



The Nova Scotia FREEMASON

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Hants County Masons Sponsor Child For Asthma Camp

The six Masonic Lodges in Hants County, Welsford No. 26, Windsor; Poyntz No. 44, Hantsport; W.D. Lawrence No. 101, Maitland; C.W. Saunders No. 125, Elmsdale; Uniacke No. 128, Mount Uniacke; and The Shore Lodge No. 134, Bramber, joined together recently to sponsor a Hants County child to attend Camp Treasure Chest, a summer camp operated by the Lung Association of Nova Scotia for children suffering asthma. A cheque from the six Lodges was recently presented to the Lung Association of Nova Scotia by the District Deputy Grand Master of Hants County District, Right Worshipful Brother R. Wilson Baker, a member of the Mount Uniacke Lodge.

Nova Scotia has the second highest rate of childhood asthma in North America. More than 62,000 of our kids use puffers regularly. Many of these children will lead a full and happy life, bothered only once in a while by their asthma. But, a recent study shows that 60 percent suffer from uncontrolled asthma. This disease is the single greatest cause of school absenteeism, accounting for 25 percent of all absences. Perhaps more startling is that asthma is the single greatest cause for admission to emergency rooms in every hospital in Nova Scotia.

Because asthma cannot be cured – only managed, the Lung Association of Nova Scotia, through its Camp Treasure Chest, offers asthma education 24 hours a day for an entire week – the medical staff and counsellors at the Camp teach the children how to manage their asthma in any situation. Camp Treasure Chest provides a fun learning environment for children, with the objective to teach “how to control your asthma, and not let it control you”. These are important life skills that cannot be learned at a one time visit to a clinic. For each and every one of the children with asthma, Camp is a life altering experience.

Asthma treatments are very expensive. Many parents struggle to provide their children with the necessary daily medications, and sending their child to a specialized camp is merely a dream. The cost, to the child's family, to attend Camp Treasure Chest has been nothing – absolutely free! Any child between the ages of 8 and 11 years with moderate to severe asthma can apply to attend Camp Treasure Chest. This has been made possible through the generous support of individuals, companies, service clubs and other organizations throughout the province. Camps are held during the month of August each year. This is the first year that the Masonic Lodges in Hants County have pooled resources to sponsor a child. Due to the confidential nature of medical records, sponsors do not know the name



Right Worshipful Brother R. Wilson Baker, District Deputy Grand Master for Hants County District, recently presented a cheque to the Lung Association of Nova Scotia representing a donation from the Masonic Lodges of Hants County to sponsor an asthmatic child from the County to attend Camp Treasure Chest. Pictured above during the presentation are Meredith Hand, Camp Counsellor; Mr. Baker; Heather Patten, Health Initiative Program Coordinator, Nova Scotia Lung Association and Assistant Camp Director, and Peter Goneau, Camp Coordinator.

of the child or children they sponsor. They just know they are helping a young person learn to cope with their asthmatic problem. 🗑️

A New Lodge to be Formed in Scotland

An interesting Masonic event has recently been announced in Scotland.

A new Lodge is to be formed in the Scottish Borders to mark the 300th Anniversary of the earliest known “Speculative” Lodge. The Haughfoot Lodge was founded December 22nd 1702 by men who were not Operative Masons. This Lodge was founded many years before any Grand Lodges existed. The Lodge used the oldest known Ritual the Edinburgh Register House Manuscript [1696].

For more information or to join this Lodge, which is dedicated to preserve much of the 17th and 18th century Scottish Freemasonry, contact:

James T. Tennant, Esq.

38 Murray Place, Selkirk, Selkirkshire, Scotland TD7 5BN

Source: *the philalethes*, October, 2001

Greetings from the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Many of you will know that the Order of the Eastern Star was founded in the mid 1800's by Dr. Rob Morris, the second Poet Laureate of Masonry. The Order is dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness. It is comprised of Master Masons, their wives, daughters, mothers, widows, sisters and other relationships such as in-laws, adopted family members, etc.

We are the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women belong, with well over one million members. In our Jurisdiction of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island there are over 3,000 members in forty-nine Chapters.

Grand Master Caulier attended our Annual Grand Chapter Session in July and addressed the gathering of approximately eight hundred. He spoke on unity and the importance of the Masonic family. We were impressed with his sincerity and his invitation to all Brothers to join our ranks. As well, we ask you to convey the welcome to your wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters.

