



Masonry Matters

From the Grand Master

Brethren, Thank you for electing me as your Grand Master. It is a great honour and I feel a great responsibility to deliver on what I have been preaching for the last few years. My motto for my term is going to be "Freemasonry: the once and future thing", or in Latin, as all good mottos should be "Res quondam resque futurus". I have adapted this from Sir Thomas Mallory's book about King Arthur, published in 1485. I just changed a couple letters, in each language. I thought about using "Back to the Future" but that is copyrighted and evokes visions of DeLoreans and flying skateboards. And it is not what I mean. While we should, indeed must, embrace technological innovation, it alone will not save us. We must look back to what our forefathers did when Freemasonry was smaller but growing.



In 1905 we had 35,000 Masons in 386 lodges. We had 22 districts, a Board of 20, and nine Grand Lodge Committees. We now have less than 33,000 Masons, but we still have a superstructure built for over 100,000. During this cold winter of disillusionment, we must prune before we can grow strong again. We need to prune Grand Lodge, Districts, Lodges, even our individual activities. We cannot continue to burn ourselves out trying to be all things to all people. We must concentrate on the quintessence of Freemasonry. We have a template for achieving this. It's called the Strategic Plan. It surprises me that it is so relevant because it was first written almost a decade ago, or maybe I shouldn't be surprised. The four themes still apply: we want to ensure the timeless vitality of Freemasonry; we need to reaffirm the Lodge room as the dynamic centre of Masonry; we will rebuild our Craft one man at a time; and we must align Freemasonry's timeless value to today's modern culture. One of my favourite quotations is from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the aviator, philosopher, and yes, children's author: "When you want to build a boat, don't start by collecting wood, cutting planks and assigning tasks, but instead awaken in the hearts of men a desire for the great and vast sea." In my speeches, including this one, I hope to achieve this. But we also have to continue the actions started by my predecessors. Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous organist who became a physician and then went to Africa as a medical missionary, once said: "Example is not the best way to influence others; it's the only way." So we're setting an example by restoring Grand Lodge to the right size.

This year we will further reduce the number of Committees. The core pillar committees will be chaired by members of the Management Committee and made up predominantly of the members of the Board of General Purposes. They will, using the Strategic Plan, decide what activities and programs we will use, share them with Management, and only then start to recruit the Brethren with the skills needed to implement them. We are going to put the horse in front of the cart. Those are my goals for Grand Lodge – the practical and the inspirational - to lead by example, and to awaken in your hearts a desire for the great thing that Freemasonry was, and can be again – the once and future thing. Let’s make it happen.

David J. Cameron

Grand Master



From the Deputy ...

My Brethren: It is with the greatest of pleasure and pride that I greet you for the first time as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in the Province of Ontario. My sincere thanks to each one of you who attended our last Annual Communication to confirm this election. It is a great responsibility that I humbly except and, with your continued support and encouragement, feel confident that we can continue to make Freemasonry the greatest experience that men can share. I want to thank every Brother who has mentored me over the last thirty-nine plus years of my Masonic career and especially those who were there for Cheryl and me over the last year.

As President of the Board of General Purposes and with the support of our Grand Master, the first task we have as a Management Team and, in cooperation with the Management Committee of your Board General Purposes, is to put a Committee structure in place to deliver the programs of our Grand Lodge with the proper manning as needed. For the coming year, all Committees have been grouped under the five pillars of our Strategic Plan, each headed by a member of the Management Committee: Craft Stewardship and Masonic Education by R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland; Membership by R.W. Bro. John Hay; Communication by R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik; Operations by R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman and Community Outreach by R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco. It is an excellent collection of very dedicated Masons and a good mix of veterans plus the latter two new Management Committee members. The Strategic Plan is on the Grand Lodge web site and I would highly recommend it for your review. The Grand Lodge Committees are divided into two groups – the Standing Committees are the nine which are detailed in the Constitution under Section 135 and their powers and duties under Section 136. The second are the Special Committees that have been created over time to facilitate special programs for the support of Masonry in Ontario. This number has mushroomed over the years to the extent that at one Board meeting we heard thirty eight different reports from a dedicated line-up of Chairman and Team Leaders.

