A Farewell Message

To all Lodges, Secretaries, and Members of the Masonic Fraternity under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia:

Friends all:

Words do not seem to be nearly adequate enough to express my deep joy and appreciation to the Masonic Family across the Province of Nova Scotia for the many cards, gifts and monetary donations that I have received in recognition of my recent retirement after thirty-five and one-half years as Secretary to the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

Thank-you also to those of you who were able to attend my retirement dinner on January 6, despite the inclement weather conditions. It is my understanding that sixty-six people were in attendance. This was a wonderful evening, one that I shall remember and cherish for a long time to come. It was a real opportunity for my co-workers, the Masons and their spouses, to meet my family, and for the family to meet those with whom I have spent the last thirty-five and-a-half years of my working career.

To those who made this dinner possible, and to those who participated as the evening unfolded, I extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the honour thus bestowed upon me. My deepest gratitude too, for the laptop computer and all its equipment presented to me at the close of the evening!

Over the years, I have made many friends throughout the Fraternity, and I trust that our paths will cross again as we continue along life’s journey.

Again, many thanks, and I pray that God will richly bless each and all of you.

Sincerely,
Ardith E. Pye
(formerly) Secretary to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Grand Lodge Nominations

Nominations for Junior and Senior Grand Wardens, and Deputy Grand Master, must be sent to the Grand Secretary by registered mail postmarked no later than April 5, 2007. Please mark Nomination on the outside face of the envelope.

Presentation of 50-year Jewel

On The Level

Brethren, as Masons we always talk about Masons meeting ‘On The Level’ but what exactly does ‘meeting on the level’ truly mean?

I am certain that it means something to each and every one of us. Yet in the same light means something different to all brethren as we often interpret our allegories and symbolism individually.

Masonically, the Level, as a working tool, is a symbol of equality. We do not mean equality in wealth, social distinction, civic office, or service to mankind but refer to the internal and not the external, qualifications of a man. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity which is spiritual, and should not be subject to man-made distinctions. The quality practiced in Masonry recognizes that one man may have greater potential in life, service, or reward, than another; but, we also believe that any man can aspire to any heights, no matter how great! Thus, the Level dignifies labour and the man who performs it. It also acknowledges that all men are equal without regard to station.

Yet ‘meeting on the level’ is more than acknowledging that all Masons are equal without regard to station within the lodge. To gain a better understanding we have to take a closer look at the word ‘equal’ and what it means within the Masonic sense.

It is in the free and friendly air of a lodge of Masons, about an altar of obligation and prayer, that the principle of equality finds its most perfect and beautiful expression. There, upon the Level, the symbol of equality, rich and poor, high and low, prince and plain citizen — men of diverse creeds, parties, interests, and occupations — meet in mutual respect and regard, forgetting all differences of rank and station, and united for mutual respect and regard, recognizing that we all spring from the same stock, and share in the same hope; and although distinctions partake of the same nature, and share in the same hope, yes my brethren, the Level demonstrates that we all spring from the same stock...

On The Level

Brethren let us all work together forgetting our petty differences by deliberately and diligently working toward the building of that truly spiritual edifice whose basic tenets and foundation must be inculcated through brotherly love, relief and truth. Let us all “Meet upon the Level and Part upon the Square”!

Submitted by Bro. Daniel G. Campbell
Learning Centre For Dyslexic Children Off To A Good Start

The Learning Centre for Children held its Official Opening on Sunday September 17, 2006.

Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Roger Eisner, Grand Master of Masons in Nova Scotia, and Ill. Bro. C. Robert Townshend the Sovereign Grand Commander of Scottish Rite Masonry in Canada, participated in the ceremonies, which included the traditional of cutting the “ceremonial ribbon”. Approximately seventy-five people were in attendance, making for a very full house. Following the ceremonies the attendees enjoyed a light lunch provided by the “Chowder Chicks” of the Port Wallis United Church.

