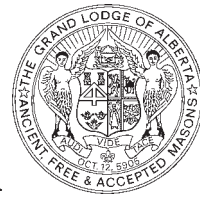


THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 66, No. 2

Red Deer Lodge No. 12 Centenary



On October 21, 2000, Red Deer Lodge No. 12 celebrated its 100th anniversary. The ceremony of Confirming the Constitution and Consecration of the Lodge, attended by one hundred Brethren from all over Alberta, was conducted in the Red Deer Masonic Temple by MWBro Gerald T. Webber, Grand Master, assisted by his Grand Lodge Officers. The evening banquet and dance, at the Black Knight Inn, was also attended by one hundred persons and featured the City Archivist, Mr. Michael Dawe, as guest speaker. Under the headline "Freemasons have long history of service in area," Harley Richards, Life Editor, reported in the *Red Deer Life*, a publication of the *Red Deer Advocate*:

"On a June evening in 1894, a group of men gathered at Burch's Hall on the northeast corner of Ross Street and Gaetz Avenue. They represented a cross-section of the men living in the young community:... A veterinary surgeon and village overseer... A barrister... A general merchant... A teacher and sports promoter... A farmer... But the men had one thing in common: they were all Freemasons..."

"Today, says city archivist Michael Dawe, the Masons are Red Deer's longest continually active organization. They have helped shape the community, with many of its leading citizens practicing Masonic rituals and pursuing the Masons' objective of promoting the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God, and helping the less fortunate. They've contributed a lot to Red Deer... But because of the nature of the organization, it's often in a very quiet way.

"Their early years were tough ones for the Red Deer Masons, however. Despite admitting Rev. Leonard Gaetz and Phillisk Pidgeon as new members at that first meeting in 1894, the Lodge struggled to maintain its numbers. Its charter lapsed when local officers were not installed within the prescribed time... But the local Masons remained members of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, even holding informal meetings in 1898 and 1899... Finally, on June 14, 1900, a new charter was issued for Red Deer Lodge No. 72. It became Red Deer Lodge No. 12 in 1905 when the Grand Lodge of Alberta was established.

"[MWBro] Foster notes the Red Deer

Lodges have produced their share of Alberta Grand Masters over the years. In addition to himself, other local heads of the Grand Lodge of Alberta have been Bill Botterill, Phil Galbraith, Gordon Towers, George Sterling and Rev. James Roberts."

Mr. Dawe concluded by stating that no other local organization had survived for one hundred years in a century which included two world wars, an epidemic, a drought and a depression.

On Sunday morning, a pancake breakfast, served to sixty people, was followed by a Church Parade to St. Luke's Anglican Church where Freemasons had laid the Cornerstone 100 years ago.

Grand Master's Itinerary

February

- 1 Westlock Lodge
- 6 Finance Committee, Red Deer
- 8 Board of General Purposes, Red Deer
- 26 Conference of Grand Masters of North America

District Meetings

- 10 Phoenix District Meeting (changed from January 6, 2001)

Editorial

Let Blow a Fresh Breeze

Whether it be in Masonic circles in Alberta, or elsewhere in the world, the call to coming out of our shells, to tell the public who we are and what we represent, who we are not and what we do not represent, that call has become the order of the day. And, seemingly, most everyone agrees but how many, or how few, will actually become our public ambassadors? "Yes, I'm for it, but somebody else, someone better qualified than I must do it." Is that a solution? Can we expect success if only a willing few accept the responsibility and we do not make this every Brother's business? Where do we find the tools?

In his messages, in this paper as on

the floor of Lodges he visits, our Grand Master points the way. Let us read those messages and internalize them, not just as something nice to know (and to file away), but to act upon. Let us also become more enthusiastic about schemes for improvement which we already have, such as the *Foundation for the Future — Doric Plan*. The "Let George Do It" attitude will not serve us, we must get involved ourselves and, when we do, we will find it's not a chore at all, it's fun!