We meet monthly in a spirit of fraternal love and social enjoyment, while promoting the principles of our Order.


The Grand Chapter Session in July 2002 will be held in the Nova Scotia Community College, Stellarton. "The Hearts In Harmony" Session will be presided over by Sister Isabelle Pearson, Worthy Grand Matron and Brother William A. Thompson, Worthy Grand Patron.

The charity chosen by W.G.M. Pearson is The Heart and Stroke Foundation. Fundraising items include the sale of Scottie Dog Pins (\$5.00) and we invite your support. Presentation to the Foundation will be the highlight of the July activities.



Grand Chapter Officers 2001-2002 — Shown left to right, back row: Grace Boudreau, Grand Martha; Lucy Langille, Grand Alph; Gail Fudge, Grand Ruth; Gary Hope, Grand Warder; Allen Reid, Grand Marshal; Daniel Campbell, Grand Chaplain; Diane Patterson, Grand Esther; Ruby MacKenzie, Grand Electa; Joyce Johnston, Grand Organist. Front row: Allen Denton, Grand Sentinel; Marylyn Swinamer, Associate Grand Conductress; Betty Ann Loughnan, Grand Secretary; George Crouch, Associate Grand Patron; Isabelle Pearson, Worthy Grand Matron; William Thompson, Worthy Grand Patron; June Macdonald, Associate Grand Matron; Cecil Decker, Grand Treasurer; Inez Day, Grand Conductress.

On a personal note, Most Worshipful Brother Ted and I hail from the same neighbourhood in Stellarton. I trust the same close tie will carry over to our Fraternal Organizations.

I wish you all the success in your endeavors for 2001-2002. I look forward to greeting many of you as you join us on the Star Trail. 

*With Fraternal love, Isabelle M. Pearson,
Worthy Grand Matron.*

Masonic Treasures

Masonic Art and historical treasures will be exhibited in France in the summer of 2002. The exhibition theme is "The Freemasons in his Raiment of Light - The Spirit and the Matter" which forms part of the build up towards a museum of Masonic Art and History. Some of these items have been worn by monarchs, men and women from the world of politics, artists and scientists. There is a catalogue (32 pages and over 300 photos with explanatory notices) available from Association 5997, 4 cours de l'armourial, F-37000 Tours, France. E-mail: 5997@initialfm.com

The Nova Scotia Freemason

The Official Bulletin of The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

*Published by Nationwide Promotions Limited - E-mail: nwp@accesscable.net
12 Dawn Drive, Burnside Industrial Park, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3B 1H9*

Editor: Lorne Urquhart

Editorial provided by: Public Relations Committee

Design and Production: Angela Urquhart

Printing: The Allen Print Ltd., Dartmouth, NS

Deadline for next edition: February 15, 2002

The Nova Scotia Freemason is published four times a year; February, April, August, and November.

The Editors accept no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITORS OR THE GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Submissions for upcoming editions may be sent to:

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Visit the new Grand Lodge website at: <http://www.grandlodgens.org>

You may email the Grand Secretary at: glns@grandlodgens.org

Shriners Stamp Makes History In Canada

The Shrine of North America made Canadian history when Canada post recently issued the Shriners Stamp to recognize the work of the Shrine and Shriners Hospitals for Children. This is the first time that our type of organization has received such an honor. The Shriners Stamp is a symbol of the care given to the children at Shriners Hospitals, as well as the fun that Shriners bring to these tiny lives.

The stamp was designed by Monique Dufour and Sophie Lafortune of Quebec City, with photography by Francois LeClair of Montreal.

On September 19, 2001, Imperial Potentate Kenneth W. Smith and several Canadian Shriners were present for the official unveiling of the commemorative stamp at the Government House in Ottawa, Ontario.

According to Imperial Sir Smith, a British Columbia native, the Shrine is honored by this privilege.

"We are extremely proud as an organization to receive such a great tribute," said Smith. "Shriners Hospitals has been serving medical needs of children in Canada for 76 years with the most technologically advanced medical treatment available. Although the smile on each child's face is more than enough motivation, having a stamp to commemorate that commitment is very gratifying."



The Shriners Hospital in Montreal opened in 1925. The Canadian Shriners Hospital treats routine and complex orthopaedic problems utilizing the latest technology available in paediatric medicine. 🪄

Interested In Stamps?

