Grand Master’s Message

I am truly humbled by the honour you have bestowed upon me by choosing me as your Grand Master.

Your Grand Lodge Officers and I, as Grand Master, are committed to facing the challenges that must be dealt with to further develop this fraternity and this Grand Jurisdiction which we all love and cherish.

I am grateful that the Craft in this jurisdiction feels that I can be of service to them in this position.

This is not my year, it is just a new year for this great fraternity and I hope we will be able to direct it to a successful one.

I feel that we have become complacent, in the Constituent Lodges and this Grand Lodge, and that we must re-dedicate ourselves to becoming more active in our Lodges and most especially in our committees. The world around us is changing at such an accelerating pace, our choice is simple. We either adapt and thrive or we fall behind and eventually die.

We face some very serious challenges and we must learn to face them squarely, with some long-term planning and determination. The result of this complacency is an ever aging and unfortunately, shrinking membership. To survive, we must adjust our steps and embrace change. Change, when properly undertaken and adopted for the right reasons, can be a positive thing and not a negative one. I feel we must be seen in our communities to be a body of good men and a relevant force of leadership in our society.

My Brethren, we must not waste a single moment in taking the steps to do this, but we need your help and support.

We will start immediately in our aggressive campaign to promote the good works of Freemasonry throughout the communities of this Grand Jurisdiction.

We will immediately take steps to encourage Freemasons to become involved in volunteering with youth activities throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.

We will also continue our commitment of strengthening the entire Masonic family and working more closely with our Concordant Masonic Bodies, as they can help make up the strength in our Jurisdiction.

On behalf of the elected and appointed Officers of your Grand Lodge, let me assure you of our commitment and determination to try and bring this Fraternity back to its rightful place in today’s society.

As a positive thinker, I have never looked at a glass as half empty; I always consider it half full. We must improve if we plan to be successful.

Together with your help, we can and will make Freemasonry more relevant in our communities and more relevant in our Lodges. We will increase the growth of our fraternity as a vital and effective leader in our communities.

My thanks to the retiring Officers and Committees for your loyal work and support in helping us make this Grand Jurisdiction what it is. My thanks also to the newly elected and appointed Officers, thank you for accepting this challenge. We know you will freely give the support we are asking of you and we know that together we will be successful.

Again Brethren, I thank-you from the bottom of my heart for this great and honourable position you have bestowed upon me, and I hope I will meet your expectations.

Fraternally and sincerely,
M.W.B. H. Simeon (Sim) Hardy
Grand Master

Presentation Of 50 Year Jewel

The Deputy Grand Master’s Corner

With the 140th Annual Communication completed, a new slate of officers installed, another Masonic year begins. I feel both humble and proud to have been elected as your Deputy Grand Master.

Masonry faces many challenges in the months and years ahead. Freemasonry may be the world’s oldest and largest Fraternity but our numbers are shrinking. We recognize the fact that fraternalism does not seem to have the appeal which it once enjoyed. This is mostly due to our increased activity in other fields of this complex, competitive and over-organized world of technology in which we live. Various interests challenge each other for our time and talent and as a consequence, fraternalism has suffered. Members struggle to balance work, family pressures and other leisure activities.

Many lodges have lost the passion for freewheeling discussion in the lodge room, turning meetings into a repetition of degree work or unimaginative presentations when an array of interesting and provocative speakers are available. Reading the minutes and paying bills does not make for a very exciting evening. If lodges make the most of their one meeting a month by planning and making that meeting a worthwhile event and provide some social time for a member and his wife to enjoy together, the odds are the membership will stabilize and possibly grow.

How then can we create this new enthusiasm? First we must give more than lip service to the principles of Freemasonry. Masons have to let their light shine before men. To do that effectively we must understand that Masonry is synonymous with learning. We have to know the true beauty and wonders of Freemasonry.

The officers of a lodge must be attentive to the needs of the membership. You have to give the brethren a reason to come out. When meetings are interesting and educational you put enjoyment back into Masonry. Masonry is more relevant now than it ever has been. We have reached a point in time when society at large is looking for anchors to hold on to, which we can offer them. We want a man to come to lodge regularly because doing so is an event that pleases him, inspires him and enlightens him. He will learn the lessons of the Craft from men who are inspired to teach and from men who are anxious to learn. His lodge should be a place of great connections where he will meet his friends, make new ones and maybe meet his peer or mentor, maybe his customer or his competition. The younger men and the older man will meet on a foundation forged from both the familiar and the unfamiliar. In lodge both will need to yield and stand firm. Each must connect with each other as neither’s path is entirely right or wrong.

