D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

At the Convention held at Hamilton in October 1855, when the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed, one of the first motions passed was to appoint a Committee "to revise and amend the rules and regulations." The committee reported at the First Annual Communication in July 1856, and the **Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Canada** was adopted. The Preamble states the purpose of the document: "*in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to insure tranquillity, and to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft.*" Such is the importance of this document that it is presented to every Mason at his initiation, and to every Worshipful Master at his installation. During the subsequent 153 years, amendments have been made under the provisions of Section 67. Therein is embodied the accumulated wisdom of those brethren that have resolved concerns and issues in order to avoid their repetition. Concerns with process and procedure can be answered by reference to the pertinent sections of the Constitution. Knowledge of the Constitution is essential for every Lodge, District, and Grand Lodge Officer. 'Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest' its contents. Consider it your trusty friend and authoritative guardian. Those who follow it will avoid unnecessary grief and trouble in the exercise of the duties of office. The latest edition containing amendments passed at the Annual Communication in 2009 is available from the Grand Secretary's Office.

It has been said that "the biggest room in the house is the room for improvement." One area in Masonry that needs improvement is **succession planning**. Lodges, Districts, and even Grand Lodge are all too often short-sighted when it comes to identifying, selecting, encouraging and mentoring potential successors – those that will take our place when time passes and so do we. We must realize that no one is irreplaceable or indispensable – in ritual performance, committee work, or leadership roles. While we all have our favourite 'party piece' that we take pride in delivering, no member, however senior, 'owns' any part of the Ritual. As in theatre, every star ritualist should have an 'understudy.' Every junior officer in the lodge should have a Past Master as advisor and mentor. Too often discordant issues arise when, for a variety of reasons, the Senior Warden is deemed unready to assume the chair as Worshipful Master, when inadequacies should have been identified and addressed at an early stage as he progressed as Junior and Senior Deacon of the lodge. Every Past Master in the Lodge should take to heart the advertising slogan used by Price Waterhouse, "The *best part of having experience is sharing it*." Adequate preparation along 'the Road to the East' is the responsibility of the senior members of the Lodge, unfortunately one that is too frequently neglected.

"*That is what makes a man great; his flashes of insight, when he pierces through the nonsense of his time, and gets at something that really matters.*"— Robertson Davies

The current District Deputy Grand Masters should consider it a duty to act as 'talent scouts' to insure that the best Past Masters in the lodges of the District are interested and willing to stand for election. The Ancient Charges of a Freemason remind us in no uncertain terms that, "*All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only*." The office of District Deputy Grand Master, serving as the personal representative of the Grand Master, is one of supreme dignity and utmost importance. While the office demands diplomatic skill, positive enthusiasm, and judicious resolve, it provides an unparalleled opportunity for great personal satisfaction. Share your positive attitude and rewarding experiences with the Past Masters of your District to inspire their interest in assuming leadership roles of added responsibility.

"*The greatest one generation can pass along to the next is the knowledge gained from experience.*" – Henry David Thoreau

Congratulations are extended to M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary, on his election as Chairman of the Committee on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. This important committee provides invaluable advice to insure that Grand Lodges applying for Recognition conform to the established standards of Regularity.

"*The other day a man asked me what I thought was the best time of life. 'Why,' I answered without a thought, 'now.'*" – David Grayson

Raymond S. J. Daniels

GRAND MASTER' S ITINERARY

March 2010		
5	Waterloo District G.M. Reception	Waterloo
13	King Hiram No. 37 50th	Ingersoll
22	Wardrope Lodge No. 555 Pin Presentation	Hamilton
25 - 29	All Canada Conference	Winnipeg
April 2010		
10	Cornwall Lodge No. 125 150th Anniversary	Cornwall
16	Frontenac District G.M. Reception	Kingston
17	Renfrew Lodge No. 122 150th Anniversary	Renfrew
23	Hamilton Districts A,B,C G.M. Reception	Hamilton
30	Belleville Lodge No. 123 150th Anniversary	Belleville
May 2010		
1	Victoria District G.M. Reception	Cambray
2	Toronto Humber Valley Divine Service	Toronto
4 - 5	Lorne Lodge No. 622	Chapleau
6	Beaches Lodge No. 473 - Installation	Scarborough
7	N. Huron Dist. G.M. Recep. & St. John's No. 284	Brussels
8	Pythagoras Lodge No. 137 150th Anniversary	Meaford

Full Itinerary at (www.grandlodge.on.ca.) under Events Calendar.

