



To Live, To Love, To Learn

Interview with the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, MWBro David Roth — part one

Bro Kevin M. Hataley, Glenbow Lodge No. 184

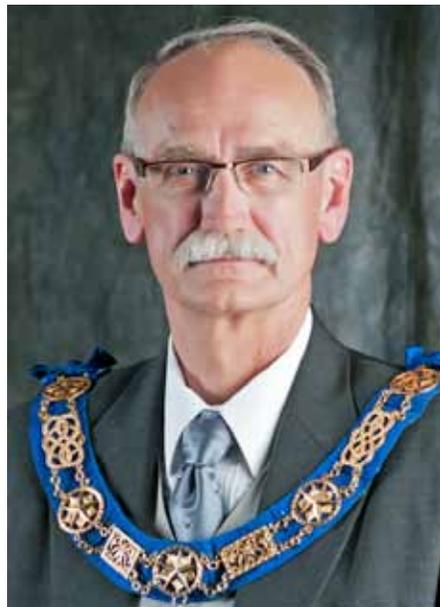
There is wide concern within the ranks of the Fraternity that Freemasonry is failing to provide the original esoteric doctrines and teachings believed to have originated in antiquity and to be the source of Masonic ritual and knowledge.

Tom Jackson recently wrote that, in his opinion, North American Masons are amongst the most ignorant Masons in the world, which caused no end of concern and consternation with Masons throughout North America. I think in many respects he was right. The teachings of Masonry in northern Europe are more profound, and we seem to have lost profundity in favour of Fraternity, social networking and fellowship — which is wonderful, these being among the core values of Freemasonry. But, we have sacrificed the original philosophical and esoteric knowledge contained within the *oeuvre* of Masonry because it was easier to have fun. It takes a fair amount of intellectual rigour to pursue philosophical thoughts. I know because I've been trying to do it, and I'm not very good at it. It takes a lot of reading and of balancing contradictory ideas, trying to find your way through it and crafting a world view for yourself from all of this.

From its earliest beginnings, European Freemasonry has been solidly based on an esoteric tradition and a philosophical approach. When it came over here, we seemed to lose its original impulse. I do not know how or when. I have not conducted enough research to know how or when we have moved away from that philosophical understanding and study of Freemasonry — just accepting it as a nice ritual for initiation and fellowship. It is good stuff on the surface, but underneath it is much deeper. In a word, Freemasonry is deep stuff and we don't teach that.

There is enough in Freemasonry, on the surface, to keep regular men quite satisfied: the fellowship, the challenge

of learning the work, memorization, performing ritual work well, organizing Lodges, getting through the chairs so that you can be Master for that year and get that looked after properly. But that, if you really look at it, only occupies about ten, maybe twenty, per cent of our membership. The other members



*MWBro David Roth
Grand Master of Alberta, 2012-2013*

are not active. They are not involved. There is nothing here for them. They still pay their dues. But the young guys are not like that. They come and if they do not find anything, they leave. And they are leaving as fast as they are joining us — that's the scary part!

So Tom Jackson was right! We are not teaching the essentials of Freemasonry. The difficult thing is that the real valley we have to cross is convincing guys in the Lodges that they are the ones that need to be teaching the new guys, and they don't know this stuff.

I did not find a rich source of this philosophical knowledge in my own Lodge. In fact, when I started to talk

about it, all the old guys I respected said: "It is way over my head. I don't understand what you are talking about." They were there for the fellowship and the social intercourse, the networking, even a bit of business networking. That is what they joined for and they got it in spades. So why would they bother doing the other stuff?

Our challenge now is to find speakers and mechanisms to engage these new, young guys. They are coming to Lodge probably with more knowledge than we have. So the trick is to somehow get that interest and knowledge and awareness back into the Lodge and make it the subject of conversation and debate and intellectual stimulation. Otherwise, we will just keep doing what we are doing: putting people through the mill and spitting them out onto the street three years later with no obligation to our Craft. They were Masons, and now they are not. I think that is the major challenge, and that is why my theme this year is education and training. We cannot be seeking more light in Masonry if we are not being educated. If the new candidates do not get education and training, then we do not get it either — it is a lose-lose situation.

