

THE ALBERTA FreeMason

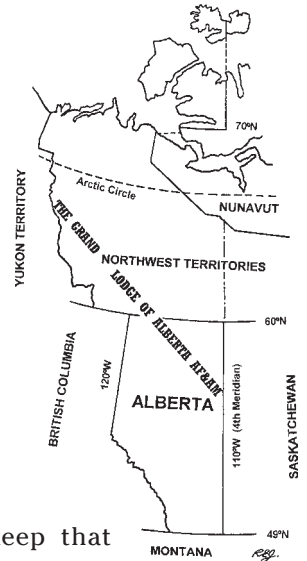


Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 66, No. 1

Welcome To January 1st, 2001

- The first day of a New Year
- The first day of the Twenty-first Century
- The first day of the Third Millennium
- The first issue of *The Alberta Freemason* replacing the former generic name *Grand Lodge Bulletin*
- The first time featuring a new “flag,” a new “masthead” and a new magazine-like three-column layout, but maintaining the quality of reporting to which our readers have become accustomed.



The Deputy Grand Master's Message

The encyclopedia informs us that the first month of the year in the Gregorian calendar is “January.” The name is derived from the Roman god Janus, the god of two faces, one looking forward and one backward, the god of gates and doorways. It is, therefore, appropriate that Janus should be the symbol of the beginning of the New Year.



January is a good time to look forth backward and forward: backward — so that we can learn from our successes and be warned by our failures; and forward — that we might plan for the future based on the knowledge we have gained.

Freemasonry is an institution with profound roots in the past and with a passionate commitment to the future. Unless our personal commitment to Masonry shows through in our thoughts and actions, unless we proudly display the emblems of our Fraternity and share its joys with others, Masonry will die the death of the unloved and irrelevant.

Be enthusiastic about your Freemasonry. Care about it, nurture it, or be prepared to watch it die or — even worse — limp along as a curious

memento of the past, a memory of old men and of what used to be.

Do we look backward upon faded glories, or forward to a future of strength, growth and commitment? Stop hiding your light under a pillow, be proud of what we do. Give voice to what we do, always giving thanks to the GAOTU for His support and guidance in what we undertake.

Be proud to be a Freemason

and don't keep that pride a secret.

Our Fraternity is worth saving, and it's up to us to save it. Let's be enthusiastic about Freemasonry and remember that nothing of consequence has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm. You and I can make the difference. LET'S DO IT!

Happy New Year, everyone!

RWBro Doug Troock
Deputy Grand Master

Editorial

The Internal...

...not the external qualifications of a man are what Masonry regards. Familiar words, yet too often misinterpreted in a too narrow sense, as if they were meant to refer to the clothing worn and the like, not recognizing the much more profound message alluded to in the charge. So might it be with the “new look” of this monthly publication of our Grand Lodge, but — rest assured — we do not intend to sacrifice the **internal** on the altar of **external** attributes. Nevertheless, it was felt that this is the time to let the world know that this publication hails from the great province of Alberta (which the old name *Grand Lodge Bulletin* did not do) and, at the same time, enhance and modernize its appearance. Now that on December 31st, 2000 the twentieth century and with it

the second millennium (according to the Gregorian calendar) came to an end, what better time could there have been to make this change?

The June 2000 issue carried an editorial (*On the Trestle Board*) which explained the planned change in detail, and which also invited all members of the Craft in this Grand Lodge to participate in choosing a new name (identifying the source geographically) and in submitting design ideas for a new “flag” or “banner.” It is, therefore, fitting to announce that the winning design, as shown at the top of page 1, comes from **Bro Michael Tolboom** of Commercial Lodge No. 81 of Edmonton. He merits the applause of his Brethren!

The question has already been asked why the Square and Compasses are shown in the FC degree position. There may be several reasons for it, such as:

See **Internal**, page 2.

