



2008 Masonic Medal of Merit Awards

Extract from report presented by MWBro Calvin D. Shaver, Chairman

As in previous years, this Grand Lodge Communication brings to us the opportunity to recognize worthy Brethren who have not been installed Masters and who exemplify the General Charge in every way, be it within the walls of their Lodge or elsewhere in their daily lives.

Of the five Medals presented this year, four are from Lodges and one from a District (Dinosaur) who have not previously had a recipient. This brings us to a total of 57 recipients from 39 Lodges, with at least one recipient from each District, since the inception of the Award.

Freemasonry continues to be attractive to men, and it is hoped Freemasonry will have a positive influence upon them. It is recognized that their contribution has a positive impact, and demonstrates how Freemasonry is perceived in our communities. From a review of the information included with the nominations, it is very evident that individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and length of membership truly possess high standards, look for ways to expand their philosophy towards mankind, and practice those great tenets and principles of the General Charge, both before and after joining our Fraternity.

Brethren please keep those nomination forms coming in. Your Committee remains ready, willing and able to work on your behalf to recognize those Brethren who meet the requirements for this

prestigious award. If any individual requires information, or a Lodge or District would like a presentation, please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange for a member of the Committee to attend your meeting.

Bro Vernon Stewart

... was initiated into Freemasonry on 14 February 1972, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on 21 March 1972, and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 4 April 1972 in York Lodge No. 119. He is currently a member of North Star Lodge No. 4 in Lethbridge.

Bro Stewart, while personally not desiring to advance to the position of Worshipful Master, has willingly filled positions when needed, first in York Lodge No. 119, then in North Star Lodge No. 4. He was a regular visitor to Diamond City Lodge No. 65 and assisted wherever needed. Recognizing the preference to amalgamate, rather than surrender York Lodge's charter, he assisted in ensuring a smooth amalgamation and he continues to promote several traditions, such as Robbie Burns Supper and the Table Lodge, now held by North Star. He is a mentor to new candidates and takes the time to answer and provide explanations to their questions. Some of the supportive comments from several Brethren can be summarized as: "He is very quiet in demeanor, courteous to all and always ready to help when



requested. He carries out his ritual work with dignity, precision and accuracy. I am firmly convinced that the section in the General Charge that speaks to the qualities of the "ideal Freemason" describe Vern perfectly."

Bro Stewart is an excellent ambassador of the Craft and readily participates in Lodge programs within the Lethbridge community, including the CHR Lights of Hope fundraising, Salvation Army Kettle campaign, the Masonic booth at the Air Show, and many other events that help promote the Masonic profile in the community.

Bro Stewart is active with the Lethbridge Shrine Club, utilizing his trade to keep the mechanized equipment working properly. He is a valued member of the Pep Band and was very active during the construction of the Shrine Centre.

Being a skilled mechanic, he eventually was in charge of the Alberta Apprenticeship Program for Lethbridge and area, helping to guide many young lives as they undertook an apprentice trade.

Bro Stewart and his wife Bernice have three daughters, one son, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. His wife expresses it best when she says: "The Masonic order means a lot to him and it is of great importance to him."

Bro Frank Fraser

... was initiated into Freemasonry on 10 February 2005, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on 10 March 2005 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 12 May 2005. He is currently a member of Symbol Lodge No. 93 in Drumheller.

Bro Fraser is always looking for ways he can assist in any project, in and out of Lodge. Being a skilled Master

See **Medal of Merit**, page 2.



(l to r) Bros Frank Fraser, Donald Kellner, Lorne Schaerer, Vernon Stewart. Bro Trevor Morris was unable to be present. His Medal was presented as part of his Lodge's 50th Anniversary Celebration in September.

Editorial

Giving

If you were to ask a number of Brethren what the word “giving” meant to them as Freemasons, you would likely receive a variety of answers. To some it might bring back the words of the Charity or NE Corner Lecture they heard on their first entry into the Lodge wherein they were charged to contribute to the relief of friends or Brothers in destitute circumstances. Others might think of “giving” in terms of Masonic philanthropies — in this Jurisdiction, the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund or the Masonic Foundation; in other Jurisdictions, medical or health services, medical research, housing, or youth programs.

Traditionally, the October issue of *The Alberta Freemason* has focussed on two other views of giving: the recipients of the Masonic Medal of Merit, and the Bursary Fund — not just its fund-raising aspect but also, and perhaps more importantly, the impact of the Bursaries on the recipients.

