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# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

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As we enter into the month of November let us pause and reflect upon the wonderful summer and fall we have been blessed with. It has been my experience that people are generally much happier when the sun shines and that has proven true the past four months. It has been refreshing that the dispositions of so many have been more positive as a result.

As we have completed the first five months of this term to date I have traveled 14,650 kilometers representing you brethren and the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The annual Western Canada Conference of Grand Lodges, the 4 West for short is history and was a huge success. RW Bro. Ted Jones delivered a thought-provoking paper on Ritual and why it is relevant in today's lodges. I am looking forward to next year's conference as I have the honour and privilege of being President. We share a common bond with our four counterparts in the west of Canada and over the time we travel to the Grand East together develop some pretty terrific fellowships and lasting friendships with our counterparts in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia & Yukon.

The annual Hands Across the Border meeting which alternates between Manitoba and Saskatchewan yearly will be held in Dauphin November 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Vermillion Lodge has graciously accepted my request for them to host this event and I thank them for doing so. This meeting is open to all Freemasons in Manitoba and the Grand Master welcomes all who wish to accompany the Grand Line up to Dauphin.

Our lodges have been hard at work conferring several degrees to date since resuming labor and the mean ages of those being initiated is becoming lower and lower. All in all a terrific sign that renewal is under way and taking hold. The Education & Training committee has been working on this year's program of

workshops and educational forums for the brethren. The first such program will be an updated and informative Wardens & Deacons workshop, which will be held under my auspices at the Holiday Inn South on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am going to try a new approach this year and have the workshop facilitated and covered by Grand Lodge. My hope is to encourage and promote attendance by our many rural brethren who may otherwise not have the opportunity due to costs in the past being borne by the individuals. I feel our most important asset is our brethren and monies to enhance Freemasonry are at the disposal of the Grand Master and it's high time we spent some on our people. Details will be finalized shortly and sent to the lodges prior to you reading this Grand Master's message.

My Grand Master's Fall Workshop will now become the Spring Workshop in March as it was deemed more useful for the Warden's Workshop to take the December slot. One thing I have learned in this position is flexibility and constant change are two variables you need to expect, allow and adjust for. As all these events require planning, reserving speakers and making allowances for many others schedules, the goal in the end is to promote and provide a worthwhile and educational forum for our brethren. I feel very confident we will achieve that goal.

As the message is prepared one month in advance let's re-visit some areas spoken of in the past issues. My Lady Marie and I were the guests of Queen Joy Derhak and members of the Daughters of the Nile who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary of operation which happened to coincide with the official visit of the Supreme Queen to Winnipeg. An enjoyable time was had by all in attendance and I was most pleased to deliver greetings and congratulations from Grand Lodge and I

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thank them all for the courtesies extended to me. Our Deputy Grand Master's Lady Mary Butchart became Princess Mary at the session. Congratulations and many happy years of membership.

We will have attended the annual International Fellowship meeting in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. Visitations have been carried out to Lodge of Renewal, Millennium, the annual Gimli Fish Fry at Viking Lodge, as was the case last year this was also a joint meeting with Keystone opening and Viking closing. There were some 85 brothers in attendance. Empire Lodge held their annual Pig Roast and Fireworks display. The weather this year was terrific. I believe the temperatures were in the neighborhood of 20 degrees at 10 pm. The Grand Master had a conflict of timing this year but I am well assured it was a huge success. Congratulations to these lodges for providing a fellowship and get together both inside as well outside of the regular lodge format and much success in the future.

Our first Condition of Freemasonry will have occurred and by all accounts and reports we are in good shape. Some exciting news is always welcomed and we have received information that Cornerstone Lodge may be making application to reclaim its charter from previous amalgamation with Charleswood Red River. More news on this as the process and steps are finalized as per protocol.

The Grand Secretary attended on my behalf to the Prince Hall Minnesota Grand Communication as I had a scheduling conflict at the last minute. All is well with our brothers down south and the installed Grand Master MW Bro. John Hardeman 3<sup>rd</sup> was re-elected for another term. This brother had attended our last communication and he as well as MW Bro. David Collins PGM were present for my installation. I look forward to inviting him up to our annual communication next June in Winnipeg to continue the fellowship that has been nurtured and developed between the jurisdictions.