The need for Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth has never been more important than today. Brotherly Love … It is a beautiful vision, if only we humans could put it into practice.

Rt. Wor. Brother Roger E. Eisner

Grand Secretary’s Message

My Brothers:

The time is rapidly approaching for us to be thinking about presenting our Annual Administrative Workshop.

As you are probably aware, the content of these sessions is aimed mainly at the Masters’ Secretaries and line officers of our lodges. However, this workshop is open to all officers or prospective officers of all lodges in this Jurisdiction. This year the Workshop will be held at the Howard Johnson Motor Inn in Truro on October 15, 2005.

This is an all day session beginning at 9:00 a.m. and finishing on or about 15:00 (3:00 p.m.); the termination time is flexible. A lite lunch will be served in the meeting room.

Plans for this workshop are still in the formative stages but so far we have several topics which we plan to present for discussion.

- \textit{Lodge Finances and their effect on the Jurisdiction - Harold Crosby, Grand Treasurer.}
- \textit{The State of Masonry in this Jurisdiction - Bob Northup, Grand Secretary.}
- \textit{Protocol and Etiquette: This is a topic which covers a considerable span of territory and a document bearing this title will be distributed prior to the meeting date.}

This agenda is tentative and we invite your suggestions and comments. This is your workshop and it must be beneficial to you and your lodge.

Please bear in mind that we cannot hold this event unless we have at least 60 registrants and you must be registered to attend. It’s easy to register, just drop the Grand Secretary a line via e-mail, snail mail, fax etc.

Sincerely & fraternally,

M.W.B. Robert Northup
Grand Secretary

PEI Mason of the Year

While in attendance at the 130th Annual Communication of the G.L. of PEI this past June 10 and 11, Brother John Murphy of Fairview Lodge No. 126 was honoured by being named PEI Mason of the Year. Brother Murphy was reported as being totally unaware and for once - stuck for words as he accepted this prestigious award. Congratulations to Brother Murphy!
Minas Lodge No. 67

Annual Masonic Church Service

Minas Lodge No. 67, Parrsboro, conducted their annual Masonic Church Service, June 26 in Grace United Church, Port Greville (shown above). The service was attended by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Simeon Hardy, Past Grand Masters, M.W. Bro. Gordon Conrad, M.W. Bro. Art Brown, M.W. Bro. Earle MacDonald and M.W. Bro. Carson Jackson along with the DGM Rt. W. Bro. Roger Eisner, the J.G.W. Rt. W. Bro. Roy Lively and more than 130 Masons from throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and one from Iowa plus their family members who along with the congregation filled the church. Extra chairs were brought in to accommodate the overflow parishioners. The service was conducted by the Grand Chaplain, Rt. W. Bro. Gordon West who is a member of Minas Lodge. The music was under the direction of the Equitones of Equity Lodge No. 106 who were returning for the 10th consecutive year. Also returning for the 10th consecutive year was Rt. W. Bro. David Moore who piped the parade. Wor. Bro. Fabio Sarni carried the Book of Constitution, representing St. Andrews’ Lodge No. 1. Scripture readings were lead by the M.W.G.M., Rt. W. Bro. Wilson Smith, D.D.G.M. Cumberland District and Wor. Bro. Everald Armstrong, W.M. of Equity Lodge No. 106. Two beautiful solos were sung by V.W. Bro. Ken Peach of Equity Lodge. The service was dedicated to the memory of M.W. Bro. Earl Faulkner and Rt. W. Bro. Clarence Tynes who were both good friends and brothers to Minas Lodge.

50 Year Jewel Presentation

On Sunday, June 26, following the Minas Lodge Church Service, the Masons proceeded to the Age of Sail Heritage Museum in Port Greville for the Annual Memorial Service for those, from the Parrsboro shore who were lost at sea. Several Masonic Brothers from Minas Lodge were seamen or ship builders in this area with three being lost at sea. Two of the Charter Members of Minas Lodge were Sea Captains and one was a Ship’s Carpenter. Flowers were laid by the M.W.G.M., M.W. Bro. Simeon Hardy, in memory of those lost at sea.

