



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 62, No. 2

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

February 1997

## The Structure is Shaky But Not Ready to Crumble

By the late MWBro K.W. Aldridge

PGM and PGS of the Grand Lodge of Quebec

I become disturbed, from time to time, when I see the eroding of quality in leadership at the level of a Grand Lodge. Yet, I am well aware that a Grand Lodge can only reflect the quality of its constituent Lodges. If there is poor quality in the Lodge, poor quality at Grand Lodge level cannot be avoided. It is inescapable — quality in Lodges cannot be improved without proper scrutiny of the rude material brought to our Lodge doors. We need make no apology to anyone who would offer himself for membership. The accepted candidate will prize his membership more highly if he is aware that all his Lodge Brothers have passed the quality test, as he had done. An accepted candidate will have a low regard for his membership, if he has not been investigated to reveal serious flaws that he knows he possesses. He will assume all his Lodge Brothers have equally serious character flaws. Improper screening of rude material is a serious affront to all well-meaning Masons who find themselves devoting their labour to building Freemasonry. When, in the course of a Mason's career, he

is called upon to investigate and report on the character of a potential member, he should accept this as one of the most important acts he may ever be called upon to perform for Freemasonry. He may have the future of a great builder or an unsavoury ruffian on his hands. He may be furthering Freemasonry or providing opportunity for discrediting it. It may be so easy just to sign the necessary forms and vouch that the prospective candidate is well-suited for Freemasonry. It may not be so easy, at some future time, if the investigator should find himself sitting as a witness in a Masonic Trial where great discredit has been brought to a Lodge and Freemasonry from a candidate whom he did not investigate properly or thoroughly. He would be equal to being the perpetrator of the crime, because he had the first opportunity to prevent any Masonic connection.

Guard well the portals to Freemasonry, by ensuring that the inspection of rude material is performed correctly. There are no parallels between Melrose Abbey and Melrose Place!

*From As I see it from Here*  
(Conclusion)

## A Pictorial History is Important

By Bro Kevan F. Van Herd

St. George's Lodge No. 43, BCR, Kelowna, BC (excerpted)

Nearly all Lodges in BC have photos of Past Masters on their walls, or in some special place in their meeting hall. From those photos, one can visualize what former Freemasons looked like and probably what their lives were composed of. Missing are photos of any of the other members of the Lodges of the time the photo of the WM was taken!

Then the idea was born to have a Lodge Historical Photo Album and to keep all photos pertaining to Masonry in it — whether it be St. George's Lodge or any other Lodge... Pictures were brought in to be inserted in the album and suitable captions placed under each photo to identify and to explain what the photo was about. Without the captions, most photos are useless.

Some of the events that occur in Lodges are the recording of raisings and initiations with suitable photos of the candidates taken with officers in the Lodge. Special events are best captured on film, since the written word might be more descriptive but takes much longer to read. A photo immediately jogs the memory of the event and a glance at the captions will fill in details to the viewer. In other words, "a picture tells a thousand words" and it is more true today than ever before in the history of our civilization.

With science making new inventions in computer fields, it will soon be commonplace to photograph an event, connect the camera to a computer and view it immediately and a suitable print can be made on the spot. It will be easy for

anyone to take a large number of photos, select the best one and print it — all without leaving your computer room. As it is today, photos can be taken one evening and the finished prints can be viewed the next morning, quite early. It is then relatively easy to identify the people in the photos, while the event is fresh in mind, and print or write out a suitable caption to be placed under the photo.

The historical album should be large enough that many photos can be placed on one side of the page. It should be of a size that prevents it from being taken home and casually placed in some dark corner and forgotten. The person looking after the album should be designated for that position and responsibility, and the Lodge should make paying for the film and processing part of their expenses.

The taking of photos is not part of a ritual or the order of business in a Lodge, but the photographer should be prepared to jog the memory of the Master and ask that regalia be left on and all concerned Brethren remain after the meeting, for photos. If possible, someone should be designated at this time to write the names of those in the photo in the order they are posed — this makes written identification of the finished photo much easier and more accurate.

