



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 65, No. 10

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

December 2000



Grand Master's Message

When we began our year together, I emphasized that this year will be a challenge, a challenge to the obligation we each took when we became Masons. We challenged every Mason to think about change. No, not in our ritual or landmarks, but how we manage ourselves, as Lodges and Grand Lodges.

Gone are the days of candidates knocking on our Lodge doors. And this leads

one to think that if we can continue to do what we're doing, Freemasonry could end up in the same place as Eaton's. To promote this new century of Brotherhood and to carry us on into the future we must stop "hiding our light under a bushel."

In a recent address to Calgary Brethren, WBro John Hamill, Director of Communications, United Grand Lodge of England, confirms that Freemasonry is changing and, if it is to flourish, we must be proud and give voice to what we do as Masons.

A similar theme prevailed at the 60th Conference of the Four Western Jurisdictions. In the sixty years since the

Conference began, Masonic Leaders from the four Western Jurisdiction have researched and developed some of the best, if not the best, Masonic papers to be found in the world. This is truly one of the best Masonic Conferences in North America. Brethren, two copies of the Conference Proceedings are sent to each Lodge, yearly. I highly recommend you use them.

It hardly seemed possible that two years have slipped by since a group of Alberta Masons attended the Consecration Ceremonies of The Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador. And now this fall (in all its colour) fifty-four Brethren and Ladies toured Atlantic Canada (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island). We shall never forget the incredible hospitality our Atlantic Brethren and their Ladies extended to the 2000 Masonic Tour group. One doesn't realize the extent of the strength and friendliness of the Masonic brotherhood until you travel into other jurisdictions.

To date, the highlight of my year was conducting the Ceremony of Confirming the Consecration and Dedication for Victoria Lodge No. 13 and Red Deer Lodge No. 12 on their 100th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Alberta. What a wonderful legacy to build on.

The best way to celebrate Christmas is with your presence, rather than presents. Merry Christmas to all. May there be peace, love and warmth in your home, wherever it may be.

It is great to be a Mason. Why not share the greatness with someone else? Let's Do It!

Grand Chaplain's Address

As we approach the beginning of the first year of the new Millennium, it is time for us to reflect on the past, and to thank the Great Architect of the Universe for the grace of His love that is given so freely to each of us. The faith we have in Him, the Supreme Being, enables each of us to receive His love, without question, and share that love with others.

Sometimes we must question this love when we see such horrible deeds as man has inflicted upon the innocent. His love gives to each of us the ability to perform many good deeds, but all too often horrible acts are perpetrated against humanity. It is difficult to explain some of our actions when we are all descendants of Him from whom all good comes. Yet, the love we should receive often eludes us. His love is not always clear to us and we argue amongst ourselves about the true meaning of His love. May He help us to see His way, not our own expectations of Him. May He give us the grace of His love to let Him be who He is.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master's theme this year is "Let's Do It!" These words can move mountains when they are spoken from the mind and the heart. A short prayer, in closing:

Great Architect of the Universe, we thank You for the grace of Your love that You have given to each of us. We pray to You that Your love will touch each of us and that Your message will enable us to live and share Your good news with others. We will always remember

that others know You by different names, and as we journey in this world we will be ever mindful that others embrace different religious and spiritual paths. Let's do it!

Bro Roger Anderson
The Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain

Season's Greetings from Grand Lodge Office

One of the great pleasures of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to exchange cordial greetings and to say thank you to all those who have worked closely with us over the years. We thank you for the time you so willingly give to your Lodge and to the Grand Lodge Office. This past year has been filled with new challenges and many rewards. Again our thanks to all of you who have shown great patience and understanding.

In this spirit, Judy, Felice and I, Ed Hunter, extend an invitation to you, your spouse or guest to attend our Annual "Open House," Thursday, December 21st, 2000 at Freemasons' Hall, 330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and may the happiness and good cheer of the Holiday Season be yours throughout the New Year.

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Editorial

The Joy of Visiting

The value of Masonic intervisitations has long been recognized as being beneficial for both the host and the visitor. Toasts to the visitors, and suitable replies, have become more than "courtesies expected," the speakers usually express sincere words of welcome or of gratitude for the privilege of being received. Such visitations are regularly taking place among neighbouring Lodges in their communities, as well as among those separated by greater geographical distances, within and without our own jurisdiction.

