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# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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## The Grand Master's Message



reetings Brethren, The evenings are getting a little lighter day by day which means we're getting closer and closer to Spring. I have been to many, many Masonic Burns Nights but this last one on January 25th was of a different format and I must say a very grand affair it was. It has been a dream of mine for many years to have a gathering of Freemasons and friends such as we had on January 25th which was extra special as it fell on Robert Burns' birthday. Considerable work goes on behind the scenes in order for an evening such as this to be a success. Thanks to MW Bro. Steve Kane and RW Bro. Bruce Taylor for their tasking such an excellent evening. A tip of the hat and many thanks to The Pipes and Drums of The Khartum Temple, to "Brochan Lom" (Gord and friends) for their beautiful rendition of Scottish songs. Well done. To the Rising Star Dance Academy for excellent dancing and to MW Bro. Bob Crossley, RW Bro. Bernie Gross and W Bro. George Patterson for their input, and especially to MW Bro. Steve Kane for a beautiful rendition of "The Address to the Haggis." The superb meal was catered by our very own Bro. Roy Switzer (StanRoy Catering) Very good comments. The excellent wine was supplied by Gardon Construction. Thanks to you W Bro. Jeff and also to Bro. Ludo Grolle for the generous prints and art work he supplied as our door prizes. The mood for the evening was set with a considerable number of people in highland dress together with corsages made by Barb Forzley and friends and the Shrine Pipes and Drums playing "the sweetest music this side of heaven" to everyone's delight. The evening was made perfect by The Southglen Orchestra who played great music to everyone's delight. Most of all

I thank each and everyone of you who attended, as without your support this event would not have happened. Our gratitude to you all.

One of the pleasant duties of a Grand Master is the presenting of awards, pins, medals and the 60 and 70 year bars that are added to these medals. Although they appear somewhat the same they are all distinct in their own way. It is very difficult to explain the feeling that I have in these presentations but it is a very emotional one. I have noticed more than one eye that is full in the brethren that are the recipients and more than one lip that has been trembling, and rightly so, as these milestones in Freemasonry are very, very precious. Since the start of my year we have attended many such presentations and awards and I have still many more to attend. To all of the brethren who have received these just awards, pins, medals and bars, thank you all so very much for your dedication and service to our beloved craft.

As we talk of medal presentations, the Grand Line are going to Carberry on February 8th to present a 50 year medal, a 60 year and a 70 year bar to worthy brethren. Supper is at The Green Clover Restaurant in Carberry at 6:00 p.m. Please try to attend these milestones as it is not everyday we are privileged to present a 70 year bar.

Brethren, it is with great sadness that I must inform you of the recent passing of Past Grand Master, MW Bro. John Reid. John served as Grand Master in 1999 and remained an active participant in many capacities and on the Board of General Purposes until his passing. He was always quick to greet his brethren with a friendly smile and a firm grip. He will be sadly missed.

Till next time brethren,

Ken

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## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

### MARCH 2008

4	Vermillion No. 68	Dauphin	8:00 PM	OV
11	Keystone No. 185	MMC	7:40 PM	OV
14	Board of General Purposes	MMC	7:00 PM	
15	Masonic Family Meeting			
15	Fund Raiser for Kimberly Temple	Canad Inns, Polo Park		
22 & 23	Masonic Mess Dinner	Edmonton AB		
28 & 29	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort		

### PASSING OF MW BRO. JOHN MICHAEL REID

Unexpectedly, on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, John Reid died at the age of 72 years. John was predeceased by his wife Betty, and his father Nick Peniak. He is survived by and will lovingly be remembered by his mother, E. Pearl Reid (nee Challenger), who turns 100 later this month, his son Keith Douglas Reid, his daughter Lisa Megan Hirayama (Brennan), and his beloved granddaughter Isabella; his brother William Allan Reid (Helen) of Vancouver, his sister Jean Klassen of Winnipeg, his mother-in-law Mary Glover, as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends. John was born on September 22, 1935 in Edmonton, Alberta. His father, Nick Peniak, died when John was nine years old. He was legally adopted by his new dad, Peter Reid, after the



Second World War in August, 1945. Peter was a Captain at Camp Wainwright in Wainwright, Alberta. The family then moved to Winnipeg. During his 42+ year career, John kept lives safe every day as an air traffic controller. He began controlling in the Regina Control Tower in 1954, having graduated from the first unit of air traffic controllers ever trained. He moved to the Saskatoon Control Tower in 1955, where he remained until 1958, when he permanently moved to the Winnipeg Area Control Centre. John finished his career teaching air traffic control to the new students coming out of Cornwall. He retired late, at 60 years of age. Throughout our lives, our Dad would phone us to warn us of the weather and road conditions, since weather was a prime concern in his line of work. Following the death of his wife Betty in 1979, John kept busy by devoting much of his time to the Freemasons of Manitoba. He poured his heart and soul into Masonic work, becoming the youngest Worshipful Master of Sturgeon Creek Lodge #145 in 1980. He became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba in 1999/2000 and was also involved in Scottish Rite, the Shrine, and the Order of the Eastern Star. John believed wholeheartedly in both the fraternal and charitable nature of these organizations, and was more than proud to be a member. He especially enjoyed the camaraderie of taking trips to visit other Lodges in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the United States.

