



WINTER 2006

# Mostly Masonry

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED  
MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 ..... Grand Masters Message
- Page 2 .....Editorial  
.....Grand Master's Schedule
- Page 3 ..... Wayfarers Notebook
- Page 4 .....News from Lodges
- Page 5 .....News from Lodges
- Page 6 ..... What's in Your Attic?  
..... From the Book Shelf
- Page 7 ..... Wayfarers Notebook cont  
.....Sussex Lodge book Sale
- Page 8 ..... Grand Chaplains Chatter  
.....Book Review cont.



## GRAND MASTERS MESSAGE

A new year brings with it a renewal of optimism, hope and promise for each and everyone of us and for our fraternity.

I am encouraged as I visit with you in your lodges that new Masters and officers are bringing new ideas and reinforcing the landmarks of our fraternity.

Lodges in all areas are receiving applications for membership to our honorable fraternity, which gives us a sense of new and exciting challenges ahead for our members in the coming year

to mentor and give further light to our newest Masons. They also must challenge themselves to seek further light and knowledge in masonry.

I would encourage each and every one of you to find a brother who hasn't been attending lodge on a regular basis and offer to take him with you to your local lodge for a meeting and an evening of fellowship. We must not forget these brethren, for whatever reason they have not been taking part in our activities. Also do not forget our shut in and sick brethren. A phone call or short visit would always be appreciated.

Brethren, take PRIDE in your lodges in this great fraternity, you have the privilege and honour to be a member of.

I wish for everyone health and prosperity in the coming year. May the Great Architect of the Universe pour down his blessings upon you.

*Wayne H. McKay*  
Grand Master

Readers may be divided into four classes: 1. sponges, who absorb all that they read and return it in nearly the same state, only a little dirtied. 2.Sandglasses, who retain nothing and are content to get through a book for the sake of getting through the time. 3.Strain-bags, who retain merely the dregs of what they read. 4. Mogul diamonds, equally rare and valuable, who profit by what they read, and enable others to profit by it also.

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## Editorial

In this issue are two small contributions that deserve mention. Not for the fact that these two items were contributed but for the underlying message they convey. The first is found on page five and was forwarded to the Editor by RWB Miles Graham. This small piece of news coverage appeared in the Moncton Times Transcript on December 23, 2005. While the event occurred in Zetland Lodge a number of months previous it serves to highlight that with a little bit of effort we can receive positive press coverage from the "Fifth Estate", albeit a bit late. Such coverage can only help to portray the fraternity in a positive light to the general public.

The second small item is to be found on page seven and was received from the Worshipful Master of Sussex Lodge No. 4, WB Macx MacNichol. This is a very small lodge (39 members as of December 31, 2004), yet despite the small numbers they are able to come together and carry out this fundraiser. Not only do their efforts place them in the public eye during the book sale but the proceeds go back to the community in one form or another much to the credit of the officers and members of this lodge.

Congratulations are extended to the officers and members of both lodges for their fine efforts, keep up the good work brethren.

Fraternally;  
Stuart MacDonald, PM  
Editor

### *Mostly Masonry*

**The Official Newsletter of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick**

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITORS OR OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

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## GRAND MASTER'S SCHEDULE

### FEBRUARY

February 1	Keith Lodge, Moncton
February 2	Hiram Lodge, Fredericton
February 7	St. John's Lodge, Saint John
February 9	District Meeting, District No. 5 Victoria Lodge, St. Stephen
February 13	Lodge St. John, Bathurst
February 27	St. Martins, Saint John

### MARCH

March 2	Woodstock Lodge, Woodstock
March 7	Mananook Lodge, Grand Manan
March 9	New Brunswick Lodge, Saint John
March 11	Board of General Purposes
March 13	Centennial Lodge, Oromocto
March 15	Abanaki Lodge, Deer Island
March 20	District Meeting, District No. 3 Miramichi Lodge, Chatham

