

Make Your Masonic Mark

Grand Master's Installation Address:- June 20, 2015

Standing here, I realize that this collar is relatively light, but the responsibilities that it brings with it are not. I will do my best to wear it with honour and dignity, and to ensure it does not tarnish under my watch.

There are far too many people to thank individually. They are the ones whose arms are tired and backs are stooped from holding me up and pushing me onward when I became like the Hobbitt staring at the immense mountain in front of him. I do want to thank my dad. He never failed to remind me of what my obligations meant, and how I should live my life. But mostly, I want to thank my wife Sue. She has been my rock for almost 44 years now, and this journey would never have been made without her support.



MW Bro. Douglas C. Collins,
Grand Master 2015-2016

I stand here ready to build. Not to build the sand castles of my youth, because I learned in the sands not far from here that they are but temporary edifices to be torn apart when the tide ebbs and flows. Nor the indestructible castles on distant shores, which stand the test of time, but now are largely barren and forlorn, bereft of life and joy. I am talking of the castles we build in our minds, structures built by thinking men who build the pillars of the earth with their ideas, their will to make things grow, and the willingness to share a common vision with those around them. This is my challenge to you this year: to see a vision for growth, for talking with each other, and for working on projects that will impact our future together.

My theme this year is *Make Your Masonic Mark*. We make a mark with everything we do in our daily lives. Let's talk this year about celebrating our strengths, by learning, by being a part of our lodge's activities, by being active in our communities, by looking after our families, by our acts of Brotherly Love, by trying to find new ways of advancing our order. Every one of us has an opportunity to make a masonic mark.

Here are some of the challenges I will consider this year to help us make our masonic mark.

Governance - I have asked the committee chairman to continue the work of this committee for another year, with a view to making

recommendations for change, if needed, to Grand Lodge in Kamloops in 2016. It is my belief that it is time to seriously look at whether our current system of governance is running at peak efficiency. For example, things like our Five-Pillar Plan need to become more integrated into how we operate.

Consolidation of districts and lodges - The issue of downsizing will not go away, and must be monitored. But we must be transparent in our actions, and I have asked the chairman of the committee on warranted lodges to continue to monitor growth or decline in our jurisdiction.

Communication - I believe frank and open discussion is often lacking. It is my hope to reach out to every district to get ideas, hold discussions, and listen. But also to challenge districts to make their masonic mark as well. I am making that my personal challenge this year—to listen more and talk less.

Social media - Social media is becoming a major force in our lives. But I have some concerns about the way we are using social media. The challenge for us is to use social media appropriately. The Community Relations Committee will be working with the Grand Secretary's office to determine how social media are handled in other jurisdictions, with a view to ensuring that we provide our brethren with guidelines on how we can best make use of it here. I am asking brethren who have an interest in this area to make themselves known to us—to join us in developing a strategy that will work for all.

Information Technology - The Grand Secretary made mention of the need for an IT advisory board to deal with technological issues within Grand Lodge. I will be supporting the Grand Secretary's initiative to ensure we deal appropriately with the rapid change of technology in our Grand Lodge operations.

Civility - Brethren, if you want to make your Masonic mark, you can start with that one word- civility. Lack of civility is the biggest threat to what we do. We seem to have forgotten civility in our dealings with one another. In fact, some of our behaviour is downright bullying. I issue this challenge to all of us, to conduct our lives the way we swore to when we took our obligation

Along with civility comes the issue of ethics. We seem to be facing an increasing number of complaints and grievances from within the Craft. This is taking up a significant portion of the Grand Secretary's time. After discussion with the Grand Secretary and the Governance Committee, I am going to work on implementing an Ethics Committee as soon as feasible.

Identify success stories - Nothing speaks to making your masonic mark like success stories. Document your progress, and let the rest of the jurisdiction know. I am excited when I see a Northern Grand Masonic Day developing to go with the one in the Lower Mainland and those held occasionally in other areas of our jurisdiction. I'm excited about new education modules to give our Officers and Brethren more tools. I'm excited when I hear about book clubs, and guest speakers and lecture series, or a possible mark. Unless you walk off the end of the plank, and take the chance, you don't know what's going to

happen. Taking risks is part of growth. Don't be afraid to take the step.

