A New Slate of Officers and a New Grand Lodge for 2012-13

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nova Scotia the following officers were elected for the Masonic year 2012-2013: Bro. Reo J. Matthews, The Most Worshipful the Grand Master; Bro. Paul Franks, Deputy Grand Master; Bro. George Grant, Senior Grand Warden; and Bro. Peter Ponsford, Junior Grand Warden.

A large turn out of Masons was present to discuss a substantial change in the Constitution and the make up of the Grand Lodge. R.W.Bro. Rob Hillier made the motion to accept Master Masons as full members of the Grand Lodge with full voting rights. After a lively discussion the 

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From the Editor

Another Masonic Year has started and the slate of officers for 2012-13 has been installed. Throughout the Jurisdiction and across the country we are seeing a renaissance of the Craft. There is more interest and more talk about freemasonry then we have had in a long time. It is necessary that we all work together to take advantage of this interest but at the same time not lowering our standards or our expectations. We have a great heritage and we owe it to all those Brothers who have gone before us to maintain the integrity of the Craft. The MWTGM in his address to the Grand Lodge spoke of the return to the basics. Let us all lend him our support as we go forward to establish ourselves once more in society's eyes as the premier, fraternal organization that we are.

Remember to send in your announcements as well as your articles and photographs for inclusion in this, YOUR Nova Scotia Freemason. Submissions can be sent either through the Grand Lodge or directly to me at barryimber@gmail.com.

-Barry Imber, Editor
motion was accepted. This means that all Master masons are entitled to attend the Grand Lodge communications with fully voting rights and the ability to put and speak to motions. This is a fundamental change to the structure of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and will hopefully encourage all the members of the Jurisdiction to participate in the governance of the Craft.

There was a large turn out for the communication with invited guests representing the Grand Lodges of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Canada in Ontario, Quebec, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as well as the Concordant Bodies.

On Friday the Grand Lodge was presented with an address from the Grand Lecturer, R.W.Bro. Leigh McConnell. This address in part is included in this issue.

As an innovation to the usual structure of the Annual Communication the Lodge was put at ease at 10:00 am on Saturday morning for the purpose of holding the annual meeting of the Masonic Foundation. This meeting usually is poorly attended and it was hoped that by holding it as part of the Grand Communication more of the brethren would be present to participate. All Master Masons in the Jurisdiction are members of the Foundation and its disbursement of funds should be of interest to all. W.Bro. Jim Lamont as the Chairman of the Foundation conducted the meeting and the election of directors for the coming term. Reports on Benevolence was given by R.W.Bro. John Dollimount and the DGM, R.W.Bro. Reo Matthews gave the report on the Bursary Program.

He reported that Dalhousie University is willing to match the masonic bursaries in the same manner as St.Mary’s University. The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Barry Imber, presented in absentia the Erasmus James Philipps Medallion to M.W.Bro. John Peyton of Newfoundland and Labrador. He requested that the incoming Grand Master present the award, on his behalf, at the Newfoundland Grand Communication in October.
My Brothers, Distinguished East, Ladies and Gentlemen, Special Guests:

I stand before you today as a very humble person; a person who has learned the true meaning of humility. I must thank you for the faith and trust you have placed in me this day. When I joined this wonderful Fraternity over 30 years ago, I had no thoughts of ever being its leader. The person who got me involved, V. Wors. Bro. A. Alex S.M.Davidson, was like a father to me and I saw how much he enjoyed the Fraternity. I thought, someday I'll join that organization. To his delight and happiness, I asked to join and he raised me as a MM. A new bond grew between us, I now know the meaning of “Brotherly Love”. Alex, I know you are here with me today and proud of my accomplishment.

What does being GM mean to me?

It means leadership – Robert E. Lee said “A leader’s primary responsibility is to think of others; however, “To lead others one must master oneself.” I hope I will be able to provide leadership, team work and acceptance of the responsibility to move our great Fraternity forward. A good leader is a facilitator not a dictator, and uses consensus, compassion and understanding to achieve his goals.

