

Mostly Masonry

The Publication of The Antient & Honourable Fraternity in New Brunswick

'For the Knowledge of The Craft'

131st Annual Grand Lodge Communication May 8th & 9th, 1998

The 131st Annual Grand Lodge Communication will be held at the Masonic Temple, 92 Germain Street, Saint John, N. B., on May 8th and 9th.

It promises to be a busy weekend with several motions coming to the floor concerning changes to our constitution. Many are of a housekeeping nature, but one in particular promises to be very interesting. There will be a paper presented concerning the inclusion of a new section in the constitution concerning Masonic offenses and trials.

Items covered will include types of offenses, methods of trial, laying of charges, and the trial itself. There is much information to be covered and it promises to create a considerable amount of debate.

Running for Elected Office

A number of brethren have put their names forward for election to Grand Lodge offices. To date, those offering are:

For Deputy Grand Master

R:W:B: Michael Swetnam, Acacia Lodge #49
R:W:B: Clinton Shaffer, Howard Lodge #15

For Senior Grand Warden

W:B: Dale Stevens, Hibernia Lodge #3

For Junior Grand Warden

W:B: Ralph Hatfield, The New Brunswick Lodge #22

For Treasurer

R:W:B: Robert Kierstead, Carleton Union Lodge #8

This is going to be one of the most interesting Grand Lodge Communications in a long time and will have an impact on every mason in New Brunswick. Make plans to be in attendance.

From the Districts

District No. 1

The First Annual District One Christmas Masonic Family Skating Party was held in mid-December at Saint John's Harbour Station. The event was organized by Bro. Eric Gardner, The New Brunswick Lodge #22, assisted by Bro. Gallagher, The New Brunswick Lodge #22 (Santa), W:B: John McCoy, The New Brunswick Lodge #22, and Bro. Bill Blatchford, Carleton Union Lodge #8.

There were about 250 people in attendance with 200 of them taking to the ice. The kids were entertained by a visit from Santa and by Fleaburn, the mascot of The Saint John Flames AHL hockey team.

Bro. Gardner is already making plans for the Second

Annual District One Christmas Masonic Family Skating Party and is looking for volunteers. You can reach Bro. Gardner at 640-2156 or 659-6419. The tentative date is December 13, 1998.



On March 28th, 1998, the five lodges of the Masonic Temple in Saint John held a very successful Monte Carlo Night to raise funds for the Building Fund of the Temple. Each of the lodges residing in the Temple, Albion Lodge #1, St. John's Lodge #2, Hibernia Lodge #3, The Union Lodge of Portland #10, and The New Brunswick Lodge #22, were very busy as all tickets had been sold. There were about 160 people in attendance and approximately \$2,400.00 was realized. It was definitely a financial and social success!

At a Regular Communication of St. Martin's Lodge #30, February 23, 1998, an interesting team from District No. 1 conferred the Master Mason Degree. To be a member of this team you had to have one important qualification - you had to be over the age of 75 years!



Murray Stevens Harold Scott Bernus Clark Ralph Andrews
Ken Briggs Lincoln Nice
Ralph Thompson Robert Manzer Fergus Price John Robinson
Don Cook John Dunham MWB Osborne Nason Doug Ferris

The team comprised R:W:B: Fergus Price as Worshipful Master, R:W:B: Ralph Andrews, R:W:B: Ralph Thompson; R:W:B: Bernus Clark, W:B: Harold Scott, W:B: Ken Briggs, W:B: Lincoln Nice, W:B: Robert Manzer, W:B: John Robinson, and Bro. Doug Ferris. Due to illness, three younger brethren were allowed to participate. They were R:W:B: Don Cook, R:W:B: John

Dunham and W.B. Murray Stevens.

On the same evening, M.W.B. Osborne Nason, the Grand Master, presented W.B. Rev. David Gray and Bros. Ronald Allen and Arthur Gamble their 50 Year Pins and Certificates.



MWB Osborne Nason Ron Allen Art Gamble David Gray
V.W: Gerry Gray Worshipful Master Kevin Gillrie

September 4th, 1998, will be the date for the Third Annual District #1 Camp Goodtime Golf Tournament at Hampton Golf & Country Club. Registration is \$50.00 and includes a steak barbecue (meal only \$15.00) - registration deadline is August 15th. This tournament is open to masons and non-masons, men and women (a great chance to introduce someone to freemasonry). It is a shotgun start beginning at 1:00 p.m., rain or shine, best ball. To register phone W.B. Ron Hodgin, 672-0041, email hodginro@nbnet.nb.ca, W.B. Stewart Brenton, 633-9391, email stewmar@nbnet.nb.ca, R.W.B. Bob Johnston, 847-4081, email ve9ey@nbnet.nb.ca or Bro. Bill Blatchford, 674-1148, email 124200@nbnet.nb.ca.

