

HIGHLITES FROM --- THE COMMUNIQUE

From the Grand Master . . .

With the month of January now behind us, I think it is safe to say that the first month of the year has been a busy and a very productive month.

The meeting that we held with the District Deputy Grand Masters, in Scarborough, was a resounding success. The feedback that was received from the breakout/discussion sessions was very positive. A number of good issues were raised, and I will be reviewing the comments as soon as possible.

With 42/44 D.D.G.M.s in attendance, I was most pleased with the cohesive enthusiasm that was evident. My sincere appreciation to each of the D.D.G.M.s, as well as the Grand Registrar, who were able to be there and participate. To those who couldn't attend due to distance or work commitments, I appreciate your input and contributions via e-mail and telephone. To the breakout session facilitators – Thank you for your assistance in making the day a success.

On Friday, January 19th, together with the Grand Lodge Officers, we dedicated the new Masonic home of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 497, north of Highway #7, outside of Northbrook. The Brethren of this Lodge have worked hard to build a new Masonic home within this community, and they should be very proud of their efforts. Special appreciation is extended Bro. Derek Maschke for offering these facilities.

On Saturday, January 20th, just prior to the amalgamation ceremony of The Belleville Lodge No. 123 and Temple Lodge No. 666 to form The Belleville-Temple Lodge No. 123, the Grand Lodge Officers and I, along with family members and friends, presented the prestigious William Mercer Wilson medal to Bro. Gerald Sills. A most humble and well-respected man – Bro. Sills exemplifies the teachings and principles that our Fraternity is based upon. Congratulations, Bro. Sills!

In our Masonic teachings we learn that, as Masons, we should record the events of the present, so the Brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past.

Each month, as I read the many Lodge summonses that cross my desk, I am amazed with the innovativeness that many Lodges display, as they promote new ideas to keep their Brethren interested and working together.

I am particularly impressed with the idea one Lodge has, and I feel it is worthy of sharing with you. It seems this Lodge has several of its members who are confined to a local nursing/retirement home, and are unable to get out to Lodge. There are also many other Masons who, although they don't belong to the same Lodge, reside in the same complex.

Under the direction of the Worshipful Master, they have made plans to make an informal visit on a Sunday afternoon, and to spend time with their Brethren. In fact, the retirement facility has given them the use of one of their reception areas so they can all meet together. What a great opportunity to renew friendships and to let their Brethren know that they aren't forgotten.

Imagine the impact this could have if all the Lodges in our province undertook a project such as this . . . it can be done my Brethren!

And, finally, my Brethren . . . as we go about our lives as Masons, always remember that "A man's honour is not measured for how tall he stands, but for how often he bends to help, comfort and to teach."

Gary L. Atkinson

From the Deputy Grand Master . . .

Groundhog day, a portend of the type of weather for the arrival of spring, will have come and gone by the time this note reaches you but in our anticipation we are given the opportunity to express those Masonic values of our love, generosity and kindness for all nearest and dearest to us in the celebration of Valentine's Day. Join in the many lodge and district Valentine evenings that are available for your pleasure.

My wife, Mary, and I were invited to attend, along with a large number of Masonic friends and their ladies who gathered at Runnymede Lodge No. 619, as they celebrated the 90th birthday of the ever young R.W. Bro. Bill Boston, a stalwart of the Eat and Argue Club and also the first Worshipful Master of Anniversary Daylight Lodge No. 733. Always a stickler for proper Protocol, one never forgets the lessons taught by the irascible R.W. Bro. Boston. Every Mason needs a Mentor and Bill has been one to many. Happy 90th Birthday!

Having looked through Condition of Masonry reports (**R.W. Bro. George Hinds, Chairman**) that were completed recently by many of the D.D.G.M.s at my request, it is suggested that each lodge should have both a Long Range Planning Committee, either stand alone or tied to a Committee of General Purposes, and also a Finance Committee which provides a budget forecast. A proper exercise in planning will provide a good indication of where the lodge is headed over the next five years. This thought comes to mind because the G.M. and I have been taking part in many amalgamations. Your lodge may wish to give some forethought to its own circumstances for its future viability. Now is the time to take steps to strengthen your lodge if it suffers from poor attendance or many Past Masters in the line officers' chairs. Our Grand Lodge Chairmen have completed interim reports of

the work of their committees thus far. I commend them on their committee's many activities.

Their work aligns itself into the focus areas of our Strategic Plan, including Communication, Fraternal Environment, Membership Programmes, and Operational Effectiveness. Several sessions and seminars are still planned throughout the jurisdiction by our Long Range Planning, Mentor and Friend to Friend, Officer Progression, Brother to Brother, and Masonic Foundation Committees. I highly recommend your attendance. Please watch for them and encourage your brethren to support them when they are in or near your district. I recently received a complimentary copy of "The Beehive" out of Hamilton District 'A' which contains a collection of interesting articles of worldwide origin which will be for sale shortly as a fundraiser. I found it to be very interesting reading in the area of Masonic Education developed by the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Ivan Elliot, and his Masonic Education Chairman.

The author suggests that today we stand at the edge of a destiny, which is limited by our own vision. Vision isn't just forecasting the future. It is creating the future by taking action in the present. It is imperative to believe that one person can 'make a difference'.

Take care and safe travels.
Allan J. Petrisor

Grand Master's Itinerary

February

24 "Building a Brighter Tomorrow" Hamilton Masonic Centre

March

2 Chatham District Reception G.M. and 125th Anniversary Howard No. 391 Ridgetown
3 Windsor District Reception G.M. Windsor
9 Lodge of Faithful Brethren No. 77 – 150th Ann. Lindsay
10 Sarnia District Ladies' Night Wyoming
16 King Hiram Lodge No. 78 – 150th Anniversary Tillsonburg
17 Niagara A and B District Reception G.M. St. Catharines
20 Dufferin Lodge No. 364 – presentation Melbourne
21 Management Committee Meeting
24 Wellington District Reception G.M. Guelph
25-26 Grand Lodge of Connecticut Hartford
28 GTA District Reception G.M. Toronto
30-Apr 1 All Canada Conference Winnipeg, Manitoba

April

10 Naphtali Lodge No. 413 – Fraternal Visit Tilbury
12 Mt. Sinai Lodge No. 522 – presentation Toronto
13 Masonic Leaders Keele Street, Toronto
14 St. George's Lodge No. 88 – 150th Anniversary Owen Sound
21 London East and West Districts Reception G.M. London
22-24 Grand Lodge of New Jersey Atlantic City
26-27 Grand Chapter St. Catharines
28 Ottawa 1 and 2 Districts Reception G.M. Ottawa

May

4 St. Lawrence District Reception G.M. and 150th Anniversary Rising Sun No. 85 Athens
5 Oxford Lodge No. 76 – 150th Anniversary Woodstock
7 Grey District Reception G.M. Arthur
8 Rose Croix Installation (Keele St) Toronto
9 Lodges 687, 688, 689, 690 – 50th Ann. Celebration Guelph
12 South Huron Dist Reception G.M. Kirkton-Woodham Com Ctr
26 Algoma District Reception G.M. Thunder Bay
27 Algoma District Divine Service Thunder Bay

June

2 St. John's Lodge No. 82 – 150th Anniversary
Dedication Mosaic Pavement Paris
2 Brant District Reception G.M.