This journey is a very personal one for all of us. We have to find the delicate balance in our meetings that makes the going enjoyable for all. We don't all go for education; we don't all go for the fellowship or the festive board. A balance of all these things is the challenge facing each of our Lodges.

We need to grow. But to do that, we need excited members who are committed to the Craft. We need to continue our vigil at the West Gate. We need to find the quality people, people who want to make a difference, who are inspired, people who aren't afraid to do things, who aren't afraid to step off the plank. Every one of us should have a one-minute elevator talk. Think about what Freemasonry is to you. So when someone asks, you can tell them. And let's get them excited enough to want to ask you more. And when they ask you for more, let's give them more. Let's give them an experience they will want to be part of for the rest of their lives. Keeping members, once we have them, is probably one of our biggest challenges, and one of our greatest opportunities.

When a candidate comes into lodge, we spend a lot of time telling them what the working tools are for. Those tools are for marking, for drawing out plans, for allowing the work to proceed. We have to mark our plans to grow the Craft. What do you see us doing? How do you see us making our masonic mark? Have a "state of the union" meeting for your lodge or district. Talk about ideas, and then make it happen. We need to ask ourselves "Who am I as a Freemason?" "Who are we as a lodge or a district?" "How are we acting as Freemasons in our family and our community?"

Preservation of masonic history - Every lodge should have a copy of the Grand Historian's checklist on putting together a proper lodge history. Concentrate on the people and interesting things- not the dates. At every district meeting I attend, I want the District Education Officer to give me one little item on history — a character, an interesting thing about a lodge.

Protocol - Whether it's anything from a Grand Master's visit to special anniversaries, proper protocol is important. I am appointing a Protocol Committee to be chaired by MW Bro. William R. Cave, with four experienced past Grand Directors of Ceremonies and Grand Marshals. They will develop a protocol manual that will be adopted for our future use. Because ritual and protocol often go hand in hand and because I believe we should avoid new committees when we have existing committees available, this Protocol Committee will be a sub-committee of the Ritual Committee, and their recommendations will be part of the Ritual Committee's annual report to Grand Lodge.

DDGM Appointments - We have tried different ways to appoint successors to our current District Deputies. We have had a trial programme for DDGM-designates. Last year we tried to have current DDGMs put their recommendations in by 15 September. In retrospect, we felt that perhaps it was a bit early. So we are going to experiment a little more, and I am making a ruling that would, for this year, have

the recommendations in to the Deputy Grand Master by 31 October. This would seem to be a happy medium. By the end of the year, we will see if this date works. If it does, we will make a recommendation in time for Grand Lodge in 2016 to change to our *Constitution*.

Masonic charity is part of our personal journey. It is by and large an individual journey, and is determined in part by our personal goals and beliefs. My late son and brother, Peter Collins had a unique gift. Although he had no formal training he had a great gift as a teacher. He reached people through his unflagging cheerfulness, his empathy with others, and his ability to relate on many levels. He had a particular ability to deal with those who had challenges. Some of his greatest success came with students who were dyslexic and autistic. Several of these students overcame great personal difficulty with his help. This year, I have decided to honour that gift by making the Scottish Rite Learning Center in Vancouver my charity of choice. This centre provides tremendous help to dyslexic children, and is in the process of establishing itself as a major resource in our province. I want to help make that happen.

I hope you will find your own causes to support as part of your masonic journey. Our support for our fellow man, in a quiet, unassuming way, is a foundation on which our Fraternity is built.

Let us go into the future boldly. To paraphrase the words of McLuhan, we are hamstrung by looking back at the glory years of Freemasonry. We are driving into the future looking into the rear-view mirror. Let us not march backwards into the future. Let's put the rear-view mirror away and really look ahead. Let us be resolved to find new ways to make our masonic mark. Let us tilt at windmills and follow our dreams.

I look around me this afternoon, and I see a lot of people I hope are big kids like me. Let's get out and play together. Let's get out and have fun. Let's talk to each other. We'll learn, we'll scrap along the way, and then we'll make up and carry on. Let's learn from each other, let's make mistakes, let's make some changes where necessary without changing the integrity of our past. As Dumbledore said to Harry Potter, "Harry, it's not our abilities which define us, it's our choices." Brethren, let's choose to make our masonic mark together.

