



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 65, No. 7

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

September 2000

MWBro Gerald Thomas Webber Grand Master

MWBro Gerald Thomas Webber was born in Ponoka, Alberta, October 11, 1934. He took his public and high school education at Ponoka. Academically, he holds a Credit Management Degree from The Credit Institute of North America. He began his business career with a chartered bank. His banking career was interrupted when he joined the Canadian Army Special Korean Forces in 1952. After a management career in banking and financial institutions specializing in agriculture and commercial lending, he joined an international farm machinery manufacturer where he held senior management positions. He later owned a successful retail farm machinery dealership. He sold his interest in the business and started a new career working with volunteer organizations providing First Nations people a cornerstone for self-reliance by establishing agriculture and commercial business ventures.

Bro Webber was raised a Master Mason in North Star Lodge No 4, Lethbridge, in 1962. He affiliated with Crossfield Lodge No 48 in 1975, serving as Worshipful Master in 1982. He is a Charter Member of Loyalty Lodge No 197, and Honorary Life Member of Britannia Lodge No 18, Ponoka, Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No 128, and North Star Lodge No 4.

In 1990, Bro Webber joined the Grand Lodge staff as Assistant Grand Secretary and was appointed Grand Secretary in 1991. He served the Craft as Grand Secretary until 1999 and during the 94th Annual Communication the Brethren honoured Bro Webber, appointing him Grand Secretary Emeritus, GRA. At the 92nd Annual Communication, Bro Webber was elected Junior Grand Warden and has served as Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master until his installation as Grand Master at the 95th Annual Communication.

Bro Webber has been recognized by the Brethren in North America with the following: Elected President All Canada



Conference; Vice President, 2001 Conference of Grand Masters of North America; President, 61st Inter-Provincial Conference of the Four Western Jurisdictions (Western Conference); and served as Secretary to the Western Conference for eight years; four-year committee member, Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America; President, Al Azhar Shrine Clown Unit; and a member of A&ASR, Calgary Valley.

Bro Webber has made contributions to other organizations by being elected as Chaplain and Past President, Royal Canadian Legion, President Crossfield Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director, Peace Hills Trust Company, Indian Agri-Business Corporation, and Rockyview Gas Co-op and member Lions Club International.

Bro Webber lives on a family farm at Crossfield. He married Patricia in 1958, and they have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Are We There Yet?

By MWBro Gerald T. Webber, Grand Master
(part one)

It is a privilege and a special opportunity to present my thoughts on what is certainly one of the most important issues facing Freemasonry... RENEWAL, and my topic "Benchmarks in Renewal" (= how you will know it is working). In fact, the reader may conclude that **Masonic Renewal** is THE most significant issue and certainly more critical than some of the band-aid programs that do little more than provide temporary relief to struggling Lodges.

At the outset, let me say that I've always liked traveling by car, and I've always subjected my family to my endless

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Editorial

“Intra-Fraternal Masonic Alliance”

If this title is news to the reader, it is understandable because it is a phenomenon that only recently made its debut on the stage of North American Freemasonry. The proposal to form such a co-operative of Craft Grand Lodges, concordant bodies and the Shrine with the objective to jointly counteract the trend of declining membership numbers first came from Robert O. Ralston, SovGrCdr of the Northern Jurisdiction of the A&ASR of Freemasonry. The impetus for it was given by an address by Ralph Semb, Imperial Potentate of the AAONMS to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Savannah, GA, on February 22, 2000, when he proposed to admit non-Masons to become Shriners as “Civic Members.” Needless-to-say that this stirred up a controversy of some magnitude which, in turn, prompted Semb to convene a summit meeting of selected leaders to clarify the proposed concept in the hope of an agreement to follow. Those invited and participating were the Grand Masters of Alberta (representing all Canadian Grand Lodges), California, Illinois, Maryland, Oklahoma and South Carolina, the leaders of the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of the A&ASR of the United States, as well as of Canada, and the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. The meeting took place at Shrine HQ, in Tampa, FL.