One person cannot do this alone, it requires all the Brethren. We must work as a team, put aside petty differences, personal agendas and work for the benefit of this wonderful fraternity. “The great duty of life is the promotion of happiness and welfare of our fellow man.” Robert E. Lee

It is my duty as Grand Master to see that this goal is achieved in a manner befitting our great brotherhood.

President Reagan had a plaque on his desk which read: “There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he does not mind who gets the credit.” Remember, we are a fraternity – all for one, one for all. We all benefit from the success of others. Nobody gets to the top without the assistance of others; no one!! Success is earned.

Our Fraternity needs to return to the basics – the three pillars – Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; which are the mortar that binds us as one. It is a positive approach which must be strengthened at every opportunity. However, it has to begin with me! “If it’s going to be, it’s up to me” - Robert Schuller. By that I mean with each of us. You cannot love until you love yourself; you cannot be truthful until you are truthful to yourself; and you cannot give relief until you give relief to yourself. Once we are capable of achieving this, we are on the road to becoming closer to the “perfect ashlar”. Perfection is an absolute and being an absolute, it is unattainable by man. However, you do not stop attempting to achieve that perfection. All things in life are transitory and in a constant state of change, and change is the most difficult circumstance to accept. You cannot grow if you cannot change. We must be open to change and move forward with confidence that we will be successful. It may not always be easy, however, a smooth seas does not make a good sailor.

“Man may fail many times; however, he is not a failure until he begins to blame someone else.” John Burroughs

So today, we begin a journey of renewal, development and growth through sharing of ideas and hard work. All must participate in order for success to become a reality, our work has to be inclusive; permitting all to offer what talents they have.

You will notice the extensive use of the word “We”. One person cannot do it all. There has to be commitment on the part of all Brothers to see our Fraternity grow. It is incumbent on each of us to use our talents to better our fraternity by taking the responsibility to move forward. We all have something to offer.
In my research, there are three major areas of concern worldwide in the Masonic Fraternity – Leadership, Education, and Retention. We have work to do together. I issue you a challenge – work with me to make Masonry stronger. Together we can make a difference with a better understanding of Masonic concepts and practices. I wish to tell you a story about a man’s perception of making a difference. Those who have heard me give addresses; know how much I like the “Starfish Story” “It Makes a Difference” will be my goal this year.

A man is walking along a beach and off in the distance he sees a figure. He cannot make out what the figure is doing. As he gets closer, he realizes it is another man and he appears to be bending down. When he is able to get a full view, he sees the man bend down pick up a starfish and throw it in the water. He does this several times which makes the “other man” ask; “what are you doing?” “What does it look like; I am bending down and picking up a starfish to throw back in the water”. The “other man” looks around and sees hundreds of starfish on the beach and retorts “What difference is that going to make, there are thousands of starfish!” The man bends down, picks up a starfish and throws it in the water saying “It makes a difference to that one!” He does it several more times saying “It makes a difference to that one!”

My Brothers, my point is this:
It makes a difference to say thank you to a Brother
It makes a difference to say I am wrong
It makes a difference to accept a Brother for who his is not for what you want him to be
It makes a difference to discuss issues in Lodge
It makes a difference to listen to a Brother when he speaks
It makes a difference to maintain contact with all Lodge Brothers
It makes a difference to be asked
It makes a difference to care

It makes a difference to be positive
It makes a difference to help
It makes a difference to say “I love you!” - The three most important words in any language because it does not matter how old you are, how young you are, or your station in life, LOVE is the fuel of happiness, which everyone seeks and wants. To belong, accepted and understood that is to be loved!

My Brothers, it makes a difference to see the beauty of our Fraternity and all the positive things associated with it. It makes a difference to me that you are a part of, and active in, a vibrant Masonry. Remember, every time we attend Lodge, we give the greatest gift we can to each other – TIME – a precious commodity because it is limited. “Sometimes, when we are searching for something and cannot find it, chances are we already have it!” – Dr. M.E. Matthews, LLB, PhD. Let us not become blinded by the search; let us not fix things that are not broken; let us begin the search within and realize our success as a person and as a Mason.

