

THE ALBERTA Freemason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 70, No. 5

100th Annual Communication

The 100th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F.&A.M. will be held at the Medicine Hat Lodge, 1051 Ross Glen Drive SE, Medicine Hat, AB, commencing on Friday June 10th, 2005 at 10:00 AM and continuing on Saturday, June 11th, 2005.

Agenda: The Annual Communication, under provision of the Constitution and Regulations R1.1.4, will be conducted by MWBro Rodney B. Ponech from the Agenda (printed on page 3), governed by the rules of order as per the Regulations and/or those listed in the Preliminary Report. The Grand Master may revise the Agenda.

Notices of Motion: The Notices of Motions to amend the Constitution and Regulations are to be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Registration/Balloting: shall commence at 8:00 AM Friday, June 10th, 2005 and will continue until 6:00 PM on the first day of the Annual Communication. Registration and Balloting will resume on the second day, June 11th, 2005 at 8:00 AM and continue until 10:00 AM (R.1.2.9.). **Note:** on the Friday evening, there will be no balloting after 6:00 PM.

Remember Your Commitments!

We encourage your Lodge to have a full slate of officers at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. Voting members include all Past Masters, and elected and appointed officers. Master Masons not holding office are also encouraged to attend. All business of this Jurisdiction will be discussed. Any decisions of this Grand Lodge are made by **you**. We recommend you read through this issue of *The Alberta Freemason*, familiarize yourself with the nominees and the notices of motion. Your attendance is encouraged and most welcomed. See you there!

Elections

Automatic as per section C7.2.2

Grand Master 2005-06

RWBro G. Rex Dawson
Westlock Lodge No. 114

By Acclamation

Deputy Grand Master & Grand Master Elect

RWBro J.R. Malcolm Berry
Calgary Lodge No. 23

Senior Grand Warden

RWBro Robert A. Drury
Exemplar Lodge No. 175

Grand Treasurer

RWBro Donald G. MacWilliam
Perfection Lodge No. 9

Junior Grand Warden

RWBro N. Angus Gordon

Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2

Born August 11, 1944 in Regina, SK. In 1985 he was raised in the third degree in Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2. In 1991 he became Master of the Lodge as well as President of Saamis Rotary Club. In 1992 he became District Deputy Grand Master for Palliser District and he spent six years on the Board of General Purposes



See **Gordon**, page 2.

RWBro John D. Hart

Perfection Lodge No. 9

Born in Regina, SK, May 31, 1943, John received primary and secondary education there before proceeding to Toronto for post secondary education at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. He graduated from the Graphic Arts program in 1968. He recently sold his printing company and retired. In 2000, John served as



See **Hart**, page 2.

RWBro Brant C. Irwin

Lethbridge Lodge No. 39

Born May 7, 1958 in Lethbridge, AB. Bro Irwin was initiated November 1981 and raised January 1982 in Cresset Lodge No. 136, GRA. He was Worshipful Master 1986-88 Cresset Lodge No. 136; 1989-90, Robert Burns-Cresset No. 49; and 2000, Lethbridge Lodge No. 39. He was District Deputy Grand Master Chinookarch Dis-



See **Irwin**, page 2.

Editorial Let Us Celebrate!

There are two distinct events this year worthy of special recognition on the Grand Lodge level. The first, chronologically, is the 100th Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge, beginning on June 10th, 2005, in Medicine Hat, the site of the first Annual Communication which had been opened there on Feb-

ruary 20th, 1906. Indeed an event at which all Lodges in the jurisdiction ought to be well represented. There would be no excuse for absence, regardless of the distance to be travelled.

Four months later, October 12th, 2005, marks the actual 100th Anniversary of the Instituting and Constituting of the Grand Lodge of Alberta by the mother Grand Lodge of Manitoba, an event which took place in Calgary on October 12th, 1905. The details of that celebra-

tion will be communicated to the Craft in due course — soon, we hope!

What we will be celebrating on both occasions must necessarily be in gratitude to our Masonic forefathers, who had the foresight, the vision and the will to erect a permanent structure whence the unparalleled teachings of Freemasonry emanate for generations to come. Let us prove ourselves worthy of those who put their trust in us — us 21st century Freemasons.

Gordon, from page 1.

and three years as a Trustee for Al Azhar Shriners.

He belongs to Calgary Valley of Scottish Rite and Lethbridge Rose Croix and South Alberta Preceptory.

He has been thrice First Principal of Assiniboia Chapter of Royal Arch and Preceptory of Crusader Preceptory.

