

THE COMMUNIQUE

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

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From the Grand Master ...

Well Brethren, here we are all excited about whether a Groundhog will predict what kind of weather we can look forward to for the next six weeks. Based on the accuracy of a rodent, who sleeps most of the winter months and can magically wake up to foretell the future, I strongly suggest that no one should plan a snowmobile or ski vacation. The citizens of Warton are having their Groundhog Festival to celebrate this furry creature and I am sure there will be a very good representation of Masons participating.

As you are well aware we lost our distinguished Mason M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels this past week. We, as a Grand Lodge, will miss his many contributions, to the Masonic Minute, which he published on a regular basis for our information and education. Although he had been restricted to his residence, in recent times, he diligently provided important and useful knowledge to all of us. Most Worshipful Bro. Daniels was a student of Freemasonry. He took the time and effort to research various aspects of Masonry that many of us would never know if we did not have the contributions of Ray Daniels and his desire to generously share his wisdom to better educate the brethren of Ontario. His career, as an educator, was extended to us after his retirement as he continued to very eloquently educate and inform Masons. The Masonic history he provided has and will benefit the membership, Lodges and Grand Lodge for many years in the future. We were fortunate to live only half an hour apart and I had the distinct benefit and privilege of his friendship as we travelled through many parts of Ontario together. His wisdom and wit will carry forward as a fond memory and will always remain in our hearts and minds. We, as Masons, can be so thankful that we lived and experienced the benefit of knowledge this man shared with us over the years.

REST IN PEACE MY TRUE AND FAITHFUL FRIEND.
LONG REMEMBERED, NEVER FORGOTTEN

I would also like to thank R.W. Bros. David Cameron and Richard Kaufman who put forth a great effort in to organize and coordinate the Masonic service and tribute. We found it necessary to move the service to a theatre setting in order to accommodate the approximately 450 attendees. These two brethren dealt with changes in the arrangements

almost every day leading up to the service and we should appreciate their contribution.

Brethren, this past weekend we held the DDGM mid-term meeting and we were pleased with the attendance and friendly atmosphere the brethren brought to the table. Our DDGMs have demonstrated their enthusiasm and desire to move Freemasonry forward in our Grand Jurisdiction. There was evidence of good will and camaraderie that showed the desire to work collectively in a united effort that will improve the use of our Grand Lodge Programs. Their genuine interest of Masonry in general is sincere and the Deputy Grand Master and I enjoyed the candid and honest assessment of the activities in their respective District. All of us should respect the time and effort these brethren are spending as volunteers to promote Masonry in their particular District. Please take the time to thank these Brethren.

I had the opportunity to have my yearly quota of haggis these past couple of weeks and enjoyed some great Scottish music and witnessed a number of Robbie Burns' writings. We Masons take great pride in remembering Bro. Burns as a Mason who is recognized throughout most of the world. We enjoy taking part in these annual social gatherings to celebrate the immortal Robbie Burns, his writings and his life. We should be proud such famous Masons' contributions to life are still celebrated today. There are a great number of famous Masons who have significantly affected our history offering the life's pleasures as well as the freedoms we enjoy today. Stop a moment and realize what the world would be today if weren't for the many famous brethren like Robbie Burns, John Ross Robertson, Syl Apps, Benjamin Franklin, Brad Paisley and Harry Truman, to name just a few. We have a proud and noble history thanks to those who have influenced all individuals around them.

PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE

PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO

PROUD TO BE A MASON

John C. Green
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master ...

Although as Masons we continue to search for “Light” I think it would be fair to say that a dark cloud has fallen over Ontario Masons with the loss of our teacher Past Grand Master M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels.

Many of us considered him a friend, a Brother and most of all a Mason. We will always remember him and, to this writer, his virtues are best described in the paragraph which precedes this statement and I paraphrase ... If you, my Brethren meet such a man you will have found the ideal of a Freemason.

Continuing onward, we as Freemasons are called on to make a daily advancement in our Masonic knowledge. Perhaps it is fitting this month to look at the Grand Lodge Committee of Masonic Education and its several sub-committees.

