

# GRAND LODGE

of A.F. & A.M. of Canada  
in the Province of Ontario



Grand Master's  
Address  
2022



**GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS**  
**David J. Cameron**  
**July 2022**

To the Officers and Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Brethren,

Welcome to the one hundred and sixty-seventh Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge.

I welcome the Worshipful Masters of our Constituent Lodges who have joined us. Freemasonry exists, has its life and being, in the Lodges over which you preside. You are an integral part of this Communication. I extend a special welcome to all who are here for the first time, and most especially those Master Masons, Fellows and Apprentices who have come out even though they don't get to vote. Bravo brethren.

It is wonderful to welcome the distinguished guests from our sister Grand Jurisdictions. We have worked together at the All Canada and North America Conferences, sharing ideas and advice. Several of you have welcomed Jill and me to your Grand Jurisdictions, and I hope you find this visit worth the trip.

And I welcome also the representatives of our Concordant and Appendant Bodies, leaders in their own right and supporters of Craft Masonry. And to our Past Grand Masters, Board members, Grand Representatives, and all those who year after year, come out to support your Grand Lodge. You are the glue of this organization.

There are several functions that the Grand Master's address should fulfill. First, it is a summary of the Grand Master's activities and the way to meet certain reporting requirements. Secondly, it provides an opportunity to recognize, acknowledge and pay tribute to those who have contributed in exceptional ways. And lastly, it is an opportunity for the Grand Master to inspire the brethren as to the future direction they may wish to take.

But it is only appropriate at the start of this particular address to report on some Extraordinary Correspondence:

In February, on behalf of the Masons of Ontario, I sent a letter of congratulation to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, on the Seventieth Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne. I told Her Majesty that it is usual and customary at our lodge banquets to offer a toast to the Queen and the Craft, and this year we will do so with this milestone in mind. In response, The Queen "sends her best wishes to you all for a most enjoyable Platinum Jubilee year."

God Save The Queen.

Accomplishments during my term:

*Wee, sleeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie,  
 O, what a panic's in thy breastie!  
 Thou need na start awa sae hasty,  
 Wi' bickerin brattle!*

*I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee  
Wi' murd'ring pattle!*

*But Mousie, thou art no thy-lane,  
In proving foresight may be vain:  
The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men  
Gang aft agley,*

Bro. Robert Burns compared the plans of men to a mouse whose nest was dug up by the plow. And yet, he goes on to say that, despite the tribulation she had suffered, *Still, thou art blest.*

Brethren, we, too, are blessed.

Oh, I had laid some fine plans: visits to every district, twenty centennials and an equal number of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, presentations, speeches, banquets, maybe even some dances, World Conferences, trips to Cuba and Jamaica, Scotland and England. Instead my job became to relay and explain public health advice, interpret legislative regulations, keep the brethren safe by encouraging virtual contact only, and in spite of all this, keep the spirits of the brethren up.

In the past I had been asked what the most important character trait of a potential Worshipful Master is, and my answer was always "flexibility". Meetings never go exactly as planned. Ritualists fall ill, the air conditioning doesn't work, you find yourself obligating the Master-elect before moving to the second degree. We cope with it and move forward with lessons learned. No sense dwelling on it.

And as a Grand Lodge we were flexible. And we were blessed.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed down lodge meetings we rapidly pivoted to virtual gatherings. Grand Lodge had set up a GoToMeeting Account so Board Committees could meet without the long drives, especially during the snowy months. We were rapidly able to extend the service to lodges and districts. And they took advantage of it. There were speakers from around the world – so many that we never would have been able to afford to bring them all over for in-person lectures. We also used it to socialize, with not only our shut-in brethren but those who had moved away to other towns, provinces and countries. And the quality of our speakers attracted a following from interested brethren from around the world, whom we got to know as well.

Another blessing was that we had time to reflect and refocus. The Board took the downtime to revamp programs and procedures. We went from "all lodges should do this program; why aren't they all doing it?" to targeted activities like the Lodge Secretary Workshops and Manual. We had time to devote to the Office Technology revamp.

We built bridges with other Grand Lodges and other fraternities.

We embarked on mutual recognition with neighbouring Prince Hall Grand Lodges. Last year the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania responded. This year, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Its Jurisdiction has requested recognition. And, by chance, the Chairman of the Recognition Committee of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia heard about our endeavours and they have requested it as well.