At times we have enjoyed visits en masse, such as those organized by several of our previous Grand Masters who led our Brethren (and usually also their ladies) on trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific tours, as well as some visits to sister jurisdictions south of the border. Very recently, this September to October, our present Grand Master, MWBro Gerald T. Webber and First Lady Patricia, ably assisted by RWBro Marv Foote and his wife Corky, decided to make a long distance group visitation, never leaving our own country, Canada. We are familiar with the size of our land, but readers in other parts of the world may find it astonishing that the group travelled from Calgary or Edmonton to St. John's, NF, theoretically about 4700 km, but in actual air travel distance covered closer to 6700 km between these points, with an additional 5000 km of touring Atlantic Canada by bus, never crossing an international border and never spending money in any other currency than our own. What a good idea!

Grand Master's Itinerary

December

- 2 Concord Lodge, Calgary
- 2 Crossfield Lodge, Ladies' Night
- 4 Strathmore Lodge, Game Dinner
- 5 Kenilworth Lodge, Red Deer
- 6 Britannia Lodge, Ponoka
- 7 Zetland Lodge, Calgary
- 9 Jubilee Lodge, Calgary
- 12 Crossfield Lodge
- 13 Dominion Lodge, Edmonton
- 14 Carstairs Lodge, Crossfield
- 19 Irricana Lodge

Fifty-two Brethren and ladies, plus one couple from Vancouver, enjoyed the hospitality of the Grand Masters and Brethren of Newfoundland-Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, attending Lodge meetings in some locations, being treated to locally typical culinary experiences by other Lodges (like "Jigg's dinners"), taking in great sights of the Maritimes, and generally adding to their knowledge of this vast country, Canada. Visiting Cape Spear, the most easterly point, not only of Canada but of the North-American continent, was a first for most on the tour. Other memorable impressions were gained at Bonavista, Twillingate, "The Boot", at "Anne of Green Gables" and the Confederation Bridge, on the Cabot Trail, Peggy's Cove and Pier 21 at Halifax, and so many more.

Somehow, this description turned into a travelogue, albeit a very condensed one, and the writer should now return to editorial considerations. We should, therefore, ask the question of what value is derived by the participants and their hosts from such an undertaking. Very clearly, the Grand Lodge of Alberta was put on the map in the minds of our Brethren so far east of our own dwelling places. The presentations made by our Grand Master in the spirit of "From West to East United in Freemasonry" were well received and will hardly be forgotten. Equally, the warmth of fraternal welcome received will dwell with the visitors for a long time. Whether the destination of Masonic visits is local, intranational or international, there is always a great potential for acting as goodwill ambassadors on behalf of Alberta Freemasonry, with undisputed, favourable results. This can be achieved by individuals travelling near or far, but group travels offer the inherent benefit for the participants to get to know each other better and to form new friendships. Doing this together can be called a "win-win" situation. Let us look forward to more along these lines.



The 2000 Masonic Tour at Signal Hill, St. John's, NF, with Cabot Tower in background. In the centre: MWBro Gerald T. Webber; Mrs Patricia Webber; and MWBro Neil Chaplin, GM of Newfoundland and Labrador (not wearing hat), 22 September 2000.

Building the Calgary Temple

By S. Garth Cochran

From *Vox Lucis 20*, official publication of *Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980*.

Masonry in Calgary formally began with the institution of Bow River Lodge No. 28, GRM, in 1884. Perfection Lodge No. 60, GRM, followed ten years later and the two Lodges met in Bow River's facilities at 138 – 8 Avenue SW until 1899. At that time, they moved into new premises in the Victoria Block at 121 – 8 Avenue SE, which were owned by William Roper Hull.

When the Grand Lodge of Alberta was formed in 1905, the two Lodges, now numbered 1 and 9, GRA respectively, had 360 members between them, 34.2 per cent of all known Masons in the province, and interest in the fraternity was growing rapidly. Within months, two new Lodges, Calgary Lodge No. 23 and Ashlar Lodge No. 28, were formed in the city. By 1907, with 597 members on their rolls, the Lodges had outgrown their premises and new Lodge rooms were discussed. Proposals included erecting a 10 or 20 story building, but reason prevailed. In 1908, Perfection Lodge leased the top two floors of Alexander Corner (a building owned by Senator Sir James Lougheed) for ten years at \$1,900 per annum.

