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# From our Grand Master

by MW Bro Robert D. McSween

As we start off a new masonic year I would like to convey to you my wishes for a very festive season and a happy new year. For some of you this wish may be coming late and for those who are receiving my wishes late I hope that the holiday season was a happy and relaxing one.

Since our Annual Communication in Penticton I have endeavoured to keep myself busy and have been having a terrific time in doing so. The support that I have been getting from the brethren everywhere that I go has been outstanding. Freemasonry is on a steep path to having successful meetings and the enthusiasm that the brethren have been displaying has been tremendous. You can feel the good feelings bouncing off the lodge room walls. Everywhere I have gone I have seen large turnout from the brethren and the DDGMs are telling me that they are seeing the same thing.

Everything seems to be going very well. Not only have I seen full support from the brethren in the lodges but I have also had full support from the Grand Lodge officers and in particular the line officers of Grand Lodge. I am very pleased to tell you that the Grand Lodge office is working very hard in making this a year in which we can all be proud to be a member of the Craft. If, however, Freemasonry is to be successful this year it is only because you the brethren of this jurisdiction are also working hard in making this year successful. Without your support and encouragement we would be having a difficult time. You should all feel very proud of what you have been doing.

One of the things that we have done so far this year is to have meetings with our concordant bodies. As you know my theme for the year is "Strength through Unity" or "Working



**MW Bro Robert D. McSween, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon for 2005-2006.**

Together as a Team". It is my belief that we are a family and that the concordant bodies are very much a part of the family. In order to try to bring us closer together I have asked that the concordant bodies invite the freemasons to one of their meetings. One such meeting was on 8 November 2005 with Van Zor Grotto. This meeting was the first time that a current Grand Master and his suite were invited to one of their

meetings in British Columbia and, they believe, the first time in all of North America. At the meeting they explained to everyone their philanthropy and what they do. It was a very interesting meeting. It was a meeting for more knowledge in our concordant bodies rather than a meeting to solicit more members. The next meeting that was also a first was with Maple Leaf Chapter No. 19,

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**From our Grand Master  
from page one**

Order of the Eastern Star. It was the official visit of the Worthy Grand Matron and we had a total of 158 members of both bodies present. At this meeting we explained what we as freemasons do and they in turn explained what they as Eastern Star members do. Again this was the first time this had ever happened in British Columbia and we believe the first time it has ever happened in Canada.

Present at this meeting were Matt Ross from DeMolay and Chelsey Galbraith from Job's Daughters. Matt was elected to serve as the International Congressional Secretary for DeMolay and is the first person to hold this position outside of the United States. Chelsey was elected to serve as Miss International Job's Daughters. Both of these positions involve extensive traveling to promote their orders. As you know we have been soliciting funds to assist both of these fine members in their endeavours to meet their travel expenses. They have been doing a super job in promoting not only their organizations but our beloved Craft as well. Through your

generous donations we were able to present them each a cheque in the amount of \$10,350, and the funds are still coming in. Brethren, thank you for your donations in not only helping them but in showing support for our youth. They are the leaders of tomorrow and we must show that we not only support them but encourage them in what they are doing. You have certainly done that.

A New Year's Levee will be held at the Kerrisdale lodge hall at 2146 West 41st Avenue in Vancouver between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm on New Year's Day. It is an old traditional way of starting off the new year and I hope that many of you can make it there with your ladies.

We have another meeting coming in the new year on Saturday, 25 February 2006. At this meeting Grand Lodge will invite all of our concordant bodies to a meeting where they can tell us what they do so that we have a better understanding of who we all are. We are a family and we should all be working together as a family towards the same common goal. It is only through understanding each other that we can do this and I would ask any brother who is free that day to attend this meeting with me. It will be held at the Vancouver Masonic Centre from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm, followed by a social gathering. In May of 2006 I have organized a *Masonic Bus and RV Caravan Trip to the Yukon and Alaska*. The date for the trip is from 13 May until the return date of 29 May. The bus trip will start and end at Chilliwack with the RV Caravan joining us at Dawson Creek and ending at Prince George. We will be making stops at Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Dawson City and Skagway on the way up north. For those taking the bus, Pitmar Tours of Surrey is providing a 47-passenger bus and we need 30 to 40 passengers to make

