

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master . . .*

Celebrate with the Irish ...

While we may not celebrate Saint Patrick's Day to the extent that we did Saint Valentine's Day, there's no reason why the Irish wannabe's can't enjoy putting on the green with those that have inherited the right. We seemed to slide into March like a lamb, so who knows how we'll end it. We should keep the shovels out and the Ice Huts warm. Some of these modern Ice Huts are getting to be real 'man caves', almost big enough to open Lodge in. I'm sure many Junior Warden's will be offering up some Irish Stew at the banquet hour.

### **Our new Members...**

In the Summons, I continue to notice that many Lodges are performing degree work, not only bringing new Members into our craft, but advancing others along their Masonic journeys. Having a waiting list of degrees is an enviable position to be in. However, I am concerned that in some instances we appear to be in a rush to move our candidates through the system... perhaps even to the detriment of the Lodge. All work and no play can become tedious and dull the enthusiasm. Let me encourage those in this fortunate position to reflect on a path of slower advancement and what that might mean for the Lodge and the new members. Options are available that allow us to engage our new members and not overwork the experienced ones. Well delivered education presentations on the work and its meaning, joint mentoring sessions with a number of candidates and mentors attending (even if not from your own Lodge), and Lodge social events to keep all the Brethren active in an informal, fun-filled environment can all help. A number of Lodges are also asking for help from nearby Lodges to assist with degree work, thus promoting visitation at the same time. Should you be in the enviable position of having an abundance of degree work to perform, please consider the possible downside of too much degree work all at once. Once initiated, our Masonic journey is a lifelong experience. The degree factory syndrome can be detrimental to that Masonic experience and to the overall well being of the Lodge.

### **Building Compliance**

I am pleased to report that many Lodges have taken the next step in the process and initiated a request for the Fire Inspection. I am certain that there are still concerns in many areas and I would ask that you do not hesitate to contact your DDGM, a Member of the Board, or R.W. Bro. Perry McConnell if you have any questions. We have been able to assist in resolving a number of

issues and in clarifying things that were not originally communicated in a clear and concise manner.

Once again, I point out that the present initiative on Lodge Buildings deals with conformance to Fire Code Regulations ONLY. It has nothing to do with accessibility legislation or health standards.

Our Brethren are responding in a positive manner to this issue of Fire Safety and are taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our Lodge buildings.

### **Grand Lodge Candidates**

As the time for submitting applications to serve your Grand Lodge approaches, I encourage anyone interested to consult with a current or Past Grand Lodge Officer or Member of the Board of General Purposes regarding any questions you might have.

Serving your Grand Lodge is an honour and a privilege. While it is not an onerous task, and one that can be fit in along with Family and work commitments, we are reminded that it is a commitment and that although you may be a volunteer when you sign the application, once elected, you hold yourself accountable to do the best job that you can.

### **The Path...**

Brethren, last month we spoke of vitality (having its roots in motivation) and viability (having its roots in our Masonic homes) being necessary for us to follow the path to "Ensuring The Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry". There are other attributes of those who would follow the path. Leadership is one. Leadership is the critical ability to understand the risk at each fork in the road, well enough to determine just what path to take.

Our Leaders, Lodge, District and Grand Lodge, must understand our Vision and be willing to drive us towards it. Continuing to accept new men into this great fraternity applies increasing pressure on our leadership to show the way. Are those who are your leaders or who would be your leaders committed to staying the course, committed to our Vision, committed to following the path from 'Good' to 'Great'?

**Believe it – to follow the path, we must select as our leaders those who are committed to the Vision and the path that leads to it!**

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling  
Grand Master

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

William Mercer Wilson, our First Grand Master, stated in his address at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in London in July 1868 said sentiments expressed by members of the fraternity led Wilson to believe that some members neither fully understood nor appreciated the original design and aim of our institution, Freemasonry. "If there is to be found in our ranks any individual who has joined us, actuated by no higher motive than self interest, and influenced by the idea that he is thereby making a most judicious investment for himself and family, he will soon discover that he has not only deceived himself and the great objects of masonry."

