

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

The throes of winter hopefully being past, I look forward to a busy spring with the many District Receptions for the Grand Master. We will also be celebrating 100th and 150th Lodge Anniversaries along the way. It is interesting to look back through the Grand Lodge Proceedings of the day to read about the formation, dedication and consecration of these lodges and realize the responsibility the Charter members took upon themselves to start and keep a new lodge thriving.

On June 6, 2009, Grand Lodge will assemble to consecrate a new lodge known as Templum Fidelis U.D., a lodge of traditional observance, established in Bath, Ontario. The first ceremony involved having the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Secretary sign the new warrant. 150 years ago many lodges came into being with warrants signed by William Mercer Wilson. In this day and age when lodges are amalgamating or surrendering their charter, new lodge formations are infrequent and thus it is a great honour for us to have signed into being a new lodge which we sincerely hope will still be in existence 150 years from now.

Last week our Grand Secretary, the Deputy Grand Master, and I were in Anaheim, California, for an enlightening few days at the North American Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries. It affords an opportunity to compare notes on several topics and to dialogue with other Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries, both in a formal setting and an informal setting. The title of the conference was *Freemasonry, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* and some of the breakout sessions in which we took part were entitled: Image of Freemasonry, Philosophy Young versus Old Masons, Challenges of a Growing Craft, Moving from Leader to Mentor, Membership Retention and Restoration and Connecting with Non-participants. Each of these would provide a good topic for a lodge of discussion in your own lodge on an off night. Try it!

I am pleased and proud to announce that our Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels, was selected to serve on the Planning Committee for the next Conference to be held in Arlington, Virginia in 2010. Our Grand Secretary, M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, was elected Vice Chair of the Committee on Information for Recognition and appointed Chairman, Audit Committee of Grand Secretaries. R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs remains as a Director of MasoniCHIP International. I was presented with a Certificate of Achievement signifying our involvement in processing over 12,000 children across Ontario to-date, and I extend my congratulations to all

who have made this possible.

The biennial workshop with the theme: *Rebuilding the West Gate* was held recently with members of the Board to discuss the future direction of our Grand Lodge. As the participants gathered to discuss plans, we probably did not realize the tremendous importance of our input, which will only become known years from now. I thank R.W. Bro. Hazlitt and the members of the Long Range Planning Committee and all who took part for bringing us together in an atmosphere of renewal.

Just as each of us takes ownership of the actions in our own lodges, so do the elected and appointed members of Grand Lodge take pride, ownership, and responsibility in keeping Masonry in Ontario healthy and vibrant.

Safe travels,

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Snippet:

Research seems to indicate that higher blood levels of vitamin D will significantly reduce risk of prostate cancer development and supplements of daily vitamin D between 1000 and 4000IU per day is what most vitamin D experts now recommend. As sunlight is also a source of vitamin D, one must consider healthy exposure to this source.

British Columbia Foundation for Prostate Disease

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

March 2009

4	W.M.W. Medal Presentation - Moira No. 11	Belleville
7	Niagara A & B District G.M. Reception	Niagara Falls
10	W.M.W. Medal Present - Civil Service No. 148	Ottawa
13	Chatham District G.M. Reception	Ridgetown
14	Windsor District G.M. Reception	Windsor
17	St. John's Lodge No. 21a 165 th Anniversary	Vankleek Hill
20	Sudbury Manitoulin District G.M. Reception	Sudbury
21	Algoma East District G.M. Reception	S.S. Marie
26 - 29	All Canada Conference	Winnipeg
31	Toronto and York Districts G.M. Reception	Markham

April 2009

2 - 3	R.A.M. - Grand Chapter	St. Catharines
4	St. Lawrence District G.M. Reception & Central Lodge No. 110 150 th Anniversary	Prescott
14 - 16	Grand Lodge New Jersey	Atlantic City
17	Wellington District G.M. Reception	Guelph
18	London East & West Districts G.M. Reception	London
24	Temiskaming District G.M. Reception	Kirkland Lake
25	Georgian North & South Districts G.M. Reception & Karnak Lodge No. 492 100 th Anniversary	Orillia
29	W.M.W. Medal Present. King Solomon's No. 378	London

