

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

Well Brethren, after 39 attempts to present information to you by way of the Communique I am now signing off on this my 40th effort. It has been a wonderful experience relating what I thought valuable information to the Grand Jurisdiction in this format. In my travels many Masons have commented about items I addressed in this monthly vehicle of communication. This makes me feel good as it means the Brethren are reading it regularly. Thank you for doing that.

As you already know, June 3rd is our Open House Ontario for the Masons as part of the Three Hundredth Anniversary Celebration. When I was in the office, May 31st, I was informed that at least over 300 Lodges are taking part in these events all over Ontario. I am sure there are many others who are also participating in various locations. There are Open Houses, Friend 2 Friend events, dinners, breakfasts, lunches and several other celebrations throughout the Province. The most significant is likely in Renfrew where there are events all day for the community to take part. Food, parades, children's activities are taking place all day long. I don't like to show favouritism to one particular Lodge but Renfrew No. 122 has made it known their desire to open the doors to the entire community. We at Grand Lodge would like you forward any reports, photos and such to Ron Findlater or myself to assess the success of the day.

Recently there has been a significant amount of activity in the Masonic Foundation Office in regards to Prostate Hope, our Grand Lodge project. I know many of the Lodges and Districts are still having a wide number of events to complete. I just want to inform everyone we appreciate the effort demonstrated by many of our members who have worked diligently to make this project a successful venture. There is still the opportunity to make personal contributions which are eligible for tax receipt with an impressive certificate to identify those Brethren who have the resources to donate \$200 or \$1000. As you have heard me many times this money, earmarked for research, is an important aspect with our hope that cure and comfort will come to those afflicted.

We also know that such situations affect the entire family of those who suffer through these difficult challenges.

Through the last two years there have been a number of changes in our Grand Jurisdiction. We have employed a new Chief Operating Officer, which has been talked about for years. I am very pleased that Evan Woodhead is now with us and working enthusiastically to learn and understand the various responsibilities that are performed on our behalf. I wish him well in his future endeavours. I know we will benefit from his previous experience.

We have also, as you know, gone through the process of reducing the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes. The elections at our Grand Communication this July will complete that two year process. Although there have been challenges long the way I am totally convinced that we are on the path or direction necessary to lead us to a fruitful future in the administration of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. I will be making other comments about the future in my Grand Master's Address.

Finally Brethren, I realize and appreciate that very few Masons ever have the opportunity to experience a four year term as Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master. That is something that you the Masons have made possible for me. For that reason I am ever indebted to you for the wonderful opportunity to enjoy your company and friendship. Masonry offers us teachings and principles and how to live our lives as honourable citizens promoting brotherly love, relief and truth. We should all be thankful that Freemasonry has come into our lives. I know I am.

***BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE
BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO
BE PROUD TO BE A MASON***

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

From the Deputy

Brethren: I realize as I write this June Communique it will be my last one as Deputy Grand Master. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to write about the Chairman & Team Leaders who have worked on your behalf as Leaders of the several Grand Lodge Committees.

Even though we are in the final months of our Masonic year these Leaders have continued to work - some even presenting workshops as late as last weekend in the far north of this great Province.

Each Team Leader's preliminary report will be 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 that the Board recommend the report to Grand Lodge for approval. The District Deputy Grand Masters will be participating in the vote since they are, by Constitution, members of the Board of General Purposes. If you are in Toronto on the Monday and Tuesday, during the week of Grand Lodge, you are more than welcome to observe the Board of General Purposes' meetings along with the annual meeting of the Masonic Foundation, The Masonichip Foundation of Ontario and the Masonic Holding Corporation.

An area is set aside for the observers (respectfully called the peanut gallery) some observers have been coming for years, please feel free to come and enjoy the workings of Grand Lodge.

The presentation of the several Committee reports to Grand Lodge is given by a member of the Management Committee who has been responsible for the several Teams.

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

The 2017 Grand Lodge marks the second year in which our Grand Lodge will reduce the number of members of the Board of General Purposes. We will only vote for **FIVE** members and only **FIVE** will be appointed to the Board of General Purposes.

Those of you who can, by Constitution vote, play a very important part in our Grand Lodge. It is **your responsibility** to educate yourself on whom to elect, not only for the Board but also, for Grand Master, Deputy

Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden. The Grand Registrar was acclaimed this year. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer are up for election next year.

Your Grand Lodge has provided you several ways to educate yourself with those Brethren who have allowed their names to stand for the different offices. A picture of the Brother and information of his qualifications may be found on the Grand Lodge Website or can also be obtained in electronic or paper form from your Lodge Secretary who received it in the April mailing to your Lodge.

After the Grand Master's banquet this year, the members of the Board of General Purposes will gather to vote for a member of the Management Committee since the term one of the elected Members of the Management Committee has expired and is up election.

It cannot be said enough nor can enough importance be given to the fact that your Grand Lodge is determine by **THOSE OF YOU** who are qualified to vote. Your vote can make a difference. As in any election, exercise your **PRIVILEGE** and vote.

Every year, those who let their names stand for different positions at Grand Lodge are invited by the Brethren of Ottawa 1&2 District to come and enjoy eastern hospitality and mingle with the Brethren in what has become known as the Eastern Ontario Tour.

In a short in a three day period, the Tour attends four Lodge Installations. At each Installation those who "allow their name to stand" are introduced to the Brethren assemble.

One of the Installations was always "up the Valley" at Bonnechere Lodge No. 433 in Eganville, in Ottawa District 2, where the hospitality was second to none and the banquet was always a highlight of the Tour.

Sadly in June of this year, the light of Masonry in Eganville will go dark. I just wanted to take a moment to thank the Brethren of the Bonnechere Lodge No. 433 for all the hospitality over the last decade and a half. Many a "Best Friend" began there.

See you at Grand Lodge!!!

Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master