Masonry cannot be successful if that success is based upon the individual alone. We are a Fraternity – we work together in Love and Brotherhood and that means always putting our best foot forward for the benefit of all. The only person we have some degree of control over is ourselves. Who we are and what we are becomes the image we convey to those around us. Remember, we are suppose to be practising FAITH – in a superior power; HOPE – in our future world; LOVE – for each other. All of these together create happiness and success for all. You can be a “Host to your CREATOR or a hostage to your EGO!” Wayne Dyer. The choice is yours.

The Grand Lodge Elected Officers have already had a meeting to discuss possible areas for development and growth in the Fraternity. I had to be prepared, even if there was an election for Grand Master and I had no idea of the results. It is interesting that the Report on the Condition of the Order, June 4, 2011 mentioned
five recommendations. Some of those recommendations are in the process of becoming a reality. DDGM’s will have a workshop on how to write reports; assistance will be given to Lodges to set up a workshop for outlining the duties and responsibility of each Lodge office; Educational Officers are in the process of being established in each Lodge and District; a workshop will be held dealing with District Association development with the assistance of Brothers from successful associations. District Associations are very important and in many jurisdictions, are an integral component in their Grand Lodge government.

The following areas were discussed, by the newly elected officers who strongly believe that this should be an ongoing plan and carried on by the elected officers until completed.

a) Job descriptions for Grand Lodge Officers (being done now) other than what is outlined in the Installation Ritual for Grand Lodge Officers.

b) Grand Lodge Officers will meet monthly to oversee our renewal process. This is important in order to know what issues there are and to be able to use the talents of all officers as well, it keeps all informed and on the same page.

c) Grand Lodge Officers and BOGP will work together for the benefit of all so there is consistency and a sharing of information. Communication is so very important in our organization. We should all be on the same page, working toward the same goals.

d) Grand Lodge Officers are to attend District meetings and assist in any manner requested by the District. Each elected officer has been assigned Districts to oversee and assist the DDGM’s.

e) GM will attend District Meetings and assist in any manner requested. It is incumbent upon me as Grand Master to lead and look after my Grand Lodge Jurisdiction.

f) Grand Lodge Officers will travel with the GM whenever possible so that all officers get exposed to the brethren. It also returns some of the pomp and ceremony we have lost. All Brothers are invited to travel as well. It fosters a feeling of pride and interest in our Lodges and the Brethren; a key to our success.

g) Closer coordination and work with Concordant Bodies to showcase Masonry as a fraternity and what each has to offer to the other for Masonic growth.

h) “Masonic Think Tank” with input from Master Masons that would give an opportunity to all masons to share their feelings and ideas about the fraternity and how Masonry can move forward in the 21st Century.

i) Town Hall Meetings to discuss issues in each District. These meetings will be conducted by the DDGM’s and assisted by Grand Lodge Officers. This is an opportunity for DDGM’s to know how their District feels and gives the opportunity to vent which is very important to success.

j) Review past Constitutions as a means to determine the omissions in our present document, which lacks direction and content. So as we begin this journey of renewal... I want you to know I am your GM and I am approachable. I will be in my office at Grand Lodge Offices five days a week and you are free to visit for coffee and a chat.

Together, I know in my heart, we will be successful because you care. Work with me my Brothers to rekindle the enthusiasm needed to make our Fraternity strong. Thank you for the honour you have bestowed upon me. I will do my best to meet your expectations and hopes.

May the Supreme Architect bless each and every one of you with the bounties of life He so freely gives each day and may we always be blessed with love that we can give freely to others. God Bless you All.

Reo Matthews
MWTGM
Pictures from Grand Lodge 2012
OBSERVING THE CRAFT

The following is an edited version of the presentation given by R.W.Bro. Leigh MacConnell at the Annual Communication on Friday - Ed.

There is a book titled "Observing the Craft; The Pursuit of Excellence in Masonic Labour and Observance" written by Andrew Hammer which is an excellent read. It supports the definition of the Craft "as a philosophical society which demands of its members the highest standards in all areas of its labour - a pursuit of excellence."

