

## A Brief History of Zion Lodge No. 77 of Kerrisdale

In the fall of 1913, a meeting of Masonic Brethren was held at The Manor, the residence of MW Bro. Frank Bowser, whose 20-acre property was located at 6000 Macdonald Street in Kerrisdale. At that meeting, preliminary steps taken to the formation of the first Lodge in Kerrisdale District of Point Grey, B.C.

A dispensation was granted by the Grand Master on March 6, 1914, and the Lodge was instituted by the DDGM on March 9, 1914 at the rented premises above Latimer Hardware Store at 2118 West 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. The charter was granted at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on June 18, 1914, and the Lodge was constituted by the GM at an Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge held at the Masonic Hall at Kerrisdale on July 20, 1914. For its ritual the Lodge, now named Zion Lodge No. 77, adopted the Canadian work. (Ref: History of the Grand Lodge of BC AF & AM, 1871-1970. P. 234).

Almost immediately upon formation, the officers of Zion Lodge were faced with difficult times, as the First World War had now begun. In 1915, W. Bro. W.L. Germaine was installed as our second Worshipful Master and is wearing his Army uniform in his Worshipful Master's photograph. However, that was the last time he was ever in the Lodge, having joined the Canadian Army Pay Corps. At first, there was uncertainty as to whether he was entitled to the Past Masters Jewel which he received in absentia in 1919.

In 1924, the holding company Kerrisdale Masonic Hall Ltd. was formed by several members of Zion 77. The Hall Company then purchased the current property at 2146 West 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

By 1928, membership had grown to 170 and in 1929 Kerrisdale Lodge # 117 became a daughter Lodge of Zion. Membership in Zion Lodge peaked in 1954 at 222 and then like all Lodges at the time, entered into a steady decline.

In 1998, Kerrisdale Lodge No. 117, also facing membership issues, rejoined Zion Lodge 77. During that consolidation, it was agreed that Zion 77 would use the name Zion No. 77 of Kerrisdale, wherever practical, which not only provided a geographic reference for our Lodge, but also would keep the name of Kerrisdale Lodge in our minds.

In 2000, Zion Lodge celebrated the 100th Birthday of our oldest Past Master, RW Bro Bert Perry. Bert was an integral part of both Zion Lodge and the Kerrisdale Masonic Hall Company. RW Bro Perry was initiated into Zion Lodge in 1932, and Worshipful Master in 1942.

In April 2014, Zion Lodge 77 celebrated its own Centenary and produced a booklet with a detailed history of the Lodge from 1914 – 2014, available here: [Zion Centenary Banquet Program](#)

In keeping with the great masonic tenet of Relief (charity), Zion Lodge has donated two cars to the Masonic Cancer Car Program, has contributed significantly to the Royal Arch Masonic Home and provided bursaries to local high schools.

Zion Lodge No 77 has had five Past Grand Masters in its ranks:

MW Bro. Francis (Frank) Bowser (1907-08), as previously mentioned, was instrumental in creating Zion Lodge. He was Reeve of Point Grey in 1910-1911 and first chairman of the Vancouver and District Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board. As a pioneer in the Kerrisdale area he built the Bowser Block that houses the Bank of Montreal at 41st and West Boulevard, which still prominently displays his name.

MW Bro. Rev. J.G. Brown (1943-44) was the founder of the Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research, which has had a long association with Zion 77.

MW Bro. Walter S. Owen (1978 Hon.) As one of the most distinguished Freemasons in the Province, Grand Lodge conferred on him the honorary degree of M.W. Grand Master. He was a prominent lawyer, businessman and philanthropist who served this Province as Lieutenant Governor from 1973 to 1978.

MW Bro. James C. Gordon (2001-02) affiliated from Meridian No. 108 and was active in all aspects of Freemasonry, having risen to roles of leadership in many Masonic bodies.

MW Bro. William O. (Bill) Walls (2003-04). Bill was an honorary member of Kerrisdale 117 and became a member of Zion 77 following the consolidation. This led to the unusual situation of having two Past Grand Masters in a row from Zion No. 77.

Other prominent past members of Zion Lodge No 77 include; Fred Townley, architect of over 1,000 building in the Lower Mainland including the iconic Vancouver City Hall; Bert Perry, owner of Kerrisdale Lumber; Arthur Delamont founder of the Kitsilano Boys Band; and award-winning Architect Kon Uyeyama.