For those with Masonic stamp interest, you may wish to contact the following:

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York
22 East 55th Street
New York, NY 10016
USA

Mr. Otto Steding
c/o Masonic Study Unit
640 Maple Trace Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246
USA

Masonic Philatelic Club
(write to Mr. Maurice Beazley)
216 West Dyke Road
Redcar, Cleveland T510-4JS
USA
or E-mail: mandmb@ntlworld.com

Celebrating 99 Years

On July 19, 2001 Worshipful Brother Errol Hancock, K.C.T., observed his 99th birthday, having first seen the light of day in Ontario on July 19, 1902. Several members of Truro Lodge No. 43 visited Brother Hancock to mark the occasion and present him with a special Certificate in Recognition of his 77th anniversary as a master mason. Brother Hancock was raised on September 3, 1924 and was Master of Truro Lodge in 1942. No celebration was held this year as Brother Hancock expressed his wish to wait for his 100th birthday next year when he will also mark 60 years as a past master. 🪄

Submitted by V.W.B. Charles MacKinlay, P.M., Historian, Truro Lodge No. 43.



Wor. Brother Lloyd Fleck, is seen presenting Wor. Brother Hancock with his Certificate of Recognition.

Fifty Year Jewels



At the presentation of 50 year jewels were (left to right) Brother Morton Eisenhauer, Brother Roy Eisenhauer, Most Worshipful Brother Tabor Caulier, Right Worshipful Brother James Cullen and Brother Willard Hubley.

On June 16, 2001, at a reception at Bedford Lodge, Most Worshipful Brother Tabor Caulier presented Brothers Roy Eisenhauer, Willard Hubley, Morton Eisenhauer and Right Worshipful Brother James Cullen, with their Fifty Year Jewels. Accompanying the Grand Master were many Grand Lodge Officers. Also present on this occasion were many friends, family members of the honourees and brethren. Afterwards everyone retired to the banquet hall for refreshments and musical entertainment. 🪄

Truro Lodge No. 43

Monday, October 1, 2001 was an historic day in the life of Truro Lodge No. 43, perhaps the most significant since the Lodge first met there one hundred and thirty one years ago on January 11, 1870. It was the last meeting that would ever be held on the third floor of the Masonic Hall at the corner of Queen and Revere streets in Truro. The first meeting of the Lodge was on March 5, 1867 but history does not record where that took place.



On October 1, 2001, Grand Master Brother Ted Caulier (right) visited the oldest living member of Truro Lodge, V.W. Brother Errol Hancock (centre) who is 99 years old. Also present was R.W. Brother J. Allan Lawrence.

The building had been sold on that date, one hundred and ten years after it had been purchased by the Lodge on October 28, 1891 from the Estate of a deceased brother of the Lodge. Arrangements have been made for the Lodge and other concordant bodies that also use the facility to continue meeting on the second floor in the former banquet room until the new Masonic center is constructed on Pictou Road in Bible Hill which perhaps not coincidentally is where the first Lodge in the area Colchester Union No. 48, later No. 839, originated in 1823.

It was past masters night and all offices were filled by past masters. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Tabor Jan "Ted" Caulier was in attendance, and prior to the banquet he paid a visit to the oldest living member of the Lodge V.W. Brother Errol Hancock who is 99 years of age and was master in 1942. 🗡️

New York Disaster Relief Fund

A short time ago, a letter was circulated to all lodges in this Jurisdiction encouraging all of our members to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund being sponsored by the Grand Lodge of New York. At that time you were asked to make your contribution payable to the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. Since that time, however, we have found that it is possible to process these donations through our Masonic Foundation. By doing this, receipts for contributions can be issued to individual donors. We would now ask that all contributions to this fund be made payable to the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia.

To those of you who have already contributed to this Fund, we thank you for your generosity. Please be assured that your contributions will be transferred to the Masonic Foundation and tax receipts issued where applicable.

We would stress once again, that the need for financial aid is urgent, so brethren, please be generous! 🗡️

Sincerely and fraternally, Robert H. Northrup, Grand Secretary

Military Tradition Continues



The five principal officers of Argus Lodge No. 133 in Kingston are: left to right, front row, Steven Palmer SW, Michel Bradley WM, Richard Murray JW. Rear row, Andrew Wynott SD and Craig Stevens JD. All are Corporals serving at 14 Wing Greenwood. The tradition established by Erasmus James Philipps continues.