The Centre has seven volunteer tutors who are delivering remedial tutoring to eight dyslexic children. The children range in age from nine to sixteen years. The children received their first tutoring session on October 20, 2006. Each of the children is receiving two one hour tutoring sessions each week, outside of the normal school hours. The Centre operates Monday to Thursday and on Saturday morning.

While the children have been in the program for only three months, several parents have reported that already they are observing an improvement in their child. This indeed is good news.

The program uses the Orton-Gillingham Approach. This program has been used by the Masonic Learning Centres in the United States for many years and has proven to be very effective in assisting children to learn to cope with their learning disability.

The tutors are required to undergo forty-five hours of training in the Orton-Gillingham Approach. The training is being delivered by Barbara Labrecque, the Director of the Portland, Maine, Learning Centre for Children. She comes to the Centre each month for two or three days. During these visits she delivers lectures on the Approach and observes a tutoring session with each of the tutors to assist them in their development. The tutors are approximately halfway through their training. The schedule calls for the training to be completed by the end of June.

As information concerning the Centre spreads through the community, parents who are desperate to find help for their children, are inquiring about having their children enrolled in the program. Applications from four additional children have been approved for admission into the program, but they cannot be admitted until additional tutors have been recruited and trained. A number of other applications have been received and they are in the process of being evaluated.

The principal challenge now facing the Governors of the Centre is the recruiting of additional tutors and the appointment of a Director to oversee the ongoing operations.

With more tutors enlisted in the program, more children can be helped to cope with their learning disability.

Inquiries would be welcomed from those who possess an undergraduate degree and have a genuine interest in helping to make a positive impact on the life of a child.

More information about the Center is available on the Centre's website. The address is www.dyslexiacentrehalifax.com. The Centre may be contacted by telephone at (902) 405-3895.

Submitted by Harold Crosby, G.T.

Books Of Interest

Meditations on Masonic Symbolism

By John R. Heisner

This book gives a spiritual in-depth explanation of many of the common symbols and wordings of our fraternity. Many of the short articles begin by saying what lesson we as Freemasons are being taught. This book conveys the message about mankind’s relationship to God. The contents are the opinions of the author, however they do not preach, they convey a message in a very practical and responsible manner.


Rosslyn Revealed

A Library In Stone

By Alan Butler and John Ritchie

This book covers in detail the carvings which are found both inside and out of Roslyn Chapel. This small gothic masterpiece situated near Edinburgh was built in the 15th century and contains many mysteries which these two authors deal with in detail. Much evidence is put forward to give new insight to the previously unknown facts about its origin. Both authors are well qualified with over 12 years of research behind them.

Annapolis Royal Lodge No. 33

On Sept 6, Annapolis Royal Lodge No. 33 brethren, ladies and visitors filled the lodge to capacity for the presentation of the 60 year bar to Rt. Wor. Bro. E. “Kirk” Whitman by our Grand Master M. Wor. Bro. Roger Eisner. Kirk’s wife June also attended west of the alter during the presentation.

Submitted by Rt. Wor. Bro Dennis Buchanan J.W. Annapolis Royal No. 33.

Annapolis Royal No. 33 had a “full house” recently. Two rows of seats on both sides. Usually they do well to have 8 or 10. The second picture is Keith Lodge No. 16, on September 11. Again a full house - the first time in many years. Their usual turnout is 5 or 6.

Submitted by Roger E. Eisner, Grand Master

What Is The Tilers Oath?

Declaration of a visitor that he has been regularly initiated, passed and raised and does not stand suspended or expelled.

Source: MSA Digest Pocket Masonic Dictionary
Broom And Gavel Bonspiel


Some excellent curling shots were made by the brethren who enjoyed both games and fellowship on the ice, 50/50 draws, and many prizes.

A boisterous banquet held on Saturday evening included an excellent roast beef dinner, many great door prizes and guest speaker, MW Bro. Roger Eisner who remarked that he was very impressed with the camaraderie shared by all present.

The Sunday draws included the finals for all 5 divisions with the winning teams collecting their trophies and prizes after some tough competition.