Submitted by Bro. Harold MacAloney

On Thursday, April 28, 2005, Hudson Lodge held its banquet and installation of officers. The near capacity gathering was attended by the Grand Master and Senior Grand Lodge officers. Installing officer, Rt. W. Bro. Reg. Peyton was flawless in the installation of the Master and officers. W. Bro. Elden MacDonald was installed as Master for the ensuing year (April 2005 – April 2006).
Compassion

There was a great deal of media coverage of the aftermath of the tsunami in Indonesia regarding monetary relief and people donating themselves in service. Even though it was and still is a life threatening situation, it’s nice to know humanity can still show compassion and for that we can be grateful!

There is a saying - “We don’t need more in life to be grateful for - we just need to be more grateful in life.” Of course, it would be nice if these acts of kindness could happen without a situation being so serious.

So often we demand changes in others, but it is our own state that has the greatest impact on the world. Each of us humans, especially Freemasons walking along our own personal paths to enlightenment, has the capability to enlighten all of humankind.

A person’s potential is not the same all through life. We all have a different awareness of body, mind, and spirit — so our levels of potential and our consciousness change through life. However, we should always be striving to make positive contributions to the world and to live with ever-increasing integrity and purity.

I have come to firmly believe that when we help others even in such small ways as sharing a smile, or a kind word, an attentive ear, a helping hand, or un-noticed acts of kindness, we come closer to our own enlightenment. So very many people have found that serving others is one of the most useful routes to enlightenment or spiritual consciousness. There is also something very important regarding this last statement. WHAT you are doing is not as important as your motive or the place from within yourself that you are doing it.

For example, a person could be teaching or doing a favour for others out of a selfless motive, or out of a desire for glory or self-recognition: the first has a positive impact on the world, the second a negative impact. Do it from the heart!

The most powerful weapon for positive energy, the most powerful way to change the world, is to secretly commit little acts of compassion. By secretly, I mean it is between yourself and the one you are helping. There is no need to tell your friends and neighbours. (Don’t let the left hand know what the right hand is doing)

A small act of compassion, particularly when done spontaneously with no desire for recognition or fame or praise, - creates an explosion in the spiritual world. There is nothing quite as powerful. Everyday we must do this. And when we do it in secret, it is a thousand times more powerful.

You are a kind person, you do a small act of mercy, and a kindness comes back to you, - NOT because you expected it, not because you wanted it, but because you did an unselfish act with no expectation of reward. What you give out returns to you. This is in accordance with the laws of the universe, a divine law, one of the laws of T.S.A.O.T.U.

Always do what we can. At night we should go to sleep knowing we have tried our best, and there is no more one can do than that. Do not let all the world’s problems overwhelm you. Start somewhere, ANYWHERE, with just the smallest gesture of compassion and you have made a dent against the negative energy in the world.

When enough people are compassionate enough times, (through acts of kindness, honesty, gratitude to God, prayer, etc.) then a spiritual transformation will spread in this physical world with the rapidity and infectiousness of a contagion and will spread to include everyone everywhere.

If brotherly love and compassion took over the world, then humankind would make a giant leap forward and spiritual consciousness (enlightenment) would be at a level where God’s will could be done one earth.

A Salute To Veteran Brother Percy Buzza

Rt. Wor. Brother Percy Buzza was honoured in a tribute to veterans published by The Chronicle Herald this past June 29. Brother Percy was always very active in the Fraternity until he fell ill and was required to become a full time resident of Camp Hill Hospital.

With his long list of heroic accomplishments behind him, Percy has a lot to be proud of and proud he is. He is in his 55th year of marriage to his junior high school sweetheart, Kathleen, and has one daughter and two beautiful granddaughters. Percy has been living at Camp Hill for over four years now and sees his family regularly.

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Photo courtesy of Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre Foundation.

Celtic Prayer

May those who love us, love us.
And for those who do not love us,
May God turn their hearts.
And if he can’t turn their hearts,
May he turn their ankles,
So we know them by their limping.
50 Year Jewel Presentation To Rt. Wor. Brother Noel Brooks

Right Worshipful Brother Noel Brooks was born in Weymouth North, near Digby, Nova Scotia. He left home at an early age to work for Nova Scotia Power. He worked in several areas of the Province before settling in Cape Breton, where he worked until retirement. Noel ended his career working as a supervisor with the Power Company in St. Peter’s District.

In 1955, Noel joined Richmond Lodge No. 97. In St. Peter’s in 1964 he was appointed Grand Steward. In 1967-68 he was District Deputy for Cape Breton South. He was also appointed Grand Representative for Alabama.

