



Grand Chaplain's Christmas Message

VWBro Louis Fradette

Christmas is a time of celebrating life and all its blessings, a significant celebration in which we all indulge every year. People celebrate it in different ways, depending on how significant the day is for them. Some use this time as a way of bringing families to share in the spirit of Christmas by spreading love and joy to those around them. Others use this time to reflect on the past year and to look at the New Year's challenges.

We who worship in these festive days must know how imperative it is, whether we are Jewish, Muslim or Christian, to light our candles with the prayer of hope for light and peace for all people.

The significance of Christmas is known to people all over the world. Though it is true that Christmas is celebrated as the day of the birth of Christ into this world, yet it also symbolizes a very deeply significant truth of the spiritual life. Jesus Christ is viewed by Christians as the very personification of divinity. He was born at a time when ignorance, superstition, greed, hatred and hypocrisy prevailed upon the land. Purity was forgotten and morality was neglected. In the midst of these conditions, Christ was born and He worked a transformation in the lives of people. He gave a new and a spiritual turn to the lives of man. There came a change upon the land. People started upon a new way of life. Thus a new era dawned for the world.

We recognize the spiritual nature of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. He is revered as one of the series of Messengers through whom God has progressively revealed His will and purpose for humanity. The celebration of Christmas embraces universal values of love and peace, the importance of family, and compassion and generosity towards those less fortunate than us.



...Snuggled warm in their beds...

At the centre of the Christmas story is the birth of a child, and so children are central to the celebration of Christmas. Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess. The future character of our society will be largely shaped by what adults do, or fail to do, with respect to children. Peace in the world begins from peace in the home. As families or friends gather together this Christmas, may we recognize and celebrate the unique capacities of every individual — child, youth or adult — and the irreplaceable bond that we share with one another.

As we approach the season of giving, let our hearts rule our lives for this short period of time. We are called upon in many ways to show our charity, first of all to our families by being present, by celebrating with them the joys of the season, by spending time with our loved ones and our friends, both in contemplation and in relaxation from our busy lives. With those in our places of worship, let us be as one, practice tolerance and the ideals on which our Fraternity is based. Let us not forget those less fortunate homeless individuals. Remember the widows of those Masons who have gone before, the many other charities that rely upon our individual support and others who require our benevolence of spirit and forgiveness.

The great leaders of our faiths are unified in their push for peace and goodwill amongst mankind. As we enter the festive season of Christmas, let us all take time from the hustle and bustle that has become associated with it to reflect upon its true meaning. The age-old message that is said to have resounded over the fields of Bethlehem of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards all men" is as apt today as it was millennia ago. It is, in a manner of speaking, the message of Freemasonry, for if we practice those fundamental tenets of Masonry — Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth — to their fullest, we will have begun that long and arduous journey towards peace and fulfillment for all.

May the Great Architect continue to pour his blessings upon your family and grant you PEACE and GOODWILL this holiday season.

Grand Lodge of Alberta Christmas Open House

The Grand Lodge staff and I extend an invitation to you, your spouse and friends to share some Christmas cheer with us at our Open House at Calgary Freemasons' Hall, 330 – 12 Ave SW, on Sunday 20 December from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Please mark this date on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there so we can wish you a Merry Christmas in person.

RWBro Jerry Kopp, Grand Secretary

Calgarian Captures Miss International Job's Daughters Crown

For the second year in a row an Albertan has earned the title of Miss International Job's Daughters. Ana Kryzhanivska, Past Honoured Queen of Bethel One in Calgary, was selected over 27 other contestants from Canada, the USA and Australia at the JDI Supreme Session in August in Richmond Virginia. As the world wide Ambassador for Job's

Daughters, Ana will be visiting across Canada, the USA, Australia and Brazil promoting the Order and the Masonic family in general. Ana is 19 years old and is in her third year at the University of Calgary. She hopes to become a lawyer.

Miss International is an earned title, as girls must compete in the areas of

ritual and public speaking while demonstrating poise and confidence in front of judges and the public. Ana takes over from Edmonton's Megan Semaniuk, Miss International 2008-2009. In the history of the Miss International competition there has been only one other occasion when the crown has gone to one jurisdiction two years running.

