



Finding Light in a Time of Darkness

Brother Robin Carson, The Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge of Alberta

This year, the Winter Solstice occurs on 21 December. It is, of course, the time of year with the least amount of light. For human beings, who are only marginally nocturnal, it is a time to seek light, and we do that very thing with our winter festivals, with their candles, burning logs and strings of LED lights on trees and houses. We do not submit to the darkness, but rather work to fill it with light.

For Masons, there is an implicit obligation to share and spread the light, and during this dark season, there are at least two ways to do that. One of these ways is external, the other is internal.

The first way is to recognize that this annual struggle often brings with it sadness and depression that ranges from the awful feeling we get when we have to scrape our windshield in the dark to begin our commute, to the despair that can absolutely overtake us from darkness and cold that seemingly go on forever. For many, winter is not fun on the ski slopes: it is a struggle with personal desolation that can be crippling in its intensity.

In this regard, it is incumbent upon us to reach out and help others. Within our own Lodge, is there a Brother who might be alone this season because of divorce or death? Might there be Brothers in hospital or in long-term care who will be celebrating the season alone? Are there Brothers whose families are not close, and who will be alone because of that? What about the widows of members who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above? Will they be with family?

During this dark time, while others celebrate with light and good food, there are some among us who are solitary — and not by choice. These we must visit and, where possible, include.

We must also remember those who are not Masons during the cold of winter. There are desperately poor people who need our help. It is a time of year for charity that is urgently needed.

Charitable social agencies rely heavily on contributions at this time of year, and use that money long after the holiday rush is done.

Introduction to light is one of the first lessons every Mason learns, and we ought to do what we can to touch others with that light. While, symbolically, Masons usually link light just to knowledge, light can also mean hope, or show the way to a source of spiritual and physical warmth.

There is a second direction to spread light during the darkest season, and that is within.

It is very hard to look into ourselves.

Somehow, when we do that, we seem to accept the bad we find, and dismiss the good as pride or conceit. Learning to accept what we find within us is truly difficult. It takes time, energy, and more than a little courage to do so.

With the lesson of the 24-inch gauge, we are admonished to spend fully a third of our day in prayer, or “the service of God.” That is a long time and, in our busy world, not time that is easy to find. Without trying to define what prayer is or what might constitute the service of God, it is reasonable to suggest that part of that time might be spent examining ourselves in an attempt to improve what we find. If we are to render

ourselves more extensively serviceable to our fellow creatures, such service must rest on a surety that what we offer them comes from a reliable source.

If we look for light, there is no better place to find it than in darkness where it is easy to see. Looking for the light within can begin with just that premise.

If we approach the glimmer that is our inner light with both gentleness and acceptance, we can nurture that glimmer until it sheds enough light to be seen by those we meet. While within each of us there is much that we would change, if we could — “baggage” as it’s

See **Light**, page 2.



We wish you a Merry Christmas

There is something about the play of light over harvested fields on a bright winter's morning that makes us thankful for the wonders of Creation — crisp and cold, yet full of promise.

We want to thank those of you who make our days pass with pleasantries and humour. Much of the success we experience is a direct result of the dedication and commitment of so many of you.

On behalf of Judy, Sue and myself, we thank you for your continued support, assistance and cooperation. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with family and good friends and may the year ahead be filled with great joy.

*Jerry W Kopp
Grand Secretary*

That Second Set of Tools

WBro R Whiteley, PM

Freemason, The Official Journal of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory, Winter 2012

The Second Degree is perhaps the most important in Freemasonry, although not generally so regarded. It is intended to provide for the new Craftsman an infallible charter for the development of a moral, useful and fulfilling life.