This year will continue the recent trend in downsizing with the Grand Lodge Committees too. We have asked the Pillar Chairman to review all of the Grand Lodge programs with the exception of the Standing Committees listed in the Constitution, and decide if they should continue as is, be revised or dropped if continuing them would not assist us in achieving our strategic goals and objectives. The renewal process started at our first short Board meeting on Wednesday night after the Grand Master's Banquet at the last Annual Communication when the Board of General Purposes was asked to look at the 'big picture' of Grand Lodge Committee structure with a direction to think about downsizing. A week later, the Management Committee received Pillar responsibilities for program execution and reporting. At the same time, they were told which other members of the Board would be on their Committees to assist with the brainstorming and then delivery of the same, and soon after, all of the Board members were informed as to which Pillar they would be serving under this year. The Committees met with the same renewal objective to make a case for each of the Committees staying as such or shutting them down as not able to meet our strategic goals and objectives. Just because we have run a program for years, does not necessarily mean we should continue. And we are sure there are some new ideas we should try. Each pillar has been charged with working out a plan and a budget to complete that plan of which the Management Committee will be meeting to decide how to move forward. We are planning on fewer Committees than in years past, but exactly how it will look will be determined after the Pillar Chairman have met with their respective teams and the Management Committee meets in mid-August. Now I know you will want to tune in next month to follow the renewal of your Committee of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs so be sure to look for the next edition!

Thomas W. Hogeboom Deputy Grand Master



ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY OF CANADA



Dear Brethren,

I think that most of us believe when we speak of history we think about many years ago when in fact what happened yesterday is now history. It is also said that man does not learn from history and will keep repeating the same mistakes over and over again. In my last story regarding the Knights Templar, the events took place hundreds of years ago. The subject I wish to write about took place in the eighteenth century, 1852 to be exact.

This is the story of the founding of King Solomon's Lodge No 38, on the register of the Grand Lodge of England in the year 1853. I trust the readers may perhaps forgive me for selecting my Mother lodge for this submission to Masonry Matters, however, I believe it is an interesting story.

MASONRY IN UPPER CANADA 1832

To those of you who own and have read, 'Whence Come We', know, I am sure, that the number of Masonic Lodges in and around Oxford County could be counted on one hand because there were only two: King Hiram Lodge No 12 and a lodge in Burford. It was obvious that Masons in Woodstock would have to travel to attend these lodges, and in the winter this was very hard. Those Masons living in Woodstock gathered Masons in and around the town and obtained a warrant to form a lodge. Our lodge has in its possession copies of all the correspondence that took place prior to, and the granting of, a charter from the Grand Lodge of England.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

Back in 1852, in Woodstock, Ontario much travelling was done by stagecoach and horseback and throughout the surrounding area there existed stopping places to change horses and to give travellers a rest. Some of these places were taverns and one did exist in Woodstock called Dorman's Hotel. This was the place where Masons met to lay the groundwork for the formation of a Masonic lodge in Woodstock. At the meeting at Dorman's Hotel, on November 17, 1852, a motion was put forward by Brother Whitehead, seconded by Bro Clark, that a petition for a charter to form a lodge in Woodstock to be completed and submitted to the M.W. Grand Master of England. The lodge was to be named King Solomon's Lodge and they would meet on a Tuesday, or before a full moon. The motion was carried.

The cost of the charter was £12, 6 shilling. Ten of the Masons present paid for the fee at £1, 1 s each. An interesting note in the minutes was that Bro Corban ran off leaving himself in debt to the rest of the Brethren.