In 1989, Noel and his family moved to Truro, where he affiliated with Fellowship Lodge No. 112. He was made an honorary member of Truro Lodge No. 43.

Noel is also a member of the Central Shrine Club and plays an important part in fund-raising to help the central children’s hospitals for North America and in particular the one in Montreal.

For most of us who have known Noel, he is always upbeat, and ready with a smile. He is a mentor to others, especially the younger members.

It was a special evening for Noel and his family, and the Lodge was pleased that his wife, Estelle was there to witness the event.

Fellowship Lodge No. 112 are very pleased to have this opportunity to honour Rt. Wor. Bro. Noel. Congratulations Noel.

Submitted by Rt. Wor. Bro. George O’Leary

50 Year Jewel Presentation

The following pictures were taken at Corinthian Lodge No. 63 in Great Village. The occasion was the 50 year jewel for Very Worshipful Brother B.W. (Ray) Hyslop held on May 12, 2005.

Pictured are V. Wor. Bro. Rt. Wor. Hyslop and Grand Master of Masons in Nova Scotia Most Worshipful Brother Earle C. MacDonald and Right Worshipful Brother George O’Leary DDGM of Colchester County.

Pictured are Brother Todd Hyslop (son of Ray) and the newest member of Corinthian at the time (we did raise another brother that night, Brother Jim Lamont), Lois Hyslop, Ray’s lady, V. Wor. Bro. Rt. Wor. Hyslop and Grand Master of Masons in Nova Scotia Most Worshipful Brother Earle C. MacDonald and Rt. Wor. Bro. George O’Leary DDGM of Colchester County. Bro. Joseph Morrison is visible in the back right hand corner of the picture.
Freeport Lodge No. 65

It is not unusual to hear of a Brother serving more than one year as Master of his Lodge, but V.W.Bro. Clifton Lyons Outhouse has probably set a record. The following picture shows Rt. W. Bro. Ron Kinney of Tuscan Lodge No. 111 installing V.W. Bro. Clifton Outhouse as Master of Freeport Lodge No. 65 for the eighteenth time. His first term as Master was in 1955. He has also been treasurer (1959) and was P.G.S. (1965).

Brother Clifton Outhouse was initiated to the mysteries of Freemasonry on December 18, 1947, passed on January 15, 1948, and raised by his father on March 18, 1948. He is a third generation Mason as his grandfather Lyons Outhouse, was one of the charter members of Freeport Lodge No. 65.

Bro Outhouse received his Fifty Year Jewel in 1997, and has served as Master continuously since 1999. There are few, if any positions in the Lodge he has not served in at one time or another.

Bro. Outhouse served in Bomber command of the R.C.A.F. during World War II, completing 20 missions as a tailgunner and surviving a crash in England. After recovering from his wounds and returning to Canada, he was employed with the Department of Fisheries Inspection Division until his retirement. He is a charter member and Past President of Carpiquet Br. 92 of the Royal Canadian Legion. He is Past Noble Grand and still active in Rainbow Lodge I.O.O.F., currently managing their Bingo; he was the first chief of the Tiverton Volunteer Fire Department; a member of the Tiverton Baptist Church and Assistant Supervisor of Sunday School; he spent 28 years as Superintendent of Sunday Schools for the church. Bro. Clifton is involved with the local senior’s group and is a popular guest speaker at weddings and dinners.

In 2005 Freeport Lodge was recognized as a 100 year lodge. But the history of Freeport Lodge dates back to June 5, 1872. Like many small lodges it has had some difficult times but the members have been loyal and dedicated.

M.W. Bro. R.V. Harris in his writings of Freeport Lodge closed with this paragraph, “The Lodge has always been distinguished by a splendid enthusiasm and good fellowship, marred by no disagreements. Included among its members have been several who have attained Grand Lodge rank and rendered valiant service to the cause of Masonry”.

The fact that Freeport Lodge is on an island only adds to its charm. It has always attracted visitors. But in recent years the Lodge has become noted for the very tasty lobster chowders. On May 21, 1981 ten Brothers from Harmony Lodge No. 52 in Aylesford made an Official Visit to Freeport Lodge and started a tradition that is carried on to this day. The regular meeting night in May has become an annual lobster chowder event. Harmony Lodge has attended every year since 1981. Last May Brothers from fourteen different Lodges attended along with many Grand Lodge Officers.