The wider objectives of the Degree are beautifully expressed by the Masonic writer Rev Joseph Newton in the following passage:

What come you here to do? To discover myself, and how to rule and use the strange powers within my nature. To improve myself in the Art of Masonry by which the rough Ashlar of youth is wrought into the perfect



On this Master's Square is written "I will strive to live with love and care"

Light, from page 1.

referred to in pop psychology — there is also much that is good, and happy and hopeful. These qualities can form a firm foundation on which to stand. As we learn to say, "I have goodness within," and mean it, that is when we can begin to chip away at what we would like to change about ourselves, and turn rough stone into smooth. I firmly believe that such a foundation of goodness exists in each of us — at least, in those who would be reading these words.

Within and without, that is where light is needed, and that is where we, as Masons, must bring it. May the Most High aid you in such a task, and bless both you and those you love during the year ahead.

Ashlar of manhood, noble and true; to learn to live with love and care upon the Level, by the Plumb and Square, to master my passions, and to win high praise of a character established in strength and wisdom, to find the meaning of life and its fulfillment in a beloved community, a brother and builder, fearless and free.

The Degree confirms the candidate has learned and appreciates the lessons of his obligation as an Apprentice and secondly, instructs the candidate in his duties to God, his neighbour and himself and progressively to acquire the personal skills inculcated in the teachings of the working tools of the Degree: the Square, Level and the Plumb

The Square (left) is one of the oldest symbols known. It defines morality as those qualities of behaviour between men that demonstrate right from wrong within the accepted standards of society. No man who cheats or defrauds another can be said to be a Freemason in his heart. While he may be able to hide his unwanted actions from his fellow men



he cannot hide them from God. The Square can alternatively imply that an individual is either contemptuous, or is a right thinking man who demonstrates virtue and kind behaviour in his daily life. To a Freemason, to "act on the Square" means telling the truth and being honest and fair in his dealings with his fellow men. It also implies he is living according to the laws of God, as well as those of the society in which he lives. It could also be said to be the ultimate compliment to be bestowed on a Mason.

Living by the Square does not

imply seeking perfection. Rather, as an Operative Mason checks the quality of a stone for a new building, he seeks by use of the Square to ensure accuracy so each stone will fit evenly and vertically into the structure. Similarly, as Masons we are counseled to check the pattern of our lives by the Square, not expecting to be perfect but to be judged as honourable, useful and respected members of society.

The Level (centre), like the Square, is another very old symbol pointing to the invisible truths of faith and philosophy upon which rest the foundations of all monotheistic religions. It teaches us that in the sight of God, all men are equal; it is our duty as Masons to respect equally those of different stations in life, economic circumstances, education or employment. Distinctions among men must cease to exist and equality and virtue be the guide to our thoughts and actions

The Level, through recorded history, has been the tool by which Operative Masons measure and prove that horizontal surfaces are fit for their intended purpose. It teaches us as Speculative Masons to meet as Brothers "on the level," each having the same rights and responsibilities as citizens. While we cannot enjoy the same skills and abilities, we are each to be respected as individuals for our personal qualities.

The Plumb (right) likewise is an ancient tool, equally as useful today, for accurately adjusting vertical surfaces. No building can be deemed to be safe and secure until all vertical walls are proved precisely perpendicular. In Masonry, the Plumb provides valuable guidance in our relationships with our fellow men and the society in which we live. It counsels



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

Grand Master	MWBro David a. Roth
Deputy Grand Master	RWBro John Cameron
Senior Grand Warden	RWBro John Slade
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro Chris Batty
Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W. Kopp



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

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.

us to demonstrate integrity and to be upright in all our dealings.

We should be clear in our mind what constitutes virtuous conduct according to the tenets of our Craft, not to accept any deviations either “to the right or the left” from the principles we have set for ourselves in our actions with others. Most importantly, it dictates “not to be swayed by the possibility of adversity or seduced by the prospect of prosperity” but to be consistent with our principles no matter what our position or welfare.