The Masonic Medal of Merit is awarded to Brethren who exemplify the General Charge in every way. When you hear or read the words of the General Charge and the “ideal of a Freemason” that forms part of it, you will not find the word “giving” used. Yet one of the building blocks of this view of a Freemason surely **is** “giving” — not of material things, but of a much more precious commodity: giving of oneself. This is aptly demonstrated by the life and actions of this year’s recipients.

We often make donations without seeing a direct result. Those Brethren who have had the opportunity to take part in the process of interviewing applicants for Masonic Higher Education Bursaries hear how much impact a \$2,000 Bursary could have in furthering their education. If you are lucky enough to talk to, or hear from, some of those students whose applications were successful, you may discover that the impact on their education, and even on their lives, had even been understated.

The average donation from the Brethren of this Jurisdiction last year was less than \$11, a small amount indeed to invest in something that could influence not only the lives of the Bursary recipients but also, ultimately, our future as well.

Medal of Merit, from page 1.

Woodworker Cabinetmaker by trade, he has, in addition to refurbishing the woodwork in the Lodge, built a model of the 3–5–7 steps and a rack for the officers’ collars, wands, gavels, Holy Bible and Tyler’s sword. Since joining the Craft, he served as Chaplain for two years and is presently the Senior Deacon. Bro Fraser readily gives of his time and effort to raise money for the Lodge’s benevolent purposes.

Since moving to Drumheller in 2001 he has been very community minded, as Chairman for the Royal Canadian Legion Board of Directors, a member of the Legion Colour Party, a participant in the Canadian Badlands Passion Play Choir, a director of the Drumheller Valley Bus Society, and a member of the Knox United Church. Prior to moving from Calgary he was very active in the Centennial Presbyterian Church, serving as Sunday School Superintendent. In addition, he was a Scoutmaster and involved with soccer.

He is known to have a good sense of humour and wonderful personality, is considered a very genuine person, and is respected by all his peers. While he

was raised in an orphanage in Scotland, he says he has more siblings than most other individuals and does not consider himself as being without family.

In March 2008 he and his wife Mary celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have one son and two daughters.

Bro Trevor Morris

... began his Masonic journey in 1968 in St. Stephen Lodge No. 3145, Bristol, England and in 1973 he affiliated with Mosaic Lodge No. 176 in Calgary.

Bro Morris has been a Mason for 40 years and has been [and is] the quiet man in the background who does work without fuss or muss. He was the Secretary of the Lodge for many years and did so most competently and always with the thought of making the business of Masonry easier for the Master and his officers, allowing them to concentrate on improving Masons and Masonic works.

Today, at 80 years of age, he still works at Masonry, assisting with *The Alberta Freemason* editorial staff duties as he has been doing since the 1980s. He reads all Lodge communications and writes a column, *Alberta Miscellany*, which informs the Craft of original content.

In the early 1970s, he relocated his entire family to Canada knowing that it would mean better opportunities for the family. As a family man, he has enriched the lives of his children and helped them to become active and responsible adults. He and his wife have been married 52 years and have two children and two grandchildren, and they now carry on supporting and encouraging this generation in their activities. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides for many years and assisted with Easter Seals Camp Horizon for many hours when needed.

Bro Morris was active, and to some extent still is, with model railroading and shares his expertise with other clubs’ members, even being published in a national magazine. His craftsmanship extended to telescope construction and miniature devices. His daughter has stated: “It is fair to say that I and my brother are very fortunate to have had Trevor there to enrich our lives and allow us to become the active, responsible adults we are today. It is very true when they say, ‘you follow by example,’ and we could not have had a better example.”

Bro Morris was employed in the medi-

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cal profession of Histotechnology, first as Laboratory Manager at the Foothills Hospital and later as Chief Laboratory Manager at the Children's Hospital.

Bro Donald Kellner

... was initiated into Freemasonry on 24 September 1993, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on 20 September 1995 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 18 October 1995. He is currently a member of Redwood Lodge No. 193 in Edmonton.

Bro Kellner has been an example of Masonic qualities. After serving as Secretary for 11 years and Treasurer for 10 years, he is mentoring his replacements as he prepares to step down. Through his diligence and commitment Redwood Lodge has had 100 per cent of its dues paid for several years.