Perfection shouldered the financial burden and spent over \$16,000 on renovations, mostly on creating and furnishing the third floor Lodge Room. Until the Lodge was ready in June 1929, the four Lodges met in the fourth floor banquet room. The following year renovations were completed with the installation of the pipe organ, Opus 398, 1910, from Casavant Frères, the sixth and largest (at the time) organ in the province with the first electro-pneumatic action. (See "Save Our Magnificent Organ", *GLB* 64:8, October 1999, for details of the organ.)

Thanks to Perfection Lodge, Masonry in Calgary enjoyed an extended period of stability. By 1923, seven new Lodges were formed in the city, three settling in Alexander Corner: Mount Lebanon No. 54, Concord No. 124 and Renfrew No. 134, and four in other premises around the city.

Meanwhile, Perfection Lodge had renewed the lease for another 10 years. By 1920, however, concern was growing over how secure the premises were. In February 1921, it was proposed that Perfection Lodge build new Lodge rooms on 13th Avenue SW, on the south side of the Park opposite Freemasons' Hall near the old Library building. Several other proposals were floated during the year with nothing meeting the approval of the Lodges. Matters came to a head in 1922 when The Steele Co. Ltd. began negotiations with Lougheed for the purchase of the property. That prompted a group of prominent Masons belonging to the Calgary Lodge of Perfection, AASR, which met at Temple-Duff Drug Store to form a company to build a new Temple — the Masonic Temple Building Association.

This group worked diligently for five years on their project but the pressure for a new Temple was reduced when the Steele deal fell through. The building was eventually purchased by the Hudson's Bay Company, but the Lodges were assured they would not be disturbed, at least for the time being.

Matters stayed quiet until 1926 when it became known that HBC had plans to raze Alexander Corner and the Regent Theatre beside it to expand their department store. The pressure



Freemasons' Hall, Calgary, all decked out for the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 26 May 1939.

to find a new Temple was on again and the MTBA was ready with a proposal for a building with two Lodge rooms, banquet facilities and Grand Lodge Offices on the Perfection Lodge property at 13th Avenue and 2nd Street SW. Architects plans had been drawn up by D.S. McIlroy (Ashlar 28), costs estimated and a finance plan worked out. Unfortunately, Bow River Lodge, Perfection Lodge and Alberta Chapter all voted against the idea and Perfection Lodge withdrew its offer to sell the land. As a result, the MTBA looked for a different site.

It soon became obvious that the MTBA would never be able to satisfy the Lodges because of the structure of the Company. Shares were sold to individual Masons and the fear was that, over time, control of the Temple would pass out of Masonic hands as non-Masons would be able to purchase shares as they went on the market. W.R. Davis (Calgary 23) suggested a new company be formed which would be owned by the Lodges and controlled by two representatives from each of the eight Lodges, Zetland Lodge No. 83 having by now joined the seven at Alexander Corner. From this idea arose the Calgary Masonic Temple Limited, incorporated 30 September 1927. In fifteen months, Calgary would have a new Temple.

That is not to say that everything now went smoothly. Far from it.

First, the CMT dusted off the Architect's plan developed by the MTBA. Cost estimates put the project at about \$80,000 for land, building and furniture. Operating costs were estimated at just over \$5,000 per year. Plans for the CMT called on each Lodge to raise \$10,000. The money would be advanced to the Company through the purchase of shares worth \$500. Several sites were looked at, but a parcel at 3rd Street and 5th Avenue SW was purchased from the city for \$3,250. In December 1927, a postcard was sent to all city Masons informing them of the project (including an architect's rendering of the Lodge Room) and asking for their support.

Then, in January 1928, Perfection threw a wrench in the gears by reversing its position and again offering its 13th

Avenue property for a new Temple. It seems there was growing opposition in the Lodge to having the Lodge rooms north of the railway tracks. With its own plans well under way, the CMT Directors turned down the offer. Perfection withdrew from the group and set up a committee to look into building its own Temple.

The remaining Lodges were assured there would be no further call on their resources beyond the \$10,000 already agreed to and the project continued on track. Tenders were called in March and negotiations were opened with the Lodges, Scottish Rite, Chapter and Eastern Star regarding leases. The Grand Secretary, S.Y. Taylor, was involved in developing plans for the Mezzanine floor where the Grand Lodge Office would be situated.

Then, on 17 April 1928, the CMT had an opportunity to sell its property downtown at a profit and purchase the current site from the city instead. It may not have been Perfection's property, but it was south of the tracks. Perfection was informed of the change and, having already decided it would not be in its best interests to build its own, quickly rejoined the Calgary Masonic Temple Limited.

