

# THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro  
Robert E. Juthner  
Vol. 70, No. 9

## Maj-Gen Griesbach Statue Unveiled



On 11 September 2005, an equestrian memorial statue to Major-General Griesbach was unveiled by the Hon. Norman L. Kwong, Lt. Governor of Alberta, at Griesbach Village in Edmonton. Shown in the picture are members of Griesbach Lodge No. 191 who attended the ceremony. They are (l to r): WBro Mike Jones (WM), WBro Mike Smith, WBro Bruce

Zawalsky, and Bro Mike Blut.

Griesbach Lodge No. 191 was formed in 1964 at Griesbach Barracks in Edmonton — named after Major-General W. A. Griesbach — so the Lodge has always felt a close association with this famous military man and respected citizen of Edmonton. Griesbach Military Base is now closed but Canada Lands Co. is redeveloping the site as a housing

complex. They are to be congratulated on remembering its past history with this memorial and the adjacent park, which has numerous displays on the subject. The park and statue can be accessed from 137 Avenue and 102 Street.

William Antrobus Griesbach was born in Saskatchewan in 1878, educated

in Winnipeg but became well known in Edmonton as a pioneer, a lawyer, politician as well as a military man. In 1906 he became an Alderman and in 1907 was “boy” Mayor of Edmonton at the age of 29. He was also Canada’s youngest Chief Magistrate. He joined the Craft in 1906, being initiated into Jasper Lodge No. 14.

His military career started when he served in the Canadian Mounted Rifles in the South African War, 1899–1901, and was awarded the Queen’s Medal with four clasps. He was commissioned in the 19<sup>th</sup> Alberta Mounted Rifles (later

See **Griesbach**, page 5.



## The Year of the Veteran — 2005

### Our Heritage

They tell us the twilight is falling,  
Falling on heads turning grey,  
That soon there will be no remembrance  
Of warriors long gone away.

They say we romanticize killing,  
That war is a curse and a blight;  
Dear Father in Heaven, they knew it,  
They knew it but still went to fight.

Why prate of ideals when goosetep  
Was heard from behind bolted doors?  
They poured from this land in their thousands  
To keep all that hell from our shores.

Perhaps it is twilight for veterans,  
It comes to us all with the years.  
At least we have rich hallowed memories  
And poppies and crosses and tears.

### LEST WE FORGET!



## Guest Editorial

# Pride in our Craft

By Collin Glasson, Education Officer  
United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the ACT

If there will be anything that we can do to stem the membership loss, and the erosion of Masonry in our society, then it will not happen until we gain some sense of pride in our Craft. Pride can come from many sources. It can be because of your heritage. It can come from your accomplishments, from the esteem of your colleagues or the admiration of your friends.

But at its root, pride is a special knowledge about yourself — about who you are, where you are from, and what you believe and value about yourself and your life.

Until we as Masons stop denigrating ourselves and our Fraternity, until we

start taking some *pride* in our heritage, we will not be effective in our Lodge recruitment or activating older members, or establishing the true Light of Masonry for others to see.

Masonic Education is one of the most effective means of establishing pride in our Fraternity. We have a glorious past. Our Masonic history is replete with examples of some of the greatest men of all times. Masonry has been one of the greatest movements for good in the world. More Masons need to know more about that story.

A quality Lodge education program is *one* way to get more Masons into our Lodges and to improve participation

in our meetings. Our Craft has suffered from the abuse of our critics, much of which goes unimpeded by the ignorance and wilful neglect. If we cannot answer our critics what do we say to our friends — nothing. We let our critics deface, defame and desecrate our sacred Temples. Education is the power to stand up to our critics, or explain the true meaning of our Craft.

Ultimately, the power of Masonic Education is to work within us the power for good. By our works, by the spiritual and temporal buildings we have raised up we shall be known among our friends as well as our enemies. This is one of the great challenges to inspire each new generation and enlighten hearts and minds in the great truths inculcated in our system of symbolic morality.

*Pillars of Light*, ol 1, No. 10  
September 2005

## Book Review

# The New Revelations: A Conversation with God

By Neale D. Walsch, Atria Books, Toronto, 2002, 358 pp.

This book was brought to my attention by one of the Past Masters of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142. He found the book very interesting and thought I might find it interesting enough to share with the Craft through a review.