Grand Master's Message

Brethren, we are the first generation of Masons to serve and lead our Craft in the 21st century. So, this is not about looking back but about the new direction we take which will inspire us to make positive changes in this new Millennium. Today, every leader in the Masonic Family is challenged with **making it happen** by developing a Lodge program that will reflect Brotherhood and the spirit of the fraternity.

There is no doubt in my mind that, in today's society, we are lucky indeed to be Freemasons. This is an important choice each of us made — to become members of the largest fraternal organization in the world, to help us enjoy and illuminate our lives. The Masonic fraternity is an individual learning experience, based upon

Internal, from page 2.

that the FC degree predates that of the addition of the MM degree; that we find international preference for that portrayal throughout many jurisdictions; that the Communications of the Grand Lodge of Alberta are conducted in the FC degree; and — possibly — that we are all, basically, "Fellows of the Craft." Now we hope that Master Masons and Entered Apprentices will not feel slighted!

The editor also wishes to pay tribute to **WBro Garth Cochran** of Calgary Lodge No. 23 in Calgary, who is instrumental in creating the final layout of our publication, spending countless hours every month in the endeavour to produce a high quality Masonic periodical for the benefit of our readers within and without the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin (title unchanged) extends to all Brethren best wishes for the New Year, the New Century, the New Millennium, and much future enjoyment when reading *The Alberta Freemason*.

Masonic symbols and the teachings which unite us — the plumb, the level, the square and the compasses.

How often do we talk about the excellent ideas we put forth for the good of the Craft and the Lodge, but fail in one way or another to do anything about them. Once we talk it out, why don't we just DO IT? Many of us know a person who would make an excellent Mason, yet we hesitate to confront him with our idea. To advance this question to a friend or a business associate: "Have you ever thought about Freemasonry?" is not considered improper solicitation. Then, do it, talk to a friend.

During the past five months I have talked to hundreds of Masons about the opportunities in this great jurisdiction, and all of them recognize that if our Lodges are to flourish in the 21st century, the Craft needs the support of a well-planned and properly implemented Communications Plan. To strengthen the **Foundation for the Future — Doric Plan**, your Grand Lodge Officers have recommended to the Board of General Purposes a conceptual **Communication**

Strategy plan designed for the Lodges specifically and for Freemasonry in general.

Without a doubt, many new challenges await Freemasons in the years ahead, ones that will test our ability to hold fast to our basic principles while adapting to a rapidly changing world. Let us then re-examine our attitudes towards constructive change, as individuals and as members of our Lodges. Let us be the beacons for the 21st century. This will require the consistent efforts and ongoing commitment of all the officers and members of your Lodge, if you are to be successful. With the help of the Great Architect of the Universe, there is little we cannot do if we act together. But YOUR efforts, more than MINE, will ultimately determine our future success.

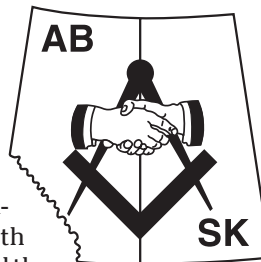
I challenge each one of you to show the world that Freemasons are involved with improving the quality of life and making a difference in our communities. If positive change is to take place in your community and Lodge, let it begin with you. Get involved — don't just talk about it. LET'S DO IT!

MWBro Gerald T. Webber, Grand Master

Hands across the Border

The 12th Annual "Hands Across the Border" Masonic Speaking Competition will be held on April 7 and 8, 2001 at Camrose Lodge No. 37, Lodge Hall, 5021 — 48 Street, Camrose, AB, commencing with registration at 11 30 h, and the "Speak-Offs" from 14 00 h to 16 00 h, followed in turn by the banquet at the Norsemen Inn (West Camrose) at 18 00 h.

The Grand Masters of Alberta and Saskatchewan will be in attendance. The meeting will be chaired by WBro Richard Duncan, with MWBro Stan Harbin as Master of Ceremonies. Speaker at the banquet will be MWBro Art Jones, IPGM



of Alberta and member of Patricia Lodge No. 91, Edmonton.

