



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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The Grand Master's Message

Freemasonry is an order dedicated to promoting the principles of tolerance, equality and respect. We practice amongst ourselves and encourage others to practice the acceptance of all men and women regardless of race, religion and nationality. For those of us raised in the liberal traditions of Canada, it can seem as if these ideals are almost motherhood. They are generally accepted and there is little public opposition to these beliefs. The racism and intolerance in our society tends to be subtle, although it still can be devastating, as some of our First Nations people can testify.

However, November 11, Remembrance Day, tells us a different story. It reminds us that hatred, bigotry and violence have always been and continue to be a tragic but powerful element in the human condition. This is a day set aside to remember those men and women who made the supreme sacrifice to protect the principles of democracy and freedom, and to whom we should be eternally grateful.

But is also a day for us to reflect on our own obligations. We must not be complacent in the defense of our principles.

November 11 is the day when we are reminded, with stark and unmistakable clarity, the horrific price that must be paid when power rests in the hands of the fanatics of nationalism, racism, or religious fundamentalism.

We live in a time of sweeping social change and great cultural upheaval. In such times some people embrace the challenges and opportunities presented and strive to create a better world. Others retreat into traditional certainties,

taking refuge in the culture and belief systems of the past. This is the soil of religious fundamentalism, and it becomes more virulent as the pace of change accelerates. And as we all know, Freemasonry is one of the favourite targets of fundamentalists and bigots of all types.

We must not cower or shirk our responsibilities in the face of this opposition. And we must not fall into the easy racist stereotypes of seeing the opposition as simply Arab or Islamic terrorists. There has been one act of international terrorism in Manitoba in recent years - a local doctor shot and wounded while sitting in his home - shot by an American, a so called Christian fundamentalist. And Freemasonry is still condemned, along with its beliefs in religious tolerance, from some of the pulpits of churches in our own towns and neighbourhoods.

In the midst of the laughter, the fellowship and the fun that we cherish so much, there is also a serious side to Freemasonry. November 11 is a day for remembrance. It is also a day for resolve. Speak often and speak proudly of what our order represents - the world needs to hear our voice. And do not cower before the opposition of others. The consequences we might face, the sacrifices we might be asked to make for defending these principles - do they seem that great when you reflect on the poppy on your lapel?

In closing, I want to extend the good wishes of all of the officers of the Grand Lodge to our Muslim brethren as they celebrate the month of Ramadan.

- Ken Thomas, Grand Master

*To build a better world, God said and I just answered - How?
The world is such a large vast place, so complicated now.
And I so small and useless am, there's nothing I can do.
But God in all His wisdom said... Just build a better you!*

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on official Lodge visits.

NOVEMBER 2003

4	Three Pillars #169	Windsor Temple	6:30 PM	OV
15	District # 9 Annual Meeting	Swan River Legion	2:00 PM	OV
22	District #5 Annual Meeting	Foxwarren	2:00 PM	OV

DECEMBER 2003

4	King Edward Preceptory	Stonewall	8:00 PM	
6	District #1 Annual Meeting	Charleswood	12:30 PM	OV
13	Condition of Freemasonry	Portage la Prairie	10:00 AM	

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Brethren, we are still looking for prospective members to invite to an "Open House." We have a few names in now but certainly not enough to warrant the time, effort and expense of proceeding with such an endeavour at this point. Please give this matter your utmost attention as it could have a bearing on the success of our beloved Craft. You have received the three-part card that gives a brief explanation of the Fraternity. This is a tool you can use to inform any prospective candidates, following which you can submit their names very easily. Simply fill in a form at the Grand Lodge office or give them a call and they will take the information from you. We need to know the name, address and phone number of the prospective candidate as well as the name of his spouse/partner. Also required is your name and address as the recommender. If we all work together we can achieve the end result.

- George J. Forzley, Chairman

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MANITOBA LODGE

On September 23rd, M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas and his Grand Lodge officers, along with the brethren of Transcona Lodge No. 123 and Kildonan Lodge No. 131 gathered at the Kimberly Temple to amalgamate the two lodges. In the presence of approximately 80 brethren, Manitoba's newest lodge, Kilcona No. 183 was chartered that evening. W. Bro. Tom Gustafson was installed as Worshipful Master of the lodge with brethren of both former lodges filling the other chairs of office. Kilcona Lodge No. 183 will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Kimberly Temple. Congratulations to all the brethren of the newly-chartered lodge!