Everything we teach in Masonry is metaphysical, it is unseen, it is unmeasurable, except perhaps charity — one can measure charity, but not the charitable heart! All of what we teach a man is about the unseen aspects of life. We do not teach geometry and mathematics, or even how to chisel stone. We teach how to be a man and what the meaning of life is about. Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates before him, all taught about the meaning of life and the metaphysical realities which are unseen to our physical senses and sensibilities. That is what philosophy was, and is. Philosophy teaches us where we come from, why we are here, where we are going and the importance

of doing good. All esoteric societies in the Western esoteric tradition have, as a cornerstone, service to others — doing good. And that is what Freemasonry teaches.

Now that is an easy surface lesson. You can live with that and be charitable and benevolent to the guys in your Lodge — be a good guy and leave it at that. But if anyone were to go back a bit and say: “Well, where did this come from? And why is it like this?” Then one gets into the study of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and one will start looking at comparative religions and the history

of God, all the time wondering what is this all about? Freemasonry does not give us any dogma, it does not say you have to think this way or that you have to believe this way. It says: this is what a good man is like, and you should behave like a good man in your daily life, and especially toward other Masons, as a pattern for a good life.

There is an aspect to our human psyche that is conscious of something we lack — it seems to be like a hunger for food of the soul. Myth becomes a valuable source of nutrition for the soul. Yes, the soul is here to learn — to live,

to love, to learn. That’s why we are here, and loving is what souls do. Emotion is the language of the soul and love is the highest expression of human emotion. Learning is what the mind can do and living is what we came here to do, in the physical plane, during this lifetime. Knowledge, emotional content, stories, the “aha” moments — these are what the soul feeds on. There is an interaction between the body, mind and soul. But the purpose of the soul is to learn about why it’s here, and then help the body and mind go about accomplishing it during a lifetime.

Western Canada Conference

RWBro John Slade, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Alberta

The 72nd Annual Inter-Provincial Conference of the Officers of the four Western Masonic Jurisdictions (Western Canada Conference) was held at the Banff Park Lodge on 10–12 October 2012.

After registration, the Grand Line Officers gathered to discuss and plan for the Masonic future of our four provinces. The group came together later in the evening with their respective spouses and retired to the Balkan restaurant for an evening of wonderful food and camaraderie. The conference was officially opened on Thursday by the President, MWBro Dennis Skuce (SK). Following the official opening, several papers were presented. The first presenter was RWBro Leyshon, Grand Senior Warden (SK), whose paper was titled “Freedom and Truth, a Philosophical Journey.” It gave an insight into his personal journey through life and how the teachings and working tools of Freemasonry had assisted in shaping and directing his life.

Next was a paper by RWBro Stano Spina, Senior Grand Warden (MB) titled “Is There a Role for Women in Freemasonry.” Our Brother did not advocate the inclusion of women in Freemasonry, but gave food for thought for their role in the Fraternity. Both papers inspired much discussion, after

which we all retired for lunch.

The afternoon session reconvened and the business portion of the WCC began. We were offered the insight of a new Grand Secretary, RWBro Val Ohly, Grand Secretary Pro-tem (SK). He stated that this position has a sharp learning curve — something we can all relate to. However, working with his “civilian” staff and the Grand Line Officers made the transition to Grand Secretary Pro-tem a pleasant one.

During this time, the ladies enjoyed a trip to the Whyte Museum and the Whyte house, where the excellent guide explained the history of two influential ladies of the Rockies. All enjoyed lunch at Coyote’s restaurant. Those ladies who were able enjoyed a walk by the Bow River and others partook in some shopping.

The evening banquet was held at the hotel and the speaker was MWBro Bill Fitzsimmons (SK) on “The Best of Times” in which he referred to his personal journey through the Grand Line to become the Grand Master and the benefits and joys gained by him and his family.

We reconvened on Friday morning and received two further papers: the first by RWBro Slade, Senior Grand Warden (AB) titled “Travelling on a Treadmill,

or Are We There Yet?” It talked about the traditions of Freemasonry and our mandate, with a direction that it is time to begin looking after ourselves, our widows and orphans, and not be the annual financial prop for a multiplicity of organisations.

