

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Happy New Year Brethren! All the best to you in 2017 - the year of celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Free and Accepted Masonry. As we commence this memorable time in our history we should remember to always thank those who have gone before us, for the legacy that inspires us to continue. We need to remind ourselves to impress those who will follow our direction so that the teachings and principles of Freemasonry will be communicated from generation to generation well into the future.

One of the projects, we suggested, was to have an Open House in every Lodge building in Ontario on or near June 3rd, 2017. I am pleased to see that a number of Lodges and Districts have started to make plans for a variety of events on that day. This indicates a significant interest in such a celebration and is creating enthusiasm already. I sincerely ask everyone to consider participating and involve the Concordant bodies of our Grand Lodge as well. Such an event will have a positive impact on Masonry in Ontario in many capacities. By opening our doors to the public and demonstrating Masonic philosophies and values we can have significant impact on our image as a Fraternity as well as present a valued public relations display to the world at large.

While we celebrate our 300 years let us not forget that 2017 marks the 150th birthday of Canada as a nation. We should all be mindful of how fortunate we are to live in Canada and enjoy the benefits of being Canadian citizens. We live in one of the greatest countries in the world and we exemplify that by our generosity, kindness and respect for our fellow man. We support those less fortunate and stand up to be counted when situations of difference and conflict should occur in other parts of the globe. For the most part we are recognized as peace keepers. There are many instances of defending our allies when there are conflicts throughout the world. We, as Canadians, have the right to be proud of what we stand for and be thankful to those who founded this land allowing us to live in the comfort we enjoy today. I know we often discuss various political philosophies but collectively Canadians enjoy freedoms and privileges that are the envy of the world. Let's display our pride in 2017 of being Masons AND Canadians.

Brethren, from time to time I hear that Freemasonry in Ontario requires more Masonic Education. I am the first to recognize the value of Masonic knowledge and how the general membership can benefit by receiving further information about our craft. Some is historic and some is current so interested Masons can absorb more understanding of Freemasonry. I thought it interesting upon review, with the various Grand Lodge Chairmen, what has happened during the first half of this Masonic year. There have been over a dozen seminars and workshops presented during the period from September through December on Leadership Development, Cornerstone, Brother to Brother, Finance Advisory and DDGM Orientation. I would encourage that interested Brethren try attending these seminars when presented in your area.

As we are all aware, M.W. Bro. Ray Daniels would distribute Masonic Minutes throughout the province for the benefit of everyone. This has left somewhat of a gap in our Masonic Education Distribution but there has been two issues of EDUCATION MONTHLY provided to the Lodges as well as one issue of REFLECTIONS. There is some interesting content in the releases that can benefit those members thirsting for knowledge. Although it is difficult to know the areas of Masonic Education and Information that Masons desire, we will continue to strive to provide material of a general interest as best we can.

I might also remind you that we have a number of knowledgeable PAST GRAND MASTERS who have an abundance of valued historic and practical information they would share if you asked them. This is not to put them on the spot but remind you of their experiences over many years.

Brethren as we proceed into 2017 let us keep in mind how fortunate we are to have been introduced into Masonry and the principles by which we are taught to be good Brethren, good friends and good citizens. Finally BE PROUD TO BE CANADIAN. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

John C. Green
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master ...

Here in Eastern Ontario we are digging out of the third snowstorm of the season which is a far cry from last year when Brethren were still golfing in December.

It's the beginning of a New Year and one could say it is the unofficial halfway mark of the Masonic year. Let's for a moment examine where we are in respect to the Committees and Teams of Grand Lodge.

Members of the Board of General Purposes are supported by five knowledgeable Brethren which make up the Committee Chairman & Team Leaders.

As mentioned, in a previous Communique, the structure of the Committees and Team Leaders changed considerably last July with Team Leaders now reporting to one of the five Chairmen who then report to the Deputy Grand Master.

The second step of downsizing the Board will continue in July of 2017 with five elected and five appointed to the Board which will prepare us for the final step, the restructuring of Special Committees and perhaps Standing Committees.

I am of the opinion that with the outstanding efforts of all Team Leaders and their Chairmen we will then have made good progress toward a more effective and efficient working group.

R.W.Bro. Russell Staye PDDGM Ottawa 2 District and Past Grand Master of the Orange Order said in a paper delivered in October 2010, at the Ottawa Especial Grand Lodge, that the lack of **constructive reflection** creates the weakness in any organization. Brethren, your Grand Lodge continues to answer the challenges of our **Constructive Reflection** review.

In August of 2016 twenty six Teams Leaders, along with their Chairmen, presented their plans for this Masonic year at a meeting held in Drayton, Ontario.

The plans were reviewed, several changes made or modified and the "blue print" for the work in the quarries of Grand Lodge, for this year, was established.

It would be a fair statement to say that weekly, and in some cases daily, somewhere in our Grand Jurisdiction a Team Leader & his Chairmen are doing committee work or presenting a workshop or seminar, to a Lodge or District, for the daily

advancement of your Masonic knowledge. These Brethren are the backbone of our Grand Lodge and I congratulate them for their tireless efforts.

In January of 2017 all Chairmen and Team Leaders are called to attend a meeting in Hamilton, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, for the purpose of presenting an update of their "blue print". Once again their plans will be reviewed and any possible suggestions will be made to assist the completion of their work.

A third and final meeting of the Chairmen and Team Leaders will be held in the spring to receive their final report.

As we move into the second half of our Masonic year, it is once again time to remind Brethren that the **Past Masters Course** is mandatory in the following three situations. Please note the highlighted change made by you in 2016 at Grand Lodge:

Section 38 (b) "A candidate nominated for the Office as member of the Board of General Purposes must be in possession of a **Past Master's Course Certificate of Completion** from the as offered by the Grand Lodge College of Freemasonry **on or before** the same date his nomination is sent to Grand Lodge, as outlined by this Book of Constitution Section 38 (a) (2016)

Section 38 (c) A member appointed to the Board of General Purposes must be in possession of the said, **Past Master's Course Certificate of Completion** to be eligible for re-appointment or election to office. (2015)

Section 50 (b) A candidate for the office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession of a **Past Master's Course Certificate of Completion** as offered by our Grand Lodge, College of Freemasonry **on or before June 15th** of the year seeking office. (2015)

Recently I came across the following quotation that I believe gives direction to all of us for the New Year.

*"The New Year stands before us
like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written.
We can help write that story by setting goals"*
~ Melody Beattie

Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master