Submitted by V.W. Bro. Ralph Swinamer, Historian, Argus Lodge No. 133



On October 1, 2001 the Past Masters who were on duty this night and their guests are shown, front, left to right: Barry Hutt, Glen Rogers, Charles MacKinlay, Jack Welcher, Ted Caulier, G.M., Alan MacKinnon, Ernie Hiscott. Rear: Frank Emanuel, Noel Brooks, Clifford Thompson, Bill Burt, Cecil Brownell, Dave Creelman, Burt Richards, Murdock MacLean and Carl Yuill.

For the benefit of the Craft, think:
More "we" and less "me"!

Should Be Seen As Well As Heard – And Were!



Sound Engineer, Brother Gerald Publicover, University 110 and Organist Brother Harry Daine, Athole 15, Burns 10 became R.W. Brothers at the 2001 Grand Lodge Sessions (from V.W.s). Gerald became D.D.G. Master, Harry became Hon. Past Senior G. Warden. (Glynn Lloyd photos)



Shown from left to right are Wor. Brother Donald Zwicker, Wor. Brother Richard Logan (W. Master of Clarke 61), and Wor. Brother Kenneth Zwicker. The Brothers Zwicker received the Meritorious Service Medal for their great dedication to Clarke Lodge No. 61, Chester, from W. Brother Richard Logan. Donald and Kenneth are both real brothers. Well done Ken and Don.



R.W. Brother Kenneth Carroll, D.D.G.M. (left) of Charity Lodge 69, presents V.W. Brother Marvin Mattson with a 55 year bar to his Long Service Medal. Brother Mattson's contributions to Masonry could very well fill a book. An honour truly deserved.

Installation Of Officers And 50 Year Jewel Presentations

On April 7, nine brothers from Stewiacke Lodge No. 98, three from W.D. Lawrence No. 101, Maitland, and two from Elm No. 115 journeyed to Antigonish to assist in the joint installation of officers of Temple Lodge No. 57 and Sunrise Lodge No. 116. Prior to the installation ceremonies, the Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master for Antigonish-Guysborough, Brother G. Alonzo Reddick presented 50 Year Jewels to Brothers Roy T. Cunningham and Jarvis R. Stewart, on behalf of Stewiacke Lodge No. 98. 🪄



Brethren visiting Antigonish were as follows: Front row, left to right, WB Robert W. France (98), WB John H. Wiggins (101), VWB Gary D. Beattie (101), Brother Roy T. Cunningham (98) and VWB J. Gordon Crowe (98). Back row: WB Kenneth L. Williams (98), Bro. David A. Fisher (115), WB William D. Lawrence (98), VWB J. Alan Lawrence (98), VWB Wilfred B. Clooney (101), Brother Jarvis R. Stewart (98), WB Melvin E. Nelson (98), Brother Anthony L. Webb (98) and WB George R. O'Leary (115). (Jack Ronalds Photography)



Brothers Roy T. Cunningham and Jarvis R. Stewart, shown in order (left to right) with Brother G. Alonzo Reddick and the Worshipful Master of Stewiacke Lodge No. 98, Brother William D. Lawrence on the extreme right. (Jack Ronalds Photography)

There is so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it hardly behooves any of us,
To talk about the rest of us.

NOVA SCOTIA FREEMASONS' HOME

*"work and receive Master's wages and be better enabled to support myself
and family and contribute to the relief of distressed worthy
Master Masons, their widows and orphans"*

ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMME *NOW AND IN THE FUTURE*

On January 10, 1909, The Nova Scotia Freemasons Home received its first guest. Nova Scotia Freemasons were applying those cherished tenets of our fraternity: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth through the establishment of a Home in Windsor, NS, where aged and indigent Masons, their wives or widows could live in peace, contentment and comfort. As we all know the physical home in Windsor is no more, but the application of those cherished tenets continues through the Assisted Housing Program which was inaugurated in January, 1993.

The objective of the Assisted Housing Program

Initially, in 1993, the objective of this program was to provide to Masons and their widows throughout Nova Scotia, under certain circumstances, financial assistance in maintaining or improving self-sufficiency and quality of life by allowing (assisting) them to remain independent in their own homes, thereby delaying, and where possible preventing, institutionalization. Last year, 2000, the objective was expanded to reflect as far as possible, within the financial resources available, the changing needs of our Brethren brought about by our aging society.

