

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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

Brethren, I bid you welcome to another Masonic year. While many of you hopefully have enjoyed a period of summer relaxing on vacation or spending time with family and friends at a cottage or perhaps just in a back yard, it is important to recognize that some families have also suffered through difficult challenges. We as a Grand Lodge wish everyone comfort and prosperity in the future.

I want to this opportunity to thank those brethren who were able to attend Grand Lodge in July. There was much evidence of brotherhood and camaraderie at the sessions and throughout the Convention floor. Grand Lodge is a great time for meeting new friends and renewing old friendships with Brethren you have met in the past from other Lodges and Districts.

I wish to take a moment and congratulate those brethren who were fortunate enough to be elected to a Grand Lodge office. Your opportunities while holding office will be a rewarding experience in your growth as a Mason. Although you will find somewhat overwhelmed by your duties from time to time you will also find that work well done and duties properly performed will instill pride in yourself and thus your personal growth.

I also want to offer my sentiments to those Brothers who allowed their name to stand for office. By offering your name for consideration goes a long way in demonstrating to others your abilities and desire to further serve the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Although your election was not as successful as you had hoped you can be very proud of your generosity and willingness as a person who is prepared to further serve Masonry. I thank you for putting your name before the Masons of our Grand Jurisdiction.

On a less complimentary situation I wish to express disappointment about the actions of a few brethren whose conduct at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel was less than Masonic. Sometimes, when we are in a relaxed and celebratory mood, our minds and actions wander to extremes which are not our normal conduct. Each year, your Lodge receives a letter from the Grand Master asking Masons to publicly conduct themselves in a manner that will be honourable to our fraternity. This involves behaviour related to noise, language and appearance both in hotel rooms and hallways. Well Brethren, we are not perfect yet. There were instances where some Brethren were ordered to evacuate their rooms. I also received a letter from a high ranking officer of another organization, who was also having a conference in the hotel, and expressed to me in no uncertain terms their opinion of Freemasons, as an honourable and respected organization, had now

changed due to the actions they witnessed by certain individuals at the hotel.

In Masonic meetings, throughout each year, we talk about our teachings and the image we are obligated to strive for. That is to demonstrate to the general public that we represent civility and prove ourselves to be good citizens, neighbours, workmates and proud family leaders. For the most part we perform these duties quite well and then, once a year, in only two days, a few Masons present themselves in a disorderly manner leaving the image of all Freemasonry to appear less than it really is. For those guilty of such occurrences, consider going home a couple evenings and displaying the same conduct you did at the Royal York. Then reflect on how long your family situation would remain harmonious. Brethren, we can do better and I charge that responsibility to you in the future.

I was very pleased to hear that a number of Lodges had successful summer gatherings. Some of which are slightly infamous throughout Ontario, such as Lodge meetings in Hanover, Spencerville, Elmvale and Bracebridge just to name a few. These special meetings attract visitors from great distances and are well known annual events. If you have an opportunity to attend these functions you will find them both interesting and enjoyable.

Brethren, as we embark on another busy Masonic year I invite you to enjoy your experiences and go forward to display Freemasonry in its true form. Practice our craft and believe in its teachings and philosophies of life. These are major directives in the manner in which we conduct ourselves as men and as Masons.

As you know we will be receiving many invitations to Anniversaries and Receptions as well as some special Masonic events for instance the International Plowing Match near Harriston Sept. 20-24, 2016. The Grand Masters "Meet and Greet" that week will be at the Palmerston Community Centre September 22, 2016 at 5:00pm.

**Three Amalgamations** will take place in the coming months:

Tuscan & Victoria Lodges in Sarnia on September 10 at 12:00 noon

Stirling & Franck Lodges in Frankford on September 15 at 6:30pm

Highgate & Howard Lodges in Ridgetown on November 12 at 7:00pm

**The Institution** of Templim Lucis Lodge Stratford on September 21 at 7:00pm

Enjoy masonry to its fullest and you will appreciate life, family and friends as well.

**John C. Green**  
**Grand Master**

## **From the Deputy ...**

Brethren: All across Ontario most Masonic Lodges are returning to their labors after their usual summer recess. There are, of course, Lodges which meet during the summer and stand down in the winter months. Either way it's time for the Masons of Ontario to pick up our working tools and return to labour.

The Master of these Lodges are every mindful of Section 240 of our Constitution which states, "*shall cause to be published in the summons or shall read or cause to be read at one or more regular meetings of the Lodge such portion of the Proceedings of the last annual meeting of Grand Lodge as in his opinion will prove most instructive and beneficial to the membership of the Lodge*".

For a few moments I would like to inform you of a portion of the Proceedings as it relates to the structure of the Committees of Grand Lodge. No doubt you are aware, this year only 5 members to the Board of General Purposes were elected and 5 were appointed. This is the first of a two year down-sizing of the Board to be completed by July 2017.

To create a more effective and efficient Board, with less member's, changes were made to the structure. Previously, most of the twenty six Committees of Grand Lodge had a Chairman with some Committees having Sub-committee lead by Team Leaders. They all answered to or were given direction directly from the Deputy Grand Master.

Today's structure finds the three elected and two appointed members of the Management Committee are the only Committee Chairman. Each of these Chairmen has a Committee, under certain groupings, made up of various Teams with Team Leaders.

The Team Leaders report to their Chairman and only the five Chairmen directly report to the Deputy Grand Master who also may respond with direction and/or advice in return but only to the five Chairmen.

The five Chairmen are required to meet with their Teams regularly to keep themselves informed of the work being completed by their Teams within their mandates.

This re-design immediately makes the structure of the Committees more efficient.

Your Grand Lodge Committees are as follows

### **The Craft Stewardship Committee**

**Chairman:** David Cameron  
**Teams:** Strategic Planning, DDGM Orientation, Condition of Masonry, Seminars & Workshops

### **The Training & Education Committee**

**Chairman:** John Hay  
**Teams:** Education, Library, Museum & Archives, Brock University Partnership College of Freemasonry, Book Sales

### **The Lodge Resources Committee**

**Chairman:** Barry Burchill  
**Teams:** Leadership Development, Brother 2 Brother, Friend to Friend/ Mentor, Officer Progression, Cornerstone

### **The Operations Committee**

**Chairman:** Ed Standish  
**Teams:** Audit & Finance, Benevolence, Lodge Finances, Lodge Buildings

### **The Communication Committee**

**Chairman:** Tom Siemiernik  
**Teams:** Website, Internal Communications, Ontario Mason, Blood Donors, Youth Initiatives, Public Awareness, E- mail Distribution

### **Protocol & Etiquette**

Team Reports directly to the Custodian of the Work & Grand Master

**The Constitution & Jurisprudence Team, Discipline Team & Fraternal Relations Team** Report to the Past Grand Masters & Grand Master

At the completion of the down-sizing of the Board, next year, the ensuing steps will be a vigorous review of all Standing & Special Committees.

I personally want to thank the Chairman and Team Leaders of your Grand Lodge Committees who, despite changes of committee structure and committee assignments, have worked diligently to ensure all the changes were seamlessly implemented.

In closing perhaps a quote from the German satirist Georg C. Lichtenberg summons it up best:

*"I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better."*

*Paul E. Todd*  
*Deputy Grand Master*

Change of home address:  
206 Woodward Street  
Carleton Place, K7C 4E9