### APRIL

April 11	District Meeting, District No. 1 Hibernia Lodge, Saint John
April 13	District Meeting, District No. 2 Zetland Lodge, Shediac
April 19	Granite Lodge, Temperance Vale
April 20	Tobique Lodge, Plaster Rock

### MAY

May 1	District Meeting, District No. 6 Alexandria Lodge, Fredericton
May 9	Steven Lodge, Peticodiac
May 11	New Brunswick Lodge, Saint John
May 12 & 13	Grand Lodge of New Brunswick

### WISDOM

\* A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

--Jonathan Swift

\* Doubt is the vestibule through which all must pass before they can enter into the temple of wisdom.

--Charles Caleb Colton, 1780 - 1832

\* By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and Third, by experience, which is the bitterest.

-Confucius



## Notebook :

### Commitment to a Cause

Over 100 years ago a small group of Masons decided they wanted to start a new Lodge; a place where they could they could meet. A place where they could share and learn about Masonry. A place they could call their own.

The process of starting a new Lodge is fairly straightforward. All it takes is a small number of Masons to apply to the Grand Master for authority to do so, put the necessary officers in place and prove over a period of time they have the knowledge and ability to do the work.

What isn't mentioned in all the authorities for forming a new Lodge is one crucial element: Commitment. For any Lodge to remain in active existence for a century, or less, commitment by the members is required; but for the officers, particularly the Master, of the Lodge, commitment is mandatory. Without it, the very fabric and well-being of the Lodge is constantly teetering on the brink of oblivion.

So often today we hear in association with Masonry and Masonic Lodges, of apathy, disinterest, lack of commitment. I suggest these terms are synonymous and can all come under the same heading: uncommitted.

Let's take a look at the characteristics of commitment. What does it really mean to the brethren? To the Lodge? To Masonry?

The word "Commitment" comes from Latin, meaning to "tie or bind together". We find in Ecclesiastics Chp 4, Ver 12, a phrase familiar to many Masons, "... a three-fold cord is not easily broken". When examined in a Masonic context, this phrase has three essential elements, as I just mentioned: the brethren, the lodge and the fraternity. Throughout our degree work, installation ceremony, and in the immediate practice of various other ceremonies, we are constantly reminded of our commitments:

To the Brethren – We are committed to help, aid and assist all poor and distressed worthy Masons, their widows and orphans. We are committed to all the requirements contained in the five points of fellowship. We are committed to the requirements contained the three charges of the installation ceremony. Let friendships be cherished. Provide for the welfare of a brother as our own. Go out of our way to assist. This is only a sampling of what we committed to, but you get the idea

To the Lodge – We promised to answer all due signs and summonses. To pay a constant attendance on our Lodge. Be faithful to it. That means attending communications, taking an active part in the proceedings, contributing to its well-being by time, effort and financially.

To the Fraternity – How well to emulate that distinguished individual who preferred an honorable death to a dishonorable life. No one expects a Mason to "work himself to death", but if Masonry is to be a way of life, then each of us must be committed to philosophy and tenets of this great organization. We must be ready and willing to stand to and abide by its laws, rules and regulations, both written and unwritten. We must pay constant attention to the mythical cable-tow by which all Masons are duty bound. Our chief care must be the advancement of the society we have the honor to be members of.

Unfortunately, all too often our leaders, whether at the Craft Lodge or Grand Lodge level send a sublime message to new and old Masons alike that commitment is not really important. You are skeptical of this assertion. Let me give a couple of examples"

Every man who crosses the threshold of our doors is placed under a solemn and sacred obligation at the altar, complete with penalties mentioned if such obligation is broken. Then we tell him such penalties are only "symbolic" and not intended to be taken seriously. While the candidate may not consciously form the thought at the time, the sublime message here is this: if this portion is not to be taken seriously, that it is only symbolic, then what of the obligation as a whole? Can he pick and choose what to take serious, and what to ignore? Is the whole fabric of Masonry a nice thing in theory, but merely symbolic in reality? Far better we had left out the reference to "symbolic" and inserted a reference to "more modern times".