We can look elsewhere too. For example, in this issue is a reprint of an article about the British Masonic magazine *Freemasonry Today*, look for "U.K. Freemasons seek to shed (some)

of the secrecy." The article, per se, is not a manual for changing, but the attentive reader may get this or that out of it.

Fresh, new ways of practicing our Masonry and thereby making it more appealing to many who would otherwise "remain at a perpetual distance" (remember?) should also be seriously considered. Again, an example can be found on a Web site, originating in Texas, and addressed to the entire family of organizations which claim to be Masonic. Think of our "concordant" bodies. This is recommended reading, and can be found under <http://www.geocities.com/masonicinclusion>. Your letters to the Editor on the subject covered there will be welcome.

Aside from these, there are many more doors just waiting to be opened, to let a fresh breeze blow through.

Grand Master's Message

As Grand Master, I have the privilege to read every Lodge summons each month. The messages are usually filled with excellent plans, ideas, wishes and dreams of the Master while he serves his term in the East. I am excited about what I am reading. Yes, I can't help getting excited when I see so many positive things happening in our jurisdiction and the number of men being initiated into our fraternity.

Today we must rise to the challenge of supporting these new Brethren. As no man ever grasped the full significance of the principles of Freemasonry **simply by receiving the degrees**, he needs your help in visualizing the ritual and why the Masonic symbols and their teachings are the spiritual tools that unite us: the square — the level — the plumb — the compasses.

There are a great many who have received their degrees **who have no clear idea as to what a Freemason actually is**. Surely, Masonry either stands for something definite — or it

does not. If it does mean *anything* distinctive, then every member of a Lodge should have some clear ideas on the subject. Today, every leader in the Masonic Family is challenged to **"make it happen"** by developing a Lodge program to reflect Brotherhood and the spirit of the fraternity. It should be every Mason's desire to search for the answer to the question: "Why did I join Freemasonry?"

When I inquire of my own heart what it is that ties me to my fellow Freemasons, I find myself thinking of many things. There is the sense of a wonderful history which links us to unknown Brethren who lived generations ago. There are our symbolisms and living philosophies. There is the spirit of oneness in purpose and aim of tolerance, of charity, of patience and forbearing. There is also the remembrance of the obligation which



binds us all. These and similar influences hold me to the Craft now, and ever shall. If I were to sum them up in one word, the word would be **Brotherhood**.

Each one of us, here today, has been a party to a miracle, and that miracle is the gift of life. During the course of our earthly life (which incidentally is very short), opportunities appear and success happens when preparation meets these opportunities. One of life's greatest opportunities is becoming a Mason, living one's life the Masonic way. Our successes originate from those that have come before us. The Masonic way is but one of the many great life experiences.

Brethren, take up the challenge with the purpose and the realization that, however blessed in material things we may be, there is nothing that can replace the treasures of the mind and of the spirit. If positive change is to take place in our Lodges and communities, let it begin with you — get involved — don't just talk about it. **Let's Do It!**

MWBro Gerald T. Webber
Grand Master

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Junior Grand Warden RWBro Norman R. Thomas
Grand Secretary *pro tempore* RWBro Ed Hunter

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Bro Trevor Morris — Ex Officio: Grand Master,
Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary

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Revisiting Tunnel Mountain After 100 Years



Bow River, Cascade and Perfection Lodges met on Tunnel Mountain, Banff, Alberta, on 2 September 1901. (Photo: Glenbow Museum na-3336-1)

On Labour Day, September 2, 1901, Bow River No. 28, Cascade No. 42 and Perfection Lodge No. 60, GRM, held a unique Masonic meeting on the summit

of Tunnel Mountain in Banff.

On Labour Day, September 3, 2001, one hundred years and one day later, these same three Lodges will once again

join forces to visit the same location with a Masonic "Family Outing."

The walking trail up Tunnel Mountain is along a well designed switchback route. The summit, in close proximity to the Banff town site, allows for a relatively easy walk to a peak in the Rocky Mountains. The effort to reach the summit is more than offset by the commanding views of inspiring mountains and the Bow Valley. Plans for the day include the walk itself (in prevailing conditions), an informative talk on the summit (weather permitting), and a BBQ supper.