Alberta Miscellany

Thoughts from the summonses, selected by Bro Trevor Morris

Exemplar Lodge No. 175

It is impossible for anyone to know precisely what a candidate is searching for when he approaches the lodge room door for the first time. Nor will he have a clear idea of that for which he seeks, given that we of the Brotherhood go to such great lengths to ensure that he does not know what goes on inside. To some degree, what sets us apart from the other, less colourful institutions is that veil of mystery we have purposefully draped over our Fraternity. It shrouds the truth from outside eyes, and in so doing tends to establish with some Brethren expectations that may be far greater and considerably more complex than those that challenge other organizations.

Mystery, myth and media have generated a newfound interest in Freemasonry, and many men now stand at the door bearing bizarre and insubstantial notions they have blithely gathered in forays to movie theatres and the "world wide web." Their genuine desire to open this closed book is real, but their assumptions can lead to disappointment. When the door swings wide and the meaning of life and the universe aren't forthwith imparted to them, along with a detailed map to the Holy Grail, they become disenchanted.

Unable to comprehend what enlightened Masons comprehend, their prodigious outlook overshadows the authentic function of our Order, and they remain detached from the significance of its purpose. Unfulfilled and uneasy men will find it difficult to meet their potential as Freemasons and they may grow frustrated, complacent or dissonant. Without proper counsel they may eventually be lost to us.

Freemasonry honours a simple convention that defies time and the evolution taking place outside the lodge room walls. It offers a venue where we can gather with our Brethren in a space occupied by ancient symbols — an invitation to learn something of ourselves and our history as we ponder their significance. It provides meaningful ritual and lessons to live by. Most importantly, it grants us an opportunity to take

responsibility for our personal maturation and to establish our proper place in the world. The value of the journey lies in the quest rather than in the discovery.

Freemasonry does not have the capacity to provide everyone with everything they want, nor was it meant to. It is not a fantasy novel, a social club or a business opportunity. It presents far fewer answers than questions. It makes no promises.

But we did.

So let us always remember those words we spoke in that hushed room beneath the vaulted canopy, for therein lies our reward.

WM Daniel Boyco

Alberta Wish Ride

King George Lodge No. 59

On 22 August 2009 members of King George Lodge No. 59 and their wives assisted at the inaugural Alberta Wish Ride to raise money for the Children's Wish Foundation. Seventy-seven riders and their horses took part in the event in Kananaskis Country. WBro Roger Matas, Junior Warden of King George Lodge, was the event's co-organizer and a number of members and their wives ran the grills throughout the day to keep everyone happy and fed.



Feeding people were (l to r): Carlyne Stuber (black hat), wife of Worshipful Master Verne Stuber, WBro Ted Cripps and Bro Dale Scoles with his wife Leandrie.

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Excerpt from the Address given by MWBro John Hart at the Annual Grand Lodge of Alberta Communication, June 2009

Brethren, Ladies and Honoured Guests, I thank you for attending our 104th Grand Lodge Banquet. We have all laughed as the Masonic Train has passed through our Lodges. One hundred and four times the Grand Masonic Railroad has stopped, and this year it stopped in Camrose. Your Grand Lodge Officers boarded this Masonic train ride a year ago in Lethbridge. Some have been on and off the train for many years, and for others tomorrow will be their last stop. Each year as Grand Lodge Officers we boarded the Masonic Train for a wonderful ride filled with many memories and opportunities, enough to fill a lifetime.

We get on, we ride, we get off. We get back on and ride some more. There are delays; at certain stops there are great surprises. Some will translate into great moments of joy; some will result in profound sorrow. When we become a Grand Lodge officer, we board the train and we meet people who we think will be with us for the entire journey — Brothers such as Bob Drury, Sam Moore and Ray Congdon. Sadly, this is far from the truth. Our Brothers are with us as long as we absolutely need them. They too have journeys they must complete. We live on with the memories of their love, friendship and their ever presence.