The last presenter was RWBro Durell (BC) whose paper was titled “A Temple of Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love.” It pointed out how trust, tolerance, caring, unity, integrity and honesty are the bulwarks of our order, and how the ways in which they are portrayed to us throughout our ceremonies help guide and direct our lives and encourage good citizenship.

Again both papers inspired lots of discussion, which was well received.

The new officers were then elected: MWBro David Roth (AB) as President and RWBro Stutt (BC) as Vice President. They were invited to the east and RWBro Jerry Kopp proceeded to install them into office. The President thanked all delegates for attending and stated that he is looking forward to next year. He then declared the conference closed. A collection was taken with the funds directed to the youth program in Saskatchewan.

If you have never attended this Conference as an observer, I urge you to consider it in the future. Details can be obtained from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

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Meet on the Level, Part on the Square

Thoughts from a newly-raised Master Mason

Bro Myles D. Rusak, a Proud Member of Zetland Lodge No. 83, Calgary

I have been a Mason for two years now, a short journey to many who have devoted their lives to the ancient craft of Freemasonry. But for a younger member, a two-year journey is long enough to set the stage for an exciting lifetime filled with experiences that I can't, at this time, hope to fathom in their entirety.

Upon coming into the Masonic world, I knew very little about what I was to expect, what I would learn and where I would be two short years from that day. Like many of the new Brothers, I approached my now Mother Lodge, Zetland Lodge No. 83 in Calgary, via a website. (It's funny how one email can change your life.) Following interviews, coffees, laughs, ponderings and maybe even a pint or two, I was ready to be brought in to this Brotherhood of legend and this Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

I remember the excitement and anticipation of my Entered Apprentice initiation and the advice I was given; a caring hand was placed on my shoulder and kind eyes looked deep into my own, eyes belonging to a man who was soon to be my Brother (a concept I don't believe I truly understood at the time). He said to me, "Myles, some things to keep in mind. First, remember that we would do nothing to embarrass or make fun of you in any way. Second, remember that everyone in that room has done this before and it is a very solemn and meaningful event, and third, relax and enjoy... this night is about you!... Now put on these pyjamas while I blindfold you!" My instant reaction was of course **"What have I done?"**

Needless to say, I didn't try and run. (We all know what would have happened if I had!) No! Instead I placed blind faith (sorry, bad pun) in this man and held fast to the belief that I was doing the right thing. Indeed, two years later I can safely say that I have.

My time with Zetland and the Craft has shown me truly what it means to be a part of something bigger than I. I have a family of Brothers who I know will look out for me in the same way that I would for them. More so, I have made some wonderful friends whose hearts and gestures of kindness continue to amaze and inspire me to be a good man made better. But there is one event which has

shaped my very being and is one I wish to share with you all. This epiphany came early on while I was still under the white apron as an Entered Apprentice.

Bro Gordon Koates was about to be awarded his 50-year jewel (wow!) and the Worshipful Master (WBro Eppo van Weelderden) stood up with a smile on his face as he had a pleasant and rare duty to be done. I had little dealings with a Lodge at this point, but I knew the Worshipful Master was important. And I knew that when he arose from his seat in the East, Brothers listen.

But what followed was a subtle gesture that was most likely dismissed by many as "following protocol" and yet, to this Entered Apprentice of a few short months and a handful of meetings, it had an impact which would shape the very person whom I seek to become. The Worshipful Master simply said, "Bro Koates, would you please join me on the level?" Bro Koates stepped down from his chair, the Worshipful Master stepped down from the East and together they met face to face in the middle of the Lodge room.

There they were, a man who commanded the East and a man that has devoted the majority of his life to Freemasonry. Was one more important than the other? Did one warrant special treatment that the other should observe and tread cautiously in their awe-inspiring presence? Absolutely not! These two, united in the Brotherhood of Freemasonry were on the level — an equal playing field where no man (woman or child) is greater than any other.