## Beauty Aid

The Unity of Masons does not come from dull conformity, but rather from the creative talents of each Mason, expressed in various ways, and applied to the task of adding beauty to the Temple of Masonry.

*Masonic Messenger*

### Grand Lodge Bulletin

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### Editorial

## The Right Rite?

We have all heard it, at one time or another, that quip about the “right rite”, in jest of course, in good-natured banter, nevertheless suggesting ridicule — something we really do not need nor should we find it acceptable. There are some Canadian jurisdictions where the problem does not exist, where they practice only one ritual of *The Work* (on the other hand, our neighbours to the west recognize five approved rites), but in Alberta we have the situation where, roughly, two-thirds of the Lodges follow the *Canadian Work* and about one-third of the Lodges follow the *Ancient York Work*. The former came to us from England, via Ontario and Manitoba, and is, therefore, closely akin to the *English Emulation Ritual*, while the latter has its origin in the United States of America, the work of Thomas Smith Webb of Boston, MA.

Fortunately, many of our Brethren of Lodges of either rite frequently visit those of the “other persuasion”, demonstrating that they are indeed appreciative of what these “others” have to offer, and they gratefully accept those additional teachings, or just the different phraseology in the other working, and return home feeling enriched.

Let us not forget that what is important is not whether the teachings are communicated by lecture or by drama, by this or by that particular wording, and the like, but that the philosophical tenets and the improvement of the human psyche are exactly the same. How else could Freemasons throughout the world, on all five continents and in so many different languages, share our own experiences as Entered Apprentices, as Fellowcrafts and as Master Masons? Would we have the nerve to classify any of them as the “wrong rite”?

Time and again, we hear talk about “humility” — it behooves us, therefore, not to develop a superiority complex as regards the rite practised by our own Lodge but, instead, to cultivate a respect for and understanding of the other approach to reach the same goal, and let us continue to support each other. So, next time we feel the urge to utter that intellectually brilliant (?) remark, why not repress it?

## Letters to the Editor

(*Grand Lodge Bulletin*, October & November editorials)

When you are elected or appointed to perform a duty, you do your best to meet expectations, even if there is no given

mandate and, as there is none regarding the Editor of the *Bulletin*, then Section R1.7.15 should be reviewed and, if necessary, amended to clarify the situation.

As to the article reprinted from the *Western Catholic Reporter*, this shows much ignorance and untruthful statements. It may not be permitted to say the name of Jesus Christ in Lodge, but that is because Freemasonry is made up of men of many races and creeds and not to offend anyone not of the Christian faith. The first question asked of a candidate proves the importance to us of a belief in God. I will state a few facts to contradict the *WCR* columnist: I was initiated into Freemasonry in a small town just outside of Montreal in 1952. On the very same evening, a Brother rose and announced that the annual Christmas Basket drive for the less fortunate was now on, a charitable endeavour jointly conducted by the local Masonic Lodge and the local Knights of Columbus. To my knowledge, there are several French speaking Lodges in Montreal and in Quebec City, composed of a majority of Brethren of the Roman Catholic faith.

I wish that some distinguished Brother would write a contradiction directly to the *WCR* correspondent and request a retraction of his statements. And then again, a still tongue is a wise tongue.

Don Merrell, PM, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142

(*Grand Lodge Bulletin*, December 1996, editorial “Is Mass Recruitment the Answer?”)

I would like to make three observations. First of all, the Masonic Service Association questionnaire referred to the idea of a “One Day Class,” not “Mass Recruitment.” I have not seen any suggestion that we recruit new members with a “One Day Sale Event.” Whether or not a “One Day Class” is a viable addition to our current three to six month initiatory process is, I believe, a reasonable question which should be seriously addressed.