The project's pace started to pick up. A general contractor was hired and contracts for heating and plumbing were awarded. On 12 May 1928, Mayor Frederick E. Osborne, himself a member of Perfection Lodge, turned the first sod.

The Grand Master was to lay the cornerstone a month later. But what should have been a joyful occasion was almost a disaster. On 13 June, the Grand Lodge Communication being held at the Palliser Hotel went to refreshment at 4:00 PM and walked in procession to 12th Avenue to lay the cornerstone. At the site, a scaffold was built to hold 25 men, the expected official party. It was situated over the basement excavation so that the official party would be facing the crowd gathered between the street and the building.

First, the Grand Master, MWBro George Cruikshank, and his senior officers ascended the platform and took their position at the east end where the cornerstone was to be laid. They were followed not by fifteen other officers, but by about 70 Masons wearing purple, many of them Past Grand Officers who the organizers expected would be in the crowd out front. As they



In foreground, A.D. Cumming, CMT President (l), presents ceremonial golden spade to Mayor Fred Osborne as W.S. Park (r) looks — at the sod turning, 12 May 1928.

Selwood, fainted after first attending Chauncey, but was quickly revived. Several suffered cuts, bruises and torn clothing, but that was all. After a delay to attend to the injured and sort out the mess, the ceremony proceeded, the Chaplain intoning the prayer through swollen lips from the bottom of the excavation.

The ceremony completed, the procession returned to the Palliser and resumed labour at 5:00 PM. A motion expressing sympathy "and that this Grand Lodge assume and pay all hospital and medical expenses incurred by the R. W. Brother" was quickly passed by the Brethren assembled, and flowers were subsequently sent.

Shortly afterwards, arrangements were made with Perfection Lodge No. 9 to purchase the furniture and organ from the old Lodge rooms for \$4,000. The summer and fall were consumed with the problems of construction and finding the finances to pay the bills. By the end of December, with the new Temple nearing completion, the eight Lodges had purchased a total of 150 shares worth \$75,000. (The remaining \$5,000 in shares would not be completely purchased until 1939 as one of the Lodges was in serious financial difficulty.) A little over \$5,000 were raised through donations, a benefit concert and other means. With total costs of about \$103,000 the CMT was forced to raise \$24,000 through the issuing of bonds.

Although the building was not fully completed (the organ was not installed by Casavant until January), MWBro Alexander M. Mitchell dedicated the new Temple on 28 December 1928. City Masons were summoned to the emergent meeting by a notice issued by Bow River Lodge No. 1 on behalf of all member Lodges. The meeting was opened by Bow River, a Canadian Rite Lodge, and closed by Perfection, a York Rite Lodge. This began life in the new Temple, now known as Freemasons' Hall, Calgary.

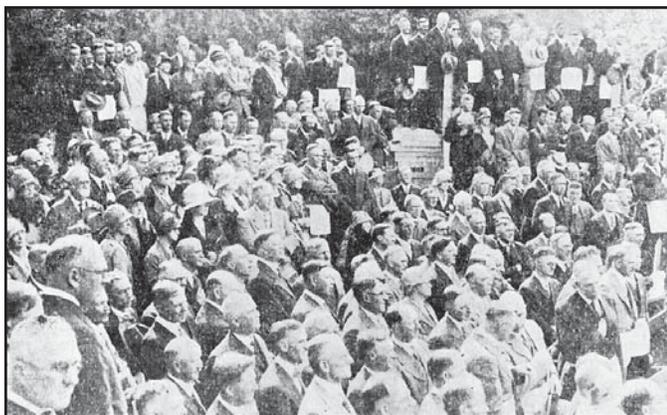
District Meetings

January 2001

- 6 Phoenix, King George Masonic Hall, 1:30 PM
- 13 Alpha, Calgary Freemasons' Hall, 1:30 PM

Are you in need of a new tuxedo?

Grand Lodge Office is in possession of a used tuxedo (like new). It is a 52 Regular. Price is \$150. Sale includes cummerbund, and bow tie. Please call or drop in to the Grand Lodge Office if you are interested.



A huge crowd witnessed the disappearance of the platform party at the laying of the cornerstone, 13 June 1928.