A most significant aspect of the working tools of the Second Degree is that these three elementary tools must

be used in sequence when constructing a safe building and could be said to constitute a working trilogy. As no building can be successfully erected without their use, so no Freemason can achieve the ultimate objectives of our Craft unless he regulates his conduct through life according to their symbolism. Diligently applied together, they enable the Craftsman to construct his own private temporal building, “one not made by hands, eternal in the heavens,” the ultimate hope of Freemasonry.

To further quote Rev Dr Newton:
What do you desire most? To walk

in the Light, to know the Truth, to live in the glory of an illuminated world, to ascend the winding staircase of knowledge to wider outlook and a greater freedom of mind, to be taught the seven arts and sciences of man and how to play the divine music on the harp of the senses, to enter the Chamber of Imagery where the symbols of God hallow our mortal life, casting over its days and fleeting hours an august memory and eternal hope.

[The first article in this series, “The Apprentice’s Tools,” appeared in the March 2012 issue of *The Alberta Freemason*]

As Proof He Was Alive

WBro Michael D. Nicholas Sr., Grand Marshal

The Voice of Freemasonry in the Nation’s Capital, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Vol 29 Number 2, 2012

Recently, while driving home from a Masonic Degree, I heard a Bluegrass ballad by the Gibson Brothers called *Safe Passage*. It describes the love of family, and the growth and passing of generations in America. One line, in particular, caught my attention. It tells of how the songwriter’s grandfather built a barn that was “...still standing, as proof he was alive.”

My mind drifted off thinking, What am I building as “proof I was alive?”

Like many of you, I’ve long considered my “legacy” to be my family — my wife, our children, and our grandchildren. I have always believed that the love that we’ve built and shared as a family would be the most important thing that I could leave for posterity. Of course, they also probably wouldn’t mind a ton of money or a mansion on the beach. I’m still working on those.

And unlike some Egyptian Pharaohs, few of us are likely to remind our descendants of our greatness by building a pyramid or sphinx in our backyard next to the barbecue (which, frankly, is about the limit of my stone-laying skills.)

For me, this is where Freemasonry plays a part in my life. Next to my family, it is the vehicle through which I want to build something for posterity. To that end, I’ve put together my own personal Top Eight “building blocks,” lessons that I’ve learned from our Craft that help me leave something behind.

1. Heightened Self-Awareness: Freemasonry has taught me a different way of thinking. It has exposed me to

new ideas. Our Grand Orator, WBro Peter Galitzin, has challenged me through the many lectures he has given during the Grand Visitations this year. More than once I have pondered, “What the heck is he TALKING about?” And then I would try and later read about his topic, and thereby grow.

I offer the following observation, not as a criticism, but as a reflection on our Craft.

At a recent Grand Visitation, the audience was arranged so that a large number of new Masons (EA and FC) sat in the North. On the South side were many Master Masons of long-standing. Uniquely seated as the Grand Marshal, I was able to observe the faces of both audiences as WB Galitzen offered a particularly challenging lecture on the topic of questioning our perception of reality through the use of holograms.

Looking first at our new Brethren, their expressions reflected indifference, boredom, or a mixture of incredulity and skepticism. Glancing to the South, I noted a major difference. There was no boredom but, rather, rapt attention. These were men to whom new and challenging ideas are the stuff they drink in. Even the process of hearing such interesting things was invigorating! Despite many years as Masons, every one of them listened with rapt attention to WBro Galitzin.

I can only hope that those new Masons will eventually reach the same level of Masonic maturity.

As Freemasons, we have learned to question statements and ideas, and not to accept things at face value. We

do not block new ideas, such as reality and holograms! We listen. We evaluate. My perspectives on life and some of its deeper meanings have been expanded.

2. Action: Freemasonry provides me the ability to ACT on the knowledge I receive. The lessons from the Degrees, the meaning of the working tools, the purpose of our symbols, are all important pieces of knowledge that I can teach to those who have “the attentive ear.” The lessons we learn are not for musings by academia. They are to be passed on. I have the opportunity to help other men discover the “light” and to witness their enthusiasm as they grow in Freemasonry.

