



Grand Master's address1

Ashlar College of Freemasonry3

Lodge notes3

Where are you?4

Community Relations Committee4

Another perspective on visiting.....4

Grand Master's itinerary.....4

Strive for excellence

Installation address, June 2012

by MW Bro. G. Murray Webster

I am deeply honoured and extremely grateful for the privilege of serving the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia and Yukon for the coming year as its 133rd Grand Master. I am well aware of the trust you have bestowed in me and I will do my utmost to make you proud.

As you are aware I am a member of Tye Lodge No. 66 in Prince Rupert and with my installation today I represent, depending upon the criteria used, the fourth up to the seventh Grand Master from Tye Lodge. MW Bro Alex Manson (1925-26), MW Bro. Geddes Large (1955-56) and MW Bro. Alex Mitchell (1976-77) are Past Grand Masters who would claim Tye Lodge as their principal lodge. MW Bro. J. M. Mitchell (1951-52), MW Bro. J.H. Nordan (1965-66) and MW Bro. Harold Nordan (1998-99) also have connections to

Prince Rupert and Tye Lodge. I knew both MW Bro. Large and MW Bro. Mitchell and am most pleased that MW Bro. Mitchell's son RW Bro. Bob Mitchell, as well as MW Bro. Harold Nordan, are here this afternoon. I understand RW Bro. Allan Large, the son of MW Bro. Geddes Large, is unfortunately not feeling well and not able to attend today.

Our jurisdiction is blessed with having many fine Past Grand Masters. I am grateful to you all for the efforts and commitment you have extended to the Craft in the past to make it possible for me to be here today. I am particularly thankful to recent Grand Masters, namely MW Bros. Tuckey, Cross and Cave, and RW Bro. Moore (Grand Secretary) and RW Bro Paterson (Grand Treasurer), who have tutored me as an elected Grand Lodge officer for the past three years. Thank you, brethren.

I am also grateful for the



MW Bro. G. Murray Webster, Most Worshipful Grand Master for 2012-2013.

attendance of the brethren who have travelled from the far reaches of our jurisdiction, particularly those from Prince Rupert, to be here to support me today.

A slate of dedicated and enthusiastic officers, committee chairman and committee members has again been assembled to serve our jurisdiction. I look forward to working with these brethren in the coming year. I am well satisfied

with the administration of the Craft in our jurisdiction and will continue to support the work of our Grand Lodge office and the Board of General Purposes and will use the Five Pillar Plan as the strategic plan of our jurisdiction.

The *ad hoc* committees for Organizational Analysis (in its last of a four-year term), Constitutional Review and Craft Guidelines will continue for the

continued on page 2



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Grand Master's address from page one

coming year.

In any project a task cycle is followed. An activity is *planned*, then *organized*, then *communicated*, then *executed*, and then all parts are *reviewed*. The review comments are then used in the planning of the next activity, a continuous cycle. In the past two years MW Bros. Cross and Cave have used 'Charting Your Course' (*ie planning*) and 'Be A Builder' (*ie organizing*) as their themes. Following this sequence, my theme for the coming year is 'Strive for Excellence' (*ie execution*).

This theme of 'Strive for Excellence' will promote the following:

- Practice excellence;
- Excellence is a habit, not an act;
- Do the best you can / 'to the best of your abilities';
- Seek to do your best / put your best foot forward;
- Strive for excellence in our masonic journey from the rough ashlar to the perfect ashlar.

Using the pillars of the Five Pillar Plan I wish to explain the initiatives and priorities of the coming Masonic year.

MEMBERSHIP PILLAR

Retention

Having Fun - Our first priority is 'to be happy and communicate that happiness to others'. During my term of office I will endeavour to add 'fun' to our festivities by making reference to Murray Mint Candies, Lemon Meringue Pie, the *Webster's' Dictionary*, the Masonic Tool Kit and Dean Martin's song "That's Amore'. Let's remember 'Fellowship is the essence of Freemasonry'.

Mentorship - The number one item identified at the Education and Leadership Workshop held on 26 May was the 'mentorship' of brethren as they progress through the degrees. I have asked the

Education Committee, with input from our District Education Officers, to undertake a programme that ensures our jurisdiction's Mentorship programme is defined, appropriate, accessible and utilized.