In Al Azhar Shrine he is a member of the following units: Provost Corps, Medicine Hat Clown Unite, Al Azhar Mounted

Patrol

Bro Gordon pays dues to Fiat Lux Lodge of Research and Bannack Historical Lodge Number 3-7-77 in Montana.

His work years commenced in 1965 and he worked his way up the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan chain working as an accounting clerk and then as an auditor with the Provincial Sales Tax and the Provincial Auditor. He was then transferred to Canada Revenue Agency prior to purchasing his own

accounting practice in 1978. In November of 2003 he sold his practice to his son WBro Scott A. Gordon and is now an employee for the new firm Gordon, MacTavish and Co. He obtained his Certified General Accountants Degree in 1984.

Bro Gordon is married with two sons both in the Craft and Past Masters of Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2 and a daughter who lives in Calgary. He and his wife, Lynn, still reside in Medicine Hat.

Hart, from page 1.

President of the Calgary Club of Printing House Craftsmen and served four years on the Advisory Board for Graphic Arts at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

John married Marilyn Keen on May 17, 1969, and has two daughters and three grandsons. He was active with community sports and committees.

Bro Hart received his three degrees at Perfection Lodge No. 9 in 1991 and served as Worshipful Master in 1997. His Masonic career includes having

served as Vice Chairman of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee, District Deputy Grand Master, Alpha District, 2003, Chairman Alpha District Centennial Committee 2004, appointed to Trial Commission 2004, Honorary Life member of Bow River Lodge No. 1 and COMELY Coordinator (south) 2005.

He is a 32nd degree member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Calgary, a member of Al Azhar Temple, AAONMS, the Foothills Shrine Club, Circus Committee, and Pasha of the Oriental Band of Al Azhar.

Rex & Marj Dawson Grand Master's Tour

3 Nights Colonial Boston
& Cape Cod

7 Nights Fall SPLENDOR New
England & Canada Cruise

September 7-18, 2005

This is to announce that the **tour** has been **reduced** by **\$349** per person and a **bonus night** has been **added** to include a farewell night **in Montreal!**

Come aboard with Rex & Marj as we begin "A new Century in Freemasonry in Alberta and journey to the Birthplace of American Freemasonry"

Booking deadline is close.

Call Murray Pay for full details
403 286-8506 mvtravel@shaw.ca
Go to www.freemasons.ab.ca
and view the new updated tour.

**You can make a preliminary
booking on line!**

Irwin, from page 1.

trict, 1996-97 and Chairman of the Masonic Spring Workshop in 2001.

Concordant Bodies:

PTPGM Valley of Lethbridge AASR Lodge of Perfection, PMWS, Chinook Chapter Rose Croix. First Lt. Commander Southalta Consistory Valley of Calgary. H in Shekinah Chapter No. 4 RAM, GRA. Presiding Preceptor ACRE Preceptory No. 66 Knights Templar. P.C.

of Work Alberta Council No. 5, Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada. Member of Pompilius York Rite College No. 79. Member of Al Azhar Shrine Temple. Past President Lethbridge Shrine Club and Temple Band.

Co-owner of Suzies Greenhouse and works for United Farmers of Alberta in Lethbridge. Director for Southern Alberta for Federation of Alberta Bingo Association.

The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin

MWBro Robert E. Juthner (Chairman);
WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Stephen Dafoe;
WBro Loren Kline; Bro Trevor Morris; VWBro David Watkins — Ex Officio: Grand Master,
Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary
Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.
330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2
Tel 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671
www.freemasons.ab.ca

Grand Master	MWBro Rodney B. Ponech
Deputy Grand Master	RWBro Rex Dawson
Senior Grand Warden	RWBro Malcolm Berry
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro Robert A. Drury
Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W. Kopp

THE ALBERTA
Freemason

Published each month except July and August by
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

14103 Buena Vista Road NW, Edmonton, AB T5R 5S2
Tel 780-483-5124 — Fax 780-486-4512
e-mail: praga@shaw.ca

Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee

(by acclamation)

VWBro Hugh S. Kent

Palestine Lodge No. 46

Born January 17, 1924 in Islay, SK. Initiated, passed and raised in Carlyle Lodge, GRS, January – March 1957. Joined Palestine Lodge at Tofield in 1981 when Carlyle Lodge surrendered its Charter. He served as Worshipful Master of Palestine Lodge in 1991, 1995 and 2002. He served as Grand Steward in 1999. Bro Kent has served on the Higher Education Bursary Committee from 1994 to the present.

