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Shriners care

by RW Bro. James Harrison

For over 130 years, they have been acclaimed for their light-heartedness, red fez hats, colourful parades and circuses, but for over 80 years, the Shriners of North America have had a serious philanthropic mission.

The Shriners provide orthopaedic, burn and spinal cord injury care at no charge through their network of Shriners Hospitals for Children. However, for many patients and their families, just getting to the hospitals can be a major challenge. That is why the Shriners of British Columbia and Yukon operate their own Care Cruisers.

Faced with the ever increasing high cost of sending patients to Shriners Hospitals by air, the Shriners in 2001 purchased a Highway Motor Coach. The coach was modified to comfortably transport physically challenged children and their parents to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Portland, Oregon, for treatment. The Care Cruiser

programme has proven to be an unqualified success.

With the success of the programme the Shriners, after having heard numerous stories of travel nightmares from parents throughout the province, decided that it was time to expand the programme and include all the children of British Columbia and Yukon who needed assistance with transportation.

In 2002, the Shriners approached BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children to see if such a programme would be of value to them. It was. The Shrine membership then agreed to extend their Care Cruiser Program to include BC Children's, Sunny Hill and other regional hospitals requiring our service. Today the programme, which is the only one of its kind in North America, includes four modern highway coaches that travel throughout the province of British Columbia.

The Shriners' have long been associated with BC



As noted last month, our Grand Lodge recently received the Elizabeth Eisenhauser Lifetime Contributor Award, given to recognize significant contributions to the mission of the Canadian Cancer Society. Here we see our Grand Master, MW Bro. William Ord Walls accepting the award. For information on how to reduce your risk of cancer, visit their website <www.bc.cancer.ca>.

Childrens' Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children. Over the past decade, the Shriners of British Columbia and Yukon have funded the Shriners Burn Unit, Shriners Orthopaedic Unit and Shriners Gait Lab at these hospitals. Therefore, it was only natural that the Shriners include them in the Care Cruiser Programme.

The Care Cruisers are designed with the children's comfort in mind. The wall-to-wall carpeted coaches have

seating capabilities for 18 to 44 passengers and some include motorized lounge chairs, which fully recline and will rise to bring the patient to a standing position. The Care Cruisers are equipped with a galley, dinettes and beds. A special handi-capped accessible side door and wheelchair lift has been added to one of the coaches and the interior modified to enable wheelchair patients full access to all areas of the Care

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The Shriners care from page one

Cruiser.

For hospitality, each of the Care Cruisers have microwave ovens, coffee makers and fridges. Other amenities are CD players, video monitors and an AM/FM stereo. To make the children as comfortable as possible, the Care Cruisers are full of toys, stuffed animals, story books, electronic games and colouring books.

Even the exteriors of the Care Cruisers are unique, with a paint scheme that explains the Shriners mission. The exterior graphics include a Shriner, child and doctor while on the rear of each Care Cruiser is a life-size Shriner holding a child, the Shriners Hospital for Children logo.

To complement the first-class style of travel, attendants are assigned to every trip. They assist the parents and take away some of the stressful details that accompany any trip and also provide directions and help solve other issues that may occur.

Shrine Clubs throughout the province form a significant part of the Care Cruiser Program. The local Shrine Clubs assist in arranging transportation for the families from their communities to the hub city pick-up points in their areas.

The Care Cruisers, based in Burnaby, travel to Portland, Oregon, Prince George, Vancouver Island, Kamloops and Kelowna. Future service is



Even the exteriors of the Care Cruisers are unique, with a paint scheme that explains the Shriners mission.

in the planning stage to include the Kootenays and the Shriners Hospital for Children in Spokane, Washington.

The Shriners of North America spend over \$1.65 million (US) every 24 hours or close to \$1 billion dollars Canadian, per year, providing free specialized medical care for children at their Shriners Hospitals for Children located in Canada, Mexico and United States. The Shriners of British Columbia and Yukon care for over 660 children from British Columbia and Yukon at their Shriners Hospital for Children.

Lodge notes

Columbia Lodge No. 38, Invermere, will be celebrating its centennial on May 10. Invermere has many fine motels restaurants and RV spaces, and the brethren of the lodge look forward to entertaining a goodly number of the brethren of our jurisdiction on this occasion. Contact W Bro. Roy Martin at +1-250-342-6587 or <roymar@cyberlink.bc.ca>.

