

Freemasonry in Action

Grand Master's Official Visit to District #14

Hosted by Lodge Southern Cross No.44



*On Friday December 13 the Grand Master of British Columbia and Yukon
M.W.Bro. Douglas Collins made his official visit to District #14.*



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This is a picture of the Grand Master with His Worship Mayor Neil Menard and ladies of the Eastern Star at the rededication of the Merritt Lodge Hall October 31, 2015. The building was heavily damaged by fire in the summer of 2014.

Merritt Herald — July 1, 2014

Fire scorches downtown businesses, apartments

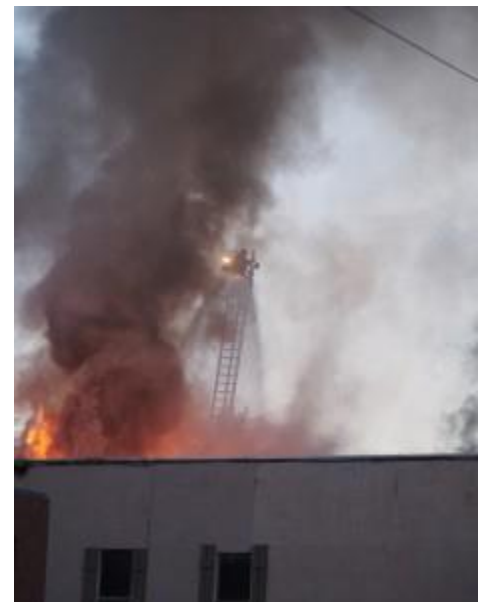
At least three businesses in the heart of downtown Merritt were damaged in a blaze that lit up Merritt's skyline Monday night. It took 24 firefighters nearly all night to battle a blaze in the second floor of a building in the 2000 block of Quilchena Avenue.



The heritage building is wood construction and housed Earthwalker Spiritual Shop and Starz Beauty Salon on its main floor. Directly beside Starz Beauty Salon is the historic Masonic lodge, which holds Blooming Pets.

It also had several apartments on its second floor. Early reports suggest nobody was hurt in the fire. Bystanders moved quickly to help Blooming Pets owner Sue Anderson remove her store's animals in their cages.

All animals but the store's fish were removed and are in foster care. The fire broke out around 8:30 p.m. and continued to smoulder and even shoot flames until well past midnight. It appears most of the fire was contained to the heritage building's second floor, Fire Chief Dave Tomkinson said. Structural damage to the old, wood construction building was so severe firefighters could not enter to fight the flames. The building is an estimated 100 years old, and sits close to its neighbours – directly adjacent to Starz Indian Cuisine and a few feet from the Work BC building. Firefighters were attempting to stifle the flames from reaching adjacent buildings for hours on Monday night. The entire block of Quilchena between Garcia Street and Voght Street was evacuated as firefighters tried to get it under control. Though the majority of the fire appeared to be in the second floor, water damage on the ground floor is extensive, he said. Tomkinson said it's too early to know for sure if the heritage building is a total loss.



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Mount Herman Lodge No. 7



Proud Grand Master at Mount Herman Lodge No. 7 for his Son's EA Degree

November 3rd, 2015



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Historical References of Freemasonry in British Columbia and Yukon

In November 2015, I had the opportunity to prepare and present a brief educational talk about the history of the lodges within District 23. My efforts were greatly assisted and supported by the secretaries and historians (official and unofficial) of the respective lodges, as well as the Grand Historian. I wanted to recognize the references recommended by the Grand Historian, which I found to be most helpful. My impressions were very positive as both references offered a “Readers’ Digest” version of the lodge formation and description, and by being ordered and indexed numerically, the information could be retrieved very efficiently.

- John T. Marshall’s “[History of Freemasonry in BC, 1871-1971](#)”,
- Bill Robinson’s “[History of Grand Lodge... 1971 to 1995](#)”,
- The proceedings of Grand Lodge emergent communications bound in with the Annual Proceedings

Over the course of its duration, a lodge may opt to change its meeting days or meeting places, and tracking this has been a lodge responsibility. This information is often recorded as an introduction to the lodge bylaws but is not copied into any other Grand Lodge record. This detail often marks a major point in the history of the lodge when dissolution was averted, and the change was necessary for continuation and sustainment.