Secondly, the issue of how we attract and screen quality members is still a very important problem one which gets buried in the hysteria raised by labelling a “One Day Class” a “Mass Recruitment.” Might it not be possible to improve our recruitment process to ensure we get better candidates while, at the same time, increasing our numbers?

Thirdly, information is not yet available on the success rate of the “One Day Class.” There is some information [not available to us? Ed.] to suggest that a large percentage of members are becoming regular attendees at the Lodges that sponsored them. Is this infusion of new blood any less “worthwhile” just because it came into the body of Masonry through another route? Is there evidence to suggest a child delivered by Caesarean section makes a less worthwhile human being than one that comes into this world in a more “natural” way? Generating enthusiasm in a new member about our order and maintaining their [sic] interest in our meetings is of fundamental importance, regardless of how we view their [sic] initiation ceremony.

This whole discussion brings to mind the nightmare image of a patient suffering from an illness while under the care of a Bureaucrat, a Lawyer and a Priest. One asks for the paperwork to be done first, one wants to cross-examine every attempt at treatment and one wants to know when he can give Last Rites. If they all have their way the patient will die. Perhaps the question should be, “How do we keep this one alive?”

David Roth, WM, Commercial Lodge No. 81

Congratulations on your editorial in the December issue, along with the portion of MWBro K.W. Aldridge's paper.

Since these "mass" One Day Classes have come about, I have been worried about the future of Freemasonry as we know it. When a Grand Lodge decides it wants members — not Masons — it is the beginning of the downfall of Freemasonry, as the majority of us know it today.

As bad as the above is, enclosed is a copy of an article in *The [XXX] Mason*, October 1996. [Name of publication and jurisdiction withheld. Ed.] You will note that this garbage has the full support of the Grand Master. It is beyond my comprehension how an individual, who calls himself a Mason, can reach the office of Grand Master and, with no qualms, support this obnoxious meeting.

I could list several reasons why this is wrong, wrong, wrong, but the main item is — this abortion includes Freemasonry with other non-Masonic organizations. In short, according to this One Day Class, [see schedule reproduced above, Ed.] the Masonic Lodge is only part of a so-called Masonic fraternity. All these concordant bodies claim to be Masonic. However, they all arbitrarily chose the Masonic order as an appendage to their order.

This action taken by the Grand Lodge of XXX is prostituting our Masonic institution and, if allowed, will destroy Freemasonry. I think the procedure should be taken to rescind our recognition of the Grand Lodge of XXX. If we don't take this action, then it means we condone their project.

C.H. White, PGTreas  
Perfection Lodge No. 9

In response to your editorial in the December issue of the *Grand Lodge Bulletin*: "Is Mass Recruitment the Answer," yes indeed — I am shocked.

My shock comes from the fact that I don't think anyone has to subscribe to the "coca-cola-ization" or the "McDonaldization" of the Craft. Yes indeed, the Americans invented fast food, is it now time for the same to be applied to the Craft?

American Freemasons today make up about three-fourths of the total number of all members throughout the world and world membership exceeds six million. Are these North American Masons really proud of the Craft or is it just another way to meet someone for a few "contacts" to do business with? Is this what the primary objective of the Craft is or is it to keep the membership fees "rolling in" to pay for the buildings that are, for most part, empty because members never attend Lodge meetings?

I cannot help but wonder if this "mass recruitment" is a response to what we read, see and hear in the media every day: depletion of the ozone layer causes cancer, low oil reserves threaten the world economy, Freemasonry is coming to an end...how many do really subscribe to this herd mentality idea? And do we really have to...?