Initially, a reader might be sceptical about the book. There are not too many modern books that claim God as the co-author. However, Mr. Walsch answers that by asking why revelation only comes from ancient sources. Why do we assume God only spoke to people in the past, but does not do so now? Since I have no way of proving or disproving that the book is a reflection of conversations between Mr. Walsch and God, or just a way to stimulate interest in Mr. Walsch's religious views, I will simply discuss some of the observations outlined in the book.

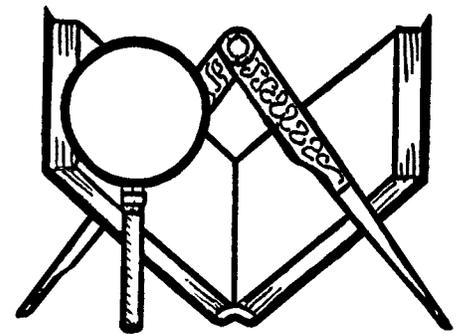
The author contends that a large number of the problems in the world today are the result of various cultures, each

claiming to have a special relationship with the Supreme Being(s). This leads to a division between humankind that can lead to conflict.

In addition, the author spends considerable time on the idea: *are humans made in the image of their Creator or has humankind shaped the Creator in their image?* The author asks: Why does an omnipotent and omniscient God need anything from humans? Why does a loving Creator need sacrifices, become jealous and vengeful, and, in short, display many of the less favourable characteristics of the creature He created?

The remainder of the book discusses nine points that form the core of the *New Revelations*. In brief, these points emphasize a loving Creator that wants his creation to be happy; life does not end with death, and there is no eternal damnation.

The reviewer found the book an in-



teresting read. It is easy to follow and understand. Whether one is sceptical about Mr. Walsh's claims of conversations with God or not, his approach does stimulate thought. Mr. Walsh's attempts to provoke thought about the nature of the Deity are not new. Philosophers have been doing this for thousands of years. Why we are here, and our role in the Universe, are questions as old as mankind.

Loren Kline.

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## Alberta Miscellany

### Diamond City Lodge No. 65

*Editor's preface: It is common to celebrate anniversaries, both personal and corporate, when round figures are attained. The following, however, shows us how Masons care about their respected members between times. Read on.*

The picture shows, seated, RWBro Bill Nicol on his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 26 November 2004. He has been a member of this Lodge since 1962 and had served as Worshipful Master in 1967, 1976 and 1987. In 1982 he was DDDGM of (then) District No. 7. He is now a resident of St. Michael's Health Centre in Lethbridge.

On his right is RWBro Clayton Stobbs who was WM when this picture was taken, and standing behind him RWBro Tom Parker, Tyler, both bringing greetings and congratulations from the Brethren of Diamond City Lodge.



WBro Ernie Housley, Sec-Treas

### Eureka Lodge No. 10

Have to share:  
"TWO WOLVES"

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside of people. He said "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is 'Evil.' It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is 'Good.' It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "**The one you feed.**"

### Evergreen Lodge No. 166

With Masonry being about finding our path in the world, I was pondering the basic human tendency to take the easy route in problem solving, as opposed to the harder road, the character-building route that actually works. Examples of the easy route surround us: drugs for the quick fix, plastic surgery for weight loss or beauty enhancement, cheating on exams, high tech theft, and abortion when used as a birth control method, frivolous lawsuits for personal gain.

Now, I'm a sucker for certain movies, and it was timely when Viv and I attended the Johnnie Depp movie *Finding Neverland* which is reportedly based on true events. At the risk of being called a non-critical critic, I'd say that Johnnie Depp gives an inspiring performance about a man of character who knew his heart, and followed his own values in a world where we often depend on others for direction in rightness versus wrongness.

The movie has tragedy, dignity, honour, family, love, listening, communicating, bringing out the boy in all men, connecting with our male hearts, and showing most profound

respect for others.

I'd rather not give away the plot by further discussion, but one aspect worth the movie price by itself was how the main character handles himself in difficult situations.

It's just a movie, but the example it sets is profound. I highly recommend that if you haven't seen this movie, you do so, after you have thrown away my message and forgotten all the preconceived ideas I've planted. Perhaps you'll be as impressed as I was.

WBro Paul Carter, WM

### Jasper Park Lodge No. 143

A well known Brother recently said in his farewell speech as he was leaving the East, "I am no longer going to come to Lodge because *I have to*, I will no longer help set up the Lodge because *I have to*, I will not call the Brethren at home so we can have enough members to open the Lodge because *I have to*. I will instead come to the Lodge because *I want to*, I will help set up the Lodge because *I want to*..."