Aware that other fraternal organizations are having similar financial constraints, and with no intent to ever recognize, merge or inter-visit, we have been opening the door to the mutual benefit of sharing buildings. There are now Order of Women Freemasons lodges who rent space from us. There is an Odd Fellows lodge that uses one of our buildings and a couple of our lodges that use Odd Fellows Halls.

We have trimmed the length of our annual communication to be more affordable to the average Mason, and we have moved to on-line elections to allow brethren from across this great province to have equal input. Although we didn't intend to change venues quite yet, we were flexible when forced by financial and booking constraints to do so this year. I hope the changes we have instituted, both as a result of the work of our Annual Communication Task Force and of necessity, are well received. Further honing of this event will in the future see us move around the province like we did up until 85 years ago.

We strove to be more universally respectful by tweaking our ritual and by embracing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

We sat at home, wishing we could go to lodge. But it was an opportunity to reflect on what it was about lodge that was so appealing. And the break was an opportunity to start afresh.

Many of you will recall the story I told in several of my virtual talks: about the young man whose horse ran away. Everyone tried to offer consolation for the man's ill fortune, but his father said, "What makes you so sure this is not a blessing?" His mare returned accompanied by a beautiful stallion and everyone said "What good fortune!" That is, until he fell while riding the stallion and broke his hip, then everyone commiserated with him. But the wise old man asked "What makes you so sure this is a disaster?" Eventually the town was threatened by invaders but the young man could not go into battle due to his disability. Because of this he survived to live a long life, and father and son could look after each other.

These past two years have been incredibly challenging, some would say a disaster. But what makes you so sure it was not a blessing?

### NECROLOGY

As Masons we respect those who have gone before us and left us a shining example. I recognize the many brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge above during the past year. For the sake of brevity I will mention but a few.

#### **M.W. Bro. Donald Herbert Mumby**

**Grand Master 2003-2004**

A distinguished gentleman, to my mind the epitome of what a Grand Master should be. His counsel was always wise and thought-out. He was a friend, a trusted advisor, and a role model. The personification of the ideal of a Freemason.

#### **R.W. Bro. S. Michael Jenkyns, FCF, PGSW (Hon)**

**Grand Historian 2009-2021**

A prolific author, Michael Jenkyns served as our Grand Historian for many years. His keen interest in the history of not only Craft Masonry, but also that of concordant bodies, has left a great legacy so that the brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past.

**R.W. Bro. Thomas W. Jackson PGScy (Hon) 2001.** World-wide Freemasonry lost a beacon in the person of Tom Jackson. Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and Past Executive Secretary and Honorary President of the World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges; a promoter of Observant Masonry and of dialogue between Grand Lodges of differing obediences around the world. Although reserved and humble, when he spoke people listened. Because what he had to say rang true.

**W. Bro. Jim Kramer,** FCF passed to the Grand Lodge Above at the young age of 49. Despite a physical challenge which necessitated the use of an electric wheelchair and made it hard to understand his speaking, with the assistance of his brethren he served as Worshipful Master of Moffat Lodge No. 399 in London.

So many others – Frank L. Thompson; Robert Jewell; David Dainard; Paul Skazin; Donald Kaufman; Sonny Clarke... We could be here all day honouring them. We will miss these men, and the many others, who have so enriched our Craft and our lives.

### **WILLIAM MERCER WILSON MEDAL**

The William Mercer Wilson Medals are awarded by the Grand Master to brethren who “fully earned the esteem and the respect of [their] brethren for good work well done.”

On the recommendation of the Awards Committee over the past few years, it was my honour this year to present this most prestigious award to:

- **Bro. Reid Delano Brown**, Trafalgar Lodge No. 712
- **Bro. Edward Hugh Carney**, Parthenon Lodge No. 267
- **Bro. Stanley Glide Durward**, King Edward Lodge No. 464
- **Bro. Charles William Lough**, Durham Lodge No. 306
- **Bro. John Allan Swan**, Dufferin Lodge No. 570
- **Bro. Norman Evan Wheeler**, Wexford Lodge No. 683

### **GRAND MASTER'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

Established in 1988 by M.W. Bro. William R. Pellow to recognize exceptional services rendered by members of this Grand Lodge, it is the personal award of the Grand Master. This year I am pleased to announce three recipients who have each contributed so much to our members.

