



Introducing MWBro Gerald D.R. Waldern

MWBro Gerald D. R. Waldern was installed as the 106th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M. on 12 June 2010.

Born in Lethbridge on 14 September 1955, he is married to Pamela and they have two adult children and three grandchildren. For a number of years he worked in the construction industry as a project manager and partner in a commercial general contracting business. This was followed by post-secondary studies in the areas of Industrial Labour Relations, Public Administration and Political Science. In recent years he has been the proprietor of Lethbridge Tax Time Centre, a tax preparation firm in Lethbridge.

In the community, our Brother served as a Public School Board Trustee for Lethbridge School District No. 51 from 1991–1998 and as a Trustee of the Alberta

School Employee Benefit Plan from 1995–1998. He is also a Past President of Galt No. 8 Mine Historic Site Society.

MWBro Waldern was initiated, passed and raised in North Star Lodge No. 4 in 1977 and served that Lodge as Worshipful Master for four terms: 1981–1982, 1983–1984, 1995–1996 and 2000–2001. He served the Grand Lodge of Alberta as DDGM of Chinookarch District for 2004–2005, was appointed to the Board of General Purposes for 2006–2007 and elected for a 3-year term from 2007–2010, was appointed a member and Chairman of the Finance Committee from 2006–2010. He was elected as Junior Grand Warden at the Annual Communication in 2008 and Deputy Grand Master in 2009. MWBro Waldern also serves as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Montana near Alberta. In addition to Craft Masonry, he is a member



of the Royal Arch Masons, Cryptic Rite Masons, Knights Templar, York Rite College, Red Cross of Constantine and Shriners International.

MWBro Gerald Waldern's Inaugural Address

Retention, Revitalization and Renewal

Part one of two
My Brothers:

I am extremely honoured and humbled today by the honour that has been bestowed upon me of being installed as Grand Master. It is an undertaking that I take on with the full realization of the magnitude of my duties and responsibilities to our jurisdiction for the welfare of our beloved Craft. In my opinion, the first and foremost duty of the Grand Master can be summed up in that well known phrase "*to serve and protect.*" Service to the Craft and the protection of our Constitution, Regulations and Ancient Landmarks will be my guide when setting direction and making decisions and in carrying out my duties this coming year.

In our respective Lodges the question is posed as to the duties of the Worshipful Master and why he is in the East. As we all know, the answer, depending upon your rite, is "to set the Craft to work and give them proper instructions for their

labours," or "employ and instruct the Brethren in Freemasonry." Similarly, the Inaugural Address for the Grand Master is an opportunity to give proper instructions for labours for our Lodges and membership by way of a theme setting out the aspirations and directions for the coming year.

In 2008, senior Grand Lodge Officers developed a **Strategic Plan for the Grand Lodge of Alberta** that was adopted at last year's Annual Communication. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to "Strengthen Our Lodges" over the next five or so years, with a realization that steps towards this overall goal would develop each year. In keeping, therefore, with the purpose of our Strategic Plan and its implementation, I have chosen as my theme **Retention, Revitalization and Renewal** and wish to attempt to articulate to you today some thoughts.

First, I want to set out some of the actions and directions that are going

to be happening for the coming year. Leadership training courses were one of the main items identified in the Strategic Plan that were needed in this jurisdiction. Therefore, rather than having a Grand Master's Tour, I want to focus my travel and efforts this year in bringing about leadership training sessions within our Districts. Earlier this year at the Grand Lodge Officers orientation session, I instructed our District Deputy Grand Masters to arrange for a joint meeting of the Lodges within their Districts for the purpose of holding basic leadership training sessions that will be of value to our Lodges. Where it is more desirable and effective to hold these training sessions jointly with a neighbouring District or Districts, then the District Deputy Grand Masters of those Districts are to work together to bring this about. Dispensations will be granted so that Lodges may bring their Charters for the holding of such a joint meeting.

I realize fully, as I believe most of our District Deputy Grand Masters do, that

See **3 Rs**, page 2.