MWBro J. Arthur Jones reported that

...the morning was spent in frank and open discussion with all parties expressing their individual points of view while considering the overall conclusions of the group... Obviously the success of this initiative [Alliance] will depend upon the voluntary involvement and financial support of those groups which will [be] affected by and benefit from the program... Based on an understanding that the Alliance would be in place shortly, the Imperial Shrine representatives at the Summit provided an undertaking that they would not pursue their suggested “Civic Member” concept and that they would discourage any resolutions which might distract from the goals and objectives of the Alliance.

The Alliance would be a separate body from the participants, exercising no authority over them and having no legislative powers, but serve as a central cleaning house for

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wanderlust. On many outings, when my three daughters were small children, they would moan from the back seat: “Are we there yet?” My response was always: “Yep, we’re here!” They would sit up eagerly and look out the window, then, in a disappointed voice, say: “Aw, Dad, this isn’t where we’re going” and I would reply: “But this is where we are!” My daughters were not happy campers.

Unlike my approach to traveling, when the Grand Lodge of Alberta started down the road toward renewal, it chose the destination — *The Future* — by building and supporting a formal plan for our Lodges. The mandate was simple: *A vision for the fraternity’s future with a strategy to take us there.*

Our plan was laid on a solid foundation, of which the Doric Pillar metaphorically represents the strength of our membership. But make no mistake about it, as we drive into the future, we take those occasional looks in the rear-view mirror to a landscape that provides important signals about the road ahead.

Brethren, Freemasons must take back complete control of their Lodges! This is not a criticism per se, because realistically we cannot expect much more when decisions about Lodges are made by Grand Lodges that are far removed from their communities. When we moved from paper plans to actions, we’ve come close, but we seemed to get stuck in a cycle of three steps forward and two steps back. We failed to reach our destination, and when I looked over the many empty seats in Lodge rooms, I couldn’t help asking: “Why aren’t we there yet?”

There is no doubt in my mind that Freemasonry is about to change. No, not in its ritual or its landmarks, but in how we manage ourselves as Lodges and Grand Lodge, and in the way in which we pick our leaders, manage our finances, and participate in the work of our central body, the Grand Lodge itself. The time is now for real long-range planning, with Lodge focus groups, surveys of the Brethren’s needs, and a critique of what the Grand Lodge is doing in the eyes of the Lodges and the members it serves. (This is not in reference to the office or the office staff of a Grand Lodge, but to the system under which we operate in meeting the objectives and needs of the membership.)

The operations or business workings of the Craft are foreign to the regular members of Masonry. If we don’t get the rank and file on board in support of the objectives of the Craft, we will continue to slip farther and farther down that greased pole of indifference and non-participation. Many of the Worshipful Masters fail to plan because of the uncertainty of the future. Since they cannot see precisely what was going to

Masonic bodies throughout North America, seeking to bring unity to Masonry’s efforts to build membership and, equally important, to retain members. It was reported that at the conclusion of the conference all parties had agreed to support the concept. No doubt we will receive a progress report shortly. It is now our hope that all North American jurisdictions will join the Alliance, and that all will steadfastly pull together for the good of the Craft and its many branches and offshoots. **THERE IS STRENGTH IN UNITY!**

(Sources: Letter to Canadian Grand Masters from J.A. Jones, GM AB; *Montana Masonic News*, Vol. 50, No. 449, June 2000)

happen, they argue, why take action? To have a vision and plan to make useful and rewarding experiences for their members will be the deciding factors in providing beneficial value for a man's time. That's exactly what the average Mason wants: more value for his time!

Our "Foundation for the Future" team members are not miracle workers. The success of any renewal program is in direct proportion to the dedication of the volunteer who is delivering the program. As the team members gained more experience, they found the reason is that the operation or business workings of the Craft are foreign to many members of Freemasonry. The Masonic mind works in particular ways, usually hampered by opposition and opinion. Change is threatening, and the comment "*Masonry has been doing fine for years, don't tinker with it*" still rings, or stings, in my ear.

When I was traveling with my family, one thing I was certain about was *to enjoy the journey*. Refusing to feel happy until you reach your destination is the worst possible approach. Waiting to celebrate until the end means missing all the wonderful moments along the way.