R.W. Bro. Gordon Collings Crutcher, Patterson Grey Lodge No. 265. Past Grand Senior Warden. Gord has ensured that a very high level of Protocol and Etiquette is observed and has been indispensable to several Custodians by assisting in running Lodges of Instruction and by writing P & E Essentials.

R.W. Bro. Garnet Elgin Schenk, Muskoka Lodge No. 360. District Deputy Grand Master of Muskoka-Parry Sound District 2006. Garnet has been a prolific contributor to the Ontario Mason Magazine, written several modules for the College of Freemasonry, and promoted a stellar level of education in this Grand Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Earl John Walsh, King Hiram Lodge No. 566, District Deputy Grand Master of Toronto District 1 2000. Earl and his team have for many years been instrumental in making the Annual Communication such a success. They work tirelessly behind the scenes, shipping and setting up the apparatus needed for our ceremonies, changing things over for the banquet and setting it up again for the Installation. And then getting it all safely back to Hamilton.

### **RECOGNITION OF 100 YEARS OF SERVICE**

In accordance with Section 394 of the Book of Constitution, I am pleased to grant permission for the following lodges to wear gold braided regalia, effective the dates indicated:

- Kaministiquia Lodge No. 584, Thunder Bay on June 7, 2021
- Fairbank Lodge No. 592, Toronto on November 30, 2021
- St. Andrew's Lodge No. 593, Hamilton on November 30, 2021
- Martintown Lodge No. 596, Lancaster on January 4, 2022
- Maple Leaf Lodge No. 600, Etobicoke on February 14, 2022
- Ashlar Lodge No. 610, London on June 2, 2022
- Birch Cliff Lodge No. 612, Toronto on August 9, 2022

### **PAST RANK**

Pursuant to Section 73 of the Book of Constitution, I recommend the rank of Past Master be conferred upon the following:

- W. Bro. Michael G. Travis, Coronation Lodge No. 502

- W. Bro. Chris Henderson, Ashlar Lodge No. 610

### APPOINTMENTS

Acting in accordance with and under the authority of Section 131(e) of the Constitution, I am pleased to recommend the appointment of R.W. Bro. Brian W. Gilkinson as an Honorary Member of the Board of General Purposes.

### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

In the past we used to have reports from other Grand Jurisdictions at the back of The Proceedings. I don't know if anybody else read them, but I always found them an interesting window into Freemasonry around the world. Oddly enough in this digital age they have fallen off since nobody mails out their proceedings anymore; they post them on-line, but usually in the members only areas. As a trial I asked those appointed last year to contact, go to their websites, or otherwise connect with their colleagues and write a report. This year they are found at the back of the Proceedings. I hope in future years, that all the Grand Representatives will make that effort to enlighten our brethren.

I am pleased to accept the following Brethren as our Grand Representatives near other Grand Lodges on the recommendation of their respective Grand Masters:

- W. Bro. James R. Morgan III Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
- R.W. Bro. Avron Jacobson The Grand Lodge of South Africa
- R.W. Bro. Rodrigo Werlang Isolan Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul
- V.W. Bro. John R. E. Beatty The Grand Lodge of Ireland

I recommend to the Grand Masters of these Grand Lodges the following brethren as Grand Representatives of their Grand Lodges near our Grand Lodge:

- R.W. Bro. Eric Joseph Marshall Brazil Grande Oriente do Rio de Janeiro
- R.W. Bro. Elliot Zovighian Brazil Grande Oriente Paulista
- R.W. Bro. Charles Woods Denmark
- R.W. Bro. David John Neave Dominican Republic
- R.W. Bro. Paavo Eric Liukko Finland
- R.W. Bro. Leonard Elliot Feldt Hawaii
- R.W. Bro. Gursharan S. Parmar India
- R.W. Bro. Michael Locke Iowa
- R.W. Bro. Michael Ross Martin Indiana
- M.W. Bro. Gary L. Atkinson Ireland
- V.W. Bro. Stephen Maizels Israel
- R.W. Bro. Edward F. Dunsmore Madagascar
- R.W. Bro. Serge R. J. Landry Morocco
- R.W. Bro. D. James B. Broomhead Nebraska
- R.W. Bro. Mark Wayne Kapitan Louisiana
- R.W. Bro. Robin John Colville Luxembourg
- R.W. Bro. Les Armstrong Oklahoma
- R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Allan Christie Portugal (Legal/Regular)
- R.W. Bro. Adam Thompson Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
- R.W. Bro. Garry McKinnon Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Its Jurisdiction
- V.W. Bro. Milan Cobanov Serbia
- R.W. Bro. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor Spain
- V.W. Bro. Garry Stuart Perkins Switzerland (Alpina)
- V.W. Bro. Les Bodrogi Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary
- Bro. Nicholas Fouad Ajram Victoria, Australia
- R.W. Bro. Paul Graham Isaac Western Australia

