

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2013-2014-10

October 2013

Published By
Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

From the Grand Master ...

Congratulations to all our newly elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers. September was certainly a busy month with all the regalia presentations and receptions. I would like to remind all our new Grand Lodge Officers, you now wear the regalia representing your office. Some may hold the opinion that rank marks the summit of attainment in a Masonic career. Don't be under the mistaken idea that the task of working for the Craft is finished by the attainment of Grand Lodge rank. You have worked hard to reach this office, and now you must continue to work for the benefit of the Craft as a whole. Each of us has a duty to maintain the honour and dignity of our office. The badge which you have been invested with is meant to remind you it is your particular duty to continue to afford assistance and instruction to the membership.

International Plowing Match: On Thursday, September 19, 2013, the Deputy Grand Master and I attended the International Plowing Match in Mitchell, South Huron District. We had an exciting day visiting the brethren and their ladies from all parts of Ontario at our display tent, holding a meeting with the Masonic Leaders and ending the day with a "Meet & Greet" barbeque. Events such as this require a great deal of planning and preparation. I thank those who were responsible for the arrangements and acknowledge the services from the Masons of South Huron District. Special thanks to Worshipful Master, officers and member of Tudor Lodge No. 141, Mitchell, Ontario.

Custodian of the Work: Congratulations to M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling on being appointed as the Custodian of the Work. Some may believe the Lodge of Instruction is just for "new Lodge Officers". That is not the case. I encourage all Master Masons, including Lodge Officers, Past Masters and even Past Grand Lodge Officers to seek out and attend one of the sessions offered by the Lodge of Instruction team. If you were unable to attend one of the sessions offered by the Lodge of Instruction team, remember your District Deputy Grand Master may grant dispensation for holding a Lodge of Instruction (Section 102 Book of Constitution). The performance of our Ritual and perfecting the Mechanics of the Work makes our institution unique.

William Mercer Wilson Medal: Congratulations to our five new William Mercer Wilson Medal recipients. This Medal is awarded only to a Brother who is not likely ever to be a Worshipful Master, but who has rendered service far beyond the call of duty.

Each brother has had to demonstrate outstanding loyalty and dedication to the Craft and his community.

To be considered for the award, he must also have received the endorsement of his peers. Our Awards Committee consists of three Past Grand Masters who make their selection independently and submit their votes for tallying by the Grand Secretary.

This year's William Mercer Wilson Medal recipients are: Brother Charles G. Adams, Leamington Lodge No. 290, Brother William C. Fisher, Windsor Lodge No. 403 and Sunnylea Lodge No. 664, Brother Robert Gray, Keewatin Lodge No. 417, Brother James W. Sullivan, St. Clair Lodge No. 425, and Brother George R.H. Tutin, Norfolk Lodge No. 10.

The Northern Districts: Brethren, the North has always been important to me, both personally/family and with Craft Masonry. When the Grand Secretary was our Deputy Grand Master, we made a point to visit every lodge community in Temiskaming District. Unfortunately, some of our northern Lodges either had to amalgamate or go into darkness and the result being, Temiskaming District was reduced to five lodges. We need to strengthen Masonry in Northern Ontario and meaningful discussions are taking place with the Northern, District Deputy Grand Masters.

Masonic Foundation of Ontario & Northern Districts: Brethren, I have said this before, the best communication tool in Freemasonry is the membership and the community recognizing the good work we do in their communities. The Masonic Foundation has heard our call, and we thank them for their commitment to our Ontario Community Colleges, especially those in Northern Ontario. The Masonic Foundation of Ontario has selected community colleges located in North Bay, Timmins, Kitchener and Oakville to receive \$25,000 each to establish an endowed fund in the name of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. North Bay and Oakville have found matching funds. Timmins and Kitchener are still pursuing the matter.

If I can leave you with one point, it is this: Now is the time to make Masonry contagious in your community, so we can expect good men to come knocking at our doors to experience Freemasonry.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy

Brethren we are now approaching a couple of very busy months pertaining to a large number of Official Visits and various other lodge activities including Installations.

As you may be aware the installation of the new master can set the tone for the lodges and their ensuing year. Two very important aspects of the installation ceremony that are important is the Worshipful Master to assure that an Installing Master is in place to be in charge of the ceremony in consultation with the Master Elect. We feel it is quite important that the Worshipful Master should be the one to invest the new Master. If there is a close relative or friend who is thought should be involved that brother can be specified to install the new Master.

Brethren in the last **Communique** one of my comments was poorly worded and may have caused some confusion about a brother qualifying to be a eligible candidate to run for DDGM. For those brethren who are currently registered in the old course and have not completed it, they must complete all the assignments in the old course by December 31st 2013 and have them submitted to the College, otherwise they will have to go through the system. Those brethren who have successfully completed the former DDGM course are qualified to run for DDGM or GRAND REGISTRAR at any time without any updating. Once you have earned your certificate from the College you have it for life. I apologize for any confusion. The Grand Master has extended this date to December 31st 2013 for the benefit of those brethren who first showed early interest in this program.

I said in the last edition I will be highlighting Grand Lodge programs in each Communique to help inform our membership of current Grand Lodge activities.

The **Mentor Committee** is working diligently to provide a new updated video that will contain current information that will better prepare our lodges and members to provide prospective members and candidates with information valuable to their inquiries and interest. This effort is an example of Grand Lodge attempting to provide lodges with material that will assist them in becoming stronger and well informed. We look forward to the new product and its release in the future to benefit the craft.

As most of you are aware the **MASONICH.I.P** program became a separate corporation last year. This program is one of best public relations tools we have in Freemasonry.

Although that is not the main intent the Public Relations we have garnered is invaluable. The service this program provides to the families and police when a child goes missing gives an opportunity for quick response and action. We also find those parents whose children have received their information are more confident that they have fulfilled another aspect of being a dutiful guardian. I would encourage any lodge to consider having a **MASONICH.I.P** clinic in their respective area at a community event where a large number of children would be present. We want our communities to be a safe place to live. When you realize over 20,000 are report missing in Ontario every year one can appreciate its value.

The **Cornerstone Project** has been developed to assist lodges with many of their challenges. Its primary purpose is to encourage and recognize lodges that plan, implement and manage a well-rounded annual lodge program that promotes lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and community involvement.

It is no secret that there are lodges who are struggling with various challenges – declining membership, dwindling finances and reduced attendance. Cornerstone might be a manner for lodges to address these issues. An important aspect of **Cornerstone** might not be the possible award upon completion but if a lodge uses the criteria of **Cornerstone** as a guide to improvement I know the lodge will improve its operation. There are times when a lodge cannot always qualify for the recognition but if a lodge achieves 80 or 90% of completion then you will have a better and stronger lodge. My thought is don't be apprehensive about the program but use as a guide to improve your lodge and thus better satisfy the interest of our members which is of course our most important objective. **CORNERSTONE** is not a challenge but an opportunity to improve the quality of lodges that will make **FREEMASONRY** stronger.

Brethren we have been blessed with many opportunities in this great country, one privilege is the opportunity of being a Mason. When we look at the lessons **MASONRY** has taught us we realize we are a better family member. We are a better citizen who cares about our friends, our community and the welfare of those less fortunate than ourselves. When one achieves those values you realize you are living a very satisfied life.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master