Grand Master’s Message

First, I want to thank the Brethren of this jurisdiction for the honour of having been installed as your Grand Master. Your support is most appreciated and you can be assured that I will do my utmost to fulfill the duties of this distinguished office.

To the Grand Lodge officers who have been elected or appointed, my congratulations to all of you. My wish is that you have a rewarding and satisfying year. I ask that all Grand Lodge Officers encourage visitations within their Districts and whenever possible to visit as many lodges as they can and promote the principles our Fraternity is based upon.

Since my installation as Grand Master I have had the pleasure to visit jurisdictions in Canada and the United States. In every instance the attendance was good. The speakers who spoke were enthusiastic and emitted a positive attitude. One could not ignore the feeling that Masonry is again “on the move.”

As many state, “We have many older men in the craft and time takes its toll”. There is nothing we can do about that fact. Despite many new men joining our ranks, we are still playing a game of “catch-up”.

There is another factor that needs to be recognized. With the world forging ahead at a dizzying pace, competition in the marketplace and in the workforce, the stress created by our ever changing lifestyles … raising a family … men today are sensing a void, that there is something missing in their life.

In his book “Swim with the Sharks without Being Eaten Alive” businessman and author, Harvey MacKay states - “That for a business to be successful in today’s society, it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure their employees have the best tools and equipment available to do their job to the best of their ability.”

It is not much of a stretch to see the similarity between the business world and our Grand Lodge. Do we provide our Brethren with the tools that are needed to make them good men, good husbands, good fathers, good leaders, be it in their lodges, their places of employment or within their communities?

In most instances I feel we do, and in recent years we have certainly improved. The use of the “Mentor Program” is certainly one of the best programs we have to help the new brother to receive proper instruction and information. It is vitally important that the new brother understands what is contained in our rituals. Having a friend and Brother beside him as he is being guided along this new adventure opens many new opportunities.

Past Grand Master Earl MacDonald stated “Let Freemasonry be restored to its rightful place in society.” Let us be recognized by our deeds and actions.

Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, concern for the unfortunate, resistance towards the wicked, help for the weak, trust in the strong, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another … and above all, reverence and Love for the Great Architect of the Universe.

Freemasonry is many things … but most of all … Masonry is a way of life!

Roger E. Eisner, Grand Master

What Is The All-Seeing Eye?

The eye was a symbol of God before Old Testament days, in Egypt and India. The words do not appear in the Great Light. The eye upon United States paper money, while a symbol of the Great Architect was not selected by Masons. The Psalmist expresses the symbol’s meaning with the words (Psalm 121:4) “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”

Source: MSA Digest Masonic Vocabulary
Deputy Grand Master’s Message

Brethren it is difficult to believe that a new Masonic season is on the upswing for another marvelous year! It seems like yesterday that we were traveling to our Annual Communication in Truro, in June. However, I am truly looking forward to my journeys throughout the jurisdiction and seeing as many of you as I can throughout my Masonic travels.

As your Deputy Grand Master I wish to thank all of the Brethren for your continued support during my years as a Grand Lodge officer. I have traveled throughout this fine jurisdiction during the past three years and have enjoyed every minute that I have spent visiting you in your lodges, having wonderful fellowship after regular meetings, at award dinners and ladies nights, helping with lodge work and participating in installations, and in some cases degree work. It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be serving you and our marvelous Craft which is the largest and finest fraternity in the world. I promise to continue industriously and serve you to the best of my ability for the betterment of the Craft!

As Deputy Grand Master, within the confines of the administration responsibilities of my role, one of my duties is to serve as Chairman of the Board of General Purposes. In my travels I have learned that there are a number of misconceptions about the Board of General Purposes, its mandate, duties and responsibilities.

The mandate of the Board, according to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nova Scotia, (Constitution, Chapter V Section 3a, page 28 Board of General Purposes) is as follows:

“The Board of General Purposes shall be responsible for all matters concerning the operation of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nova Scotia.”