Bow River Lodge No. 1, Cascade Lodge No. 5 and Perfection Lodge No. 9 extend an invitation to all Freemasons, their families and friends, to become a part of the event. Certain limitations and conditions will apply and pre-registration will be necessary. Those wishing to participate in this very special event are requested to contact: **VWBro Les Punshon, Cascade Lodge No. 5, at 403-678-4330 after 6 p.m.** Please note that the deadline for registrations will be Sunday, August 26, 2001.

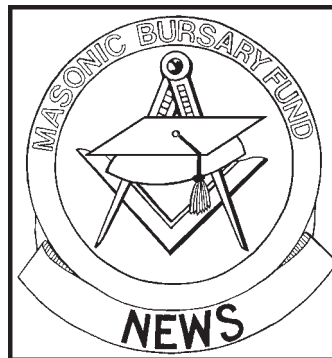
Bursary News

During the summer months of the year 2000, Bros Howard Townsend, Cliff Edwards and Hugh Kent continued work on the Bursary Fund film called *Let There Be Light*. This film, prepared by *Creative Controls* of Edmonton, was completed in early September, and one copy has been distributed to each District Deputy Grand Master, as part of the Bursary information kit that was requested in 1999. Two copies are in the Grand Lodge Library. Additional copies are available at a cost of \$20 each.

Following Grand Lodge communication in June, 2000, I asked the Jurisprudence Committee to look at Bursary Committee elections and to devise a way to return to the

election of two members per year for a 3-year term, as mandated by Regulation 1.7.7.3. This had not been strictly followed for several years, and the election in 2000 of four new members to replace several who had served only two years played havoc with an otherwise well-planned system. To assist in the solution, Bro John Hart and I have volunteered for a two-year term which should restore the 2-for-3-year system.

During the summer, the Finance Committee arranged for Scotia-McLeod to handle Grand Lodge reserve accounts. Each month Grand Lodge receives a report on the month's earnings. At the end of September, the Bursary Reserve Account stood at \$301,845.00. So far this year,



one Generous Donor Plaque has been issued for a donation of \$1,000.

We received a "Thank You" letter from SAIT for bursaries in support of several of their students.

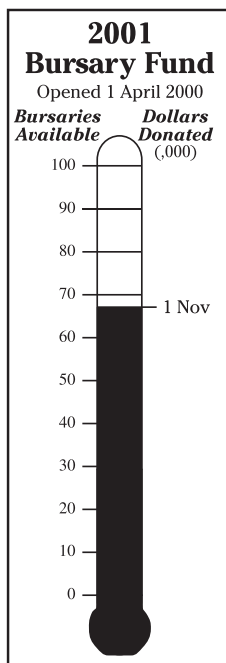
A college returned one bursary when it was found that the

student was not eligible for post-secondary studies, as he was enrolled in an upgrading program to complete Grade 12. The money was returned to reserves.

Donations to the Bursary Fund, from April 1 to the end of November 2000, are \$67,320.30. Since this is the first time that we used the 1st of April as the start of our collection year, we have no actual comparison, but month-by-month comparison is about three times ahead of the previous year.

Fraternally,

VWBro Hugh Kent
Chairman



Letter to the Editor

Let's hear it for our Grand Secretary "pro tem"



RWBro Ed Hunter has been holding the position of Grand Secretary *pro tempore* since April 3, 2000, when the Grand Lodge office needed someone to step in. Who better to accept this challenge! RWBro Hunter has been assisting in the Grand Lodge office twice a week for over fifteen years. He has willingly and cheerfully done whatever was requested of him.

RWBro Hunter has been a Mason for over 45 years, served as Worshipful Master on five different occasions, as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 1 in 1983, on the Bursary Committee 1986-87, as Southern-Superintendent Benevolence 1993-96, as Comely Committee Co-ordinator 1988-2000, and has been the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina for many years.