The enjoy-the-ride idea didn't occur to us right away, but eventually, as the number of visionaries replaced the doom-sayers, our perspectives began to shift. We realized that every conquest is a gift, and that every conquest is a chance to be where we want to be, and it finally occurred to us that we'd have to get there one step at a time. I admired the dedication of the many Brethren who persisted in sticking it out with us and "selling" the benefits of the Renewal program to the Lodges. We came to see each Lodge as an opportunity, not a problem!

The *Foundation for the Future* program is a simple program, designed to reach out and tell our Brethren that help is available, that the human and financial resources are in place to assist struggling Lodges to get going, to help good Lodges to get better, and to guide our better Lodges to become the best they can. We emphasize that this is a Lodge program, and we repeat, again and again, that if renewal is to work, it must begin with the Lodge, and if it is your Lodge and it is worth saving, then **it's up to you to save it!**

(To be continued.)

A Father and Son Event



On 2nd December 1999, Exemplar Lodge No 175 in Edmonton experienced a "First" in their history when WBro Bill Gillespie, who had been Worshipful Master twenty-two years earlier, installed his son Robert in the Chair of King Solomon. "It was definitely worth waiting for," said Bill.

Picture (l to r): WBro Bill Gillespie; WBro Robert Gillespie, WM 2000.

International Order of Job's Daughters

...are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Bethel No 1 on 30 September 2000 in Calgary. If you were associated with Bethel No 1 or are interested in attending, please contact:

Peggy — 403-274-0758; wpjones@home.com

Joan — 403-235-3005; joanpruett@home.com

Tanya — 403-226-1875; tanya.chisholm@home.com

Two 100-Year Lodges

Two Lodges in Alberta are reaching this significant milestone this year and will celebrate accordingly in October, 2000. Both Lodges extend a cordial welcome to visiting Brethren and family members. The essential information is as follows:

Victoria Lodge No 13

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2000

...at St. George's Anglican Church Hall, corner of 101 Street and 99 Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan, AB

1:00 PM Registration

2:00 PM **Ceremony of Confirming the Consecration** (Tyled Lodge), Pioneer House, corner of 101 Street and 100 Avenue:

5:30 PM Cocktails

6:30 PM Dinner (Entertainment to follow)

Dress: semi-formal; guests are most welcome;

Tickets: \$25.00 each, will go on sale from August 1 to September 30 (deadline). Not available at the door. Make cheques payable to Victoria Lodge No 13.

Contact: RWBro John Skakun, 9 O'Brien Drive, Fort Saskatchewan, AB, T8L 2L2, Phone: (780) 998-2394

Red Deer Lodge No 12

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2000

...at the Masonic Temple, 4811-52 Street, Red Deer, AB

2:00 PM Lodge tyles

2:15 PM **Ceremony of Confirming the Consecration**

3:00 PM Official photographs

3:30 PM Fellowship and Refreshment

Black Knight Inn

2929 – 50 Avenue, Red Deer:

5:30 PM Cocktails

6:30 PM Dinner (Dance to follow)

Formal attire: ladies and guests welcome;

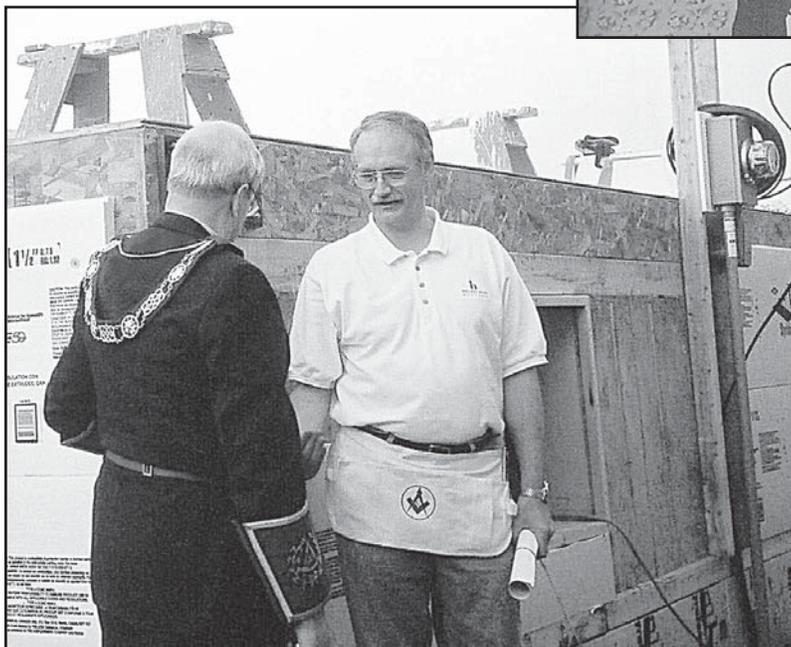
Tickets: \$30.00 each.

