

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

My first order of business must be to thank every single Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction who has seen fit to afford me the second greatest experience of my life when I was elected and subsequently Invested into the Grand Chair of King Solomon in July. (Be sure and tell my wife I said second greatest experience, for the day she said 'yes' to my marriage proposal some thirty-two years ago still tops the charts!)

The second order of business is to congratulate all the new Grand Lodge Officers throughout our Grand Jurisdiction on your latest preferment! It is a great honour to share the leadership of our Grand Lodge with such a fine group of Brethren and I trust we will share a productive year together in advancing the objectives of our Gentle Craft.

There have been many Brethren of all ages at every stage in my life who have been very patient with their time shared with me to inspire, motivate, educate and 'admonish with candor,' to make me into the man I am proud to be. To all of you, I can't begin to thank you enough.

I continue to be inspired by the great leaders that this jurisdiction is blessed with. While we often take this for granted, please consider this; without the benevolent and binding influence of Freemasonry, most of us would have remained at a perpetual distance, much less become friends and Brothers.

Is it not strange that while conspiracy theorists along with those that oppose our objectives write volumes speculating as to what the 'real' secrets of our Fraternity are? The men we call our Brethren, are the embodiment of one of the greatest secrets that Freemasonry has to offer, which is to work together in harmony. As Masons, we understand that it is an exercise in futility to focus on the myriad of things that make us different and unique from one another. Our genius lies in being able to find

common ground upon which to build a foundation for future generations to build upon.

Within our ranks, we have men from all walks of life who bring into our Fraternity a wide variety of skills and talent. Men, who among their purposes in being here, is to move forward the great work of Ontario Freemasonry. Honourable men, who have learned to look beyond their differences of opinions and unite in harmony to work for the greater good. Men of great vision, who see beyond the moment and know what we as a Fraternity can be and refuse to allow the phrase 'good enough,' to pass their lips. Great men, who rather than wait for an opportunity to present itself; seize the moment and make the most of it!

While this may seem repetitive to some of you, take a moment and consider the sacrifices of time, effort, and money that you have expended labouring on the mountains and in the quarries of our Craft. And for what?

Titles that mean nothing outside of our Lodge doors? A promise of some ethereal secret to wealth and fame? Of course, not my Brethren; you of all people know that none of this is to be had within the boundaries of our beloved Fraternity. You are great, honourable, visionary men because you honour our heritage and traditions by labouring tirelessly to ensure that there is a future for Freemasonry in Ontario and the rest of the world.

Ask yourself these questions: What kind of a leader am I? What unique skills do I bring to my Lodge? Am I fulfilling my Masonic potential?

Oftentimes, in Masonic speeches and writings, authors, and orators bandy about names like: Sir John A. Macdonald, George Washington, Prince Hall, Benjamin Franklin, Teddy Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Winston Churchill and John Diefenbaker and praise their great

leadership skills and contributions to the world. Some have even wondered out loud, why we don't have men and leaders of that caliber today. Obviously, anyone who asks the question has never visited any one of our beloved Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction. From East to West and all points in between, we are blessed with the benefit of excellent Masonic Ritualists and leaders in the world. You may not be known to the world Brethren, but you are most certainly known and respected in this Jurisdiction and the communities wherein you reside.

You, my Brethren, should not waste your time comparing yourself to others. Instead, it is time that you realize your true selves and fully embrace your role as great leaders. Many of our forebearers whom we admire and mention with such reverential awe, were men with whom you share more than you may think. While we are reminded of their great strengths and successes, it is important that we remember they were but men. Men who suffer from the same weaknesses and imperfections that we possess. However, we have an advantage that they did not. We have the privilege of building upon the foundation that they laid for us combined with the benefit of hindsight, enabling us to avoid their errors. This combined with our unique skills and abilities creates a powerful formula for success!

While we are all grateful for what they did for us, we cannot afford to expect this great work to move forward solely on the achievements of the past. We do not have the luxury of coasting or worse yet, standing idly by expecting others to do the work. This is the time, and this is the place for us to take up our tools, square our shoulders and fulfill our destiny.

You have within each of you the ability and above that, the obligation to see to it that your Masonic working tools never gather dust or become encrusted with rust. Each of you have been endowed by the Great Architect with a unique blend of talents and skills which you were charged during your Master Mason Degree to use to protect and serve that for which we stand.

Freemasonry is after all a moral and progressive science, and it isn't merely for the

sake of allegory that our beloved Ritual is grounded on the idea of the worker and his labours.

That destiny can only be realized by working in harmony and with that singularity of purpose which is meant to distinguish us from the rest of the world.

Though we are comprised of many different types of leaders, through the diligent application of our Masonic principles we can overcome any obstacle together! It is no coincidence that the body of our institution, like the human body is comprised of different parts which separately cannot survive, yet collectively can only be stopped by self-imposed limitations. Just as it requires the harmony of the entire body to run a marathon or slam dunk a basketball, it also takes all of us to bring our destiny as Ontario Freemasons to fruition.