A letter dated October 23, 1952 was sent to a Francis Richardson, Esq., Provincial Grand Secretary, King Street, Toronto, signed by John McWhinnie, Agent for the British North American office. At a meeting of King Solomon's Lodge held on November 25, 1852 at Dorman's Hotel, the lodge Secretary informed the Brethren that a copy of the Warrant from the Grand Secretary had been received. The decision was then made to have the installation of officers of King Solomon Lodge No 38 take place on December 22, 1852. This installation did occur on that date, at the Finkles Building, with Bro Thompson Wilson W.M. of St. George Lodge in the chair. The first W.M. of this lodge was Bro G.W. Whitehead. Eight years later King Solomon's Lodge No 38 joined the Grand Lodge of Canada and was renumbered No 43.

THE SEARCHERS

When historians begin their search they often dig deep to find the facts, so it is with the search for Masonic history. A former member of our lodge, V.W. Bro Joe Massaquoi, was one of these and he sought out as much information about our lodge as he could. He discovered when the first meetings were held of King Solomon's Lodge No 38; where Dorman's Hotel was located (on the north side of Dundas St., somewhere between Light Street and Vansittart Avenue. Bro Massaquoi also sought out where our lodge first held their meetings, discovering that they first met at the Finkles Building courtesy of the Odd Fellows. They also meet on the west side of Dundas Street directly above present day Mel's Fish and Chip is located., Their final stop was then they and Oxford Lodge bought the Buckingham Hotel which is located at the corner of Dundas and Brock Streets.

When Bro Massaquoi passed away he left behind a treasure trove of Masonic items, including a copy of the first printed lodge summons for King Solomon's Lodge No 38 printed on a real steam-driven printing press owned by the Woodstock Sentinel Review.

Several trips to the Woodstock Museum seeking information on the site of the hotel did not prove fruitful. Likewise, visits to the Woodstock Library saw me looking at maps which showed places where stage coaches made stops. Although this was an interesting experience, I was no further ahead in my quest to find the site of Dorman's Hotel. It was not until I received a listing of places in Woodstock back in the eighties that, low and behold, there was the Dorman's Hotel located at the west corner of Perry and Dundas Streets.

THE EARLY DAYS

In my search of the history of King Solomon's Lodge No 38, I discovered a book that was written by Bro Charles Blueman. Bro Blueman was a vary prominent member of society at the time. Bro Blueman kept a record of important events in the life of King Solomon's Lodges No 38 and 43. In one recording he noted

that some members of the Lodges took a train from Woodstock to Beachville to attend a funeral service of a lodge member. The total distance travelled would amount to about 8 miles.

King Solomon's Lodge No 38 had very important visitors in its early years in the persons of W.M. Bro William Mercer Wilson, and G.M. and W.M. Bro John Ross Robertson. M.W. William Mercer Wilson visited King Solomon's Lodge No 38 on June 24, 1859, on the occasion of the installation of the W.M. and the investiture of the lodge officers. It was truly a magnificent event! M.W. Bro William Mercer Wilson was met by a large number of masons and the Woodstock Brass Band, and escorted to Norton's Hotel. At 8:00 pm he accepted the gavel and proceeded to conduct the ceremony of the installation. Lodge was closed at midnight.

M.W. Bro John Ross Robertson collected information for a book he was writing, 'The History of Free Masonry in Canada'.

FOOTNOTE:

Masonry in Woodstock, ON has a most interesting story to tell if we only look to uncover the facts. An example is that of two lodges in Woodstock have had members who became Grand Masters, M.W. Bro Allan J. Petrisor, King Solomon's Lodge No 38, and M.W. Bro Ira Slaven, King Solomon's Lodge No 43, who also became Grand Master of the State of Michigan. Not bad for our home town!

Discovered in the pages of the lodge Minutes was a small quotation made by the secretary at the time, dated December 27, 19853. It reads: *V'ir sapit qui pauca loquitur*, which translated means:

"He is a wise man who talks very little".

V.W. Bro George Bayne

F.C.F.