The new program objective is to help Masons, and their immediate family members:

1. to maintain, or improve, their self sufficiency and quality of life, by assisting them to remain independent and healthy in their own homes, thus delaying, and where possible preventing institutionalization.
11. when housed in a Long Term Care Facility, to ensure that items deemed necessary to promoting self sufficiency and independence in this environment will be available, if not provided through health insurance, or any governmental or like agency.

The need for the change arises firstly because although, happily, the tendency today is to live longer, the consequence is that life generally today is relatively unpredictable and financially more demanding on all of us. This is particularly the case for the elderly, who find the value of their savings being eroded as the cost of maintaining a reasonable standard of living rises.

Within the limits of funds available the program will make available to qualified applicants, financial assistance to defray living expenses, vital to having the applicant attain the maximum level of self sufficiency possible, which expenses exceed their financial resources. Financial assistance shall be primarily directed toward having the applicant continue to live in his/her own home.

The nature of the program requires the utmost confidentiality (and empathy with applicants) at all levels of preparing, receiving and processing applications for assistance. To this end the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Secretary (acting as a committee) of lodges receiving requests for assistance are charged with assisting applicants with the preparation of their requests. The program is administered by a committee consisting of a Chairman and two other members, appointed annually by the Board of Trustees, together with the Secretary of the Board as an ex-officio member.

Several requests for assistance were received during the past twelve months. Sponsoring lodges included King Solomon No. 54, Minas No. 67, King Edward No. 86, Wentworth No. 108 and John Albro No. 122. In response, grants totalling \$23,896.99 were approved for the purchase of special medical equipment, house roofing and the management of debt. The members of Wentworth and John Albro Lodges are commended for supplying financial assistance to applicants before submitting applications to the Assisted Housing Committee, thus practising and granting charity from their own resources before requesting additional help.

The Assisted Housing Program could be more effective and more efficient.

The program could be more effective if it was better understood by all members of our Grand Lodge jurisdiction. To be understood it has to be explained and the explanation should be provided by District Deputy Grand Masters, Masters and Secretaries of Lodges. For their assistance the program's terms of reference, in hard copy, have been supplied to the DDGM's and the Secretaries of their lodges. Also, the Terms of Reference are prominently displayed on the Grand Lodge Web Site, through a number of indices including the side bar index Board of Trustees Freemasons' Home. It remains for the officers responsible for the administration and operation of their lodges to educate their members by explaining to them the objective and scope of the program. This education must not be confined to those members who regularly attend their lodge, but be made available also to the vast number who do not or are not able to attend lodge meetings.

There is the possibility that masons, their widows or other worthy immediate family members may be overlooked; in particular widows who may have returned to live in Nova Scotia after the death of husbands. Lodges should make discrete inquiries through any available source to ensure as far as is possible that those deserving assistance are not overlooked.

The program would be more efficient if the applications for assistance were properly completed. Most applications are not thoroughly reviewed and properly completed by lodge Masters and Secretaries before being submitted to the Assisted Housing Committee. Dis-

crepancies include insufficient financial detail of assets, monthly income and expenditures, medical history, and cost estimates of needed home repairs. When financial management assistance is needed this should be explained. Assistance already given applicants should be outlined together with planned follow up action. In this respect, the Application form, used for applying for assistance from the programme, is being modified to provide better guidance.

Each case has to be carefully considered in respect to the degree of distress being experienced by the applicant. Generally, distress is deemed to exist when an applicant is suffering hardship due to a lack of the basic necessities, e.g., food, clothing, shelter, or medical assistance not normally available from Government or other Health Plan coverage. An accumulation of personal debt as a result of unexpected calls upon income due to sickness, accident, death, or other unforeseen circumstances may create distress or cause undue hardship where the payment of such accounts would deprive the applicant of the ordinary necessities of life and when assistance is not available from family, the sponsoring Lodge or other sources.

Thoroughness must be exercised when determining whether an applicant is in a financially distressed situation or suffering hardship due to a lack of the ordinary necessities of life.

The future of the Assisted Housing Program needs careful consideration by all members of our fraternity and especially by those who are charged with administering the program.

First: there is the need to explain the existing program to lodge members and to the best of our ability ensure that no one who is deserving of assistance is overlooked.

Second: What of the future?