There are others who board the train who eventually become very important to us. These people are our family, friends and Masonic Brothers whom we learn to love and cherish. Some people consider their journey as a jaunty tour. They just go merrily along as paper Masons. Others will encounter many upsets, tears and losses on their journey. Still others will linger on to offer a helping hand to anyone in need. Some Brothers on the train will leave

an everlasting impression when they get off. Some will get on and get off the train so quickly they will scarcely leave a sign that they ever traveled along with us, or ever crossed our path.

We will sometimes be upset that some passengers whom we love will chose to sit in another compartment and leave us to travel on our own. Then again, there's nothing that says we can't seek them out anyway. Nevertheless, once sought out and found we may not even be able to sit next to them, because that seat has already been taken. That's OK. Everyone's journey will be filled with hopes, dreams, challenges, set backs and goodbyes. We must strive to make the best of it, no matter what. We must constantly strive to understand our travel companions and look for the best in everyone. Remember that at any moment during our journey any one of our travel companions can have a weak moment and be in need of our help. We too may vacillate or hesitate, even trip. Hopefully, we can count on someone being there to be supportive and understanding...

Personally I know I'll be sad to make my final stop. I'm sure of that. My separation from all those friends, acquaintances and Brothers will be a sad thing, but then again, I'm certain that one day I'll get to another station, to meet up with everyone else. They'll all be carrying their baggage, most of which they didn't have when we first got on this train. I'll be glad to see them again. I'll also be glad to have contributed to their baggage, and to have enriched their lives just as much as they will have

contributed to my baggage and enriched my life. May the love that we share be the judge of our worth, for our heart is our one true home. We're all on this train ride together. Above all, we should all strive to make the ride as pleasant and memorable as we can, right up until we make this stop and leave the train for the last time. Thank you all for letting me ride your train and collect the memories of yesterday. Those of you getting on the train tomorrow, ALL ABOARD for the trip of a lifetime and Happy Trails, My Brethren, Until We Meet Again.

'Nuff Said!



RWBro Gerald Waldern and MWBro John Hart at the Calgary Masonic Stampede Breakfast, July 2009

The Freemasons' Challenge Token

HELP SUPPORT THE MEDICINE HAT TEMPLE SOCIETY

No one really knows how far back the tradition of Freemasons using tokens as a souvenir or method of identification goes.

This 'Freemasons' Challenge Token' is a subtle symbol of Masonic identification, it can also be a gift and souvenir. This coin also provides an opportunity to have some fun and promote the fellowship that exists amongst the fraternity. Produced at social functions this coin is also guaranteed to spark the interest and curiosity of the uninitiated, who on examining the coin may be interested to make inquiries and potentially take on 'the challenge' of being involved with the Craft.

This limited edition coin has been produced by the Medicine Hat Temple Society, whose Freemasons' Hall in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada is home to Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2, Mizpah Lodge No. 35, A.F. & A.M, G.R.A., and Murray Chapter No. 58, O.E.S. as well as other concordant bodies.

The cost of this coin is \$10.00 (Canadian). Proceeds from the sale of this special coin will assist funding much needed renovations to the local Freemasons' Hall as well as the Alberta Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund.

To order additional challenge tokens please contact
W. Bro. Ken Montgomery at (403) 580-5085
or monty855@shaw.ca

postage & shipping costs extra



Thank you letter to the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge and Alberta Masons

Jenelle De Coste

Jenelle was the Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary recipient in 2008 and also received a Masonic Higher Education Bursary in 2009.

I am once again blessed to find myself in a position of humble gratitude and appreciation towards the generosity of the Masons.

In school many children are continuously instructed to plan out careers and the way in which they would most enjoy to live out their later years of life. Within these plans I, and some fellow classmates, would write down a future occupation, the pets we would own, the size of our homes and the number of people in our family. When we were asked to do this task at the age of six the answers followed a very ambitious and somewhat impractical path, where our future careers were *Superman*, a fireman/ballerina, and a helper elf working for Santa Claus. Our homes were 24-storey mansions containing 12 different game rooms with on-suite trampolines. We owned hundreds of pets, including a pet tiger or elephant, and our entire family and best friends all lived with us.