This made a lot of sense. We all do something because we have to, be it work, family commitments, etc., but what do we do simply because *we want to*? Well, speaking for myself, I come to Lodge because *I have to* and want to. *I have to* be here because I took an obligation and made a commitment as an officer of the Lodge. *I want to* because I love Freemasonry and try to live it every day.

WBro Paul R. Payment, WM

### Foothills Lodge No. 174

Excerpts from *Masonic Education: A Subject Too Often Overlooked*, address to Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, 22 November 2003, written by MWBro Richard E. Fletcher (Vermont), keynote speaker at the 2005 Masonic Spring Workshop:

Fletcher began with a quote from Conrad Hahn, a most distinguished Mason: "The lack of educational work in the average Lodge is the principal reason for the lack of interest and consequent poor attendance within Masonry over which spokesmen have been wringing their hands for the last century."

Fletcher continued: "We, as a fraternity, have reached the point where far too few of our members have even the faintest idea of why they are Freemasons, let alone have any real knowledge about our history or heritage..."

"I very strongly believe that there was a far more significant purpose to the origins of Freemasonry than simply erecting buildings! I do believe that Freemasonry evolved into that stage, during its development, but the cathedral builders reflected a time in our history, and not its beginning..."

"Benjamin Franklin and Voltaire did not join a workers' guild! They joined what they believed to be an educational society which was called Freemasonry. These were extremely intelligent men who had no time to waste on things that were not important to them, and yet Franklin was an active Freemason and Voltaire joined only shortly before his death! **What was it that they saw in Freemasonry that eludes us today?**"

Excerpted by MWBro Gordon Macaulay  
from *Vox Lucis*, 24, pp 109-116

*Vox Lucis* is available from Sec-Treas, Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, PO Box 4695, Station 'C,' Calgary, AB T2T 5P1 or from sgarthc@shaw.ca

# Why did I become a Mason?

By Bro Takis H. Sifonas, MM  
Victory Lodge No. 94, GRQ  
Pierrefonds, QC

Has any one of you stopped to ask yourself why you joined the fraternity? Was it because it was a long-standing family tradition? Was it because of the alleged privileges, notoriety, power and ascendancy rumours in various sectors of society? Was it because you sought to belong to a group of people? Or was it because of the noble actions of Masons in the past that you were spurred into wearing the Square and Compasses on your lapel? The answer to that question is also the answer to the enigma revolving around declining membership in some sectors, and the extreme success in membership in others.

We must ask ourselves why we joined Freemasonry and understand that “**why**” so that it can become the “**how**” at expanding our fraternity in today’s times wherein our young men are allured by pretty much the same things that drew us to join various groups in the past.

A young man will not be drawn to the ritual of Freemasonry; although he may find himself enchanted by it once he is well ensconced in his local Lodge. A young man seeks something that often makes him join certain groups. Young men all seek empowerment; whether it is self-empowerment or just empowerment in general, I have never met a young man that did not seek to empower himself somewhere, somehow. Solidarity, loyalty, strength in numbers and trust are also things many young men I have spoken to seek. A place where they belong and are accepted... yes... acceptance! This is why our street gangs grow while other organizations dwindle.

It is a question of power and spirit. This type of spirit was once the staple of Freemasonry. I speak not of ascendancy, but instead, of a bond of spiritual strength that could not easily be betrayed, broken or corrupted. The Lodge was a place where everyone, from all walks of life, entered to find equality, unity, acceptance and personal growth. It was a spiritual place and not just a place of rank and superficial ritual. It was about spiritual friendship and brotherhood.

Do we reflect that in our Lodges today? Do we feel that sentiment when we sit beside any one of our Brethren?

Nelson King, during a visit to Montreal

one day (over at The Montreal Masonic Memorial Temple) said the following: *Would you trust the Mason sitting beside you with your family and your kids should you, one day, pass away?* That sentence struck a chord in me in the deepest way. “Yes” was the answer for most... or should I say many... but not all, and I think anyone would be a liar who could boldly declare that he has faith in the Masonic code to say “yes” to Brother King’s question. Why? Why can we not say this about all our Brethren and about all of our Lodges?

I would spend the last dollar in my pocket to help a Brother in need and the Masons I know would do whatever they can to help a Brother in distress. But there are some that could not be bothered with anyone not holding a

certain rank in social structure or the Masonic hierarchy. Why? Has our system become lax? I’ll bet that in the 1940s there would have been no question as to whether or not a Mason would trust another Mason... any Mason... with his nearest and dearest. What is it that we have lost today that does not allow every single man in Masonry to concede with the statement above? What spirit in our Lodges is missing?