This December past **Cheminus Lodge No.114**, Ladysmith, hosted their usual Ladies Night, but with a difference. WM Ken Overy asked the brethren to bring along a friend who had shown some interest in the Craft, and failing that, to bring a brother who for whatever reason had not made it out to lodge for

some time, not forgetting to invite their ladies along. The result was that over 75 people showed up, with members from five other lodges participating, bringing along some friends of their own. The ladies and guests were entertained in the refreshment room while business was taken care of in the lodge as expediently as possible. After the lodge was closed the ladies and other guests were invited in, with the wives of the officers sitting next to them at their stations. W Bro. Overy gave a warm welcome to everyone, and then each officer, in turn, stood up and gave a brief description of his duties, followed by a light discussion on Freemasonry by RW Bro. John Heidelberg.

A great follow-up to a great night was the applications submitted by four of the evening's guests.

Aurora Lodge No. 165, Victoria, celebrated the 100th birthday of RW Bro. Stanley Trueman at the Lodge's February 27th meeting. RW Bro. Trueman joined Freemasonry in Roberts Creek when he was initiated into **Mount Elphinstone Lodge No. 130** on September 23, 1949. He affiliated with Aurora Lodge on October 27, 1977, and has been a regular attendee. He was given honorary membership on September 28, 2000, and is the proud recipient of a 50 year jewel. It is our wish that RW Bro. Trueman will be with us for many years to come.

Southern Gate Lodge No 124, will be hosting the District 10 Masonic Education Day on March 22 when our Grand Junior Warden, RW Brother Bob McSween will present a paper on Masonic Protocol and W Bro. Graham McAllister of **Prince Charles Lodge 153**, will discuss lodge finances and the Societies Act.

In a demonstration of fraternal regard, one of Vancouver's oldest lodges, **Cascade Lodge No. 12**, recently raised Bro. Roy Battistel with the assistance of twenty-five members of District No. 16. **University Lodge No. 91** also took the opportunity to pay a fraternal visit, bringing the total attendance to fifty-nine.

Far North

by RW Bro. Tom Mickey

It was an historic occasion on January 8, 2003 when **Far North Lodge UD** was instituted at Inuvik, NWT. This lodge is making claim to being the farthest north lodge in the British Commonwealth and would have claimed world recognition had not some of the Scandinavian countries already established lodges farther north. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, ably represented by RW Bro. Rod Ponech, Senior Grand Warden from Edmonton, Alberta. He was assisted by VW Bro. Ken Bibby from Yellowknife, NWT and RW Bro. Don Frizzell from Whitehorse, Yukon.

The ceremony being completed, the new officers for 2003 were then installed. A short business meeting followed at which two applications for Initiation were read. Following congratulatory remarks the brethren then retired to a local restaurant for a repast.

On January 9, 2003 at 6:30 pm the lodge was called to order for the purpose of Initiating two candidates. This was carried out in fine fashion



W Bro. Palmer Cox

by the Worshipful Master, RW Bro. Howard Townsend, and his officers. It is noteworthy that most of the degree work was done by Inuvik members with a small bit of assistance from the visiting brethren. These brethren are to be congratulated on their initiative and dedication to this awesome undertaking.

They have received most of the furniture and regalia needed from donors to the south and have a small one-room building which will be the scene of many work-bees this spring. In addition to this small building they have another house which they will attach to the lodge and will then have a banquet hall, a kitchen and preparation rooms.

Brethren are urged to mark their calendars for the year 2004 as that is when it is expected the lodge will receive its warrant, and plans are already underway for this historic event. There are plans for an air charter starting in southern Alberta, stopping in Edmonton, then Yellowknife and on to Inuvik. As this event will take place in the summer it would be a great time to plan a highway trip north from BC to the Yukon and on to Inuvik on the Dempster Highway. ■



Barclay Lodge No. 90, Port Alberni, showed its commitment to the community this past Christmas season by collecting for the local Salvation Army Food Bank. Bros. Gerry Price and Bill Allen helped with the delivery. Bro. Allyn Davies managed to stay outside camera range but also did his part.