Continuing Mentorship - I have asked the *ad hoc* committee on Organizational Analysis to consult the brethren of our jurisdiction to determine a programme of activities that can be followed to enlighten, inspire, and engage new Master Masons in the first year or two following their 'raising'. This programme has been referred by some as the 'Next Step' programme.

Masonic Music - Music is an integral part of Freemasonry. Unfortunately music is missing from many lodges as they do not have an organist or music director and, consequently music is not part of their masonic experience. Fortunately, through the tireless work of W Bro. Dennis Richards (Temple Lodge No. 33) a DVD containing masonic music is available. Music from this DVD can be used before, during and after a lodge meeting and during installations. The availability and use of this DVD to provide masonic music in the absence of a lodge organist will be promoted during the coming year.

I am also encouraging District Deputy Grand Masters to emphasize music at official visit meetings and banquets.

Guarding the West Gate - I believe the greatest threat facing our jurisdiction is the admission of unworthy men into our fraternity. I believe we *must* do a better job of screening those who are interested in making application so that we are *totally* satisfied they are worthy men. A programme for understanding the qualifications and intentions of those interested in our fraternity (referred to as the *Six-Step Program*) has been prepared and has been

available for use for some time for this very purpose. The jurisdiction-wide utilization of this programme will be promoted during the coming year.

EDUCATION PILLAR

'Classic' Masonic Papers - The Vancouver and Victoria Lodges of Education and Research have been asked to designate 'must read' masonic papers. These masonic papers, papers that I refer to as 'classic' papers, will be circulated by the Grand Lodge office to district and lodge education officers and lodge secretaries on a scheduled basis throughout the coming year with the intent of giving brethren time to read each paper prior to a meaningful discussion during a lodge meeting. Lodges will be encouraged to utilize these 'classic' papers in their masonic education programmes.

L*E*A*P - The Lodge Excellence and Award Program, known as L*E*A*P, is being well used with great success in our jurisdiction. I will continue to promote this programme as a tool for the preparation of a lodge's year plan.

District Education Officers - The Education Committee has been asked to provide resources and support to District Education Officers to assist in the delivery of excellent Education programs in each district.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

Matching District Donations - Following an initiative started by MW Bro. Cave I wish to continue the practise of providing matching funds, up to \$1,000 per district, for local registered charities of the District's choice.

Family Day - Monday, 18 February 2013 is the date of the first Family Day holiday in the province of British Columbia. I encourage all lodges and / or districts to undertake an appropriate family based activity for the

families and friends of our brethren on that day.

'We Can Help' Program - Our Grand Lodge sponsors the 'We Can Help' Program of the St. John Ambulance in British Columbia and Yukon. While the "We Can Help" committee is responsible for the administration of the programme, I encourage the District Deputy Grand Masters and the brethren of local lodges to take an active rôle in the presentation of the completion certificates of this programme.

LEADERSHIP PILLAR

Lodges and Districts - I request the Committee on Warranted Lodges and Lodges Under Dispensation to investigate the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee on Organizational Analysis to consolidate and rename districts. In addition I am asking this committee, with the participation of District Deputy Grand Masters and the Grand Secretary, to identify to the 2013 Grand Lodge Communication existing lodges that are not meeting the criteria required by a new lodge to be constituted.

Principal Grand Lodge Officer Initiatives - I support initiatives being undertaken in the coming masonic year by principal Grand Lodge officers: RW Bro. Stutt, Deputy Grand Master, is organizing a listing of books in the libraries of constituent lodges and plans to share that list to all lodges in our jurisdiction. He is also reviewing the status of recommendations from the Master Mason survey and plans to include these recommendations as action items in the Five Pillar Plan.

RW Bro Durell, Senior Grand Warden, intends to develop successful practises or guidelines into 'nuggets' and post these items on the Grand Lodge website. He also plans to promote men's health across the jurisdiction by participating

in the 2012 Movember Campaign.

COMMUNICATIONS PILLAR

Twitter Accounts - The Research Committee has established Twitter Accounts for the elected Grand Lodge officers. It is my intention to be regularly posting material on the Grand Master's Twitter site and I encourage brethren in our jurisdiction to follow these tweets.

Electronic Masonic Calendar - The Research Committee has established an electronic *Masonic Calendar* on the Grand Lodge website and, with the assistance of designated brethren from each district, lodge activities are now being posted and can be viewed. I encourage all brethren to utilize this useful tool.