MASONS OF MANITOBA (M.O.M.) KidsID PROGRAM TRAINING

The M.O.M. KidsID Committee will host three training sessions at the Masonic Memorial Temple on Saturday, November 8th, 2003. Session times are as follows:

1. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
2. 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
3. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All sessions will be held in the Board Room.

It is hoped that the Lodges will appoint a M.O.M. KidsID Lodge Co-ordinator and we request volunteers from Masonic Lodges to attend and be trained as a team in the KidsID procedures and operation of the computer systems. All Masons are welcome to attend for the training.

To register please phone the Grand Lodge office at 453-7410, or out-of-town toll-free at 1 (800) 655-2712 and advise preference of session.

The first public launch of the M.O.M. KidsID System will take place at the Masonic Memorial Temple on Saturday, December 6th, 2003, from 12:00 noon until 6:00 pm. Volunteers are required to support this opening event and take a shift in the booth. Please call the Grand Lodge office if you can assist. This event is open to the public. Please ask your relatives and neighbors to attend and to bring their children.

Long Service Award Presentations

ST. JAMES LODGE NO. 121



On the 91st anniversary of the lodge, March 12th, 2003, several brethren of St. James Lodge No. 121 were presented with Long Service awards. (Above left) W. Bro. Ronn Anderson (left) presents a 50-Year Medal to R.W. Bro. George Lis with Mrs. Mildred Lis looking on. (Above right) R.W. Bro. Jim Holland (left) receives his 25-Year pin from W. Bro. Barry Brooker. (photo at right) R. W. Bro. Bill Quinn presents a 50-Year Medal to W. Bro. George Day with Mrs. Maxine Day observing.



“THE ASSINIBOINE” LODGE NO. 114

Pictured here are (left to right) Bro. George Hannah, M.W. Bro. Reesor Bingeman and W. Bro. John Walker. Bros. Hannah and Walker joined the lodge together 50 years ago. M.W. Bro. Bingeman was pleased to present these brethren with 50-Year Medals at a meeting of “The Assiniboine” Lodge No. 114 on March 7th, 2003.

NORTHERN LIGHT/PRINCE RUPERT'S LODGE NO. 1 ?

On May 14th, 2003, R.W. Bro. James Thompson presented a 50-Year Medal to Bro. Clifford Furst. The presentation was made at Bro. Furst's home.



Keep It Up

*If you would not be forgotten,
as soon as you are dead and rotten,
either write things worth reading,
or do things worth the writing.
- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)*

WINDSOR LODGE NO. 138



? W. Bro. Ted Crowston (center) received his 50-Year Medal on April 14th, 2003 at a meeting of the lodge at Windsor Temple. The presentation was made by W. Bro. Ben Harnish (left) and M.W. Bro. Clay Munz (right.)

? M.W. Bro. Clay Munz (left) was also pleased to present a 50-Year Medal to Bro. Charles Black (center), assisted by the Worshipful Master of Windsor Lodge No. 138, W. Bro. Ben Harnish (right.) The presentation took place at Bro. Black's home.



ACACIA LODGE NO. 111



On June 9th, 2003, Bro. Ronald Williams received a 60-Year Bar, presented on behalf of Acacia Lodge No. 111 by the brethren of Abbotsford Lodge No. 701, Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon. Pictured here are (left to right) R.W. Bro. Gerry Kion (D. D.G.M.), Bro. Ron Williams and W. Bro. Ed Wilson.

SHILOH LODGE NO. 70

Also celebrating 60 years in Freemasonry, V.W. Bro. William Dixon (left) of Shiloh Lodge No. 70. M.W. Bro. Clay Munz (center) and W. Bro. Charlie Neufeld, Worshipful Master of the lodge (right), presented W. Bro. Dixon with a 60-Year Bar at the April 2003 meeting of Shiloh Lodge No. 70.



Congratulations to all of our long-serving brethren!

Parting Thought: *The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it; but, that our aim is too low and we reach it.*

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M.W. Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus
M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas (ex officio) R.W. Bro. Scott Howarth - Editor