We are in this together Brethren! And together we will be successful!

Thomas W. Hogeboom
Grand Master

If you would like to join the Grand Master in celebrating Masonry in Ontario this September, he will be in:

Kingston - to present Grand Steward regalia to a stalwart of the District on September 7. A very special ceremony as a Father's regalia is being passed on to his Son!

Campbellville - to conduct the Silver to Gold Ceremony for Campbell Lodge on September 17.

Kingston - Maple Leaf Lodge Reception for the Grand Master on September 24.

Lansdowne - for the 150th anniversary of Macoy Lodge on September 27.

Thunder Bay - to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Kaministiquia Lodge with the Silver to Gold Ceremony and Shuniah Lodge will celebrate their 150th anniversary the following two days with a Lodge meeting, Grand Lodge regalia presentation, banquet, dance and a District Divine Service starting on September 30.

From the Deputy ...

My Brethren:

I am so happy and pleased to be able to address the members of this Grand Jurisdiction for the first time since being elected as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. This is such an honour and I'm pretty excited to be the President of the Board of General Purposes. Thank you everyone for the faith and trust that you have placed in me to move our labours forward in a positive direction. I feel that we have put a great team in place ready to meet the many challenges head on, honestly and openly.

Welcome back to the upcoming 2022-23 Masonic year. I would like to congratulate our newly Installed Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom on being elected to the highest office of our Grand Lodge. Also to the newly Installed District Deputy Grand Master's, welcome to the Board of General Purposes and welcome to the team. Congratulations to you all on your accomplishments thus far. We are all working together towards a common goal of harmony, peace and the betterment of all. Never forget Brethren that no matter what rank we hold, we are all equal on the level.

We have had a couple of Management Committee meetings to date and we will soon have the second Board meeting completed. The team is getting geared up to work for our Grand Lodge and work for our membership.

At the regional meetings with the Custodian of the Work, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master and myself, the District Deputy Grand Masters were all instructed on their required duties for the upcoming Masonic term of office. The new Grand Lodge Branding was covered so that we can all have uniform business cards, letterheads and stationary. It's an initiative that I am excited about which will help us to have a stronger identity amongst ourselves and also help us to be recognized in our communities. It's a positive step forward for us and will help to connect the whole Jurisdiction into one cohesive body. Thank you to the Public Awareness Committee for seeing the Branding idea come to fruition.

We also talked about the social media aspect of our daily lives. Brethren, as social media is so intertwined into our day to day lives, be ever

mindful that what ever you post, tweet, dance to or talk about, if it's on social media, it's there to stay. As we are all members of this Grand Lodge, let us remember that we need to cast and reinforce a positive and trustworthy image to ourselves and to the public. Your use of social media reflects on all of us, let us all be ever mindful of the harm or the good that we are able to cause. Your activities online are a direct reflection of our Grand Lodge and our Grand Master, be ever cautious. We are always being watched Brethren but I will talk about that in a future Communique.

I have commissioned a new Social Media Committee this year which will investigate all social media avenues and whether we should be using them. It's a new age Brethren and we are going to look at new ways of communicating. The advantage of the pandemic is that it has propelled us forward a little more into the modern times. It has necessitated the need for virtual meetings which translates into bringing the Jurisdiction and the world a lot closer together. We will continue with the virtual meetings for Management Committee meetings, Board of General Purposes meetings, Grand Lodge Committee meetings and of course for the Masonic Education Speaker Series presentations. The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario has become a global leader in all things dealing with Masonic Education and we're not going to let up on the gas, it's full throttle ahead. There are speakers lined up for the fall season and the Masonic Education Speaker Series Committee is planning for a great winter line up as well.

I will carry on with some more information from the DDGM regional meetings next month Brethren as it's important for us all to reflect upon and learn from.

Thank you for now and we'll continue this talk soon. Let's all be the reason that someone smiles today.

Jamie R. Ireland
Deputy Grand Master

From the Grand Secretary ...

Brethren,

2022 Lodge Officer Information:

Brethren, as we are coming out of the Masonic lockdown and getting back to regular meetings, we are finding that the Grand Lodge database needs some significant updating.

Because of the COVID-19 situation many of our lodges have not submitted a Return of Officers form since 2019, as a result of not having had elections and installations. Others who had elections and installations this past spring have not sent in the Return of Officers form.

This caused us a number of issues during the voting registrations in June and July. It will continue to cause us issues going ahead if we do not get the records updated.

Please ensure that your lodge has submitted a Return of Officers form for any elections and installations held in May or June of 2022.

And, as we move ahead to elections and installations this fall, please ensure that our records are updated as soon as the installation occurs.

Those forms are the only way that we can keep the lodge records up to date.

Fraternally, Garry

*D. Garry Dowling
Grand Secretary*