At that moment I learned that valuable lesson that we as Masons should always Meet on the Level, Part on the Square. Our situations and statures in life mean very little when we get to the core of who we are as human beings sharing this big blue ball. Sure, some have the privileged circumstances to lend themselves to the greater good in ways which others may not, but does that make them better people?



Thomas Dundas (1795–1873), 2nd Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of UGLE, 1844–1870, is depicted in this famous caricature on the cover of Vanity Fair on 4 December 1869. Lodges in Ontario and Hong Kong are named after him. Zetland Lodge in Alberta is named after the Ontario Lodge.

Does one's social status or how many "friends" they have on Facebook make them more qualified to inflict change and influence the wellbeing of others? I should think not!

We as Freemasons (I believe) have a duty and, indeed, an obligation to uphold the principles which reside behind the concept of meeting on the level. If every day we viewed our fellow man(kind) as equals, think of how the communities which we call home could be better places. There are those all around us who need our help. Some may ask for it, some may display it and some may hide it. But, as we approach the holiday season, I know I will carry the words "meet on the level" with me in my endeavours. For these are words I now choose to live my life by and all because of one simple phrase uttered by the Worshipful Master, "Brother, would you meet me on the level."

I'll close by saying to you all that when I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason I had mixed feelings. A part of me was (and is) proud to be

able to stand in Lodge with my Brothers, with my newly decorated apron proudly displayed for all to see my dedication to the Craft. But another part of me felt as though a mighty chapter had ended in my Masonic career. I had completed the degree work. Now what?

Well, Brethren, we stress the importance of our Masonic teachings to our members. We talk about the lessons,

mysteries, privileges and secrets which each of us have the opportunity to learn from and to better ourselves from. For a time I viewed my two years as a “long time” to be a part of the Craft. I know now that Freemasonry truly is the lifelong journey that my more experienced Brethren made it out to be.

I have closed one chapter in my Masonic career, but as I turn the page I

will continue to read on as I now know that by simply beholding a moment between two brothers meeting on the level my life can be made all the better.

A chapter closed, a new one begins and still so much more to read. After all, nobody has yet to write the final pages in Freemasonry.

Look well to the East, my Brothers.

Zetland Lodge No. 83, GRA, re-visits Mountain Lodge No. 11, GRBC&Y

On 25 October 1976, Zetland Lodge No. 83 visited Mountain Lodge No. 11 in Golden, British Columbia, where the Zetland Brethren conferred the Third Degree upon one of their members. Zetland’s current Junior Warden, Bro Shawn Englehart, was born in Golden and both his father and his uncle were members of Mountain Lodge.

Earlier in 2012 both Shawn and WBro Stephen Schaff, Worshipful Master of Zetland Lodge, had visited Mountain Lodge on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary celebrations of the Lodge. At that time the first steps were taken to arrange for another visit by Zetland to this Lodge. Sadly, Shawn’s father had passed to the Grand Lodge Above, but Shawn stayed in touch with his uncle.



A happy group of Brethren after the exemplification.



On Saturday 27 October 2012, almost precisely 36 years later, fourteen Zetland Brethren travelled to Golden to confer the First Degree in Masonry (by Dispensation). Unfortunately the Candidate had to cancel, but the Zetlanders were determined to proceed. They decided to exemplify the Degree and invited Shawn’s uncle to be the Candidate.

Mountain Lodge meanwhile had invited their DDGM, together with Columbia Lodge No. 38 in Invermere — a recipient of several previous visits by Zetland — to witness the event.

A clock was presented to Mountain Lodge to commemorate the visit and afterwards the Brethren were treated to a fine supper before returning home.

WBro Stephen Schaff, Worshipful Master of Zetland Lodge No. 83, GRA (l), presents a clock to WBro Mark Nagao (r), his counterpart at Mountain Lodge No. 11, GRBC&Y, in Golden, BC.

King George Lodge No. 59 Presentation to Alberta Wish Ride

On 9 November 2012, King George Lodge No. 59 and the Masonic Foundation of Alberta made a presentation of \$6,500 to the Alberta Wish Ride. The Lodge, which has supported the event since its inception in 2009, donated \$4,000, which the foundation topped up to \$6,500.