Bro Kent married Shirley in 1952; they have four children and nine grandchildren all resident in Alberta.

He graduated from the University of Alberta, Bachelor of Education 1962 and taught for the Edmonton Public School Board for twenty-six years.

WBro Ron H. O'Neal

Zetland Lodge No. 83

Born January 23, 1934. Initiated in

Zetland Lodge No. 83 September 1968, passed October, 1968 and raised January 30, 1968. He affiliated to Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, in 1999. He served as Worshipful Master of Zetland Lodge No. 83 in 1975 and is currently serving as Worshipful Master of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research.

Board of Benevolence

WBro Stanley J. Clayton

King George Lodge No. 59

Born, November 10, 1929. Initiated King George Lodge No. 59, 1956. Worshipful Master 1970. Is currently Director and Past Chairman of King George Temple Board (A Charitable Foundation). Has served on the Board of Benevolence since 2000. Is a member of the AASR, serving as Most Wise Sovereign and the active member. Worked for 50 years in the printing industry. Retired 1997.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Regulations

Jurisprudence Committee moves that Article 21.4.6 of the Constitution be amended by adding the following: Article 21.4.6.1. (New Addition) “The Grand Master on receipt of proof of criminal conviction from a Court of Law shall immediately issue a Notice of suspension or expulsion either temporary or permanent on any member who has been found guilty of criminal offences as listed.

I, **RWBro Don MacWilliam** move and seconded by **RWBro John Pelletier**: that the Finance Committee be authorized to draw 5% of the interest earned on the capital investments of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund and the Benevolent Fund, these moneys to be applied to the operations of Grand Lodge, which would reduce or negate the need to increase the per capita.

Innisfail Lodge No. 8

MOTION: Change Article 14 — Voting Powers at District Meetings and the Grand Lodge Annual Communication by allowing all Master Masons a vote.

WHEREAS: Some Master Masons have no desire to ascend to the chair of King Solomon (Worshipful Master)

WHEREAS: Some Master Masons work diligently for the betterment of their Lodge, year after year without holding an office and no desire to hold office.

WHEREAS: There is a perception that the Grand Lodge is divided into two categories — Past Masters; Lodge Officers and Master Masons not holding office.

THEREFORE: Jurisprudence Committee having examined the Innisfail Lodge No. 8 resolution and after careful examination recommend that Article 14 requires no change and in order to meet the intent of the Innisfail Lodge motion the only required change needed is to the Constitution definition of C.0.19 “Voting Member” by removing the words after Master Masons “who hold an Elected or Appointed office of a Constituent Lodge”.

RESOLUTION: Jurisprudence Committee moves that the definition C.0.19 “Voting Member” to read as follows: “Voting Member” means a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden or Past Master and all Master Masons.

What You Didn't Know About Victoria Day

The Sovereign's birthday has been celebrated in Canada since the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901). May 24, Queen Victoria's birthday, was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845. After Confederation, the Queen's birthday was celebrated every year on May 24 unless that date was a Sunday, in which case a proclamation was issued providing for the celebration on May 25.

After the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, an Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada establishing a legal holiday on May 24 in each year (or May 25 if May 24 fell on a Sunday) under the name Victoria Day.

The birthday of King Edward VII, November 9, was by yearly proclamation during his reign (1901–1910) celebrated on Victoria Day. It was not an innovation to celebrate the birthday of the reigning sovereign on the anniversary of the birth of a predecessor. In Great Britain, the birthdays of George IV (1820–1830) and William IV (1830–1837) were celebrated on June 4, birthday of George III (1760–1820).

The birthday of King George V (1910 to 1935) was celebrated on the actual date, June 3 or, when that was a Sunday, by proclamation on June 4. The birthday of King Edward VIII (1936) was also celebrated on the actual date, June 23.

King George VI's birthday, which fell on December 4, was officially celebrated in the United Kingdom on a Thursday early in June. Up to 1947 Canada proclaimed the same day, but in 1948 and further years settled on the Monday of the week in which the United Kingdom celebration took place. George VI reigned from 1936 to 1952.