All events including "Speak-Offs," are open to Masons, Ladies and Guests. Cost per person, covering the main event, luncheon and banquet, is \$35. Mail letter of intent to register, and cheque, to

Hands Across the Border

31 Haviland Crescent

St. Albert, AB T8N 6P8

For accommodation information phone: VWBro Bob Smith at 780-672-5134 or VWBro Darrell Peterson at 780-672-4258, or FAX VWBro Bob Smith at 780-672-7289.

SEE YOU THERE — LET'S DO IT!

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of **The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.**
330 — 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2
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Deputy Grand Master RWBro Douglas N. Troock
Senior Grand Warden RWBro Terry A. Drolet
Junior Grand Warden RWBro Norman R. Thomas
Grand Secretary *pro tempore* RWBro Ed Hunter

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MWBro Robert E. Juthner (Chairman);
WBro S. Garth Cochran; WBro Loren Kline;
Bro Trevor Morris — Ex Officio: Grand Master,
Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary

Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

Our DDGMs

Central District

RWBro Ray E. Congdon was born in Edmonton on December 3, 1942 and grew up in the Irma area and in Wainwright. Ray and his family live in Red Deer where his wife Rosemary is a teacher with the Red Deer Public School District, while their oldest son Ryan is in his second year at Red Deer College and their second son Kyle is in Grade 12.



After 5 1/2 years with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, he joined

the Willow Creek School Division in Claresholm in 1967 as Secretary-Treasurer. In 1978 he became Assistant Superintendent of Business Services with the Red Deer Public School District, from where he retired on April 30, 2000. He has had extensive involvement with both his professional association and the community, including being Past President of the Association of School Business Officials of Alberta, Past President of the United Way of Red Deer, Past President of the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce, and Past Chairman of the Official Board of Gaetz Memorial United Church. He is active in the Alzheimer movement and is currently Vice Presi-

dent of the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and a Director of Alzheimer Canada.

Bro Congdon was initiated into Freemasonry in Cairo Lodge No. 32 in Claresholm in 1968 where he served two years as WM in 1970-71 and 1971-72. In 1978 he affiliated with Beacon Lodge No. 190 in Red Deer, where he again served as WM in 1996-97 and 1997-98. He was twice Grand Registrar of the Grand Lodge of Alberta and a member and chairman of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee.

Our Brother is a PTPGM of the Central Alberta Lodge of Perfection, a PMWS of Mizpah Chapter Rose Croix HRDM of Edmonton, and a member of Alberta Consistory, also in Edmonton.

Chinookarch District

RWBro W.J. (Bill) Glover was born in Calgary June 16, 1948. His post-secondary education resulted in a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Calgary in 1977, and a Master of Business Administration from Gonzaga University of Spokane, WA, in 1997. He and his wife Jacki live in Lethbridge, while their son and daughter both reside in Calgary.



After ten years with the University of Lethbridge, our Brother left his place of employment in 1994 to start his own business as a computer network sales

and training consultant. He runs workshops in marketing, planning, and communications for volunteer and not-for-profit organizations. He also teaches software courses, and for the past sixteen years has been a trainer with Scouts Canada. He has also been an active member of McKillop United Church. In his spare time he enjoys woodworking, puttering in his workshop, but, most of all, he is an avid photographer.

Bro Glover received the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry in Glenbow Lodge No. 184, in Calgary, in 1980 and upon moving to Lethbridge in 1981, affiliated with North Star Lodge No. 4. He served five terms as WM of this Lodge: in 1985-86, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Our Brother is also a subscribing member of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, and a member of Shekinah Chapter No. 4, RAM.

Lakeland District

RWBro Laurence Marson was born in Tottenham, a suburb of London, England, in October 1944. He was educated at technical institutions in England and Canada in construction and mechanical engineering, and has been employed in the mechanical engineering industry for 39 years. He is currently employed with a major engineering company carrying out project management and energy conservation studies. He has served his community in the Scouting movement and in coaching of hockey, soccer, Karate and athletics.