Albion Lodge #1 held its Sixth Annual Family Breakfast Buffet in support of Camp Goodtime on April 4th, 1998, at the Courtenay Bay Inn in Saint John. There were 130 people in attendance including M.W.B. Osborne Nason, The Grand Master, MP Elsie Wayne, Interim Leader of the national Progressive Conservative Party, and Mayor Shirley McAlary. This breakfast has been so successful that it has allowed Albion Lodge to donate over \$6,000.00 to Camp Goodtime since its inception in 1993.

W.B. Stuart MacDonald, Secretary, Albion Lodge #1, hearing from the wife of one of the brethren who resides in California, Bro. Ross Winters, that he was not well made contact with W.B. Joe Coppinger, Secretary, Moreno Valley Lodge #804, California, and arranged for a fraternal visit to be made to Bro. Winters to let him know our thoughts and prayers were with him. In the spirit of fraternal relations, W.B. Coppinger willingly arranged for the visit. This is a perfect example of going that extra step to let brethren know, no matter where in the world they are, they are still part of a wonderful worldwide fraternity that cares.

District No. 2

Again, in the spirit of good fraternal relations, M.W.B. Maurice A. Kershaw, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec AF & AM, requested through our Grand Secretary's Office that arrangements be made to present Bro. Allan Fitton with his 50 Year Jewel. Bro. Fitton was raised in Quebec's Victory Lodge No. 94 on September 26th, 1945 but now resides in Sackville, New Brunswick.

Arrangements were made with Lebanon Lodge #28 to make the presentation. On hand for the occasion were W.B. William McLellan, W.B. David Jones, R.W.B. Alvin Landsburg, R.W.B. Gordon Marshall, DDGM, District #2, and W.B. Fred Woodworth, Sussex Lodge #4. The presentation was made by Worshipful Master Sherman Estabrooks, Lebanon Lodge #28.



William McLellan David Jones Alvin Landsburg
Gordon Marshall Fred Woodworth
Sherman Estabrooks Allan Fitton

District No. 4

It is with sadness that we report that on December 27th, 1997, R.W.B. J. Kurtis Brown, DDGM, District No. 4, passed to the Celestial Lodge above.

Effective January 5th, 1998, M.W.B. Osborne Nason, the Grand Master, appointed R.W.B. R. Wayne Hitchcock as DDGM, District No. 4. R.W.B. Hitchcock is a member of Benjamin Lodge #31 and an affiliate member of Colebrooke Lodge #39.

Our condolences and sympathy go out to the family of R.W.B. Brown on the loss of their loved one.

District No. 5

March 26th, 1998, saw M.W.B. Osborne Nason, The Grand Master, Officers and Members of Grand Lodge conferred the Master Mason Degree on Bro. Scot Brown, at Sunset Lodge #56, Campobello. M.W.B. Nason took the East with R.W.B. Evan Thomas, DGM, Senior Deacon; R.W.B. Ralph Andrews, Grand Secretary, as Prompter, Lecturer and 2nd Ruffian; R.W.B. George Trentowsky, Chaplain; R.W.B. John Dunham, SGW, Senior Warden; R.W.B. Don Cook, Lecturer and 3rd Ruffian; R.W.B. Don Kinney, Sr., DDGM District #5, Secretary; R.W.B.'s: Bob Johnston and Don Jones as Stewards; W.B. Ches Piercey gave the Obligation; W.B. Dale Stevens, SGD, was Junior Warden, W.B. Ron Hodgin, GDC, Director of Ceremonies, and W.B. Murray Stevens, Lecturer and 1st Ruffian. Also in attendance was R.W.B. Eric Caldwell, Grand Chaplain, who gave grace at the delicious meal of fried scallops (and you could have seconds!).

The ritual work was well done and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was a new experience for Grand Lodge and, while not a degree team, everyone worked well together.

Sunset Lodge #56, our youngest Lodge, is occupying rented premises that aren't the best and are in the difficult situation that arises from sharing a community centre. They have purchased a parcel of land on the island and are presently having it surveyed.

Worshipful Master Joe Howlett and the members of Sunset Lodge are now looking for ways to raise funds to build their own lodge and put down permanent roots. Because most of the brethren fish for a living, they must do their fund raising in the fall and winter months as they are very busy in the summer.