If we can answer that question, then we can not only solve the problem of declining membership, but as a result, we can also determine what it is we need to revive in our Lodges that which will make being a Mason something extremely special to Freemasonry’s members and to all those who may, some day, inquire about what we are all about.

Canmas 2005-02-11

## Masonic Spring Workshop: The Place for Fellowship

The Masonic Spring Workshop is the place to be for the best in Masonic fellowship. Each year, Masons from all over the province and beyond gather to learn about their Craft and to discuss the issues affecting it. Only part of that occurs at the keynote sessions and at the various workshop sessions. More important is what happens in the informal sessions held by the Brethren in their rooms Friday and Saturday nights. Here is where ideas are explored and clarified — where information becomes knowledge. Here is also where men make new, life-long friends.

The 2006 Workshop will continue the tradition from 28 to 30 April at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, one of Alberta’s best mountain resorts. A couple hundred Masons from age 21 to 95 will gather for three days of the best fellowship, entertainment, food and Masonic Education that time or money

can buy. In addition, all the facilities of the resort are available: the pool, hot tub, sauna, gym, hiking trails, etc.

The theme for the coming workshop is *Freemasonry and the Formation of Community*. The keynote speaker is the man who wrote the book on the topic — *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities* (ISBN: 0-8147-8292-2) by Mark Tabbert, Curator of Masonic and Fraternal Collections at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA. Tren Cole, the Workshop’s 2006 Chairman, expects the Brethren both to explore the role of the Craft in the historical development of our communities, and to consider how we might influence the community of the future.

Mark your calendars for the 2006 Masonic Spring Workshop, 28–30 April 2006 at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis. Check [www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca](http://www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca) over the winter for details as they develop.

## Grand Master’s Itinerary November

- 1 Vulcan No. 74; Game Supper; 16 30 h
- 17 Al Amira No. 157, Daughters of the Nile Ceremonial; Ramada Inn, Edmonton; 20 00 h
- 19 Three Rivers District Meeting; Masonic Hall, Fort Macleod; 11 00 h
- 19 Crossfield No. 48 & Irricana No. 137 Ladies’ Night; Crossfield Community Hall; 18 00 h
- 26 Especial Communication of Grand Lodge, Cornerstone Lodge No. 19; Masonic Hall, High River, confirming the Consecration; 14 30 h

## District Meetings

### November

- 5 Battle River District; Legion Hall, Irma; 13 30 h; DGM
- 12 Beaverhills District; Masonic Hall, Leduc; 11 00 h; DGM
- 19 Lakeland District; Masonic Hall, Cold Lake; 11 00 h; JGW
- 19 Phoenix District; Freemasons’ Hall, Calgary; 11 00 h; GSec
- 19 Three Rivers District; Masonic Hall, Fort Macleod; 11 00 h; GM
- 26 Dinosaur District; Masonic Hall, Drumheller; 12 00 h; GSec

# Report on the 58<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Association of Masonic Boards of Relief of the United States and Canada

## “*Serving Freemasonry for 120 Years*”

Brethren of Alberta, the 58<sup>th</sup> biennial conference was convened in Vancouver from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, with rep-

### News from England

Following are two items of general interest, taken from the call for the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of AF&AM of England, for 14 September 2005:

#### • **Freemasonry and the Media**

There has recently been a revival in interest in Freemasonry on the part of the broadcast media. The Board (of General Purposes) believes it timely to remind Brethren of the general advice given on this subject on previous occasions. Whilst it has no desire to prevent Brethren from voicing their views, the Board believes that participation, at both the national and local levels, in broadcast debates on Freemasonry is best left to spokesmen who have the background knowledge and experience to participate in such events, and, preferably, have been duly authorised in advance. Any Brother who is approved to take part in a broadcast should seek guidance either from the Communications Department at Freemasons’ Hall or the Information Officer appointed by his Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master. It follows also that Brethren, other than those authorised, should not voluntarily approach the media to solicit coverage.

#### • **Macedonia**

On 2 October 2000, Skopje Lodge No. 9721 was consecrated (by the UGLE) in Skopje, Macedonia. It was followed by the consecration of Unity Lodge No. 9749 and White Dawns Lodge No. 9765 in 2001 and 2003 respectively. These Lodges were established with the intention of eventually forming them into a Sovereign Grand Lodge.