Laurie has been married to Carole for twenty-nine years, and they have two adult children and one grandson.

Bro Marson was initiated into Freemasonry in Bishopsway Lodge No.

6061, EC, in London in 1966 at age 21, and in All Saints Mark Master Masons Lodge No. 1251 in London, in 1975. He became a founder member of Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196 in 1986, and served this Lodge as WM in 1992-93. He is currently serving as Secretary.

Our Brother is also active in concordant bodies. He is a member of North Star Chapter No. 2, RAM, currently serving as Second Principal. He is also a member of Zohar Council No. 4,

R&SM, Alberta Lodge No. 2, Royal Ark Mariners, and of Edmonton Preceptory No. 46, KT. As a member of Al Shamal Shrine, he serves on the membership committee and is Potentate's Aide for 2000, piper with the Pipes and Drums unit (currently their Chieftain), honorary member of the Legion of Honour, serving as their piper, and has assisted the Shrine Provo Corps on their degree team.

Grand Master's Itinerary

January 2001

- 1 Saskatchewan Lodge, Grand Master's Levee
- 6 Al Shamal Shrine, Edmonton
- 13 Alpha District Meeting, Calgary
- 15 Mosaic Lodge, Calgary
- 20 Al Azhar Shrine, Calgary
- 22 Beacon Lodge, Red Deer
- 26 King George Lodge, Calgary

District Meetings

January 2001

- 6 Phoenix, King George Masonic Hall
- 13 Alpha, Freemasons' Hall, Calgary

Mighty Peace District

RWBro Richard Ashby was born May 13, 1956 on the Regal Dux Ranch near Ellerslie, AB. He began working for Russel Metals, Edmonton, in 1974 and is currently the sales supervisor at Russel Metals in Grande Prairie. On June 12, 1976, he married Marianne Rose Miko who, interestingly, had also been born on the same day. They have two children, Matthew and Catherine.



While in high school, Brother Richard studied Parliamentary Law and became a Registered Procedural Parliamentarian with the Alberta Association of Parliamentarians in 1978, and in 1990 completed and published his book *Will*

of the Lodge, which is a parliamentary law guide for Freemasons. His book has reached worldwide distribution.

Brother Ashby is heavily involved in the community of Grande Prairie. He was on the executive board of Camp Tamarack, a Cub Leader, and a Scout Leader for ten years. As such he took Scouts to several Alberta and Canadian Jamborees. He began practicing Taekwondo (a martial art) at age 40, and earned his Black Belt at age 43. He is now an instructor at the Grande Prairie Taekwondo School, a Certified Provincial Referee, a Certified Canadian National Instructor, and is serving as President of the Grande Prairie Taekwondo Association.

Our Brother was the first candidate to be initiated in Ye Olde Craft Lodge in Edmonton, on July 12, 1986, was passed on November 8, 1986, and raised on

March 14, 1987, while the Lodge was still Under Dispensation. In 1988 he was transferred to Grande Prairie with his employer and subsequently affiliated with Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, where he served as WM in 1993-94. He hosted a very successful 75th Anniversary celebration for Grande Prairie Lodge No. 105 and Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, with his co-host RWBro Doug Clarkson, then WM of Grande Prairie Lodge.

He and his wife, Marianne, are also members of Aurora Chapter No. 46, OES, where he served as Worthy Patron in 1994 and 1997 and is now serving in 2000. He is a subscribing member of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, a founding member of Aurora Borealis Lodge of Research (yet to be instituted), and has served as Chairman of the Northern Alberta Area for the *Foundation for the Future* Committee.

Yellowhead District

RWBro H.A. (Sandy) Robinson was born June 14, 1929 at Jasper, AB. He obtained his senior matriculation from Jasper High School, a Management Accounting Diploma from the U of A Dept. of Extension, a Certificate from the Newport Business Management Course and attended a painting course at the Banff School of Fine Arts in 1950. He also took watercolour workshops from a number of well-known instructors.