Division Winners:
- "A" Division
  Fairview Lodge No. 126
  Runner-up
  Fellowship Lodge No. 112
- "B" Division
  Royal Sussex Lodge No. 6 (Team 1)
  Runner-up
  Clarke Lodge No. 61
- "C" Division
  Western Shore Lodge No. 50
  Runner-up
  Acacia Lodge No. 8 (Team 2)
- "D" Division
  Ashlar Lodge No. 107
  Runner-up
  W.D. Lawrence Lodge No. 101
- "E" Division
  Acacia Lodge No. 8 (Team 1)
  Runner-up
  Harmony Lodge No. 52


The bonspiel committee of C.W. Saunders Lodge No. 125 would like to thank all of you who helped in any way to make the 2007 edition of the “Broom and Gavel” the great success it was.

A special note of thanks to Rt. Wor. Bro. Gary Beattie of W. D. Lawrence Lodge No. 101 for his generous support of prizes.

Next year, the 2008 Edition of our “Broom and Gavel” bonspiel will be hosted by Stewiacke Lodge No. 98 who have already booked the ice time and started to make plans.

Thank you and good curling...

V. Wor. Bro. Phillip Randall
C.W. Saunders Lodge No. 125
Bonspiel Committee
District Meeting

The District Meeting of the Masonic Lodges of Cape Breton Centre was held on 18 October, at the new lodge rooms of Royal Albert Lodge, North Sydney. The Deputy Grand Master of Masons for Nova Scotia, MW Bro. Daniel Campbell was in attendance and presented Rt. Hon. Bob Muir, Royal Oak No. 85, with a 60 year bar. The DGM presented 50 year jewels to Wor. Bro. Roy B. Pushie and Bro. Dr. Coleman G. Lecker both of MacKay No. 113. Certificates of office were also presented to DDGM Rt. Wor. Bro. Gordon MacLeod, DGDC V. Wor. Bro. George Standing, and DGC V. Wor. Bro. Ray Nicholson of Royal Albert No. 19.

(Photo's by DGDC Bro. George Standing)

Are The Tracing Board And The Trestle Board Masonically The Same?

No. The tracing board bears upon it representations of the several symbols of one or all the degrees; the trestle board is that drawing board, supported upon a trestle, on which anciently, the Master Builder drew his designs. In early lodges Masonic symbols were drawn upon earth or floor with charcoal or chalk; these were erased when the meeting was over. Later, such symbols were presented upon a permanent surface and became the Master’s Carpet, and today in many lodges are to be seen upon oil cloth or canvas, pointed out by a Deacon during the delivery of the lecture.

Trestle board appeared at least two hundred years ago, mentioned in Prichard's Masonry Dissected, early exposé of Masonic ritual. Mackey considers that the Volume of the Sacred Law is the trestle board of modern Masons.

Source: MSA Digest 101 Questions About Freemasonry
Your Giving, Your Sharing

An Introduction to the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia

Charity is a Cornerstone of the Freemason’s way of Life

The mission of the Masonic Foundation is to encourage the active practice of the Masonic Principles of Benevolence and Charity, and to promote a positive image of Freemasonry in the Community.

Charity is often seen as the public face of Freemasonry. Freemasons’ charity in Nova Scotia is best known through benevolence, care for the aged, hospitals, learning centres for dyslexic children, and financial support for students pursuing higher education; but there is much more being done than is generally recognized.

It is a little known fact that Freemasons’ work is widely applied to the general public and most often directed at non-Masonic causes. While all Freemasons’ Lodges throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia practice charity in their own right, the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia is the body mainly responsible for the management and distribution of money for charitable purposes; including benevolent assistance given through the Assisted Home Program and shared funding with Lodges pursuing local community and scholarship programs. The Foundation’s Fund used for these endeavours is the result of the donations of Freemasons by direct giving and income from investments.

The work of the Foundation is of great significance to all Freemasons in Nova Scotia, and charitable giving is a privilege taken very seriously. As a purely private organization Freemasons are proud to be working quietly within their communities for the benefit of those less fortunate. However, this gives us no right to be complacent with our results. The amount of our donations to the Fund has not shown the increase that will ensure that we will be able to face the future with confidence. There is a need for continued individual donations from all members of our Fraternity. To enable us to be “a force for good”, as has been shown by recent and past activities, all Lodges must be more proactive in their efforts to keep our name in front of the public in a positive manner, and encourage their members to remember that one of our fundamental principles is charity.

