

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

It certainly appears that across the province we have rapidly moved from late fall to early winter this past week. Hopefully the weather in December will not be too disruptive to your seasonal travel plans. It is hard to believe that your term as D.D.G.M.s is almost half over. I read of the many ongoing activities in your Lodge summons and good things are happening all across the jurisdiction. I trust that you are by now all feeling 'comfortable in the saddle' and that the District teams are engaged in supporting our Lodges in any way they can.

Many Lodges have done or will be installing new Officers this month and we congratulate all those who have offered to serve. Freemasonry does indeed 'happen' on the floor of each Lodge and it is the Worshipful Master and Officers of our Lodges who are the real leaders of Masonry in Ontario. The District and Grand Lodge teams are there to help in any way they can. All it takes is a phone call.

### **Housekeeping Items:**

**(1) D.D.G.M. Mid Term Reporting Session:** D.D.G.M.s are reminded that on Saturday, January 14, 2012, we will gather for a mid-term review and update with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Custodian of the Work and the Chairman of the Committee on the Condition of Masonry, and to receive your mid-term reports. You will be sent further directions in mid-December.

As some messages seem to need repeating time and again, I would ask for your support with the following matters:

**(2) Ontario Mason Magazine:** A reminder that if Brethren in your District did not receive a copy, it is probably because we did not receive their address. If the message did not get through you to the Lodge Secretaries or the Lodge Secretaries did not respond, then no copies were mailed to the Brethren in the Lodge. A very limited number of copies remain in the office, but may only be secured by having the Lodge Secretary contact the office. Postage will be charged to the Lodge semi-annual return. Copies may also be picked up in person at the Grand Lodge office.

**(3) Square and Compasses:** Any Grand Lodge publication, any District Newsletters, any websites, lodge signage, etc., etc. in this jurisdiction should be using the authorized version of the Square and Compasses logo as found in the Book of Constitution, Section 3.1. Electronic versions are available on the CD distributed to each D.D.G.M. at the Regional meetings last August or on the Grand Lodge website.

### **Looking Ahead:**

As we look ahead to the New Year, I wanted to emphasize again the importance of Communication and Masonic Education, two of our top priorities. I urge you to encourage the Masters of the District Lodges to elevate the importance of Masonic Education in their agendas. I still see many comments in the Lodge Summons stating that we had a great piece of education last month – when the candidate was

unable to be present, when our plans changed, etc. – as though the education was the afterthought. Lodge or District Lodges of Discussion are an extremely useful educational tool that can effectively engage newer and experienced members. Why not ask one of your newer Masons to plan and execute one? Assistance is always available from the Grand Lodge, Lodge Resources Committee.

Grand Lodge continues to push ahead with its primary communication tool. I have been eagerly watching the development of our new website and Team Leader, Richard Kaufman indicates that Phase 1 will be ready for implementation early in the New Year.

Last month we encouraged those Lodges celebrating anniversaries to use those splendid occasions as jumping off points to a renewed and invigorated future. This month I hope, through you as D.D.G.M.s, to stimulate an interest in those Lodges that may not think they have a stepping stone, or a trigger to Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in their Lodge.

The spark that lights the fire again, may be at the very doorstep of the Lodge. A meaningful communication to all Lodge members from the Worshipful Master or a single bit of education that has a 'Wow' factor may be the trigger you need. To emphasize the need, I offer you another excerpt from our Strategic Plan. "Today, men at the West Gate are looking for truth embodied in an ancient moral framework that can be applied to their personal life. They seek the **strength of group experience** and the **benefit of access to wisdom** from those men who have come before them . . . They seek an opportunity to partake in **inspiring conversations**, marvel at ancient wisdom, and share their deepest fears and delight in the **simple joy of spending quality time** with other good men who are on a similar journey."

Communication gets the gang together. Education keeps the gang together.

**Our Vision require focus. Let's Believe it and make it happen!**

Wendy and I hope that, whenever, wherever and however you celebrate the season, that it is a joyous occasion, a time of peace and goodwill and a time to pause and reflect.

D. Garry Dowling  
Grand Master

Grand Master's full itinerary at –  
[www.grandlodge.on.ca](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca) UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

## *From the Deputy Grand Master. . .*

### **Brock University Partnership:**

The partnership established between the Grand Lodge and Brock University has proven most productive and mutually beneficial to both educational institutions. Its beginning was with the initiative of the Heritage Lodge to support and maintain the Masonic collection in the James A. Gibson Library, and continuing with the posting on line of the Proceedings of Grand Lodge from 1855 to 2010. The Annual Dr. Charles A. Sankey Lecture in Masonic Studies funded by the College of Freemasonry is now in its third year with Dr. Steven C. Bullock from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute lecture on *The Heart of Masonry: Upstate New York and the New Nation, 1776–1826* taking place on Sunday, May 6, 2012.

The first phase is culminating in the joint sponsorship of the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry in 2015 supported by contributions to the Grand Master's Project (2009–2011.) The study of fraternalism in general and Freemasonry in particular has been advanced significantly.

The second phase of the mandate of the Partnership states: "*To establish an endowment fund in conjunction with Brock University to financially assist in the study of Masonry.*" We cannot leave it to the conspiracy theorists and the lunatic fringe to project our public image. To gain academic credibility as an institution that has had a significant impact on the shaping of Canadian society over the last three centuries would do much to restore the respect which the Craft once enjoyed. Brethren wishing to contribute to this phase of the partnership may do so through the Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project No. 2937 – The Brock University Partnership. All contributions are tax deductible.

The Niagara region was the cradle of early Canadian history and the birthplace of Freemasonry in Upper Canada and the home of our senior lodge in the jurisdiction, Niagara No. 2. The forthcoming celebration of the bicentenary of the War of 1812 will focus much attention on the history of Upper Canada. Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, the intrepid hero of that war, was a Freemason. The vast collection of research material available in the collections of Dr. Charles A. Sankey, J. Lawrence Runnalls, and others made Brock University the logical location for this Centre for Masonic Studies.

### **Lodge Resources – The Cornerstone Project:**

The primary purpose of the Cornerstone Project is to encourage and recognize lodges that plan, implement and manage a well rounded yearly lodge program that promotes lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and involvement in the community. The Cornerstone Project is **not** a competition between lodges. I would suggest if you want to improve the Condition of Masonry in your lodge, look at implementing a Cornerstone Program that meets your needs. When a lodge makes the decision to participate in this program they demonstrate their desire to increase the value of the experience it provides to the membership. Participation will bring many value added benefits. The Cornerstone manual can be downloaded from the Grand Lodge Website Home Page – Latest Update Links. Take the time and get involved to improve the Condition of Masonry in your lodge.

Donald A. Campbell  
Deputy Grand Master

## *From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .*

Your Grand Lodge office is receiving communication concerns from several jurisdictions indicating breaches of International communication protocol by several members/lodges in Ontario. **A reminder, Masonic communication outside of one's own jurisdiction must be made via the respective Grand Lodge offices.**

Semi-annual Returns are due January 8, 2012. Please have lodges note the provisions of Section 152 (p) B. of C. Should your Return indicate 152(p) and a \$100 fee, then you failed to have the last return submitted by July 8<sup>th</sup> and unable to take advantage of a waived fee. I urge lodge Secretaries to take advantage of this cost reduction, for the benefit of all members.



*On behalf of your office staff: Gail Nickerson, Rose Blandin, Stacey Birks, Angela Schmidt and myself, we thank those having Masonic business dealings throughout the year, for your cooperation and extend our best wishes to all for a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season.*

Terence Shand