The book gives some great ideas what those standards are and how to carry them out. When the intellectual and spiritual lessons of Masonic philosophy are adopted, understood and practiced, the other benefits in Freemasonry naturally follow. Certainly, we joined for different reasons and each of us enjoy it for different reasons. If you believe Freemasonry is more than approving minutes, paying bills and reading correspondence - read the book. Every Lodge should read it, and have a copy available for study.

In Bro. Hammers first chapter he states, "If for you Masonry is about simple brotherhood, good times and philanthropy, and you feel you should not be bothered with contemplating anything beyond what can be easily and completely understood by all ... you have gone through all of Masonry in as much darkness as when you started ... And this is the greatest danger facing the Craft today." Bro. Hammer explicitly affirms Masonry's role as "a philosophical society ... a sacred initiatic process focused on the internal and diligent labour of each brother in attaining personal perfection". He points to the loss of this focus, "due to the many distractions in Masonry, as the cause of the Craft's falling numbers and its inability to provide a truly enlightening experience for our contemporary brethren."

Brother Hammer points out that Freemasonry is diminished when emphasis is focused away from its mission of promoting self awareness and self improvement. Masonry has its distractions and at a time when Freemasons are clamouring for education and quality events, Observing the Craft is an ideal sourcebook for Lodge leaders who desire to realize positive and lasting change. Above all, it fulfills the highest challenge of a book; it makes you think carefully about what you are reading.

Freemasonry is not, never has been, and should not be considered as necessary for everyone, and should not be offered as such. There is no sense of injustice or inequality which should accompany one's not being a Mason, any more than there is one's not being a pilot, a pianist, a mountain climber, or any other occupation or endeavour.

However, the extension of Masonry to all HAS taken place, and with it the predictable decline in the quality of Masonic meetings and events. The hunger for numbers has been substituted for the hunger of thinking and knowledge; the pursuit of popularity has replaced the pursuit of excellence. The desire to make it easy for a man to become a Mason has resulted in a fraternity that asks nothing from him, and then gives next to nothing to its members in the way of real philosophical instruction, but continues to congratulate itself in how well it mimics the social functions of service organizations.

Undoubtedly, the world we live in needs more goodness, more acts of loving kindness, and concern for one's fellow man. Masonry calls us to perform such actions as part of our obligation. But, this is not the sum of Masonry. One does not require a connection to Masonry to be charitable or do good for others. Surely every human being should be called to goodness, through their faith, or whatever ethical system they might use to guide their actions. What we must ask ourselves is: what is it about Masonry that distinguishes it from the goodness that we hope for in every human being.
OR from other benevolent organizations? Why should anyone bother to seek initiation into our institution as opposed to another group of well-intentioned people who do good things?

Because, we are not just talking about simple goodness, but rather an attempt to surpass that and make ourselves something more than we have been in every respect. It means the pursuit of excellence in every aspect of our life. It means seeking more out of ourself, and consequently seeking more out of the Craft than we might have originally done. It means a continual effort at self-development and lifelong learning, both intellectually and spiritually.

As long as a man has a heartbeat, shows up on the steps of a Lodge and has a cheque-book, 999 times out of 1000, unless he just robbed a bank, he is accepted.

How do we conduct our investigations in this jurisdiction?

Sometimes we ask the petitioner what he knows about Masonry. BUT do we ask what his reasons are for joining, what he expects to get out of it, what he can contribute to it, why we should accept him, what is it about himself he wishes to improve? Is he truly ready to embark on a journey of knowledge and self-improvement regarding his moral, intellectual and spiritual qualities. Quality of character far outweighs quantity of candidates.

In your own Lodge, how many of the last ten petitioners were rejected?

Many of the new men coming into the Craft are coming into it in search of something. They're not here because their friends or families have done it, or because it has any sort of social distinction within the community. We are living in an age of renewed inquisitiveness about the nature of things, and these men find something in our historical mystique that speaks to their souls, that calls to them to seek us out for our meaning and philosophy, not meaningless ceremonies and philanthropy.

"You cannot bring a man into the Craft by having only a 30 day interval between degrees with the expectation that the candidate will become anything other than just a number."

"Cardinal principle: each degree should be conferred on one man only."