This basically means that the Board is responsible for maintaining and upholding the Constitution with the responsibility to ensure that the members and Lodges within our jurisdiction are working within the confines of that Constitution, its Laws and Rules. The Constitution provides us with the body of fundamental principles under which our Grand Lodge works.

It is erroneous to think that the Board of General Purposes can automatically make changes to the Constitution. Changes or additions to the Constitutions can only be made through a notice of motion (which can be made by any Master Mason in good standing) and must be presented to the Board, in writing, through the Grand Secretary, at least 120 days prior to the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and the same being stated in the summons calling the communication of Grand Lodge. (There are other explanatory notes relevant to this section and I encourage all Brethren to take the time to read their constitutions if they are looking for information in greater detail.)

It is the responsibility of the Board of General Purposes to review all such Notices of Motion to ensure that they deal with the appropriate sections of the Constitution and/or fall within the confines of the Constitution. If the Board agrees that the Notice of Motion is within the confines of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Board to bring that motion to the Annual Communication for discussion and a decision by the members of Grand Lodge who are eligible to vote. Any motion requiring a change or addition to the Constitution requires a 2/3 majority of the authorized voting members at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge (or an emergent meeting if called) present to obtain approval.

It is also the responsibility of the Board of General Purposes to enact, enforce and make changes to the Laws and Rules, when deemed necessary to ensure the Constitution is being upheld by all Brethren and Constitution Lodges within the Jurisdiction. This means that the Board can make changes it deems necessary to the Laws and Rules section of the Constitution Booklet without having those changes ratified by motions and taken to the members of Grand Lodge at our Annual Communication.

Changes to the Laws and Rules sections must also be done by Notice of Motion, once again by any Master Mason in Good Standing. The Laws and Rules sections of the Constitution deal with the operation of Grand Lodge and as stated in the Constitution, the Board is responsible for the General Operations. Therefore, it is the duty of the Board to evaluate, review those Laws and Rules and make the necessary changes from time to time.

The notice of motion for changes or additions to the Laws and Rules section shall be presented to the Board of General Purposes at the next meeting following its receipt by the Grand Secretary. The Notice of Motion must also be sent to all Lodges in the Jurisdiction for their information and comments and placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Board of General Purposes for consideration. Once again, in our Constitution it does state that for a change or addition to the Rules or Laws Sections to be carried, it requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of those members of the Board of General Purposes present and entitled to vote.

Continued on page 4
Books of Interest

The Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies and Hidden History
The ultimate A-Z of ancient mysteries, lost civilizations and forgotten wisdom

By John Michael Greer

The book covers descriptive material on secret societies, lost civilizations from The X-Files to the Da Vinci Code. From facts and theories to alternative visions of history, this unique book contains vast wealth of information.

Published by Harper Element; ISBN: 0-00-722068-5, H/C, 694 pages with bibliography and index, $40.00 Cdn. Available at most book dealers.

The Magus of Freemasonry
The Mysterious Life of Elias Ashmole-Scientist, Alchemist, and Founder of the Royal Society

By Tobias Churton

This book deals with the life and times of Elias Ashmole (1617-1692). Ashmole was no ordinary man, but a leading intellectual of the time. He is noted as the first to record his personal account of initiation into Freemasonry. A founding member of the Royal Society, an alchemist, astrological advisor to the king and creator of the world’s first public museum. Ashmole was indeed a man ahead of his time and moved with facility between the powers of earth and the active symbols of heaven. A vital transmitter of esoteric thought at a time when the laws of science were first taking hold. Published by Inner Traditions, ISBN: 1-59477122-7. S/C, 320 pages with b&w photos and illustrations, $20.00 Cdn, available at most book stores.

Words To Ponder

Faith is to the heart what wisdom is to the mind and what health is to the body.

Many times small talk is the only thing that comes out of big mouths.