Grand reps

by RW Bro. Ernie MacDonald

I found the Grand Representative article in the January 2003 issue most interesting and timely. It brought back many fond memories as I read it.

On January 1, 2003, I completed a two year commission in the Order of the Eastern Star as Grand Representative of Ontario in British Columbia and Yukon. Grand Representatives in the Eastern Star are treated very well, acknowledged, and presented at virtually every meeting. It is considered a wonderful tribute and one which I feel very honoured to have received.

During my two year term, I attended Grand Chapter once in Toronto in August 2002 and was treated with courtesy and wonderful hospitality. Although communicating probably every few weeks with my counterparts and vice-versa it was just great meeting those members with whom I had been corresponding.

Although not formally required, I was pleased to periodically report about Ontario, assist members who were planning to visit the Grand jurisdiction or, in several cases, even write to chapters for members who had difficulty communicating due to health problems.

Based on recent experience and having been a member of the Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon for many years, I am quite aware that we also have a Grand Representative system; and seem to remember in years gone by having a roll call of Grand Representatives at our Annual Communication.

In closing, I put forward the following thoughts:

The Grand Representative system should be continued and given more formal attention.

The selection of representatives should be based on merit,

service to the Craft, and the brother's willingness to undertake the limited duties attached to such an honour.

Emphasis should be put on communicating rather than necessarily having to actually attend the particular Grand Lodge as such visits can become very expensive and prohibitive to many well deserving candidates.

A specific term should be defined. A warrant or commission should be issued from the jurisdiction represented. Language difficulties should be given very serious consideration as this can form an obstacle if an incompatible nomination is made.

The Grand Representatives should not only be allowed but encouraged to communicate with each other directly. If they cannot correspond directly, the entire benefit may be lost and the programme might as well be discontinued for it will become stalemated and serve little value.

The nomination process should be given very careful consideration as the jurisdiction being represented does not know the Grand Representative and solely depends on the nomination from the other jurisdiction. ■

RW Bro. Ernie MacDonald, Secretary of Perfection Lodge No. 75 New Westminster, was Grand Representative of Ontario in British Columbia and Yukon for 2001-2002, for the Order of the Eastern Star.

Getting to Dawson Creek

The Grand Lodge host committee in Dawson Creek has arranged a special rate with Hawkair to **fly into Dawson Creek** for our 2003 Annual Communication. With a guaranteed maximum rate of \$388, return, if brethren book early they may get a fare as low

DISTRICT 10 EDUCATION DAY

SATURDAY MARCH 22

GUEST SPEAKERS

RW BRO. BOB MCSWEEN
GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN

MASONIC PROTOCOL

&

W. BRO. GRAHAM MCALLISTER
LODGE FINANCES AND
THE SOCIETIES ACT

TICKETS: \$10

FREEMASONS HALL
35033-99TH STREET
OLIVER

Grand Lodge 132nd Annual Communication

June 19-21, 2003
Dawson Creek

Our online registration
form can be found at:
freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2003

COLUMBIA LODGE NO. 38

100th
ANNIVERSARY
Saturday May 10, 2003
1301 7th Ave., Invermere

Banquet at
Radium Hot Springs Resort

Lots of Motels & RV sites

Good Restaurants &
Food Outlets

Contact W Bro. Roy Martin
+1-250-342-6587
roymar@cyberlink.bc.ca

as \$358 return, including taxes and fees. Call Hawkair at +1-800-487-1216 and tell them you are booking for the "Freemasons Communication" and your name will be entered in a prize-winning contest.

Prince Charles Lodge No. 153, Kelowna, is organizing a **bus trip from the Okanagan** to Dawson Creek for our Annual Communication. The bus will also be available for transportation to and from **Fort St. John** which is about an half-an-hour's drive away. The bus only holds 49 passengers. Contact W Bro. Michael (Butch) Chouinard, at +1-250-860-8065 or <boboiring@shaw.ca>.

Masonic Education

District 10 will be holding a Masonic Education Day on the 22nd of March 2003 at Freemasons Hall, 35033-99th Street, in Oliver. Tickets are \$10. Registration opens at 8:30 am, sessions start at 9:00 am, lunch from 12:00-12:30 pm and the day should wrap-up by 3:00 pm.