The problem with meaningless ceremonies that are performed without understanding by the brethren and without explanation to the candidates is obvious - because if he is a thinking man, he does not have time for such foolishness. He will be looking for serious discussion about those things he has heard are found within the walls of the Lodge, - education and discussion must be the focus of Lodge meetings.

This is exactly what is confusing so many men becoming Masons today - and why they don't stay. They have sought something in Freemasonry, that they for whatever reason, have been led to believe holds meaning, or stability, or some kind of nobler order of things. They have read or heard things which led them to believe that when they submit a petition, they are on the path to joining such an organization. What they find instead is nothing distinguishable about it except the fact it has a legal claim to a name and a legacy it has no intention of living up to. No one teaches, instructs, or explains anything any further than the simple regurgitation of the ritual. We have lost these men before they are raised because we have lost ourselves. We have no one to blame but ourselves. By properly "observing the Craft", and returning to the pursuit of meaning instead of mediocrity, we can get back on track.

Bro Hammer points out, the entire group of concordant bodies considered to be Masonic, which are great distractions as well as innovations, will affirm there is nothing higher than the Craft degrees. "As Masons we have all heard the instruction that there is nothing higher than the three degrees of the Craft. But then you are solicited to join a variety of concordant bodies which you are told are Masonic, but which are not
"part of Ancient Craft Masonry." If therefore, the Craft degrees constitute the whole of Masonry, and we have everything we need in that institution, WHY is it then these bodies have become so important in the eyes of so many Masons???

Could it be because nothing was taught in their Craft Lodge and they are erroneously told they will find what they seek in these other bodies?

This return to "observing the Craft" can't start at our leadership level of elected line officers and DDGM's. They only have a year in office. It has to start at the Lodge level because it takes years to happen.

Many jurisdictions have the luxury that when a petitioner comes to a Lodge, they will find where his interests lie and suggest to him the appropriate Lodge that has emphasis on either socializing, charitable works, ritual work or education. We in this jurisdiction have no Lodge that focuses on the philosophical aspect of Masonry. Why can't we have some Lodges for brethren who want this aspect of Freemasonry?

I share the same opinion as Bro. Hammer; that "every man entering the Craft should be able to have the opportunity to be able to learn, practice and improve himself with other like-minded men in the setting of the Symbolic Lodge". Is that not what many of us thought we came here to do?

Leigh MacConnell
PGL

To order "Observing the Craft" by Andrew Hammer, (paperback - 155 pages). Type "mindhive books" into any search engine, Look for: "Mindhive Books - Observing the Craft - Canadian sales" ($21 with S&H), OR check with Bro. Owen Walton who has ordered extra books.

MONEY RAISED FOR BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Over Christmas a print donated by Cst. Gary Smith (Retired), was raffled as a fundraiser for the Annapolis Valley Regional School breakfast programs. Gary is the DDGM of Kings District Masons and they pledged to triple all funds raised. All the tickets were sold, including almost 200 that were purchased by members/employees of the RCMP. Last week the winning ticket was drawn during an assembly at Coldbrook and District Elementary School. A resident of Kentville was the lucky recipient.

Approximately $5,000.00 is being donated to the school breakfast program by Valley Masons.
THE HISTOR Y OF TRURO LODGE

The History Book presents a yearly account of The Lodge’s activities from its founding in 1867 to 2011 as well as a Summary account (The Story in a Nutshell). Furthermore, there is an account of the relocation to the new Masonic Center on Pictou Road. Short biographies are included for two outstanding Masons, Walter Bell and Dr. E E I Hancock.; Dr. Hancock died in 2008 at the grand age of 106. It is thought that he was Canada’s oldest mason at the time. There is also a very brief History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia.

The original research and writing of the historical account for the period 1867 to 1987 is the work of Tom Nutter. Later additions were done by Charles MacKinlay and Lloyd Spicer. This recorded History of local Freemasonry will be available for reference and research at our library.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

From left to right: R.W.Bro. William MacLeod, DDGM; M.W.Bro. Alan Jackson, Senior PGM; W.Bro. Wilf Collis and his wife; M.W.Bro. Barry Imber.