- Will money be available for continuing the program indefinitely?

- Will insidious encroachment on our National Health Care by private health care facilities create a need for the Assisted Housing Program to provide additional benefits?

Some insight may come from viewing developments in other jurisdictions.

For example:

The United Kingdom – The New Masonic Samaritan Fund

Established in 1990 with the active support of the United Grand Lodge of England, the New Masonic Samaritan Fund is an independent charity, which provides support for sick and infirm Freemasons, their families and dependants who are in need. The Fund gives relief to those applicants who cannot afford the full cost of private healthcare and who are unable to obtain their treatment on the UK's National Health Service without undue delay or hardship.

Conditions treated range from major heart surgery, to child ailments and many of the problems associated with old age such as: Cataracts, Prostatism, Hernias, Arthritic hips and knees.

Home Care in British Columbia:

On the topic of planning for care of an aging population, a recent British Columbia study makes a compelling case for preventive spending on "non-health" aspects of home care. At the May 2000 conference of the Canadian Health Economics Research Association, health economist Marcus Hollander, presented the findings of a study relating health outcomes to the provision of house cleaning help for elderly home-care clients.

The British Columbia government provided the opportunity for the study in 1994, when it cut these "frills" to clients who needed only

minimal health care at home. But the cuts were applied unevenly, giving researchers a chance to compare the health trends of those who lost this help with the chores and those who continued to receive it.

Their findings were instructive. After three years, the annual per-person cost of providing health services averaged \$11,903 for the group which lost homemaking services. For those who continued to get cleaning help, average per capital health costs were only \$7,808 yearly.

So, what will be the future demands on our Assisted Housing Program?

The types of assistance already provided under the Assisted Housing Program Terms of Reference include "funding for the payment of limited household assistance to cook, clean, provide transportation to appointments, etc.,"

and notwithstanding the differences between the United Kingdom and Nova Scotia in population numbers and the actual cost of similar medical care in Nova Scotia, our Canadian and Provincial governments continue to debate what constitutes Private Health Care while imposing more user fees for those using our Health Care facilities. **Will Nova Scotians be subjected, eventually, to conditions like those now imposed on the residents of the United Kingdom?** Many accounts recorded by the media indicate that many of our citizens are already subjected to similar conditions.

Regardless of the outcome of these deliberations one thing is certain. Our population is aging and there will be a continuing and expanded need for assistance from the Assisted Housing Program.

The Assisted Housing Program needs your help!

All members of our fraternity need to be made aware of the program. Lodge Committees responsible for processing the applications must be thoroughly conversant with the program and must ensure that applications are properly prepared.

Applicants seeking assistance (whether assistance is granted or not granted) must not be forgotten, but monitored to ensure that future care, if warranted, is made available.

We must be constantly aware of changing needs brought about by our ever changing society and ensure as far as is practicable and affordable that the Assisted Housing Program will meet the requirements of our needy Brethren and their families.

The Assisted Housing Program had an authorized budget of \$25,000.00 for the past year. The Program granted assistance totalling just under \$24,000.00 and there were no Long Term Care cases. This fact alone surely indicates that much, much more assistance with a correspondingly large increase in funds will be needed in the future. Requests for assistance this year have increased two fold.

Financial contributions to the Freemasons' Masonic Home should be encouraged. In the year 2000 donations totalled only \$75.00 and Bequests \$1000.00. There were no donations from District Meetings.

As Freemasons we can offer no greater love to our Masonic Brethren than to assist them when their need arises. The Assisted Housing Program can provide assistance but only if sufficient funds continue to be available.

Earl L. Banks, PDDGM

Chairman, Assisted Housing Programme Committee

ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMME *TERMS OF REFERENCE*

1. Objective:

The objective of the programme is to help masons and their immediate family members:

1. to maintain, or improve, their self sufficiency and quality of life, by assisting them to remain independent and healthy in their own homes, thus delaying, and where possible, preventing institutionalization.
- ii. when housed in a Long Term Care Facility, to ensure that items deemed necessary to promoting self sufficiency and independence in this environment will be available, if not provided through health insurance, or any governmental or like agency.

2. Scope:

A. Within the limits of funds available, the programme will make available to qualified applicants, financial assistance to defray living expenses, vital to having the applicant attain the maximum level of self sufficiency possible, which expenses exceed their financial resources.

