



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren, fall has definitely arrived with cooler days and shorter evenings.

You will be, as we are, in the full swing of fall activities, visiting Lodges and attending many of the dinners and social events being held by our Masonic Family Members.

We were pleased that the Grand Masters Divine Church Service held on Sunday, September 21st at Knox United Church was well attended. A very special thank you to VW Bro. Gordon Fardoe for making all the arrangements and for his beautiful singing of "The Holy City". As well, special thanks to the members of the Khartum Pipes and Drums who willingly gave of their time to both practice and perform "Amazing Grace" and "Highland Cathedral".

Although attendance at the Wardens Seminar held on September 27th was disappointing those in attendance found the presentations interesting and the day most worthwhile. I have had a number of compliments on the day and would like to thank those who organized the day and particularly the presenters.

This year is the first time that the Grand Master and the Membership Chairman have been invited to attend the Shriners Membership Seminar, being held this year in Tampa, Florida. We are pleased that Membership Chairman, RW Bro. Jack Hooper and I along with

Khartum Shriners Chief Rabban, Noble Don Thomson and Membership Chairman, Noble Ken Galaschuk, also a member of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee, will be attending the Seminar. This is another good step forward in the working relationship between Grand Lodges and Shrine Temples.



By the time you read this the 'Hands Across the Border' meeting will be history however at present there are several challenges presenting themselves. The meeting will have taken place at the Brandon Masonic Temple on Saturday, October 25th. This is an annual visitation between the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and our

daughter jurisdiction, the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. This year the meeting was hosted by the Assiniboine Masonic District with RW Bro. Craig Barwick, DDGM, acting as Worshipful Master and his District Wardens acting as Senior and Junior Wardens. The remainder of the officers were from the seven lodges of the Assiniboine District. The meeting convened at 2:00 and was followed by a Ladies Table Lodge.

It has been a number of years since we provided you with an opportunity to gain a broader (more) knowledge of Masonry. Plan now to attend **Retreat '08** "Awaken My Soul." Take advantage of the

opportunity to enhance your Masonic knowledge. The Grand Lodge Education Committee under the direction of Chairman, MW Bro. Don Beattie, is organizing Retreat '08. VW Bro. Stephan Dafoe of Alberta who is a well-known Masonic author will be our guest speaker at the Table Lodge on Friday evening and will assist with other sessions on Saturday. The Retreat fee, which is \$150.00, will entitle you to a Table Lodge on Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, one night double occupancy at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Centre, Gimli

and handouts of the various sessions which you attend. Drop-ins will be allowed for a fee of \$100.00.

Looking ahead to the New Year. Our Robbie Burns Gala 2009 will be held on January 24th at the Masonic Memorial Centre. MW Bro. Stephen Kane will once again be in charge of the festivities.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Fraternally,
Ted

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 2008

Oct. 29 - Nov. 2	Imperial Shrine Meeting	Tampa FL	
Nov. 7 - 8	Masonic Retreat	Lakeview Resort, Gimli	
13	Phoenix Lodge No. 187 - Ceremony of Consecration	MMC	OV
21	Board of General Purposes	MMC	7:00 pm
22	Corinthian Lodge No. 178 Anniversary Dinner		
22	Town Hall Meeting	MMC	10:00 am
28	Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge UD	Kimberly Temple	7:00 pm OV

CONGRATULATIONS!

MW Bro. Morley McKay is no stranger to honours and awards but he recently joined a most prestigious group as he was awarded the 33^o in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. This is an honorary degree. **RW Bro. David Holt** was also given this very distinctive honour.

RW Bro. John C. James is now proudly wearing a very unique award. It was awarded by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International and is the Silver Distinguished Service Award. There were only 12 awarded this year and John's is the only one awarded to a Canadian. He is unaware of anyone else in Canada with this award.

W Bro. Jimm Simon of Stonewall Lodge No 12 has been named the President of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Cancer Society. Jimm has just completed a very successful term as President of the Manitoba Division and is now at the helm of the national organization.

All of these brethren are staunch advocates of Freemasonry and are excellent representatives of all that the Craft embodies.



YOUR FOUNDATION DOLLARS AT WORK!

With 'Mason 3' in the background, a group celebrates the presentation of a \$25,000 cheque from our foundation to the Canadian Cancer Society. This will cover the replacement cost of one of their fleet of five vehicles.

Pictured (l to r) are: MW Bro. Ken Butchart and RW Bro. John Campbell, representing the Foundation; Ms. Theresa Rider, the CCS Transportation Coordinator; MW Bro. Don Beattie, a regular driver; Mr. Mark McDonald, Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Society (Manitoba Division); RW Bro. Baldu Jones, Chair of the Masons Care Committee and MW Bro. Ted Jones, our Grand Master.

Many thanks to all the brethren who faithfully support the foundation and enable this program to function. Have you answered the plea this year? Literally thousands of cancer patients rely on our program and your support makes it possible!

PRESENTING A GALA ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT

At the request of the Grand Master, MW Bro. Ted Jones, and in co-operation with many of the Winnipeg Lodges, another Gala Robbie Burns evening has been planned for Saturday January 24th at the Masonic Memorial Centre.

This will be a first class evening with the Address to the Haggis, a prime rib dinner, wine on the tables, Scottish entertainment, dancing and, other than a few obligatory toasts—no speeches!

The preferred dress will be Highland or formal attire. Festivities will commence with a cocktail hour at 6:00 pm with the haggis to be piped in at 7:00 pm. Dinner, entertainment and dancing to follow. Tickets available from most Winnipeg lodge Junior Wardens or from the Grand Lodge Office (453-7410 ext. 30) at \$50 each.

Last year's gala was a smashing success and this year we are looking forward to an even better evening!

