



# • Mostly Masonry •

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED  
MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK



Spring 2010

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The Most Worshipful The Grand Master for  
The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick: **Miles  
Graham.**

Elected May 08, 2010 at the 143<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Communication held in Saint John, New  
Brunswick, Canada.

## Grand Master's Message

### Brethren - What are our expectations of Masonry?

#### Just the facts:

##### Masonic Chain:

**All the Freemasons upon  
the face of the earth form  
one chain, every member is  
a link of it, and should ever  
strive with the true hand of  
a brother to strengthen it.  
No waving doubt should  
break it. None should be  
shut out from it as taught in  
every lodge.**

##### Chief Point

Lodges and Grand Lodges whose  
charters' roots derive from the United  
Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons  
of England, The Grand Lodge of  
Ireland or the Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of Scotland use the expression, AF &  
AM.

Those Grand Lodges that don't  
use the appellation "Ancient", claim  
descent from the "Grand Lodge of  
Free and Accepted Masons under the  
constitution of England" during the  
period from 1717 until 1813.

Impressions are interesting to evaluate and reevaluate, now and then, just to see if they are valid. The same is true of goals. It is important that we set goals for ourselves, both in our personal and in our professional lives. It is equally important that we evaluate those goals over time to see, not only if we have achieved them, but also to see if they are still worth the effort to achieve them. It is important that we occasionally evaluate the value of being a Mason. Has Masonry met the expectations that we had for it when we were raised and equally important in that evaluation is whether we have met the expectations that masonry had of us?

In reflecting on the expectations of Masonry many thoughts go through one's mind in this regard - the expectation of enjoying wholesome fellowship with men; and the expectation of beginning a journey that will never end with a goal that we will never reach because Freemasonry is knowledge and understanding through its application to our lives. Freemasonry is also a challenge to build ourselves into better men through self improvement. Self improvement is an integral part of our journey so it can never end. If it did, then we would be perfect. This is not the purpose because no one is perfect. But this journey shared with like minded individuals practicing the principles of the Fraternity can make us better.

One didn't really know what Masonry expected of him but it quickly became apparent in the presentation of the degrees. Masonry expected the new member to be a man of sound character and one who would improve if they took its lessons seriously and lived their lives accordingly.

For those who have pursued an active, participatory role within the fraternity the typical response is that masonry has not only met but has exceeded their expectations through the historical nature and principles of our order and the unique perspective that masonry brings to the history and development of man. This was further emphasized and reinforced by the efforts displayed by the men exemplifying the degrees in their efforts to make a positive and memorable impression on the candidate of the importance of what they were communicating.

*Masonry teaches many skills, often untaught, or not experienced elsewhere. Cont'd  
on page 3*



# Editorial

## Relevance, Purpose, Enjoyment

After meeting dozens upon dozens of Masons each and every month, inside and outside of the lodge setting, I wonder what each would answer to the question; "what is the level of relevance, purpose and enjoyment does being a Mason have for in your daily life?"

Through my observations the principles of Freemasonry has little or no relevance in the daily lives of the majority of the members of the fraternity. This lack of importance of Freemasonry in the daily lives of our Masonic brethren is manifested by their non-participation and lack of interest in the general operations of their lodge and it's activities between communications.

What I refer to is the lack of calls to the Master, Secretary, Senior and Junior Wardens by brethren making inquiries as to how they can be help with building maintenance, assist with lodge administration or pending projects. Other indications of the lack of relevance of Masonry becomes apparent by the attitude of annoyance when members are contacted about an issue involving their lodge, unending excuses for not helping or attending regular communications, personality and incompatibility issues with other members and finally not paying lodge dues in a timely manner.

With the lack of relevance towards their lodges how can being a member of the fraternity serve a purpose in their daily lives?

The membership one holds in the fraternity should serve a more meaningful purpose other than as a status symbol, providing a feeling of belonging or perceived connection with others.

The purpose of Masonry in one's life has to be defined by the individual Mason but that purpose has to be something substantial and be related to the obligations of a Master Mason not just something to justify paying lodge dues or selecting just one aspect from of the obligations as

a priority and justifying carrying a membership card.

How can there be enjoyment from being a Mason if there is no relevance or purpose from being a member of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons?

When there is serious consideration given to being part of any organization there has to be potential for a feeling of personal satisfaction obtained from willing participation, maintaining all the commitments and obligations that will provide greater relevance and meaning to an individual's life.

If one does not look forward to meeting people, maintaining their commitments or participating in meaningful activities related to Freemasonry how can there be enjoyment from being a member of the Fraternity?