Contact: Bro Scott Campbell, 9 Otterbury Ave., Red Deer, AB T4N 4Z8, Phone: (403) 343-1119

Freemasons Build Habitat House



It is not unusual that Masons build houses, but when Freemasons band together, raising the necessary funds and actually doing the physical labour — well, that's another story. Organized by the Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association of Edmonton, under the capable leadership of WBro David Roth (Commercial Lodge No 81), another *Habitat for Humanity* building had its official start when, on April 24, 2000 a special ceremony took place. Having issued a dispensation, the Grand Master, MWBro J. Arthur Jones, himself laid the cornerstone for a single-family dwelling at 13132 – 34th Street NW, Edmonton, attended by “a numerous retinue” of Brethren, including Grand Lodge officers. During the weeks following, our Brethren raised “a superstructure honourable to



the builder.” By June 5th work had sufficiently progressed for the ceremony of Dedication, ably conducted by the Grand Chaplain, Bro Earl Sharam, and again attended by many Brethren and family members. This labour of love will benefit a single mother and her two daughters.

In the *Edmonton Journal* of June 1, we could read:

Masons strapped on tool belts and found \$45,000: A note from Don [sic] Roth says more than 20 Masonic Lodges in the greater Edmonton area, along with the Grand Lodge of Alberta, the Alberta Masonic Foundation and the Scottish Rite Masons, raised \$45,000 to build the first house of the 2000 season with Habitat for Humanity in northeast Edmonton...

Our pictures show, respectively, the Cornerstone (upper left), and MWBro Jones and WBro Roth (lower left), on April 24 and the nearly completed building on June 5, Bro Earl Sharam, the VW Grand Chaplain, blessing the edifice (which he did from all four compass directions).

Occasional Lodge Facts

“We have had 16 One-day Class Occasional Lodges when men were made “Masons at Sight.” A total of 578 men have been raised through these classes. The Grand Secretary has been tracking these members to see how their rate of “stick-to-it-iveness” compares to those who “go the regular way.” These one-day classes have raised 578 new Master Masons, 72 have been suspended for non-payment of dues (NPD): 55 from the first class 1996; 14 from the 1997 class; 3 from the 1998 class. There were 303 raised in 1996 with 55 going NPD or about 18%.

“We cannot determine the degree of activity or lodge attendance of any of these 578 Mms since there is no method of reporting by the constituent lodges which will give us this kind of information.”

The Montana Masonic News
Vol 50, No 449, June 2000

Hands Across the Border



Alberta and Saskatchewan Freemasons, along with their partners and friends, attended the 11th annual Hands Across the Border Speaking Competition on April 8th and 9th, 2000, at the Western Development Museum in North Battleford, SK.

There were approximately 170 persons in attendance to hear the six speakers, all of whom dealt with Masonic topics. Bro Keith Bater ably chaired the session, inserting interesting items about the ancient fraternity between the speeches. Bro Colin Steen from the Rosetown Lodge was the overall winner with an address on *"What Masons and Masonry Must Do to Perpetuate their Fraternity."* Awards were presented to all participants by MWBro Barry W. Dixon, Grand Master of Saskatchewan, and by MWBro J. Arthur Jones, Grand Master of Alberta.

The 220 persons who attended the banquet were treated to a *Tribute to Mothers* by Job's Daughters from Bethel No 6 (North Battleford) and Bethel No 8 (Lloydminster), a moving experience for all who witnessed it. Following the banquet, the program, which was chaired by Bro Norm Roach, continued with the very dignified and meaningful *Ceremony of Lights* by Aurora Chapter, Order of DeMolay, North Battleford, Bro Sean Bater being the presenter. WBro Bob McKay followed the ceremony with two songs which enhanced the already high tone of the proceedings and the evening was brought to a close with a comical discourse by WBro Ron Williams of Edmonton.