The first birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, in 1952, was also celebrated in June. Meanwhile, Canada continued to observe Victoria Day. An amendment to the Statutes of Canada in 1952 established the celebration of Victoria Day on the Monday preceding May 25. From 1953 to 1956, the Queen's birthday was celebrated in Canada on Victoria Day, by proclamation of the Governor General, with Her Majesty's approval. In 1957, Victoria Day was permanently appointed as the Queen's birthday in Canada. In the United Kingdom, the Queen's birthday is celebrated in June. Submitted by WBro Colin Reichle (191)

Program for the One Hundredth Annual Communication

June 9th, 10th and 11th, 2005 — Medicine Hat Lodge

Thursday, June 9th, 2005

- 5:00 PM Grand Master's Banquet (by invitation)
8:00 PM **Social Gathering, No Host Bar (all attendees)**
- Casual Dress

Friday, June 10th, 2005

- 8:00 AM Registration/Balloting Opens in the Foyer under the direction of
Grand Registrar — VWBro Ernie Benesch
8:00 AM Board of General Purposes Meeting (members only and invited observers)
9:30 AM Formation of Grand Procession
10:00 AM Opening of the One Hundredth Annual Communication (Tyled)
Grand Lodge Procession
Reception of Past Grand Masters
Reception of Distinguished Visitors
Representatives of visiting Grand Lodges
Representatives of Concordant Bodies
Reception of special guests
(Civic & Masonic concordant groups)
Presentation of the Colours
Excuse non-Masonic guests
- Motion of Loyalty — MWBro Sandy Milligan
- Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 99th Annual Communication
- Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving — VWBro Roger Kett, Grand Chaplain
- Rules of Order
- Report of the Jurisprudence Committee

NOON Lunch

- 1:30 PM Reconvene the One Hundredth Annual Communication
Presentation of the following reports. Each report & recommendation requires motion:
a) Board of General Purposes —
*confirmation of appointment of Grand Secretary, year 2005–2006
*appointment of Auditor for 2005 year
*approval of year 2006 Capital and Operating Budget
b) Committee on Fraternal Relations (Summary) and recommendations
c) Committee on the Condition of Masonry
d) Board of Benevolence
e) Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee
f) Grand Secretary's Report (exclude stats)
Presentation and Adoption of the Following Reports printed in the Preliminary Proceedings
a) Grand Treasurer's Report
b) Auditor's Report and Financial Statements
c) Finance Committee Report
d) Grand Librarian's Report
e) Grand Historian's Report
f) Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin Report
g) Foundation for the Future Committee Report
h) Publications and Forms Committee Report
i) Public Awareness and Communication
j) Masonic Spring Workshop Report
k) Masonic Foundation of Alberta Report

- 3:30 PM Grand Master's Address — MWBro Rod Ponech
- Correspondence and regrets
- Roll Call and recognition of Grand Representatives

4:00 PM Adjournment

6:00 PM Balloting and Registration suspended

6:00 PM GRAND LODGE BANQUET

- Reception
6:30 Seating
6:45 Dinner
Toastmaster — RWBro Robert Drury, JGW
- Presentation of Symbolic Bursary Award
- Entertainment

Saturday, June 11th, 2005

- 8:00 AM Balloting and Registration resumed in the Foyer
9:00 AM One Hundredth Annual Communication reconvenes
Any Reports not completed from Friday's session
- Committee on the Work
- Notices of Motion to amend Constitution & Regulations
10:00 AM Balloting and Registration Close
- Report of the Credentials Committee
- Report on the Elections
- Other Masonic Awards
11:00 AM General and Unfinished Business
- Election of Grand Tyler
Any unfinished business of Grand Lodge will be tabled to next Communication
Grand Master's Comments
Noon Break for Lunch
1:30 PM One Hundredth Annual Communication Reconvenes
- Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2005-2006, under the direction of MWBro Norman Thomas
3:30 PM Grand Lodge Closes
3:45 PM 2005–2006 Officers' Pictures
5:30 PM Incoming Grand Master's evening — BBQ

NOTE: There will be an enjoyable Ladies' Program (details to be forwarded to the Lodge Secretaries)

NOTE: Tuxedos to be worn by Grand Lodge Officers at the Grand Master's Banquet, Grand Lodge Banquet and Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers.