His dedication to the job of Grand Secretary "pro tem" has been outstanding. He is open and sincere, and

there is no question as to his love for the Craft. This young man of 81 years goes up and down the stairs of Freemasons' Hall countless times a day. He travels to all meetings, in Red Deer or wherever. Before leaving Calgary, he stops at the office to make sure all is well. Prior to returning home, he stops in again, checks out the activities of the day and takes immediate action where necessary. He is loved and respected by the Brethren and the staff.

In June of 2001, we will see a new Grand Secretary. We hope that our good friend and Brother will not be forgotten. RWBro Ed Hunter, Grand Secretary pro tem, has given "Yeoman Service" to the Craft. We thank him for accepting a great challenge and for carrying out his duties with dedication, commitment, sincerity, humour and respect towards the Brethren and staff of Grand Lodge.

RWBro Vic Ramsbottom
Carstairs Lodge No. 20

John Hamill Visited

On Friday, October 13, 2000, WBro John Hamill, former Librarian and Curator at Freemasons' Hall of London, England, and now Director of Communications of the United Grand Lodge of England, paid a return visit to Calgary.

Jointly hosted by King George Lodge, Jubilee Lodge and Fiat Lux Lodge of Research, the former Prestonian Lecturer and Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research, as well as author of six Masonic books and editor of others, was introduced by MWBro Robert Juthner and received by MWBro Gerald Webber. He delivered a most informative and extensive address on the current state of Freemasonry in the public eye in Great Britain, never resorting to notes.

At the festive board following, Bro Hamill responded to numerous questions put to him from the audience which had filled the Lodge building to capacity. It is occasions like this, with speakers like Bro Hamill, and topics of great interest and contemporary import, that make spending an evening in such company more than worthwhile. The Brethren present gave



MWBro Gerald Webber, WBro John Hamill, MWBro Robert Juthner

unmistakable evidence of their gratification and enjoyment.

U.K. Freemasons seek to shed (some) of the secrecy...

...reads the headline of an article by Virginia Matthews, a freelance journalist based in London, and printed in *International News*, September 4, 2000:

Freemasonry Today, the quarterly magazine for the U.K.'s 350,000 Masons, is set for an overhaul in a bid to attract younger readers, more advertising and newsstand distribution. By the by, the

relaunch is also expected to usher in a new era of public acceptance for a 3,000-year-old [sic] global organization, which only recently hired its first PR man here and which insists that rather than being a secret society it is a society that merely has secrets.

The magazine's new editor, ex-Fleet Street journalist and committed Brother

John Jackson, believes that despite what he calls "four decades of bad publicity" from the international media, Freemasonry is now poised to take its rightful place in 21st century British society — it now has a Web site — and answer its many critics both inside and outside politics and the church.

Although the issue of Masonic

infiltration inside the ranks of Britain's senior policemen remains a tricky one — not least for the British Home Secretary Jack Straw, who threatened last month to enforce by law a Masonic registration scheme—the organization denies that there is general public concern about its influence in public life.

Jackson believes that despite all the lampooning — okay, Masons do roll up their trouser legs during their initiation ceremonies, but no, they don't scratch their noses to indicate fraternity — Freemasonry is less unpopular than TV scriptwriters and journalists would have us believe. And he appeals to the public to separate fact from fiction.

“Most writers persist in linking Freemasons with corruption, shady dealings and even murder, but our own research shows that ordinary members of the public are far less suspicious of us than the media. Either we are a clandestine organization committed to overthrowing decent society as we know it, or we're a bunch of overgrown schoolboys who like dressing up and acting in plays. I just wish newspapers and the TV across the world would make up their minds about who we are supposed to be.”

The three-year-old magazine, which has a circulation of 30,000 and a readership of 100,000, is, to non-Brethren at least, a bewildering mix of Masonic history, symbolic rites of passage and baffling lodge regalia. It certainly has its own language — in Freemasonry, the Bible is called the Volume of the Sacred Law, God is the Great Architect and then there are the Square and the Compasses — as well as embroidery specialists and lots and lots of golf clubs.