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

Coaching, Mentoring, Educating:
Last month, our Grand Master's comments related to mentoring and I felt it appropriate to comment further on that topic this month. I have recently become aware of more than one situation in which newer members of a Lodge were disappointed because their expectations for enlightenment were not being met. Many of the Brethren joining our fraternity today are very knowledgeable about the Craft even before passing through the West Gate. They are told that, as they progress through each of their degrees, all will become clear to them if they are but patient. Then, in many cases, the education that they receive by attending Lodge ceases and they are left on their own to pursue further Masonic knowledge, to discover the symbolism and allegories and to enrich their lives through Masonry. We may make an effort to have Masonic Education at our meetings, but how often do we find that such a presentation is simply a reading of some internet article, possibly even referencing material not pertinent in our own jurisdiction.

When you, as a D.D.G.M., review the L1 forms completed on your official visit, do you and the District Secretary know whether the Lodge actually Coaches, Mentors or Educates? If the Mentor Programme box is ticked as 'yes', does it mean the Lodge has some form of schooling, training or instruction for the candidate? Is the purpose of that coaching simply to get the candidate through the memory work of the degrees? Coaching is just that, schooling or instructing.

Mentoring goes beyond instructing to include the concepts of guiding and counseling. The Grand Lodge Mentors Programme clearly includes these functions in the role of the Lodge mentor, but is mentoring being performed in the Lodges as a natural extension of the coaching that candidates receive?

Finally we should be asking ourselves as we report on our Lodges whether we are providing any **'education'** to our Brethren, especially our new Masons. Our Grand Master's theme: *'Get Knowledge, Get Wisdom, but with all thy getting Get Understanding'*, enforces the principles of enlightening and cultivating knowledge through education. Indeed some education can be acquired by an individual through his own efforts. But we have made certain promises to our candidates and those promises include **our participation** in his acquisition of Masonic knowledge. Enlightenment can only come through the sharing of our personal feelings on the symbolisms and allegories of the Craft. Isn't that what 'fraternity' is all about?

Therefore my Brethren, when you, as D.D.G.M.s, and the District Secretary review the responses to the Mentoring section on the L1 forms, please encourage the Lodges to ask themselves if they are coaching, mentoring or educating. We hope that it will be some combination of all three.

Committee Updates:
MasoniC.h.I.P:
Enthusiasm continues to be strong across the jurisdiction and the spring schedule of clinics is growing all the time. Please see the website at www.masonichip.ca for the current event list. At the recent Conference of Grand Masters of North America, our own Director, R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs, was re-elected to the Board of Masonichip International. Congratulations to Bro. Ray for representing our jurisdiction so admirably on the International Board.
Protocol and Etiquette:
Continue to be busy with requests for the sessions, especially on the topic of Installations. The L.O.I. team members and the P&E members are finding that turnout at these sessions is encouraging when the D.D.G.M.s assist in the promotion of the dates in advance. We are also seeing a small increase in the number of master masons attending
Library, Museum & Archives:
Active research is underway to determine the best approach to take in the archival of our Grand Lodge computerized records.
Lodge Resources:
Have been active conducting feedback sessions in the Toronto and Niagara Districts. Work continues on the analysis and interpretation of the questionnaire results. New Masons are participating in these sessions and voicing their opinions. Positive feedback is being obtained on the opportunity these sessions provide for the Brethren to have input 'up the chain'. Also note that feedback indicates that a lot of Brethren view the Mentor programme as providing assistance with degree work – emphasizing the above comments on mentoring and education.
D.D.G.M. Notes:
As we are getting into the very busy Official Visit schedules. I would ask that you and the District Secretary please ensure that the forms are completed as thoroughly as possible. This will certainly help R.W. Bro. John Hay and his team. We trust that you will be diligent in conveying to the Lodge Masters & Secretaries the understanding that these forms are read and that the information they contain is vital to shaping the future direction of the programmes and services that Grand Lodge can offer to the Districts and Lodges.

Remember, Grand Lodge runs Monday – Thursday, July 19 – 22. Have you booked your rooms?

D. Garry Dowling

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

INTERNET SCAM – Several of our members are receiving personal emails from an alleged R. Peter Lowndes, & Associates, Attorneys at Law, Birmingham, U.K. While any response goes to a live email address, its content is a Scam and should be ignored.

ONTARIO MASONIC LICENCE PLATES – Grand Lodge has a number of licence plates with a Masonic logo (red maple leaf with Square & Compasses) available for sale. Order forms are available on our Grand Lodge website.

Terence Shand