

From the Grand Master

Brock University Partnership: The public perception of Freemasonry is largely formed by fiction rather than fact. Best-selling novels, block-buster movies, sensational television 'documentaries' and anti-Masonic websites all create a false impression of the world's oldest and largest fraternity.

The Brock University Partnership, chaired by R.W. Bro. Gareth Taylor encouraged professional historians and sociologists to study the positive impact Freemasonry has made on the history of this country over the last three centuries. To gain academic credibility would do much to enhance the image of Freemasonry in the public perception and restore it to the place of respect it once enjoyed in society. If we do not take affirmative action to set the record straight, no one else will. This partnership between two great educational institutions has provided the inspiration for future generations to take Freemasonry seriously.

On Sunday, March 30, 2014, Brock University History Department presented the 5th Annual Sankey Lecture in Masonic History. The lecture series (initiated by the diligent efforts of M.W. Bro Raymond Daniels) is named in honour of Charles A. Sankey. Sankey served as Chancellor of Brock University from 1969 to 1974. A renowned Masonic scholar, he was active in all the concordant bodies of Masonry. His extensive collection of rare Masonic books and papers is in Special Collections of the James Gibson Library at Brock, providing rich resource for research scholars and students. The afternoon speaker was Professor Renée Lafferty.

Dr. Lafferty is associate professor of History at Brock University. Her lecture: ***Brothers in Arms: Freemasons and the War of 1812***, was enjoyed by all those who attended including Masons from across Ontario, faculty staff and students (both graduates and under graduates). Her lecture demonstrated how Masonic tenets helped the fighting men face the extraordinary physical and moral challenges of violent conflict. Reflecting, reinforcing, and sometimes defining the boundaries of honourable manhood, courage and loyalty, Freemasons at war had a formidable reserve of ideals to draw upon as they fought on behalf of their respective nations. Looking forward to the 6th Annual Sankey Lecture!

To our Immediate Past Masters (IPM): Last July 2013, we asked your District Deputy Grand Master to forward Grand Lodge (Chairman of Masonic Education) the name and address of every new invested IPM. As Grand Master, my goal was to send each IPM a personal letter

thanking him for fulfilling their duties as Worshipful Master of his lodge. So far, 33 Districts have participated. Since we have started this initiative, I have received several emails, telephone calls and personal thanks the IPMs' thanking Grand Lodge for taking the time and actually receiving a personal letter from the Grand Master for their service. As one IPM said: "I didn't think they cared. Receiving a personal letter from the Grand Master was a pleasant surprise." For some IPM, their year as Worshipful Master was the pinnacle of their Masonic careers. As the IPM of your lodge, you have spent many years acquiring skills in leadership and management, eventually leading you to the Chair of Solomon. Your hard-earned skills as Worshipful Master is too valuable to our Craft. We hope you would continue to help your Lodge by mentoring line officers as well as new Masons and advising and assisting your lodge where necessary. Another purpose of the letter, to point out to the IPM other learning opportunities available to him, such as the Past Master's Course, offered by the College of Freemasonry. Other Past Masters have gained a taste for challenge and a desire to seek greater knowledge, thereby developing themselves in their Masonic careers by working on a District or Grand Lodge Committee and, if ready, take on even greater responsibilities in leadership as the District Deputy Grand Master, or other Grand Lodge office. Your continued personal involvement will be an invaluable contribution to ensure the future survival of this great fraternity.

The College of Freemasonry offers three Correspondence Courses of Masonic Education to broaden your Masonic knowledge and also prepare you for higher office if you choose to do so: (1) Masonic Arts and Sciences – completion makes you a Fellow of the College of Freemasonry, (FCF); (2) Past Master's Course – completion enables meeting the requirements of The Book of Constitution, Section 50(b); and (3) Worshipful Master's Course – completion enables you to become better informed on many aspects of our Craft. To register, go to www.grandlodge.on.ca, click on "Membership", then click on "College of Freemasonry" to find course prospectus and application form, or contact the College at Masonic.college@gmail.com.

