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# Moving forward

by MW Bro. William Unrau, Grand Master

The seasonal celebrations are now over and I trust that you are now getting on with the new year's activities. I sincerely hope that the holiday season provided you an opportunity to be with your family, and experience the joy and happiness of that season.

We now must press on with functions and activities necessary to keep our organization moving forward, and in this regard I have been developing one of my four objectives: "Encouraging involvement of our membership in youth activities." Our chairman of Youth Committees, RW Bro. Barry Burch is considering methods of making this programme an effective effort and would be most grateful to hear from any members interested in assisting.

The freemasons in Oregon have developed a programme, called CHIP, designed to provide parents with kits where they can store tissue samples from their children which will be

suitable for DNA comparison if the need arises. Many jurisdictions in the United States and some in Canada have picked up on this programme and it appears it will in time become a masonic programme throughout North America. We are reviewing this situation and looking into how, or if, we can involve our youth groups.

Since my last report, **Sidney Lodge No. 143** and **Mount Newton Lodge No. 89** amalgamated to form **Saanich Peninsula Lodge No. 89**. An overflow attendance arrived for the occasion, and a very fine evening marked this event.

In addition there have been other lodges take the same course of action: in Vancouver **Maple Leaf No. 74** has joined **Park Lodge No. 63**, while **Composite Lodge No. 76** has joined **Meridian Lodge No. 108**, in Duncan. The two lodges, **Coronation Lodge No. 151** and **Temple Lodge No. 33**, have amalgamated, and the three lodges meeting in Trail

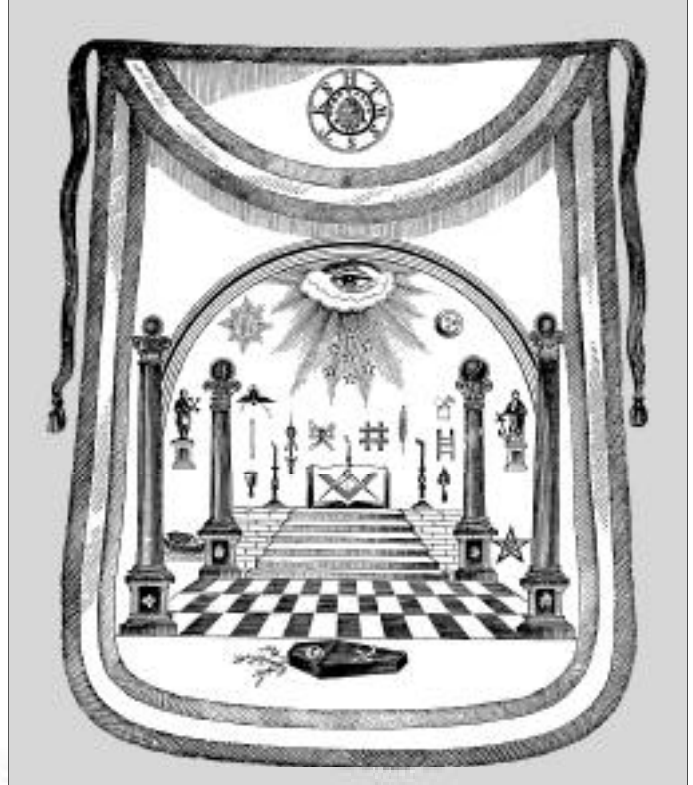


Illustration of the masonic apron made by Madame la Marquise de Lafayette and reputed to have been presented to Bro. George Washington by General Gilbert Lafayette (1757-1834) in 1784. George Washington (1732-1799) was Commanding General of the Continental Army during the American War of Independence (1776-1781), president of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and, from 1789 to 1796, the first president of the USA. Washington was raised in Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia, in 1753. Lafayette was a freemason before he arrived in America although his mother lodge is unknown. Curiously enough, this illustration appeared as the cover art on the pop music group, Soft Cell's 1986 album, The Singles.

will now operate under the charter of **Corinthian Lodge No. 27**. There are also consolidations being considered in other areas, which will require a review of our current district alignments.

It is apparent when lodges don't have effective leadership that there tends to be difficulties and if this is the case, focus should be directed towards education so that new leaders can be developed.

Our Board of General Purposes has given consideration to setting short and long term goals for our organization. Although the right decisions are being made in reducing the number of lodges at this time, we do need to address our membership issue. In the Vancouver and Victoria areas, because of the number of lodges, it is very easy to make adjustments, but in smaller

*continued on page 2*



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## Grand Master's report from page one

areas with only one lodge, we need to ensure support as the option of losing a lodge is not a desirable one. At the present, our membership appears to be growing in a healthy manner.

