

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Brethren:

I find, in November, the shorter daylight hours and the longer dark nights always remind me of the line in Gordon Lightfoot's ballad the Edmund Fitzgerald "the skies of November turn gloomy" follow by "the gales of November come early". Are you ready for a Canadian winter?

In the Lodges of Ontario, the fall dinners have already started, along with the usual receptions for the new Grand Lodge Officers. These receptions give the Brethren, along with their Ladies, the opportunity to salute and mark the beginning of a new Masonic year and as I can attest they are very much appreciated by the new Grand Lodge Officers.

A reminder at these receptions or in fact any gathering where alcohol is present there must be the proper permit. Your Grand Lodge reminds you of this each year in our April mailing and it is prudent to remind you again with the holiday season being just around the corner. As my representatives, the District Deputy Grand Masters will ensure a permit is always present, be it a one event or the gathering place is licensed.

This past month I presented a William Mercer Wilson Medal; presided over a Lodge Consecration and attended several meetings in Hamilton all of which were enjoyable and, in the case of the meetings, very productive.

I have just return from the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador and as many of you are no doubt aware their hospitality to "mainlanders" is second to none. It has been my experience over the past few years that one always learns by listening to the reports and often it is about how a Grand Lodge handles certain issues.

An example would be: how votes on the floor of Grand Lodge are handled, particularly as it relates to amendments to the Constitution. Their system assures that only "register" delegates are allow to vote and I will be discussing this procedure with the Deputy Grand Master and the Management Committee. If there is agreement, I will move the necessary amendments.

This year the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador celebrates its twentieth Anniversary as a Grand Lodge. I knew the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of

Ontario played an important part in its creation but I never knew how big a part we did play.

Many of you who are reading this Communiqué attend seminars, conventions and the Annual Communication each year. Although much is learned at these sessions, it is what occurs after that is often the most important.

At breakfast, before their Annual Communication began, I sat with the Grand Chaplain, R.W. Bro Job Parsons, who related to me he joined Masonry in Ontario at Trenton which, of course, is my home tome. After that discussion was over he then told me how happy he was to see our Grand Lodge in Corner Brook because we played such an important part in the formation of their Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Daniel Crocker, who joined us at the table, continued the conversation and the two Brethren began a step by step narrative of the difficulties and how our Grand Lodge became the sponsor of their Grand Lodge.

I was then introduced to the first Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Herman W. Starkes, who then relayed to me again the initial steps of being a new Grand Lodge and how much of a role our Grand Lodge played and how we were there to help from the initial idea to the Constitute & Consecration ceremony.

He mentioned the names of several Past Grand Masters who play a role in the lead-up, however it was the former Grand Secretary, the late M.W. Bro. R.E. Davies, who was repeatedly mentioned.

I came away from that discussion knowing I had advanced my Masonic knowledge that day but also realized how important a role our Past Grand Masters have played in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador and continue to play in the daily work of our Grand Lodge.

I am reminded of the words of M.W. Bro. Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri 1940 and member of Belton Lodge No. 450, when he said:

"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better"

***Paul E. Todd
Grand Master***

We Remember Them

by Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

At the rising of the sun and at its going down;
We remember them.
At the blowing of the wind and the chill of the winter;
We remember them.
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring;
We remember them.
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of Autumn;
We remember them.
At the beginning of the year and when it ends;
We remember them.
As long as we live, they too will live,
For they are now part of us
As we remember them.

When lost and sick at heart;
We remember them.
When we have joy we crave to share;
We remember them.
When we have decisions that are difficult to make;
We remember them.
When we have achievements that are based on theirs;
We remember them.
As long as we live, they too will live,
For they are now a part of us
As we remember them.



Brethren,

November is a time when we honour our Brethren and all the others who gave their lives in the service of our country. I encourage you to participate in Remembrance Day Services in your Lodge and in your community. Dispensation for wearing regalia in public is not required for an official Remembrance Day Ceremony. And poppies are worn on your jacket's collar, not your regalia collar.

At this time Lodges often also conduct Memorial Services for their deceased Brethren. And, of course, Memorial Services are performed throughout the year. These events are the only time the public get to see any of our ritual and so effort should be put into the performance of this ritual. Hold rehearsal. As no man knoweth when the time will come. Plan a rehearsal now. Consider rehearsing every year, either just after or just before your Installation. Remember it may be needed the day after.

The Protocol and Etiquette Committee, under R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher, has published an excellent guide which is on the website under "Lodge" then "Protocol and Etiquette".

An effective way to get everyone in the preparation room to be quiet is simply for one of the leading Brethren to put one hand up in the air. There are enough old Boy Scouts in the room that things will quiet down without the need to yell anything.

The Ritual Committee has issued two directives to correct recent concerns. The first is that quoting from the final charge of the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture must not be done in public (either at a Masonic Memorial Service

or at a Funeral Service). The second is that the Masonic Memorial Service is a Craft Lodge Ceremony and therefore only Craft Lodge information should be placed on the sacred scroll. The DDGM (if present) and the WM should form an "honour guard" by one standing on each side of the casket or urn.

Remember the funeral honours are given to the deceased Brother so everyone, including the leader, should face the casket or urn. In case you haven't heard, the instructions have been changed to "The Brethren will copy my example and say AFTER me".

The effect of a Masonic Service on the Brother's family cannot be underestimated. They truly appreciate our presence. Such is the importance, that if a family asks for a funeral service, we do one. No matter if the Brother had demitted or even been suspended for non-payment of dues years ago, no matter if he hadn't attended Lodge for decades. When I was Worshipful Master a man died who had been upset at our lodge and demitted long before I had joined. The family did not ask for a Masonic memorial service but I went to the visitation anyway. They told me that they had been expecting someone from the Lodge to show up, then regaled me with stories about how important Masonry had been to their dad during the time they were children. They appreciated the fact the Lodge had remembered him.

*We remember them. As long as we live, they too will live,
For they are now a part of us as we remember them.*

David J. Cameron
Deputy Grand Master