In any organization, including Masons, they need leadership. Someone to direct the administration that makes the organization a living, vital team and, particularly, to ensure that there is some growth, and that standards of enthusiasm, action and competence are maintained at a high level.

Your Grand Lodge is seeking qualified, motivated and active Past Masters, who believe in our Mission: "*to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community and preserve the timeless Masonic initiatory system as a framework for all good men to transform their lives through the ancient and enduring tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.*" Are you that person? If so, the right time to plan to be part to Grand Lodge is now.

**Nominations for Grand Lodge Office:** As we prepare for our Annual Communications of Grand Lodge on the third Wednesday of July and the Thursday following (July 17, 18, 2013), many of our Past Masters are considering being a candidate for the office of Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Registrar or a Member of the Board of General Purposes. If that is your intention, then your nomination application **must be received** by the Grand Secretary on or before **Monday, April 1, 2013** (Sections 36 to 41 inclusive, Book of Constriction).

**No brother** shall be eligible for office in Grand Lodge unless he has attained the rank of Past Master. Candidates, other than GM, DGM and DDGMs, are nominated, in writing on a prescribed form, by any member of Grand Lodge. The Nomination Form, which will have an attached passport-size photo of the candidate (colour preferred), must be signed by the nominator and the candidate.

**Grand Lodge** consists of its Grand Lodge Officers, its Past Grand Lodge Officers, Past Masters and the Masters and Wardens of all lodges duly returned on the Grand Lodge registered. Any lodge which has neglected to deliver to the Grand Secretary its returns and payments to Grand Lodge on or before July 8,

2012, Masters and Wardens will not be able to vote at Grand Lodge, including voting for the elective Grand Lodge Officer and the Board of General Purposes. This includes proxy votes. DDGM that is why you have been directed by Grand Lodge (Section 97) to ensure lodges in your District have submitted their returns to the Grand Secretary. All constituent lodges in Ontario who attend our Annual Communication of Grand Lodge should have an opportunity to exercise their right and vote for their Grand Lodge Officers. Let's make this happen.

**Grand Wardens:** The office of Grand Wardens is an elective Grand Lodge office for one year. Aspirants may be nominated by any member of Grand Lodge and submit that nomination to the Grand Secretary. The candidate receiving the majority of votes will be declared elected by the Grand Master. The Grand Wardens, whenever directed, shall attend the Grand Master and act as his Wardens. Further, the Grand Wardens have an important role in the Ceremony of Constituting and Consecrating a Lodge, dedicating or re-dedicating a Corner Stone, Ceremonies of Amalgamation and Extinguishing the Lodges of a Lodge. More importantly, the Grand Wardens are expected to know their Work, such as, Opening and Closing in all Three Degrees, calling off Lodge, open and close a Board of Installed Masters and Grand Lodge, and the Ritual Work of a Warden. I can assure you, when you attend a Lodge and sit in the chair, the Lodge Wardens will be watching you. Therefore, you will need to know the Mechanics of the Work and be proficient in our Ritual.

**Grand Registrar:** The nomination and the election process of the Grand Registrar is, basically, the same as the Grand Wardens, with this additional qualification. The applicant must comply with Section 50(b) and be in possession of a certificate of completion of the course for prospective District Deputy Grand Masters as offered by the College of Freemasonry. The theory being, relates to the duties of the Grand Registrar found in section 114: "The Grand Registrar may, at the pleasure and direction of the Grand Master, take charge of any district for which there is not a District Deputy Grand Master." Therefore the Grand Registrar must be familiar with the duties and responsibilities of a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Registrar will also visit and report on the activities of the Heritage Lodge.

If you have the energy, time and qualities, consider being part of our Grand Lodge team. Remember, your nomination form must be received by April 1, 2013.

Donald A. Campbell  
Deputy Grand Master