2010 Masonic Medal of Merit Awards

MWBro Calvin D Shaver, Committee Chairman



2010 Masonic Medal of Merit recipients (l to r): Bro Bruce MacLaren (176); Bro George Leighton (192); Bro Francis Leroy Dryden (175 & 191); Bro Robin Carson (166); Bro Neil Blue (170).

Once again it is my great pleasure to present the report of the Masonic Medal of Merit Committee. On behalf of this Grand Jurisdiction, your committee has continued with the very enjoyable and rewarding work of recognizing worthy Brethren who exemplify the General Charge in all walks of life.

For the 2009–2010 Masonic year I will simplify my report, as most of you have heard this Committee report for many years. I am sure you are familiar with the necessary qualifications and various items addressed, thus I will not be going over them this year. To those of you who need additional information, please

review past proceedings or contact me with your questions and, if required, arrangements will be made to have someone from the Committee attend your meetings to provide details.

As always, my sincere thanks go to all the Committee members for their continued dedication to this very rewarding undertaking. To Bro Stewart Thornhill, I extend a special “thank you” for all your help over the past several years. Your friendship and words of encouragement have always been appreciated. All the best on your retirement and relocation to British Columbia.

Since inception in 1993, there have

been 64 recipients from 41 Lodges, with at least one recipient from each District. Keep the nominations coming, Brethren, so this jurisdiction can recognize those individuals qualifying for the prestigious Masonic Medal of Merit.

Bro Edward Neil Blue was initiated into Freemasonry on 16 January 1980, passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 20 February 1980 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 19 March 1980. He is currently a member of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170.

Bro Blue has held the position of Tyler and Treasurer for many years, is

3 Rs, from page 1.

it will be difficult to get into all fourteen Districts in the next twelve months, but that does not weaken my desire to work with our District Deputy Grand Masters to achieve as many District training sessions as possible. I am committed to this, and so too is our Grand Secretary. I also trust that our Grand Line Officers will attend when possible to provide their assistance as well.

In addition to providing break-out sessions for training, it is hoped and envisioned that Lodges within the Districts

will take advantage of the opportunity to hold a “Friend to Friend Night” for friends interested in joining the Craft and/or a social gathering with family either the day before or after the day of training. Those Grand Lodge Officers attending will be more than willing to help you promote the Craft to those that you invite. I hope that there will also be time and opportunity set aside to showcase area attractions for those of us attending from outside of your District.

I have asked the District Deputy Grand Masters to pay particular attention this year to those Lodges where they

see good success and good practices to inform me. What I would like to do at the Grand Lodge Communication next year is to take some time in the afternoon to have break-out sessions that will feature two or three Lodges where we see good success and practices occurring, so as to showcase these Lodges. I would encourage Lodges who are struggling to come to the Grand Lodge Communication and meet with those Lodges that are doing well and find out what is working and what doesn't work.

To be continued in the November issue.

<p>Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. 330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2 Tel 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671 www.freemasons.ab.ca</p> <p>Grand Master Deputy Grand Master Senior Grand Warden Junior Grand Warden Grand Secretary</p> <p>MWBro Gerald Waldern RWBro Peter Dunlop RWBro David Roth RWBro John Cameron RWBro Jerry W. Kopp</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  Published each month except July and August by The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. Editor: RWBro George Tapley 339 Whitefield Dr NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5S2 Tel 403-280-6776 — Fax 403-290-0671 e-mail: editor@freemasons.ab.ca </p>	<p>The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin RWBro George Tapley (Chairman); MWBro Robert E. Juthner, Editor emeritus; WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Loren Kline; Bro Trevor Morris; Ex Officio: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.</p>
---	---	--

active in visitations and exemplary in ritual work and attends installations, workshops and Grand Lodge as frequently as his health permits. He has assisted with the catering of the Lodge's festive boards for 15 years, has written and presented several Masonic papers and demonstrates the positive aspects of Freemasonry.

He is devoted to building a strong Masonic brotherhood and family. He is a past Bethel Associate Guardian of Job's Daughters, a supporter of DeMolay (grandfather of the 2008/09 Alberta DeMolay Coordinator), Past Patron (five times) of the Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Al Shamal Photography Unit and active in many functions in the Nile.