Worshipful Brother, the IPM, I hope you have already received a letter from me. If not, ask your District Deputy Grand Master if your name was sent to Grand Lodge after being invested as the IPM of your lodge. Brethren, we are great in gathering information, we just need to get better at communicating and disseminating it.

Donald A. Campbell

From the Deputy

Well Brethren there is now a real possibility that Spring has finally arrived. It has been an interesting winter long, cold with an abundance of snow. Now that the roads and weather are more stable it will make travelling to other lodges safer confident we will return home safely.

Brethren this month I would like to bring to your attention LODGE RESOURCES which have five distinct Segments: Friend to Friend, Brother to Brother, Mentor, Officer Progression and Cornerstone.

FRIEND to FRIEND came to us about twenty years ago. It's purpose is to assist lodges and enlighten friends of masons in getting to know us better and to increase membership. The program forms an integral part of other initiatives to bring Masonry to the forefront of public exposure, such as Display Booths and Information Booths in public venues, public Open Houses in our lodge rooms. These initiatives are being augmented by other forms of reaching the public such as brochures and videos. I can honestly tell you the Friend to Friend programme works. The lodges that have Friend to Friend events and Open Houses accomplish two special aspirations of Freemasonry. First lodges who sponsor such an event receive applications for membership, secondly Friend to Friend or Open House enhances the image of Freemasonry by those who attend. So brethren F 2 F has two benefits, the possibility of new applications and better public image value

BROTHER to BROTHER has a number goals RETAIN, RENEW and REVITALIZE. This is an ongoing aspect of lodge activity enabling lodges to maintain interest in Masonic life for members who may have drifted away from meetings over time. There are many examples how this can be achieved by the manner in which the lodge conducts itself. Make the meetings efficient and informative, possibly having some interesting speakers and debates. Plan Social events, other than regular lodge meetings, so some of the established membership who don't regularly attend can get to know some of the newer and younger members. Grand lodge has information that can be helpful such as the RUSTY MASON, THE SIX STEP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION GUIDE. Our BROTHER to BROTHER committee is readily available to offer assistance if requested.

MENTORING, Brethren the mentoring of a new mason is a responsibility of all members and that can be enhanced by the MENTOR CHAIRMAN to

provide guidance and information to those who are fulfilling the roll of mentor to a newer member. This program has been developed and enhanced over a number of years and has proved to be beneficial to the growth and enthusiasm of many newer members. It explains the lessons of each degree so a brother better understands his progress in masonry. There is benefit of your knowledge and experience if you share it with someone who is seeking more education and understanding if presented in a proper and timely manner. Realize that you are a guide, a confidant and an ambassador of the craft. Your enlightenment is setting the direction for the future of our craft.

OFFICER PROGRESSION is a valuable asset for a lodge. If a master mason progresses through the offices of our lodges, by the time they become Master of a lodge they should be familiar as to the respective duties of those who have the various responsibilities that make FREEMASONRY a rewarding experience. There are a number of presentations our Grand Lodge committee can provide to a lodge or district. They are about 45 minutes to one hour long. There are also many handouts that will benefit any lodge looking for information such as: OFFICER LEARNING CURVE, DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES of LINE OFFICERS, DEACONS FLOOR WORK MODULE, LODGE OFFICER HANDBOOK TEMPLATE and GUIDELINES for LODGE OFFICERS in the MECHANICS of the WORK.

CORNERSTONE is a program to assist all lodges. It sets out targets and objectives in variety of aspects that lodges might have challenges with from time to time. It points out specific achievements for a lodge to strive for that move FREEMASONRY forward. There are objectives that if achieved the respective lodge gets recognized as a CORNERSTONE LODGE. My thoughts are for each lodge to become familiar with the Cornerstone objectives and try to follow them. If you don't accumulate all that is necessary to become a recognized lodge but use each of the elements of Cornerstone as a guideline as to how your lodge should operate, then I know you will improve the operation of your lodge and its ideals. Freemasonry can flourish in our lodges as we move forward together, stronger and proud to be an important part of our great Fraternity

Brethren these are all educational tools that are available to everybody and every lodge that makes us stronger and allows us together to "BUILDING THE FUTURE VITALITY OF FREEMASONRY ONE MAN AT A TIME".

John C. Green