3. Brotherhood: Through the Craft I share a universal bond of brotherhood with men of similar values that is unquestioned. I learned this early as a new Master Mason.

About a month after I was raised, I was on a Caribbean cruise with my wife and two young children. Debarking at a port stop on one of the islands, we were immediately besieged by crowds of enthusiastic entrepreneur-minded and aggressive vendors of everything from “Cuban” cigars to exotic spices. Someone even offered to braid my hair.

Swimming through the sea of humanity and trying to keep a hold on our children, I spotted a calm gentleman sitting on a sea wall, wearing a baseball cap with the Square and Compasses. We were hoping to find a specific store in the town, and I approached him and introduced myself as a Mason.

(That process, in itself, was comical in retrospect. Being a fresh Mason, I said something clever like, "Hi! I'm a Mason, too!")

I think that I eventually overcame his skepticism with sheer sincerity. He was very helpful and polite, and proceeded to introduce me to the line of gentlemen sitting next to him, all Masons, and most of them Past Masters. He was a taxi driver, and he offered to drive us to where we needed to go, make sure we found the right store, and he then proceeded to escort us for the remainder of the day. I learned early that true Freemasonry is Brotherhood in action.

4. Trust: Every Master Mason enjoys the trust of other Master Masons based simply upon the accepted fact that he is, indeed, a Mason. We put this principle into action in our daily lives by choosing to interact professionally with other Freemasons. Our email distribution list "Acacia Network" is often used for this purpose. Sometimes we just seek trusted advice. A number of years ago, I put out a request on the Acacia Network for recommendations on a great whiskey and cigar for a sick friend. Within hours I received over twenty replies from Brethren literally around the world, including active duty Brethren in Afghanistan and Iraq. My friend was very pleased with his gifts, much to the dismay of his doctors!

5. Sacred Space: We meet on the level. Through the unique structure of our Lodges, we are able to converse and discuss topics of importance with each other, without the external complications of title, status, or wealth. Every Lodge is not "ideal," but my vision of that ideal Lodge is one where men could discuss relevant issues that are important to our lives, without fear of reprisal. Masons do not fear criticism or examination of ideas, and an ideal Lodge is certainly NOT one where all the members agree with each other. However, if we manage to check our egos at the door, we can grow intellectually **and** Masonically through discussions characterized by mutual respect and the often-forgotten skill of listening.

6. The Big Picture: I believe that most men and women aspire to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Some pursue this need through their Church; others find it through public or

military service. Through Freemasonry, I appreciate the sense of contributing to something good that is bigger than I, with the opportunity for altruistic action. Additionally, we must all profess a belief in God, whom we recognize as the Grand Architect of the Universe, and whom we all serve.

I continue to attend my Church and to participate and volunteer with other organizations, but Freemasonry is a unique, challenging, and varied organization that provides almost unlimited opportunities to put Faith into practice.

7. Leadership: If you are driven to provide leadership to make a difference, then becoming a Mason is a smart choice. There are many opportunities to provide gentle guidance and direction in the Craft, and there are many styles of leadership. Many of us come to Freemasonry from corporate, small business, or military backgrounds, and we gravitate to positions of responsibility. However, I've found that Freemasonry is like none of the above. Therefore the demands for leadership are likewise different, and while qualities such as Project Management experience are helpful, a leader in Freemasonry is marked by he who can best serve.

While being a Titan of Industry may not immediately translate to leadership success as a Mason, I **do** think that a solid and successful experience as a

Leader in a Lodge **does** translate well to the profane world. A successful Lodge Master undergoes a humbling and exhilarating experience, and it makes him grow as a leader for any endeavor he might pursue outside.

8. Fun: Seriously! Look around at any well-functioning Lodge and you will see men who enjoy the company of each other. They look forward to Lodge night. My primary comment about this phenomenon is that you get what you give. The more meetings you attend, the more Degrees you witness, the more Brethren that you meet and get to know, the more you want!