In November I attended the Shrine Ceremonial and was thrilled at the success being achieved in that organization. There may be fewer members in our Order, but the Shrine has been able to collectively raise more funds for their charities than ever before. A job well done by their entire organization and a credit to our Craft.

Our own charities continue to receive very generous donations which will greatly assist in our charitable activities. In October our Grand Lodge officers conducted a ceremony at the Canadian Cancer Society when a plaque was dedicated in recognition of fifteen years of operation of our programme of driving cancer patients. ■

## Ireland

A November High Court challenge to a demand by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) that officers declare their membership as freemasons has resulted in an out of court agreement to rescind the requirement. Nationalist politicians, the Sinn Féin and the SDLP have criticized the move, continuing

to describe Freemasonry as a secret society.

MW Bro. Eric Waller, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, welcomed the move, saying: "It confirms our view that such a requirement was unreasonable and went far beyond the recommendations of the Patten Report, as well as being a form of discrimination, a breach of civil rights and an infringement of human rights as established by a ruling of the European Court of Human Rights." ■

## Lodge notes

This past September **Langley Lodge No. 184** celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with an evening of reminiscing about the formation and early days of the lodge. The lodge originally worked the Emulation Ritual but was forced to change to the Canadian Ritual because so few of its members were familiar with the Emulation Work. An Anniversary Dinner was also held in the IWA Banquet Hall, with our Grand Master, MW Bro. William Unrau, and his wife in attendance. The feature speaker for the event was MW Bro. William O. Walls. A hundred members and guests were in attendance, enjoying an evening of fine dining and entertainment.

Also this past September, the Nanaimo Community Archives included **Ashlar Lodge No. 1** in its annual heritage building tour.

Quoting from the society's tour brochure "...an excellent example of the Classical Period Revival style, the Ashlar Lodge Masonic Temple exemplifies the continuing importance of fraternal societies to the cultural, economic and social life of Nanaimo. The building occupies the same site as an earlier lodge that was built in 1873, the first freemason's

lodge in British Columbia."

Some hundred people toured the building, most of them women, some who recognized the names of members of their families listed on the roll of Past Masters displayed in the foyer.

This was the first public viewing of the building in its eighty-one year history and, from all reports, one much appreciated by the public. ■

## Relearning

by RW Bro. Stephen Godfrey,  
Junior Grand Warden

It has been six months and more since I was elected as Junior Grand Warden, a position and rôle that I am committed to. I hope that you will help me to continue to allow our jurisdiction to develop, and grow each year. This is not a task that one man can do. I have been chosen to help our vision for Freemasonry in BC and Yukon become reality. I quoted Alvin Toffler in my acceptance speech in June. He said, "The illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn." Our masonic past as a Grand Lodge shows decisions made which made sense in the past. Some decisions are still relevant today. Ours is to discern the difference between what is still pertinent in Freemasonry in today's society and what needs to change.

Each year we all need to assess our goals, check them against our tracing boards and our working tools. Without a doubt, all freemasons, lodges and districts should regularly set aside time to reflect on practices and re-create for tomorrow.

Without a doubt, freemasons, lodges, and districts who do so, show growth, success, and relevance.

Without a doubt, those lodges which reflect and plan, have programmes which

support the needs of the brethren and hence show a robust and enthusiastic membership.

And, without a doubt, lodges which demonstrate the lack of planning, support or membership needs, and observe minimal attendance by members to meetings are not reflecting regularly and often enough.

We would not hesitate, in our personal lives, to seek out any expert or trained professional with experience, to help us to plan our financial future, or plan for renovations for an aging home. Yet our reluctance to seek out freemasons of experience and knowledge to help with masonic improvement goes unabated.

What is to be done?

First, recognize within your membership those whose interests are centred solely upon improving for the common good of your lodge. Second, regularly check the needs of your membership. Third, observe the success stories around you—if they can be successful, so can you. Fourth, be prepared to learn, unlearn, and relearn.

Finally, consider what Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." ■

## Letters

The *Masonic Bulletin* wrote about the different charities that we, as freemason support. That is great. We should all know what we are doing. However, what about the general public?

Maybe we should start advertising what we do.