The Master, or Grand Master, who makes excuses for poorly executed ritual, late submissions, or failure to carry out a task, or even his own shortcomings. How often have we heard someone say, "Well, I know you are a busy man, but if you could give it a try, we'll help you get through it"? How often do we put men in leadership positions who have shown through their actions, or words, their lack of commitment to the role?

There are a dozen other examples similar to these two and they all carry the same sublime message: none of this is important or meaningful, therefore do not get overly concerned about commitment.

While commitment should be the focal point of all Masons, it is particularly required by the leaders of our fraternity, If the Master and Officers do not have a goal, or believe that getting to the next level is important, that the journey is not exciting, and the arrival fulfilling, members will soon drop off or find their own directions. Masons desperately want to be committed to something. They want to be part of a success story. They want to be part of the journey to achieve that

(Continued on page 7)

## NEWS FROM LODGES AROUND THE PROVINCE

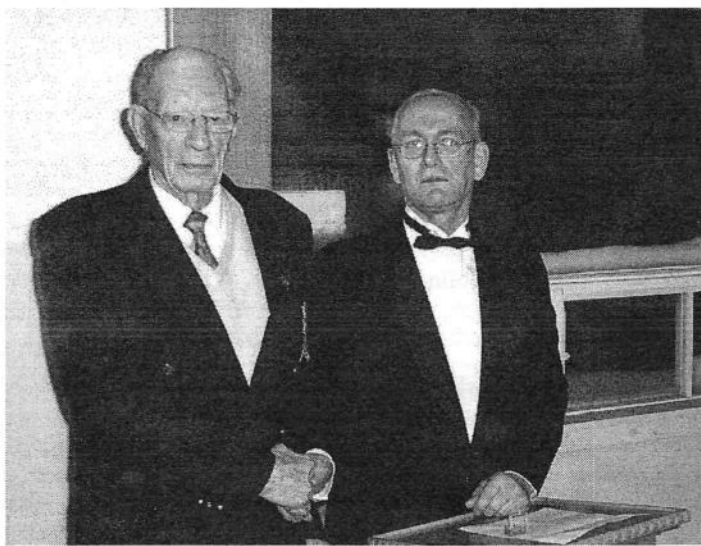
### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED



L-R: The Grand Master, MWB Wayne McKay, RWB Robert Kierstead and RWB Earl Campbell

On October 6, 2005 the Grand Master made his official visit to Carleton Union Lodge No. 8. The Grand Master took this opportunity to present Grand Representative appointments to two worthy brethren. RWB Robert Kierstead, the Grand Treasurer, was appointed as the Grand Representative for the Grand Lodge of Italy. Accompanying the certificate was a Grand Representative's jewel, which is unique within the sphere of Grand Representatives. RWB Earl Campbell, PJGW, was appointed as the Grand Representative for the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Congratulations go out to both of these dedicated brethren.

### 60 YEAR BAR PRESENTED



On December 27, 2006 the outgoing Master of Carleton Lodge, WB Gerry Dionne had the opportunity to present long time member, RWB Wiley Tomlinson, PDDGM, with his sixty-year bar. Even though RWB Tomlinson is in his eighties he still takes an active interest in the affairs of the lodge.

### FIFTY YEAR PIN PRESENTED IN CAMPBELLTON



Monday, October 5, 2005 saw the Grand Master in Campbellton Lodge accompanied by officers and members of Grand Lodge. It was an opportunity to present 50 year pins and certificates to Brothers Harry Harris and Albert MacLean. They join Bro Arthur McNish as members of the 50year club. Shown here with the Grand Master are Brothers Harris and MacLean along with W:B: Arthur McNish.