Unfortunately, my Brethren, I think the converse is true. Attend fewer meetings, "take some time off," or step back from your participation, and it seems that Freemasonry just slips away from you. Many of our Past Masters seem to experience this withdrawal. They have disappeared, never to be seen again. Stay involved. Keep working. Keep helping other men learn and discover. It is rewarding, and fun!

Brethren, we know that our ultimate goal is to prepare ourselves to be "gathered into the land where our fathers have gone before us." Freemasonry is a gift that helps us prepare for that journey. When the Roll of the Craft is called and I no longer answer, I hope that my service through Freemasonry helps serve as proof I was alive.

Reflections on Initiation

Bro Dane Pymble, Lodge Southern Cross No. 91

Freemason, The Official Journal of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory, Spring 2012

Bro Pymble was initiated in Lodge Southern Cross No 91 in August 2011. New candidates are required to speak on their impressions about the Degree as part of their development before proceeding to the next level. These are his thoughts.

Initiations have been used throughout history and across many cultures and stand as a significant point along one's lifeline. I can connect with this concept of developing into something greater because my life has been a continuous journey in the pursuit of knowledge. I don't believe initiation ends with the actual ceremony. Every day we seek to acquire Masonic knowledge, we are initiating ourselves as we make more sense of whom we are. If I was to look at my own life and the initiations I have been through, each one changed me and

helped make me the person I am today. The correlations with life's initiations and that of the First Degree are quite evident.

Birth brought me into this world and opened my eyes to the material world around me. At first I know very little about it and am very reliant on my mother for protection and nourishment. As an Entered Apprentice the door to a new world of knowledge opens but at first I know very little of it and am heavily reliant upon my Brothers to guide me on this journey. With their outstretched hands I am comforted that there exists a group of men who will help make me better. From school to today I have been searching for other people like me. In Freemasonry I have finally found what I have been looking for all these years.

I believe that whilst a lot of things may be pre-determined — call it destiny or fate — there remains an element of free will where an individual has the opportunity to choose different paths. I have taken many wrong paths in my life but I think I have taken more right than wrong.

Three symbols in the Degree had a profound effect on me. When I was introduced into Freemasonry I was very much a rough ashlar prone to adopting wild theories that would change on a whim and frustrated at injustice in all areas of life. The Degree taught me to focus on self-improvement as a daily habit, constantly smoothing those rough edges along the path to becoming a better person. I believe the journey is more important than the destination and as I actively seek to gain Masonic knowledge I feel I'm heading in the direction of the perfect ashlar. Thus I work hard to stay on the path towards perfection, although the soul's urge to reach that spiritual state symbolised by the perfect ashlar forever remains in my heart.

The compasses are quite pertinent and I now have a greater attention to how I interact with people whose opinions differ from mine. I find harmony from the control I now have over myself, comforted by the fact that nobody has a mortgage on knowledge. Through listening, rather than chest-beating, new ideas, philosophies and methods are revealed to me that I never would have considered in the past. The biggest lesson from the symbology of the compasses is that life is much simpler and more fulfilling when you can find ways to relate to others. Instead of bashing your head against the wall trying to get your own way, take a step back and see things from their perspective; it might even change what you really want to achieve.

Grand Master's Itinerary December

- 4 Kenilworth Lodge No. 29, Moose Dinner; Red Deer Freemasons' Hall
- 8 Commercial Lodge No. 81, Installing Master at Installation; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall
- 10 Aurora Borealis Lodge No. 201, Wild Game Supper; Seniors Activity Centre, Fort McMurray

January

- 1 Grand Master's New Years Levee, Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall

The 24-inch gauge is an interesting tool. I have a new appreciation of what time really is. I have found it at times hard to say no to people, but, through contemplating the lesson of the 24-inch gauge, I realise I am in complete control of how I spend my time. It also tells me that time is limited, so spend it wisely. Having just become the proud father of a beautiful daughter, the days of drinking binges, wasting energy and of course money, are long behind me. I have become more grounded, living a richer and more fulfilling life.

