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In the news...

Nova House, Richmond's transition house for women has received a donation of \$10,000 from our Grand Lodge. In a recent community newspaper article, our Grand Secretary, RW Bro. Lawrence Parent, is quoted as saying that our all-male organization hopes the donation will send a positive message to women who have had negative interactions with the men in their lives "that there are some good men out there."

SmartMoney notes in its December 2002 issue that for the second time in three years Shriners Hospitals for Children has received the highest rating as the most effective health charity in the United States.

A recent issue of the *Loyalist Gazette* published a story on the early history of Freemasonry in Ontario and Niagara Lodge No. 2. A good bit of free publicity for Freemasonry, it also detailed a number of freemasons, such as Lieutenant-

governor John Graves Simcoe, who had contributed to the growth of Upper Canada.

An article in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* recently talked about the waning number of freemasons and the recent hiring of a publicist by the Grand Lodge of New York. It seems that New York has also joined the one-day masons band-wagon.

The May 6 issue of the *Port Alberni Times* carried a story and picture of a visit by MW Bro. William O. Walls to Barclay Lodge No. 90 and gave a short history and favourable description of Freemasonry, as well as contact information. ■

Our detractors

John Ankerberg, well-known anti-mason, is currently being sued for a total of \$136 million by a number of Christian congregations who

Our Grand Master

I look upon this coming year as one filled with great opportunities for our gentle Craft. Let us work together to realize these opportunities. Look about you. What do you see? You see keen brethren who are dedicated to this ancient and honorable institution. We have that great potential for leadership right here. In my travels to the lodges in our jurisdiction, I have noticed the many young men joining us. Let us make sure that we have a twenty-first century organization to offer them the essential message of Freemasonry that is so dear to our hearts. Together we can do so much. Help me and let me help you. Things are changing out there. We have the potential for tremendous growth. Our opportunity is NOW.



**MW Bro. C. William Ferguson
Grand Master for 2003-2004**

To me, there are two rôles a Grand Master must fill. First, he is a conservator — he protects the landmarks, the *Constitutions*, the ritual, the rights and privileges of the brethren. Second, he is a facilitator—he helps all to enjoy Freemasonry and aids those who would improve our Craft.

The last few years we have talked about improving; we have studied ways to improve; we have surveyed our brethren about what we want to see improved and we have identified many things we would like to see improved. It is now time to bring these improvements into effect.

The great historian and statesman, Thomas Babington MacAuley, at a time when governments in Europe were falling, warned the British government: "The great cause of revolutions is this, that while nations move onwards, constitutions stand still."

The same is true of us. We are controlled by our *Book of Constitutions*. Our *Book of Constitutions* must change to meet
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took exception to their inclusion in his 1999 *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*. To date, no group of freemasons has sued him for the inclusion of Freemasonry in this book.

The Spiritual Counterfeits Project, headquartered in

Berkeley, California, continues its attacks on Freemasonry, believing it to be an opponent of orthodox Christianity. Most of their criticisms appear to stem from their belief that Freemasonry promotes free

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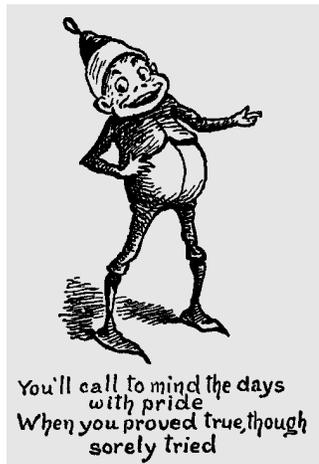
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In the news
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government, separation of church and state, and freedom to worship as one chooses.

The Southern Baptist Convention failed to condemn Freemasonry at its 1993 annual meeting in Houston, Texas, but their publication *OnMission* has recently given a favourable review of Ron Rhode's *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions* in which Freemasonry is equated with satanism and described as a destructive cult. In September 2002, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was the site for a *Ministry to Masons* conference. Although not sponsored by the Seminary, every opportunity was taken in the promotion of the event to link it with the church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, was quoted in a report in *The Independent* last November, voicing his concerns about clergymen being freemasons. Unfortunately a spokesman for the Archbishop went on to use words such as "satanic" and "mutual back-scratching." The Archbishop—in a letter to the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England—claims to have been misquoted, and, as his father was a freemason of long-standing, he believes that Freemasonry's "commitment to charitable causes and the welfare of the wider community is beyond question."