the trip viable. It promises to be a great adventure! The total cost will be approximately \$1,500 per person based on double occupancy which includes transportation, accommodation and five breakfasts. This works out to about \$88 per day. For those interested in the accompanying RV Caravan, costs and bookings cannot be sorted out until your interest and the numbers participating are known. Please contact the Grand Marshall, VW Bro. Keith Glen, who will be the coordinator for the trip for more information. His email address is [quadman@sunwave.net](mailto:quadman@sunwave.net), or telephone him at 250-838-7646. To date we already have a list of those who wish to go on the bus so if you are interested please do not hesitate in contacting him as this is on a first-come first-served basis. Please do so soon. If you wish to have a preview of what type of bus we plan on using for this trip and other useful travel details visit [www.pitmartours.com](http://www.pitmartours.com).

As I have already said, I am having a terrific year and it is only possible because of the support that I am getting from you. My hope is that what we have going for us now will continue for many years to come. We already know that we belong to the greatest fraternal organization in the world. Let us not disappoint ourselves by letting our standards be lowered. In closing I would like to end with this prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi. I think this prayer epitomizes Freemasonry and in what we are trying to achieve through our daily efforts.

"Lord, make me an instrument  
of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me  
sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O, Divine Master, grant that I

may not so much seek to be  
consoled, as to console;  
To be understood as to  
understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we  
receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned;  
And it is in dying (to the self)  
that we are born to eternal  
life.

## Chaplain's Corner

by VW Bro. Doug Sowden,  
Grand Chaplain

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he give his life for his brother." Through my life, when I heard this quotation, I thought of our war heroes. My mind pictured the bemedalled and the unknown heroes who put their lives on the line for their nation, their family and friends.

I pictured uniforms—military, police and fire fighter—and I thought of the bravery involved in setting forth in the morning knowing that one might not see the evening.

Undoubtedly, we owe a tremendous amount to these heroes. Indeed, we owe our thanks to all who put themselves in harm's way for our benefit.

You know that it's not only the soldiers of the First, Second and Korean Wars that we owe. The process continues. Today, Canadian soldiers are on duty in foreign lands, risking their lives for the freedoms we believe in. In addition to soldiers, we have the police, uniformed or not, who face death and injury in their daily duties. We have our fire fighters who risk their safety and health to save our property and us.

All of these brave people deserve our greatest thanks.

However, I think that there is a more comprehensive message in the quotation. It is a message that includes all those



W Bro. Palmer Cox, 1893

who have given up their time to serve others.

Your life, your time on earth, is limited by an almighty power who has set the bounds that you cannot pass. Whenever you are not selfish, whenever you spend time to improve the lot of others, be they family, friends, neighbours or strangers, you are giving a part of your life to them. You are giving, in some measure, your life to your brother. This is love.

By spreading the cement of caring, you bind our society together. There are a multitude of opportunities to do this. Very seldom in life do we get the chance to pull someone out of a burning car or building, to face down an enemy to protect the innocent, or to rescue a drowning person. However, we always, and on all days, can show love to our neighbour, our brother, by sharing some of our time.

May God go with you and bless you. ■

## Masonic tartan

In 2004, the Grand Lodge of Utah sponsored the design and production of a tartan that would represent Freemasonry in Utah as well as elsewhere. Tartan plaids have been used for centuries by Scottish clans as a means of identifying and unifying families across the country. This tartan was designed with the family of Freemasonry in mind.

Anne Carroll Gilmour, an internationally known weaver specializing in traditional Scottish tartan weaving, designed the pattern and submitted it to the Scottish Tartans Authority in Perthshire, Scotland for registration. The pattern was deemed unique and a Registration Certificate issued. A mill near Edinburgh was then commissioned to weave the cloth in bulk.

The colours in the cloth

were carefully chosen to represent the various masonic family organizations.