Yet interspersed with the dreary profiles of old Grand Masters, sepia photographs of obscure Masonic war heroes and dirges on the three “Craft” degrees that reflect the organization's roots in medieval stonemasonry, up pops an interview, in the current issue, with Carl Smith, guitarist with the 1980s U.K. Pop band Madness and committed Freemason. And there are signs of a debate on so-called daylight lodges, which Jackson says, pave the way for hard-pressed young businessmen who want to join the Masons, but who work too late in the evenings. Both of which, arguably, are signs that the magazine and the organization it represents are

keen to cast off an image rooted in dusty old King Solomon's Temple for something more contemporary. “By including articles about younger Masons in fields like music and by addressing the work/life dilemmas of today's potential recruit,” says Jackson, “we believe that Freemasonry can begin to attract a whole new generation.”

Although the Masons have long been characterized as a group of white supremacists, Jackson has deliberately chosen to feature an article on “the Craft” of Freemasonry in Jamaica, and he makes the point that Freemasonry, with its three tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth, attracts a growing number of black and Asian recruits here, as well as every conceivable religious denomination both in the U.K. and across all continents. While women are not permitted to join the male-only

United Lodge of England [sic], they do have their own organization, which, judging by *Freemasonry Today* magazine — whose one-page women's column has the cringe-inducing title “Stiletto” — is about as heavy on symbolism and as light on humour as its male counterpart.

Although the magazine is never going to be a *GQ* — sex is forbidden and style is restricted to ads for desperately uncool suit-hire — Jackson believes that *Freemasonry Today* will eventually earn a position inside the top U.K. magazine distributor W.H. Smith: “We're a legal organization with nothing to be ashamed of. After 40 years in the wilderness, I believe that the Craft of Freemasonry is entering a new era of openness and vigour. We've changed and the magazine is keen to tell people so.”

Masons Donate to Camp for Children with Cancer

At the District Meeting of Battle River District, in Castor on November 3, 2000, more than sixty Brethren from Camrose, Castor, Coronation, Daysland, Edgerton, Forestburg, Irma, Provost, Sedgewick, Viking and Wainwright took part in the presentation of their \$1000 donation to “**Camp Quality**.” Michael Coulson, professor emeritus of the UofC and Co-ordinator for Camp Quality in Alberta, had travelled from Calgary to address the meeting and to receive the donation, on behalf of the District, from RWBro Don McPhail, DDGM, WBro Richard Holmes, WM of Provost Lodge and WBro Allen Ford of Buffalo Park Lodge.

“Camp Quality” is an organization first established in Australia in 1983, now with camps in 19 countries, among them Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Fiji, India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the

United States. There are only two Camps Quality in Canada, one in Ontario, and the one at the Hills of Peace campground south of Captain Ayre Lake, near Provost. The camp is for children afflicted with cancer, whether active or in remission. Sometimes siblings attend as well. There are always a doctor and a nurse present during the camp periods, and each camper has his own “companion.” The children attend free of charge. Prof Coulson pointed out that the camp does not ask for, nor does it receive, any government funding. This underlines the importance of donations. The Masons of the region will likely consider making more donations in the future and Battle River District may challenge other Districts across Alberta to get involved with this charitable cause.

Edmonton Police Honouring Late Brother

WBro Brad Ward (Victoria Lodge No. 13), Staff Sergeant in charge of the Training Section of the Edmonton Police Service, reports that the new Training Centre will be named the “Constable William Nixon Memorial Training Centre”.

Bro William Leslie Nixon (Empire Lodge No. 63) was shot on August 30, 1919, while investigating a suspicious man near 101st Street and 104th Avenue

in Edmonton. He died the next day, August 31, 1919.

Another Universal Formula

If A is a success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z . Work is x ; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut.

