

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## From the Grand Master . . .

We are now rapidly approaching the end of the Masonic year when many lodges go into summer recess. It is the season of special events – BBQ's, Quarry Lodges, boat cruises, theatre nights, and of course, the great Masonic picnic at the Hanover Lodge Steak Fry. At the Grand Lodge Office we are preparing for the Annual Communication in July, and I look forward to greeting all of you when we gather for the meeting of the Board of General Purposes on Monday morning, July 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Ballroom of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Encourage the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the lodges in your District, and especially the new members to attend. It is an impressive experience to witness the pomp and ceremony of the opening of Grand Lodge and an opportunity to enjoy the wider sense of brotherhood as Masons from across the Grand Jurisdiction gather together, renewing old friendships and making new ones. We are extremely fortunate in having **R.W. Bro. Thomas Jackson**, Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Grand Lodges, one of the most respected and knowledgeable Masons in the world today, as our keynote speaker on Wednesday afternoon. The guest speaker at the Grand Master's Banquet on Wednesday evening will be **M.W. Bro. Richard E. Fletcher**, P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Vermont and recently retired as Executive Director of the Masonic Service Association of North America. Both of these eminent Masons are 'worth the price of admission!' – a real 'double-header.' For those arriving early in Toronto, there will be a variety of stimulating seminars and workshops presented on Tuesday afternoon. Again, this year there will be an opportunity to meet informally and chat with the candidates offering themselves for the elective offices of added responsibility in Grand Lodge on Tuesday evening between 7:00 and 8:30 in Salon A on the Convention Floor.

The open letter recently sent to the Brethren has elicited a broad spectrum of response as was expected. It has stimulated much discussion and introspection as intended. I often ended presentations when I was Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education stating, "*I cannot tell you how to think, and I certainly cannot tell you what to think, but I can give you something to think about.*" The point is well taken. I am grateful to those Brethren that responded directly with their personal viewpoints and opinions. It also proved the truth expressed in the oft-quoted words variously attributed to Alan Greenspan and others, "*I know that you believe what you think I said, but I'm not sure you*

*realize what you heard is not what I meant.*" Unfortunately, there are still a few who feel that criticism circulated by bulk e-mail must be cloaked in anonymity rather than engaging in honest face-to-face dialogue. Be assured that the rationale for all of the proposed amendments will be given and opportunity for open debate provided. Important decisions will be made with due democratic process according to the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

This being an odd-numbered year, in addition to the other elective offices, the election of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master will take place to select the leaders of the Craft for the next two years. Each District will select the District Deputy Grand Master to act as the personal representative of the Grand Master for the ensuing year. The importance of this role cannot be overstated. The Charges of a Freemason remind us that, "*All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only.*" In all things, the Brethren will decide, and the Brethren are always right!

I am delighted to announce that the updated history of Grand Lodge covering the thirty-year period 1980 - 2010 compiled by the Grand Historian, V.W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns, is in press and will be available and on sale during the Annual Communication (\$10.00). Be sure to get a collector's 'first edition' hot off the press. After reviewing the pre-publication proofs, I know that this volume will be a most valuable research resource for every student of Masonic history and a worthy addition to our publications. This project was initiated as part of the Sesquicentennial year, and we are grateful to V.W. Bro. Jenkyns for bringing it to completion.

Finally, I express my most sincere and heart-felt gratitude for the diligence and devotion to Freemasonry and the dedication you have brought to the duties of your office during the year now coming to a close. Please convey my profound thanks to your District Secretary for his efficiency and to your family for the support and encouragement they gave by sharing your time and talent with us.

*In necessary things, Unity;  
In doubtful things, Liberty,  
In all things, Charity.*

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

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,

### **The Year in Review:**

With the Official Visits completed across the jurisdiction, it is hoped that all D.D.G.M.s now have their Summary reports completed. It is always a busy year and you are often rushed to get our reports in on time. Please take a moment to reflect on your year and on the District that you served as the Grand Master's Representative.

At the Annual Board of General Purposes meeting on Mon July 18 you will have a session with the Chairman of the Condition of Masonry Committee. In that session, you will have an opportunity to provide input that was perhaps too late for, or missed in your report, to make suggestions and offer constructive criticism if needed, and to assist us in improving the preparation of your successors this year and in the future.

Take a moment, reflect on your visits within your District and your travels outside your District, the social life of your District, the spirit of Masonry, etc. and jot down a few points in preparation for your July session.

### **District and Grand Lodge Committees:**

On behalf of all the Members of the Board of General Purposes, we would like to say thank you to the Brethren who contributed their time and talents to serve on District teams this year. Our Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen appreciate the work these Brethren do in their Districts to further the good of the Craft and we know that you, as the District Deputy Grand Masters truly appreciate their contributions.

We would also like to thank the more than 240 Brethren who served on our Grand Lodge committees this year. They have given freely of their time and talents to the various tasks required to keep the wheels turning.

Finally, as President of the Board of General Purposes, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Board who have given their time to serve as Committee Chairmen, Committee Members and Ambassadors for Grand Lodge.

We appreciate all their efforts, thank them for their contributions and wish them a relaxing, enjoyable summer.

### **Grand Lodge Survey Results:**

At the Board meeting on Monday or Tuesday, we will be receiving a presentation by the Long Range Planning Committee on the cumulative results of the survey responses. Over 5,000 Brethren took the time to complete the survey and many of them included personal comments with their replies. These results will be used as input to our strategic planning process.

### **Annual Communication: Seminars & Workshops:**

On Tuesday afternoon, July 19, we would ask that you make an effort to attend one or more of our Seminars and Workshops. We would also ask that you encourage those Brethren from your Districts who are available to attend as well.

The schedule may be adjusted from that distributed in the Lodge mailings, but new schedules will be posted at the Royal York.

### **Appreciation:**

Thanks to you, the District Deputy Grand Masters, and the District Secretaries for all the assistance you have given to our Grand Lodge Chairmen, Members of the Management Committee, and to me when called upon. It has been a pleasure watching you oversee the workings of our Districts as the representatives and support staff of our Grand Master. We look forward to seeing you in July.

### **D.D.G.M. Notes:**

1. Board of General Purposes opens at 9:00 AM on Monday, July 18, 2010.
2. Have you made arrangements for the regalia of your successor to be on hand on Thursday AM?

### **Summer?**

As the summer BBQ season approaches, remember the words of the great Luciano Pavarotti (from his biography, "My Own Story"), "*One of the very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop what we are doing and devote our attention to eating!*"

D. Garry Dowling