Guest speakers will be our Grand Junior Warden, RW Brother Bob McSween, who will present a paper on Masonic Protocol and W Brother Graham McAllister of **Prince Charles Lodge 153**, who will discuss lodge finances and enlighten us on the provincial Societies Act in regard to the handling of temple funds. Further details can be had from Bro. P. Williams at <wpw.pentbc@shaw.ca>.

Common


In Old English, "communication" was "to common"—to share with others. In the church, "communion" is the common partaking of a sacrament. In a masonic lodge "communion," "to common," is to gather in a "communica-

tion," signifying not just a meeting of men to legislate, but a gathering of men with a common purpose, governed by a common idea, believing in a common ideal. It is one of the precious and delightful ways in which Freemasonry keeps alive an old, old idea in the words of long ago.

Masonic Service Association Digest, 1012 Questions About Freemasonry.

Are you a mason?

The mere conferring of the degrees upon a man has never made him a freemason. The making of a freemason is no swift or sudden process, for Freemasonry is not a mantle to be donned or doffed at will. You can no more turn a non-mason into a freemason by having him take an obligation than you can turn a pumpkin into a peach by hanging peach leaves on it! The making of a freemason consists in a continued course of education and training from which evolves character formation. While, in a small and very limited sense, it may be true that it is the obligation itself which makes one a freemason, yet, in a truer and better sense, a man who takes the obligation is only being given the opportunity of becoming a freemason, and he cannot truly claim to be a freemason until he lives up to his obligation. We must never feel that we have accomplished anything in our lodges by adding to our roll of members unless we have created in each of them a desire to be of service. Numbers, alone, have never made our fraternity great. That which has marked us for some measure of public approval is that we have somehow instilled into our membership an evidence of improvement. Our continued success will depend upon the progress we make in stimulating our members to



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY MARCH, 2003

1	Sat	Vancouver Grand Masonic Day	Vancouver
6	Thurs	District No. 22 Concord Lodge No.79	Parksville
7	Fri	District No. 1 Sidney Lodge No.143	Saanichton
8	Sat	Board of General Purposes Meeting	Victoria
12	Wed	District No. 5 Barclay Lodge No.90	Port Alberni
13	Thurs	District No. 21 Britannia Lodge No.73	Victoria
15	Sat	District No. 24 Capilano Lodge	North Vancouver
28-30	Fri-Sun	Masonic Workshop	Kelowna

further improvement in their daily lives and conduct. It is tremendously important to the fraternity that we all love so well that we succeed to the point where "when one is said to be a freemason, all will know that there is a good man." If each member is courteous, kind and sincere in all his social and business transactions, then each lodge, as a whole, can lay claim to these attributes, and Freemasonry, our communities, states and, yes, even all nations, will reap the benefits. The seed must be planted and tended before the tree can grow.

Excerpted from the Oklahoma Mason. Published in the New Age, December 1952.

Toleration

by Bro. Albert Pike

No man truly obeys the masonic law who merely tolerates those whose religious opinions are opposed to his own. Every man's opinions are his own private property, and the rights of all men to maintain each his own are perfectly equal. Merely to tolerate, to bear with an opposing opinion, is to assume it to be heretical; and assert the right to persecute, if we would; and claim our toleration of it as a merit. The freemason's creed goes farther than that. No man,

has any right in any way to interfere with the religious belief of another. It holds that each man is absolutely sovereign as to his own belief, and that belief is a matter absolutely foreign to all who do not entertain the same belief; and that, if there were any right of persecution at all, it would in all cases be a mutual right; because one party has the same right as the other to sit as judge in his own case; and God is the only magistrate that can rightfully decide between them.

To that great judge, Freemasonry refers the matter; and opening wide its portals, it invites to enter there and live in peace and harmony, the Protestant, the Catholic, the Jew, the Moslem; every man who will lead a truly virtuous and moral life, love his brethren, minister to the sick and distressed, and believe in the ONE, All-Powerful, All-Wise, everywhere-Present GOD, Architect, Creator, and Preserver of all things, by whose universal law of Harmony ever rolls on this universe, the great, vast, infinite circle of successive Death and Life:—to whose INEFFABLE NAME let all true freemasons pay profoundest homage! For whose thousand blessings poured upon us, let us feel the sincerest gratitude, now, henceforth, and forever!