B. Financial assistance shall be primarily directed toward having the applicant continue to live in his/her own home.

C. Types of assistance include:

- a) Funding for repairs and renovations to the home.
- b) Funding the purchase of special equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, over- bed tables, and other necessary items not covered by medical insurance. When funding is provided for such special equipment, it shall be conditional on an undertaking to return the equipment to the sponsoring lodge, when it is no longer required by the applicant. The sponsoring Lodge will advise the Programme Committee that such equipment has been returned and await instructions from the Committee on the disposition of the equipment

c) Funding for the payment of limited household assistance to cook, clean, provide transportation to appointments, etc., but not to include professional nursing care.

When funding is provided for such household assistance:

1. individuals providing assistance in the home will be engaged by the applicant, with the approval of the family members involved, but shall not themselves be a family member.
- ii. funds for household assistance will be based upon a rate of pay which is comparable to that paid for like service by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.
- iii. funds for household assistance will not exceed 20 hours per week, however, applications for a greater number of hours will be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- iv. funds for household assistance may be granted for a period not to exceed six months. Requests for continuance of funding beyond six months will require a separate application for each six month period.

3. Committee to Administer the Program:

A. The program will be administered by a committee consisting of a Chairman and two other members, appointed annually by the Board of Trustees, together with the Secretary of the Board as an ex-officio member.

B. The committee will receive, review, and process all applications for assistance in a timely manner. All applications will be treated as **"Confidential"** at all levels.

C. The committee will render advice and assistance to the lodges as needed to process applications for assistance, and will periodically ensure that the lodges are being properly informed of any changes to the programme.

D. The committee will make an oral report to the Board of Trustees at each meeting of the Board, and the Chairman will submit a written report to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees one month prior to the Annual Meeting of Nova Scotia Freemason's Home, covering the activities of the committee for the preceding twelve month period.. The oral or written reports must not disclose the name of any recipients, but may include the name and location of a sponsoring lodge, the type of assistance rendered, and the amount of the funds granted.

E. When advised by a sponsoring Lodge that equipment has been returned by an applicant, the Committee will determine whether the equipment may be used to fulfill the needs of other applicants. If another need does not exist, the Committee may cause the item or items to be donated to an appropriate organization or facility. In the event that the item or items are donated the items will be marked with a decal, designed by and provided by the Committee, which will consist of the Square and Compasses, and wording that the item is a donation by the Nova Scotia Freemasons. The Committee will encourage appropriate publicity for such donations.

4. Guidelines for Applications:

A. Requests for financial assistance will be submitted, on the prescribed forms, by the Lodge of which the applicant is a member. In the case of widows, by the Lodge of which their husband was a member. In the case where the applicant resides in Nova Scotia, but is a member of a Lodge outside of this Jurisdiction, the application will be submitted by the Lodge nearest the applicants place of residence

B. Upon a request for assistance the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and the Secretary of the Lodge, will consult with the applicant and assist with the preparation of the application, ensuring that the application is fully completed, and that the applicant fully understands the objectives of the program.

C. Before submitting an application for financial assistance, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge will confirm, to the best extent possible and in the most discrete manner, the information contained in the application, to enable him to make a recommendation to the Committee on the request. In the case of applicants who are members of a Lodge outside of this Jurisdiction, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia will be requested to confirm the masonic information.

D. The Worshipful Master and Secretary of the Lodge will:

a) Ensure that the applicant understands that any assistance granted may have some effect on his/her existing pensions/ supplements, and assist the applicant to determine the possible effect before proceeding.

b) Ensure that the application for financial assistance meets the objective of the program.

c) Ensure that the requested assistance can not be secured from MSI, R.C.N. Benevolent Fund, R.C.A.F. Benevolent Fund, Canadian Armed Forces Personnel Assistance Fund, D.V.A., or some like authority.

d) Ensure that the application, and the information contained therein will be treated as Private and Confidential. Applications shall not be discussed in open Lodge and treated as Lodge business. In this respect the Lodge secretary will keep a separate file for the recording and processing of applications.

e) Maintain an ongoing contact with the applicant to ensure that the financing provided is being expended for the purposes intended, and in conformity with the objectives of the program.

E. All applications for assistance and all correspondence related thereto will be forwarded to Secretary, Assisted Housing Program, 1533 Barrington Street, Suite 200, Halifax, NS, B3J 1Z4 and marked **"Private and Confidential"**