It appears that from time to time my

official fire duties as Deputy Chief of Operations will get in the way of commitments and official visits. If I am called away at the last minute prior to an official Grand Lodge commitment I have tasked my Deputy Grand Master RW Bro. Ken Butchart with automatically filling in for me in my absence. One such occurrence has already taken place and the meeting was held up for some period of time until I arrived. That is not my wish for this to happen and steps have been put in place to ensure it doesn't repeat itself. I thank all for your understanding and cooperation with this issue as this responsibility never allows for pre-planning as events occur without warning and have to be mitigated immediately

Some of you may have heard me speak of the Shriners of North America 9 step program to promote, foster and attract interest in joining Freemasonry. I as a Shrine Mason strongly believe in this project as it has many benefits if successful. To dispel those that disagree, the whole intent of this project is to attract non-Masons to the Fraternity. The Shrine, being part of the Fraternity, therefore stands to benefit as well. It is not, I repeat not to try and convert present Freemasons into Shrine Masons unless that is their will and pleasure. This approach represents almost a complete turnaround from previous Imperial Shrine thinking as it was not that long ago talk of opening membership to the streets was being considered. Many of us have always believed the approach and emphasis should be on creating a solid foundation for the Craft to grow and prosper from. I congratulate our Shrine Brethren for their renewed dedication to recognizing the need for supporting and continuing that strong foundation all super structures are built from.

In closing I am saddened to learn Canada has suffered its 40th casualty in the war to eliminate worldwide terrorism in Afghanistan as I was composing this message. November is the month of Remembrance and many of our lodges within the jurisdiction conduct ceremonies

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of Remembrance to honour those whom have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We have Canadian Armed Forces personnel who are Freemasons assist in the ceremony and proudly wear their uniform of their country and unit during the service. We in the Fire Service share a common bond with our Brothers in the Armed Forces and are not immune to the Great Architect calling home a beloved son or daughter when least expected. Please keep those serving our country and continue to be in harm's way in your

prayers as they persevere to ensure our freedoms and quality of life be maintained. Be proud you are Canadian and be most proud of our Canadian Armed Forces for being there. Freemasons support our military personnel unequivocally.

I leave you with this thought. Thank a Freemason, Hug a Shriner, Love a Daughter, Shed a tear for our Soldiers.

Fraternally yours.

MW Bro. Brian J. Bailie

### WARDEN'S WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop for Wardens, Deacons, Directors of Ceremony and sitting Masters on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. This is a workshop focused on leadership and organizational skills for future Lodge Officers. *It is important to your Lodge that the future officers attend this workshop.* This will be a benefit to both York Rite and Canadian Work Lodges. Registration forms will be forwarded to Lodge Secretaries. The workshop will be held in Winnipeg. Lunch will be provided and the registration and cost will be covered by The Grand Master's office. The emphasis on the exchange of information and fellowship will be an inspiration to the future Worshipful Master. We will see you there.

### FROM THE GRAND ARCHIVIST

The histories of the Lodges and Districts of this jurisdiction are a valuable reference tool for researchers. As the official custodian of the archives of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba I sincerely request that all Lodge Secretaries and Historians ensure that your most up-to-date histories are on file with the Manitoba Masonic Heritage Center (Archives).

In addition I would personally be grateful for information as to which Lodges regularly met at any time at the McMillan Ave. Temple. This information is required in the preparation of a paper on 'Manitoba's Ghost Lodges'.

Thank you for your assistance.

- RW Bro. Al Brock  
Grand Archivist

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### NEW ARRIVALS AT THE MASONIC RESOURCE CENTRE

Your Masonic Resource Centre is pleased to announce the receipt of the following new items.

- i) Understanding Manhood in America: Freemasonry's Enduring Path to the Mature Masculine.
- ii) York Mysteries Revealed.
- iii) The Knights Templar
- iv) The Warriors and the Bankers
- v) The Mark Degree
- vi) Magus: the invisible life of Elias Ashmole.

You can see covers and further information on these items on the website at:

[http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca/mrc\\_new\\_arrivals.html](http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca/mrc_new_arrivals.html)

You can also discover there how you can arrange to borrow these items.

- RW Bro. Brian Rountree  
Grand Librarian

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