

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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## ***From the Grand Master***

An eventful year has passed and a new one has come. I wish all our members and their families be blessed with good health and happiness. Welcoming this year, the first thing that we must do is to challenge the ever changing communication market head on with the aim of overcoming any obstacles that the future presents. We have the experience to overcome any future difficulties with confidence. I am sure that we have the qualifications and capability to make a history of successful and positive decisions. In 2015, let's continue working to together and be the fraternal organization we are known as, this is, being happy within ourselves and communicating that happiness to others.

The first Masonic symbol encountered by the petitioner for Freemasonry is the application form for which he has asked from a friend in the Craft. The Craft asks no man for his petition. Other non-Masonic organizations, clubs and many other worthy groups may attempt to win members by advertising and persuasion. But a man must come to the door of a Lodge of his own free will and accord, and can only be the aid of a friend whom he has enlisted on his behalf.

The symbols of Freemasonry are many, such as, all of the Working Tools and casual signs. Referred to in the story of the building are used to convey the messages of morality and virtue to the Freemason. It is this very form of symbolism that leads to the mystery that surrounds Freemasonry and the misunderstanding of its purposes by those who are not members of the Craft, and indeed, I believe, by some who are members of the Craft.

Freemasonry is not a religion unto itself, but it calls on its members to practice their religion and live by its teachings.

Freemasonry is a way of living, an excellent set of rules of conduct which unfortunately few of us practice to the degree that we should, which makes better men of us even for trying. I suggest to you, a world of better men will be a better world.

It is a rule in Freemasonry, that a Lodge may dispense with the examination of a visitor, if any brother present will vouch that he possess the necessary qualifications. This is an important prerogative that every Freemason is entitled to exercise, and yet it is one which may so materially affect the well-being of the whole Craft. By its injudicious use, impostors might be introduced among the faithful. It should be controlled by the most stringent regulations.

To vouch for one is to bear witness for him, and in witnessing to truth, every caution should be observed, least falsehood may cunningly assume its garb. The brother who vouches should know to a certainty that the one for whom he vouches is really what he claims to be. He should know this, not from a casual conversation, or a loose and careless inquiry, but from strict trial, due examination or lawful information. These are the three requisites which the institutions have laid down as essentially necessary to authorize the act of vouching.

Brethren, never should an unjustifiable delicacy weaken the rigor of these rules. For the wisest and most evident reasons, our Criminal Court system says that it is better that ninety-nine guilty men should escape than that one innocent man should be punished. So in Freemasonry, it is better that ninety-nine true men should be turned away from the door of a Lodge, than that one 'Cowan' should be admitted.

Donald A. Campbell  
Grand Master

## ***From the Deputy Grand Master***

Well here we are in 2015 and I wish you all the best in the coming year. As we look to 2015 with optimism and anticipation we should always remember there will be those who will have challenges before them who deserve our friendship and assistance. It is always great to receive gifts and tributes on special occasions throughout the year but the warmest feeling one can experience is to give to those less fortunate or comfort someone who might be having situations with health or injury. To offer support to others in need is the true measure of our Masonic virtues Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Brethren we are now about six months from our annual communication of Grand Lodge. As we all realize this is the time when the Grand Lodge officers relinquish their duties to newly elected and appointed officers. I just want to remind those who are considering candidacy for DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER that you must have a certificate for the PAST MASTERS COURSE to be eligible to let your name stand for that office. I strongly recommend that if you are not already qualified with that certificate you should consider to enroll in the near future. We have had some candidates qualify at the last minute and find it quite stressful in order to let their name stand. The course is not overly difficult if one allows the proper time to complete and submit it to the College of Freemasonry. The choice is yours when to enroll and complete this exercise but I certainly know the sooner the better.

I have also heard from a number of Masons that those who are enrolling for Past Masters Course are soliciting the answers to a number of questions from Masons who have already qualified for their respective certificate. Brethren please do not cheat yourselves or Freemasonry by endeavouring to achieve your qualifications in a manner which will not give you a feeling of self- satisfaction and achievement. In our lifetime we are asked to face many challenges and this course is just another step in life's path.

Brethren to start the year off in a positive direction let me suggest some thoughts I recently experienced from friends and colleagues through the holiday season. A number of my friends were traveling in October and November many to countries that have greater challenges than we would ever experience here in Canada. As two couples related to us, they visited places where jobs were low paying and the general population quite poor but after some time witnessing their way of life these people were happy and upbeat almost all the time. Thankful for what they had although not much in contrast to our life. Their conclusion was the benefits of life in Canada are perhaps not appreciated as much as they should be when we see and hear what is happening in the world around us.

Brethren my message is, complain less and appreciate more of what we have in life and how blessed we are to have the situation we live in Canada. You know brethren we are spending a lot of time and effort resolving piques and quarrels that in the big picture are not as significant as one might think. There are always situations that might stress us from time to time and that is one of life's experiences. So if there is strife and tension that causes difficulty between you and your fellow man, look at that particular situation and then think how many others would say your current concerns pale in comparison to others in the world must experience each and every day. My friends living life to the fullest is intended to be our direction in the few short years we are given in history. Being tolerant, understanding and charitable to others are virtues that will put you in a happy place. You will realize the joy and pleasure of friends, neighbours and Masons is satisfying and you will experience a life well lived.

That's it for now brethren, all the best in 2015.

Next month a groundhog will tell us what the future holds for us. Now that is a reasonable conclusion for what the future holds for us.

John C. Green  
Deputy Grand Master