

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

I know how much work it takes to get to this position and I will never take that responsibility lightly. But since experience is what you gain when you don't get what you want, I can now safely say I have gained the experience to lead this organization.

The best communication tool in Freemasonry is the membership. We are the ambassadors to our Craft. Our actions, attitude and first impressions will influence a man who is considering joining Freemasonry. The way we portray ourselves in our community, being a good citizen in our everyday life, demonstrating our kindness, being honest, being courteous towards others, but more importantly, being proud to say we are a Mason is what is important. We, with that one on one contact, can be a better advertisement for Freemasonry than all the brochures, open houses, mall display booths or other programs currently in use.

In today's social media networking, we need to use all available mediums, including the web page currently under development. If our membership wants to communicate with Grand Lodge by e-mail, or by the use of the website, twitter, telephone or even 'snail mail', it will be their choice. But, we must remember that social media is a great tool to get us to a meeting, but social media is not a place to hold a meeting. We need that face to face contact. We must make our resources available to all our members and improve our customer service delivery. We have the material to educate members about the most important aspects of Freemasonry, that is, education and a learning institution. We're great at gathering material but we have to improve disseminating it.

It is critical that Past Masters retain, renew and revitalize their role. Being a Past Master is not like graduating from University. You attend, you learn, you graduate, and you're gone! No one said being a Past Master was an easy position – it takes work – and your work is not done! Your lodge, your district and even Grand Lodge needs your extensive experience for training junior members. Junior members should not be training new members. We need our Past Masters to be the future leaders at the Grand Lodge level. Past Masters, it's critical that you step up and lead, mentor and educate our newest members and certainly our Lodge officer! The District Deputy Grand Master's Course has been changed and is now called the Past Master's Course. It is not just for candidates seeking the office of the District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar. It is open to all Past Masters. I encouraged all Past Masters to consider taking this course offered by our College of Freemasonry.

As Deputy, I was surprised at the number of private piques and quarrels that exist within our jurisdiction. It is not the role of Grand Lodge to settle private disagreements.

Grand Lodge should not be a mediator – lodges must be places where members feel free to discuss their concerns openly, honestly and achieve a compromise. Surely charity, toleration, a little common sense and a big helping of brotherly love would produce a much better result for an aggrieved brother. As M.W. Bro. Norman Bryne said, the test may well be, "has this brother clearly and unequivocally offended Freemasonry generally? - Or is it just me!" A serious question - which deserves a serious answer. In other words, leave your ego at home, or check it at the door before entering lodge.

I should also like to mention here that the internet is not the place to discuss personal disputes. We all pledged to support our brethren's good names in their absence as we would do in their presence. As probably best said by Benjamin Franklin, "Remember to not only say the right thing in the right place but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment."

It is everyone's duty to create a welcoming, friendly and supportive environment to create a positive atmosphere for learning. When you leave your lodge, leave it energized. Don't wait for the Worshipful Master to ask you for your assistance – ask your Worshipful Master what you can do to make your lodge better. We ask our Worshipful Masters to utilize the skills of the membership and give members the opportunity to lead and to help develop the Lodge's future leaders. Be the Mason you want Grand Lodge to represent. An active lodge is a healthy lodge, whether you're building it up with new members or engaging current members.

I would also ask you to consider your life balance. Ask yourself, "How is my life?", because if it is not balanced, you cannot give Freemasonry your best. I know what it is like to suddenly lose someone your truly love, and I urge you to appreciate your family. If you're not a good son, brother, husband, father or friend, chances are you won't be a good Mason. Remember family and work obligations but work hard for your lodge. Live life wide and stay in balance.

To make Freemasonry stronger in Ontario, these will be the messages I will repeat and the focus I will help to achieve – stronger communication and clear branding, increased messaging of the need for leaders to motivate and to be leaders and create leaders, and finally, a reminder that life balance will create better Masons.

Grand Lodge is the resource to get things done at the local lodge level. Today is the beginning of a new Masonic year and a new focus. The end result will be, you will get the lodge you deserve!

Donald A. Campbell  
Grand Master

## *From the Deputy. . .*

First let me say how pleased I am to address you as Deputy Grand Master. My life has been quite interesting and exciting since July 17<sup>th</sup>. I am working diligently to learn and absorb as much knowledge and information available to me. We hope to keep you informed on items of common interest that will relate to you the current information and activities of our Grand Lodge.

