



# MASONIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

November, 2013

*“What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul”* Joseph Addison

Prepared and submitted on behalf of the Committee on Masonic Education by  
R.W.Bro. Charles A. Woods, Chairman, CME

## LONDON MASONIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The conference, held on November 9th at the London Masonic Temple, was a great success as reflected by the enthusiasm of the brethren attending, and due to the good efforts of Conference Chairman, W.Bro. Rick Cadotte and his hard-working team: R.W.Bro. Jeff Brown, DDGM, R.W.Bro. Randy Hawken, DDGM, R.W.Bro. Norm Kerr, PDDGM, R.W.Bro. David Parisian, PDDGM, V.W.Bro. Michael Greystone, Grand Steward and W.Bro. Russell Bain – all from London East and West Districts. It was a wonderful day with excited participants listening to eight interesting speakers on various topics (unfortunately, R.W.Bro. Dale Graham who was very ill – now recuperating – was unable to give his lecture “The Ancient Landmark”). We wish him well!

The highlight of the day was Bro.Second Lieutenant Joseph Curry, Canada Lodge U.D. Kandahar, Afghanistan, and Beaches Lodge No. 473 G.R.C., speaking on the topic “Bullet Proof Masonry”. WOW! He graced us with his presence for the rest of the day and his presentation was videotaped by W.Bro. Milan Cobanov of General Mercer Lodge No. 548. He has done many Masonic videos of excellent quality for Scottish Rite, Royal Arch and so on. This video will soon be available on the Grand Lodge website and I urge you to watch it if you were not at the Conference.

There were 82 brethren in attendance, including our Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John Green. There was a “feast” of philosophical and Masonic delights – pity, there could have been more diners! However, we will build on the success of this Conference to help us prepare for the North Bay Conference in late winter/early spring, 2014 under the Chairmanship of R.W.Bro. Jacques Lacourse, Grand Registrar, to make it another great Masonic adventure. Dates and venue will be provided shortly. The profit from the London Conference of \$425.52 will be donated to the Grand Master’s charity, Prostate Cancer Research.

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### “A Traditional Observance Lodge” by Cliff Porter

Book Review by W. Bro. Rob Lund

Publisher: Star Publishing, LLC May 4, 2013  
ISBN – 10 : 0615802354  
ISBN – 13: 978-0615802350  
Paperback – 246 pages

The book under review is of a similar subject to the two book reviews in the previous newsletter. But before you skip ahead, read this:

The author describes his lodge as having greater than 100% attendance. Men wait for periods of more than a year to be initiated. They have never lost an Entered Apprentice. There is no member who has not paid dues, nor has there been anyone who was suspended for non-payment of dues. Their dues are much higher than other Lodges. Brethren are reluctant to leave their meetings, even at 2am.

How is this possible?

The author describes how, with the help of the Masonic Restoration Foundation (a US organization) they put into practice many Masonic ideals. Every aspect of Freemasonry is celebrated. Their background checks on candidates are rigorous, ensuring the right caliber of man. Every Lodge meeting is treated as an event and is celebrated as such. Initiations are solemn and serious. The ritual is perfect and the art work and furnishings are set up to create an atmosphere designed for a truly initiatic experience.

Dinner is treated as a feast (called an Agape, which is the Greek word for divine love). The food is good and is served on porcelain and with good cutlery, linen napkins and glasses. Wine is drunk. Dinner tables are set up in a "U" shape to promote conversation. The Agape starts and ends with a ceremony. They also have regular Festive Boards, with education sessions and, sometimes, even singing, and lots of toasts.

Business meetings only occur six times a year and are conducted on non-degree nights. Education is an essential part of this Lodge. Candidates have to prepare presentations on their degrees before being allowed to progress to the next one. They have a special ceremony before opening and after closing Lodge, which includes periods of quiet meditation. There is no automatic progression of Officers. Officers are elected on merit alone.

This book offers many suggestions as to how to create such a Lodge which, to me, seems to be how things should be done, in keeping with the traditions of Freemasonry which we seem to have lost. The success of this Lodge, and there are others like it, should be a model for us all.

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## **“The Birth of Our Grand Lodge”**

Prepared by M.W.Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels

*“To form perfect fraternal union and harmony, establish order, ensure tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the fraternity of Canada, all the blessings of Masonic privileges; it is expedient, right, and our bounden duty to form a GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.”*

With this resolution the Brethren of forty-one Lodges from Canada East and Canada West assembled in the Masonic Hall in Hamilton on October 10, 1855, brought into being the Grand Lodge of Canada. This was a bold and courageous step by the colonial Brethren.

*“We the representatives of regularly warranted Lodges here in convention assembled – Resolve that the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, be, and is hereby formed upon the ancient charges and constitution of Masonry.”*

The first order of business was to prepare a new constitution. William Mercer Wilson was duly elected as Grand Master for the ensuing twelve months. The Grand Lodge was consecrated and the Grand Master installed on November 2, 1855 by M.W. Bro. H. T. Backus, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.

The former Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, R.W. Bro. Dr. James Daniel, (Honorary Grand Secretary of our Grand Lodge) in his research into colonial Freemasonry of the period, pointed out that the Grand Lodge of Canada was the first Grand Lodge in the Empire to be recognized by the parent Grand Lodge of England after declaring independence. That is a singular distinction of which we should be immensely proud.

Thirty Lodges joined the new Grand Lodge. The Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada, successor to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, continued until 1858, when articles of union were approved by both Grand Lodges on July 14, 1858, and the Ancient Grand Lodge was declared dissolved and fraternal union was achieved.

Following Confederation in 1867, when four Provinces constituted the Dominion of Canada, the Lodges in Quebec passed a resolution on October 20, 1869, that “*The Grand Lodge of Quebec of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, be, and is hereby formed upon the Ancient Charges and Constitutions of Masonry.*”

In 1885 a committee to review the Constitution recommended that the style and title of Grand Lodge be amended to ‘**The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario.**’ When the revised Constitution was adopted in 1887, the name became official, and so it remains to the present day.

Today, our Grand Lodge occupies a position of respect among the Grand Lodges of North America. We are the largest Grand Lodge in Canada with more members than all the other nine Grand Lodges combined.

As we celebrate the 158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Grand Lodge at this season of Thanksgiving in 2013, we must be grateful for the determination, perseverance, and dedication of our founding fathers. We must never forget the debt we owe to those who have come before us. However, “*Do not follow in the footsteps of the men of old; seek what they sought.*” (Matsu Gasho) It is our solemn duty to perpetuate the legacy for a season.

RSJD 2013

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**The Reflections Newsletter** is a compendium of some of the best articles and presentations from the brethren in our jurisdiction. It is issued four times a year in hard copy and we are looking towards having it available online in the near future. We are undergoing some administrative changes at the moment but once that is done, I would encourage the brethren to subscribe or renew your subscriptions, if you have not done so. For the time being, you may email the Editor, Bro. Andrew Douris at [andrewlp11@yahoo.ca](mailto:andrewlp11@yahoo.ca). (note: it is a lower case “L” after Andrew, not a numerical “1”). We are planning to insert a few excerpts in future Newsletters. If any brethren have interesting articles or speeches, please send them to Bro. Douris!

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*“If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it”*

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister and Freemason