There are a number of ways money from the Masonic Foundation reaches the Recipients.

Support for Individuals

Applications can be made to the Assisted Home Program through any of the individual Lodges in Nova Scotia. These are mainly for assistance in cases of cost-of-living relief, home maintenance and health care for Masons and their widows. Naturally, Lodges are concerned for their own members and families, and may apply for assistance on their behalf.

Support for Education

The pursuit of higher education at degree granting universities and community colleges for selected students is provided through a cost sharing scholarship program with the Lodges. In addition, the Foundation in cooperation with the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation funds the operation of a Masonic Learning Centre for Dyslexic children.

Caring for the Community

In addition to the needs of individuals, the Foundation contributes on a shared funding basis to support Lodges’ own fund-raising efforts, many of which are for assistance to community organizations. The Foundation provides guidelines which must be met in order for these applications to be approved.

Natural Disasters

The Foundation may assist people who have been adversely affected by natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fire or hurricanes. These funds are given in circumstances where immediate help is essential.

“May a Freemason’s charity have no bounds save that of prudence”.

The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia Information Booklet describing the Assisted Home Program, the Shared Funds Program, the Nova Scotia Freemasons Scholarship Program, and the Administered Program may be read from the Grand Lodge Web Site Home Page, Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia section: http://www.grandlodgens.org/

50 Year Jewel Presented

On November 4, 2006, at the annual dinner of Sircom Lodge No. 66, A.F. & A.M. in Whycocomagh, Wor. Bro. Donald W. Matheson was presented with his 50 year jewel. Several family members and Masonic acquaintances of Bro. Matheson were in attendance. In this picture, Past Grand Master Wor. Bro. Shane MacFarlane presents Bro. Matheson with his jewel.

Submitted by Wor. Bro. Fred Matthews, Secretary, Sircom Lodge No. 66.

Submitted by Rt. Wor. Earl Banks.
Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia
Members Registration Form
June 1st & 2nd, 2007

Best Western Glengarry Hotel
150 Willow Street, Truro, NS, B2N 4Z6
For Reservation Phone: 1-800-567-4276

Rooms $80.00 + Tax. Single or double occupancy.
This rate applies to a minimum 2 night stay. Guests booking rooms for two
nights and checking out after 1 night will be charged regular room rates
($102.00 single / $112.00 double per night + tax)

MEMBERS MUST BOOK THEIR OWN ROOMS

Ensure that you and your Lady are not disappointed, reservations are
Required for Banquet and Ladies Luncheon
(No tickets for these events will be available at the hotel)

Name: ............................................... Are you a Past Master? .....
Name of accompanying Lady ( for name tag ): ..........................................................
Lodge Name: ........................................ No: Location: ........................................
Present Lodge Office: ............................................................................................
Your full address: ............................................................................................... Postal Code: ........
E-mail address: ................................................................................................. Phone: ................
Are you a Grand Representative? .. If so, what G.L.? ...........................................

So that proper arrangements can be made, please indicate which of the following
events you plan to attend:

Sat. June 2nd:
  Ladies Luncheon: Yes: . No: ..
  Grand Lodge Banquet: Yes: No: .. Your Lady? Yes: No:..

Ladies Luncheon Tickets are $25.00 each.
Grand Lodge Banquet tickets are $35.00 each, $70.00 per couple.
Payment in full for all tickets must accompany this reservation form.

The Grand Master Elect has indicated his desire to have an
OPEN INSTALLATION
of Grand Lodge Officers.
Family members and guests are welcome to attend.

Please return this form with payment for tickets requested not later than May 15th, 2007 to:

Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia
1533 Barrington Street
Halifax NS, B3J 1Z4
Phone: 1-902-423-6149

Complete this Form Only If You Plan to Attend the 2007 Annual Communication