In addition, he has assisted with the COMELY committee and has been a representative on the Highlands Hall Board. A consummate advisor and mentor to many Masters, he has been an advisor on by-laws and the Constitution and Regulations. He is a strong believer in research and education and regularly completes presentations on various Masonic topics. He has also served as Secretary or Treasurer for his Royal Arch Chapter and Cryptic Rite Council. In 2007 he was elected a member of the Board of General Purposes and is the only member who has not been a Worshipful Master.

Bro Kellner willingly shows his community involvement, as an active member with the Highlands Masonic Hall Foundation and the St Andrews Senior Centre, with the Annual Christmas Bus Tour, and at the Fort Edmonton Beverly Cenotaph. He has also been involved in a number of 12-Step organizations in Edmonton, serving as Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

Bro Kellner was born and raised in Edmonton, along with his three brothers and two sisters. He is retired from the Alberta Department of Human Resources, where he was a Program Officer for 21

Grand Master's Itinerary October

- 11 Calgary-Highwood District Meeting, Calgary Freemasons' Hall, Reg 11 30 h; Lun Noon; Mtg 13 00 h
- 21 Daughters of the Nile, Supreme Queen's Visit Banquet; Al Azhar Shrine Temple, 17 00 h
- 15-17 68th Annual Western Canada Conference, Canmore

years and where he received a Premier's Award for a project he worked on.

Bro Lorne Schaerer

...was initiated into Freemasonry on 2 February 1991, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on 21 March 1991 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 15 June 1991. He is currently a member of Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2.

Bro Schaerer is an ardent attendee at Lodge meetings. He has a love of mankind and is always on the lookout for those in need of assistance and, in many cases, those who have fallen through the cracks of our social safety net. His efforts, for example, helped a six-year-old obtain dental care when the child did not fit into any of the slots of the system. Each Christmas, he is active in the distribution of poinsettias to the Lodge Widows.

Bro Schaerer is also active in Assiniboia Chapter No. 3, the Medicine Hat

Shrine Club (Band and Director) and the Widow's Sons. He has also been a member of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee.

Prior to becoming a Shriner he was a catalyst in bringing a Shrine Hospital Outreach Program to Medicine Hat. He works diligently in fund raising for medical equipment at the Regional Hospital and the procurement of various items for the group home for severely handicapped children operated by the C.O.R.E. Association. He continually assists other community groups (e.g., Rotary, Kinsmen) and concordant bodies with fundraising and selling of tickets at the fairgrounds.

Bro Schaerer is married to Marlyn and they have two daughters, Angela and Michelle. During their growing years, Bro Schaerer was very supportive of his daughters' school activities and figure skating club. Following 18 years of employment with BC Rail he now works for Inland Cement.

Alberta Girl Chosen Miss International Job's Daughters

Megan Semaniuk, of Bethel 7 of Edmonton and Miss Alberta 2008-09, was selected as Miss International Job's Daughters during the recent Supreme Session in Madison, Wisconsin. This is the first time in 31 years that an Alberta girl has been chosen. The 17-year-old impressed the judges out of a field of 26 girls from across the USA, Canada and Queensland, Australia. In addition to being named Miss International, Megan was also chosen Miss Congeniality by the other contestants. With the assumption of the crown, Megan also

took on the responsibility of becoming the International Ambassador for Job's Daughters for the coming year. Part of these responsibilities will include: touring throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, and Brazil; speaking at Masonic Lodges, Grand Masters conferences, and Order of the Eastern Star functions; and promoting Job's Daughters within the Order. This will be an exciting and challenging year for Megan, her mother, Fiona, and father, WBro Gary Semaniuk of Edmonton Lodge No. 7. Megan brings great honour to Job's Daughters and all Masonic family members in Alberta.



(l to r) Vice Grand Guardian Randy Williams and Grand Guardian Karissa Kessler congratulate the new Miss International Job's Daughters, Megan Semaniuk of Bethel 7 in Edmonton.

