

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

“Making Lodge Meetings and Festive Boards Interesting” was the theme of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual All Canada Conference of Grand Masters held in Winnipeg, April 1–2 2011. This topic is relevant and pertinent for every Worshipful Master – how to make every meeting of the Lodge interesting enough to encourage and attract the members to attend. The answer is really quite simple: competent, enthusiastic, and creative leadership. In former days, it was my custom when attending Installation Ceremonies to present the new Worshipful Master with the symbolic working tool of his office: The Sparkplug. I then reminded him that to be effective, a sparkplug must be connected to an engine to realize the driving force. As the ‘Sparkplug’ it was his role to ‘ignite’ the officers and members to go into action.

We must ever be mindful that Freemasonry lives, moves, and has its being in our constituent Lodges. Success or failure depends upon the motivational and organizational skills of the Worshipful Master and Officers. We should bear this in mind when electing and appointing the officers. A Lodge meeting should have more to offer than a friendly get-together at the local Tim Hortons. Reading through the Summonses I receive, too often the only work of the evening is listed as “for the transaction of such business as may come before the lodge.” What incentive is that for members to leave the comfort of hearth and home to attend? I have referred elsewhere to the ‘cultural evolution’ Freemasonry has undergone in the last decade. An older generation sought satisfaction in friendship, fellowship, and sociability. Today, while these aspects of fraternalism are still important, the present generation of young Masons seek deeper meaning through education, philosophy, and spirituality in Freemasonry. They are expecting more than a social society or service club which other community based organizations provide. They are seeking admission into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry

Max De Pree summed up the responsibilities of leadership: “The first responsibility if a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between the leader is a servant.” I am convinced that our leaders in the Craft are genuinely committed to serve to the best of their skill and ability. Sometimes, it is difficult to define reality. The way we used to do things does not work in present circumstances.

On October 22, 2010, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage, declared by an Order in Council that April 6<sup>th</sup> and every April 6<sup>th</sup> thereafter as a Tartan Day in Canada. At the same time the distinctive Canada Tartan was adopted as Canada’s national tartan and an official symbol of Canada. During our

Sesquicentennial Celebrations in 2005, Grand Lodge registered an official tartan to be known as Grand Lodge of Canada Tartan. There is a full description and illustration posted on the Grand Lodge Website. Many of our Lodges enjoy a rich Scottish heritage, and I encourage the wearing of formal highland dress when and where appropriate.

With the cooperation of the Committee on Library, Museum and Archives, in partnership with Brock University, and the financial support of Heritage Lodge No. 730, the Annual Proceedings of Grand Lodge from 1855 to 2010 have been made available online. This provides a most useful resource for all students researching Masonic history in this Grand Jurisdiction. [www.archive.org/details/grandlodge](http://www.archive.org/details/grandlodge)

The Grand Secretary continues to receive far too many ‘complaints’ alleging ‘unMasonic conduct’ by members to be placed before the Grand Master. These ‘complaints’ and ‘counter-complaints’ typically arise from differences that occur between Brethren that are best considered ‘private piques and quarrels.’ Ego has no place in a fraternity that claims brotherly love as its first principle. In most cases these differences could and should be resolved amicably by men acting in accordance with Masonic principles. We all hear, and many recite the description of a lodge in the General Charge as “the temple of peace, harmony and brotherly love” where “nothing is allowed to enter that has the remotest tendency to disturb the quietude of its pursuits.” Yet, when some issue arises or misdemeanour occurs, Grand Lodge is expected to deal with and solve the problem. The only person or persons that can resolve the matter are the ones that created it. Rather than coming to the Grand Master to sit in judgement, it would be better for both parties to withdraw from Masonic activities until they can work out a solution between themselves, acting as reasonable men and honourable Masons should with honesty and integrity. If only we understood what it means to be a Mason, and acted in accordance with the principles of our obligations, these issues would never arise. To preserve the reputation of the fraternity unsullied must be the constant care of each and every one of us.

Freemasonry provides an open ticket to a life-long journey of discovery. Enjoy the journey. Celebrate Freemasonry – it is the greatest gift in the world.

Raymond S. J. Daniels

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

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

R.W. Sirs,

April marks the unofficial time in our Grand Lodge year when we begin to think about the future. Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen and members of Audit and Finance prepare their budget requests for the next year; Grand Lodge and District Committee Chairmen begin to compile their annual reports and the D.D.G.M.s start thinking about their summaries for the Annual Proceedings. Once this happens, the temptation is to 'relax' the focus on current year's activity and initiatives. However, we are reminded that there are almost four months, close to one quarter of the year, remaining until our Annual Communication and thus the work must go on!

This is the time of year when, as the Grand Master's Representative, you are hitting full stride. You are comfortable, and the Brethren in your Districts are comfortable with you and your District team's initiatives. Now is the time to capitalize on all the hard work, planning and preparation that occupied most of the late summer and fall months. Now is the time your Leadership qualities can shine. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard!" While some may see the end in sight, for others, there is much time yet, much talent available and still great opportunities for accomplishment. On which side of the fence do you stand?

**Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada Strategic Plan:** This month we focus on the fourth strategic initiative from our Grand Lodge strategic plan, that is, Operations.

**Strategic Initiative — Operations:** We will ensure that the operations and governance of Grand Lodge, Districts and Lodges are effective, sustainable and efficient.

**Strategic Goal 11:**

Ensure that Craft resources and assets are being managed both efficiently and effectively while minimizing risk whenever possible.

**Strategic Goal 12:**

Ensure that Craft resources and assets evolve through planned growth to meet the requirements of services offered by Grand Lodge in the future.

**Strategic Goal 13:**

Employ technology in the most appropriate manner to deliver operational efficiencies in Grand Lodge, the Districts and the constituent Lodges.

## ***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. As Grand Lodge year-end is April 30<sup>th</sup>, it is very important the remaining Semi-annuals are received at Grand Lodge office. **Note: Provisions of Section 57 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge.**

Please confirm your contact with the respective lodge by email to [office@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto: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

**Toronto West**  
738 Chinguacousy

**Wilson South**  
181 Oriental

**York**  
220 Zeredatha  
481 Corinthian

### **Strategic Goal 14:**

Evaluate the effectiveness of the Grand Lodge Organization to be responsive to positive changes and new opportunities to assist Constituent Lodges.

### **Rationale:**

- Grand Lodge, Districts and Lodges have not kept pace with best practices, streamlining operations and technology advances in the running of the organization and serving the needs of the Brethren.
- A dedicated program to review and update our organization, and the way we do business, is needed to make our Grand Lodge capable of timely response to the needs of the Districts and Lodges which we serve.

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](mailto:w.libbey@unb.ca) for information.

### **Grand Lodge Survey:**

I extend my thanks to each of you for circulating around your Districts, the request to complete the survey. We have received over 3700 responses to date. A special thank you to those who took the time to add comments. All responses, including the comments, are being summarized by the Long Range Planning Committee and results will be made available after the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline has been reached.

While we are pleased with the results so far, there is still lots of time for more Masons to share their thoughts and comments with us and we encourage you to keep supporting the initiative among the Brethren in your Districts. Please check the participation results from your District as circulated in the email from Bro. Lakien (Internal Communications) on March 27, 2011. Do you think your District participation rate is high enough?

### **Change?**

Sydney Harris once stated: "*Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better!*"

D. Garry Dowling

Terence Shand