At the request of the three Lodges in Macedonia the Pro Grand Master will (has) inaugurate(d) the Grand Lodge of Macedonia on Friday 30 September this year, two days before the fifth Anniversary of Skopje Lodge.

*[These three Lodges will be erased from the Register of the UGLE, which will then immediately extend recognition to the newly formed Grand Lodge. — Ed.]*

resentation from a number of States and two Canadian Provinces. The American representation was sadly diminished due to the catastrophic effects of hurricane Katrina. The Association records were located in New Orleans and little likelihood exists for their recovery. The Association’s executive secretary, RWBro Glen Butler, lost his home and was thankful to be alive but was not able to be in attendance.

The conference was hosted by the Vancouver Masonic Board of Relief and presided over by RWBro Gordon Philips. The Grand Master of British Columbia and Yukon, MWBro Robert McSween, and the Grand Secretary, MWBro James Gordon, were in attendance.

The Association Board of Directors, at the onset of the conference, raised the possibility that the Association might have a shortened life span. As the conference progressed, it became very clear that the delegates did not have

similar thoughts. It was determined that many Masonic jurisdictions face similar problems with respect to benevolence, relief and Masonic charity, in whatever form it was and how it was delivered. It appears that the jurisdiction that has placed all charity — benevolent and relief funds — under one umbrella gets the best bang for their bucks, has greater investment opportunities and a better rate of return. Thankfully, in this jurisdiction (Alberta) the assets are visible to the Brethren, should they wish to review the Grand Lodge annual financial statement.

In short, the Association will continue. RWBro Wayne Northrup of Brooklyn was elected president and the Grand Secretary of Rhode Island, RWBro John Faulhaber, was elected 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, and RWBro Neal Sutherland of Victoria 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president.

RWBro Larry Watson, Sec-Treas,  
Calgary Masonic Board of Relief

#### **Griesbach**, from page 1.

the 19<sup>th</sup> Alberta Dragoons) in 1906 rising to the rank of Major. The 19<sup>th</sup> Alberta Dragoons enlisted en bloc as the 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Cavalry Squadron and, in August 1914, Griesbach accompanied the unit to Britain as Second in Command.

Major Griesbach was no sooner in Britain than he was ordered to return to Canada. He had been selected to command the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.E.F, one of three units to be raised concurrently in Edmonton. He was an obvious choice for such an appointment — a well-known resident with active service and militia experience, and a westerner with the common touch that transcends all other qualities in leadership. He returned to France with the Battalion on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1915 and took part in operations at the Ypres Salient, the Somme, Vimy Ridge, and Passchendale, to name a few. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1917 he was promoted to Brig-Gen and commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division. In December 1917 he was elected Unionist Member of Parliament for Edmonton. He was promoted to Major-General on his retirement, 16 September 1921, and in that month was appointed to the Senate.

Major-General Griesbach maintained

his military interest and in 1933, in the *Alberta Military Institute Journal*, published an article detailing the weaknesses of Imperial defences and the necessity of the Dominions taking some of the weight off the shoulders of Great Britain. In March 1938, Senator Griesbach told the Upper Chamber that in a matter of months the British Commonwealth and France might be facing the combined might of Germany, Italy and Japan. He advocated a three-fold expansion of the militia and that training measures should be introduced to avoid the scramble into uniform that had occurred in 1914. In July 1941 he was recalled to service and served as Inspector-General of Western Canadian Forces. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1944 he resigned from active service. At the annual Regimental Dinner of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1945 he admitted to being a bit tired but gave no inkling of any serious deterioration of his health. On the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> January he died.

Among his many decorations were: Companion of the Order of the Bath; Companion of the Order of St, Michael and St, George; Distinguished Service Order and Bar; Volunteer Decoration and Mentioned in Despatches (6 times).

WBro Mike Smith (191)

## Our DDGMs

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2005–2006 term. This will be continued in the next two issues of The Alberta Freemason.

### Battle River District

**RWBro Ron G. Dempsey** was born at Wainwright, Alberta, on 18 January 1945, and is occupied as a paint contractor, living in the town of Irma. His wife of many years, Aletha, passed away earlier this year, on 13 April 2005. He has three sons, one daughter, three grandsons and one granddaughter. Ron is a Past President of the Agricultural Society, and has served as Village Councillor and on the Board of the United Church.