### GRAND LAKE LODGE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS



The Grand Master, M:W: Wayne McKay, Past Grand Master, MW I Dale Steeves, Worshipful Master, Allan Bishop, Worshipful Master (Alexandria No 33) Ian Culligan, and RWB William Boone, Deputy Grand Master

As part of his continuing travels around the province the Grand Master was in Minto on November 9, 2005 to join in celebrating Grand Lake Lodge's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bro. Herb Fillmore gave a brief history of the lodge, which was followed by an address by the Deputy Grand Master, RWB Boone. The members of Grand Lake Lodge were pleased to have with them on that evening, MWB I. Dale Steeves. MWB Steeves is the senior Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

**DISTRICTS RECOGNIZE  
YEAR OF THE VETERAN**

Early in his term of office the Grand Master, MW Wayne McKay, expressed his desire to see the Districts commemorate the Year of the Veteran by conducting an appropriate ceremony in November. Consequently, Districts 2 and 7, and District 1, took up the challenge, and on November 7 and 8, respectively, did just that.

Coverdale Lodge No 52 hosted the Ceremony for District 2 and 7 at their regular meeting night, as well as receiving the Grand Master and members of Grand Lodge on an official visit. For the Remembrance Ceremony, 8 brethren, all veterans, fully attired in their Legion Dress and Masonic Regalia, were piped into the Lodge, forming two lines north and south of the altar. The singing of the National Anthem was followed by the playing of Taps and prayer with a minute of silence. The Lodge brethren (over 60 in attendance) formed a procession to deposit a poppy on a symbolic gravesite in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice. The ceremony wrapped up with the singing of God Save the Queen and the party retired. During the Grand Master's presiding, appropriate comments to the occasion were made by he and his officers.

The next evening in Saint John, Hibernia Lodge No 3 hosted a District Ceremony. Over eighty brethren were present (including the Grand Master, MWB Wayne McKay and the Deputy Grand Master, RWB William Boone) to witness the impressive ceremony of Remembrance led by the Rev. Dana Dean, Grand Chaplain. All presiding Masters from the District along with the District Deputy Grand Master participated in the service.

The Chaplain of Hibernia Lodge, Brother Kenneth Briggs along with participating in the service also conducted Hibernia's annual service in remembrance of their veterans. The Grand Piper, WB William Kerwin was in attendance and played Flowers of the Forest. The musical portion of the evening was provided by the District 1 choir, "Masons in Harmony". Along with hymns they also sang a number of songs of WWII vintage.



Symbolic Gravesite at Coverdale Lodge



The Grand Master, MWB McKay(center) flanked on his right by the District Deputy Grand Master, RWB Malcolm Harris and to his left the Grand Chaplain, VWB The Rev. Dana Dean and the presiding Masters of District No. 1 at the District No. 1 remembrance service.

**ZETLAND LODGE PRESENTS CHEQUE**



The following appeared in the December 23, 2005 issue of the Moncton Times Transcript accompanied by above picture.

**Masonic charities**

The Zetland Masonic Lodge in Shediac Cape recently donated \$1,000 to the Masonic Charities and Housing Company Ltd. The money is to be used in the operation of Camp Goodtime at Camp Rotary on Grand Lake. The camp provides a camping experience for children between the ages of seven and 13 who have a history of cancer. Pictured are W.B. Aubrey Buck (left), master of Zetland Lodge and M.W.B. Wayne H. McKay, grand master for New Brunswick.

