Demolay to the

Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan annual summer Youth Camp. This camp is invaluable training for our young members where life skills, teamwork and leadership and problem solving is taught and learned. I have extended the same offer to the Jobses Daughters to fund four Jobses to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota summer Camp at Lake Hubert for the same reasons. I trust our membership within this Grand Lodge recognizes the Youth in these two Masonic bodies are worth the effort and commitment, the future is our youth and the small investment is well worth the cost brethren.

As stated the first week of February was spent freezing in Brandon, the provincial Fire College seems to lack heat as some of us senior members of the Fire Service can attest. Imagine my surprise on entering the classroom to find W. Bro. Don Thomson PM, Northern Light Prince Rupert Lodge and Asst. Chief Rabban Khartum not only in the class but in my syndicate for practical sessions. W. Bro. Thomson is the Chief Fire Marshal for Manitoba Hydro. During the course of the week it came to our knowledge that we had another Brother in our midst, Bro. Jack Bay from Vermillion Lodge in Dauphin a past Deputy Chief of Dauphin Fire & Rescue. Who says it isn't a small world, three Brothers all in the same room taking the historic first accredited Safety Officers course in Manitoba. We had a great week of fellowship and bonding despite the weather, Freemasons making a difference within and without the Fraternity brethren, doesn't get any better than that, oh did I say Harley Davidson? It is rumoured perhaps one of our co facilitators may be interested in joining the Fraternity, he resides in Dauphin so we'll make sure we invite him to the Open Houses in April. Imagine the odds brethren of all three of us being in the same room on the same course

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in the same week. Only Freemasons could accomplish this. To my Brothers good on you mate.

Empire Lodge held their annual Wild Game Night on the 12th and I had a conflict so I tasked my DDGM of Unity District R. W. Bro. Bill Cottrell to take my place which he graciously accepted. Thanks Bill for covering for me. The week of the 17th to 21st the Deputy and Grand Secretary and myself were in Portland Oregon for the annual Grand Masters/Grand Secretaries Conference, more on this in the April message. We are planning a meeting of the Masonic Family to hear what plans our Scottish Rite and York Rite brethren have as well as our ladies of the Eastern Star and the Nile along with our youth groups mentioned previous. I have found this duty as Grand Master at times overwhelming trying to balance my responsibilities to the Fire Department and accommodate all the requests and business issues one deals with.

Official visits are ongoing time permitting and I appreciate the lodges attempting joint functions where possible. With all the energy focused on forging lasting ties within the framework of the Fraternity some issues have fallen to the wayside I had hoped to get underway. To all, due to the deadlines of Masonry in Manitoba not coinciding well with official requests received into Grand Lodge for appearances please check the Grand Master's Itinerary on the website for current up to date functions. I thank you all for your accommodations and look forward to visiting where possible.

I have ordered the Charter for Templum Sion Lodge #186 from the calligraphy firm that does our work and have approved the wording and format. This will be presented as an investiture to the Lodge on Saturday May 19th which is the date I have set aside and as such will be an Emergent meeting of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, the Grand Master and Officers presiding. In preparation of the Lodge receiving its Charter the Grand Lodge Officers will visit with the brethren of Templum Sion to share in fellowship at their March and April meetings.

The number of brethren being initiated, passed and raised continues and we have

just about equaled the numbers going to the Grand Lodge above. Brethren we cannot control the Supreme Architect calling home those whom have served well however we can turn our attention to those allowed to demit and slip quietly away or are suspended. Take a close look and see if within your lodges some of these brethren might not be able to be restored back to light if given appropriate attention. I encourage all lodges to be active participants in phoning committees, keep in communication and touch with your members, they are vital to our well being. Practice the time honoured tenets Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Look after each other as it should be.

I was the guest of Acacia #111 for their annual Robbie Burns night at EKMT. The haggis was piped in by the Khartum Pipes and Drums under the careful watch of W. Bro. Kline Virtue who as the story goes has these Shriners every year for this function, must be some sort of kilt folklore story. The address to the haggis was none other than a Scotsman R.W. Bro. Jimmy Little who had pulled double duty coming straight from St. Johns #4. Imagine the utter thrill of eating haggis twice in one night. I enjoyed myself immensely and am quite fond of the Pipes and Drums unit and enjoy hearing them at every opportunity. Well done Brothers must be the half Scot in me.

On February 28th we will visit Acacia #111 Officially for the Ea Degree Ancient York Ritual. I have given dispensation for the lodge to confer the First degree on 6 new members. Please join with the Worshipful Master Marcel Labossier and his Officers along with the Grand Line for a most enjoyable evening of Freemasonry. Please note this meeting will tyle at 7PM.