Regalia worn by R.W. Bro. Arthur Currie

District Deputy Grand Master, District 1, Victoria

R.W. Bro. Doug Franklin, Haida Lodge No. 166

Photo courtesy Canadian War Museum, Ottawa

R.W. Bro. Arthur Currie was initiated in Vancouver & Quadra Lodge No. 2 on August 3, 1898. This Lodge had its proud roots in the founding of Freemasonry in British Columbia and, one of its Past Masters, M.W. Bro. Israel Wood Powell, became the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia in 1871.

Following his initiation, Bro. Currie became very active in his Lodge and, in 1905, was its Worshipful Master. Two years later, in 1907, he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of District 1, Victoria.

During the First World War, R.W. Bro. Currie attended Lodge meetings whenever he could. There are records of his visits to Lodges in England. It is less clear, however, if he was attended, or even held offices in military or occasional Lodges near the Front. A number of years ago, descendants of R.W. Bro. Currie donated his Masonic regalia to the Canadian War Museum. There were three aprons: Master Mason with familiar sky-blue trim, another with light brown trim, and a Past Master's apron illustrated here.



The Director of Collections at the War Museum, himself a Freemason, was puzzled by the Master Mason apron with brown trim. He assumed that it was sky-blue, and that it had been discoloured or at least faded. He sent it to the Imperial War Museum in London, England, where tests were conducted on the regalia. Much to everyone's surprise, the trim on the apron was deemed to be a shade of brown, likely khaki, not faded blue, and could possibly have been used in a military Lodge.

It is hoped that more research might be conducted on Currie's regalia, given that we are now in the midst of commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the First World War.

Another question: Is the Past Master's apron illustrated the regalia used by R.W. Bro. Currie when he was District Deputy Grand Master?

Freemasons Understand Brotherhood

Bro. David Freeman

Writers and Brethren over the centuries have suggested being a Brother in the Craft is a life style of Brotherhood. We who are Brothers in the Craft understand the duties we owe to ourselves are precisely those we owe to our Brothers.

We wish our Brothers a good lifetime as we wish our own and promote good for all our Brethren. We do not strive to master our Brothers but seek to master ourselves. We endeavour to understand ourselves and to be at peace which opens us to knowing the intimacies of our Brother and to honour their serenity. We consider our Brother a second self and so as we love ourselves we love our Brother. We know learning is a pathway to goodness and honour and support our Brother on their path as we ourselves move along ours. We govern our emotion, intellect, ambition, desires and assist a Brother when he struggles with these imposters. Discipline and Duty are not simply words for us. They are a life style.

To be virtuous is not a goal it is an imperative. We know we create our own happiness so we aid our Brother in creating his happiness. We rest our opinions on foundations of fact not rumour and so protect ourselves and our Brothers from unfounded dispersions. We first see the positive in ourselves and the positive in our Brother. We number in our attributes self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, and faith.

As Brothers we do not crave worldly distinction but rather the distinction of the Soul. We know our Soul and the Souls of our Brothers will meet again in the Grand Lodge Above. We know Deity walks with us. Because of this and our Brothers we are never alone.

Our bonds of Brotherhood are not explicitly dependent on the symbols and structures of our Craft. The profoundness of being a Brother in Freemasonry is in a shared faith that binds us as Brethren. Our faith is visible in our ideals and the way we interrelate with our Brothers. Our faith gives us reverence for ourselves, our Brothers and mankind. Our faith is an anchor for ourselves and our Brothers in our moral development. If we should need testimony of our faith we see it in the way our Brothers treat us and we treat them.

As Brethren in the Craft we can look to our past and know our faith, attributes and deeds within the Craft have been loved and practiced by our Fathers, Grandfathers and beyond. Our appointment as Brethren is to never break the cable tow that has been left for us to prize. We focus on strengthening the Craft so as we pass it on to future Brethren we pass it unbroken, vibrant and momentous. We do this together because we are Brothers.

Ritual, Legends and Stories

Bro. David Freeman

Ritual used in the Lodge is approved by the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon. Logic suggests this position is correct since adherence to the same teaching, belief and philosophy builds unity and harmony.