After gaining a few years of experience and better understanding of the concept of limitations we began to fine tune our ideas of the future and took a more pragmatic look at the realm of our potential. At the age of ten we can now see ourselves as kindergarten teachers living in a smaller home etched in the outlines of a typical nuclear family, with a dog named Rex. During this period of development our once boundless imaginative futures have become more refined and easier to obtain. Years build and we now find ourselves in a critical period of pressure of the future and life within "the real world." In high school, space for imaginative "maybes" are disregarded and labelled as wasteful, and the idea of making substantial income becomes the central factor of focus. Here our futures look towards ultimately living with a spouse and the children from that marriage, while working as a sales associate manager with a degree in fashion merchandising.

This path has one important "turn" that is expected of us all at this point in our lives: a degree! The pressure of high school places all of their graduates in a position where they are tutored to make choices towards a post secondary institute. However some students

are faced with a fork in the road where they must choose to take one of two paths: university or work. I have made my choice, and have found that this path is teeming with many turns that provide me with diverse options and opportunities. Over the course of the past two years of post secondary schooling I have made my fair share of turns!

With the future path choices that I have discussed at ages six, ten and seventeen the choices are clearly laid before each individual, and hold only one clear surface outcome. This type of turn in the path is one that is fortunate to come across, but unfortunately is not the only temperament a turn can form. When you are in school, teachers seldom address that some turns have a negative connotation attached to them. Over the past year I have taken some wonderful and amazing turns on my path, and others have been unexpected and held no perceived positive gain. While twisting and bending along my path I encountered turns that were not as pleasant, and they began to lace my thoughts with worries and concern. In one turn I was met with a series of car accidents that led me down a path of financial and emotional strain, with another turn I was faced with my Grandfather battling a severe illness and another turn lead me to emotional frustration with school fees, all of these becoming challenges that I felt were too grand to overcome. These turns of frustration began to take life and consume me, overwhelming my thoughts and time to a point of despair where I felt that no assistance that I could receive would bring me back to my path. During this point I had forgotten a very important aspect of any turn a person can take: it always leads you somewhere new in the end. At the the end of my turns I found that I survived my car accidents and was healthy, my Grandfather beat cancer and I can now pay my schooling fees with your generous donation to my education.

In school we are not prepared for the unexpected bends in the path, and have no assignment to dictate the exact turns and outcomes of our choices that will take us to our future. The generous and outstanding difference you have

made in my path is far beyond what words can describe. You have fostered my education in a way that words can never fully describe! Thank you for allowing me to reach the end of this turn, and allowing me to reach my path again. This is an honour that I am truly blessed to receive twice, and hope my path is met with many other occasions such as this. The substantial difference you have made to my path does not end with me, but will carry over into the paths of others that I encounter on my journey. Your scholarship reaches far past my life and schooling, and touches the lives of an infinite number of people. You are creating a change that is immeasurable in every aspect of how it is affecting the education of others, and their future paths.

I have a new path, one filled with things of the expected and unexpected, one that is forever changing. I welcome both types of turns, because you have reminded me that I will be somewhere new in the end. Thank you for all you have done for me and the furthering of my future and my educational career. I hope to one day cross paths with each of you personally, and provide a pleasant turn in one of your paths.

Warm regards and humble thanks.

News from the Grand Lodge Library

Check out the Grand Lodge Library Online Catalogue by clicking on the link on the Grand Lodge website.

Now you can search both the Grand Lodge of Manitoba's Library and the Library of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. When doing a search, simply choose the "Union" option instead of the "Library" one (at the top right of the search page). If you find a holding in either of these libraries, DO NOT contact them directly but drop me a note and I will see what I can do to gain you access.

MWBRo Hugh Young
Executive Librarian

Correction and Apology From the Editor

In the "**Your DDGMs**" section of the November issue, the name of the DDGM of Central District is scrambled slightly. Everyone knows it's actually **RWBro Randall Robinson**.

(It is correct on the website.)

