

From the Grand Master

It just seems like yesterday the DDGM of the 44 Districts assumed their office. It is hard to believe how quickly the year has passed. To all the brethren who received Past Rank this year and those who will receive it on "July 17", it is not time to retire. You must continue to work for Freemasonry. It is critical that our Past Grand Lodge Officers retain, renew and revitalize their role. No one said being a Past Grand Lodge Officer was an easy position, it takes work, and your work is not done! Your lodge, your district and even Grand Lodge needs your extensive experience for training junior members. Junior members should not be training new members.

Remember, from the moment an apprentice enters into a Lodge, it is impressed upon him that his duty is not to himself, but to his family and his fellow man and his community. The brethren in our lodges are concerned with developing themselves morally and spiritually in order to become better people. We are members of a unique worldwide fraternal organization that we should be very proud to be a member. Where else in the world, if not in our Lodges, can people from all races, religions, socioeconomic levels of society work together in perfect harmony and equality.

As Masons we are the ones who can make a change. We can influence society and point it in the right direction in a positive way. Masonic wisdom encourages us to judge our performance in every aspect of our lives against certain standards. We insist that our members respect and honour both the spirit and the letter of the law of the country in which we live and also to encourage all brethren to fulfill their personal responsibilities, both private and public. We ought to be the examples of good order and regularity, because it is only by own conduct that we can reasonably expect compliance from others.

Truly, the sun never sets on Freemasonry. It's working all the time both within and without our many lodges. The great work of keeping Freemasonry together as a smooth working machine is due to the continued efforts of our Grand Secretary and his staff. The vast amount of voluntary work done by our Grand Lodge Chairmen, Team Leaders and committee members, all working together, devoting their time to preside over the many initiatives to advance Freemasonry in Ontario. These brethren with their indefatigable interest has earned the honours and respect they truly deserve. We are thankful for and their commitment to the Craft and the brethren they serve.

In today's social media networking, we need to use all available mediums, including the Grand Lodge Website. But, we must remember that social media is a great tool to get us to a meeting, but social media is not a place to hold a meeting. We need that face to face contact. We have the material to educate members about the most important aspects of Freemasonry, that is, education and a learning institution. We're great at gathering material but we have to improve disseminating it.

Candidates, young and old are showing an interest in Freemasonry and are on a quest of searching for something that society is not providing them. They are searching for knowledge and a system that will provide it for them. They know more about Freemasonry before they petition a Lodge than have any of their predecessors. It is now up to us to provide for them for what they are searching for. Each one of them, as we do, want to be a member of a quality organization and that is what Freemasonry must continue to be.

Masonry for each of us is exactly what we make it, the directing impelling power within us. We can make it an instrument of almost unbounded good to ourselves and those around us. Brethren, as we move on, let's be the Mason you want Grand Lodge to represent.

Donald A. Campbell

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well Brethren I finally got it right after three attempts. There was not much of a Spring but now Summer is here and the warm weather feels really good. As we embark on summer activities we also look forward to Grand Lodge and all the different events that we can attend: workshops on Tuesday afternoon, meet the candidates on Tuesday evening, Grand Lodge sessions all day Wednesday and Thursday morning, the respective district meetings Wednesday afternoon and the banquet Wednesday night. There will also be a banquet on Monday night to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Masonic Foundation. Our annual communication is an opportunity for any member to witness what has happened during the past masonic term as well as hearing of any new ventures we may be striving for in the coming year.

Brethren I also want you think about where your individual lodge is going in the future. I know that many lodges are flourishing with a number of new members while others are struggling. This seems to be a constant challenge for some lodges. I would suggest that using the guidelines and programme for an Open House or Friend to Friend event has enjoyed much success over the years as well as having the new members and possible applicants attend some of your social functions which many lodges have during the summer months. Such events will display a friendly atmosphere that exists on a personal level amongst the membership. Remember this aspect of masonry stressing family and family activities through social activities is quite attractive to most people when they become involved in a new venture in their life.

Barbecues, golf tournaments and picnics play an important role in every organization and Masonry is no exception.

While you are on vacation or at the cottage you should be proud to tell your neighbours and people you meet that you are a mason and quite enjoy the fraternity. We all too often don't mention our involvement in Masonry when talking to people about life's activities. If we are proud to be masons we should be proud to tell others outside the craft that we belong to the largest and oldest organization in the world the many attributes it has brought into your life. I have often experienced that non masons have the wrong impression of Freemasonry so when we have the opportunity to demonstrate how we have been rewarded with the philosophies of Masonry in living a good life of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Being generous and respectful of our fellow man allows you live satisfied that our roll in life has been to the service of mankind and made this world a better place.

As we embark into the summer months when a majority of Lodges take a break be ever mindful of the needs of others less fortunate than ourselves. We are members of the largest fraternity in the world and we should obliged to carry our banner where ever we go and whatever we do we must satisfy ourselves that we are living a life as servants to our fellow man. When you have satisfied yourself you will find that friends, relatives and everyone seem closer to you because of the role you play as a leader in the community by being generous, kind and attributes that fulfill your place as a mason.

BRETHREN HAVE A GOOD SUMMER. I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT GRAND LODGE IN JULY

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

John C. Green

From the Grand Secretary

Special Attention - District room voting at the Annual Communication

Thoroughly familiarize yourself with Sections 65 (a) and 66, Constitution of Grand Lodge. The former specifies that only those eligible and present are to be counted, Proxies are only ONE vote when voting for D.D.G.M. Regardless of ballot colour, the ballot itself specifically states "1 Vote". Section 66 instructs that all ballot papers shall be deposited with the Chairman of Scrutineers (V.W. Bro. G. Benton) for three month retention by The Grand Secretary prior to destruction. There are no exceptions.

Purchase of G.M. Banquet tickets for William Mercer Wilson Award recipients are made via the respective D.D.G.M. of each district. However, they are not to be included in a Lodge/District table of eight, as a separate table is assigned to them.

Terence Shand