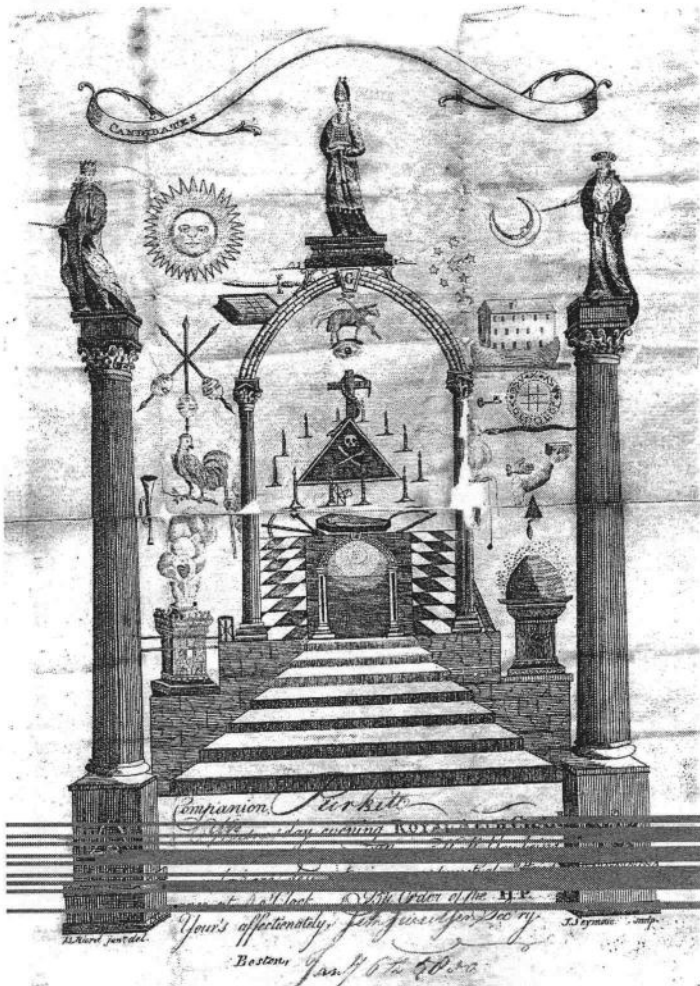
## WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

For most of us the days of attic storage have long since past. With modern housing construction that repository of family treasures and records is no longer available. This however does not preclude the discovery of some valued artifact that has for years been resting in a box tucked away in a corner of a closet.

Recently a member of Albion Lodge, Brother Byron Thomas made just such a discovery when going through a box of family papers. Folded up in the box was a Royal Arch Chapter summons to Companion Purkitt dated January 6, 1800. The summons from a Chapter located in Boston, Massachusetts is far more elaborate than what is in use today. Measuring 8"X12" the summons is covered with the iconography relating to the Royal Arch Degree.

Of further historical interest is that Companion Purkitt was a member of the "Sons of Liberty". A member of St. Andrews Lodge, Boston, Purkitt reportedly was part of the band of "Indians" that took part in the famous "Boston Tea Party" on December 16, 1773.

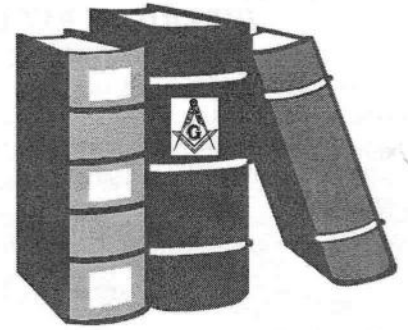
Brother Thomas made his discovery, what's in your attic?



From

the Book

Shelf



By Wor. Bro. P. Lee Fraser

This issue of Mostly Masonry I offer two books for your consideration. Robert Lomas has been a consistent writer on Masonic subjects and is co-author of some of the more reasonable speculation about the origins and progress of Freemasonry. "Turning the Hiram key" and "Freemasonry and the Birth of Modern Science" continue this tradition of speculation and both are the work of this prolific author.

"Turning the Hiram Key – Rituals of Freemasonry Revealed" traces Lomas' Masonic career from prior to his entry into the lodge to his present day status and expand this to examine why and how he thinks Masonry works. His journey covers Part 1 of 3 and is by far the most interesting and understandable. And while we all have stories of our progress in freemasonry his is made all the more interesting by the description of his thoughts on reconciling the requirements of Freemasonry with the skepticism bred by a life of science and a knowledge of physics and study of the nature of the universe.