Bro. Chris Bonde

Congratulations on the quality of the *Bulletin*. I always make a point of taking the time to sit and read it completely—always finding items and articles of interest. The November issue made me aware of the charities we support but did not tell me



W Bro. Palmer Cox

how to go about doing so on an individual basis. My lodge secretary provides me an envelope each year for my Service Bureau donation but I have no idea how I might pass contributions to the other charities. Perhaps a follow-up article might be in order.

Many thanks for your fine work.

*Bro. Rod Humphreys*

I feel that the November *Bulletin*, with all the information regarding the good work of the masonic family, is worth sharing with the general public. As we are struggling for new members, this information may encourage new membership.

A new and innovative approach to encouraging new membership is paramount to our survival.

I suggest that the sections regarding charities of our masonic family, be distributed to the media throughout the province.

*Bro. Rob McLellan*

Forward letters to the editor to [editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca](mailto:editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca). ■

## Charity of thought

The freemason is devoted to the cause of liberality and toleration, against fanaticism and persecution, political and religious; to that of education, instruction and enlightenment against error, barbarism and ignorance.

Toleration, holding that every other man has the same right to his opinion and faith, that we have to ours; liberality, holding that, as no human being can say with certainty, in the clash and conflict of hostile faiths and creeds, what is truth, or that he is surely in possession thereof; so every one should feel that it is quite possible that another, equally honest and sincere with himself, and yet holding the contrary opinion, may himself be in possession; and that whatever one firmly and consci-

entiously believes, is truth, to him—these are the mortal enemies of that fanaticism which persecutes for opinion's sake, and initiates crusades against whatever it deems, in its imaginary holiness, to be contrary to the law of God.

And education, instruction and enlightenment are the only certain means by which intolerance and fanaticism can be rendered powerless.

No true freemason scoffs at honest convictions, and an ardent zeal in the cause of truth and justice. But he absolutely denies the right of any man to assume the prerogative of Deity, and condemn his brother's faith and opinions as heretical and deserving to be punished. Nor does he approve the course of those who endanger the peace of great nations, and the solid interests of their own peoples, by indulging in the cheap luxury of a chimerical and visionary philanthropy; who draw their robes around them to avoid contact with their fellows, and think themselves nearer to heaven by proclaiming their own holiness.

For he knows that intolerance and bigotry have been infinitely greater curses to mankind than ignorance and error. ■

*Bro. Albert Pike to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana in 1858.*

## The media

A lengthy article this past November in the *National Post* once again managed to get it wrong. While discounting—almost—the many conspiracy theories which involve Freemasonry, the article used the conspiracies as its theme.

Although erroneously stating that USA President George Bush senior was a "senior Mason" and that the eye and pyramid on the American dollar bill is a masonic symbol, the article is otherwise factual enough.

Unfortunately, interviewing

senior freemasons such as MW Bro. Don Mumby, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and quoting Dr. Umberto Eco and UCLA historian Margaret Jacob did not prevent the author from presenting a vaguely belittling, faintly sarcastic view of the Craft. We can console ourselves with the hope that there is some truth to the old axiom that there is no such thing as bad publicity as long as they spell your name right. ■

## Chaplain's corner

*by VW Bro. Ian Paton, Grand Chaplain*

An old man sat each day at the gate of a small desert town watching the village children at play and answering their many questions as they spent time together. One day a traveler arrived at the gate with his family and all their possessions loaded on a cart drawn by a faithful donkey.

"We are looking for a new place to live," said the traveler. "What kind of a town is this?"

"What kind of town have you come from?" countered the old man.

"A miserable place," said the traveller. "Little work, thieving employers, a poor school for my children and only gossiping neighbours for my wife's company."

"You must keep going, friend," said the old man, "as you will find this town to be much like the one you have just left."

The next day another donkey-drawn wagon filled with furniture, children, pets and smiling parents arrived at the gate. The father questioned the old man regarding the town and its prospects.

"What kind of a town have you left?" asked the patriarch.

"A friendly little place," said the man. "A great job that ran out, a good school, and



## Vancouver Grand Masonic Day

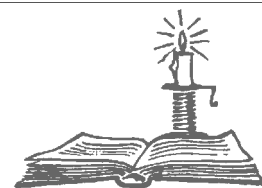
Saturday  
February 19, 2005

Tickets: \$30  
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neighbours devastated over our having to move away."

"Well," said the old one, "go on into town and find a place to live as you will find this to be a community much like the one you have just left."

Confused, the children demanded an explanation as the two answers given by the old man seemed to be in serious conflict, one with the other.

