

# B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team of Grand Lodge

NOVEMBER 2007



## The B2B Tool Kit – Resource Manual “Let’s Look A Little Closer At ...”

### “Now it’s your turn !”

My Brethren,

As we move more deeply into the workings of the B2B Resource Manual & Tool Kit, we begin to enter areas that generally stir the passions in every Mason’s heart. This next section, if not the most controversial, does instill the greatest fear in many Masons. It is here that the B2B program begins to speak about coping with CHANGE!!

Why does *one word* stir the passions of men’s hearts, so deeply?

Is it because we have a *deep concern for the integrity of Freemasonry*

or ...is it because we *FEAR that the changes we make will result in FAILURE?*

### PASSION - FEAR - FAILURE

Before you get your turn to express your opinions, let us give you as sampling of the content from this section.

#### 5.4 Lodge Management: Coping With Change

##### 5.4.1 Introduction

Lodge Officers and active members all too frequently hear: "you can't do that!", or "we have always done it this way!" These utterances are aimed at change, or more accurately, **against** change.

Change for change's sake is inappropriate. However, equally inappropriate is resistance to change because "we never did that before!" The purpose of this Section is to address the Management of Change.

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To get more information about the B2B program

or

To receive a copy of the publication known as the B2B FACILIFACTS

contact the Grand Lodge B2B Team Leader

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**Coping With Change** cont'd.

One of our basic tenets is; that it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovation in the body of Masonry, however change is said to be inevitable. What often gets lost in the heat of debate is the nature of the change.

Landmarks, Tenets, Principles and the Ritual require consistency for the Craft to survive. However, equally important for our survival are the changes necessary to keep the Craft current with modern society.

We have entered the 21st century & it is extremely important that we have the capacity to recognize the need to modernize our management philosophies. Certain changes are mandatory, if the basic philosophy of Freemasonry is to endure beyond its 300th Anniversary.

The paradox we all face as Masons is to preserve that which cannot be changed without compromising the very foundation of Freemasonry. While overcoming the conflict and bickering over those changes that must be made to ensure the continued existence of what each and every Mason deems inviolable: the preservation of a healthy Masonic Order "until time shall be no more" is the challenge of every Mason.

What changes are required for Masonry to survive and grow?

Some are already being taken. The veil of secrecy that, in the past, has surrounded and screened out the curiosity and perhaps interest of our family, friends and the community, is being lifted. Masonry is emerging from its own dark age at a time when society fears more and more the unknown. The more society understands about Masons and their contributions to the community, the stronger the Fraternity will become.

Lodge Management must also move forward. Gone are the heydays of Masonic growth following both World Wars when, with the fraternal feeling for their comrades-at-arms still in their hearts, many returning veterans sought something to erase the agony and, to fill the gap, turned to Freemasonry. This is an age of independence. The "Generation Xers" and what is now called the "Millennials", they each have their own distinct views of life in general, and how much they wish to participate. Their sense of belonging differs from past generations. They are not content to sit on the sidelines. ***They want to be active or they are gone!***

To attract these generations, who represent the future of our Craft, Freemasonry must adapt to accommodate their philosophies to include a voice in the operation of the Lodge and expand to include their families in Lodge activities.

We must strive for Total Quality Masonry, the pursuit of excellence in all our Masonic activities, including improving the quality of our membership. While the values of Masonry remain untarnished, many of the old ways of doing things must be re-evaluated to ensure they are still valid in today's world. If changes are necessary, then changes must be made, including modernizing our managerial philosophies.

## **“Now it’s your turn !”**

***Give us your thoughts!***



***Speak your mind!***

**“How important is change to our Fraternity?”**

**“What changes should be made?”**

**“Are they even necessary?”**

Please send your thoughts and comments to [idwates@sympatico.ca](mailto:idwates@sympatico.ca)

We will compile your comments in an anonymous format and include them in the next edition of the FACILIFACTS. We have allocated plenty of space for your responses, so please don't disappoint us.

***“Working Together Brother 2 Brother, We Can Make A Difference!”***

### ***Jurisdiction News***

Through the *new* Lodge Resources Committee, the Brother 2 Brother Team of Grand Lodge is available to help your lodge either through a conjoined presentation with Friend 2 Friend-Mentor, Officer Progression or Protocol & Etiquette; or as a standalone presentation. Many lodges and districts have already scheduled their dates. Don't miss out on your opportunity. As we move into the second half of the Masonic year, the following presentation dates have been confirmed:

<b>Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007</b>	---	<b>Victoria District</b>	<b>LRS</b> (with F2F-M)
<b>Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b>	---	<b>Georgian North &amp; South</b>	<b>LRS</b> (with F2F-M)
<b>Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b>	---	<b>Hamilton A, B &amp; C</b>	<b>LRS</b> (with F2F-M)
<b>Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008</b>	---	<b>Brant District</b>	<b>LRS</b> (with F2F-M)
<b>Saturday, Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b>	---	<b>Muskoka Parry Sound District</b>	<b>LRS</b> (with P & E)



## “NEW FEATURE”

### LODGE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

*brethren, this NEW FEATURE, to be known as “Lodge Activities at a Glance” has been developed as a direct result of the Lodge Summons that the Grand Master reads each and every month. There are many noteworthy activities happening right across the Jurisdiction, some are related to lodge fellowship, others are about charity events, while many more are about special occasions. The inclusion of these randomly chosen lodge activities, in this periodical, is solely for the purpose of providing the membership at large with some examples of ways to better involve their lodge members. With the hope that someone in your lodge might say ... “We should try something like that.”*

#### From ...

**Ionic Lodge No. 229, Toronto West District ...** On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Ionic Lodge hosted an “Open House” where Shriners acquainted all invited Masons with the Shrine Hospitals. It was also an opportunity to for Masons to invite friends so that they might learn more about Freemasonry. As usual the always popular “Big Canadian” breakfast was outstanding.

**Cedar Lodge No. 396, Bruce District ...** The Masonic information tent at the Pumpkin fest was very busy. The Masons of Bruce District assisted with a new Grand Lodge initiative called **MasoniChIP Ontario**, child identification service. The Canadian Blood Service was also provided some space in the tent, with blood typing conducted for those who wished it done. Displays from Grand Lodge, Masonic Foundation & Scottish Rite were also on view.

**Northern Light Lodge No. 93, North Huron District ...** The lodge recently presented a Widow’s pin to Mrs. Bill Kempton and sent another to Chilliwack, BC for Mrs. William Farrell. In October the lodge participated in the community’s “Open Doors” program, with some 100 visitors in the lodge building, learning about Freemasonry. Finally, in order to continue to ensure the lodge is Revitalized, the officer & mentor pairings have been published in the summons.

**St. John’s Lodge No. 209a, London West District ...** Recently the lodge’s new recognition initiative known as the “Award of Excellence” was presented to our first recipient WBro. Warren Flannigan, with his wife Mabel and many family members present. Also many brethren were honoured with significant milestones in service of our great Fraternity.

**Bytown Lodge No. 721 “The Friendly Lodge”, Ottawa 2 District ...** “Change is good” How many times have you heard that one? Is it true or not ... I guess that depends on the topic. One thing for sure, the Table Lodge with the Ladies in attendance was excellent. This is a positive change to how Bytown Lodge conducts its activities and we look forward to next year’s with even more participation from our spouses.

**St. John’s Lodge No. 3, Frontenac District ...** Recently we held a evening that explored our past. Many items from the historical room were displayed, with books & papers that spoke to our great history. The historian will be taking some in the next while to better sort & catalogue these many items.