

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

On Saturday afternoon, April 30, I had the privilege and pleasure of opening the exhibit, **Freemasonry: A History Hidden in Plain Sight** at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton. The project began as an idea for the sesquicentennial celebrations of St. Lawrence Lodge No. 131, which was developed by the committee chaired by W. Bro. Douglas Pedwell into a detailed plan involving the cooperative efforts of the members the Lodge, the curatorial staff of the Museum, and with the support of the Trillium Foundation, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian War Museum, and the Royal Canadian Legion. The twelve Lodges of Bruce District and the Grand Lodge Committee on Library, Museum, and Archives cooperated to contribute artefacts of historical value to illustrate the significant role Freemasonry has played in Canadian society. V.W. Bro. Daniel Glenney, the Grand Archivist acted as consultant. The concept was brilliant and the presentation spectacular. Elsewhere in this Communiqué, the Deputy Grand Master makes mention of **Community Outreach** in the Strategic Plan – “*which will create opportunities to demonstrate Masonic values within our communities and convey a positive and accurate perception of Freemasonry.*” This exhibition is an excellent example of just that. While the support, encouragement, assistance and resources of Grand Lodge were shared, this was a local initiative. I urge everyone within driving distance of Southampton to visit the exhibit while it is open to the public – April 30 to July 3. The exhibit has been made portable and is available to be shared with other museums across the Grand Jurisdiction. Is there a museum in your District that could take advantage of this showcase for Freemasonry in Ontario? The Brethren in Bruce have made us all proud! For further detailed information contact, W. Bro. Robert Shular, Secretary, St. Lawrence Lodge No. 131 - robshular@eastlink.ca or the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre, 33 Victoria Street North, Southampton - www.brucemuseum.ca

During the month of May many Lodges around the Grand Jurisdiction hold the annual Ceremony of Installation of the Worshipful Master and Investiture of the Officers. The District Deputy Grand Master is frequently invited to make the final proclamation. Before proclaiming the Officers “*legally and duly installed and invested,*” I ask that you be diligent in assuring yourself that the provisions of Sections 251,

254, and especially Section 221 are complied with to the letter. There are limited conditions under which the Grand Master will grant dispensation for a member to hold two offices in the same lodge or in more than one lodge. If there is any doubt, you are advised to ask the Installing Master to produce the Dispensation if such was granted. We must not allow the Constitution to be contravened either through ignorance or for convenience or expediency.

All Lodge Secretaries have received the information package from the Grand Secretary with the agenda for the Annual Communication in July, the announcement of candidates for elective office, and the proposed amendments to the Constitution. The Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of all those lodges duly returned (Section 57) may register as voting delegates. You are “Grand Lodge” and you are the decision makers. This year there are many important matters to be decided, both administrative and financial. Exercise your democratic rights and privileges by attending and participating.

It is with much regret that unexpected health related issues have made it necessary for me to revise and reduce the published schedule of fraternal visits around the Grand Jurisdiction. Lady Brenda and I are most grateful for the many expressions of good wishes received from the Brethren. Be assured that we are ‘back on track’ even if the locomotive is slowed down. I hope that you will understand if I am unable to attend a special event in your District. Your disappointment is only exceeded by my own when I cannot be present, especially for presentations of long service awards and installations.

“*A Freemason knows that in improving himself, he is an example for his brethren and his community. By improving himself first, he improves the world.*” – Mark Stavish - *Freemasonry: Rituals, Symbols of Our Secret Society* (2007).

Raymond S. J. Daniels

Grand Master’s full itinerary at – www.grandlodge.on.ca
UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

R.W. Sirs,

A reminder regarding the Final Year end reports: Once all your Official visits are completed, you have two final reports to prepare.

1. Form_DDGM_DS_2010: District Deputy Grand Master's District Summary Report and
2. Form_DDGM_PSUM2010: District Deputy Grand Master's "District Summary for the Proceedings" Report.

Please ensure both these forms are completed and returned by the deadline of June 01, 2011. Electronic copies are to be sent to both R.W. Bro. John Hay. jhay@nexicom.net and the Grand Lodge Office office@grandlodge.on.ca

Please do NOT use PDF format for the DDGM_PSUM 2010 report as we cannot cut and paste the data to merge with the other reports that go into the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada Strategic Plan:

This month we focus on the fifth strategic initiative from our Grand Lodge strategic plan, that is, **Community Outreach**.

Strategic Initiative: Community Outreach: We will facilitate Community Outreach, which will create opportunities to demonstrate Masonic values within our communities and convey a positive and accurate perception of Freemasonry.

Strategic Goal 15: Heighten awareness of Masonic activities within Ontario communities.

Strategic Goal 16: Ensure that our image within the community is accurate and in line with our strategic objectives.

Strategic Goal 17: Govern the development and communication of programs intended to provide value to our communities.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

Would the D.D.G.M.s of the following, ensure the noted lodge Semi-annual Return is completed and submitted to the Grand Lodge office expeditiously.

Note: Provisions of Section 57 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

Attention: W.M.'s – Note your obligated duty pursuant to Section 241 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

Please confirm your contact with the respective lodge by email to office@grandlodge.on.ca (As per list below by District):

Don Valley
316 Doric
676 Kroy

Humber Valley
65 Rehoboam
537 Ulster
547 Victory

London West
358 Delaware Valley

Wilson South
181 Oriental

Rationale:

- In order to attract and retain men of high calibre, Freemasonry must remain relevant in today's society through the personal involvement and commitment of the Brethren within the communities in which they reside.

To learn more about our *Grand Lodge 2010-2016 Strategic Plan*, please contact the chairman of Long Range Planning, R.W. Bro. Wes Libbey (w.libbey@unb.ca) for information.

Ontario Mason Magazine:

The Lodge Secretaries in your District should have already received a letter from V.W. Bro. Bruce Miller, asking for their assistance is helping us compile a new mailing file for the Ontario Mason Magazine. Once Bruce collects and merges the responses from all the Lodges, this file will become the mailing source. In that regard, all members on the lists provided by the Lodge secretary will receive the Magazine, while those not on the list will, unfortunately, not receive a copy. Rest assured that All contact information provided to Bruce will be used ONLY for the purposes of mailing the magazine. It is hoped that all Lodges will respond to Bruce's request so that we can construct the file in June in preparation for the Fall 2011 mailing.

Annual Communication: Seminars & Workshops:

As the recent mailing indicated, there are a number of excellent seminars lined up for Tuesday afternoon July 19 at Grand Lodge. They include: Degree Planning, Religion in Masonry, Instruction in the Ceremony of Installation and Protocol and Etiquette as well as Engaging the New Mason. Please help us spread the word so that any of the Brethren who are at the Royal York on Tuesday may take advantage of these presentations.

Change?

Claude MacDonald once said: *"You can't expect to make a place for yourself in the sun, if you keep taking refuge under the family tree!"*

D. Garry Dowling

Terence Shand