True to many of his earlier works, Lomas can go off in directions that few have dared before. His explanation as to how masonry works covered in the second part may have some merit but as yet remains pure speculation and is poorly referenced. But it is interesting and it has an aura of soundness that makes it a worthwhile read if you're so inclined. Lomas can be difficult.

In Part 3 "Uncovering Antient treasures" Lomas acknowledges W.L. Wilmshurst as the author of the path through masonry he has chosen to follow and it is deep. As an aid to his speculation Lomas' ability to see symbols in everything is remarkable and reminiscent of the creator of this type of literature Eric VonDanakin. However, like all of his previous books they are fun to read. They inspire thought and who knows, he may be right.

(continued on page 8)

(The Wayfarer's Notebook continued from page 3)  
 success and be there when it happens. Where apathy exists, where commitment is lacking, where leaders lack vision (or fail to share it), the members are not given any opportunity to be part of the dream. This celebration is a perfect example of having a goal, envisioning the result, and the firm commitment to achieve it.

For any Lodge to be able to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary means staying on track. It means commitment to the goal, the process, the ideals; and immediate issues or seemingly insurmountable obstacles do not sidetrack the members. They have a goal: an active lodge with every member contributing to its well-being and well laid plans for renewal as the members age.

Getting the members committed requires that a picture be created in their minds and hearts - not of facts and figures - but what the "new world" will look like to them and how they can identify with it. Let us imagine, for example, that the Master sets a goal to increase participation/attendance of his Lodge members by 50% during his year in the east. Instead of merely announcing this as a goal, he paints a vision of the results when the goal is reached that may go something like this:

It will require more emergent communications to accommodate the extra work

It will require more brethren to carry out the extra investigations on petitioners; and who will serve on the committees

It will be necessary to carefully supervise the strong competition for the officer's chairs and wrestle with the decision of who to appoint to the various chairs and committees

It will require extra seating arrangements to handle to larger crowds of members and visitors

By describing the outcome, his Lodge members can now actually see in their minds the results of the goal he envisions.

Commitment to a cause is a characteristic of each one of us, albeit to varying degrees. Whether to our families, the Church, the community, Lodge or learning a new skill, it requires focus on the goal and a strong determination to reach it. Oft time commitment will override our own desires, needs, or requirements. And like a wife who thinks she may be pregnant with her first child, either she is or she isn't. There is no such thing as being half-pregnant. And there should be no such thing as being half committed. Either you are or you are not.

Commit to what you do; and do what you commit to.

## SUSSEX LODGE BOOK SALE

### CONTINUING SUCCESS

The Organizers at Sussex Lodge # 4 of the Bi-annual Used Book Sale held in November 2005 in the Village of Dorchester would like to thank all those donated books and other reading items. As a result of the support it was possible to help the kids with Cancer attend Camp Goodtime, a program to provide two local schools with bursaries and other local activities.

I would like everyone to consider spreading the word about our project and ask them to save their books and other reading items for our next sale in the spring. We also accept videos, CDs, tapes and records. Remember you may have many items stored away that you not longer need or want that can create support for the youth in many areas of this province. It may be possible that many people Masons know would be willing to donate items to this type of activity rather than make a cash donation, knowing their items they no longer need will go to good cause.

We will pick up within a reasonable distance or arrange to get them delivered.

Many thanks again and all the best in the New Year.