Marriage: Where one rules the roost and the other rules the rooster.
Masons Giving a Brother a Better Quality of Life

Brother Jacob Hillier recently received financial support and assistance in the building of a wheelchair ramp at his residence. Members from various Lodges along with Brother Jakes' son-in-law Eddie, and grandson Scott, made the project a reality. These photos show the construction phase and Brother Jacob Hillier exiting his home in an electric wheelchair and feeling liberated at last!

Deputy Grand Master's Message...

continued from page 2

That my Brethren is why it is so important for all Notices of Motion coming before the Board to be sent to all of our Constitution Lodges prior to it being voted on at the Board or at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. All Notices of Motion should be read aloud in each Lodge and openly discussed, by all Brethren, with the intent of giving some direction, to District Representatives on the Board of General Purposes as well as the District Deputy Grand Master, outlining the feelings of the Lodge and or District respecting any Notice of Motion. That is the manner in which all Master Masons have input into how their District Representatives on the Board, their DDGMs vote when motions come before the Board and/or Worshipful Masters and Senior and Junior Wardens at our Annual Communication. Your District Representatives, DDGMs and Principal Officers of your Lodge need to hear how you are feeling about any particular Notice of Motion so that they can make a more informed decision when it comes to discussing the motion and time to vote.

I hope that this brief explanation of some of the responsibilities of the Board of General Purposes has been of assistance. For a more detailed explanation and in depth study of the Constitution I hope all Brethren will take the time to read their Constitution, Laws and Rules to obtain a much better understanding of the workings of the Board of General Purposes and the operations of Grand Lodges. The Constitution can be downloaded from the members' area downloads off the Grand Lodge Web. Please remember that the members of the Board of General Purposes are your representatives and as such want to do good work which is for the benefit of the Craft in general. But we need the assistance and input of all our Brethren in order to make things work!

I look forward to seeing you in my travels. May the Blessings of the Great Architect be with you and your families always.

Daniel G. Campbell, Deputy Grand Master

Fidelity Lodge No. 119

Members of Fidelity Lodge No. 119 paid a visit to the home of Rt. Wor. Brother Robert Walker in October. The visit was to show the Lodge’s support for Brother Bob by presenting him with an official document registering him as an honourary member of Fidelity Lodge. Brother Bob recently had surgery and is recovering at home. Shown behind Brother Bob, left to right, are Brothers Jim Withers, Lorne Urquhart, and Master of Fidelity Lodge, Al MacLellan.

Character is formed when discipline and purpose are a part of life. Where it has discipline, it will keep itself to its purpose.
Keystone Lodge No. 102

On the evening of November 1, 2006, R. W. Bro. Bill Burtt, DDGM., Colchester District made his official visit to Keystone Lodge No. 102 in Tatamagouche, NS. Prior to the opening of Lodge a visit was made to two Brethren who are unable to attend lodge meetings, for the purpose of presenting service awards.


Masonic Foundation Program Changes

The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia has recently made changes to its program structure to significantly improve the ability of Lodges to participate in Shared Funds Programs. The following is a summary of a committee report which recommended those changes. The full report is posted as an article on the Grand Lodge web site.

The committee first reviewed existing documentation very carefully and decided that the mission statement should be the guide for all programs. In particular the statements “… to encourage, among the members of the fraternity in Nova Scotia, the active practice of benevolence and charity …” and “The overriding objective of joint programs is to engage Masons through their lodges or districts, in providing personal service and/or financing to promote a program which addresses a social or financial need within the jurisdiction.” are significant in charting the way ahead. The committee found that all of the existing Foundation program categories continue to be valid and that there is no need for additional categories. However there is a need for a significant shift in emphasis. The program categories that most meet the mission are Benevolence (which includes Assisted Housing) and Joint programs. Except for the scholarship program, which is very nearly at a maximum level, these two categories are very much under-utilized. Anecdotal evidence suggests that Assisted Housing and benevolence in general could and should be more widely used by lodges and this is starting to happen as awareness grows. It is known from experience that the majority of lodges are not participating in Shared Funds Programs with the Foundation.