For me the most important lesson of the Entered Apprentice Degree is to know yourself and be more valuable to your family and community. I believe we are placed here with the task of maximising our potential before we move on. Knowing who I am forms the foundation upon which my spiritual development grows.

Through a daily process of self-improvement Freemasonry truly does make a good man better. I am now more aware of how to improve my life and am surrounded by Brothers on similar journeys. The Degree opens the door to a better set of morals. Of utmost importance and value to my development is a greater understanding and appreciation of who and what brought me to where I am today, what I have achieved along the way and a strong and purposeful acknowledgement that it is the choices I have made that have led me on the path to Freemasonry. I am here now because this is where I am supposed to be.

2013 Masonic Spring Workshop

Say NO To Nostalgia!

The 48th Masonic Spring Workshop will convene 26, 27 & 28 April 2013 at the Delta Ldge at Kananaskis. Chairman John Hayes has chosen the theme "Say NO to Nostalgia" — simply longing for past greatness. What strengths should we retain that make us relevant to today's society? The keynote speaker is Pete Normand, well-respected internationally as a Masonic researcher and speaker. Also included are featured Masonic authors Cliff Porter of Colorado and Chris Hodapp of Indiana.

Make your plans now. "Early bird" and "Great Rate for 8" registrations completed before 31 December 2012 will receive a discount. You can pay by installment as well. Details are on the website: www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca

Your DDGMs, continued from page 6.

a Millwright upon his retirement from AT Plastics in 2006.

In 2001 Ken was initiated, passed and raised in Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196 in Edmonton. In 2004 he became affiliated with Griesbach Lodge No. 191 in Edmonton and Dynamic Lodge No. 96 in Holden and in 2006 he was the Masonic Foundation's Representative for Lakeland District. In 2007 Ken became Master of Griesbach Lodge and in 2010 he served as Master of Dynamic Lodge. Ken currently belongs to Lodges in both Lakeland and Athabasca Districts. He is also a member of the Royal Arch Masons, Cryptic Rite, Knights Templar and Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests.

Northern Lights District

RWBro Kenneth John Glazebrook

was born in Maple Ridge, BC on 6 December 1973, and grew up in the lower mainland until his early twenties, when he headed North in pursuit of his career aspirations of being a Paramedic. He started his career as a freelance paramedic and transitioned to the telecommunications industry in 1996. After working for Bell Canada, he joined Mitel Networks in 2006 as their Western Canadian Systems Engineer. Ken is married to Kirsten, and they have two daughters, Kenna and Kallista. RWBro Glazebrook is a motorcycle enthusiast who enjoys visiting Lodges, both near and far from home.

His association with the Craft started in his teens, when he joined the Order of DeMolay in 1986. He was initiated, passed and raised in Capilano Lodge No. 162, GRBC&Y in 1995 and affiliated with Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142 in 2000, serving as Worshipful Master in 2007 and as Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 2010. He has since become a member of the Royal Arch, Scottish Rite, Shrine and the Widows Sons.



Your DDGMs 2012–2013

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2012–2013 term. This series will be concluded in the next issue of The Alberta Freemason.

Beaverhills District

RWBro Ron Townsend was born on 20 November 1944 in Edmonton and raised there. He attended Bonnie Doon High School and served three years in the Naval Reserve where he trained as a medic. Later, he served his apprenticeship and graduated as a Journeyman Steamfitter-Pipefitter and First Class Gasfitter, after which he added Journeyman Plumber to his resumé. He became the training coordinator for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union in 1979 and served in that capacity for more than twenty years. He was later promoted to be a United Association Special Representative, responsible for training in all of Canada until he retired in December of 2007. Ron is married to Rosemary, his wife of 47 years. They have three children: Lisa, who lives in Portland; Jeffery, who lives in Vancouver; and Phillip, his son in Edmonton. They have seven grandchildren: six girls, including a set of triplets, one boy and one grandchild on the way and due in March.