The Chairman of the Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee is R.W. Bro. Charles Woods. He oversees the following four Committees:

Masonic Education:

This Standing Committee of Grand Lodge, like all Standing Committees, presently finds its mandate in The Book of Constitution Section 136 (h)

To that end the committee is planning an Ontario Masonic Education Conference on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Scottish Rite Building in Hamilton. Registration at 8am, start at 9am and finish 3 – 3:30pm. There will a mid-morning break and a lunch around noon. Cost to be \$35 per Mason.

Speakers

Professor Nancy Lucas-Musgrave ... *“Emotional Intelligence”*

Dr. Ken Jones Dean Emeritus, Rogers School of Business, Ryerson University *“Team Building”*

R.W. Bro. David Cameron, FCF *“Our Masonic Ritual as a Lesson in the History of Metaphysical Thought”*

R.W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns, Grand Historian ... *“Triumph of Sword & Trowel”*

Bro. David Yates *“The Great Storm of 1913”*

R.W. Bro. Daniel Glenney, Grand Archivist ... *“The Masonic Life & Times of R.W. Bro. Sir John A. MacDonald”*

For more information regarding this excellent Conference please check the website or contact R.W. Bro. Charles Woods at charleswoods@sympatico.ca

College of Freemasonry

This Special Committee of Grand Lodge under the leadership of R.W. Bro. Brian Koivu has a mandate and, like all Special Committees of Grand Lodge, is not found in the Constitution. Special Committee mandates are flexible and can be changed as the duties of the Committee change. The College of Freemasonry provides high quality educational material to enhance the knowledge of Masons throughout the jurisdiction; provides structure within the college programs allowing for various levels of education and to meet the requirements of the Book of Constitution; and encourages member engagement in the College.

The College does an excellent job for the brethren of our Jurisdiction by providing a unique well organized program of study, administered by Masonic volunteers, at a very reasonable cost. The proceeds from these fees are used to subsidize our Grand Lodge's Brock Sankey Partnership commitments. This is a service that is available on-line to every Brother, whatever his rank, in every one of our 43 districts of our Grand Jurisdiction.

For more information review the website or contact R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, Principal at rickcadotte@hotmail.com

Reflections Newsletter

Team Leader W. Bro. Geoffrey Allan is the Editor of the Grand Lodge Masonic Newsletter which has had a long and distinguished history of providing informative talks on Masonry from a Canadian perspective in book form.

In an attempt to raise readership Reflections has now become part of the electronic Ontario Mason but be assured the Editor is still looking for informative talks.

If you heard or have presented such a talk please contact the Editor, Geoff Allan at geoff@comnect.com

Brock University Partnership

Team Leader R.W. Bro. Gareth Taylor presently works under the following mandate in part; to assist Brock University with the series of annual lectures by local and world renowned Masonic scholars, with options for periodic multi-day conferences; to establish an endowment fund in conjunction with Brock University; to financially assist in the study of Masonry; establish an Endowed Chair in conjunction with Brock University for Masonic Studies; encourage donations to Project 2937 of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

On Sunday March 20, 2016. Dr. Andrew Prescott, University of Glasgow will be delivering the lecture on work done jointly with Dr. Susan M. Sommers, Professor of History, Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. They will be looking at the history of the Apple Tree Tavern and Covent Garden where the first meetings leading to the formation of the Grand Lodge in London, England were supposedly held.

For more information contact R.W. Bro. Gareth Taylor at garehtaylor@rogers.com

Book Sales

Team Leader R.W. Bro. George Warner presently works under the following mandate; encourage Masonic learning through a wide variety of publications on varied topics relating to Masonry; make Masonic literature available for purchase throughout the jurisdiction; most notably - on the convention floor at Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

For more information on books sales, please contact R.W. Bro. George Warner at pallmall@sympatico.ca

Finally in the words M.W. Bro. Daniels ... “There you have it”

Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master