

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Well Brethren, as we have all experienced, the first week of Spring was more severe winter weather than the winter season. But we have survived for the most part and we look back on a very unusual weather realizing it has been quite easy getting around. We should have some sympathy for those who enjoy snowmobiling and playing on ski hills.

Brethren, this month I want to focus on a couple items most of us are familiar with, that being the Technological society we experience in our daily life. While we enjoy the benefits of access to information that once took significant time to be distributed we also must be very diligent and respectful of information that becomes available to not only ourselves but also to the general public.

Recently some Masons, who probably thought all they were doing was all in good fun, posed for a less than favourable photo which identified them as Masons and the Lodge where they were members. Not long after the photo appeared on Facebook. The Deputy Grand Master and I received a number of questions and complaints. The main concern was someone on Facebook was presenting to the public - out there before the world - a unenviable opinion of Freemasonry that could easily be interpreted that we, as Masons, might not be the honourable men that we continually strive to portray to the world at large. Brethren, whether the incident was intentional or a bad joke, always keep in mind what you just want to share with friends could easily be re-posted. Someone's idea of humor may be at another individual's expense and possible embarrassment.

The second situation is taking advantage of a variety of venues available through today's technology to share an opinion about other people, particularly anything pertaining to a person's race, colour, creed, religion or sexual orientation. Brethren, our Masonic teachings are about tolerance, understanding and the pursuit of happiness and conveying that happiness to others. By taking advantage of a situation to

share your beliefs while naming another individual, who's situation is different than your own, is certainly not a Masonic manner to portray yourself as a Mason. Remember your Masonic teachings and practice those ideals that allowed you to become a member of this great fraternity. Our life style is about duty, honour and respect for our fellow man.

Recently, some of you have heard about the significant activities of the Grand Lodges of Georgia and Tennessee who recently decided to exclude men from the rights and privileges of Freemasonry on the basis of their sexual orientation. Let me assure you that this Grand Jurisdiction does not agree with such actions. Membership in Freemasonry in Ontario is based on the integrity of an individual under the qualifications with which we are all familiar ie. free born , mature age and well and worthily recommended.

The important values or tenets of Masonry are brotherly love, relief and truth. The important values of a member of our craft should be tolerance and understanding. Brethren, I want you to consider living the fundamental principles you professed when you became a Mason.

Wages of a Mason

Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks wages of silver and gold will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid for through their dealings with one another. SYMPATHY begets SYMPATHY, KINDNESS begets KINDNESS and HELPFULNESS begets HELPFULNESS. These are the wages of a Mason.

Brethren, the next two months are generally the busiest of the Masonic year. I encourage you to get out and attend as many meetings and events that your cable tow will allow. Meet new acquaintances and renew friendships. Experiencing the fellowship of Masonry is a benefit our fraternity offers that makes our journey more pleasant and profitable in the path of life.

John C. Green
Grand Master

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary

Reservation at the F.R.Y.H. Toronto for the 2016 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge is now available at the following email address: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/qlafam2016> D.D.G.M.'s and B. of G.P. meet Monday, July 18 (roll call 09:30) until Noon, Thursday, July 21, 2016.

NOTE: Your specific name **must** appear on the F.R.Y.H. "Group Rooming List" provided to this office, to be eligible for the G. L. per diem allowance.



For the Attention of All Lodges. Use of our Masonic logo (on the Lodge Summons, posters and/or all other Masonic related documentation) shall be in conformity with Section 3.1, Constitution of Grand Lodge

Terence Shand
Grand Secretary

From the Deputy ...

After a very mild winter we are now entering **Spring** - according to the calendar. However, the weatherman is predicting the return of the Polar Vortex for the first week of April.

Youth Initiatives: *R.W. Bro. Keith Jones, Chairman*
kjones@nmdaviscorp.ca

R.W. Bro. Jones, R.W. Bro. Barry Burchill and I represented the Committee and attended the Exemplification of Public Ceremonies by Senior DeMolay from Chapters in the Philippines. Under the direction of Reynaldo Faraon, now an Advisor with Mississauga Chapter, The Senior Demolay affiliated with the Toronto 7-Candles Alumni Association and demonstrated the universality of their timeless ritual performed by the youth of our communities. Outstanding!

The Brock University Partnership Committee: *R.W. Bro Garth Taylor, Chairman*

R.W. Bro. Taylor presented the Seventh Annual Dr. Charles A. Sankey Lecture in Masonic Studies which was held at Brock University. Dr. Andrew Prescott delivered the lecture on the history of Apple Tree Tavern, Covent Garden, where the first meetings were **supposedly held**, leading to the formation of the Grand Lodge in London, England. More questions than answers but very interesting!

Although not Committees of our Grand Lodge I would like to review the two Foundations which find their roots in our Grand Lodge.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario: *R.W. Bro. A.C. Dvorak, President* acdvorak@sympatico.ca

Formed in 1964 by a special Act of the Ontario Legislature to provide the means for using the Craft's financial resources for the benefit of the community at large. It is a public Foundation and is registered with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

The objectives of the Foundation clearly set out its charitable nature:

- to receive, maintain, manage, control and use donations exclusively for charitable purposes within the Province of Ontario
- to use its donations for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and the advancement of other purposes beneficial to the community; and For the Cause of Good

The good works of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario are laid out each year in their Annual Report. Their Annual Meeting is held in Toronto during the week of Grand Lodge's Annual Communication. The Masonic Foundation support meaningful funding for Prostate Cancer Research three highly respected research projects which provide

in Ontario using Project Hope Foundation - Project No. 2550. M.W. Bro. John C. Green is committed to Project Hope for his term as Grand Master. **Please support Project Hope – Project No. 2550**

The MasoniChI.P. Foundation of Ontario: *R.W. Bro. Robert Fleming, President* - robfanfleming@sympatico.ca

A federally incorporated charitable corporation, with its own Board of Directors, held its inaugural meeting in Woodstock on January 7, 2012. I am proud say I was a Founding Director.

The MasoniCh.I.P. (Child ID Program) consists of five major components: vital child information; digital fingerprints; digital photographs; a digital video and a dental bite impression. All of this data, except the dental component, is burned onto a CD.

It only takes a few minutes from the time the CD-Rom is loaded into the Police computer for the AMBER ALERT broadcast to be sent throughout their system. All this material and information is given to the parent or guardian.

No information is ever stored by the MasoniChIP program.

Details on how your Lodge or District can hold a event or to find out where events are being held in you area can be found on their web site <http://www.masonichip.ca>

Although only four years has passed since the Foundation was formed they must now upgrade their computer which presents a significant outlay of funds.

MasoniCh.I.P. Ontario has helped protect 65,237 children so far and since they are a registered charity they will issue tax receipts for any and all donations. Please support MasoniChI.P. by contacting: Mike Lalonde, PO Box 929 Copper Cliff, ON. P0M 1N0

Health & Safety Issue: Something to consider ... W. Bro. Brian Sonnenburg, retired from Ottawa Fire Service and hailing from Mississippi Lodge No. 147 made, what I consider, a very interesting and important suggestion ... in the case of an emergency in your Lodge, the 911 dispatcher will want know the Lodge's location. As you attempt to learn the address, time is wasting! A sign or a banner hanging in an appropriate area in your Lodge with the following wording - **Emergency Call 911 ... followed by the Lodge's street address and phone # printed clearly and legibly** - just might make a difference!

***R.W.Bro. Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master***