W Bro. Palmer Cox

Cancer study

The Lung Health study at the BC Cancer Agency is offering ex-smokers the opportunity to participate in a new lung cancer prevention trial.

Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer death in men and women in Canada. More than 50% of newly diagnosed lung cancers are in ex-smokers.

Ex-smokers who are eligible for the study will participate in a screening process which will include a sputum test and a spiral CAT scan of their lungs. If precancerous changes are found in their lungs, participants may go on to the next part of the study which tests the effectiveness of a Chinese herbal remedy in preventing lung cancer.

To be eligible for the study smokers must have quit for at least a year and be between the ages of 45 and 74. For more information about the study please call 604-877-6190 or 1-800-663-3333.

Masonic standing

Our Grand Secretary would like to remind the brethren that one of the benefits of our Grand Lodge system is the ability to vouch for a member's good-standing.

To this end, all masonic correspondence should proceed through our Grand Secretary's office. While at first glance this is a cumbersome process, it is the only way that another lodge or Grand Lodge can confirm they you are in fact a freemason.

While the internet has made masonic communications easier, it has also made it easier for non-masons to masquerade as visiting brethren. You cannot be confident that a correspondent

is a freemason unless he has initiated his correspondence through his Grand Secretary. You cannot expect to be accepted as a freemason unless you do the same.

Lodge notes

With 76 members and visitors present, including MW Bro William Ord Walls and his senior officers, **Columbia Lodge No. 38**, Invermere, celebrated its official centennial on Saturday May 10th on what, from RW Bro. Andy W. Stuart-Hill's account, appears to have been a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

Ancient Light Lodge No. 88, Ladner, recently celebrated the 90th birthday of RW Bro. Weldon H. Harriman who had served the Craft for many years as founding secretary of the Delta Masonic Building Society and his community as president of the Delta Teachers Association.

Members from **Kaslo Lodge No. 25**, Kaslo, and **Sentinel Lodge No. 146**, Castlegar, were both vying for the Traveling Gavel from

Nelson Lodge No. 23, Nelson, on June 11, 2003, with a certain amount of light-hearted rivalry created by the attendance of a number of brethren with multiple lodge memberships.

This Traveling Gavel was donated by **Corinthian Lodge No. 27**, Rossland, to promote visiting between the lodges of Districts No. 6 and 7; with the lodge with the most visiting members allowed to claim the gavel.

W Bro. Herbert Arnold Dimitri Oliver QC, of **Cascade Lodge No. 12**, Vancouver, was recipient of the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia Lifetime Achievement Award on June 13. Proceeds from the evening were donated to the HAD Oliver Legal Education Endowment.

The tradition continues at **Perfection Lodge No. 75** New Westminster on the occasion of their 37th annual Canada Night held May 1, when the Shrine Pipe and Drum band entertained the assembly, and our Junior Grand Warden, RW Bro. Bob McSween introduced our Junior Grand Warden elect, RW Bro. Isaac Brower-Berkhoven.



Our Grand Secretary, RW Bro. R. Lawrence M. Parent presented \$10,000 to St. Paul's Hospital Heart Centre on May 16, 2003 on behalf of MW Bro. Walls and the brethren. It was received by Dr. Ron Carere from the Cardiology Research Department and Jane Adams from the St. Paul's Foundation. This marks the sixth consecutive year the Masonic Foundation has donated \$10,000 to the hospital.



On May 22, RW Bro. Percy Harkness, DDGM, District 9, presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Tony Badior, president of Central Okanagan Hospice Association and Cindy Fairs, director of volunteer services for the hospice, under the watchful eyes of W Bro. Bill Roper, Master of St. George's Lodge No. 41, Kelowna, and W Bro. Eric Foster, Master of Prince Charles Lodge No. 153, Kelowna.