The word ritual in our contemporary understanding of ceremony, ceremonial, rite and ritual have overlapping meanings. Traditionally a ceremony was an observance of a form or formal rite. Ritual is a prescribed order of performing a service. The practice of a rite was different from a ceremony. The rite was expressed in words and the ceremony in gestures. A rite signifies a well-trodden path an idea that lights up or exemplifies a meaning. Thus, in the Craft a ritual of words combined with ceremonial acts point to a path trodden over the centuries by our Brethren. The outcomes are the principles exemplified which make good men better.

Unsubstantiated rituals, legends and stories that will not accept the slightest critique along with traditions that are presented through rote without any thought of substance will not hold a Brother's attention particular a Brother who in his journey thinks, assesses, searches and compiles data. These Brothers will quickly cast-off their attendance. As the Craft claims to be a science so it must act within the scientific method to be credible. To apply the scientific method to our rituals, legends and stories demonstrating who and what we are is an imperative if we wish the Craft to remain vibrant. We need to research concrete questions to which we can find concrete answers. Such questions as how long and in what way have our symbols been used and to quantify that data rather than offer unfounded speculation.

Homer said "words have wings and easily fly away unless they are kept down by the weight of their meaning" It is the meaning of our rituals, legends and stories which is relevant. Albert Einstein believed "Any fool can know. The point is to understand".

THE ROCKET RIDE

September 1, 2015

The Rocket Ride which MWB Jack Harper talks about for the Grand Master's year is certainly starting off that way. We had two great visits to Vancouver Island right off the bat to the Outdoor Degrees at Goldstream and Hiram Lodges. Both were extremely well done, and we had a great time. Turnout of Grand Lodge Officers was strong, and we were pleased to see a great turnout of Lodge members. Concord's 100th Anniversary also took place in July on the Island, and again, it was well planned, a lot of effort went into it, and despite dinner starting late because the Grand Line got mixed up on the starting time, it went well. At all three of these events, it was my privilege to give out long service medals to several Brethren who have been tremendously dedicated to the Craft for 50 and 60 years. I also got to present a long-service jewel to a Brother living in Kamloops whom Trinity Lodge tracked down. Two Past Grand Masters, our District Deputy and our Grand Director of Ceremonies were able to attend with me.

My wife and I travelled to Sandon for their annual picnic in late July, and while the rain fell most of the day, it didn't dampen anyone's spirits. It was our first visit to that historic part of the province, and we stayed in some unique accommodation which we really enjoyed. It was great to hear about the history of the area from Brethren who had been there when Sandon was much more than the nearly ghost town it is today. I am not an adventuresome person by nature, but we really enjoyed seeing a part of the province we rarely get to see.

Granite Falls, Washington was our next stop and we had a good contingent of B.C. Brethren attend with us. I believe we had as many Freemasons from B.C. as we did from Washington, and I was proud to be there with my counterpart from Washington, MWB Don Munks, to share in what was a great day, and a great degree put on by the Frank S. Land lodge. Thanks to RWB Fred Packford of Victoria, who arranges the accommodation every year for this event. I'm already reserved again for next year.

Then it was off to the 48th Reunion at Barkerville. This Reunion of Cariboo Lodge No. 4 is always a great time. Accommodations are often an issue, but the boys at Barkerville always do a great job in making sure we are looked after, and a fun time is had by all. We had a great barbecue, a great meeting, great attendance by Grand Lodge Officers, three Past Grand Masters in attendance, including MWB Isaac Brower-Berkhoven, who came down to install RWB Del Paterson as DDGM of District 2. Del couldn't make Grand Lodge this year, so we were able to get him and the elusive Grand Historian, VWB Trevor McKeown, installed and in place for the coming year.

Finally, our hats are off to the newest Lodge in the Jurisdiction, Qualicum Lodge No. 197. I was pleased to be joined by a number of Past Grand Masters, a goodly contingent of Grand Lodge Officers, and a host of Brethren to celebrate this prestigious event. My particular thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to WB Andy Wood and his officers, who had to make several last minute changes to the venue because of some labour issues. Well done, members of Qualicum.