The Grand Historian also provided me with a list of dark lodges:

<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/lodges/dark.html>.

I reviewed the list and recognized the formation and composition of many of our “hybrid” lodges, which combined the names of the original lodges that came together. Lodges like Union Solomon or Centennial-King George incorporated both names of their respective lodges into the new name. From this list, I noticed that two lodges in the jurisdiction are the result of a blending of multiple lodges (and their respective histories). Heritage 63 conveys the most interesting history because it combines 63 Maple Leaf Park (the lodge formed by 63 Park and 74 Maple Leaf lodges), and 72 Mount Lebanon (a lodge which incorporated 177 Crossroads lodge). Alliance 193 is the current lodge that has absorbed 59 Kilwinning, 65 Plantagenet, 85 Empire, and 94 Victory lodges.

As our Grand Historian referenced in a lecture earlier in 2015, an historical narrative should include the timeline and core facts, the personalities, and the artifacts. When lodges come together, either as a greater lodge or as partners within the same district, portions of their history should be combined to a greater Masonic historical experience.

With respect to district histories, the district identity is surprisingly muted. In my presentation, I referenced the origin of the names of the lodges, being reflective of geographic, biblical, historical, or masonic names of significance. Conversely, our districts are assigned very neutral names (in the case of District 23, the name South Fraser was assigned). A district could also have an identity, and pay tribute to personalities or figures of Masonic significance. I joked about naming the district after famous sports figures who played while wearing #23 (i.e. Michael Jordan, David Beckham, Bob Gainey), but this view

was not shared by the brethren in attendance (particularly the soccer fans who cringed at the mention of Beckham).

Masonic history is very important, not only to understand and preserve our past, but to guide the trajectory of the future of our gentle Craft. Knowing that we may someday be joined in harmony with brethren from other lodges, it is incumbent upon us to retain that which inspires us, and add it to the continuum of Masonic knowledge in British Columbia and Yukon.

Above and Beyond Reproach

By VWBro Dan Zyrmak

What is the standard of conduct and behavior among Freemasons? We receive guidance from our rituals and practices, and the moral example of our brethren should inspire us to live and serve others in the same manner. A brother Freemason, President Theodore Roosevelt, was a prominent and articulate leader and public figure. His wisdom resonates today, largely because it is still relevant. Roosevelt had many critics in his time, but he confronted this issue directly:

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

To share some personal information, I have encountered severe and deep personal criticism. Whether one can interpret this as being constructive or malicious, the fact remains that something that was performed or communicated by me provided the necessary impetus for that criticism. Great achievers often encounter obstacles, opposition, and resistance to their efforts or intentions. In order to overcome this resistance, efforts must be made to create such a momentum that initial sceptics can be won over and eventually supportive and consenting participants.

While we can't control the opinions of others, we can certainly manage our own actions and communications in a way that not only meets the required expectations, it puts us at a level of esteem that is above reproach. The advantage to this is that criticisms and insults not only have no effect, they actually do more to diminish the communicator of such harsh comments, while the reputation of the target remains intact and is actually enhanced. While historical figures like Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, who suffered injustice by their colonial oppressors, remain celebrated and revered public figures, those who were critical or inflicted damage upon them are all long forgotten.

In my own case, I have distilled the personal criticism and refined it to particular traits which, through coaching and effort, I can use as constructive feedback for self-improvement. As part of this improvement, it is important to not give your critics more “ammunition” from which they can criticize you. For example, if you are challenged for not being punctual, make the necessary adjustments to come earlier to the point of being the first to arrive. It is important to not only meet and overcome the critiques, but to do enough to change the story entirely. Once the story has changed, the same critiques no longer have a damaging effect.