In his community life, Bro Blue has managed baseball and hockey teams and is very active in fund raising for the Greenfield Community League, especially for their first building. As Treasurer for this community's hockey committee, he organizes and manages the hockey program and is very hands on, as he puts up and then takes down the hockey rink's boards.

Bro Blue is recognized for his humble personality and is able to exemplify and communicate the sound tenets and principles of our noble Craft. Rather than his being concerned about his own poor health, his warm, genuine and reassuring tone of voice fosters harmony in the Lodge and serves as a pillar of moral strength and a beacon of light to lead others.

Happily married to Jeanette, which union has produced three children, they are blessed with seven grandchildren. This couple will be celebrating their 49th anniversary in 2010. One daughter-in-law stated, "Neil is a real seeker after truth and willingly shares this knowledge with family and friends." As a vocation, Bro Blue is an accountant who had his own professional practice for many years.

His nominators state that "they are proud to know this man and to learn from him."

Bro Harry Robert Stuart (Robin) Carson was initiated into Freemasonry on 19 April 1976, passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 21 June 1976 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 20 September 1976. He is currently a member of Evergreen Lodge No. 166.

Bro Carson has held the position of Chaplain for four years and always performs his duties in a dignified way and with conviction, preparing his graces with a fine sensibility. He is active on the Benevolence Fund and the Research and Education Committee. He is involved in many activities: Fort Edmonton Masonic Museum coordinator, assisting the DDGM in the designing of the poster for the Riverboat Excursion, annual community clean-up and many fundraising projects. He is instrumental in the process of having the sacred book of the respective candidate's faith available during degree work. Bro Carson is a very effective mentor of new Masons and has not only stayed with them through the degrees, but has helped one of his charges, who was new to our country, to deal with problems typically faced by new immigrants. He is involved with the presentation of papers and assists other Brethren to polish their own papers so as to add more meaning to our meetings. He chairs the Sick, Visiting and Widows Committee and is influential in the formation of a Christmas Tea for the Widows, following which they receive a Christmas cake.

Bro Carson was in the teaching profession from 1968 until 2001 with the Edmonton Public School Board, where he taught English, Drama and Latin. For a number of years he was head of the English Department at Victoria Composite High School and taught theatrical makeup at the University of Alberta and Banff School of Fine Arts. Since 2002 he has been active in the Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS) as librarian, has worked on their newspaper and practices communication skills with a class of injured clients. He has worked on the staff of a local magazine called *On Spec*, editing stories, and in this way works with Canadian and international writers. He has also assisted two Masonic Brethren with their Masters theses. In addition, he volunteers his time as a copy editor for conferences.

Bro Carson does everything he can to assist his two children, particularly one who has a painful, chronic medical problem, and is a proud grandfather of two. He assists his life partner, Susan, who is a private music teacher, by building production sets for her students' recitals. They have created a wonderful, fulfilling and benevolent life.

His nominators say "that in the hearts

and minds of all Brethren who know him, he is the ideal of a true Mason."

Bro Francis Leroy Dryden was initiated into Freemasonry on 21 October 1993, passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 2 December 1993 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 20 January 1994. He is currently a member of Exemplar Lodge No. 175 and Griesbach Lodge No. 191.

Bro Dryden has served his Lodge as Secretary for 16 years, participates in virtually all Lodge events and has made significant contributions to the direction and leadership of the Lodge. He has played key roles in the social life of the Lodge and has personally sponsored dozens of candidates, acting as their mentor and guiding them through the process of petition and degrees and integration into the life of the Lodge. He organizes an annual Lodge BBQ, with proceeds directed to a charity and matched by the Foundation. In addition he is very devoted to Athabasca District and their activities and serves as assistant to the DDGM.

He is well-known in Edmonton and is a strong ambassador for Freemasonry. He receives many inquiries directed to Freemasons' Hall and is diligent in referring potential candidates to the various Lodges, where they might best fit with regards to location, time available and the character of the Lodge. He is active in many community events, Director/Secretary of the Temple building association and a member of Al Shamal Shrine.

On the personal side, he is an avid musician and very active in the Edmonton arts community. He has a degree in Radiotherapy and worked as a Real Estate Agent for over 20 years. His partner in life is Anastasia Boyd. His community activities include Director of The Pillar Society/Westlawn Seniors Centre and membership in 418 Squadron Association.