### **SURRENDER OF WARRANTS**

|                              |                       |                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Keewatin Lodge No. 417       | Western District      | September 15, 2021 |
| Coronation Lodge No. 502     | Niagara A District    | November 2, 2021   |
| Norwood Lodge No. 223        | Peterborough District | February 28, 2022  |
| Luxor Daylight Lodge No. 741 | Ottawa 2 District     | May 18, 2022       |

### **CONSECRATION OF NEW LODGE**

On July 9, 2022 Heredom Lodge No. 749 was Constituted and Consecrated in due and ancient form at the Weston Masonic Temple. We welcome this third lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction to declare itself an Observant lodge. I know there are other lodges which are using a similar model to enhance the experience of candidates and members alike and I encourage all Masons to explore the precepts of this concept.

### **CONFERENCES**

The Conference of Grand Masters of Canada (the "All Canada Conference") was held again virtually and even so, is an important opportunity to share with our brethren across the nation. This year we particularly discussed the issues we feel are important to address as we re-open.

### **DONATIONS**

While my emphasis has been on Ritual, Education and Mentoring, it is obvious that if one lives the lessons of our craft, one will be moved to practice charity and benevolence. The Grand Master's discretionary fund was used to help the brethren of British Columbia after the wildfires and floods, and for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Many individual brethren, as well as lodges and districts, also responded to these and many other worthy causes. And, of course, the Benevolence Committee and the Masonic Foundation of Ontario continued their valuable work.

### **DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER**

I have granted permission under Section 150 (b) of the Constitution for Lodge Niagara No. 360 of The Order of Women Freemasons to use the Niagara Masonic Memorial Temple craft lodge room for their meetings and ceremonials.

Under the same section I have granted permission for the Odd Fellows to use the rooms of North Dundas Lodge No. 320.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Because of COVID protocols limiting gatherings I had to make some difficult rulings but I tried in all cases to minimize the disruption to the Craft. There is a long-standing prohibition against holding a Masonic Memorial Service at the graveside. A complaint was received against two brothers who participated in such a graveside service while knowing that the Grand Master had directed that such a service not occur. Due to the circumstances, I felt that it would not be in the best interests of the Craft for the complaint to proceed to a trial and so dismissed the complaint and reprimanded the brethren. Several other complaints and appeals were dealt with by the Discipline Committee. More details can be found in their Report.

### **GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET**

We were to have had Bro. Robert Cooper as our speaker at the Grand Master's banquet tonight however, he has not been able to get here from Scotland, so you are stuck with me. Luckily I've had two years to come up with ideas for speeches and few chances to present them.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPRECIATION**

I would like to convey my appreciation to all those who contributed to our operations this past year, especially:

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling, The Grand Secretary, for his unfailing support and counsel.



R.W. Bro. Lou Domjan, the Chief Operating Officer, and the office staff: Mrs. Gail Nickerson, Mrs. Stacey Birks, Mrs. Barb Lee and Mrs. Anne Domjan, for their perseverance holding the office together working from home a great deal of the year.

The COVID-19 Team: Past Grand Masters Mumby and Campbell, the Grand Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer and the Deputy Grand Master. Your wise and measured deliberations have been invaluable.

The Management Committee and the Board for enthusiastically adopting my ideas and running with them.

The retiring members of the Board of General Purposes for all their years of valuable contributions. The District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Grand Registrar, the Grand Director of Ceremonies and all the Grand Lodge officers, for keeping the spirits of the brethren up despite the extreme disappointment of the limits on your activities.

