

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

November is traditionally a time of Remembrance, when as a Nation, we pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by the Members of our Armed Services through many global conflicts and Peace Keeping Missions. Brethren, if you can, proudly display the poppy and please plan on attending one of the Services at a local Cenotaph. A reminder that service medals may be worn at Lodge Remembrance Services held this month.

Our fall season has been filled with tremendous opportunities for us to gather together in celebration of Lodge special Anniversaries, especially marking 150 years of continuous existence. These have provided a wonderful chance to meet and greet the Lodge Brethren and their Ladies as your Guest of Honour and to bring greetings from Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Officers who have accompanied us. The warmth and hospitality displayed during these gatherings has been tremendous and thanks are extended to the organizing Committees for all their hard work.

November provides us with yet more opportunities to celebrate special Lodge Anniversaries in Thunder Bay, Stratford and Napanee. We are looking forward to being with the Brethren and their Ladies in these Districts.

We have also been privileged to attend ceremonies of Amalgamation (Essex), Dedication (Brantford), W.M.W. presentation (North Bay) and GM Meritorious Service Award presentation (Simcoe). At each of these events, I am pleased to see many old friends and have the opportunity to meet so many of our newer Brethren. There is excitement in our Lodges and renewed enthusiasm is evident. Frost may be in the air, but so too is a sense of renewal and an optimism towards the future. Keep up the good work Brethren. Believe in our Vision.

### **Housekeeping Items:**

I would ask for your support with the following matters:

**1. Master's Collars: There is still confusion about the wearing of the Master's collar outside his own lodge:** As indicated in the Masonic Manual and P&E Essentials (Issue 4, Jan 2010) the Master may wear his collar outside his own Lodge on specified occasions **only**.

These include: (1) when conducting a Divine Service; (2) when conducting a Memorial Service; (3) when attending the Annual Communication; (4) when attending the Official Visit of the D.D.G.M. IN HIS OWN DISTRICT; and (5) when attending a Divine Service in his District conducted by the D.D.G.M.

**2. Masonic Email Distribution Lists:** Masonic Email lists must NOT be used to distribute political material either in

support of, or against any political candidate in any election. During the time of the recent provincial election, several breaches of this policy occurred.

**3. Use of Electronic devices to hold any ritual for use in Lodge:** It is not permitted to have the Book of the Work in open Lodge during a meeting (except by the prompter). Recently, IPHones, IPods, laptops, etc., which contain all or portions of the Book of the Work, have been observed in use in the Lodge. As with the hard copy of the Book of the Work, these devices must not be used for that purpose in the Lodge room.

### **Looking Ahead:**

In mid-November, the Management Committee will meet, under the direction of the Deputy Grand Master to review the progress we are making on our Tactical Plan for 2011–2012. This meeting will focus on the first quarterly review of our Grand Lodge Committee work for this Grand Lodge year. We will be looking at each of our Strategic Plan themes to determine the progress we are making towards our Mission and Vision. These themes are based on both the external and internal forces that we feel are influencing the future of Freemasonry in Ontario. Tracking progress against these themes allows us to use them as “touchstones” when engaging in key decisions and course corrections.

The many Lodge Anniversaries that we are celebrating remind us that we are the current **custodians of a way of life** that has inspired and helped to cast generations of great men and leaders both here in Ontario and around the world. I quote from our strategic plan: *“The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario intends to embrace and exercise its mandate to protect and promote Freemasonry in Ontario, ensuring that Masonry’s timeless philosophy and way of life continue to be vital to countless future generations of men in Ontario.”*

Brethren, we are attracting today, some of those who will form the nucleus of the future generation of Ontario Masons. If we don’t communicate with them the values we place on our legacy, encourage them along their endless journey of Masonic and self discovery and instil in them the ‘joi de vie’ of Masonry, then we are failing ourselves.

We all have a role to play in “Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario.” Let’s **Believe** it and make it happen!

D. Garry Dowling  
Grand Master

Grand Master’s full itinerary at –  
[www.grandlodge.on.ca](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca) UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

## ***From the Deputy Grand Master. . .***

### **District and Grand Lodge Committees**

Being a committee member is about much more than simply attending meetings, although that is a committee member's first task. You should see it as an active not a passive role. Obviously you do need to attend meetings, but you also need to be aware of what decisions your committee is authorized to make, and to work with the other members of the committee to reach a consensus to enable business to move through the committee structure. Now that you have agreed to serve on a committee, you need to make sure you understand how the committee works, what it does and what you'll be expected to do as a member. It will do you no good to agree to be on a committee and then do nothing.

Getting involved in committee work will improve the Condition of Masonry in your Lodge, District and even in Grand Lodge. So don't wait for the Worshipful Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master or a Grand Lodge Chairmen to call you; call them and ask what you can do to be part of his team so he can accomplish his mandate, goal and or objectives. Don't complain about the Condition of Masonry, be part of the solution to improve the Condition of Masonry, by getting involved.

### **Lodges of Instructions**

M.W. Bro. Donald H, Mumby, Custodian of the Work and his team, just completed another successful series of Lodges of Instructions throughout the Province of Ontario. They conducted 11 sessions in 25 days. I thank you, the District Deputy Grand Masters (D.D.G.M.s) for supporting this and your attendance was greatly appreciated. Remember, you can continue with this training. Section 102 of the Book of Constitution (2011) allows you, the D.D.G.M. to grant dispensations for holding a Lodge of Instruction, with certain conditions. Take advantage of this. The brethren have asked for more education, especially in the area of the Mechanics of the Work. You have the opportunity to continue with this essential training. We have the resources available to assist you and your District.

New technologies have had a significant effect on the way Masons live, work and enjoy their retirement

years. New and emerging technologies challenge the traditional process of teaching and learning, and the way education is managed. This new generation could mean that learning becomes a truly lifelong activity, an activity in which the pace of technology change forces constant evaluation of the learning process itself.

### **Who is your successor?**

It's hard to believe your term of office is one third complete, and you and your District should be planning on your successor. At the Regional Meetings, held last August, we congratulated you for being the first D.D.G.M.s who all completed the course for prospective District Deputy Grand Masters. Remember, your successor shall be in possession of a certificate of completion of the course as offered by the College of Freemasonry before the Grand Master will confirm his election. Encourage any Past Master who wishes to increase their Masonic knowledge to take this course. It is not just for candidates for the office of D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar. It is open for all Past Masters in the jurisdiction who are in good standing.

### **The Office of Worshipful Master**

We all know the highest honour a lodge can bestow on any of its members, is the office of Worshipful Master. In many parts of our Grand Jurisdiction, brethren have asked for guidance, assistance and training to prepare them to be Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The Masonic Education Committee – College of Freemasonry, have submitted a Lodge Officers Course for review and approval, to assist Masons who have aspirations to the Office of Worshipful Master. The course is composed of three sections:

1. Duties and Leadership
2. Administration and Communications
3. Ritual, Protocol and Etiquette.

Upon completion, this training will provide a good grounding in the duties, responsibilities and perhaps being able to prevent problems that may occur. The information contained in the course will support the Mason in his journey to the Chair of King Solomon.

Donald A. Campbell  
Deputy Grand Master