WG Macx MacNichol  
 Master  
 Sussex Lodge # 4  
 Village of Dorchester, NB

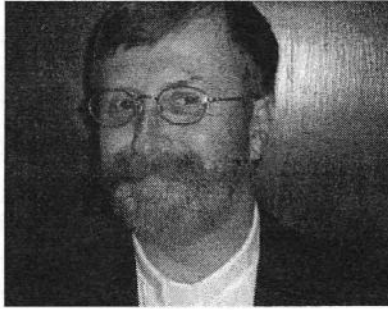
#### MASONIC ODDITIES

One day in 1861, at Honolulu, then in the Sandwich Islands, over three hundred ships were in port. An American Captain is purported to have had hoisted a 'Masonic flag.' Shortly thereafter over 100 ships responded, resulting in many friendly visits and happy hours far away from home.

In 1888 the Grand Master in Ontario ruled a Master has the power to refuse a Candidate he deems unworthy. In 1963 the Grand Master of the same Jurisdiction ruled a Worshipful Master might refuse to advance an unworthy Brother.

Over the years in Canada several Prime Ministers have been Freemasons. These were John A. MacDonald, John Abbott, MacKenzie Bowell, Robert Borden, Richard B. Bennett and John G. Diefenbacher.

## Grand Chaplains Chatter



I recently came to realize what a technological age we live in and how it affects us on a daily basis. After Christmas I had to return a gift to a local store. A receipt was required for the return and although this was a major department store with all the "bells and whistles" of computers a partial receipt from a layaway was not enough to retrieve the money that was due to me. After three and a half hours of confusion and finding out the computer had deleted any transaction of the purchase the receipt I had from layaway still wasn't sufficient. It took a few more hours of searching with another 45 minute drive to the store with the final receipt just to find out there should have been another piece of paper with it. To make a long story short well over four hours of valuable time and energy sufficient paper work was discovered and forms filled out to receive the money owed. One of the things I couldn't help but notice was the fact that simple human logic went by the wayside to make room for analytical technology, which didn't listen or comply to my feelings or thoughts.

Now that post Christmas rush is over and things are back to normal I again appreciate this world of technology we live in but are reminded of how important it is to uphold and maintain traditions and values, which better us as human beings. This is something that is taught and practiced in Masonry.

We stand firm with one another improving who we are and what we believe in of a regular basis. We have fellowship with kindness and caring for one another and a willingness to be there when needed. These are things that will not get lost in this modern world and though we will continue to enjoy the "gadgets" we will definitely continue to enjoy one another with all the benefits that our fraternity can offer. I hope that everyone will be blessed in a special way this coming year and that it will truly be a joyous one for everyone.

Fraternaly Yours,  
The Rev'd Dana Dean  
Grand Chaplain

(Book review, continued from page 6)

"Freemasonry and the Birth of Modern Science" will be read for years to come. While the subject is the foundation and early fortunes of "The Royal Society", it is more attuned to the role played by Sir Robert Moray in its foundation. Well researched and documented it should be a source of information for all interested in an excellent account of the impact of early Masonry or the development of early science. As well as Sir Robert many of the personages involved as well as a remarkable salient description of the background of the times are scattered throughout the text. Outside of a Ritual Book I can't recommend anything as a more worthwhile read in 2006.

"Turning the Hiram Key - The Rituals of Freemasonry Revealed", Robert Lomas, 2002, Fair Winds Press, Gloucester, Ma. 390 pages

"Freemasonry and the Birth of Modern Science", Robert Lomas, 2003, Fair Winds Press, Gloucester, MA, 374 pages.

Both were available in Cole's before Christmas and are probably available at Chapter's and on-line. They were a bargain at \$12.99.

### DATES TO WATCH FOR

The 139<sup>th</sup> annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick will be held in the city of Saint John, N.B. on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2006.

Nominations for elective office are due no later than March 14, 2006. (60 days prior to the annual communication. Nominations are to be filed with the Grand Secretary's office.

Nominations for the Quinn and Beardsley medals are to be submitted to the District Deputy Grand Master no later than March 1, 2006. Nomination forms are available from the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary or are available on the Grand Lodge web site ([www.glnb.ca](http://www.glnb.ca)). Only submissions on the proper forms will be accepted.