In Royal Albert Lodge in North Sydney a remarkable event took place in May. The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Barry Imber gave the honour of presenting W.Bro. Wilf Collis’ 50 Year Jewel to M.W.Bro. Alan Jackson. The reasoning was simple - M.W.Bro. Jackson, then W.M., had raised Bro. Collis to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason 50 years ago. There cannot be many occasions when this has happened!

(And it was great to see MWBro. Jackson in Grand Lodge earlier this month! - Ed.)
This story begins in July, 2002 when two Masonic families met during a Rainbow Girls Supreme Assembly in Florida. Brother Owen Walton and his wife Shirley met Brother Larry Gullet and his wife Shelly. The Gullets are from Nashua, New Hampshire and Larry is a member of Rising Sun #39. They quickly became very close friends.

During a visit to John Albro Lodge in 2004, Brothers Gullet and Walton suggested the two Lodges visit each other; a major undertaking, as the Lodges are 1200 km’s apart. This would be the biggest event John Albro Lodge had ever attempted. After months of planning, thirty-three Brothers from thirteen different Lodges departed on May 12, 2005 for Nashua, New Hampshire. To make the trip even more memorable, Brother John Watson would receive the Master Masons degree.

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, the Brothers from Nova Scotia were received and greeted by Rising Sun #39. After the introductions, the Lodge was turned over to John Albro to confer the Master Mason Degree with the Drama exemplified in full costume. It was a huge success and the brethren still talk about the friendships they made on that trip and continue to enjoy.

The following year, sixty-six Brothers and their ladies made a return visit. A day in the Lodge to confer the third degree and a night at Hatfield Farms for a pig roast was all that was needed to
ensure the visitations would continue. Every visit has been special and memorable, renewing friendships and starting new ones.

For Rising Sun, the most memorable visit to John Albro was in 2010. The meeting took place on the morning of Saturday, May 23, during a hurricane. Thirty minutes into the meeting, the storm knocked out the power. The room went dark and silent. The curtains were withdrawn and the meeting continued with the light from outside. Not even mother nature was going to stop this Fellow Craft degree.

The John Albro Lodge visit to Rising Sun in July of 2011, was particularly memorable as many of the forty-four Brothers and their families made the trip into family vacations. For the Master of the Lodge, Vern Miller, it was especially memorable, as he raised his son Daniel, to the sublime degree of a Master Mason during the Saturday meeting. The charge to Brother Miller, was delivered by MW Brother Barry S. Imber, Grand Master of Nova Scotia. MW Brother Paul Leary, Grand Master of New Hampshire delivered “The Canadian Charge” to Brother Miller. Two charges from two Grand Masters, a beginning in Masonry he will never forget. On Saturday, July 7, 2012, Rising Sun Lodge will again visit John Albro Lodge. This will be the eighth visit between the two Lodges since 2005. This year, they will be exemplifying the Master Mason degree using the New Hampshire ritual. On Friday evening, the group will be taking in the Nova Scotia International Tattoo. Saturday evening we will be hosting a banquet followed by fellowship. These visits have created many strong friendships that will last a lifetime. The memories and the fellowship we have enjoyed over the past eight years is priceless. We extend to you, an opportunity to join us on Saturday, July 7, 2012 to meet our friends and Brothers from south of the border. Perhaps next year, you will be among the brothers traveling with us.

Rob Hillier
GDC

The visit to Rising Sun Lodge 2011, two Past and two current Grand Masters present.
“When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage - which is the root of every virtue.
“When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellow man.
“When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins - knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.
“When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.
“When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old-forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.
“When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.
“When star-covered trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.
“When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no band seeks his aid without response.
“When he finds good in any faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.
“When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.
“When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song - glad to live, but not afraid to die!
“In such a man, whether he be rich or poor, scholarly or unlearned, famous or obscure, Masonry has wrought her sweet ministry. He has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.”
Shortly after the Civil War in Britain, 1642-51, a group of scientists - both Royalists and Parliamentarians - started meeting at the Gresham College with the avowed intent of expanding their knowledge. Initially they were known as the “Invisible College”. A prime mover in this group was Sir Robert Moray, a confidant of King Charles II, a Freemason and it would seem a facilitator without peer as he not only managed to induce men of very different political persuasions to work together, but found the means of funding their activities as well as persuading the King to grant a Royal Charter in 1662; [the “Invisible College” became known as The Royal Society in Nov 1660].