Can anyone explain how there can be enjoyment for the hundreds upon hundreds of Masons who pay their dues and never visit their lodge, contact their Master, Secretary and Wardens, never associate with any other brethren for years or participate in the activities of their lodge that are within his cable tow?

It must be realized there will always be restrictive circumstances that will reduce the relevance, purpose and enjoyment of being a Mason. Those restrictions involve a very small percentage of the overall membership of the Fraternity and can no way justify the vast number of brethren who rarely take an active interest in their lodge except through the paying of their lodge dues once a year but have the ability and capability to do more.

It should be the goal of every dedicated Mason to have as much relevance, purpose and enjoyment from his association with Freemasonry as he can generate without over burdening himself and his family or from any undue pressure from other members of the fraternity.

**This what I think, The Editor**

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### 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 EDITOR OR THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

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**Special Report on Military Masons and other Masons (Unedited)**

*(This special report should give every Mason in this country food for thought on how fortunate we are and how dedicated many of our brethren are to the fraternity)*

Brethren,

Last night when the brethren of Canada Lodge U.D. were visiting the Widow's Son Military Lodge #202, a Prince Hall Lodge here in KAF, while lodge was about to open in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, KAF came under attack. We are regularly attacked by indirect fire from rockets, but last night in concert with indirect fire there was a frontal ground attack on the base and we received word that the perimeter had been breached. The Worshipful Master calmly directed the Tyler to lock the door and put a round in the chamber of his M-4. This was done and we continued with the sound of warning sirens and explosions outside (when there is a rocket attack we are to stay under shelter anyway).

I am quite certain that in the history of Masonry the door of the lodge has rarely been tiled in this way.

I am glad to report that I am safe, and that while there were Canadians injured last night in the attack last night, we did not suffer any loss of life.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Bro. Joe Curry

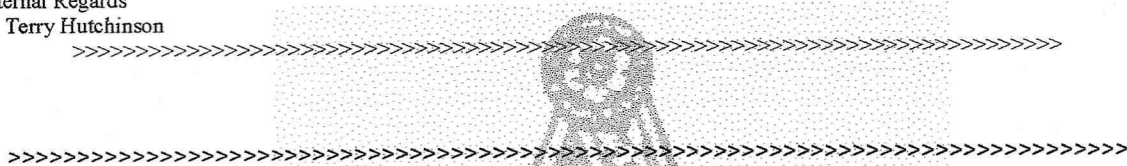
**Footnote:**

Brethren

As I have mentioned many times before, we have had many Canadian brethren in Afghanistan, and I know some of them, two have paid the supreme sacrifice giving their lives to help others.

Please remember all of them in your prayers, and hope and pray they all come home safe.

Fraternal Regards  
Bro Terry Hutchinson



**Cont'd from front page 1;**

A brother receives the opportunity of speaking in public, thinking on his feet, making decisions, voting on issues, and the chairing of meetings. These are invaluable assets in all other aspects of his life and for many these may well be the only opportunity of learning, practicing and perfecting these skills and techniques.

In reality you can gain significant information and understanding from the principles and precepts of our fraternity by being actively involved as a Mason. It's like anything else in life. You get out of it what you put in and when the effort and interest is present the rewards are beyond all expectations. Attendance at a Lodge is a night away from family, but in pursuit of something worthwhile and something your family can be proud of you for pursuing. There is value in a wholesome evening with brethren who share a commitment to see good in the world.

The lessons taught in this fraternity, reinforced by the many examples presented provide us with an increased awareness, comfort and a sense of acceptance for what we are - good men trying to be better, trying to make the world a better place, and trying to help one another.

Have we met Masonry's expectations of us? We try to be worthy of being a Mason. We try to be good men. We fail sometimes, but life and learning teaches us to try again. Masonry's lessons have helped us focus on those things in life worth striving to achieve.

Fraternally

Miles R Graham  
Most Worshipful Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, Canada





## Consider the length of your cable tow.....

*A follow up article from previous Winter edition*

As a result of my most recent article in Mostly Masonry ("Visiting", winter 2010 edition) concerning visiting of lodges, some questions and comments have been posed to me that I will attempt to address in this article.

I believe that it is important to state initially that the manner in which a Mason chooses to live up to his obligation is one that is best judged by that Mason. My only criteria would be that a Mason should faithfully address his obligation within his personal situation. Only he can be the judge of what he can do and, as long as he is making his best effort, it is not up to another to rate that effort.

That having been said, I will attempt to respond to the comments.