District Meetings

September

27 Mighty Peace; Grande Prairie Masonic Hall; Reg 14 00 h; Informal 15 00 h; Ban 17 30 h; Mtg 19 30 h; TBA

October

- 11 Calgary-Highwood; Cgy Fmns' Hall; Reg 11 h; Lun Noon; Mtg 13 h; GM
- 11 Northern Lights; Edm Fmns' Hall; Reg 11 h; Lun noon; Mtg 13 h; GSec
- 18 Athabasca; Edm Fmns' Hall; Reg 11 h; Lun noon; Mtg 13 h; TBA
- 18 Central; Red Deer Masonic Hall; Reg 13 h; Mtg 14 h; Ban 17 h; TBA
- 30 Chinookarch; Fort McLeod Masonic Hall; Reg 17 30 h; Ban 18 30 h; Mtg 19 30 h; TBA

Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund

Extracts from reports presented by RWBro Chris Batty, Chairman

In 1994, MWBro Ray H. M. Burton appointed **VWBro Hugh Kent** to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee as the Northern Alberta Representative. After having served for 12 years as its Chairman, VWBro Kent stepped down at the October 2007 meeting of the Committee. At the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Lethbridge, in recognition of his meritorious service, continued dedication, and excellent leadership in pursuing funding for the youth of this Jurisdiction so that they can obtain a higher education, he was made **Chairman emeritus** of the Committee.

One hundred Bursaries of \$2,000 each were made available in 2008. This was made possible by the generosity of the entire Fraternity. The Bursary Fund received \$151,714 in donations. Institutional and Concordant Bodies donated \$69,438, and Masons and Lodges in the Jurisdiction donated \$82,276 (\$10.79 per capita). The District with the highest

per capita contribution was Calgary-Highwood, while the Lodge with the highest per capita contribution was Nanton Lodge No. 17.

The Lodges with the highest per capita contributions for each District were:

- Alpha St. Marks Lodge No. 118
- Palliser Brooks Lodge No 73
- Yellowhead Edmonton Lodge No. 7
- Central Kitchener Lodge No. 95
- Battle River Camrose Lodge No. 37
- Calgary-Highwood Nanton Lodge No. 17
- Chinookarch Chinook-Spitzie Lodge No. 6
- Lakeland Acacia Lodge No. 11
- Northern Lights Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148
- Mighty Peace Peace River Lodge No. 89
- Dinosaur Strathmore Lodge No. 53
- Phoenix Loyalty Lodge No. 197
- Athabasca Millennium Lodge No. 2000
- Beaverhills Avon Glen Lodge No. 170

2009 will be the 50th year that the Grand Lodge of Alberta will be providing Higher Education Bursaries for the youth of this Jurisdiction. We as Freemasons all know education provides a path to overcome difficulties, reduce ignorance, arrest the cycle of poverty, and provide hope for the future. A significant number of our youth are fully aware of these facts. Unfortunately, for a portion of these bright young people the opportunity for further education is limited by the lack of adequate funds.

Each year the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee receives letters, notes, and cards of thanks from Bursary recipients. These letters are addressed to Dear Sirs, To Whom It May Concern, the Grand Lodge of Alberta, the Grand Secretary, the Masonic Lodge, Freemasons of Alberta, etc. In each instance, they are addressing thanks to each one of you. Let us all celebrate this 50th anniversary year by making a special effort to give to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund and help our youth achieve their aspirations for a better education.

Joint Presentation of Masonic Higher Education Bursary Certificates

On 26 June 2008 the DDGMs of the four Districts in the Calgary area (Alpha, Calgary-Highwood, Dinosaur and Phoenix) presented Masonic Higher Education Bursary Certificates to 14 of the 28 recipients in their Districts.

The afternoon brought many family and friends to Freemasons' Hall in Calgary, and there was no doubt they, and the recipients themselves, were

greatly impressed with the sincerity and dedication of Alberta Freemasons to the youth of this province. Kimberley Anderson of Cluny (a Dinosaur District winner) gave a very sincere and heartfelt "thank you" on behalf of the recipients to the Bursary Committee, the Grand Lodge of Alberta, and the DDGMs who had recommended them. Refreshments were later served downstairs, where

all had an opportunity to mingle and become better acquainted.

It is often difficult to arrange presentations at that time of the year, so other Bursary Award Certificate presentations occurred at locations as diverse as the local High School, a joint installation of Lodge officers and a summer picnic hosted by two area Lodges.



Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary Presentation

Jenelle DeCoste was presented with the Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary, as the representative of all of this year's Masonic Higher Education Bursary recipients. Her acceptance speech at the Grand Lodge Banquet was so warmly received that it is included here.

Tonight I was chosen to speak on behalf of not only myself and what receiving the Ross Sheppard Award means to me, but on behalf of the many other recipients being honoured here this evening. And although I often speak on behalf of others, I believe this is the first occasion I was elected to do so. Allow me to begin by, first, personally thanking all the members of the Grand Lodge of Alberta who, in your trusting personal donations and silent unquestioning faith, have bestowed on us auspicious recipients a chance, prospect, and aid to reach beyond what our limitations and financial hindrances have set.