In an address at Gresham College on the 4th April 2007, Dr Robert Lomas delivered an informative and entertaining lecture entitled “Sir Robert Moray, Soldier, Scientist, Spy, Freemason and Founder of the Royal Society.” (Both a transcript and a video of this lecture may be found on Wikipedia - I recommend it to you.) Dr Lomas makes the interesting claim that of the scientists who founded the Royal Society, only Christopher Wren [who gave the inaugural lecture in 1657] - a mathematician and an astronomer - and Robert Boyle, had no links with Freemasonry - although it is believed Christopher Wren did so later. The King gave the Society the right to publish its learned papers withoutly, at that time the experiments of the learned brethren aimed to confirm and reveal the works of God as described in the Bible that was now freely available in English. The Fellows of the Royal Society, and like minded individuals, set out to scrutinize its pronouncements and by their science and experimentation confirm or refute long imagined truths. There was a need for science to discover a First Cause, and this seems to have been transferred directly from religion into science. Newton’s search for order, a single unifying force in the universe, came from his faith in Genesis.

Freemasons who were also members of the Royal Society include: John T. Desaguliers, 3rd Grand Master; winner of the Copley medal (the Society’s highest honour) in 1734, 1736 and 1741; Elias Ashmole; Benjamin Franklin; John Arbuthnot; Sir Joseph Banks; Edward Jenner and of more recent times, Sir Alexander Fleming the discoverer of Penicillin and of course there will be others.

We owe the modern Royal Society, and its many wonderful scientific gadgets, to the accidental success of Brother Sir Robert Moray. He saw the wisdom of the Masonic teachings which had inspired him; he used the Scottish Schaw Lodge system and its methods of promoting Masonic harmony to bring together the scientists from opposing sides after the great civil war; and by doing so provided a structure that enabled science to break free of the superstitious cage of religion.

We are indebted to John Theosophilis Desaguliers, perhaps more than to any other man, for the present existence of Freemasonry as a living institution.

[An article by J. C. A. Francis appearing in the 5 December 2011 Transactions of The Research Lodge of Ruapehu No. 444, New Zealand]

Contributed by
Leigh MacConnell
PGL
MASONIC GOLF FOR MASONIC GOLFERS

Brothers, there are a number of Lodge Golf tournaments this year. Enclosed is info on upcoming Lodge tournaments that may be of interest. See you on the Links

Doric Lodge #91 – Trenton NS

Date: Saturday, June 23, Tee times at 8:00 am, scramble
Location: Linacy Greens Golf Course, 230 Linacy Road, New Glasgow
Cost: $60 per player, 5 person team, Pork Chop Dinner included
Contact: Douglas Brown (902) 928-2841 or dougbrown@eastlink.ca

Scottish Rite Charity Golf Tournament:

Date: Tuesday, July 10, 1:00 pm shotgun, Scramble
Location: Avon Valley Golf Course
Cost: $125 or $500 per team of 4
Contact: Norm MacLeod (902) 443-1872 or nmacleod@ns.sympatico.ca

Harmony Lodge #52

Date: Sunday, July 15, Tee times at 1:00 pm, scramble
Location: 14 Wing Greenwood Golf Course
Cost: $75 per Player, 4 person team, Includes cart, Steak or Lobster Dinner
Contact: Kirk MacLennan (902) 341-2012 or kirkmaclennan@hotmail.com

John Albro Lodge #122

Date: Thursday, August 23, 8:00 am Shotgun,
Location: Brookfield Golf Course, Brookfield
Cost: $55 per player, Individual stroke play, Mason & non Masons
Contact: Rob Hillier (902) 449-7225 or lhr@accesswave.ca