Bro Robinson was co-owner/manager

of Robinson's IGA from 1948 to 1985, and also owner/operator of Pyramid Art Gallery & Sherriff's of Jasper. His work experience also includes motel and hotel management in Jasper and Edson, rafting ticket sales and photography.

Bro Sandy married Jean Gillett on September 19, 1955. They have son Bruce (Karen) with grandchildren Alex and Liam, daughter Sandra, and son David.

Our Brother was initiated, passed and raised in Jasper Park Lodge No. 143 in 1968, and served this Lodge as WM in 1980, and again in 1989, and as Secretary since 1990. He was appointed Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge of Alberta for 1990-91.

In Royal Arch Masonry he is a

member of Edson Chapter No. 30 since 1971, was First Principal in 1979 and 1980, Scribe E from 1980 to 1988, Grand SS in 1984, Grand Representative of Rhode Island near Alberta since 1984, Grand District Superintendent 1985-86, and since 1999 has been on the Long Range Planning Committee of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, and editor of its quarterly *Vox Regia*. He is also a member of Zohar Council No. 4, R&SM (since 1975), Edmonton Preceptory No. 46, KT (since 1979), and Alberta Rose YRC No. 52 (since 1987).

He is also a member of the Scottish Rite bodies of the Valley of Edmonton, which he had joined in 1973. In 1975 he became a member of Al Azhar Temple, AAONMS, in 1985 a Charter Member of Al Shamal Temple, AAONMS and was appointed Potentate's Aide in 1994.

Alberta Miscellany

Mountain View Lodge No. 16



(l to r) RWBro Ted Lembicz, WBro Harold Ramsey & WBro Joe Sargent, WM.

WBro Harold Ramsey was presented with the 60-year Bar to his 50-year Jewel

recently. Dr. Ramsey is a retired chiropractor who has practiced his profession in Olds for many years and has served his community as a Justice of the Peace for several years, and for some time as a Magistrate. Harold and his wife Ada now reside in Didsbury.

Mountain View Lodge also found the following on the Internet (author unknown):

The paradox of our times is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less

time; we have more common sense and more knowledge, but less good judgment; more medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We have higher incomes, but lower morals. We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We've conquered outer space, but inner space is still a mystery to many of us. We have cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; split the atom, but not our prejudices. We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often.

These are times of steep profits and

shallow relationships; world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; two incomes, and more divorce. It is a time where there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring a letter in seconds, and you can make a difference or just "delete".

Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44

We entered this world as a rough ashlar or as a stone from the quarry before squaring and polishing, as a symbol of the untutored man. Then, by a process of taking away or the removal of unwanted material, the rough stone can be fitted properly for its place in the building. Thus, by removing the roughness or the "vices and superfluities of life" we find the perfect man within the rough man, just as the perfect Ashlar

is within the rough Ashlar. Perfection is within. Every statue carved from stone was always within that stone. The artist needs only to take away the material not needed to create perfection. In Luke 17:21 we read, "...the kingdom of God is within you." Have we taken any rough material away from our stone or has our outer shell hardened beyond "taking away," and that we are still trying to "add on" to seek perfection?

Edgar L. Mitchell, WM

Camrose Lodge No. 37
"Everybody Does It"

(From the February 1968 Grand Lodge Bulletin, submitted by VWBro Bob Smith). When Johnny was six years old, he was with his father when they were caught speeding. His father handed the officer a \$5 bill with his driver's license. "It's

O.K., son," his father said as they drove off. "Everybody does it."

When he was nine, his mother took him to his first theatre production. The box office man couldn't find any seats until his mother discovered an extra \$2 in her purse. "It's O.K., son," she said. "Everybody does it."

When he was twelve, he broke his glasses on the way to school. His aunt Francine persuaded the insurance company that they had been stolen and they collected \$27. "It's O.K., kid" she said. "Everybody does it."