FIVE PILLAR PLAN

It is time to again review the priorities and tasks identified in the Five Pillar Plan. To start this process I ask RW Bro. Stutt, chairman of the Board of General Purposes, to review the current Mission and Vision Statements of our jurisdiction. These statements need to be short and effective and known and recited by every brother in our jurisdiction.

DDGM-designate Trial - A recommendation of the *ad hoc* Committee on Organizational analysis, following town hall meetings throughout our jurisdiction, is to have DDGM-designates in each district. In order to determine the effectiveness of this activity I am authorizing a two-year trial or pilot in five districts (Districts 5, 8, 9, 17 and 23). At the end of the trial period (June 2014) an evaluation will be made to determine if the position of DDGM-designates should be expanded to all districts or not undertaken at all.

Mediation Committee - With the adoption of the resolution to discontinue the

Petitions and Grievances Committee an *ad hoc* committee, to be referred to as the Mediation Committee, is being established. I am appointing MW Bro. Cave as the chairman of this new committee. The first tasks of this committee are to determine its terms of reference and to propose a resolution for the 2013 Grand Lodge Annual Communication to establish it as a standing committee.

Grand Lodge Building - I am asking the Committee on Lodge Buildings to form a sub-committee made up of suitably skilled and experienced brethren to meet with lodge building societies and concordant organizations in our jurisdiction to investigate the feasibility of jointly participating in the ownership of a Grand Lodge building.

Life Membership Program - Until a report is received from the Finance Committee and action taken, it is my decree that no new applications for the Life Membership Program be accepted.

Conclusion

In closing I thank you for the confidence reposed in me. I look forward to visiting with each of you in the coming year. I'm excited to be your Grand Master and hope to make a difference. Let's have a fun year and 'strive for excellence' in all that we do. ■

Ashlar College

by MW Bro. Stephen Godfrey

The Board of Directors of Ashlar College is pleased to update you on the excellent progress of your College. We are now in our second year of operation with 64 students involved in the coursework. Four students, Bros. Philip Archer (107), Wayne Brown (92), Roger Bryant (79), Chris Foxon (150) all completed Level One and earned Certificates of

Completion. Bro. Foxon received his certificate at Grand Lodge from our Grand Master and the others will be presented at suitable opportunities.

Our college objective is to offer our brethren the opportunity to extend their masonic knowledge through a planned development programme and thereby allow them to make their daily advancement in masonic education. The curriculum is created around three categories: history, governance, and philosophy. Two courses are taken under each category in each of the three levels.

A new class of students will begin in January 2013. The administrator is ready to receive registrations at any time. Registration forms can be found on the Grand Lodge website along with an outline of the curriculum. Any further information can be obtained by contact MW Bro Godfrey at alderly@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-658-5811. ■

Where are you?

Recently an old brother, a feisty fellow whom I enjoyed, died. I had intended to visit him and although I tried one day to do so I never saw him. Feeling guilty I wrote:

Where are you when I need you? I have reached a point in my life where things are not good, nor will they ever be again. I need you now, but where are you? You profess to care about those in distress but where are you? I have grown weak, I am feeble. My body is strong but my mind has turned on me. I know I live in fantasies and I talk foolishly. Please forgive me, it is now my reality. No matter what has happened to me or will happen to me, I need to know I still have friends who care about me. Don't let me become an old and forgotten man!



Freemasonry
:
the art
and science
of right
living

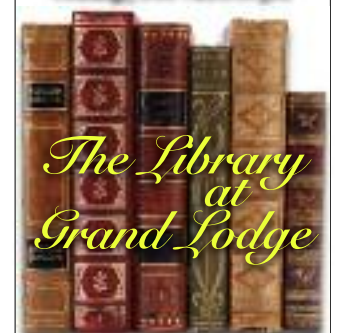


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Don't come to my funeral when my time comes. Come now when I need you. I have heard people say it is hard to see "how he has changed" as an excuse not to visit. Do you not think it is hard on me, on my family? It hurts us more than you, I can assure you.

I know your life is full and there are still so many things for you to do so I don't expect a lot of your time and I don't want to be selfish but even a phone call or a card would be so nice.

Please don't forget me!