The Craft has been around, as most Masons know, for a

All The Way In One Day Class Schedule of Events	
<b>Friday, November 1, 1996</b>	
Registration	1 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
<b>Saturday, November 2, 1996</b>	
Registration	6 a.m.-6:50 a.m.
1° , Entered apprentice	7 a.m.-7:55 a.m.
2° , Fellow Craft	8 a.m.-8:55 a.m.
Break	9:10 a.m.-9:10 a.m.
3° , Master Mason	11 a.m.-11:10 a.m.
Orientation	11:10 a.m.-11:25 a.m.
4° , Secret Master	11:30 a.m.-11:55 a.m.
14° , Perfect Elu	12 Noon-12:15 p.m.
Class Picture	12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.
Lunch	12:50-1:25 p.m.
18° , Knight Rose Croix	1:30 p.m.-1:55 p.m.
30° , Knight Kadosh	1:55 p.m.-2:05 p.m.
Break	2:10 p.m.-3 p.m.
32° , Master Royal Secret	3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.
Shrine Ceremonial	4 p.m.
All Masonic Parade	

very long time; and the mass merchandising to get a high volume to maintain the "image" of the Craft will not help it in any way. As long as there are a few good Masons in this world, it will be enough to know that Freemasonry exists and I am sure that these few could and would maintain and uphold the beliefs of the Craft.

The "quality" of the Masons in all other countries of the world, where, to attain the Master Masons rank can take up to one year, is always worth waiting for and means a lot... If you have a McDonald every day... it is just another hamburger.

I really hope that the Canadian Lodges will uphold the quality of our ritual and that newcomers to the Craft will continue to be men of integrity, dedicated and genuinely interested in the Craft.

Aurélio M. Fernandes  
Highlands Lodge No. 168

## Freemason Chosen For Justice Body

By John Steele, Crime Correspondent

The Government [of Great Britain] has defended its appointment of a Freemason to head the new commission to investigate miscarriages of justice.

The Freemasons' organization also backed Sir Frederick Crawford and denied that his membership would interfere with his role in assessing criminal convictions.

Sir Frederick, the chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, was confirmed by Freemasons' Hall in London as both a Freemason and a member of the Royal Arch, a grouping interested in studying the "philosophy" of Freemasonry.

The news prompted some politicians to call on Sir Frederick, 65, either to resign from the £88,000 a year part-time post or from the Freemasons.

Chris Mullin, the Labour MP, said the appointment would expose the commission to ridicule. "I did not believe they would be daft enough to appoint a Freemason to a post as sensitive as this", he said.

The nub of concern is a "ritual" involved in the Royal Arch, which states that a Freemason should "relieve and befriend" any brother Freemason in need of help and should "suggest the most kindly and the most palliating and the most favourite circumstances in extenuation of his conduct, even when justly liable to reprehension and blame."

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat, urged Sir Frederick to renounce his membership of the Freemasons.

"There's no doubt that Sir Frederick Crawford will do the job with the utmost integrity" he told BBC Radio 4.

"But, given the number of police officers, especially Metropolitan Police, who are Freemasons, and the obligations which the movement puts on them towards each other, I'd rather see the new chairman distance himself."

A spokesman for the Home Office, which oversaw the selection process, said, "We are fully confident that Sir Frederick would not allow any improper consideration to influence his judgment."

From: *The Weekly Telegraph*, Issue No. 285

## Catholic Board Ponders Mason Program

*Despite historic aversion to Masonic Lodges, trustees now consider Mason-sponsored first-aid program.*

**By Leslie Pepler, Staff Writer**

The Greater St. Albert Catholic school board may adopt a Grade 3 first-aid course, even though Masonic Lodges sponsor the program. "It's a difficult question to answer. It's an idea that has a great deal of merit," said chair Dave Caron.

Last spring, trustees rejected the St. Albert Masonic Lodge's \$500 annual bursary for high school students. The ancient fraternal organization and the Catholic church have been at odds for more than a century.

Caron didn't know about the Masons' support for the first aid **We Can Help** program but felt the board would consider it on its own merits.

"I think we'd focus on the merits of the program. I can't prejudge anything," said Caron.

The Masons, also known as Freemasons, promote personal growth in men. Lodges raise funds, provide community services and do good works without regard to the recipient's religion.

Masons are also affiliated with the International Shriners, best known for supporting children's hospitals.

The program, developed by St. John's Ambulance for Alberta Grade 3 students, was featured late last month in a presentation at St. Benedict's School in Edmonton.