When he was fifteen, he made right guard on the high school football team. His coach showed him how to block and at the same time grab the opposing end by the shirt so the official couldn't see it. "It's O.K., kid," The coach said. "Everybody does it."



Masonic Spring Workshop

20, 21 & 22 April 2001

Delta Lodge at Kananaskis
The Moral and Ethical Core
of the Craft

This year's Keynote Speaker is **Jim Tresner** of Oklahoma — a Mason who is widely known in both Craft Lodge and Southern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite. His Masonic authorship is well-known.

Urge the new Masons of your Lodge to attend. They will return home with a warmer feeling for the fraternity, will have learned ways to improve your Lodge meetings, and will have suggestions for getting more members to your meetings. Indeed, a good project for the Lodge is to assist your newest member to attend. In exchange, he can report at the May meeting on the activities and education. This report will surprise those older members who haven't attended in years.

There are two plaques to be won: one for the Lodge with the greatest proportion of members attending; a second for the District with all Lodges represented plus its DDGM. It's a challenge worth the effort to get your members and Lodges to attend.

For the cost of the weekend — \$289, double, \$389, single — you get:

- Theme speaker with a strong message;
- Schools of instruction;
- Five meals including Banquet;
- Sunday devotional service and breakfast; and
- "Chat rooms" where you will have an opportunity to exchange ideas.

Enjoy a weekend in a beautiful mountain setting. Walk along the many paths radiating from the hotel complex.

What are you waiting for? Register now! Registrations before 1 March 2001 are eligible for the **Early Bird Draw**.

For further information, check out our website at www.cochran.ab.ca/workshop/index.html

See you in Kananaskis.

20, 21 & 22 April 2001 Masonic Spring Workshop Registration Form

▲Last Name (please print) _____ First Name _____ Second Name _____
 ▲First name for your Name Tag _____ Area Code & Phone No. _____
 ▲Address _____
 ▲City/Town _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____
 ▲Lodge Name & No. (One only) _____ Current Office _____ Current Rank _____
 Rank: MM WM PM Other: _____
 Smoking Non-Smoking Special requirements? (diet, elevator, etc.) _____
 Do you require transportation? Yes No

I wish to room with: _____
 Name _____ Lodge _____
 Cards should be received together to ensure request filled.
 Cost: \$289 double/triple; \$389 single One payment
 Three installments: \$100/100/89 or \$130/130/129
 Include three post-dated cheques dated 1st of Feb, Mar, Apr
 Cheque(s) Visa MasterCard
 Number: _____ Expiry: _____/_____
 Signature ▲ _____ Today's Date ▲ _____
 Mail cheque(s) or credit data for a total of \$289 Double /\$389 Single or fax or email credit data to:

Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee
 1131 Trafford Dr NW, Calgary, AB T2K 2T9
 403-274-0563 Fax: 275-2163 email: mawpc@cochran.ab.ca

When he was sixteen, he took his first summer job at the big market. His assignment was to put the over-ripe tomatoes in the bottom of the boxes and the good ones on top where they would show. "It's O.K., kid," the manager said. "Everybody does it."

When he was eighteen, Johnny and a neighbour applied for a college scholarship. Johnny was a marginal student. His neighbour was in the upper three per cent of his class, but he couldn't play right guard. Johnny got the assignment. "It's O.K.," they told him. "Everybody does it."

When he was nineteen, he was approached by an upper classman, who offered the test answers for \$3. "It's O.K., kid," he said. "Everybody does it." Johnny was caught and sent home in disgrace. "How could you do this to your mother and me?" his father said, "You never learned anything like this at home." His aunt and uncle were also shocked.

If there's one thing the adult world can't stand, it's a kid who cheats.

J. Griffin, *The Chicago Sun-Times* quoted in *The Texas Freemason*

Irricana Lodge No. 137

At the time of going to press [last October, Ed.], I can inform you that the Lodge Hall has been provisionally SOLD and our last meeting there will be the October Meeting, so come out and say your farewells to the place; it's going to be redeveloped as housing units. [Read on. Ed.]