Another Freemason of historic significance was Sam Houston. In Houston's youth, he was a promising politician who was the Governor of Tennessee. However due to indiscretions and personal defeats,

Houston left Tennessee in shame and disgrace, and relocated to Texas. In his maturity, Houston became a successful military and political leader in Texas, and is still celebrated to this day for his courage and statesmanship. Houston was able to change his narrative by conducting himself above and beyond reproach, transforming his character into the type of courageous leader needed to overcome tyranny and establish Texas as an independent nation, and subsequently a great state of the USA.

CPR on yourself

Submitted by [RWB David Wooldridge](#), DDGM of District 10

Please give 2 minutes and read this:-

Let's say it's 7pm and you're going home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job.

You're really tired, upset and frustrated.

Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to drag out into your arm and up in to your jaw. You are only about five km from the hospital nearest your home.

Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.

You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.

HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE?

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating.

The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives!!

A cardiologist says If everyone who gets this mail kindly sends it to 10 people, you can bet that we'll save at least one life.

Rather than sending jokes, please. Contribute by forwarding this mail which can save a person's life....

If this message comes around youmore than once.....please don't get irritated.....U need to be happy that you have many friends who care about you &

being reminded of how to tackle....Heart attacks....AGAIN

From:

DR.N Siva

(Senior Cardiologist)

Protocol Committee

A new ad hoc committee, the Protocol Committee, was struck at Grand Lodge this past June by our Grand Master, MW Bro. Douglas C. Collins. Its mandate is extensive and forward looking, specifically to examine all the protocol-related documents of this Grand Lodge and distill them into one comprehensive document.

The Protocol Committee will function as a sub-committee of the Committee on Rituals. The members are MW Bro. Bill Cave, Chairman, PGM and PGMar; RW Bro. Barry Burch, Junior Grand Warden, PDDGM and PGDofC; RW Bro. David Goddard, PDDGM and PGMar; RW Bro. Rick Money, PDDGM, PGDofC and PGMar; and RW Bro. Michael Cockerell, PGDofC and PGMar.

Your Protocol Committee first met formally in Kamloops on October 24th prior to our Grand Master's visit to District No.3. We had an extensive first-meeting agenda that was covered during the three hour meeting. The first topic being to determine the full extent of our undertaking which will require us to review all relevant elements of the Constitutions and Regulations, the Book of Ceremonies, the Lodge Officers Guide and the current (and to date, unofficial) Protocol Manual to name just a few references while performing our task.

Your Committee recognizes the extent of this project and anticipates a fairly lengthy time horizon in producing the final document. One of the overriding principles we are determined will apply to all our work and the recommendations we ultimately present for consideration to the Brethren at Grand Lodge, is that any Protocol we propose will be well researched so that we can understand and explain why the Protocol exists as it does, what its origins are and how it properly relates to our existing rituals and ceremonies. Appropriate variances in protocol relative to our different rituals will also be considered. It is proposed that the final document will be part of the Constitutions, perhaps as an appendix to the Book of Ceremonies.

As our Grand Lodge evolved from 1871 so did our Ceremonies, Rituals and Protocol. Proximity to our Masonic neighbours plus the ease of intercontinental travel had a large influence in shaping our Protocol and Ceremonies. Some refer to this process as "cross-pollination." It is a natural Masonic occurrence and it happens worldwide. Sometimes the cross-pollination can cause confusion and even some disharmony as Brethren from different backgrounds strive to establish protocol for their lodge.

Over the years "tid-bits" of Protocol have made their way into our Constitutions and Regulations to the point where even the most accomplished and well-researched British Columbia & Yukon Mason can find it challenging to tie the "tid-bits" together. Sometimes our reference documents may even contradict themselves. Clarifying this information is part of the Committee's mandate.

Your new Protocol Committee welcomes all questions and comments regarding topics related to its mandate. We will beg patience in all matters before us as our final response to any query may take time to produce as we wish to ensure that any reply considers all possible implications and cross-referencing to and with all relevant rituals, ceremonies and guidelines of our Grand Lodge. In all cases we wish to ensure that harmony will prevail. As always, all correspondence to this committee should be directed through our Grand Secretary's Office.

Sincerely and fraternally submitted by the Grand Lodge Ad Hoc Committee on Protocol