"The answer is simple," said the old man. "We have to take ourselves with us wherever we go, and you can always find good friends and good neighbours by being friendly and neighbourly yourself and by treating others as you would like them to treat you."

A great old story, worthy of re-telling even in our high-tech, cosmopolitan, high-stress world

Maybe the second traveller and his family were members of our masonic family, looking forward to meeting a whole new circle of friends in whatever new location they found themselves. Maybe he knew also that he and his family had a quiet presence traveling with them wherever their journey should lead them, whether it be to a new town, a new job, new relationships... or to the end of their days. ■

## Worthy of a mason

by Bro. George Washington

Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honourable as it is to receive from our fellow citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a society whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice. To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be

wished that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the great object of Freemasonry is to promote the happiness of the human race. ■

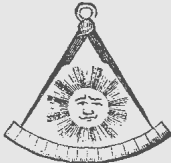
## Bursaries

The Masonic Bursaries Committee would like to remind our members who know of qualified college-aged children, that applications for student bursaries must be received by 15 May 2005 in our Grand Secretary's office. Ask your lodge secretary for application forms. ■

## Our rôle

When the despotism of blind superstition was tyrant over the world, Freemasonry, naked of material power, ruled and reigned in the domain of ideas; protested for the present, and sought to enlighten the future. Now, in the elevated sphere it occupies, it should still reign and rule, to complete its work, perhaps by a different course. Thus men's beliefs are no longer rude and savage, and Freemasonry does not need to soften and combat them; but now, that creeds have become enfeebled and emasculated by the mere effect of civilization, is it not the noble duty of Freemasonry to endeavor to give them new life and vigor, and to develop what in them is true, consolatory, just, useful and venerable? You have heretofore set limits to all excesses, and you ought to do so again: you should maintain order in institutions, among men, in ideas; and precisely because you have heretofore warred against excesses and errors that were to be deplored, it is now your mission to war against excesses and errors in the opposite direction.

You profess, as the basis of your doctrine, the law of



8	Sat	Installation	Victoria Columbia 1	Victoria
11	Tue	Board of General Purposes, 12:00 pm		Vancouver
12	Wed	Line Officers meeting 10:30 am		Vancouver
15	Sat	<b>District No. 24</b>	Hollyburn 135	West Vancouver
17	Mon	Rabbie Burns Night	Discovery 149	Campbell River
18	Tue	<b>District No. 27</b>	Chemaimus 114	Chemainus
20	Thu	Rabbie Burns Night	Mount Lebanon 72	Vancouver
22	Sat	Crab Feed	Walter F. Meier 281	Bothell, WA
22	Sat	Shrine Installation		Burnaby
24	Mon	<b>District No. 21</b>	Henderson 84	Victoria
27	Thu	<b>District No. 23</b>	Joppa 112	White Rock
28	Fri	Rabbie Burns Night	Mt. Garibaldi 127	Squamish
29	Sat	<b>District No. 13</b>	Mt. Lebanon 72	Vancouver

equality, of fraternity among men, of liberty for all; but you ought also to teach all men the true meaning and representative value of those words, which may enlighten and instruct, but may also lead astray and bewilder; for you, by your studies, and by the practical life of your lodges, have learned what they mean and what they command.

To you, as to all men of progress, the word 'equality' means equality as of right, for equal virtues and equal capacities; a share in the same advantages, for those who, by equal titles, deserve them. To understand it in any other sense, is contrary to the principles of morality and justice, and to the teachings of Nature herself.

Does it not belong to you, who have always been the defenders of liberty, to declare the austere duties which it imposes on all; and to demonstrate that it can have no solid basis, unless it be built upon virtue and respect of the rights of others? Does not the voice of Freemasonry still need to incite to fraternal union all men and every people? That is

its mission. It embraces the two hemispheres in the vast circle of fraternal beneficence. For your sphere of action is not narrowed and limited by the frontiers of this realm. Freemasonry is of all countries, as she is of all times. ■

*Bro. the Count de Fernig to the Central Grand Lodge of the Scottish Rite in France in 1843.*

## Our destiny

To sow, that others may reap; to work and plant for those that are to occupy the earth when we are dead; to project our good influences far into the future, and to live beyond our time; to rule as the Kings of Thought over men who are yet unborn; to bless with the glorious gifts of truth and light, and liberty, those who may never know the name of the giver, nor care in what grave his unregarded ashes repose, is the true office of a freemason, and the proudest destiny of a man. ■

*Bro. Albert Pike to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana in 1858, excerpted from Little Masonic Library vol. v. p. 37.*