Lodge notes

Abbotsford Lodge No. 70 will celebrate 100 years of Freemasonry in Abbotsford on 13 October. Lodge will tyle at 3:00 pm with a social hour at 5:00 pm and a banquet at 6:00 pm. While the brethren are in lodge, our ladies will visit The Reach and view their exhibits including a display of 100 Years of Freemasonry in Abbotsford, and then rejoin us at 5:00 pm.

Tickets are \$35 per person and available from the lodge secretary VW Bro. Larry Pasch, at bknl2bc@shaw.ca or 604.746.7796.

This past July marked the thirteenth year **Rainbow Lodge No. 180** has worked with the town of Port Hardy and their annual Fi-Lo-Mi Days Celebration, also marking forty years of Freemasonry in Port Hardy.

Once again organizing the annual Kids Fishing Derby and, this year, winning a second place ribbon for small parade entry, clearly show that Worshipful Master W Bro. J. Jed

Jackson and his brethren are enthusiastically taking Freemasonry into their community.

Also this July, the brethren of **Manoah Lodge No. 141** saw their outgoing DDGM, RW Bro. Basil R. Hobbs, installed as their Worshipful Master in a special installation ceremony conducted by the Past District Deputy Grand Masters of District 5.


The media

Freemasonry, in this jurisdiction, rarely receives media coverage although community newspapers have been known to report on special events or charitable work. Brethren are encouraged—through their lodges and districts—to promote the good work we do. Presentations to charities, donations to food banks, service in the community, and the like, are all worthy of submission to local media.

But there is another type of media coverage that we don't need. There are those rare events of global impact that will bring out the media, looking for a local angle. Newspapers, radio, television, no matter how friendly they may appear, thrive on controversy. It is on these occasions that the brethren are urged not to talk to the press.

To deal with these occasions, the Community Relations Committee was created to fill the rôle of media liaison.

Brethren who may be approached by journalists or reporters and asked to comment on any event or occurrence of national or global importance should direct them



**GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER 2012**

14-15 F-S	Grand Chapter	Royal Arch Masons	Victoria
18 T	Official Visit	Victoria Lodge of E&R	Victoria
21-23 F-Su	District 12	Centenary of Tye 66	Prince Rupert
29 S	District 24	Triune 81	Powell River

to the Grand Secretary's office for referral to the Community Relations Committee.

Visiting

by W Bro. Knud Nielson, New Zealand

We all know that visiting is an important part of Freemasonry, not only because we, in that way, support one another, but also from the fact that no two ceremonies are quite alike, even though we all work from the same script.

Another great thing about visiting is to make new friends, experience the many different lodge rooms around the country, their history, etc. All these different factors are what make visiting so worthwhile.

Visiting becomes even more interesting when done in other countries, as you then add in the mix of quite different ceremonies and at times very different layout of the lodges.

On a recent trip to my home country, Denmark, I made a point of breaking the journey with a stop-over in Vancouver.

I planned my trip to coincide with my brother-in-law, RW Bro. Ross Stevens' official visits to two lodges that required overnight stays. This meant catching a ferry to Roberts Creek for the business meeting at Mt. Elphinstone Lodge No. 132.

The next morning we got onto another ferry that took us up the Sunshine Coast, then

drove up to Powell River.

In British Columbia the layout of lodge rooms is very different to ours; The altar is in the centre of the room and there is no mosaic pavement. The ceremony was different, but I certainly recognised some part of it. When closing the lodge the Deacons, Wardens and the Master all meet around the altar and then carry out something similar to what we do in the Third Degree closing. The candidate was given test questions to learn, not unlike ours, but also told that he had to learn his obligation as well. This I think must be a daunting task for a new member, and personally I would worry if it might result in some not proceeding.

All in all a very interesting few days, and I strongly recommend any brother travelling to pack his apron and try to make a lodge visit. A word of warning, if visiting in North America be sure to carry a receipt for being current with your dues. I got sent away from a lodge in Vancouver many years ago because I did not have proof of being paid up. If you can't get to a meeting, make an effort to at least have a look inside a lodge in your travels. In Adelaide for instance there are conducted tours of the Grand Lodge building every Friday afternoon.

Visiting is a great way to make a daily advancement in masonic knowledge.

Nota bene

For every thing a form

Lodge secretaries are reminded that a revised version of the Form 56 used to report changes in your lodge membership is available on the Grand Lodge website. It is important that the dates that affiliating brethren received their degrees are included, and the names of rejected petitioners are forwarded to the Grand Secretary.