Accordingly the committee determined that the emphasis should be on benevolence which includes assisted housing, and on shared funds programs. This is not to say that the Foundation should not in future take on any centrally funded programs. Indeed, allowance is made for up to $10k per year to be spent on such programs. However, when one of these programs is supported, it will be of the lowest priority for funding, and the duration of funding should normally be determined up front. The exception is the Masonic Learning Centre which is a unique centrally funded program that must have stable, long term funding.

To expand both benevolence and shared funds programs there is a very strong need for a pro-active information strategy to educate lodges on the totality of programs available and how to access them. It is expected that this knowledge will lead to greatly increased participation in both Assisted Housing and Shared Funds programs. Two key components of the information strategy are production of an information booklet, and knowledgeable Masons willing to be Foundation representatives in each district.

The principle program change in the shared funds program is to change the funding ratio from 50/50 to 75/25 as

Continued on next page

Being generous with praise and cautious with criticism will cause people to strive for even more.
50 Years a Mason, 50 Years a Brother, 50 Years At Ashlar Lodge No. 107

On May 25, 2006, Very Worshipful Brother Ivan Roy Kent, of Ashlar Lodge No. 107 was presented with his 50 year jewel, by then Most Worshipful Grand Master H. Simeon Hardy. Brother Ivan was the youngest of 11 children, 2 girls and 9 boys, 2 of the boys died at a young age, which left 7. What is interesting here is those 7 boys all became Masons, but only 2 in the same lodge (Ashlar No. 107) while the other 5 joined other lodges and some in other areas.

Brother Ivan was Master of Ashlar Lodge in 1967, while that same year his older brother was Master of St. Margaret’s Bay Lodge No. 118. Over the past 50 years Brother Ivan has been dedicated to his lodge, holding just about every office in the lodge. He only missed a few years when he didn’t hold an office at all, but in those years he was either filling in or helping with other work of the lodge.

But in May over 15 family members from children to grandchildren to great grandchildren along with friends, his wife of over 50 years and over 40 brothers came out to support and share this day with Brother Ivan Kent.

What better way can a Masonic brother support his fellow Masons than to be there on the days that are special to them. On behalf of Ashlar Lodge, Worshipful Brother Gordon MacDonald, the ruling master presented Brother Ivan with a Gavel (made by Right Worshipful Brother James Taylor) on behalf of 50 years service to Ashlar Lodge.

Attending that night along with the Grand Master, was the Grand Senior Warden, the Grand Junior Warden, a Past Grand Master, 2 District Deputy Grand Masters, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, a District Grand Director of Ceremonies, 2 Grand Stewards, and several past Grand Lodge officers. Over 10 lodges were represented that night.

Submitted by Very Worshipful Brother Tom Rogers, Historian, Ashlar 107

Masonic Foundation Program Changes...

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an incentive to get more lodges participating. The funding cap for the Foundation share will be $1500. This means that a Lodge that can only raise $50.00 for a project would receive $150.00 from the Foundation for that same project for a total of $200.00. A Lodge that can raise $500.00 would receive a Foundation match of $1,500.00 for a total project funding of $2,000.00. The committee expects that encouraging more lodges to participate in shared funds will also lead to an increase in assisted housing requests.

I hope that this overview of the major changes has given you a good indication of the new thrust of the Masonic Foundation and how your lodges, your members and your communities can benefit from Foundation programs.