Grand Master's Itinerary

May

- 3 Vermilion No. 24; 7:30 PM
12 Lochearn No. 151, Legion Hall, Rocky Mtn House; 8:00 PM
13–15 Royal Arch Masons of Alberta Annual Communication, Camrose
16 Chinook-Spitzie No. 6, Cowley; 8:00 PM
17 Perfection No. 9, Calgary Freemasons' Hall; 7:30 PM
18 Alberta No. 3, Fort Macleod; 7:30 PM
19 King Solomon No. 42, Cochrane; 7:30 PM
20 Media Interviews, Calgary, promoting the GL Centennial
22 Grand Lodge of Alberta, Centennial Celebration Church Parade, Anglican Cathedral, Calgary; 10:30 AM
26 Acacia No. 11; Fellowcraft Degree, Acacia Hall, Edmonton; 7:30 PM

Other Activities Planned Surrounding the Annual Communication

Wednesday – June 8th, 2005

Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2, Emergent Meeting 7:30 PM

42 Bannon Ave SW

Ladies/Guests will meet in lower level to be hosted by Murray Chapter OES

Thursday, June 9th, 2005

Tickets not available from the Grand Lodge Office

Golf Tournament: 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Ross Creek Golf and Country Club: 2850 – 54 Street SE (south east corner of the city about 1.5 km from the hotel). Cost: \$20.00

Tickets available through:

WBro Bob Olson, 1251 – 3A Avenue NE, Medicine Hat T1A 6B2

Office: 403-526-3283 Fax: 403-526-8082

Cellular: 403-580-9529 Email:

b.lolson@shaw.ca

Job's Daughters and HIKE (Canada) Celebrate 15 Years of Service

2005 marks the 15th anniversary of Job's Daughters and HIKE Canada (Hearing Impaired Kids Equipment) Fund working together to help children overcome a hearing loss. This small, registered Canadian charity assists children and young people up to the age of 20 with funding for hearing assisted devices not covered by Alberta Health Care. HIKE's mandate is to provide funding for items to make the life of a child with a mild to severe hearing loss easier. Items such as TTY, FM systems, flashing doorbells etc, are not covered by regular health care plans.

HIKE is officially sponsored in part by public/private donations and by Job's Daughters International. These energetic young women raise funds through bottle drives, car washes, raffles etc.; these are truly kids helping kids. HIKE is run totally by volunteers with 95 per cent of all revenue being donated back to the community.

We appeal to teachers, social workers, audiologist and friends and family of children with a hearing loss to contact our representative to receive an application for assistance Applicants must prove financial need to qualify.

For more information contact:

HIKE Canada, Jackie Cutting,

Ph/fax (403) 230-0829

BBQ at Golf Course Thursday June

9th, 2005: 4:00 PM \$15.00

Tickets to be purchased from WBro Olson

If attending the Grand Master's Banquet, escape time 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, June 12th, 2005

Departure Breakfast

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon - \$5.00/person (available at the door)

Medicine Hat Temple Society (42 Bannon Ave SW)

Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M.

100th Annual Communication

Ticket Order Form

Will you please determine your Ticket needs for the Grand Lodge functions at the Medicine Hat Lodge, Medicine Hat, Alberta as outlined below.

Once you have determined the number, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return to the Grand Lodge Office by **May 20th, 2005, enclosing your cheque in payment.** No refunds will be given on tickets returned later than **May 20th, 2005.**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____ Office held: _____

	Number	Total Cost
Thursday, June 9th, 2005		
Grand Master's Banquet: (Officers Dress Formal)		
Cost \$40.00/person (invitation only)		
After May 20 th , 2005 cost: \$45.00/person		
Includes Social (below) following Banquet		
Wine & Cheese Social — Winding Staircase		
(following Grand Master's Banquet)		
\$10.00 (includes complimentary glass of wine)		
After May 20 th , 2005 cost: \$15.00/person		
Friday, June 10th, 2005		
Ladies' Luncheon		
Friday & Saturday: Cost \$30.00/person		
Includes Friday and Saturday Program		
After May 20 th , 2005 cost: \$35.00/person		
Men's Luncheon: Cost \$15.00/person		
(100 tickets available)		
After May 20 th , 2005 cost: \$20.00/person		
Grand Lodge Banquet & Entertainment:		
(Formal — Officers) Cost \$35.00/person		
After May 20 th , 2005 cost \$40.00/person		
Saturday, June 11 th , 2005		
Men's Luncheon: Cost \$15.00/person		
(100 tickets available)		
After May 20 th , 2005 cost \$20.00/person		
BBQ: Cost \$15.00/person		
Total Payment Enclosed:		

Cheque M/C Visa

Number: _____ Expiry: ____/____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Conference of Grand Masters of North America (and) The Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America

Calgary, Alberta, Canada February 20–22, 2005 (6005)

Conference Report by: MWBro Rod Ponech, Grand Master — Alberta

The Conference of Grand Masters of North America and the concurrent Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America is an annual event bringing together the leaders of Freemasonry from around the world.