Our first item of interest for the coming year is emphasizing our various Grand Lodge Programs. We often hear there is a gap between Grand Lodge and the lodge members. In order to hopefully improve that situation Grand Lodge has provided each District Deputy Grand Master with TALKING POINTS on fifteen Grand Lodge Programs. We have asked that one of these TALKING POINTS be presented at each and every Official Visit. If we can do this successfully over the next number of years those who are regular attendees at lodge meetings will have a better understanding of Grand Lodge initiatives. By this action we will all be better informed so we can prosper and grow together.

August 18<sup>th</sup> was a great day in Simcoe and a proud moment for Freemasonry when the Ontario Heritage Trust unveiled an Ontario Heritage Plaque to honour our first Grand Master William Mercer Wilson for all his contributions to Ontario as well as being our first Grand Master. He had a vast and interesting life in many venues of society. This recognition is well deserved and something of which all masons can be proud. There were over one hundred and fifty in attendance including our Grand Master and three Past Grand Masters. The majority attending were masons demonstrating the pride in the history of our craft. On behalf of the masons of Ontario we offer a special thanks to all those masons involved in making this day a success.

As most of you are aware that in order to let your name stand for the office of District Deputy Grand Master it is necessary to have completed the Past Masters Course. I want to remind those who took the original course that you are required to update your certification in order to let your name stand. The Grand Master extended the date to qualify until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. If you are unsure of your status please contact the College of Freemasonry. We are currently assembling the names of those masons who might be requiring further qualifications.

This year's TACTICAL PLAN consists of six new initiatives and two are a continuance from last year. Our Long Range Planning Committee led by Chairman Steven Warren have been diligent formulating this tactical plan. The TACTICAL PLAN will be on the Grand Lodge website for your perusal and information. We encourage masons to study our plan as we move forward as a progressive and vibrant fraternity.

Most masons know that some time ago we produced the ONTARIO MASON magazine which contained many

items of interest that were valued information for all masons and the general population at large. The magazine became too costly and had to be discontinued. Commencing this fall we will be presenting an online Ontario Mason Magazine. This is an effort to provide similar information that we were accustomed to receiving in the Ontario Mason. I would encourage all members to watch for our first edition later this fall.

Again this year Grand Lodge and the concordant bodies will be present at the INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH just south of Mitchell September 17-21. Grand lodge and other Masonic bodies as well as the Masonic Foundation will be housed together under one tent for the entire five days. This venture is spearheaded by the masons of South Huron District in cooperation with the Grand Lodge Public Awareness Committee who provide the tent and other props to put the name of Freemasonry before approximately seventy-five thousand visitors who will attend the match. The various bodies will have their own display and the Order of the Eastern Star will provide coffee and treats for our visitors.

On Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Meet and Greet reception with our Grand Master at the Crystal Palace in Mitchell at 5:00 pm for the masons and their spouses to attend. Those wanting to attend should contact Ross Ferguson: 519-235-1482 or [r.ferguson@eastlink.ca](mailto:r.ferguson@eastlink.ca) John Eckel: 519-263-5426 or [jeckel@tcc.on.ca](mailto:jeckel@tcc.on.ca)

Last year the masons of Eastern Ontario had the opportunity to attend a MASONIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE in Ottawa that was interesting and informative to those in attendance. This time a similar event is being held in LONDON on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Dufferin Street Masonic hall. We hope that masons of that geographic area can attend and enjoy the information presented. The keynote speaker will be Brother 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant Joseph F. Curry a member of Canada Lodge UD Afghanistan and Beaches Lodge No. 473 Toronto. Author of THE RIFLE AND THE APRON and THE CRAFT AT WORK IN KANDAHAR This proves to be an interesting and informative day. You must pre-register Cost \$25. Contact: Randy Hearn, 66 Stephen Moore Dr. RR # 5 Komoka Ontario N0L 1R0 or [masonic.conference@gmail.com](mailto:masonic.conference@gmail.com)

Finally I want to remind all masons that The GRAND MASTERS CHARITY of CHOICE is Prostate Cancer Research, Project No. MF2550. This is in cooperation with the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. Three researchers have been designated for their respective work. In honour of our Grand Master and the Masonic Foundation celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we would like raise at least one million dollars to support these researchers for at least ten years. In my future releases I hope key on Grand Lodge Programs

John C. Green  
Deputy Grand Master