*(The Winnipeg Free Press, Feb. 9, 2008)*



## LEADERSHIP

This paper is based upon a presentation made to the Conference of Grand Masters held in Portland OR last February and presented by Bro. Vern Wertz, PGM (OR). It was circulated to all Lodges via the Masonic Service Association's "Short Talk Bulletin."

Bro. Wertz begins by stating how essential it is today in a world seemingly bent on self destruction that our gentle Craft assume a leadership role in spreading brotherly love over the face of its habitable surface. As his audience were all elected to the ultimate position in Freemasonry, he challenges them all to lead! One need not be a Grand Master to assume a leadership role; he might be a Worshipful Master, a committee chairman or even just a dedicated Freemason who is active in promoting the Craft. Men will follow if they perceive that there is a worthwhile goal and a plan to achieve it. Indeed he mentions the art of leading by allowing others to make use of their God given talents. He goes so far as to say "*as a leader it is not your function to ignore these men but to inspire them to share their nature and talents in the greatest arena possible!*"

Being installed into any office comes with the challenge to practice humility for as he warns power and authority without caution and tact may put one in a position of being a leader, with no followers. He does, perhaps unexpectedly, offer some new advice to Freemasonry's leaders: "*Do not surrender to either the fear of innovation or the suffocating comfort of custom and tradition.*" We must be relevant in today's society and I submit that in part involves explaining the mysteries which we so carefully conceal - so carefully that many know them not. Freemasonry can, no must, continue to evolve while holding dear the fundamental tenets which have made it a dominant force in the spread of human rights and democracy across the globe.

Freemasonry speaks to the essential necessity of utilizing the harmony which the Creator implanted in all of His works. We see displayed in nature those fundamental rules which man disregards at his own peril.

Bro. Wertz sees a glorious future which Freemasonry will help to build with Brotherly Love as its capstone. Charity or love, freely given, without thought of recompense is perhaps the most visible of our tenets. Our challenge is to develop it as a part of our essence and then give it away.

If you would like to read Bro Wertz's complete paper, contact your lodge secretary.

## SHORT TALK COMPETITION

Each of us is charged to make daily advancements in Masonic knowledge. Judging by the number of books signed out of the Masonic Resource Centre and the interest shown in the symbolism of the Manitoba Legislative Building many of our brethren are reading and developing their knowledge of our gentle Craft. Each of us develops a slightly different interpretation of the story presented. Why not go the extra step, put your new knowledge on paper and enter the Short Talk Competition.

The Short Talk Competition is open to all Masons in the jurisdiction. It probably should be called the 'Educational Paper' Competition as there is no formal presentation, one needs merely to write a paper. The subject should be Masonic in nature but that gives a lot of room for interpretation. Submissions should be no more than 5 pages in length, typed and double spaced. On a separate cover sheet indicate your name, address and Lodge. Entries should be submitted to the Grand Lodge Education and Training Committee and must be received before April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Judging is based on topic, content, style and presentation. First prize is a \$75 gift certificate from the Grand Lodge 'store' with a second prize of \$50 presented if there are more than 5 entries received. The winner(s) will be announced at the Grand Lodge Communication.

## ANNUAL COMMUNICATION 2008

The 133rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba will take place at the Hilton Suites Winnipeg Airport, 1800 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg, on June 6 & 7, 2008.

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 2008.

There will be elections to the Board of General Purposes 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. Further information and registration forms will be published in the April edition of Masonry In Manitoba.

## RETREAT 2008

One of the most interesting insights into our Craft is revealed in Wilmshurst's book "The Meaning of Masonry." He explains:

*"The future development and the value of the Order as a moral force in society depend therefore, upon the view its members take of their system. If they fail to interpret its veiled purport, to enter into the understanding of its underlying philosophy and to translate its symbolism they will be mistaking shadow for substance, a husk for the kernel and secularizing what was designed as a means of spiritual instruction and grace."*

It is from a lack of instruction rather than that of desire to learn the meaning of Masonry that the Craft suffers today."

At our Retreat on November 7 and 8, 2008 we will examine the ancient mysteries, discover how they are woven into the ritual of the Craft Lodge and arrive at a most enlightening conclusion.

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## SPEECHCRAFT COURSE?

One of the expectations men have when they join Freemasonry is to gain experience in a leadership position and the progression through the various chairs is of some considerable value. However there is a vast difference between delivering a piece of memorized script and public speaking, sometimes without the assistance of prepared notes. The liberal arts; grammar, rhetoric and logic form a basis for effective communications but coaching in effective speaking is a separate skill. Simply practicing may do more to enforce existing bad habits than to develop a more effective style.

Some years ago, in association with Toastmasters, Grand Lodge offered a Speechcraft Course. It was of ten weeks duration, covered some theory and offered ample opportunity for skill development. We would like to offer this course again but first require some indication of interest. Please advise the Grand Lodge office by March 1st and if there are sufficient brethren or their ladies wishing to develop their skills we will proceed.

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