Coordinators - Steve Kane (837-4955) or Bruce Taylor (663-5155)



PEACE. EVER ELUSIVE PEACE.

In 1918, on November 11th at 11:00 o'clock the world celebrated the end of the largest and most devastating war that had ever been experienced. This was thought to be the war which would end all wars and those who had paid the ultimate price for this newfound peace were honored and thanked for their sacrifices.

Their optimism would soon be dashed as only a few years later the world was plunged into an even more widespread and devastating conflict. Victory was obtained over sixty years ago and yet peace remains ever elusive. Today Canada is deeply involved in Afghanistan's efforts to provide a stable environment where its people can live in peace, respecting human rights and dignity.

Freemasonry's story parallels this age old saga of human conflict. Craft Lodge presents the idyllic circumstances which prevailed at the building of King Solomon's Temple however the concluding tragedy hints darkly at mankind's failure to rise to his divine potential. Let's follow the early history of the Middle East and look at the lessons taught by the various concordant bodies which have their ritual based on significant events.

Some four hundred years later Nebuchadnezzar captured the city of Jerusalem, destroyed the famous temple and send the Jews into exile in Babylon. After seventy years Zerubbabel, the Prince of the people led them back to Jerusalem and proceeded to rebuild the temple. This forms the basis for the Royal Arch Degree. Here the faithful faced open hostility and worked with a trowel in their hand and a sword by their side. The lesson they leave for succeeding generations is the responsibility to mount a manly and determined resistance to lawless violence.

Over the following centuries Greece and Rome would conquer and rule the area. Roman emperor Herod would rebuild the temple for the final time. This was the temple that Christ drove the money-changers from. The Jews were determined to free themselves from foreign rule and continued to wage a rebellion. Finally Rome put an end to the conflict, destroyed the city, including the temple and refused the Jews entry into their holy city. Many scholars point to this event as the major cause of the breach between Christianity and Judaism.

The Red Cross of Constantine celebrates the events leading to Rome officially adopting Christianity. St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great journeyed to the Holy Land and discovered the site of the Holy Sepulchre. Here she and Constantine erected a stately church and instituted the Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. These knights vowed to defend the Holy City and protect pilgrims.

The city would once again fall under Muslim rule until Godfrey de Bouillon recaptured the Holy City in the first of the Crusades. In 1118 nine knights from the south of France under Hugh de Payens presented themselves to the king and the Knights Templar were born. They were housed on the Temple mount and are supposed to have discovered great 'secrets' in the depths of the rubble which once was Solomon's mighty Temple. These white robed figures with their long red cross would rapidly rise to unprecedented power and influence in just under two hundred years. They were the richest and most controversial of the crusading orders. In 1312 for purely political reasons the King of France and the Pope ordered the arrest of all of the Templars. Their Grand Master, Jacques de Molay was burned at the stake on trumped up charges of sorcery and blasphemy. The story of their ultimate betrayal was only recently, 800 years after the fact, admitted to by the Roman Catholic Church.

(Continued on page 5)

So we observe that several of the concordant bodies celebrate man's age old desire to protect and cherish his freedom; religious freedom, political freedom and personal rights and privileges.

We observe a tremendous number of yellow ribbons on trees and fences, welcoming our troops back from their tour in Afghanistan. We are proud of them for their bravery and commitment, for truly they are trying to make the world a better place. On November 11th, join in the Remembrance Day Services to honor all those who have served their fellow man in attempting to build a world where our tenets of Brotherly love, Relief and Truth may be universally acknowledged and practiced.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae (1872-1918) was a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade and spent 17 days treating the wounded at Ypres. He was particularly disturbed by the death on May 2nd of a young friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer who was buried just outside the facility. The next day, McCrae vented his anguish by composing his famous poem, In Flanders Fields. Cyril Allinson, a 22 year old Sergeant-Major was delivering mail and stopped to watch him as he wrote. He reported that the poem described exactly what they saw that day. McCrae was dissatisfied with the poem and tossed it away but it was retrieved by a fellow officer who sent it to newspapers in England where Punch published it on Dec 8th, 1815 It is a lasting legacy of the terrible conditions that the Canadians endured during their battle at Ypres and of their determination to win the war:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
in Flanders Fields.*

*Take-up our quarrel with the foe;
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders Fields.*

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD

A LETTER FROM AFGHANISTAN

The following was transcribed from a postcard received by the brethren of Brandon Lodge No. 19, from one of their newest Master Masons. It seems appropriate to place it here as a reminder that even though we tend to recall the sacrifices of those in the distant past there are still men and women putting their lives on the line for us every day. Let us think of them as well this Remembrance Day.

Dearest brethren,

This is a note I wrote to you on 26 May 08 somewhere near Ma'sum Ghar, Afghanistan:

I am sitting on a mountain watching the sun set over the Arghandab Valley, marveling at its beauty. Children playing in the river, men slowly making their way to evening Namaz (prayer) from the patchwork of fields after a long, hard day of work. The clunk of a sheep's bell and the bray of a donkey accompany the call to prayer. Unfortunately, that isn't all. There is gunfire in the distance and the sound of rockets bursting.

My brothers, life in Afghanistan is certainly a walk on the Mosaic Pavement. A rusted Soviet tank sits peacefully in a town made of mud. A reminder of the life of violence most generations here have known – or is it a symbol of hope as the children play on the tamed and silent killing machine? Of course I question my own role in this land very far and very different from our Canada.

Killing in order to stop the violence is as incongruous as spanking a child for hitting another, but it is my duty and responsibility as the sheep dog to protect the flock and do so on the Centre.



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MW Bro. Ted Jones (ex officio)

MW Bro. Don Beattie - Chairman, Editorial, Library & Archives Committee
Scott Howarth - Editor

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