Good News!
First comes the good news, there will not be any increase in the assessment for 2006.

Bad News!
Next we have to look at the sad news, we are losing ground in terms of membership. In 2005 Fredericton No. 50 at Fredericton, N.B. went into darkness. Their Charter was dated August 11th, 1909.

Total membership of S.G.P. at opening of 2004........ 9036
Total membership of S.G.P. at closing of 2004.......... 8232
With adjustments loss.................................................. 664

Should Masonry fail and fold throughout the world it would be the greatest catastrophe the world has ever known. We must all share the responsibility to keep, maintain and increase our membership. Membership is not a new concern. A quote from a Shrine seminar held in New York city in 1972, “A destiny of our great nation may ultimately depend on the influence of the Masonic Fraternity and the future of Freemasonry”.

Preceptories on the roll of Sovereign Great Priory 72
No of preceptories represented at Hamilton 42
Ballots issued 120
Votes 173

The Ballot
The report shows that there were 26 Preceptories not represented. Although not registered four (4) arrived to attend the sessions on Monday 22nd. Because the number of candidates on the ballot for office equaled the number of offices to be filled there was no necessity to take a ballot.

Grand Chancellors Office
There were eight (8) Preceptories failed to submit their 2004 reports on time and of this number one reported in March, three in April, one in May, one in June and the final report was received in July. The message is don’t let your P.G.P. or your Preceptory down by submitting late returns.

Charities
The Charles E. Wells Memorial Fund Investment income $5199.00
Annual donations $535.00
This fund is to assist established youth groups. In 2004 there were only two requests for assistance. Emmanuel Preceptory No 83 - $1000.00 to the Brampton Girl Guides for nine girls and two leaders to attend a conference. The aid to the two leaders was rejected due to the fact they were adults.

The second request was from Camp Harris “Dartmouth Region N. S.” This was to replace water filters from two wells to control arsenic and $1000.00 was granted. There was no Preceptory specified the report.
Knights Templar Charitable Foundation of Canada

The annual meeting of the Foundation was at the noon luncheon on Monday, August 22nd when the auditors report was given and new directors elected due to resignations. Donations in the year 2004 = $23,100.00 were to twelve divinity students and three widows. Donations to the Foundation were presented by two Preceptories from the Hamilton District No 2 along with personal, Masonic and capitol gifts.

Knight Templar Advancement

A seminar was held by R. Em. Kt. W. Bruce Miller with a visual presentation and a distribution of cards and handouts. Bruce continues to explain why every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar, as well as the Christian element of Freemasonry.

The Divine Service

The Divine Service was held in the Scottish Rite Cathedral and attendance seemed small in such a grand building. There were several disappointments as many were left outside and could not gain admittance as they found the entrance doors were locked.

Future of Sovereign Great Priory and places of assembly

Recommendation by the committee of audit and finance that the assembly dates be moved to the spring or fall to avoid the high costs of prime summer rates at the hotels. There was no action taken, however as the dates are set for 2006. There were several recommendations as to how to cut costs to be taken under consideration. The assembly meets in Vancouver (Richmond) August 26 to 29. The Year 2007 in St. Johns, Nfld. No dates have been announced.

Provincial Grand Priors’ Instruction

Explanation of the work book and the importance of getting the reports in on time. Emphasis was on the pamphlet “Guidelines on Knight Templar Protocol” where most of the answers and duties are explained.

Items that may assist and improve your Preceptory

1. Remember the P.G.P. is the Grand Masters representative and should receive the same respect and protocol as the Grand Master on a visit to your Preceptory.
2. The proper use of titles.
3. Remember when speaking you are addressing the assembly not your notes.
4. White gloves improve the appearance of those in uniform.
5. Have the Marshal give the Marshal’s toast at the conclusion of the social hour.
6. Practice and improve sword drill
7. Remember there are always new members in the lines.
8. Remember communications to and among the Knights.

Life has its ups and downs

Remember that trying is no small act of courage. Knowing you did your best is a reward in itself. George Bernard Shaw said” Success covers a multitude of blunders."

New Book

The Templar Meridians - The Secret Mapping of the New World
By William F. Mann whose late great-uncle was a Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar of Canada, is the author of The Knights Templar in the New World. He lives in Oakville, Ontario

- Reveals the true nature of the secret science the Templars discovered in the Holy Land that was the key to their power
- Shows the cartographic knowledge that allowed the Templars to cross the Atlantic and establish settlements in the New World
- Explains the connection of the Templar meridians to the journey of Lewis and Clark
- Shows the role played by secret societies in the establishment of the United States