Freemasons Build Without Stone

Bro Scott Blasken, Bow River Lodge No. 1

Calgary area Masons took time from their busy schedules in late July to put their skills to work in supporting Habitat for Humanity. "It was a trial run this year," explains organizer Bro James Michi, who hopes to see this project continue in Calgary for years to come, as well as in other Alberta communities. The sunny weather meant work that could be done outside was the focus, with the Masons constructing a fence in the northeast community of Evanston. Participant Bro Scott Blasken points out, "This sort of work is the hallmark of Freemasonry, where unheralded aid for those in need is completed without fanfare or hoopla." Applying their operative skills were members of Bow River Lodge No. 1 Bro James Michi, Bro

Scott Blasken, RWBro David Hochman and Bro David Oyen and members of Ashlar Lodge No. 28 WBro Allan Dickson and Bro Guy Cochrane. Together with donations from other Brethren, \$1,000 was donated in addition to the time and effort volunteered.



Alpha District, from page 6.

In 1989 he and his wife Bebe, a former Registered Nurse, immigrated to Canada to be with their children, all of whom had left home at age 12 to pursue an education overseas. Since their arrival they have happily operated a franchised restaurant. Keng-Wei and Bebe have been married for 43 years and have five grandchildren. Three of their four sons are in the Craft. He is a Past President of the Malaysian, Singaporean, Bruneian Community Association in Calgary and also the Past President of the Rotary Club of Calgary East.

RWBro Chiew was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Perfection Lodge No. 9 and was its Worshipful Master in 2005. In 2007 he was appointed a Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Alberta and in May of this year was elected Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta. He also holds membership in several of the concordant bodies.

Beaverhills District, from page 6.

the past 13 years. He was married 32 years ago, on St. Patrick's Day, to his wife Barbara, who is also the Secretary of Edmonton Chapter No. 19, Order of the Eastern Star. His current hobbies include racecar driving (by himself), holidaying and cruising (with Barb), reading and dreaming of slowing down eventually.

RWBro Spicer was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Redwood Lodge No. 193, GRA in 1992. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge on two occasions, 1999 and 2006, becoming the only Master to do "double duty" in the Lodge's history. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Masons, advancing to become Thrice Puissant Grand Master in 2000. He was Coroneted a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Edmonton in 2004. Currently the Master of the Work for the Valley of Edmonton, he is also a member of the Props and Regalia Committee. RWBro Spicer is a member of North Star Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons of Alberta, as well as a board member of Freemasons' Hall in Edmonton.

A Double Family

Affair

RWBro Daniel J Chow, Eastgate Lodge No. 192

It truly was a "Family Affair" on 2 June 2009 as St. John's Lodge No. 25 and Eastgate Lodge No. 192 held their second consecutive Joint Festival of Installation and Investiture at Freemasons' Hall in Edmonton and two proud fathers watched their sons installed as Worshipful Masters of their respective Lodges.

WBro Harry Harsulla, who was Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge in 1978-79, saw his son, WBro Greg Harsulla, and RWBro George Mah, who was Worshipful Master of Eastgate Lodge No. 192 in 1976-77, saw his son, WBro Robin Mah, seated in the Chair of King Solomon.

RWBro George Mah and the late Bro Eldwin Speer were the first two Entered Apprentices initiated into Eastgate Lodge on 15 September 1964. RWBro Mah has been a pillar of both Eastgate Lodge and the Masonic Family, having served as Grand Registrar in 1985 and as Potentate of Al Shamal Shrine Temple in 1990. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Eastgate Oriental Degree Team in 1984 and has been the sponsor of seven Past Masters of the Lodge.



Top, WBros Harsulla: Bottom, WBros Mah

Your DDGMs 2009–2010

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2009-2010 term. This will be continued in the next issue of The Alberta Freemason.

Alpha District

RWBro Keng-Wei Chiew is a native Malaysian, born in 1942. In 1960, while pursuing post-secondary education, he was recruited under the Malayanisation program into the planting industry by Boustead Limited, a London-based company. He stayed with them for 28 years and over that period he held various management positions, including that of Planting Advisor to the company. During his twelve years tenure as a Planting Advisor he was also called upon to oversee several major National Land Development projects. Keng-Wei holds a diploma in Plantation Management from Malaysia.