Clarke Lodge #61

Date: Friday, October 5, 9:00 am Shotgun
Location: Chester Golf Course, Chester
Cost: $65 per person or $260 for team of 4, Scramble, Cart & Chili dinner Incl.
Contact: Grant Rust, (902) 857-1393 or grantrust@ns.sympatico.ca
The Universal Craftsmen Council of Engineers is a Masonic Body recognized by Grand Lodges including the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia as a Concordant Body. It was formed in Cleveland, Ohio in 1903 by a group of Engineers who also were Masons or if you prefer a group of Masons who were Engineers. They had a common bond in the profession of building and Masonry seemed to be a natural attraction due to its history surrounding the building of Solomon’s Temple. In early stages membership was limited to professional engineers but as time progressed and technology advanced the circle of engineers became smaller so that membership was opened to those who worked with tools but were not necessarily degree holding professionals and today membership is open to all Master Masons. This is of course not unlike all Masonic groups who must adjust to the times in order to maintain strong associations. As the Craft Mason is no longer “operative” but “speculative” so has our U.C.C. of E experienced the same change. We have a Grand Council and leader whose title is Grand Worthy Chief.

Neptune Council No. 71 was established in 1950. We meet monthly on the third Friday except July and August in the Dartmouth Masonic Center. Our membership has and does include many well known Masons, Past Grand Masters, Grand High Priests etc. Our meetings and business is quite similar to other Masonic Bodies but what makes us unique is our central theme of celebrating the completion of Solomon’s Temple and the banquet feast held by King Solomon to mark the occasion. From time to time we present, on invitation, a Blacksmith Drama telling that story. Our meetings are often marked by members giving talks on their professions since many are still engaged in work of an engineering nature.

We also have the distinction of enjoying the company of our Ladies who also have their own Council and meet on the same night separately after which we enjoy a social time together over lunch. We also set aside some meetings to have little or no business but jointly have a social evening such as a Christmas party, a Valentine dinner at a restaurant or a spring outing at a members home for lobster and steak. On those occasions we usually have a visit from the Grand Chief of the day who will be making an official visit often accompanied by the Grand president of the ladies Grand Council.

The ladies Council also has a Grand Council and a Grand Worthy President, this year she is Sister Angela MacRae who lives in Beaver Bank, a Past Worthy President of their local Council No. 17. Note the reversal of numbers. We have a joint installation of officers annually in the spring. In case you see some similarity with Eastern Star we should mention while we have membership of both ladies and gentlemen our Councils are separate and independent, there is no overlap of regular business.

The symbol of the Order is often mistaken for the Square and Compasses of the Craft Lodge but is in reality a T Square and Dividers, working tools of Engineers.

Charles R. MacKinlay, Worthy Chief
At the Installation of Western Star No.50 the GM presented to V.W.Bro. Kirby Coolen his Grand Organist Jewel on behalf of the lodge members. Here with the newly installed WM, R.W.Bro. Harvey Ford.

V.W.Bro. Duncan Young is being presented with his Meritorious award by W.Bro. David Graves.

R.W.Bro. James White is being presented with his award by V.W.Bro. Wilf Jodrey.

This occurred on Welsford Lodge #26 (Windsor) regular Lodge night on Thursday May 10, 2012.

RWBro. Ron Webster presented a 55 year bar to Brother Ronald Dares on April 10, at Eastern Star Lodge No.51.
May is the month for many installations and the GM was in attendance at quite a few.

Here are the newly installed officers for 2012-13 for the following Lodges:

Western Star No.50......

......New Caledonia Lodge No.11, both meeting in Westville.

......and Scotia Lodge No.28 in Kentville.
Continuing a long standing tradition started by the late PDDGM Joe Jamireson of Eastern Light 72 a newly raised brother is presented with the Bluenose pin from the GLNS. PDDGM Alonzo Reddick is shown presenting it to Justin Grant.

There was a good turnout of members and visitors to see Justin Grant raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Included in this 3 generation photo are (from the left) Daryl Grant S.W. at Eastern Light No. 72, DDGM. Donald Grant, Master Mason Justin Grant and his grandfather PDDGM. Ed Grant who spoke of his pride at seeing his sons and grandsons working in the Craft.

The Nova Scotia Freemason

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Halifax, NS, Canada B3N 2N2.