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

During the recent Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America several speakers emphasized the importance of recognizing the diversity of generations that comprise the membership in any lodge: Traditionalists – Baby Boomers – Generation X – Generation Y – Millennials. Each succeeding generation has its own peculiar perception of the world and, based on that perspective, a unique contribution to make in the lodge. We must learn to recognize the characteristics and respect the expectations of each generation. Only then will we realize the potential of each and every member of the lodge to serve the Craft with diligence and enthusiasm. “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

As I travel around our Grand Jurisdiction and have the pleasure and privilege of meeting many Brethren in the lodges I attend, I continue to be amazed at the talent and ability that so many freely and willingly contribute to the Craft. Sharing their professional and business expertise in the organization and administration of Lodge and District Committees, thereby contributing to the general welfare of the Craft in a variety of ways, these are the Masons that are making a real difference. At the recent Biennial Strategic Planning Conference, I challenged all the Members of the Board of General Purposes to act as ‘talent scouts.’ In a similar manner, as D.D.G.M. you should always be on the alert to identify talent and ability waiting to be enlisted in the active Masons in your district. No one knows the district better than you. Encourage these potential contributors to offer their service and apply their skill to the committees of Grand Lodge. Pass their names on to the Chairmen and Team Leaders of the several committees for consideration when

appointing the members of committees in July. By aligning talent with task, by combining interest with endeavour, and by working with enthusiasm and assiduity, Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction can be and will be improved.

During the month of March many Brethren celebrate their Irish heritage. History informs us that Freemasonry was carried to the New World by military lodges holding travelling warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland which issued the first such authority in 1723. (Others followed – Scotland in 1743 and England in 1755). The first Masonic Lodge in Canada was formed by the members of the garrison at Halifax in 1749. The names of two lodges in the GTA proudly proclaim their old-country origins: Zeta-Shamrock No. 410 and Ulster No. 537 (Toronto Humber Valley). There are two lodges in London that retain the ancient Irish ritual: St. John’s No. 20 (London West) and St. John’s No. 209a (London East).

May the sentiment expressed in this old Irish blessing be with you:

*May joy and peace surround you,
Contentment latch your door,
And happiness be with you now
And bless you evermore.*

*May your blessings outnumber
The Shamrocks that grow
And may trouble avoid you
Wherever you go.*

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

As of March 1, 2009, **forty-nine** lodges have not filed their July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, semi-annual return and **one** lodge who has neglected to file its January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008 semi-annual return. A reminder, in July 2008, it was necessary to report that the principal officers of thirty-three (33) lodges were prohibited from voting at our annual communication. **Outstanding returns are as follows:**

<i>Algoma</i>	<i>499 (2) 618, 672</i>	<i>Niagara ‘A’</i>	<i>616</i>	<i>Toronto East</i>	<i>430, 541</i>
<i>Algoma East</i>	<i>622, 698</i>	<i>Nipissing E</i>	<i>486</i>	<i>Toronto H.V.</i>	<i>65, 537, 547, 733</i>
<i>Brant</i>	<i>113, 243</i>	<i>Ontario</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Toronto West</i>	<i>524, 566, 689, 727</i>
<i>Eastern</i>	<i>383, 418</i>	<i>Ottawa 1</i>	<i>665</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>398, 451</i>
<i>Frontenac</i>	<i>3, 199</i>	<i>Ottawa 2</i>	<i>686</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>668</i>
<i>Grey</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>Peterboro</i>	<i>126, 374</i>	<i>Wilson North</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>Hamilton ‘A’</i>	<i>165, 357</i>	<i>Prince Ed.</i>	<i>482</i>	<i>Wilson South</i>	<i>149, 181</i>
<i>Hamilton ‘C’</i>	<i>671</i>	<i>South Huron</i>	<i>73, 332</i>	<i>York</i>	<i>129, 481</i>
<i>Musk/P.S.</i>	<i>423, 443</i>	<i>Toronto D.V.</i>	<i>522, 611, 676</i>		

Please ensure your lodge is NOT one of this group in July 2009.

Terence Shand