**Question/comment:** Given the number of lodge meetings in a district along with lodge activities, practices, committee meetings, Grand Lodge and Masonic services, it may be unrealistic to expect a Mason to attend all of them and pressure should not be applied to him to do so.

**Response:** I couldn't possibly agree more. I modify that response with another point. This is not an "all or nothing" expectation. A Mason is expected to participate in Fraternity events to the best of his ability (within "the length of his cable tow") without injury to himself or family.

This does not mean "without inconvenience". A responsibility or expectation is not always convenient. Any person who would expect an individual Mason to attend every lodge communication within his district, every lodge function, etc., etc. is setting a standard that is totally and absolutely unreasonable. My personal expectation is that each lodge would establish a process by which that lodge would be well represented at other lodges and that the Masons in that lodge would participate to the best of their ability (i.e. within the length of their cable tow.)

It is also my hope that each Mason would consider it his duty to attend Masonic Funeral Services, again within the length of his cable tow.

I would hope that Masons would want to be active in their lodges as far as they can do it.

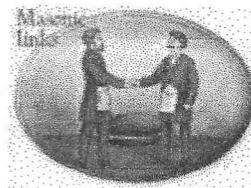
**Question/comment:** Should visiting numbers be used to justify the existence a lodge?

**Response:** No! As I said in my article, visiting is good for the visiting lodge and for the visited lodge. Both can grow and learn from the experience. On an individual level, a Mason has the opportunity to meet and socialize with brethren from other lodges and from other districts and jurisdictions. To the extent that a lodge visits other lodges, the lodge will receive visitors from other lodges. That is not to say that a lodge will receive any visitors if they do not visit other lodges – only that lodges feel more encouraged to visit if they are visited.

When we look at lodges within our jurisdiction, we recognize lodges that do a good job at various aspects of Masonry, whether it is with ritual, visiting, attendance at Grand Lodge, participation in charitable work, citizenship in the community, etc. This, I suspect, is a source of pride for lodges. I would be concerned if the reason that these activities occurred was because someone wanted to check off items on a list. Where is the enjoyment, the fraternity the learning if the main reason it is being done is that it is something that we "have" to do in order to satisfy some arbitrary or unrealistic expectation.

I believe that this Fraternity exists to allow and encourage Masons to grow personally. This involves learning our own limitations and attempting to extend our boundaries. I don't believe that any check list would do anyone any benefit. While we have constitutions, by-laws, ritual, etc., those items govern how lodges operate and how we are expected to behave within those organizations. Each Mason knows, if he is honest with himself, if he is living his obligations.

Submitted by: DDGM RWB Ed Burrige, District # 2





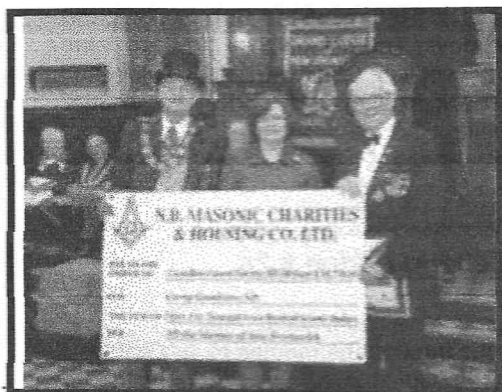


**The Gallery**



Members of the Order of The Black Apron who were of great assistance to Carleton Lodge # 35 The working tools of this degree are: spatula, dish cloth and hot pancakes. As submitted by Harold Crabbe

**Cheque for 2010 Camp Goodtime**



L-R: The Grand Master, MWB Miles R. Graham; Mrs. Betty Hoyt, Canadian Cancer Society and RWB James D. McKenna, President Masonic Charities and Housing Co. Ltd, at Grand Lodge May 08, 2010.

**Sixty Years as a Brother**



RWB PDDGM Franklin Langley honoured by RWB Philip Hartford DDGM for district No. 5 on February 4, 2010 RWB Langley was initiated in Cherry Mountain Lodge No. 50 Harvey N.B. at the age of 30 and after moving to St. Andrews he affiliated with St. Mark's Lodge No. 5. He served as Worshipful Master in 1972 and 1974, as DDGM 1979-1981, received the Quinn Medallion 1983.

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**\$15,000 Financial Support for Lodge**



Hon. Rick Brewer, Min. of H R; EA, Norma Smith and WB Darrell Munn.