The main field of blue in a prominent pivotal position represents the dome of the universe as depicted in Craft Freemasonry. The dominance of royal purple in the opposite pivotal field represents Scottish Rite, York Rite, Job's Daughters International and many other masonic organizations. The prominent red cross carries with it much symbolism used throughout Freemasonry. You will also see represented the colours of the five points of the Eastern Star: red, white, blue, green and gold/yellow as well as related colours connected with the White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Daughters of the Nile and many others.

As a Scottish family's unique tartan represents that family throughout the world, so too does the Freemasons' Universal Tartan represent the family of Freemasonry and its goals to make this world a better place to live in. ■

For information, contact the Grand Lodge of Utah at [www.utahgrandlodge.org](http://www.utahgrandlodge.org) or 801-363-2936.

## Research

by Bro. Doug Welsh

I entreat you all to remember this salient fact: Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is a work of fiction. That means, by definition, its contents cannot be considered to be "true". It necessarily follows from there that all so-called "scholarly examinations" of its "truths" are flawed.

Dan Brown is a writer of fiction. Nothing wrong with that at all. I suspect he supports his family quite well from his labours. But he is not a freemason, and his use, misuses, or even misappropriation of certain masonic elements for use in his books has not been calculated to divulge some enormous masonic wonder, but to add a

flavour of mystery to his story. Nothing more.

Please keep that in mind when reading, viewing or discussing this fine writer's fictions and the small industry he has apparently spawned. ■

Submitted by Doug Welsh to CANMAS, November 22, 2005.

## Leadership

by W. Bro. Dan Zrymiak

### Four Dimensions of Masonic Leadership

There are different opinions concerning the best approach to leadership within Freemasonry. Being a diverse fraternal order, there are different approaches which are best suited to their particular context and situation. The purpose of this article is to briefly categorize four distinct approaches, describe their respective applicability and relevance to our craft, and summarize how we as brethren can incorporate the best qualities of these dimensions towards our aspirations in Freemasonry.

Defining the four dimensions can be derived from the relative emphasis placed on two attributes: formality of conduct (informal vs. formal) and adherence to masonic tradition (pragmatic vs. dogmatic). From this, we can establish four groups: Informal-Pragmatic, Formal-Pragmatic, Informal-Dogmatic, and Formal-Dogmatic.

An Informal-Pragmatic style can be described as a Social Service approach. The emphasis is on fellowship and festivities with less attention to rules and structure, knowledge of Freemasonry and ritual traditions. These lodges are proficient in fund raising, recruiting, and social events. The lodge officer that best typifies this role is the Junior Warden.

A Formal-Pragmatic style can be described as an Administrative approach. The emphasis is on the properly

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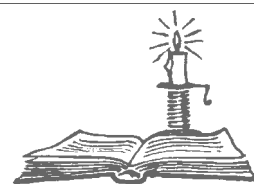
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structured organization of bylaws, treasuries, correspondence, and policies. These lodges are proficient in the operation of lodge business affairs. The lodge officers that best typify this role are the Secretary and Treasurer.

An Informal-Dogmatic style can be described as an Academic approach. The emphasis is on the research and communication of lessons, history, and training. These lodges are conscientious in ensuring that brethren have all of the knowledge needed to continue their masonic journey. The lodge officers that best typify this role are the Director of Masonic Education and the Lodge Historian.

A Formal-Dogmatic style can be described as a Ritualist approach. There is an uncompromising commitment to the preservation of proper methods and traditions. The proficiency of these lodges in its organization and execution of the masonic craft serves as examples for others, but may render it as being haughty and inflexible. The lodge officers that best typify this role are the Director of Ceremonies and the District Deputy Grand Master.

As a current Worshipful Master, I have become aware of the need to cultivate support from all of these perspectives, and apply leadership within the different contexts. Like a project manager leading cross-functional participants, the Worshipful Master (or any masonic Leader) must be prepared to manage in a way that brings out the best qualities of each style without compromising on the traditions.