The membership in the conference includes the 10 Canadian Grand Lodges, 50 from the American states and one from the District of Columbia, the American-Canadian Grand Lodge with jurisdiction over military Lodges in foreign lands, and the York Grand Lodge from Mexico.

In addition there were observers from the Grand Lodge of England, several Mexican states, the Grand Lodge of Iran in exile, a number of European Grand Lodges, including France, Bulgaria and Romania, and scattered observers from around the globe. Delegates to the two conferences, observers and spouses numbered well in excess of 650 in total.

This was only the second time in the nearly 80-year history of the Conferences that the location had been outside of the United States of America. Interestingly enough, the only other non-American site had also been Calgary in 1987. Our Western Hospitality, Canadian, Albertan and in particular Calgarian was well received.

The Sessions actually began on Friday the 18th with a number of Committee meetings, including one for the CHIP — Child Identification Program — which I attended along with the Senior Grand Warden, RWBro Malcolm Berry. I am privileged to be one of the two Canadian representatives for this initiative and Malcolm Berry has been doing much of the preparatory work for the Alberta program proposal.

Saturday featured a convoy of buses making the trek to Banff for a day of sightseeing and a featured lunch at the Banff Springs Hotel. Many of our guests received their first (but we were assured not last) Canadian Rockies experience. That evening, most attended a western “round-up” at the Calgary Shrine centre and were introduced to line dancing, the two-step and even some square dancing.

The Conferences held formal ses-

sions on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, and included a number of very informative “break-out” sessions on Officer Training, Public Relations, Youth Groups, the Chip Program, Technology in Masonry, the Masonic Service Bureau, and numerous other topics. From Alberta’s standpoint the exposure to the variety of programs and innovative ideas made the Conference invaluable. Freemasons in Alberta and the Northwest Territories are part of a worldwide fraternity and it is imperative that we remain current on what the rest of the Craft is doing.

The Sunday lunches were arranged around Grand Lodge Offices as Marilyn and I joined the other Grand Masters, Rex Dawson and Marj dined with Deputy Grand Masters from around the world, and Malcolm and Dawn Berry with Bob and Lorraine Drury lunched with the Grand Wardens in attendance. Rex, Malcolm and Bob are now part of an informal organization called “The Future Grand Masters of North America.” Their contacts and the information channels now open to them will be very beneficial to our Jurisdiction in the years ahead.

Sunday evening found all of the Grand Lodge Officers and their ladies from Canada meeting together over dinner. Following dinner our jurisdiction hosted a reception for the Canadian Delegates and their wives. This offered a rare opportunity for some informal discussions of issues and programming unique to our nation. The “All Canada Conference” in April will be all the more beneficial as the group of men who meet in Winnipeg will already know one another, and plans for national programming initiatives and inter-jurisdictional cooperation have begun.

The Grand Secretaries from around the world met in separate sessions for much of the time and attended to a variety of managerial and administrative items, which must be coordinated to keep our fraternity in harmony around the globe. Issues such as Grand Representatives, CDs as compared to printed proceedings, electronic communications and such were discussed by those

who actually deal with the issues on a day-to-day basis.

Our own Grand Secretary, RWBro Jerry Kopp, was a member of the planning committee for both of the Conferences and played a key role in the Grand Secretaries’ program.

During the Conferences there were a number of committee and program meetings. I was on the planning committee for this year’s conference and we met several times. Of course there were also formal Banquets for the Grand Secretaries’ Conference on Monday evening, and the Grand Masters’ Conference on Tuesday.

By the time Wednesday morning rolled around, and the delegates were heading off to the airport for flights around the continent and in fact the world, there was a general feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction in the progress being made in Freemasonry.

For five days the leaders of Freemasonry met in Calgary and reinforced their commitment to the ideals of our ancient Craft as well as their commitment to cooperation and fraternal relations with a diverse group of independent Grand Lodges around the world. While the deliberations and recommendations of such conferences are not in any way binding on the Sovereign Jurisdictions represented, the sense remains that such meetings are absolutely essential if we are to hold this loose web of Freemasonry together.

All Alberta Masons owe a huge debt of thanks to MWBro David Bruce and his committee, as well as the dozens of volunteers from the Calgary region who made these events such a resounding success. The list of names is too lengthy to list, however I trust that each person involved understands that our gratitude is genuine.

As a final comment let me attempt to answer the underlying question which surrounds any of our conference or meeting participations (and expenses). Is it worth it? In a word, Yes! The leadership of this Craft in Alberta, for several years to come, is now much better prepared to serve each Mason in the Jurisdiction.