Chief Mountain Lodge No. 58

(October 2000)

Elsewhere in this notice you will find a notice of motion to sell our lodge hall. It might seem to be a matter of indifference, but the time has come to sell the building and move on.

It seems to me that perhaps we have been putting too much faith into the building rather than the "Masonry" we are taught within the Craft. Does our commitment not go beyond the initial zeal over location, landscaping and the cosmetics of paint and carpet colour? Is our "Masonry" just another veneer?

We elect leaders to "meet our needs," then resent their attempts to do so; we buy books on Masonry, but don't read them; we claim to believe in Masonry, but so often do not revere the teachings; we acknowledge the truths and teachings of the Craft, then neither follow nor obey them...

You can sell a lodge building, but the real Craft, "Masonry" being lived each and every day in the community — that can't be sold. "Lodge for Sale" means

the door is closed, that's all. Beyond the door Masonic life goes on. This may very well be our greatest opportunity!

VWBro Dan Barr

Victoria Lodge No. 13 Centenary



In front (l to r): MWBro Rick Porter (MB); MWBro Gerald Webber (AB); WBro Randal Faechner (WM 13); and MWBro John McNamee (SK).

On October 14, 2000, Victoria Lodge No. 13 celebrated its 100th anniversary, when the ceremony of Confirming the Constitution and Consecration of the Lodge was conducted by the Grand Master and his Officers, followed by a banquet for Members, Ladies and guests. Two local newspapers of the city of Fort Saskatchewan reported on the event, with pictures taken of the assembly.

Darrel Windwood of the *Fort Saskatchewan Record* wrote, among other things: "Predating even the province, the first meeting of the Victoria Lodge took place October 13, 1900, with 10 members, some of which were members of the local North West Mounted Police detachment. Since then the group has grown to about 55 members currently. New men can join after the age of 21. Over the years, 15 of Fort Saskatchewan's 29 mayors have been members. Over the weekend, Masons from all across the region and Western Canada came together to celebrate the proud legacy. 'We have 4,000,000 friends around the world, some of which we haven't met yet', said MWBro Rick Porter, the Grand Master of Manitoba, when asked to describe the Masons. 'Personally it's a great honour. It's taken a lot of dedication from some old members', said local President [sic] WBro Randal Faechner. 'I'm very pleased to be here,' said MWBro John McNamee, Grand Master of Saskatchewan. 'We believe Masonry is on an upswing.' — 'The youth of today are looking for values in their lives that are missing,' said MW Grand Master Bro Gerald Webber of Alberta. — Locally, the Masons help with Meals on Wheels and provide a scholarship to Fort High. Province wide, the Masons donated

\$96,000 [this year] to various scholarships in Alberta. In North America, they donate \$2 million a day to various charities, said Porter."

In *Fort Saskatchewan – This Week*, Joey Payeur penned the following (excerpted): "A century of tradition and charity work was recognized Saturday as the Fort Saskatchewan Lodge of the Masons' guild [sic] turned 100 years old... The group has its roots in the 16th and 17th centuries when a wave of cathedrals were being constructed by stone masons throughout Europe. Once the cathedrals were finished, those working on them decided to continue their affiliation and form their own unique collective... [Originally] the Lodge fell under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories and Grand Lodge of Manitoba... When Alberta became a province in 1905, the Fort Lodge subsequently joined the Grand Lodge of Alberta while maintaining its Manitoba connection, thus making it one of the few Lodges which has two Charters of Constitution... The Masons have been stereotyped as a secretive group throughout the years, but Webber says the guild's [sic] approximately four million members worldwide have been committed supporters of various charities... Grand Master John McNamee... says the Masons operate on the basis of three principles: brotherly love, relief and truth. 'If all people believed in these principles, the world would be a much better place.'

A report on the 100th Anniversary of Red Deer Lodge No. 12 will appear in the February issue of *The Alberta Freemason*.