While we were at Qualicum, the Grand Line held the first Principal Officers meeting of the year. We discussed a number of items, and I will give a summary report to the Board of General Purposes meeting

October 1st. It is our goal this year to follow the footsteps of our Grand Line the past few years and increase our accountability to the Brethren of the Jurisdiction through more work at the Board, and with the Principal Officers. This is the offshoot of things like the Five-Pillar Plan audit two years ago, and the formation of the Governance Committee last year. We are asking more of our Committees this year, and expect to make good progress in many areas.

Between all the visits, work continues with the general business of Grand Lodge. Until you actually get into the Chair, you don't realize the full extent of the work involved. Several calls often each day from the Grand Secretary and others, as decisions on many things need to be made. Consultation with other Grand Line and Grand Lodge Officers, keeping track of Brethren who need our assistance, and planning for events to come. As was reported at Grand Lodge, all is sadly not rosy with our Fraternity, and we all need to work on those things we can to make our Fraternity better. As we grow, as we recommit ourselves to making Freemasonry strong, as we work to make our Masonic Mark, let's remember that it isn't up to those around us, it's up to we ourselves to start the ball rolling. Every day, we need to say, "how can I make my Masonic Mark today?"

Brethren, I hope this was of benefit to you. It is my desire to continue to publish updates each month through our Lodges and through E-Bee so that you are kept abreast of what's happening. I am urging all District Deputies and Regional Reps to talk about issues, to listen to your concerns and respond to me and to the Board of General Purposes.

As the minutes of the Board, for example, are circulated after the meetings, I will ask the Clerk of the Office to send them to all Lodges for forwarding to their members. That way, we can let everyone know in a timely fashion what we are up to. By passing them directly to the Brethren through Lodge email lists, we will be able to keep those interested up to date. Regional Reps and District Deputies will be able to react as well, speak to the issues and bring us feedback.

As the servant leader, and I take that role seriously, I am always interested in your feedback on how we can strengthen our Craft. Please don't hesitate to talk to the District Deputies and Regional Representatives. They will feed things back to me, and as we start District visits in September, I hope we get a chance to hear any concerns first hand.

Let the Rocket Ride continue.

Fraternally

MWB Douglas C. Collins

Grand Master

Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon.

Freemasonry in Action

Cariboo Lodge #4 Annual Reunion August 7-9, 2015

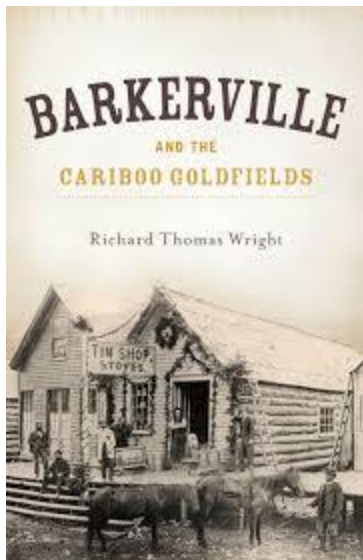


An August Group- M^WB Harold Nordan, M^WB Douglas Collins

M^WB Isaac Brower-Berkhoven,, M^WB Bill Cave



The cooks at Barkerville- VWB Jim Jensen assisted by the Grand Master.



Freemasonry in Action

Concord Lodge No. 79 - 100 years of Freemasonry



The Brethren of Concord Lodge No. 79 welcomed a Lodge full of visitors to celebrate their first 100 years of Freemasonry for the Re-consecration and Re-dedication of the Lodge by our M^WG^M, M^WB Doug Collins and the Grand Line.

Once the Lodge was placed at refreshment, the W^M, W^B Glen Fyfe approached the door of the Lodge room and invited our M^WG^M to enter with his suite to re-consecrate and re-dedicate the Lodge. Our M^WG^M was accompanied by the D^GM, S^GW, Gr. Sec, 2 P^GM^s, 10 D^DG^M^s, the Gr. Deacons, Gr. Marshal, 2 Gr. Stewards and Gr. Dir of Music.

VWB Ed Casselton returned to Concord Lodge to carry the Constitution. After the usual formalities, the Gr. Sec. read the original Warrant, and the ceremony was conducted by our MWGM and the Grand Line, with RWB Easton substituting for the JGW.

The Officers of the Lodge were then severally re-invested by our MWGM. Our MWGM spoke briefly on his theme for the year of "Make Your Masonic Mark", and the Lodge was closed. We sojourned to the Qualicum Civic Centre for a fine banquet of roast pig and salmon which was followed by a dance.