Bro George Douglas Leighton was initiated into Freemasonry on 15 September 1992, passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 20 October 1992 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 17 November 1992. He is currently a member of Eastgate Lodge No. 192.

Bro Leighton has been a strong member since being initiated. After commencing through the chairs of the

Lodge, he decided that it was probably too much for him. However, he continued on in the position of Registrar for a couple of years and then as Secretary for several years, a position he continues to back-up since stepping down on a full time basis. He is a regular attendee and active participant in degree work, both for Eastgate and to assist other Lodges. He is a good visitor and has been the Lodge coordinator for Fort Edmonton Masonic Museum for over 10 years.

In addition to his Lodge, Bro Leighton is Secretary of the Director's Staff, Al Shamal Shriners, is a member of the Ionic Club and assists in various fund raising and special projects.

George is the youngest of five brothers and one sister. He met Ann while working for Canadian Utilities in Sexsmith, Alberta, where they were married in 1957. They were married for 43 years before Ann passed away in 2001. The family has been blessed with three children, five grandchildren and one great-grand child. His father, John, was a Past Master of Kitscoty Lodge No. 131, and his brother Arthur was a Past Master and also served as Secretary of that same Lodge.

He has been a strong community-minded person for many years, serving as President of High Park Community League and coaching Little League Baseball — including taking a team to the provincial finals. Since retiring from ATCO Electric, he has been a strong volunteer for the Odysium (Edmonton Space & Science Center), assisting them on a weekly basis for 16+ years.

His nominators state, "In all the years we have known George, he has always worked tirelessly behind the scenes, assisting with whatever was needed and never looking for recognition or praise. This would certainly be the personification of a true Mason."

Bro Bruce MacLaren was initiated into Freemasonry on 19 September 1967, passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 17 October 1967 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 21 November 1967. He is currently a member of Mosaic Lodge No. 176.

Bro MacLaren is an active member who attends Lodge on a regular basis and is always willing to assist wherever needed. He is a generous donor and eager participant in the Lodge's annual pre-Christmas shopping trip to purchase items for a local family in need. He is the main force in the purchase of and

delivery of poinsettias to the widows of deceased members. He is noted as humble and unassuming, never looking for personal recognition or credit, and an excellent role model for younger members and indeed for all members of the Lodge.

In addition to his Lodge, he was Potentate of Al Azhar in 1991 and is a strong supporter of the Children's Hospital and other Shrine activities and clubs in Calgary and surrounding rural centers. He is a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Red Cross of Constantine and the Order of Eastern Star.

Bro MacLaren was raised on a farm, and being the eldest of five children was active in assisting in the care of his siblings. With his father and brothers serving in the military during WWII, he remained on the farm with the responsibility for most of the farming activities, fixing machinery and doctoring the animals. He has been happily married to Betty for 62 years, raising two daughters

who have given them four grandchildren. After working for The Bay for 25 years, he started his own business of buying and selling used furniture and appliances, keeping the family active in this successful venture.

He is noted as a fun loving, energetic individual who loves people and works with the Calgary Food Bank several days a week. Each December he spends much of his time volunteering in this very worthwhile pursuit at a time when most others are fully absorbed by their own lives and families. In addition, he volunteers at the Mustard Seed, is active with the Triwood Community Centre, helping kids and their coaches with hockey skills development and has served as an elder in the St Giles Church for many years.

His nominators described him thus: "This Brother exemplifies the best characteristics of a Freemason including charity, selflessness and honest hard work."

Freemasonry, Education and the Masonic Higher Education Bursary

RWBro Chris E. Batty, Chairman, Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee

Congratulations to you all! For three years in a row the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund has been able to provide 100 – \$2,000 bursaries to the young adults of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The Brethren have all done a super job raising money for Alberta's youth, particularly those from: Chinook-Spitzie Lodge and the recently formed Aurora Borealis Lodge; Beaverhills, Mighty Peace and Alpha Districts; the Tuscan Society; and the Calgary Masonic Temple Board. In addition, the Al Shamal Clowns, the Strathmore Temple, and the excellent effort by the Stampede DeMolay have all contributed to the future of these young adults. Thank you.