Could the rest of the lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction help Sunset Lodge raise funds? An ad hoc committee has come together in Saint John consisting of myself, W.B. Ron Hodgins, and R.W.B. Bob Johnston and W.B. Ralph Hatfield, to try and come up with ways to help. If you have any ideas or projects that you decide on, let us know.

District No. 6

An Emergent Meeting was held at Hiram Lodge #6, Fredericton, December 13th, 1997, to confer the Master Mason Degree on three brothers of the District: Bros. Stephen Urquhart, Hiram Lodge #6, Mark Anthony Jewett, Alexandria Lodge #33, and Dick DeJong, Centennial Lodge #53.

There were 37 brethren present representing Hiram Lodge, Alexandria Lodge, Centennial Lodge, Landmark Lodge #51, and Bro. Roy Anthony, Sunset Lodge #54, Campobello, who had been raised just the week previous.

Brother Urquhart was raised by Worshipful Master MacDonald, Hiram Lodge; Brother Jewett was raised by Worshipful Master Waugh, Alexandria Lodge, and Brother DeJong was raised by Worshipful Master Wasson, Centennial Lodge.

On December 16th, 1997, R.W.B. Hubert Davis, DDGM District #6, made an official visit to Landmark Lodge #51, Boiestown at which time he took the opportunity of presenting his son, W.B. Gary Davis, with a Lewis Jewel.

An unique Master Mason's Degree was performed at Temperance Vale's Granite Lodge #54 on December 17th, 1997. A father, his two sons, and the Worshipful Master's brother were all raised to the Sublime Degree.

The father, Bro. John Thomas Henry MacFarlane was raised by R.W.B. Hubert Davis, DDGM; the father's sons Bros. Michael John and Rocco Andrew MacFarlane were raised by Worshipful Master William MacLean; The Worshipful Master's brother, Bro. James Alexander MacLean was raised by his father W.B. Howard MacLean of Restigouche Lodge #25, Dalhousie. A real family affair!

At the March 5th, 1998, regular communication of Hiram Lodge #6, R.W.B. Hubert Davis presented W.B. Edward G. Hamilton with his 50 Year Pin and Certificate. W.B. Hamilton was Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge in 1962. At the same meeting, R.W.B. Leonard Bishop, PDDGM, presented Bro. Stephen Urquhart (son-in-law of W.B. Hamilton) with his Grand Lodge Certificate and apron.

On February 18th, 1998, Canada Post issued a series of stamps honoring former premiers of Canadian provinces. The New Brunswick premier honoured was W.B. John B. McNair, Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge #6 in 1927. His son, W.B. John C. McNair was Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge in 1965, and his grandson, Bro. John M. McNair, is also a member of Hiram Lodge.

Centennial Lodge #53 featured a newspaper clipping of the original schooner "The Bluenose" in its March/April Notice. The striking feature of this photo was the square and compasses painted on the fantail between the words

'Bluenose' and 'Yarmouth'. The story has it that the majority of money for construction of the schooner was put up by masons of that area. The schooner "Bluenose II" also has the square and compasses on the fantail.

District No. 7

These three members of Coverdale Lodge #52 were presented with their 50 Year Pins and Certificates during 1997 - they are all in good health and attend lodge regularly.



Bro. Don Dunfield Bro. Durell Murray R.W.B. Eldon Libby

The 'Net'

For you 'Net' aficionados, R.W.B. Bob Johnston, ve9ey@nbnet.nb.ca, is keeping a list of email addresses for masons in this Grand Jurisdiction. If you haven't already had your name added to the list, send an email to R.W.B. Johnston giving your name, email address and lodge. He can also arrange to send you a copy of the list.

The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick can be reached at email address mason@nbnet.nb.ca and the Grand Lodge Home Page is at www3.nbnet.nb.ca/eva/nason.htm. This is a great home page with a lot of information and is maintained by W.B. Ed Armstrong - make it one of your regular stops.

Would you like to see a regular feature on the Internet in Mostly Masonry? If so, email me at the address on the bottom of page 4.

N.B. Masonic Charities & Housing

Camp Goodtime will be held at a new site in 1998. It will be held at the Rotary Camp, Princess Park, Grand Lake, New Brunswick. The Camp will be held over 8 days, Friday, July 31st to Friday, August 7th.

The Rotary Camp can accommodate 64 children and includes a recreation hall, chapel, large dining lodge, administration building. There are 8 cabins and everything is wheelchair accessible. The Camp also includes an infirmary with a full-time nursing staff, playground, nature trails, paved recreation area, fire pit with a stage, playing field with baseball backstop, a heated swimming pool with trained aquatic staff along with specialized swimming equipment, and there is a private beach which is joined to the campsite by way of a tunnel.