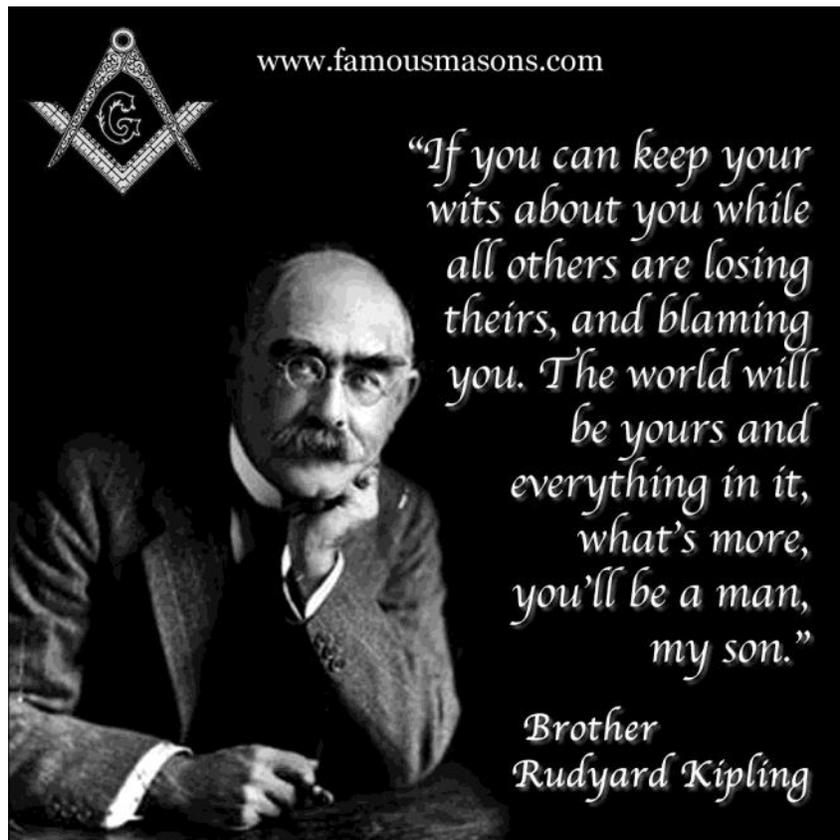
Famous Canadian Masons

Rudyard Kipling

was an English journalist, short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He was born in India, which inspired much of his work.

Kipling's works of fiction include [The Jungle Book](#) (1894), [Kim](#) (1901), and many short stories, including "[The Man Who Would Be King](#)" (1888). His poems include "[Mandalay](#)" (1890), "[Gunga Din](#)" (1890), "[The Gods of the Copy-book Headings](#)" (1919), "[The White Man's Burden](#)" (1899), and "[If—](#)" (1910). He is seen as an innovator in the art of the short story. His children's books are classics; one critic noted "a versatile and luminous narrative gift".

He was made a Mason in Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782 (English Constitution) at Lahore, Punjab, India in 1886. It required a special dispensation, because Kipling was only twenty years and six months of age at the time. The same evening that he was raised he was elected secretary of the lodge, so that he recorded his own initiation in the minutes of his mother lodge!



WILSON DISTRICT TEAM 2019 – 2020

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Grand Lodge website click below

[Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario](#)



For the most update information on

MasonicChip click the link below

<http://masonichip.ca/>



For clinic in your area visit:

<http://www.blood.ca/>

Don't forget - Masons, as well as their family members and their friends, can register as part of the **Partners for Life** program. To do so, contact Canadian Blood Services at www.blood.ca/Web/pfl/nsf. The Wilson North District Partner number is MASO 0108980.

Remember to check out one of the upcoming blood donor clinics:

4th Thursday of each month _ Ingersoll Unifor Hall - 4:30—8:30

1st Thursday of each month - Woodstock Goff Hall - 12:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Photographs in Masonry Matters are needed!

Without your assistance, there will be no Masonry Matters.

Secretaries and Masters, please send photographs to:

wilsondistrictmasonrymatters@gmail.com



Happy to Meet. Sorry to Part. Happy to Meet Again.