Fraternally,
Jim Cale
For Masonic Foundation

C.W. Saunders Lodge No. 125

At a recent meeting of C.W. Saunders Lodge No. 125, then M.W. Grand Master Simeon Hardy was in attendance and presented V. Wor. Brother David Miller with his sixty-five year bar.
CONGRATULATIONS

To the High School Graduates of 2006 Who Have Received Scholarships of $500.00 to $1500.00
Provided by The Freemasons of Nova Scotia

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Royal Albert Lodge No. 19

Monday, June 19, was a bright and humid evening when the DDGM picked up a few lodge members and headed to Leitches Creek. Together with a few more cars of lodge members we were ready to make our presentation. Bro. Norton Clark received his 65-year bar. Bro. Clark was overwhelmed and thanked all who came and sent his regards to the Lodge.

Half an hour or so later, Wor. Master Rev. Ritchie Robinson opened Royal Albert No. 19 and the presentations of 50 and 55-year jewels were made.

From left, 55-year bar to Bro. David Smith and 50-year jewels to Bro. John Gunn, DDGM Gordon MacLeod and Bro. George MacKegan. Congratulations were bestowed to all.


Congratulations...
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Jennifer McKee Lodge of Saint Mark No. 38 Lauren Adams Wentworth No. 108
Brittney Pickrem Lodge of Saint Mark No. 38 Anthony Griffiths University No. 110
Mary Bateman Acacia No. 39 Chantelle Nicole McQueen University No. 110
Robin Brazil Acacia No. 39 Jacqueline Nguyen University No. 110
Courtney Thompson Rothesay No. 41 Bronwyn Zahra University No. 110
Kara Dawn Logan Eureka No. 42 Jessica Comeau Tuscan No. 111
Janet MacDonald Eureka No. 42 Dennise Green Fellowship No. 112
Duncam M. Gibb Truro No. 43 Claire Lederman Fellowship No. 112
Ryan J. Moore Truro No. 43 Kailee MacDonald Sunrise No. 116
Annie Beth Oldford The Tyrian Youth No. 4 Alison Fraser St. Margaret’s No. 118
Breagh Long Solomon No. 46 Madeline Burton Fidelity No. 119
Jill Marie McSorley Solomon No. 46 Kristen O’Reilly Duke of Kent No. 121
Bethany Elsie Messenger Philadelphia No. 47 Nicole Schnare Duke of Kent No. 121
Kara Leanne Smith Philadelphia No. 47 Oui Tong John Albro No. 122
Meagan Best Widow’s Son No. 48 Sara Hart John Albro No. 122
Rachel Brookins Widow’s Son No. 48 Daksh Talwar C.W Saunders No. 125
Theresa Crowley Widow’s Son No. 48 Khrysty Stymer Ad Astra No. 130
Christina Ripley Widow’s Son No. 48 Kelly D. Morres Horton No. 132
Ellen Breen Western Star No. 50 Allison Marie Sheffield Horton No. 132
Mandi O’Connor Western Star No. 50 Angeladayle Lynn Sheffield Horton No. 132
Patrick J. Holland Eastern Star No. 51 Marilyn Mallory Taylor Horton No. 132
Michael Marchand Eastern Star No. 51 Celina Mattson Norwood No. 135
Meghan Geauvreau King Solomon No. 54 Rebecca Reeves Noorwood No. 135
Sarah Flemming Clarke No. 61 Leah Bercovitch Timberlea No. 136
Rebecca D. Mills Clarke No. 61 Christopher Gilks Sackville No. 137
Dallas Decker Taylor No. 62 Kiya Wagg Sackville No. 137
Justin Henwood Corinthian No. 63 Jordon Warford Sackville No. 137
Jessica Flynn Freeport No. 65
Dana Lent Freeport No. 65
Jennifer Gloria Austin Sircom No. 66
Colin David Davis Minas No. 67
Jessica Dawn Wheaton Minas No. 67

The Freemasons of Nova Scotia are a fraternity whose members are 21 years of age or older and believe in God. We believe in an ethical way of life and being altruistic in our concerns for humanity: If you would like to be a Freemason, ask one! We are pleased to financially assist these young men and women pursuing a post secondary education from a degree granting institution in Atlantic Canada or a community college in Nova Scotia.