V.W.Bro. Clifton says this will definitely be his last year as Master of Freeport. Now there are some younger and qualified Brothers to take the East and he can step aside. As he said last May at their 100 year celebration, “If you should wonder how Freeport Lodge managed to survive these one hundred years, you just need to read the honour roll. From the founding members to the present time these men have left a legacy of pride, strength and determination that the lodge would continue on and it will. There are good men in every generation”.

Material prepared by V.W.Bro. John Small, Sect. Freeport Lodge No. 65
Masonic Learning Centre For Children

The Freemasons of Nova Scotia are about to embark on an exciting new initiative. Planning is well advanced toward the opening of a Learning Centre that will offer tutoring to children who are afflicted with Dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a neurologically based, often inherited disorder, which interferes with the acquisition and processing of language. It varies in degrees of severity among individuals, and is manifested by difficulties in receptive and expressive language, including the processing of sounds in language.

It is a factor in perceiving one’s self image, in feeling less capable or successful, in causing stress, and in discouraging effort. In many cases it leads to the development of social and behavioral attitudes, which in turn frequently place heavy demands on the justice and social assistance programs of governments.

Children who suffer from Dyslexia are often labeled as “stupid.” Indeed, they often consider themselves to be “stupid” and incapable of learning. Interestingly enough, dyslexic children normally have an I.Q. well above average, but they clearly have a problem with the way their brain is structured.

Studies show that approximately 15% of the population suffers from Dyslexia. On this basis, there are over 100,000 citizens in Nova Scotia who are afflicted with this disorder, including a large number of children. Remedial programs necessary to assist dyslexic children cope with their condition are not available through the normal school programs.

The Centre will use the Orton-Gillingham tutoring process. Students identified and selected for the program will receive their instruction outside normal school hours. The selected students are required to attend two one-hour sessions a week over a twenty-six week period. Each child is assigned a specific tutor and receives all instruction from that person. The building of a secure one-on-one relationship is essential for the success of the training.

Children who receive this tutoring, on average, appear to gain one or two years growth in reading and comprehension within one year. They may gain between one and four years in a test of phonetic skills. Amazing results, since the child at the commencement of the tutoring is normally two years below grade level in his/her reading skills.

The tutoring instruction will be totally free to the families of those children who participate in the program. The cost of operating the Centre will be covered by fundraising activities carried out by the Steering Committee. A significant portion of the annual operating costs has already been secured.

The Learning Centre will be located at 1A Boland Road in Dartmouth. The Centre will be staffed by an Administrator, tutors, and other support personnel. All of these positions will be filled by volunteers.

Those who are accepted as volunteer tutors will be trained in the Orton-Gillingham system at no cost to themselves. Any person in possession of an undergraduate degree is eligible to volunteer as a tutor.

The Planning Committee for the Centre is now recruiting persons who have an interest in becoming involved in this most worthwhile project. Any person interested in becoming a part of this exciting new initiative may contact Ian MacRae at 864-8399, or Harold Crosby at 429-3607, or by e-mail at dyslexiacentre.hfx@ns.symaptico.ca; or at the website www.dyslexiacentre.hfx.com.

This new initiative will make a tremendous difference in the lives of the children who receive the tutoring as well as to their families.

It will also clearly demonstrate to the public that “Freemasons Care – Freemasons Share”.

Submitted by M.W.B. Harold Crosby, Grand Treasurer

Queens Lodge No. 34
Installation Banquet

G.M. Earle C. MacDonald presents a 50 year Jewel to Bro. Anderson who is accompanied by his wife. Also in the photo is Rt. Wor. Bro. Eric D. Etsnor DDGM Antigonish/Guysborough Masonic District.

Special Presentation

On June 22, 2005 one of our own was recognized by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind for his outstanding service to those facing vision loss. Phil Beeler is chair of the Kentville campaign for the CNIB as well as other charitable and fund-raising committees. In presenting the award Mr. Dennis McCormack, on behalf of the CNIB, made a special note of Phil’s life of service, goodwill and empathy to those needing a hand, those needing encouragement and guiding light when dealing with the isolation that can be caused by vision loss. Phil works very hard to make dreams come true for those less fortunate and we as Freemasons tip our hat to Brother Phil Beeler.

Rt. Wor. Brother Phil Beeler is a member of Scotia Lodge No. 28 in Kentville.