This year I have ventured outside the traditional box and tried a new approach. I know scary isn't it Masons making a Change. I have empowered my District Deputies to actually carry out their job function as intended, to conduct their own Annual and any other meetings so required without the Grand Master and Line present. It has always been my belief that if they are the Grand Masters representatives within

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their respectful Districts they should be allowed to do so without the GM of the day micro managing the affairs as such. To date I have been most pleased with the results and the process and will most certainly recommend to the Deputy Grand Master the continuance of the same. If a situation has developed I have been consulted quickly and most efficiently and have been apprised of all information before I have decided a disposition. I Thank each of them for reducing the workload of being Grand Master and making my job easier for the most part. As with all Changes there have been some minor glitches but otherwise a solid

performance thus far.

In closing, on a sadder note I wish to extend on behalf of all brethren of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba our condolences and sympathies to two of our brethren and their families. M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas, PGM on the passing of his Father, our Bro. Thomas and Illustrious Sir Bro. Jack Hooper on the passing of his Father. Brethren I have preceded you in this time and can only add cherish dearly the many fond memories you both hold dear to your hearts. So Mote it Be. Until April Stay Safe.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

M.W. Bro. Brian J. Bailie

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

March 5 Sturgeon Creek No. 145 Sturgeon Creek Masonic Hall 7:45 PM OV

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

IMPORTANT NOTE: MISSING EQUIPMENT

The laptop computer and LCD projector used for making presentations have gone missing from the Masonic Resource Centre. If your Lodge has borrowed it and forgot to return it would you please contact the Grand Secretary and make arrangements to have it returned.

MANITOBA MASONIC STUDY GROUP NEWS

Please be advised that The Manitoba Masonic Study Group, Q.C.C.C. has suspended its operations effective immediately. At present, only two of the four executive positions are occupied. Elections were held in 2005 and 2006 and no members volunteered to run for the executive positions. Bro. Amador Campos, Treasurer, and myself wish to step down from our positions. We will, however, remain to settle any unfinished business of the group. Anyone having outstanding issues of a financial or other nature with the group are requested to contact me, RW Bro. Greg Yeo, through the Grand Lodge office. Members of the group residing outside of this Masonic jurisdiction will receive a copy of this notice by mail.

- RW Bro. Greg Yeo

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION 2007

The 132nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba will take place at the Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2, 2007.

The nominations for the Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba must be received in the office of the Grand Secretary no later than the fifteenth day of March 2007.

There are eight members of the Board of General Purposes to be elected at this Communication. Nominees must be a Past Master in good standing of Grand Lodge and a resident of the Province of Manitoba.

All Master Masons are members of this Grand Lodge and are welcome to attend and participate in the events and sessions.

Information and registration forms are located on the next page.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Winnipeg, Manitoba - June 1 & 2, 2007

FAMILY EVENTS

Grand Lodge Dinner and Entertainment
Friday, June 1 at 6 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner \$35.00 each

Grand Master Butchart's Reception, Saturday, June 2 No Charge

MENS' EVENTS

Past Masters' Association Luncheon
Friday, June 2 at 12 noon \$20.00 each

Men's Luncheon
Saturday, June 3, 12 noon - 1 p.m. \$20.00 each

LADIES' PROGRAM

Bus Excursion and Luncheon
Friday, June 1, 12:30 p.m. \$20.00 each

Brunch
Saturday, June 2, 9:30 a.m. Dutch Treat

Reservations for accommodation should be made directly with:

The Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre
1808 Wellington Ave.

Winnipeg MB R3H 0G3

Telephone - Direct (204) 786-4801 or 1-877-842-4667 fax

Special Room Rate: \$89.00 plus taxes

When making reservations please indicate your association with Grand Lodge

**Note:: A response is requested before the Hotel Cut-Off date of April 30, 2007

I/we plan to attend the following social events:

Friday - Past Masters' Luncheon	\$20.00	Yes	No
Friday - Ladies' Bus Excursion & Luncheon	\$20.00	Yes	No
Friday - Grand Lodge Dinner & Entertainment	\$35.00	Yes	No
Saturday - Mens' Lunch	\$20.00	Yes	No
Saturday - Ladies' Brunch - Saturday (Dutch Treat)		Yes	No

(Ticket Prices shown above are per person)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Payable to Grand Lodge of Manitoba)

NAME: _____ Lady's name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/PROV: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

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MW Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus

MW Bro. Brian Bailie (ex officio) RW Bro. Scott Howarth - Editor