Ron has also served in a number of volunteer positions, such as President of Argyll Community League and as a coach for local soccer, baseball and bowling. He also served as a director of Summerfest and as a member of the Steamfitter Local & Provincial Advisory Committees, the Alberta Apprenticeship Board and the Minister's Health and Safety Council.

His Masonic career began in Sherwood Lodge No. 183 on 25 February 1985. He was then passed and raised later the same year. He became Master of the Lodge in December 1995 and served as Master until 1997. He became Secretary of the Lodge in 1999 and continued in that position until 2001, when he moved to Ontario with his new promotion. Ron moved back to Edmonton in 2007 and resumed the position of Secretary in 2009. He is also a member of the Edmonton Scottish Rite and the Al Shamal Shrine.

Chinookarch District

RWBro Robert McKay was born in Cardston, Alberta, in 8 April 1943. He was raised on a farm in the Cardston area and attended school in Cardston. After completing high school he attended and received his degree from the University of Montana in Missoula in 1967. That same year he married Sandra Long and they had one son, Ryan.



Bro McKay was hired by the University of Lethbridge in 1967 as an Instructor in the Department of Chemistry in charge of freshman General Chemistry laboratories. As well, he taught the senior Analytical Chemistry and Instrumental Chemistry laboratories. After 37 enjoyable years at the University, he retired in December 2004. Seeing other parts of the world has always been a huge enjoyment and adventure for Bob and

Sandra. Their travels in the last 30 years have taken them to both the Pacific and the Caribbean coasts of Mexico and many of the Caribbean islands, St. Lucia and St. Maarten being their favorites. They have also toured Holland, France, Germany, Italy and the British Isles, but the McKays' travel highlights to date have been their visit to the Pyramids and their recent passage through the Panama Canal. Future trips are in the works.

His Masonic career began in June 1999, when he was initiated in Charity Lodge No. 67 in Lethbridge. He received his Fellowcraft Degree in September of that year and his Master Mason Degree in October. Bro McKay served as the Worshipful Master of Charity Lodge in 2005–06 and 2006–07. Bro McKay is also a Royal Arch Mason, in Shekinah Chapter No. 4, and a member of Wild Rose Conclave No. 47, Red Cross of Constantine. Bro McKay joined the Al Azhar Shrine and was President of the Lethbridge Shrine Club in 2008 and also in 2009.

Calgary-Highwood District

RWBro Jim Carswell was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, on 11 October 1954 and was raised and educated in the Kilmarnock area. He immigrated to Canada in 1982 with his wife Nanette and settled in High River. They have two sons, Craig and Scott.



He continued his education at SAIT and Mount Royal College. He has worked for Calgary Transit for many years and is currently Coordinator of Transit Fleet at its Victoria Park bus complex in downtown Calgary.

RWBro Carswell was initiated, passed, raised and advanced in the ceremony of Mark in 1977 at Lodge St. Peters No. 331 in Ayrshire. He affiliated to Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 in High River and sat as its Worshipful Master in 2008. He is an active member and officer of Golden West Chapter No. 5 of Royal Arch Masons and Enoch Council No. 221 of Allied Masonic Degrees.

Lakeland District

RW Bro Kenneth H. Elaschuk was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, on 30 March 1944. Ken left the family farm in 1960, and worked in the mining industry in Manitoba prior to moving to Toronto where he started his career as an Industrial Mechanic for Campbell Soups. In May 1975 he married Carole Miller and in 1976 they relocated to Calgary where Ken joined the Millwrights Union and completed his apprenticeship, achieving Journeyman Millwright status.



They subsequently moved to Edmonton in 1977 where, in March 1982, Carole and Ken were blessed with the birth of their only child, their daughter Erin. Ken then ended his 30-year career as