Approximately 150 persons attended the church service at the Western Development Museum conducted by WBro Rev.

Neil Haines. Following the service, those present enjoyed an excellent brunch. The program, which was chaired by RWBro Bill Moore, included draws for a number of attractive prizes awarded by local merchants.

The group picture of the contestants (bottom) shows (l to r): WBro Peter Fairbridge, Highlands-Unity Lodge (Edmonton, AB); Bro Colin Steen, Rosetown Lodge (Rosetown, SK); WBro Grant Davidson, Unity-Meridian Lodge (Unity, SK); VWBro Kevin Monsebroten, Ionic Lodge (North Battleford, SK); Bro Mark Honert, Beaver Lodge (Castor, AB); and Bro Doug Bracken, Britannia Lodge (Lloydminster, SK).

The other picture (left) shows the recipient of the trophy, Bro Colin Steen, MWBro Calvert (SK) and MWBro Harbin (AB).

Serving Freemasonry

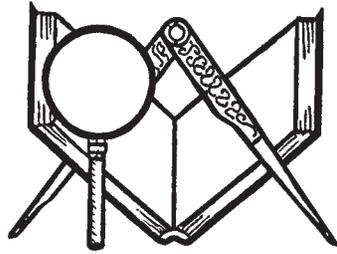
This is not an attempt at rendering a full profile of a deserving Brother, merely a brief sketch about one who, time and again, returns to serving his Brethren. The name of the Brother is STANLEY HARBIN. He was initiated in Friendship Lodge No 165, Fort Garry (Winnipeg), MB, on May 20, 1954. From 1959 to 1965 he was with Carlton Lodge No 465 in Carp, ON and became a Charter Member of Redwood Lodge No 193, Edmonton, in 1965, serving as its Worshipful Master in 1967-68. In 1969 he was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies, was elected DDGM for the then District No 20 (now Beaverhills District) for 1974-75 and with his election as Junior Grand Warden in 1979 began his rise to the office of Grand Master for 1982-83. Then, in 1989-90, he served as Most Wise Sovereign of Mizpah Chapter, Rose Croix, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in Edmonton.

Whether we should say that "duty called again" or whether he just cannot stand idly aside when help is needed, he again served as Worshipful Master for 1999-2000 in Camrose Lodge No 37, a Lodge practicing the Ancient York Work, no small feat for a Brother steeped in Canadian Rite usage. On the occasion of his next to last meeting in the Chair of King Solomon of that Lodge on May 11th, many Brethren, among them eight of his "Most Worshipful" peers, from the north and the south of the province, made a point of traveling to Camrose to be with him on that occasion. Yet, this is not the end of the story, as briefly thereafter MExComp Stanley Harbin was installed Grand First Principal of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, Royal Arch Masons. Thus he began his own "new journey" for the benefit of his Brethren and Companions. Our best wishes accompany him on that journey.



Book Review

Vox Lucis: Official Publication of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research, No 1980, Grand Lodge of Alberta, volume 18 (1998). Pp 130. Direct Inquiries to [Garth Cochran] Box 4695C, Station C, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 5P1.



There are not very many research lodges in Canada; one of them, named Fiat Lux (Latin for "let there be light"), is No 1980 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Its annual publication is called *Vox Lucis* ("Voice of Light"). The [1998] issue contains five articles. The first, "Our Diminishing Heritage" (17 pages), is by the Lodge [Past] Secretary, Thomas G. Hargreaves; he is a collector of Masonic artifacts, and for a number of years he issued a fine magazine called *Masonicalia*, dealing with such matters. In this article he talks about various topics: medals, old buildings, photographs, postcards, first-day covers for stamp collectors, and furniture; and he reminds us of how important it is to keep track of the history of objects like this.