All the brethren appointed as Very Worshipful brothers; I hope you will travel next year with those to be appointed.

And finally, my wife, Jill, and my son, James, for helping me through the barren times and the busy times.

### **CONCLUSION** - The future direction we may wish to take

We have had great disruption, but great disruption brings great opportunity. We can go back to doing things the way we used to do them, or we can do things the way we ought to do them. It is up to us.

I will finish by quoting from R.W. Bro. Thomas Jackson's speech to this Grand Lodge in 2011.

*[The] young men that are showing an interest in Freemasonry today are seeking much more than we are providing. They are on a quest searching for something that society is not providing to them. They are searching for a quality organization far above the mediocrity of present-day society. They are searching for knowledge and a system that will provide it for them. They know more about Freemasonry before they petition a Lodge than have any of their predecessors. What they know, however, is what they have learned about the Freemasonry of the past. It is now up to us to provide for them that for which they search. Each one of them and each one of us wishes to be affiliated with a quality organization and that is what Freemasonry must be.*

Brethren, I hope I have been able to awaken in your hearts a desire for the great and vast sea of possibilities. Thank you for the blessing of being given the chance to inspire you.

David J. Cameron  
Grand Master

## APPENDIX: GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| July 28      | Masonic Leaders' meeting  |
| Aug 3-6      | Regional meetings with DDGMs  |
| Aug 11       | Barrie Valley Scottish Rite speaker   |
| Aug 14       | AMD Annual Communication  |
| Aug 26       | Euclid Lodge No. 158, GL of BC & Yukon speaker                                |
| Aug 27       | Sovereign Great Priory of Canada  |
| Sept 18      | European Academy of Sciences and Arts Symposium                               |
| Sept 28      | Grey District speaker   |
| Oct 16       | Grand Chapter Convocation   |
| Nov 2        | Coronation Lodge No. 502 extinguishing of lights                              |
| Dec 15       | Toronto East District speaker   |
| Jan 15, 2022 | Lodge Secretaries Workshop  |
| Jan 24       | Ottawa Valley Scottish Rite speaker   |
| Feb 2        | Masonic Restoration Foundation Board Meeting                                  |
| Feb 10       | Wellington Square Lodge No. 725 Virtual Long Service Pins                     |
| Feb 16       | W. J. Dunlop Lodge No. 675 speaker  |
| Mar 3        | Harmony Lodge's Virtual Whiskey Tasting                                       |
| Mar 7        | David T. Campbell Lodge No. 706 - 100th Masonic Education and Fellowship      |
| Mar 23       | London Districts with M.W. Bro. Art Weiss, PGM GL of California               |
| Mar 26       | Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research Grand Masonic Day 2022              |
| Mar 30       | GL Audit and Finance Committee Town Hall                                      |
| Apr 23       | Conference of Grand Masters of Canada (the "All Canada Conference")           |
| Apr 26       | Masonic Memorial Service for M.W. Bro. Donald Mumby                           |
| May 18       | Harcourt Lodge No. 581 Centennial   |
| May 25       | St. Andrew's Lodge No. 593 Centennial   |
| May 26, 27   | Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 Centennial  |
| May 29       | Grand Chaplain's Speaker Series: Welcome to the Temple - speaker              |
| June 1       | Parthenon Lodge No. 267 - WMW medal presentation to Bro. Ed Carney            |
| June 9       | Trafalgar Lodge No. 712 - WMW medal presentation to Bro. Reid Brown           |
| June 14      | Durham Lodge No. 362 - WMW medal presentation to Bro. Charles Lough           |
| June 17      | Wexford Lodge No. 683 - WMW medal presentation to Bro. Norman Wheeler         |
| June 18      | Ashlar Lodge No. 610 Centennial and London Districts Grand Master's Reception |
| June 21      | King Edward Lodge No. 464 - WMW medal presentation to Bro. Stanley Durward    |
| June 22      | Dufferin Lodge No. 570 - WMW medal presentation to Bro. Allan Swan            |
| June 26      | Grand Chaplain's Virtual Multi-faith Divine Service                           |
| June 26      | Removal of Cornerstone, Sharon Temple   |
| July 9       | Consecration of Heredom Lodge No. 749   |