Bursary Recipients



At a recent ceremony, three winners of \$1,000 bursaries for the 2000–2001 academic year, resident within the Yellowhead (Masonic) District, were presented with their certificates by WBro Ray Nyroos,

Masonic Higher Education Bursary Chairman for the District. The pictures show, respectively, Bro Nyroos making the presentation to student Brendan Timothy Andrews, and a group picture (l-r) MWBro Don Millar, students Joshua Dodds and Sarah Mitchell, WBro Doug Chambers, District Secretary, and WBro Ray Nyroos, Chairman.



This is representative of many other such presentations held throughout the fifteen Districts in the jurisdiction of Alberta.

A Courageous Recovery

By Bro Sam Donaghey, C.M.

When the majority of us retire, we do so with plans for a happy and active retirement in the company of family and friends, and at the same time we endeavour to maintain many of the contacts and activities that have meant so much to us when we were younger and active.

The years of our lives when we are in the sixties and seventies, those golden years, however, can sometimes be changed by a trick of nature, and our plans have to be abandoned or drastically changed beyond what we had hoped.

For about eight years prior to September 1999, I had been suffering leg and back pains as a result of diabetes and osteoarthritis. The leg pains were caused by diabetes clogging my arteries quietly and with severity over the years since the disease was first discovered in 1968. The poison from the diabetes caused pain that increased over the years of endurance. I had endeavoured to keep the pain to myself and carry on without indicating my real feelings to anyone except my family doctor. Disectomies in 1961 & 1967 had left my lower back ripe for osteo-arthritis to begin, and it has stayed in the lumbar region ever since. The agonizing pain from this source can be devastating in itself. Both of these lead you to silent prayer for something to help you get over the ever increasing problems.

My prayers were answered in a very sudden and unexpected way. In September 1999 I had been using a standard wheelchair for some time, and on the 28th one of my sons drove me to keep an appointment with my family doctor. One look at my right foot and he decided that I should be taken to

a local hospital emergency for attention. While awaiting further medical attention I was unfortunate to come down with pneumonia, which delayed the action for about five or six weeks.

It was then decided that my right foot and leg would have to be amputated at the spot right above my knee. This was a shock at first, but it had to be done to prevent the poison from traveling farther into my body, and the operation took place on 2nd November, 1999. I had to make the decision on the left leg myself, and that operation took place on 6th December, 1999. The surgeons and their teams did a magnificent job on both legs, and I am thankful that I healed fast, good enough to allow me to transfer from the University Hospital to the Glenrose Rehab Hospital on Christmas Eve 1999, and I was able to spend Christmas Day at home with my family and friends for Christmas dinner.

Back at the Glenrose I had a few days to assess my position during staff holidays. I knew that I had to learn to live with my new circumstances if the operations were to be a complete success.

The magic of the Glenrose began to show on me, and I gained strength and stamina from my physiotherapy that is still standing me in good stead today. The nursing staff and my recreation therapists added to the attention given by my doctors that allowed me confidence to transfer to the Shepherd's Care Kensington Village on 18th February, 2000.

When I made this transfer I realized fully how my prayers had been answered. In the overall process I had lost a considerable amount of weight, and I soon realized that when I lost both my legs by amputation, I had also lost the poison and the pain that had tormented me for so long, and this has resulted in me feeling younger and better than I have in over ten years, and at 78 years this is really something.

I must also give thanks to my family and friends who have visited me over this long period and whose presence have always kept the days bright for me and easy to face.

Using my standard wheelchair by pushing was causing annoyance to my osteo-arthritis problems, and my doctors and occupational therapists recommended that my standard wheelchair be replaced by a motorized version which would transport me in a quiet and even fashion, which should prevent further damage to my spine, and allow me to operate

See **Recovery**, bottom page 6.

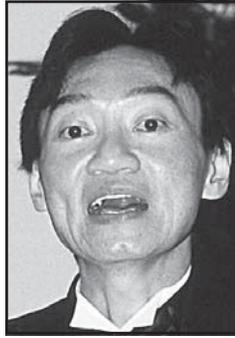


Front: Bro Sam Donaghey. Rear (l to r): MWBro Myron Lusk; MWBro Norm MacIver; VWBro Nick Wengreniuk.