The program has been offered in every school board but not all have taken advantage of it.

The Masons have already committed \$24,000 to produce classroom materials for the project, said Stan Mottershead, a spokesman for the Freemasons groups sponsoring the program.

"I hope both St. Albert school boards will be receptive to it," Mottershead said. "It's available free to all Grade 3 teachers. We tried a pilot project in southern Alberta and found that Grade 3 students were the most receptive. They weren't intimidated by the information and were eager to try their skills."

Youngsters — even at that early age — can save lives. Mottershead said the program will be featured at teachers conferences during the upcoming school year.

St. Benedict teacher Lorraine Hoerber, a Rivière Qui Barre resident, believes every school should offer the program.

She has taught it for the past two years, using stuffed toys to teach the youngsters how to help people in a variety of emergency situations.

"They learn many things, including how to use the Heimlich manoeuvre, about artificial respiration, shock, frostbite and nose bleeds."

During the afternoon presentation, her class provided scenarios of emergency situations and then showed how each should be handled.

"Even children at this grade level can react in a positive way to an emergency. When they know what they're doing, they're less likely to react [improperly]," said St. John Ambulance spokeswoman Kathy Anderson.

Christina Damaso beamed with pride as she participated

in a skit. "It's fun because we can learn to help people. I've learned a whole bunch of things I didn't know," the nine-year old said.

Alexander Sellyeh, 8, described the program as "cool." "I learned about the recovery positions and how to deal with sprains and fractures. My mom and dad are real proud of me," he said.

In June 1994, nine-year old Joseph de Beaudrap, a Morinville boy, used the Heimlich manoeuvre to save a young friend from choking. Last October, he received a citation from St. John Ambulance for saving a life.

"Local schools should offer the **We Can Help** program," his mother Roseanne said Tuesday. Joseph learned his first-aid skills from his father — a volunteer fireman — and from the television show *911*. "Joseph's story was used to give credence to St. John Ambulance efforts to raise grant money for the program," she added.

"Joseph's actions prove that kids can save lives. It would be very beneficial. I think it's a must. We shouldn't take the ages of children for granted. Kids can learn anything," Roseanne said.

From *The St. Albert & Sturgeon Gazette*, July 10, 1996

## Yellowknife's 50<sup>th</sup>

Over the weekend of June 27, 28 and 29, 1997, Yellowknife Lodge No. 162 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Visiting Brethren and their spouses will be treated to a variety of Northern experiences which they will long remember. More on the details will be published in a later issue of the Grand Lodge Bulletin. Those interested, please contact WBro David J.H. Grindlay, who can be reached during the evenings at (403) 920-7666 and who would be pleased to answer any questions.

## A Timely Reminder

Regarding the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M., June 13 & 14, 1997, please note that nominations for office (and for Boards and Committees) must be received in the Grand Lodge office not later than 12 o'clock noon on February 28, 1997. (For full text of the article in the Regulations see R1.2.1.) Notices of Motion and Notices of Motion to amend the Constitution must be received not later than March 14, 1997 (also by 12 o'clock noon, as this is a Friday). See R17.1.3.2.

## Reminder, Secretaries In the Calgary Area

Masonic Hot Line: please send a copy of your Lodge Notice to VWBro Paul Hodges, 32 Van Horne Crescent NE, Calgary, T2E 6G9, or contact him by phone at 219-3322, in order that he can list your Lodge events on the Masonic Hot Line.

## Grand Master's Itinerary

### February

- 3 St. John's Lodge, Vegreville
- 5 Avon Glen Lodge, Edmonton
- 6-8 A&ASR Reunion, Edmonton
- 10 Jasper Lodge, Edmonton
- 11 Red Deer Lodge
- 12 Mystic Tie Lodge, Edmonton
- 13 Board of General Purposes, Red Deer
- 14-20 Grand Masters' Conference Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 24 Beacon Lodge, Red Deer