The N. B. Branch of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled has had responsibility for program delivery and general camp operation since 1973.

The reasons for changing locations were increased costs and a shortened week at the previous location.

Masons and friends are invited to join us on Sponsor Day which will be held Sunday, August 2nd, at 2:00 p.m.

Under the guidance of the N. B. Deaf/Blind Rubella Association, Camp Rubella is held each year in early September. The principal activities of the association are the provision of intervention, recreation, education and related services to persons afflicted with deafness and blindness. We look forward to once again being able to sponsor several children and their intervenors to attend this camp and enjoy the benefits of fun and relaxation in a well supervised setting.

On behalf of the N. B. Masonic Charities & Housing Company Limited, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many brethren, their families and friends for your continued generosity which make these worthwhile charitable projects a success. Thank you, and keep up the wonderful work!

W.B: Brian Francis, President

Masonic Renewal

The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick is committed to masonic renewal. The focus of masonic renewal is on the decline in membership and how to reverse the flow. This requires a close examination of the strengths and weaknesses, creating a vision, detailing a five year plan and much more including the setting up of renewal committees in lodges under the direction of the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee, R:W:B: Wayne Rideout, Hartland Lodge #46. R:W:B: Rideout has put together a plan of action under the direction of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, M:W:B: Osborne Nason.

Following are some items of interest from the Masonic Renewal Manual used by Grand Lodge.

Share the Vision

From time to time all organizations have to change to keep abreast of today's world, and Freemasonry is not exempt. There are four phases in organizational change: Complacency, Awakening, Kick Start Change, Evolutionary Change.

Act I - Complacency

This is the 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' syndrome. The organization is living on its past success. Warnings of danger are ignored, while opportunities to change early with minimum pain are scorned. It is a time when you are not in control of your own destiny. Outside forces are stealthily at work undermining your future.

Act II - Awakening

This is a time when a few perceive the new environment and commence to articulate the rationale for change. In the case of the Craft, there were quite a large group who could see the current problems and a need to change in order to better meet the future.

Act III - Kick Start Change

This is the most difficult part. It is reaching over barriers to implement the plan for the future.

It is during the awakening and kick start change steps that resistance arises. Because many existing power bases are being disrupted, people react to keep the status quo.

Opposition to change ranges from active to passive resistance. Some buy into the "New Way" and get on with making things happen. Many rationalize their own reasons for inertia towards change, usually based upon an unwillingness to be involved. Others do just what is expected up front, but are really not on board. Often they secretly either impede or undermine the process. Others suffer from mind sets built up over years, that result in anchors keeping them in the past. The organization is not yet in control of its own destiny.

It is in these times of discontinuity, uncertainty and non-unified plan implementation, that compromises are often sought and many members are unsure of what to do for the best.

One vital ingredient to success has not yet been widely accepted. Indeed, it is the greatest weakness in the implementation of our plan. What is required, is a widespread acceptance and understanding of an overarching vision. Success is achieved when the entire organization becomes led by a vision to its own destiny.

A vision is no use if it is only hung on a wall or written on cards. To be effective a vision must empower people to use the vision to reach a mutual destination. To accomplish this requires a vision to meet three criteria: a *focus* on our strategic advantages, an *inspiration* to deliver those advantages, and able to be used as a *decision-making criterion*.

Act IV - Evolutionary Change

This step is when people in units take control of the solutions to their own problems and implement the common vision.

Our hearts tell us our *heritage* is our unique niche and sets us apart from other competing organizations. It tells us that *fellowship* with like-minded men regardless of creed, race or religion is important. Men of *sound morals* might be hard to define, but easily understood with the 'mirror test'. Stand in front of a mirror and decide if your own ethical standards are high. Inside yourself you will know the answer.

Finally, *benevolence*, the wish to help the less fortunate, is fundamental to a Freemason's beliefs. These core values are our competitive advantage.

Common sense tells us we must stop the membership loss. To achieve the vision we must overcome the tendency to focus on internal goals and politics at the member's expense, and instead *refocus* on members' needs. Empower members to take responsibility to see that their own lodge meets members' needs and is relevant to today, by changing the environment of their lodge.

When we have improved the lodge environment then we *retain* the existing members and we *regain* those we lost because we did not fulfil their requirements. Finally, we *renew* with new younger members, secure in the knowledge that they will stay because the new lodge climate appeals to today's world, even with yesterday's unique heritage.

Articles for 'Mostly Masonry' should be mailed to 30 Hillcrest Drive, Saint John, N. B., E2M 4C1 or emailed to hodginro@nbnet.nb.ca.