Our Brother received the three degrees of Freemasonry in Gratton Lodge No. 144 in 1970, was their Worshipful Master in 1979 and is now a member of Gratton-Connaught Lodge No. 144. He has also been a member of the Eastern Star Chapter since 1986.

### Central District

**RWBro Mark A. Vickers** was born 23 April 1959 at Nottingham, UK. He lives in Red Willow, Alberta, and works as a licensed Heavy Duty Mechanic. He is single. He had attended school in Nottingham, and in December 1974 he joined the British Army, serving in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Germany. He was decorated with the Northern Ireland Service Medal. Still in the United Kingdom, he trained as Heavy Duty Mechanic in 1981, and received his Digital Electronics Certificate in 1988. In 1992 Mark moved to Canada to take up work with Atco Power Brgs. He obtained a Police Sciences Diploma with highest honours and is currently studying 4<sup>th</sup> Class Power Engineering through NAIT.



Brother Vickers was initiated passed and raised in Apollo Lodge No. 27 of Stettler, in 1996, and was its Worshipful Master in 2001. He served in Grand Lodge, as Grand Steward, in 2002–2003. He is also active in Concordant Bodies, as a member of Lebanon Chapter No. 38, RAM; Zohar Council No. 4, R&SM; Edmonton Preceptory No. 46, KT; Central Lodge of Perfection A&ASR (PTPGM) and Rose Croix Chapter and Alberta Consistory of Edmonton.

### Chinookarch District

**RWBro Kyle D. Burns**, born 15 August 1976 in Lethbridge, AB, is single and works as Commissionaire with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires and resides in Lethbridge where he graduated from the Lethbridge Community College in Broadcast Journalism in 2002.

Bro Burns was initiated, passed and raised in York Lodge No. 119 in

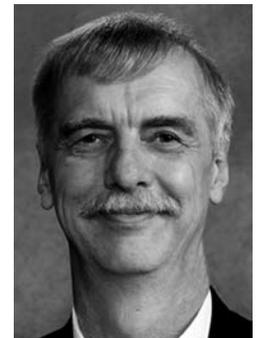


1998, and served there as Worshipful Master for the 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 terms. Following amalgamation he became a member of North Star Lodge No. 4. Our Brother had previously served on the Board of General Purposes (2004–05), on the Board of Directors of Masonic Hall Company of Lethbridge Ltd., and is the Vice President of the Lethbridge Masonic Trustee Board.

His membership in Concordant Bodies includes Shekinah Chapter No. 4, RAM; Alberta Council No. 5, R&SM; Acre Preceptory No. 66, KT; HRAKTP Pompilius York Rite College No. 79; Laurel Chapter No. 43, OES; Al Azhar Temple AAONMS and the Lethbridge Shrine Club.

### Lakeland District

**RWBro George D. Christensen Jr.** was born on 19 June 1952 in Edmonton, is single, and a Mechanic-Welder by trade, residing in Edmonton. He had started out as a licensed mechanic and welder in the oilfield industry where he gained numerous trade certificates and held various positions as supervisor and superintendent. He then worked for various companies throughout the world and is currently self-employed.

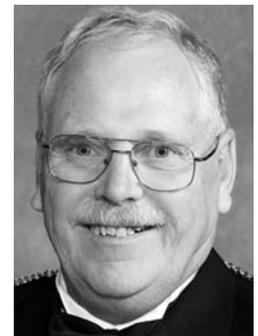


Both grandfathers were Master Masons (one a Past Master), and also an uncle was a Past Master. His father still is a member of the Craft in Alberta who has been awarded the Masonic Medal of Merit and had served as Grand Tyler. So, following a family tradition, George Junior received the three degrees of Freemasonry in Norwood Lodge No. 90 in 1994 and became its Worshipful Master in 2002–03.

Our Brother is a member of the three bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Edmonton, and an active member of Norwood Chapter No. 18, RAM.

### Mighty Peace District

**RWBro Wayne A. Swanson** was born on 9 January 1942 in Provost, AB, now works in Lumberyard Sales and resides in Beaverlodge. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta, and has taught for 31 years, retiring in 1996. He is married to Linda and the couple has four children (3 girls and 1 boy) and five grandchildren (4 girls and 1 boy).



He was initiated, passed and raised in Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, in Wembley, in 1994 and served that Lodge as Worshipful Master for the 2000–01 and 2001–02 terms. Our Brother has served on the Board of General Purposes for one year, and two years as District Bursary Chairman. He is also a member of Wapiti Chapter, RAM.