Education has always been important to Freemasons. The early stonemasons had a unique interest in understanding geometry, the forces of gravity and the characteristics of soils and stone. Subsequently, members of the Royal Society (1662) — Dr. James Anderson (1680–1739), William Preston (1742–1818), etc. — all had an interest in knowledge and education, particularly with the education and improvement of men and society. More recently, in 1788, the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was formed by Bartholomew Ruspini and nine fellow

Masons. The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys followed in 1798. Their purpose was relieving the poverty and advancing the education of children of deceased and distressed Freemasons. In 1986 this trust was assumed by the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. (See <http://www.rmtgb.org/>)

In the beginning we do not consciously decide to go to school or undertake the start of our formal education process. It is all arranged by our parents: the clothes, the books, the transportation arrangements, etc. But the decision to go to college or university is largely our own. Entrance requirements, the selection of a course of study, the institution, where to live and the funding requirements are all aspects that the young adult has to decide or come to terms with. The whole process makes the decision both daunting and exciting. For some of these young adults the funding requirements to attend a college or university become too much and, unfortunately, they are forced to surrender their aspirations and dreams to the reality of their situation.

In 1956, MWBro Ross Sheppard (1888–1961), an Edmonton Public School Superintendent, who had similar interests in education as his ancient Brethren,

District	Per Capita	Lodge	Per Capita
Alpha	6.70	Ashlar No. 28*	16.98
Palliser	5.13	Brooks No. 73	13.36
Yellowhead	7.70	Edmonton No. 7**	38.83
Central	10.01	Kitchener No. 95**	32.50
Battle River	7.78	Buffalo Park No. 44	23.97
Calgary-Highwood	7.61	Granite 1 No. 127*	37.41
Chinookarch	15.34	Chinook-Spitzie No. 6	45.08
Lakeland	7.55	Acacia No. 11**	18.78
Northern Lights	10.51	Evergreen No. 166	39.81
Mighty Peace	9.26	Peace River No. 89**	19.78
Dinosaur	7.80	Acme No. 60	28.18
Phoenix	9.05	Loyalty No. 197	33.93
Athabasca	5.79	Aurora Borealis No. 201	23.08
Beaverhills	20.06	Commercial No. 81	30.92

* Lodges who were leaders in 2008. ** Lodges that were leaders in 2007 & 2008



RWBro Chris Batty with Bursary recipient Kale Scory.

had a vision for Alberta Freemasons — to put to work the Masons’ interest in education the philosophy of charity and being benevolent by the creation of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary. Ross Sheppard, like those before him, had a clear understanding that education reduces the cycle of poverty, allows us to pursue our dreams and improves the quality of life not only of the individual but also of society as a whole. He clearly understood that Alberta Freemasons could be an important part of helping the young adults of Alberta and the Northwest Territories with the daunting but exciting task of obtaining a higher level of education.

As October is Masonic Higher Education Bursary Month, I request that each Freemason and each Lodge ask the questions: How can I help? How can I help reduce the cycle of poverty? How

can I help someone with their journey of life? How can we contribute to our community?

You can help by organizing a fundraising event, a raffle, a festival banquet, a golf tournament or a cribbage tournament and sending the excess proceeds to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund. Whatever you do, the results of your endeavours will be appreciated by those young adults who are starting a new adventure on the road of life.

In 2009 the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund received \$152,184.83 in donations. Institutional and concordant bodies donated \$83,026.71 and Freemasons and Lodges in the jurisdiction donated \$69,158.31, or \$9.36 per capita, as opposed to \$9.58 per capita in 2008 and \$10.79 per capita in 2007.

The District with the highest per capita contribution was Beaverhills with

\$20.06, while the Lodge with the highest per capita contribution was Chinook-Spitzie No. 6 with \$45.08.

The District per capita amounts and the highest contribution by Lodge for each District are shown in the table.

