

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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

Well here we are in the seventh day of Autumn and our Masonic activities are getting busier. Many of us spent considerable time at the International Plowing match near Harriston last week. There were about one hundred and ten thousand in attendance over five days. I must tell you that the Masonic display tent was well visited and the combined committee from Bruce and Wellington districts did an outstanding job of setting up the exhibit that demonstrated the Family of Freemasonry to the public at large. There was participation by Grand Lodge, the Masonic Foundation, Scottish Rite, Demolay, Rameses and Mocha Shrine. As well, the Eastern Star provided Coffee and treats for our visitors. I know that in the past some have questioned our participation at this annual event, but I don't know anywhere we have the opportunity to put the face of Masonry before one hundred thousand people in one week. Of particular interest to me were the number of inquiries that were directed to the Demolay display. The local committee also showed some ingenuity by having 9 or 10 picnic tables right in front of our tent which was directly across from a number of food booths so that people who filled those tables saw the Masonic presence before their eyes while satisfying their appetites. Many then came into our venue and got information about Freemasonry. It is also noted that the local group introduced new signs that were quite visible by all to see. They looked fresh and new and I might say weighed about 10 pounds each and it didn't take three or four men to lift them like the previous ones.

I also want to mention that on Thursday the Local committee hosted a Meet and Greet for the Grand Master. I was quite impressed when approximately 175 folks attended a great feast of beef on a bun and a variety of salads. Those in attendance enjoyed good food, good fellowship and maybe a little laughing at some fun directed at the Grand Master but I have big shoulders to withstand pressure. I also enjoyed an opportunity to respond.

As we all know the season of Official Visits and Installations are upon us and I encourage every mason to attend and support those hosting lodges. The Grand Lodges officers have received most of the Trestle Boards and they too are encouraged to attend

those activities within their cable tow. Supporting each other by visitation brings lodges closer together both in friendship and respect for one another. Our teachings tell us that the more we know each other the more we understand each other and that fosters harmony within our fraternity.

At the recent celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the two Irish lodges in London I was reminded of situations in history and particularly in Masonic history. Today, we still acknowledge and respect these traditions that were established so many years ago. We should be proud that we still rely on those foundations that were laid for us by our forefathers that maintain the same meaning that it did two centuries ago. We have built on the past and respect their efforts but must always work diligently to continue building to ensure that our actions stimulate our future brethren to carry on the philosophies of Freemasonry as we know it.

I was surprised and interested by the comments I received from many about our conduct as masons in public and particularly at Grand Lodge in July. I recently had a brother approach me and said after discussion at his lodge they would be prepared to monitor the halls at next year's communication if need be. That type of response was very well received and I thank those who have offered support for our future activities.

Brethren as we are embarking upon the Thanksgiving season let us always remember how fortunate we are to live in a country that allows us the freedoms we enjoy. Give thanks to those who sacrificed unselfishly so we can live with the love and prosperity that has been afforded us and thank God we are blessed to be Canadian. We sometimes forget to realize as Canadians we are given opportunities that many never experience.

GOD BLESS FREEMASONRY and GOD BLESS CANADA

John C. Green  
Grand Master

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

October has brought to the Masons of Ontario, shorter daylight hours and the end of a summer of sunshine and warmth which at times seemed it would never end.

This month we continue our review of the Committees of Grand Lodge. I have chosen this month to highlight a committee whose work could be considered life or death. Seriously!

The mature (not older) Mason will remember sitting in Lodges with one exit, on the second floor, perhaps even a ground floor, in a building completely built with wood, windows boarded up either from the outside or inside, candles burning as lesser lights and they never gave their personal safety a second thought.

Perhaps in the same building sat Brethren whose occupation was either volunteer or full time and they knew it was only a matter of time before someone, perhaps more than one, would pay the ultimate sacrifice by being trapped in a fire.

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling during his year as Grand Master formed a hoc committee which used the following overview to create the Lodge Building Compliance Policy.

“For many, many years this Grand Lodge wrestled with the increasing poor conditions of lodge meeting places. The time had come when we, collectively must take accountability for the actions necessary to ensure we do the best we can to avoid any major accidents, with possible related deaths”.  
(partial quote Section 2 Lodge Building Compliance Policy)

“Every Masonic Building in which Lodges of this jurisdiction meet, regardless of whether it is owned, rented or lease, by the Lodge or a group of Lodges as a Temple Corporation, must be compliant with the local fire code requirements”  
(partial quote Section 3 Lodge Building Compliance Policy)

The Building Compliance Policy was implemented in 2012 and we are now in the middle of the second

round of inspections. Last year alphabetically, Districts from Algoma to Ontario completed their second round of inspections, this year Districts from Ottawa 1 to York are due for inspections.

One of the concerns often heard by this committee is the actual cost of inspections and why every three years.

Cost of inspection range from no charge to as much as 500 dollars, inspections are done every three years.

Taking the highest cost \$500 and the smallest membership of 20 members and divided by three years equals \$166 per year divided by 20 members comes \$8.30 or 4 medium Tim coffees per year or one coffee every three months, a small price to pay for fire safety. A Lodge of 100 members would be one coffee a year.

Three years is a reasonable time, cost of inspections can be pro-rated over three years in a Lodges annual budget. Although not mandated by the Ontario Fire Code, every three years is the policy of your Grand Lodge.

The Building Compliance Policy does contain a penalty clause, “on violation that is of having the Lodge Warrant removed” to date it has not been employed.

R.W. Bro. William Atkinson [william10@hotmail.ca](mailto:william10@hotmail.ca) is the Team Leader for Building Infrastructure

Remember “Procrastinations is the Foundation of all Disasters”

Author Pandora Poikilus

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October is the month of Thanksgiving. So as a Mason we all need to take a moment and reflect on all our Blessings and I trust that you are like me and have many blessing to be thank full for this year.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Paul E. Todd  
Deputy Grand Master



On behalf of your Grand Lodge office staff; Gail Nickerson, Stacey Birks, Kathy White, Jennifer Manzer and myself, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