This past March **Southern Gate Lodge No. 124** hosted District 10's masonic workshop where a number of interesting topics were raised, one being that the lodges of the district should sell all their properties, pool their resources and build a single, centrally located hall, another that a small bus should be purchased to assist brethren unwilling to drive to lodge on winter evenings. Questions of how long a lodge officer should serve and how DDGMs should be selected were also discussed. While little consensus was reached, the dialogue was a valuable experience to all attending.

Once again the brethren of **Cariboo Lodge No. 4** hosted the annual Barkerville Get Together this past August

with our Grand Master, MW Bro C. William Ferguson in attendance. The brethren enjoyed a beef and salmon barbeque on the Saturday evening and on Sunday morning VW Bro. Neil Vant conducted services at Saint Savior's Church.

Marpole Masonic Hall currently has a vacancy, and is available for any group on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Contact W Bro. John Dunham at 604-266-0626.

The 33rd annual Loggers' Night was hosted by **Keystone-Lions' Gate Lodge No. 115** this past May with their traditional presentation to MW Bro. William O. Walls of a set of miniature double-bitted axes. ■

Miss BCJD

Started six years ago, the Miss British Columbia Job's Daughter competition is a self-supported project funded by donations received through the Grand Council.

Contestants, entering the competition from all over the province, are tested on their general knowledge of the Order and the constitution, public speaking ability and ritual work. The selection is made at their annual session. The girl chosen represents BC Job's Daughters at the Supreme Session, this year to be held in Chicago.

Miss BCJD is responsible for promoting the interest, growth, and welfare of Job's Daughters, both within the organization and to the public. She is expected to travel throughout the province visiting Bethels, and to attend the Official Visits of the Grand Guardian and Associate Grand Guardian. The Miss represents the ideals of Job's Daughters to other concordant bodies. Miss BCJD may also serve as an intermediary between the daughters and the Grand Council, by speaking on behalf of the daughters.

For more information on the programme, contact Chairperson Marion Northam at 604-524-5808 or Miss BCJD 2003, Meghan Lorentsen, at meghanlorentsen@aol.com. ■

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Our Grand Master

from page one

the spirit of our time. If not, we may not face revolution—but slow decay into oblivion. Society has moved on. We need to meet the aspirations of young twenty-first century men. These men expect a more democratic system. They want an active part in decision making. Freemasonry around the world is changing. We cannot afford to float but must move onward and take the tide that leads on to fortune. And that tide will soon be ebbing fast. Let us get aboard before that happens.

We have two designs on our tracing board for this year. These two plans will give us the opportunity to improve:

PLAN 1: An active leadership rôle for the District Deputy Grand Masters that will strengthen the individual lodge and improve the use of resources in our districts. It will give guidance and support to our constituent lodges without interfering with their autonomy. This is called the *Seven Step Programme*. Your District Deputy Grand Master will be developing this programme with you.

PLAN 2: An active, guided programme which will take the many ideas for improvement that have

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Our Grand Master
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been advanced in the last few years and put them in a proper form so that they are brought before you at an Annual Communication so that you can decide whether we are for the idea or against it. You will finally have the choice. For you are indeed the rulers of the Craft. This is called the *Initiatives Programme*. It will be achieved by present Grand Lodge Committees and individual freemasons throughout our jurisdiction coördinated by a facilitator.

Both these plans need your coöperation. The improvement of this great institution is up to you. Let us work together and give these plans an honest chance to succeed. If we do — we will be the better for it.

The Seven Step Programme involves the following:

District Meetings—to coördinate activities and resources.

Lodge Meetings—to evaluate your lodge and plan for improvements

Leadership Training—to assess your needs and call upon a Leadership Team to help train your officers if needed.

Mentorship—to educate your new members in Freemasonry and thereby retain their membership.

Social and Sports Events—to promote friendship and fellowship.

Education—to increase the understanding of our work, our ritual and the true meaning of Freemasonry.

The Masonic Family—to have a positive and respectful view of all of our concordant bodies. We can no longer remain an isolated group within the great family of Freemasonry.

What is the Initiatives Programme? Briefly it involves:

Initiative 1: to establish nine regions, hold elections and define the rôle of representatives to the Board of General Purposes.