My family is often quoted as saying "give it to God." This maxim is used in moments of utter chaos where our answer or needs seem wholly unattainable. My university finances were one of these chaotic and unrequited needs. With each term payment, textbook, and parking pass purchase, my spirit and bank account balance decreased drastically. To compensate for these losses and save, or at the very least, break even with these payments, I worked fulltime as a swimming instructor and life guard at the local pools, acquired a MasterCard, and took out a student loan. Along with work, I also endeavoured to keep a spiritual balance in my life by being a Sunday school teacher and an active member, volunteer, and coach for many sporting clubs and different organizations within Lethbridge and Southern Alberta. Some of these co-curricular activities I participated in post-university were, at the time, affordable and a large part of my life. Unfortunately, at the start of my fall term because of university costs, my work world grew and began to shadow all other aspects of my life, cutting my recreational activities out of my daily routine.

With this gift I will be able to continue all these activities to the fullest extent and proceed to further my university goals and aspirations. With these activities keeping me content and happy, I can now more sensibly and effectively work toward a major in Neural Psychology and Child Development. While first

studying at the University of Lethbridge, I contemplated many motivating and intriguing courses, and majoring options. I now no longer have to be selective and limit myself due to cost and time, and take only the mandatory or minimal course requirements, but rather, I may branch out my learning base to other fields of interest.

The child's mind is a wonderful and untamed environment that captivates me and moulds my thinking and understanding of the world around me. It was while teaching lessons that I was first told I would be receiving this grant. My mother had come to the pool where I was teaching and pulled me aside to tell me the remarkable news. When I returned to class, the students began to buzz about what had briefly interrupted the instructions I was giving on front crawl. Momentarily stopping class, I explained the state of affairs and about the grant I would be receiving. It was then that one student asked me this: "What does that mean?" I replied with the only word my mouth would allow. "Everything!"

Although my response was indirect

and vague, I feel that it most accurately covered all aspects that have become affected because of Alberta's Grand Lodge members. Time does not allow for me to go into extreme depth about every corner of my future that you have touched, and set in motion to change. I gave it to God, and he gave me you.

To close, words cannot do justice to accurately describe what this bursary means to me and my future. "Thank you" is far too small a sentiment in regards to the outstanding difference and impression this will have in my life and the lives of others that I encounter throughout my schooling and beyond. To instill change or opportunity in an individual is an action that, in itself, speaks volumes. By fostering so many worthy minds, your collaboration of funds reaches far past that of those present here tonight. The greatest way in which to further a promising academic career is through the prospect of chances and opportunities. On behalf of all the other academic careers the Grand Lodge of Alberta has been promoting, I give you a humble and modest thank you.

Institution of Portage Lodge UD

An Especial Communication of the Grand Lodge was held at the Elks Hall in Lac La Biche on Saturday, 19 April 2008 for the purpose of Instituting Portage Lodge UD. This was the first Institution held in this Jurisdiction since Far North Lodge No. 199 in January 2003.

Plans for the formation of the Lodge, which practices the Ancient York Rite, began in October 2007. These plans quickly progressed until the application for a dispensation, signed by 11 charter members, was forwarded to Grand Lodge in February 2008. The resulting dispensation was presented to the DDGM of Athabaska District at the Board of General Purposes meeting in Red Deer on 13 March 2008.

The Principal Officers of the Lodge

at that time were WBro Ed Dobson as Worshipful Master, Bro Don Dobson (his son) as Senior Warden, and Bro Martin Marshall as Junior Warden.

WBro Dobson was instrumental in getting the Elks Hall built in the early 1960s. He was Master of St. Alban's Lodge No. 145 in St. Paul at the time (that Lodge amalgamated with St. George's Lodge No. 169 in 1973) and the Elks Hall was originally meant to be a Masonic Hall. WBro Dobson was very happy to see a Masonic Lodge finally established in Lac La Biche, but he passed away on 14 June 2008, after presiding over only two meetings.

The Lodge already has a presence on the Internet: a blog at <<http://portagelodge.blogspot.com>>



In Memoriam

RWBro M.P. (Mel) Dunford

13 February 1924 – 14 August 2008

Grand Secretary 1971–1984



Melvin Percy Dunford was born in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan on 13 February 1924 and later moved to Coleman, Alberta, where he worked with a coal mining company. He was initiated into Masonry in Summit Lodge No. 30 (now Rocky-Summit) on 7 September 1951 and raised to the third Degree on 2 November 1951. He was Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1959. In 1964 he was ap-

pointed assistant to the Grand Secretary, appointed Grand Pursuivant in 1965, and appointed Assistant Grand Secretary in 1968. Finally, in 1971, he was appointed Grand Secretary, a position he held until 1984.