Our DDGMs

Beaverhills District

RWBro Daniel J. Chow was born at Banff, Alberta, on August 3, 1961, the youngest of six children. He was educated in Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1985. Admitted to the Alberta Bar in 1986, he has been a partner of the law firm Mintz & Chow since 1987, specializing in real estate, and wills and estates. He is happily married to Channy since 1992. He is active in several community and professional organizations, such as the Chinese Benevolent Association, Chinese Multicultural Society, Edmonton Freenet, Toastmasters, and the Canadian Bar Association.



Bro Chow was initiated in Eastgate Lodge No. 192, GRA in 1989 and was Master of that Lodge in 1996–97. He is also an affiliate member of Dynamic Lodge No. 96 in Holden. He was appointed Grand Pursuivant for the 1998–99 term and holds membership in the three Edmonton Bodies of the A&ASR and in North Star Chapter No. 2, RAM.

Dinosaur District

RWBro Richard J. Nixon, a native of Calgary, was born on June 16, 1948. He is a Petroleum Landman by occupation, residing in Calgary with his wife Linda.



Our Brother received the degrees of Freemasonry in Hussar Lodge No. 130, which Lodge he had served as Worshipful Master in 1989. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite bodies in the Valley of Calgary, and of Al Azhar Temple, AAONMS, Calgary.

Northern Lights District

RWBro Norman Milliken was born on August 1, 1939 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He is a Mechanical Engineer who had started his career in the Aircraft Industry, worked for Dominion Bridge for 8 years and Molson Breweries for 22 years, and for the past four years has considered himself "semi-retired". He was married to Arleen Daye in 1962 and the couple immigrated to Canada, settling in Calgary in 1966.

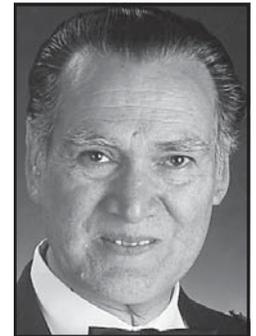


They have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Brother Milliken was initiated in Wascana Lodge No. 2, GRS, in Regina, in 1980 and affiliated with Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92, GRA, in 1990. He served there as WM in 1996. He is also a member of the three bodies of the A&ASR, Edmonton Valley, and of Al Shamal Temple, AAONMS, and Past President of its Motor Corps.

Phoenix District

RWBro Jorge W. Rojas was born November 2, 1937 in Puerto Mohit, Chile. He works as Consultant in the field of Accounting and Investment, in Calgary.



Our Brother was initiated in 1969 in Lodge Aurora de Italia No. 24 under the Gran Logia de Chile AF&AM, in Santiago de Chile, where he was a Lodge Officer. After moving to Calgary in 1977, he affiliated with Canada Lodge No. 165, GRA, and became its WM for 1989–90. He is also a member of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, GRA, whose Master he was during the 1994–95 term. He was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Argentina near the Grand Lodge of Alberta and has served as Vice Chairman of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee.

Bro Rojas is a member and Past First Principal of Otuskwan Chapter No. 9, RAM, Past Grand District Superintendent of District No. 3, RAM, Alberta (1996–97), a member of Cyprus Preceptory No. 33, KT, of Zadok Council No. 3, R&SM, and of the Scottish Rite bodies of Calgary where he served as Commander-in-Chief of Southalta Consistory in 1995–96.

Three Rivers District

RWBro J.A. (Jim) Borthwick was born on May 16, 1947 in Claresholm, Alberta. He is married to Beth and they live on the family farm near Claresholm. He works as a parts representative for a farm equipment dealer. He is a 4-H leader, a former United Church board member, and has been involved in Minor Hockey activities.



Bro Borthwick received the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry in Cairo Lodge No. 32 GRA in 1980, and served Cairo Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1985–86. Formerly a member of the Scottish Rite, he took his demit from Southalta Consistory in 1991.

Recovery, from page 5.

without pain or discomfort.

Such chairs are expensive, but my Masonic Lodge, Evergreen No. 166 of Edmonton, and the Grand Lodge of Alberta, whose officers and members my family and I have to thank, provided the modern and beautiful power wheelchair in which I can now exist and move around in comfort without pain.

In the time of my hospitalization, I have been witness to

many seniors who are now recovering from different afflictions which were dealt to them in an unexpected way. If this should happen to any of my readers, remember that the courage and drive for your recovery depends first on you, and from there you will have many wonderful and dedicated professionals to assist you. Give them the respect and understanding that they deserve and appreciate, and the recovery will be yours. The prayers, your courage, and the support will lead to many brighter days for you and yours.