

THE COMMUNIQUE

Published By

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

2014-2015 Issue 6

February 2015

From the Grand Master

Blessings and greetings to all those who served as Worshipful Master so nobly and led their members and officers to be their best! We all remember the day when we were installed as Worshipful Master, proud to serve the membership in our respective lodges. Our loved ones witnessed this achievement as they beamed with pride. Our ideals, honour and outlook were solid and sound. Nothing and no one would deter us from our calling to serve those who were less fortunate than us.

Sometimes you find a hidden treasure where you least expect it. It happened to me in January 2015. As I drove home, north on I-75, from Florida, I read a roadside sign with the words: *"When Values Are Clear, Decisions Are Easy."* The statement was so profound and deep, I actually stopped in my tracks, paused, and just contemplated the sign before going any further. I had found the hidden treasure! I have reflected on that statement many times and chuckled a bit that I found hidden treasure where I least expected it.

I don't know about you but I am motivated by signs that remind me of important principles that can easily be forgotten if we are not careful, such as: "Treat everyone with respect, even the least deserving." Likewise, the statement: "When Values Are Clear, Decisions Are Easy" can become a touchstone in our personal lives and help us to refocus on what is most important.

So, what should you do when you get discouraged? My personal answer and experience has been to get involved in something that will benefit others; to shift my way of thinking and become more involved. The word "encourage" means to put courage into, to inspire with courage, spirit, and hope, and to spur one. There are so many ways you can be an encourager. It may be providing comfort and support in someone's times of need. It may be something as simple as providing assurance or humility. When you start encouraging and serving others, it has a way of removing discouragement from your life. So, let me encourage you to become an encourager. You will be amazed at what an impact it will have on others, but even more amazed at the impact it will have on your personal life. I don't know who the author of this statement is but it certainly has merit: "Flatter me and I may not believe you. Criticize me and I may not like you. Ignore me and I may not forgive you. Encourage me and I will not forget you."

"Prostate Hope 2550" The Masonic Foundation Directors explored opportunities for the Foundation to provide meaningful funding for Prostate Cancer research in Ontario.

The conclusion was to make funding of prostate cancer research the primary activity to celebrate the Foundation's 50th Anniversary. To further highlight the pressing need to make significant advances the Deputy Grand Master and I pledged our full support behind this initiative. One component of this unique fund-raising partnership will involve the charitable donations made to the Grand Master project, **Prostate Hope 2550**, to support the selected prostate cancer research projects. The target is to provide funding for to the researchers for ten years. The approximate need is to raise one million dollars. The three research projects chosen to participate in this semi-centennial commemorative initiative are as follows:

McMaster University: Ph.D. candidate, Jen Hoogenes under the supervision of Dr. Bobby Shayegan at McMaster University in Hamilton has developed an assessment tool for trainees as they learn how to do robot-assisted radical prostatectomies. Currently in the validation phase, this will be the first tool of its kind and will eventually be incorporated into urology curriculum of the Medical school.

Queen's University: Dr. Robert Siemens supervises a survivorship group which includes cognitive psychologists who are attempting to understand the needs and gaps for men and their spouses in terms of their care after treatment. This includes a better understanding of "quality of life" issues.

Western University: Master's student Sean Leith under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Chin at Western University in London is delving into why some prostate cancers metastasize and others are less likely to do so. Many genes that promote cancer cell invasion have been isolated, but there is less known about suppressor genes. His research involves selectively silencing single suppressor genes in cultures and measuring the resultant invasiveness of the cell line. The supervisors are very excited at the prospects such funding will open for the researchers in their charge.

Prostate Hope 2550: We can share in this excitement. As a giving and caring Mason you can contribute to this worthwhile project, Prostate Hope 2550, by either a donation or pledge. Your generosity is appreciated.

Consider making a Bequest to the Masonic Foundation of Ontario or the Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund. You can bequeath a percentage of your residuary estate to the Foundation or the Benevolence Fund after you have provided for all other beneficiaries with specific bequests.

Remember, when values are clear, decisions are easy.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well here it is February and I know WIARTON WILLIE did not see his shadow so that means there is not much more winter ahead of us according to legend. If anyone asks how do you know that, just tell them you heard it from the DEPUTY and he said a GROUNDHOG told him. We all realize that the next few months will be busy with Official Visits and many social gatherings throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. Your attendance at these important events will enhance your knowledge and advance your scope of Freemasonry by meeting many new masons renewing your friendship with those you have been associated with previously. Just remember, when you are introduced to a newer mason please take time to greet him offer your hand in friendship and assure him that Masonry has impacted your life in a positive manner. Warm hands and kind words are the two most significant attributes we all behold to impress our newer masons. There is no program about being kind and friendly.

Brethren we just recently enjoyed a productive mid-term meeting with DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS. They were very open and honest with their opinions about activities in their respective districts and the condition of masonry in general. There was some thought provoking breakout sessions that stimulated discussions about Freemasonry in Ontario both currently and looking to the future. Be assured these brethren who have taken on the duties of DDGM are excited about their position and have a genuine interest in the future of our gentle craft.

Brethren, as I mentioned in the past, the workshops we held in St. Thomas last fall were deemed to be successful so it is my pleasure to announce that we will be holding a second such session in Campbellford on May 9th. There will be three seminars presented twice - at 10:00am and at 12:00 noon. This is open to all masons who wish to attend and we feel sure you will find some interesting aspects about masonry that will assist

you and your lodge in their future endeavours. Campbellford is geographically located central to a number of Eastern Ontario Districts but we of course will welcome anyone who wishes to attend. We must always strive to acquire as much knowledge as possible. Seminars and workshops are also great venues to meet masons from other districts and extend your masonic friendships.

Brethren, as you have been aware for some time now the Grand Master Project to support Prostate Cancer Research will be continued in the future. We have set a goal of raising \$ one million dollars to fund three noted Researchers in Kingston, Hamilton and London to assist their efforts. This project was announced at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario at Grand Lodge last year. Foundation President Al Dvorak and the Foundation Directors will be announcing shortly a theme or logo to promote this special program that could benefit not only masons but the world at large. As your Deputy Grand Master, and as 50th Anniversary Chairman, I too fully endorse this effort. Brethren, in my own simple math, we have approximately forty thousand members which would translate to be \$25 per member. Now I realize not everyone has circumstances that permit a contribution but if those who help supplement the difference this goal is very attainable. Brethren, I just ask to consider participation as circumstances allow. There are appropriate recognitions for various contributions. I encourage your support in this worthwhile project.

Brethren, to borrow some words from another association have involvement says:

TO GIVE WITH YOUR HEART IS A GOOD PART OF LIVING. LIVING MAKES GIVING A BEAUTIFUL THING.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master