MWB Collins was also pleased to present 50 year plaques, jewels and pins to WB Mac Taylor and RWB Louis Seidel - both of Concord Lodge. (RWB Seidel was accompanied by his nephew, RWB Mark Seidel, who had sojourned from Prince Rupert for the occasion).

It was a fabulous evening, and I know that you all join me in wishing Concord Lodge No. 79 all the best for its next 100 years.

Freemasonry in Action

*GM's Tour of
2015*

Croatia – Spring



GL of Croatia banner

On our recent trip to Croatia there have been some great Masonic experiences. Opening a BC&Y Lodge in Croatia (a 1st), conferring an EA degree (also) and subsequently witnessing a FC Degree at Loza Harmonija in Rijeka conferred in Croatian - lovely.

In Croatia candidates are not prepared for their degrees as we do in our jurisdiction. For the EAs they will typically be in their tuxedos, deprived of all metal.

It was passing strange to them when RWB Blagaic and I went into the preparation room to get the candidates ready. We had brought with us the pajamas we typically use so when Peter told them in Croatian to take off their trousers there was an awkward silence and frantic looks between the candidates. Our conferral was done from memory - not typically done in Croatia. This made a very favourable impression and influenced one brother to memorize his work for the Fellow Craft degree we saw several days later in Rijeka.



GM with the 5 EAs we created.

RW Bro Barry Burch

Junior Grand Warden

Freemasonry in Action

DeWolf Lodge #78 100 year anniversary



Bro. Flemming Nielsen receiving 25 yr pin from Grand Master



W.Bro Robert Kunka receiving Plaque from R.W.Bro Markus of Trinidad



R.W.Bro Karl Springer and W.Bro Art Smith Co- M.C's

Freemasonry in Action

Duke of Connaught Lodge #64 – Annual Picnic

Duke of Connaught Lodge #64 usually holds its annual picnic on Father's Day. It is held either at Princess Park or Cates Park in North Vancouver. This year it was a week later because Father's Day was also the day after Grand Lodge finished. It would have been a scheduling nightmare for our Junior Warden to organize the picnic. Bro. Alex Lesage made and cooked all the burgers from his secret family recipe we are told. All are welcome and we have excellent attendance each year, depending on the weather. This year we probably had 50 or so brethren, wives, children and friends. It is a great opportunity to catch up on the latest news and to greet visitors from other lodges and meet prospective candidates for Freemasonry, and maybe enjoy a game of 4X4 Bocce. We always have visitors from other lodges on the North Shore. This year we were honored to have with us our own RW Bro. Barry Burch, Junior Grand Warden and his wife Ann (not that he didn't attend before he became famous LOL). He does look good in shorts! - Al Danielson , Past Master, Duke of Connaught Lodge



Duke of Connaught Lodge #64



Freemasonry in Action

Granite Falls August 1st, 2015



On August 1st, M^W Bro Doug Collins along with our Senior and Junior Grand Warden, our Grand Treasurer and many Brethren who came down from B.C., attended the annual outdoor degree at Granite Falls Masonic Park. There was almost as many Brethren from B.C. as there were from Washington.

Freemasonry in Action

Hiram's Outdoor Lodge held on June 27th, 2015



Bro Coverdale of Comox Lodge No. 188 addresses the Lodge after being presented his Medal of Merit. L to R - RWB Mike Ragan - DDGM Dist 22, MWB Douglas Collins - GM, Coverdale, WB Chris Kippel, WM Hiram Lodge No. 14, WB Lawrence Jean, WM Comox Lodge No, 188



Bro. Ray Swan being presented his 60 yr Jewel, Cert and pin. L to R - RWB Mike Ragan - (DDGM Dist 22), MWB Douglas Collins - (GM). WB Chris Kippel - WM Hiram Lodge No, 14, Bro. Ray Swan, WB Rob McLellan - D of C



MWB Douglas Collins presenting Bro. Harold Hicks with his 50 yr Cert, jewel and pin



*MWB Douglas
Collins congratulates
Bro. (David) Toc Touy
Bui on the conferral of
his EA degree at Hiram
Lodge's annual Family
BBQ and Outdoor
Lodge on Jun 27th.*