In the second article, S. Garth Cochran discusses "Circumambulation" (33 pages) — its history, symbolism, and significance. Then Robert E. Juthner presents a fascinating study of "The Third Degree Tracing Board" (18 pages), in which he includes pictures of six different versions, of English origin, that have been used in Canada. C.H. White, in "A Mason is a Mason is a Mason — Maybe!" (five pages), expresses his concerns about the questions of regularity and recognition; in particular he voices his frustration over the fact that two notable Canadian political figures, Lincoln Alexander of Ontario and Gordon Towers of Alberta, both Freemasons, could not sit in Lodge together, because one of them was of the Prince Hall Affiliation.

Then S. Garth Cochran presents his second paper "The Poppy: Symbol of Remembrance" (53 pages). In a fascinating presentation he discusses various topics connected with Armistice Day, November 11, the end of the First World War. He reminds us of the symbolism of the poppy, and about Major John McCrae (1872-1918) and his immortal poem "Flanders Fields." He tells us a bit about ANZAC Day, which is held every year on April 25 in Australia, to commemorate the landing in Gallipoli in 1915. He includes a memoir of his great uncle, Harry Cochran (1895-1918), who was captured by the Germans at the Battle of Mount Sorel; while being held as prisoner of war, he was awarded the Bavarian Order of Military Merit by his German captors, because he had saved the life of a child who would otherwise have drowned in the village pond; the young soldier was set free at the end of the war, but he soon died from his wounds, at the age of 23, without even reaching home. The paper also gives the full text of the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon — which includes the well-known lines:

They shall not grow old,
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.

Not too much so far about Freemasonry but as an Appendix Cochran also give the text of "The Vacant Chair," a commemorative ceremony sometimes held, with appropriate music, in a Lodge in Calgary, Alberta.

It is all very interesting. It might be worth contacting the Fiat Lux Lodge in order to become a corresponding member. Wallace McLeod, *Royal Arch Mason*, Vol 19, No 12, 376-77.

John Hamill Returns

VWBro John Hamill, noted Masonic author and speaker, returns to Calgary this fall as part of a speaking tour of the Pacific Northwest. He was last in Alberta in May 1989 to speak in both Edmonton and Calgary. His current tour starts in Calgary, Friday, 13 October 2000 and finishes with the Grand Masonic Day in Vancouver on Saturday, 21 October.

John is, at present, Director of Communications for the United Grand Lodge of England and is in charge, under the Grand Secretary, of dealing with the public relations challenges faced by the UGLE as an official spokesman. Since 1984, he has been on over 350 radio and 50 TV programs.

Bro Hamill is past Grand Lodge Librarian and Curator (1993-98), a Past Senior Grand Deacon (1993), Past Grand Sojourner, Supreme Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch (1997), Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research (1985), 1993 Prestonian Lecturer (*And the Greatest of These is Charity*). Of the six books and many articles he has written, two — *The Craft* and *A Celebration of Freemasonry* — are well-known in North America. They reflect his deep understanding and interest in the origins of the Craft and the development of the Royal Arch.

At present, however, John is immersed in the profound and fundamental concerns pivotal to the welfare of Masonry in England and Europe. No one is closer to the great issues of world Freemasonry than he, and he sees us on the verge of a profound turning-point. No lover of the Craft should miss the opportunity to hear him.

In Calgary, he will be speaking at a meeting co-sponsored by King George Lodge No 59, Jubilee Lodge No 173 and Fiat Lux Lodge No 1980 to be held at King George Masonic Hall, Calgary on 13 October. Although King George and Jubilee Lodges will tyle earlier, visitors will be received at 7:30 PM followed by the reception of the Grand Master, MWBro Gerald T. Webber. A banquet will follow the meeting. Tickets are \$18 per person, but book early as space is limited. For further information contact:

Steve Kennard — 403-686-4965; skennard@home.com

Ken Madden — 403-282-4410; kenmadden@home.com

Garth Cochran — 403-274-0563; gcochran@cochran.ab.ca

Grand Lodge Library

Effective in September, with the assistance of several brethren, the Grand Lodge Library will remain open on a Tuesday evening until 8:00 PM (or later if there are brethren using the facilities).

Grand Master's Itinerary

September

- 7 Past Grand Master's Dinner, Red Deer
- 11 North Star Lodge, Lethbridge
- 12 Chief Mountain Lodge, Cardston
- 14 Ashlar Lodge, Calgary
- 21—30 Grand Lodge Masonic Tour