The Generous Donor (more than \$1000.00) includes support from the following bodies:

Alpha District Club	\$2,000.00
Al Shamal Clowns	\$5,000.00
Calgary Temple Board	\$35,000.00
Mighty Peace Club	\$12,250.00
Stampede DeMolay	\$1,500.00
Strathmore Temple	\$3,000.00
Tuscan Society	\$20,000.00

In 2009 the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Endowment Fund received endowments from the Estate of Wiley Vernon Bentley and a memorial in

See **Bursary Report**, page 6.

Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary Acceptance Address

Kale Scory

Most Worshipful Brother Shimmons, Brother Toast Master, Brethren all, Ladies and Guests, I feel highly honoured to stand before you when I am so young and inexperienced in life. What can I offer to a room full of mature, experienced, educated and talented men? The work of the Grand Lodge of Alberta is extensive, commendable, an example to others and hard to beat: to channel your funds into the future of young students, those who would find it difficult or impossible to continue their education without your help—you who realize that youth are the future and that they need higher levels of training to be able to contribute to the fast expanding technology of the world today. I am just at the beginning of the road and could be asking for advice and suggestions from you from

time to time. So I offer you “The Ballad of The Boy.”

There are places to go and friends to meet, if only I had a car. I’ll take the course, I’ll write the test, if only I had a car. I’m old enough, the rules do say, to travel on the road. Cars cost too much, my money is scarce, and so I will ask my dad! I’ll ask just right, I’ll do what he asks and surely he won’t say no. I’ll do it tonight as he brings me home after the show.

“A car of your own is what you ask — it will come with a price attached. To earn the right to this special gift there are some things that you must do. Number one, you must improve your grades at school.”

So the boy he dug right in, was at class on time, studied hard and burned the candle low. And to the top his marks did climb. He hurried home with his report

and to his dad did show.

“Well done my son I’m mighty pleased indeed, but another thing I ask of you. You must clean your room!”

Clean my room. He wants me to clean my room! Oh where to begin, I can hardly get in. The piles are like the rolling hills. Papers and books from way back when are scattered everywhere. Turn off the music so I can think. I have to make a plan. I was determined to clean it up so like a soldier I marched on. I won’t give up; I won’t give up my plan. The shirts and pants are all mixed up, the socks are not a pair, and underneath the shoes I found, I never did know where. Some things are clean, some things are not. What’s that smell I could not tell? Some things I’ll hang, some things I’ll fold. Holy cow! Could that be mold? Now make the bed all nice and straight. I’ve dusted, the floor is squeaky

clean. The drawers are closed and the door will shut, and everything looks great! "Hey dad, come and see."

"Well done my son, I'm mighty pleased indeed. But one more thing I ask of you."

"What is that dear dad?"

"To get this special gift you must cut your hair."

His head dropped low, his face was sad. "I need some time to think on this", was his reply. For many days he dragged around as he pondered what to do. And then at last it came to him. He knew just what to say. I'll bring my reason to my dad and surely I will win. So with all the strength that he could muster he quickly marched right in. He stood up straight, his cause to state, then boldly to proclaim, "But dad Jesus had long hair".

"Yes, you are right my son, then solemnly he did declare. And everywhere that He went He walked from here to there."

Well I have met all the criteria, I have met the challenge, I have up-graded my marks, I have cleaned my room, and I have cut my hair.

High River is my hometown. My school, Highwood High School, has some of the best teachers in music and athletics. In the last two years I have played in as many as six bands at one time, including a jazz band. I play the Trombone, Euphonium, Trumpet, and Tuba and thoroughly enjoy them all. In athletics, my coach, Loxley Walters,

was a former Olympic athlete excelling in the triple jump. Through his careful guidance I have improved in my technique, my distances and times, and have learned the most important lesson of all, sportsmanship. I have competed in track and field many times and in many places in Alberta. I placed 1st in the Provincial Championship for long jump. It was a challenge but I reached the top. I am grateful to those who gave me their Air Miles and paid my fees so I could compete.

In 2009, I competed in a public speaking competition and won a trip to the United Nations sponsored by the Odd Fellow and Rebekahs Lodges. This trip changed my life; it offered me a chance to experience what lies beyond this magnificent country that we cherish so much. I travelled not only to the United Nations but also to Philadelphia, Washington D.C, Gettysburg, and our very own Niagara Falls and Ottawa. I met students from all over Europe and the United States and made some long-lasting friendships and memories that will never be forgotten. Throughout my journey I was constantly questioned about Canada and what it was like to live in an igloo, and about the mystery of The Great White North.