Albert Einstein
Observer, 15 January 1950



The Moral and Ethical Core of the Craft

20, 21 & 22 April 2001
The Delta Lodge at
Kananaskis

Tentative Agenda

Friday Night
Keynote Address

**Where the Rubber Meets the Road
— The Daily Reality of Masonic
Morals and Ethics**

Jim Tresner

Our Keynote Speaker is Bro Jim Tresner of Oklahoma — a Mason who is widely known in both Craft Lodge and Southern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite. In *Where the Rubber Meets the Road*, he will focus on what Albert Pike and other writers have had to say about ethics and morality as a matter of practical choices.

Bro Tresner is author of *Albert Pike: The Man Beyond the Monument* and of

Vested in Glory: The Regalia of the Scottish Rite. He has also authored several articles and pamphlets published by the Masonic Information Center. He holds the Medal of Honour from the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, the 33° and Grand Cross from the Supreme Council, the Legion of Honor from the Order of DeMolay, the Grand Cross of Color from the Order of the Rainbow, and is an honorary member of the Past Grand Masters Club of Arkansas.

Bro Tresner is currently Publications Editor of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, and Book Review Editor and contributing author of the Supreme Council of



Ill Bro Jim Tresner of Oklahoma

the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. He is also Director of the Masonic Leadership Institute (Oklahoma) and member of the Steering Committee of the Masonic Information Center.

The cost of the weekend is \$289, double occupancy, \$389, single. In return you get: 5 meals starting with Friday Dinner and ending with Sunday Breakfast; access to all theme speeches,

workshops, bookstore, video room, health club; "chat rooms" where you have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas; free parking; etc.

Day registration (Saturday) is also available for \$35 — meals not included.

What are you waiting for? Register now! The form can be found in January's *Alberta Freemason*. Full registrations before March 1st, 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.

Saturday

Controversial Stream

Morals & Ethics in Masonic Life / Jim Tresner

Masonic Trials — When Is There an Alternative? / (TBA)

Open Installations — Right — Wrong — or Maybe / Panel Discussion

General Interest

Membership Development — From Interest to Involvement / David Roth
The Doric Plan Evolves / Doug Troock & Tom Campbell

Two Masonic Skits — The Winding Staircase & the Beaverhills Competition Winner (TBA)

Officer Training

Junior Warden: The Social Life of a Lodge / Gordon Macaulay*

Deacons & Senior Warden: A Year for Planning / Norm Senn*

Thinking of Running for DDGM? A Workshop for Past Masters / (TBA)

*Note: Bros Macaulay and Senn will be available following their schools to lead discussion groups on their topics.

Wrap-up

Is Charity a Moral and Ethical Imperative for Freemasons? / Jim Tresner

Sunday

Ecumenical Devotional Service / Bro The Rev Jim Roberts

2001 Masonic Tour of Tennessee

Includes Nashville, Memphis, and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, plus Branson, Missouri. Led by RWBro Doug Troock, this tour is not sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Alberta but is a private tour led by our Grand Master of the time (as in past years).

- Departs Alberta 20 September 2001
- 13-day tour as outlined
- C\$2,975 per person (based on twin sharing)
- Spouses and/or companions welcome
- Masonic visits to be determined
- \$300 deposit required on or before 15 February 2001
- **Space limited to 40 seats**

Tour Price Includes

- All applicable taxes
- Return airfare from Edmonton or Calgary to St. Louis, return from Nashville
- All hotel accommodation (two beds per room)
- Luggage handling
- Land transportation via highway coach
- Breakfast daily, 5 dinners, 2 lunches
- Two Branson shows
- Grand Ole Opry & Mississippi Riverboat Show
- Louise Mandrell Musical Show (Pigeon Forge)
- Entry fees to Graceland, Dollywood,

Country Music Hall of Fame, Great Smokey Mountains National Park

Additional options for Branson and Nashville will be provided prior to departure from Alberta to ensure tickets will be available.

For additional details, contact:

Bro Marv Foote
Phone 403-294-0452
Fax 403-294-0455

Bro Doug Troock
Phone 780-483-6994
Fax 780-486-6959

Book early! Only 40 seats available!