See **Alpha District**, page 5.

Athabasca District

RWBro Colin W. Reichle was born 2 July 1957 in Prince Albert Saskatchewan. He is an Association Manager, living in St. Albert and married to Melanie. He was Commanding Officer 20th Field Artillery from 1993–1996, and has been Deputy Commanding Officer, The North Saskatchewan Regiment; Past District Governor, Western Canada, Kiwanis International; Past Commander, Edmonton Commandery, Military and Hospitalier Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem; and Past Provincial Commissioner, St. John Ambulance, Alberta Council.



RWBro Reichle was Initiated in Asquith Lodge No. 146, GRS in 1986, received his other degrees in Griesbach Lodge No. 191, GRA, and was Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 2002. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite, Royal Arch Masons of Alberta, Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada, Knights Templar and York Rite College.

Dinosaur District

RWBro Garland L Bruce was born 14 Oct 1937 in Kinosota, a Metis community in Manitoba. He left there at age 15 and went east to work in the hardrock mines at Atikokan, Ontario, returning to Manitoba (Winnipeg) in 1958. In 1962 he joined the Canadian Army and qualified as a trained Militiaman in Rescue Operations. He moved to Calgary in 1966 and went to work for the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede as an electrician, becoming the head of their Electrical Department and staying there until he retired in 1997. He was also President of the Crescent Heights Community Association for two years. He met his wife Donna in Winnipeg, and they were married in



1961. They have two married daughters, Lee and Tammie, and four grandchildren, and now live in Balzac.

RWBro Bruce was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Irricana Lodge No. 137 in 1986 and was its Worshipful Master in 1995, 2005 and 2006. He was appointed to the office of Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 2000.

Chinookarch District

RWBro David M Gregory was born 19 March 1944 in Saint John, New Brunswick. He moved to Edmonton in August 1970 to attend graduate school at the University of Alberta, receiving a degree of Master of Educational Administration in 1971. He was the Assistant Principal of Brooks Composite High School from 1971 to 1977 and Principal of F.P. Walshe School from 1977 to 2003.

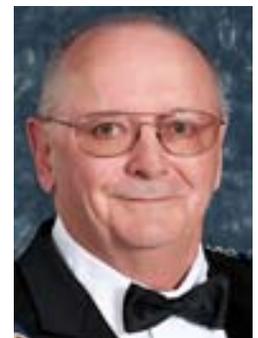


Our Brother has been active in many aspects of education and in the community: coach/advisor for extracurricular activities for 33 years (coached Senior High volleyball for 30 years); Past President Alberta Schools Athletic Association; Past President Canadian School Sports Federation; Past Charter President Empress Theatre Society, Fort MacLeod and Past Chair Fort MacLeod Police Commission. He received the Alberta Schools Athletic Association South Zone Award of Merit and the F.P. Walshe School Lifetime Achievement Award. Although he is now retired, he is also the President and Installer with the Fort MacLeod LifeLine Society. He lives with his wife Elizabeth Anne in Fort MacLeod, and they spend much of their time with two grandsons, ages six and eight.

RWBro Gregory was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Alberta Lodge No. 3 in 1982 and was its Worshipful Master in 1991 and 1992.

Beaverhills District

RWBro Leigh Spicer was born 12 December 1939 in Arvida, Quebec. He was educated in various aluminum company towns in Quebec, finishing his high school in Kitimat, BC. In 1958 he enrolled at the University of British Columbia, leaving there in 1962 and starting what would prove to be an 18-year stint as, eventually, a land surveyor. Retiring from that profession in 1981, he was involved in a couple of business ventures until 1984, when he became a hot air balloon pilot. Since 1984 he has acquired more than 3,800 hours in hot air balloons, travelling extensively and spending the last 20 years in Edmonton, where he is still the Chief Pilot for Windship Aviation.



Leigh is the President of the Board of Directors for the condominium where he lives, having served in that role for

See **Beaverhills District**, page 5.