There are many challenges we have to work on, study for, and solve in our lives from day to day and I have already embraced a few. Schooling was a challenge, one step each year, but I climbed

helped me greatly in my academics. It has removed a great deal of the financial burden that is often felt by post secondary students. It allows me to focus fully on my studies and not have to worry about working to generate an income. I am currently in my third year of undergrad studies at the U of A School of Business. I am majoring in accounting... In the future I hope to complete the Chartered Accountant designation and pursue a career as a Chartered Accountant. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

On behalf of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee I wish to thank all those who contributed to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund over the past twelve months in order that we may continue the vision of MWBro Ross Sheppard in assisting the youth of this jurisdiction in obtaining a higher education.

the ladder, and I've reached the top, I'll be graduating soon. So now I prepare to meet a new challenge: to go to university in Lethbridge to train as a music teacher and a performer. I hope my efforts will lead to employment where I can teach and encourage the students with the skill and excellence of the teachers who taught me. At university I get to choose the courses I want, I'll make new friends, share a room and to the professor I'll give an ear. And step by step I'll climb the ladder in the coming year, and this bursary from the Grand Lodge of Alberta will help to make it financially possible. I am deeply grateful and will do my best to be worthy of the trust you put in me and the opportunity to attend university.

On behalf of all the recipients of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary, thank you

Grand Master's Itinerary

October

- 30 Sept – 2 Shriners International; Tampa, FL
 - 3 Al Amira Daughters of the Nile; Edm Shrine Centre
 - 13–15 Western Canada Conference; Canmore, AB
 - 16 Northern Lights District Meeting; Fort Edmonton Masonic Museum
 - 30 Hands Across the Border; Dauphin, MB
-

District Meetings

October

- 2 Mighty Peace; Fairview Legion Hall; Reg / Meet & Greet 14 00 h; Dinner 18 00 h; Mtg 19 30 h; JGW
- 2 Palliser; Medicine Hat Freemasons' Hall; Reg Noon; Lun 12 30 h; Mtg 13 10 h; SGW
- 12 Yellowhead; R.P.W. Room, Pioneer Centre, Spruce Grove; Reg 11 00 h; Lun Noon; Mtg 13 00 h; GSec
- 16 Central; Lacombe Masonic Hall; Reg 13 00 h; Mtg 14 00 h; Din 16 00 h; SGW
- 16 Northern Lights; Fort Edm Masonic Museum; Reg/Education 11 00 h; Lun Noon; Mtg 13 00 h; GM
- 22 Dinosaur; Drumheller Lodge; Reg & Dinner 17 30 h; Mtg 18 30 h; GSec
- 23 Calgary-Highwood; Cgy Freemasons' Hall; Reg 17 30 h; Din 18 30 h; Mtg 19 30 h; DGM
- 28 Chinookarch; Stavely Comm Hall; Reg 17 30 h; Din 18 30 h; Mtg 19 30 h; JGW
- 29 Phoenix; King George Masonic Hall; Reg 17 30 h; Din 18 00 h; Mtg 19 30 h; GSec
- 30 Athabasca; Cornerstone Hall, St. Albert; Reg 11 00 h; Lun Noon; Mtg 13 00 h; SGW

Bursary Report

from page 5. the name of Marie Smith. We will be forever indebted to them for their parting wishes.

In these past fifty years, since the first four Bursaries of \$500 each were provided in 1959, the Grand Lodge of Alberta, has provided some 2,803 Higher Education Bursaries in excess of \$3.0 million.

The Committee sends out a special thank you to the District Deputy Grand Masters-Elect, their District Bursary Coordinators, and their interview teams for the time, energy, and commitment in undertaking the Bursary interviews.

Every year the Committee receives many letters, cards and pictures from grateful Bursary recipients, which are in reality addressed to you. One recipient said:

... I am writing to express my gratitude to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary. Receiving this award has