Initiative 2: to examine and suggest guidelines concerning the appointment and rôle of DDGM's. Four pilot programmes will also be established.

Initiative 3: to study and develop guidelines for fund raising by Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges.

Initiative 4: to proceed with the recommendations made in the 2001 Masonic Survey and the Masonic Commission of 2000-2001. This does not mean the Masonic Commission will be revived but that their recommendations which achieved wide support from the membership will be brought forward to next year's Annual Communication for your decision. You will have the final say. And this decision will not be made for you by default.

Initiative 5: to over-haul our system of Grand Lodge Representatives to other jurisdictions. This is already well underway.

Initiative 6: to strengthen our Leadership seminars. We already have two teams — one in Victoria and one in the Okanagan. I intend to see that we have one in the Lower Mainland and another in the Cariboo North and that they are active.

Initiative 7: to establish long term goals for Grand Lodge. We need to work towards certain aims and objectives and stop waffling back and forth.

Initiative 8: to study the desirability of changing the terms for the election of Principal Officers of Grand Lodge. Should the Grand Master serve two years? Should the Junior and Senior Grand Wardens be appointed with the elected Deputy Grand Officer serving only one year? Or what other arrangement?

Initiative 9: to strengthen the leadership of the *Cancer Car Project* and the *We Can Help Program*. We have been very fortunate in the leadership of these programmes. We hope to continue these great activities



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER, 2003

| | | | | |
|-------|-----|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | Tue | District No. 13 | Mt. Hermon No. 7 | Vancouver |
| 3 | Wed | Principal Officers | Meeting 10:00 am | Vancouver |
| 3 | Wed | Pythagoras 194 | Installation 7:30 pm | Vancouver |
| 5 | Fri | Concordant Bodies | Meeting. 10:00 am | Vancouver |
| 6 | Sat | Kettle Falls No. 130 | Washington, USA | Kettle Falls |
| 12 | Fri | District No. 7 | King Edward No. 28 | Greenwood |
| 13 | Sat | District No. 6 | Kaslo Lodge No. 25 | Kaslo |
| 18-20 | Thu | Royal Arch | Grand Communication | Chilliwack |
| 24 | Wed | Richmond 142 | 50 Year Pins and Awards | Richmond |
| 25 | Thu | Lynden No. 56 | Washington, USA | Lynden |
| 27 | Sat | Dunbar No. 118 | Installation | Vancouver |

with increasing harmony.

Initiative 10: to publish a user-friendly and grammatically correct *Books of Constitutions and Regulations*. This is well underway but further improvements are still needed.

Initiative 11: to study the penalties in our degrees so that they reflect the truth of Freemasonry.

Initiative 12: to permit by a Constitutional amendment, Past Grand Masters to wear dress regalia when visiting other Grand Lodge jurisdictions at no cost to Grand Lodge.

Initiative 13: to improve the process and establish guidelines for the election of the Junior Grand Warden.

Initiative 14: to extend voting privileges at Grand Lodge Communications to Master Masons.

Initiative 15: to produce a manual for guidance to Grand Lodge and local community Committees for conducting Grand Lodge Communications. This is also well underway.

Brethren, you will be given the choice. Some of these I am for—some against, but my opinion is not important. You will have the say about what will be done. Help me to give you that opportunity. I'm open to other initiatives or suggestions. Your help will be solicited

to work on these initiatives.

One of these initiatives I should bring to your attention now. It means a considerable change. In 2002, at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication held in Victoria, you passed a resolution to have elected representatives from nine regions serve on the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge. They would replace the four appointed area representatives. The details were left up to the Grand Master. This requires a definition of the regions, election procedure, term of office and rôle for these elected members. I hope to bring this about before the end of 2003.

Finally, to the brethren who have taken on the rôle of officers of Grand Lodge for 2003-2004. My thanks — and, I am sure, the thanks of every freemason in this jurisdiction. Just looking at you inspires me. Brethren, it's what we do that makes us strong. Your rôle this year is crucial. Gain the support of the brethren in your district. Make them aware of the improvements we hope to make. Get them to think positively about our great Craft. Get them to speak and act positively in improving our Craft.

Brethren all, let's get to work!