

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Well Brethren, this is the final Communique for this Masonic year. Now that the weather has warmed up it serves as a reminder that our Grand Lodge Communication is not far away. I would encourage as many of you as possible to consider attending Grand Lodge on July 20th. I have always found it to be a good feeling to attend and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie with our Brethren as well as witness the proceedings as we look forward to another Masonic year.

During the past year I have enjoyed many experiences with Brethren of our Grand Jurisdiction but I want to discuss three Masons, in particular, who have my esteem and I am proud to highlight them in this edition.

W. Bro. Arthur Haley is very active in his home Lodge, Cedar Lodge No. 396, in Warton. When I first met him he had travelled with other members of his Lodge to visit a Lodge approximately an hour and a half from home. He has demonstrated devotion and dedication to his Lodge and his community commitment deserves our thanks as he continues to contribute on a regular basis. This brother is 100 years of age.

R.W. Bro. Norm Lonsdale of Nilestown Lodge No. 345 turned 100 on January 6th, 2016 and I had the distinct pleasure to attend his birthday celebration. The Shrine Club in London was full of many friends to wish him well. Norm will become a seventy year Mason in 2017. Norm is still quite active in his Lodge and through the week he visits a number of institutions to entertain the people residing there. When called upon in Lodge or anywhere else he would be very prepared to rise and speak comfortably on any number of topics.

W. Bro. J.J. Stewart of Norwood Lodge No. 223 will be 102 on August 23rd this year. He was Master of his Lodge in 1944. I visited with him on May 27th for about a half hour. I did not visit him at home but at his office at the Chrysler dealership that bears his

name in Norwood. This gentleman told me about the history of the family business which is now operated by his son and grandsons - the fourth generation. J.J. comes to work every day for a few hours and greets visitors and employees. He is an icon in his community both as a business man and a Mason. Two fellow Masons come and take him to lunch or breakfast regularly and this has been going on for over twenty years.

Brethren, I mention these three Masons as fine examples to us of what Masonry should exemplify. The pride of being a Mason, and the zest and excitement these Brothers still exhibit, is a tribute to them. It also shows that leadership is a daily routine these gentlemen display in their community. I can tell you that their pride of being a Mason sets an example we should all exhibit to our family, friends, neighbours and each other. Having the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of these three Masons has enhanced my pride in this great fraternity.

Even though many of our Lodges are having summer recess please continue to display your duties as a Masons and to share service and compassion to less fortunate than ourselves. Let the right reason dictate and prompt us to demonstrate generosity to others. Be happy with ourselves and demonstrate that happiness to others. Also, reveal how proud you are to be a Mason. Set an example to those around you showing the manner in which you live is an exhibit of peace, harmony and brotherly love.

Remember Brethren, Masonry teaches us the way to live but also be conscious of your duties you owe to your family, your job and spiritual beliefs. Free Masonry allows the opportunity to be a leader by example to make this world a better place to live.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT GRAND LODGE.

*John C. Green
Grand Master*

From the Deputy ...

This will be the last Communique for this Masonic year and next month the Masons of Ontario will meet for the Annual Communication of your Grand Lodge.

I thought it would be helpful to know how the work of the several Grand Lodge Committees becomes known to the Masons of Ontario.

The Chairman and Team Leaders along with their Committee members are still hard at work in the quarries of Masonry however they have by now submitted a report of their activities to the Grand Secretary for publishing in the Preliminary Proceedings.

Those Preliminary Reports are reviewed by the members of the Board of General Purposes at their annual meeting held on the Monday and Tuesday preceding Grand Lodge.

Each Chairman and Team Leader will present a summary of their report during those two days. At the end of each presentation the Chairman or Team Leader will move a motion for the report to be accepted by the Board for presentation to Grand Lodge for approval.

Since the District Deputy Grand Masters are, by Constitution, members of the Board of General Purposes they will be participating in the vote.

The presentation of the several Committee reports to Grand Lodge is given by a member of the Management Committee who has been the liaison with the Chairman or Team Leader during the Masonic year.

At the end of the report presentation a motion for acceptance, by Grand Lodge, will be moved, seconded and when passed will be published in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

After the proper motion is passed, the reports submitted by the several District Deputy Grand Masters, of this Masonic year, will also be published in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

The Secretary of each Lodge, in our Grand Jurisdiction, will receive a copy of the Proceedings of Grand Lodge. Of course you may obtain your own personal copy for a nominal fee by contacting the Grand Lodge Office and making arrangements for payment, mailing or pick up etc.

If you are a Lodge Officer, a Master or perhaps soon to be a District Deputy Grand Master, allow me to recommend a great resource book to you with information that covers all aspects of Freemasonry in Ontario. It is truly a book that once you start to read it, you can't put it down.

The 2016 Grand Lodge marks the beginning of a new era in our Grand Lodge and, as noted in previous

Communiqués, the Board of General Purposes will begin its reduction as we reduce the **ELECTED NUMBER** of members **from SEVEN to FIVE** and the appointed number from seven to five. We will repeat the same process next year.

Those of you who can, by Constitution vote, play a very important part in this new era, it is your responsibility to educate yourself on whom to elect, not only for the Board but also for the Grand Senior, Grand Junior Warden and Grand Registrar. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer have been returned, this year, to office by acclamation.

Your Grand Lodge has provided various ways to educate yourself with those Brethren who have allowed their names to stand for the different offices. Each Lodge Secretary received an information package in the April mailing. Included in the package is a document of each Brother along with his photo and a brief review of his credentials.

The information can be obtained in electronic or paper form from your Lodge Secretary or may also be found on the Grand Lodge Website.

After the Grand Master's Banquet this year, the members of the Board of General Purposes will gather to vote for a new member of the Management Committee of Grand Lodge. The position became available when R.W. Bro. David Sheen decided to retire from the Management Committee. David has served with distinction at all levels of Masonry from his years as an officer in his Lodge, to his service on the Board of General Purposes but more especially his work on the Management Team where he was a Leader. He will be greatly missed; however he will leave behind a phrase he often used. The next time I hear "with all due respect", I will think of you, Chief!

Finally, I thank all the Grand Lodge Chairman, Team Leaders and especially Committee Members for your commitment to Grand Lodge and your assistance to the office of Deputy Grand Master.

The Brethren of Grand Lodge, know and understand your dedication to Freemasonry in Ontario. Well done, Brethren!

Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay once said:

"A great democracy has got to be progressive or it will soon cease to be great or a democracy"

Brethren, it is your Grand Lodge, it is your vote, just remember to vote for **5** this year.

Paul Todd
Deputy Grand Master