He originally had the rank of VWBro, as was the practice for all appointed officers. This caused some confusion, since the previous Grand Secretary, RWBro E.H. Rivers, had the rank of RWBro by virtue of his having been elected as Grand Registrar. In 1973, the Constitution was changed, however, to have the official designation of the office to be The Right Worshipful The Grand Secretary.

RWBro Dunford affiliated with Zetland Lodge No. 83 in 1978.

In his address to the Grand Lodge Communication in 1984, MWBro Gordon Thompson described him as “a brother widely experienced in Masonic law and procedures, hard working, enthusiastic, honest and dedicated to the cause of Freemasonry — there are none better in the office.” At that same Communication, a motion was put forward by Zetland Lodge to confer the rank of Past Grand Master on RWBro Dunford, and to revise the Constitution to make this possible. Although MWBro Woods, an admitted traditionalist, spoke at great length in favour of the motion, it was ultimately defeated.

One of RWBro Dunford’s great contributions to Masonry was his work on the Masonic Spring Workshop. He was its Secretary from the inception of the Workshop in 1966 until 1984.

Spring Workshop Offers Early Discounts

The 2009 Masonic Spring Workshop has adopted incentives to encourage Brethren to register early for next April’s event — discounts for individuals and for groups.

Like the rest of society, the Workshop has been facing escalating costs. That is reflected in the fee structure adopted by the Committee for 2009. However, for those who register and pay early — on or before 1 December 2008 — there is a discount of \$25.

In addition, to encourage Brethren to come in groups, the Committee is offering **A Great Rate For 8** — register and

Past Grand Masters Gather to Celebrate

The year 2008 marks the 80th birthday for four of the Past Grand Masters of Alberta, and they gathered in Camrose to mark the occasion.



After an afternoon of golfing, MWBros

(l to r) MWBros Don Millar, Stan Harbin, Art Jones, and Jim Crawford

Stan Harbin (1982–

83), Don Millar (1990–91) and Art Jones (1999–2000) joined MWBro Jim Crawford (1992–93) and their wives. The Harbins, Stan and Eleanor, acted as hosts to an interlude of fellowship and fine dining. While the golfing may have left something to be desired, it was more than offset by the fellowship of the day. Before returning to their respective abodes, the group unanimously agreed that a similar celebration should take place in 2009, which will be hosted in Edmonton by MWBro Don and Evelyn Millar.

2009 Grand Master’s Tour of Upper & Lower Canada

The Grand Master-elect, Brian Shimmons, will host a tour of “Upper and Lower Canada” in the fall of 2009. The two week tour starts 4 September 2009 to Niagara Falls and for the next two weeks will take in many sites where Canada’s history was written: Queenston (where Brock defeated the Americans in 1812); York (now Toronto) for a tour of the city; and Kingston, the site of Fort Henry. Following a cruise through the Thousand Islands, it’s off to Bytown (Ottawa) for three days, then into “La Belle Province” for a tour through the Gatineaus and Laurentians to Quebec City for three days. You will be on hand for the 250th Anniversary of the battle between Wolfe and Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham. Finally, there will be three days to take in the sights of Montreal before returning to Alberta on 18 September 2009.

The cost is \$3,575 (per person, twin-sharing — \$1,275 more for single accommodation) and includes air fare to Hamilton and from Montreal, all hotel accommodations, deluxe coach transportation, breakfast each day, two scheduled dinners and one lunch, plus all applicable taxes. Masonic visits may also be arranged.

The tour is arranged and directed by RWBro Marv Foote. For information, or to book: Phone: 403-294-0452; Fax: 403-216-2488; E-mail: mfoote@travelmasters.ca

pay for eight Brethren together (any combination of single double or triple rooms) on or before 1 December 2008 and get a discount of \$40 each. In other words, one Brother goes almost free! This is a great opportunity for a Lodge to go after the Award for the Lodge with the greatest proportion of members present.

The easiest way to take advantage of these discounts is to register online at www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca and follow the link to the registration options page.

By the way, after 1 December 2008, the full registration will be charged.