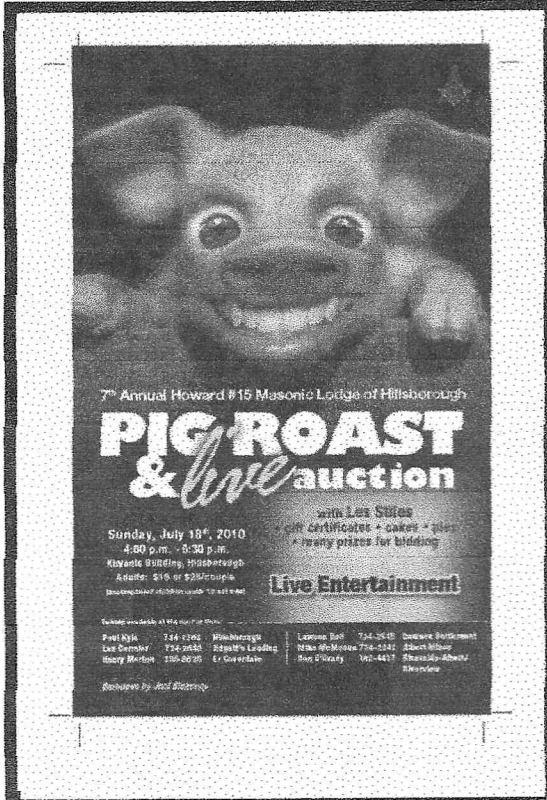
**Two Fifty year Masons in Sussex Lodge # 4**



L to R: GM MWB Miles Graham; WB Douglas Hamm; Rev. WB Wayne McCarther and District # 2 DDGM RWB Ed Burrige



**Major Lodge Events and items of interest: Your support for these lodge events would be greatly appreciated by their organizers.**

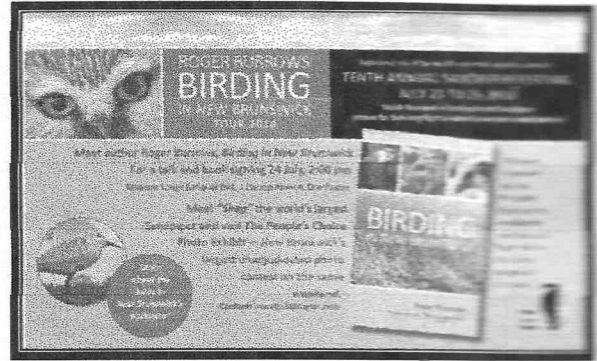


**Howard Lodge # 15, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pig Roast**  
with Live Auction on 18th July, 2010, 4:00 to 6:30 pm  
including gift certificates, pies and cakes. A great day  
Hillsborough, NB, for further information call 734-2363  
or 832-4437

**Westmorland Lodge; First Ever Public Family  
Fun Day.**

Come one come all family and friends to join use  
for a fun filled day. We have games for children  
and grownups like outdoors if weather permits or  
in the basement if weather does not. We will  
have a BBQ with hamburgers and hotdogs and  
pop and ice-cream. We will have Clowns and  
balloons and small prizes for the games won.  
We will also have the Lodge Room open for any  
adults who would like to have a look inside and  
perhaps they would be interested in joining your  
Lodge. Of course any and all refreshments and  
Fun that you may receive will be NO  
CHARGE!!!!!!

**THAT'S' RIGHT FOLKS: IT'S A FUN RAISER  
NOT A FUNDRAISER COME AND ENJOY**



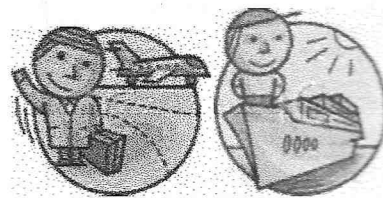
**Sussex Lodge # 4 Supports 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Sandpiper Festival in Village of Dorchester, NB**

For a full outline of the weekend activities in the  
historical village go to the Village of Dorchester  
web site which is being continually updated over  
the 6 weeks leading up to the event which  
includes Student Reunion of Dorchester School for  
all students, The Return of the Bob Stultz Band  
from the old days, The Sandpiper Chowder Taste  
testing, The people's Choice Photo Exhibit and  
Contest, a book signing and food in the square  
with more being planned.

**Zetland Lodge # 24**

Zetland Lodge # 24 will continue to hold regular  
communications through the months of July and  
August 2010.

**It's Vacation Time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
*Have a good summer and check for  
Masonic activities wherever you  
travel but remember to enjoy local.*



**Have a great time on your next  
adventure.**  
Next Mostly Masonry deadline 24 Oct 2010

**"He who wished to secure the good of others, has already secured his own."**