The true benefit of a comprehensive programme like the Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon Lodge Excellence programme is that it provides for areas of achievement that will inspire all four dimensions of masonic leadership. For example, a lodge that is strong in recruiting and fund raising but limited in its Masonic

Education and Ritual Work should look to the four dimensions to identify where to improve.

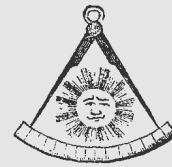
A strong leadership trait is the ability to assign or delegate tasks to individuals reflective of their talents and attributes. Each individual brother has particular strengths which should be promoted, as well as weaknesses which should be mitigated. The assignment of mentors and sponsors can offset some of the shortcomings. For example, an introverted brother may need some additional guidance before being comfortable in a rôle of instruction or presentation. Alternatively, a novice Master Mason should not be expected to be the champion and defender of masonic traditions within the lodge.

What is the best approach to leadership within Freemasonry? Knowing the different approaches which are best suited to a particular context and situation helps us make that decision to everyone's benefit. Different styles can be applicable and relevant to the Craft, permitting us to incorporate the best qualities of these dimensions towards our aspirations in Freemasonry. ■

*W. Bro. Dan Zrymiak is the Master of St. James Lodge No. 80 in White Rock and a member of our Grand Lodge Education Committee.*

## Masonic works

Forty-two widows were fêted this past Christmas season in what has become a long tradition with the Masonic Service Guild in Victoria. Bro. Harry Burchill, Chairman, and RW Bro. Neil Sutherland, Secretary, have made it part of their life's masonic work to support the Guild for many years. With these two brethren, twenty-one other members from all lodges in Victoria



## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY JANUARY, 2006

7	Sat	Installation	Victoria Columbia No. 1	Victoria
16	Mon	Rabbie Burns' Night	Discovery No. 149	Campbell River
21	Sat	Annual Meeting	Shrine International	Dawson Creek
23	Mon	<b>District No. 28</b>	De Wolf No. 78	Coquitlam
24	Tue	<b>District No. 23</b>	St. James No. 80	White Rock
25	Wed	<b>District No. 16</b>	Alliance No. 193	Vancouver

Districts 1 and 21, and with eighteen wives of the brethren, the widows were chauffeured to McMoran's restaurant with its spectacular view of the Haro Straits and San Juan Island. There they were the special guests of the Guild. VW Bro. McColl, pianist and W Bro. Storar, leader of the carol singing, lead the festive event. Congratulations are extended to all the brethren who, true to their obligations, continue to help our widows throughout the year.

On a more energetic level, this last year W Bro. Bryan Lapp of **Concord Lodge No. 79** was afforded the opportunity to be a part of the 2005 *Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock* team.

The *Tour de Rock* is a team of nineteen police officers and two reporters, bicycling the length and breadth of Vancouver Island, covering 1,000 kilometres in thirteen days, to bring awareness and raise funds for research into childhood cancers, support systems for children with a history of cancer, and to send children to one of three camps, of which Camp Good Times is the most widely known. These camps have one goal—to allow children with cancer to be kids and have fun.

*Tour de Rock* began as a "Cops for Cancer" fund raiser in 1998, four years after an Edmonton city police officer

befriended a small boy who had lost his hair to chemotherapy treatments. This officer was bald, and his friendship encouraged other officers to shave their hair to raise funds for childhood cancer research. A Saanich police officer organized the first *Tour de Rock*, and since that time over 150 police officers have participated. To W Bro. Lapp's knowledge, he is the only freemason to have had this opportunity.

Starting in Port Alice on 24 September, and ending in Victoria on 7 October 2005, the cyclists visited 27 communities.

Funding for research has made a difference, and will continue to make a difference until this disease is eradicated.

The members of **Concord Lodge No. 79** contributed in excess of \$5,000, while other lodges and concordant bodies contributed another \$3,000 towards the \$1.45 million raised during the two weeks. Masonic lodge donations were acknowledged at many of the community events that the cyclists participated in. ■

## CanMas

To join the Canadian Masonic online mailing list, and learn more about Freemasonry and other freemasons, contact RW Bro. James Bennie at <jgbennie@vcn.bc.ca> ■