Entering its fifth year, the Alberta Wish Ride (www.albertawishride.ca) is a one-day event which raises funds for the Children's Wish Foundation. In 2012, the event expanded to two locations and will add a third location in 2013.

In the photo, King George's Worshipful Master, VWBro Roger Matas (far left), RWBro Ray McClean, Phoenix District Deputy Grand Master (centre), and WBro Dave Roberts (front row, right) Phoenix



District Foundation Representative, who volunteer at the event, present the cheque to committee chair Irene White.

Remembrance Means Absent Friends Too

MWBro John Hart, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Alberta attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Al Azhar Shrine Temple in Calgary and placed the wreath for the Grand Lodge.

MWBro Hart wears an apron that belonged to our late Past Grand Master David Bruce. MWBro Bruce's daughter, Major Glenys Bussler, and her children were also present at the ceremonies and were happy (and in the case of the children, excited) to find out the connection.



In the picture (l) is Kent Galbraith, Potentate Al Azhar, Major Glenys Bussler, MWBro John Hart

Grand Master's Itinerary January

- 1 Grand Master's New Years Levee, Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall
 - 8 Baseline No.198, Burns Supper; Pioneer Centre, Spruce Grove
 - 9 Mosaic No. 176, Fraternal Visit; Bowmont Hall, Calgary
 - 11-13 Northern Exposure Tour, Yellowknife, NWT
 - 23 Canada No. 165, Robbie Burns Night; King George Hall, Calgary
- Please check the Grand Lodge website for any changes and updates.

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was bought by Compaq Computers. They in turn were bought by Hewlett Packard and finally, after 30 years in the field of Information Technology and Information Management, his worldwide IT engineering position was made redundant. Currently he is working as an independent consultant.

Bro Parkyn's Masonic career started when he was initiated into St. Mark's Lodge No. 118 in Calgary in September of 1998. He held several positions as he progressed through the chairs, serving as Worshipful Master in 2004 and then as the Secretary-Treasurer for four years. He is a charter member

of the Internet Lodge of Research and served as the Worshipful Master of that esteemed Lodge in 2008. In June of 2010 he was appointed to the office of Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

He was accepted into the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in 2003 and progressed through the chairs within the Calgary Lodge of Perfection, serving as the Thrice Puissant Grand Master in 2007 and since that time as its Treasurer. He is a member of the Clown Unit of the Al Azhar Shriners and is currently the Vice-President of that Unit. He was accepted into Strathmore Chapter No. 21 of the Royal Arch Masons in September 2009 and received his Royal Arch Degree in

October 2009. He was also most happy to be admitted into the Royal Order of Scotland. He has been involved with the Masonic Spring Workshop over the last few years and was the Workshop Chairman in 2012. Going forward, he will be assisting its Secretary with his Workshop duties. He was a founding Director for the Calgary Rite to Learn Foundation and has been involved with fund raising for Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Calgary. He is currently serving as the Centre's Director.

In his spare time he likes to enjoy a round or two of golf, has a passion for good food and enjoys a fine Scotch whisky.

Your DDGMs 2012–2013

We are pleased to introduce the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2012–2013 term.

Central District

RWBro Murdoch H. (Dick)

Cameron was born 14 May 1940 in Edmonton. He graduated from Calmar High School in 1960 and then embarked on a series of diverse vocations: five years with the Bank of Montreal, five years in the family business (tank trucking, service station and café), 20 years as a radio operator in the High Arctic islands, ten years as a Guard-Dispatcher for the Ponoka RCMP Detachment and finally six years in the office of Almita Manufacturing. He has been married to Sylvia for 45 years and they have three children: Tadd, Cindy and Kanay.



RWBro Cameron was initiated 2 October 1991 in Britannia Lodge No. 18 in Ponoka, passed 6 Nov 1991 and raised 15 January 1992. He was Master of that Lodge in 1997–1998 and 2008–2010 and was appointed Grand Steward in 2000. He is presently Treasurer of the Lodge and Secretary of the Shriners Fire Truck Unit in Ponoka. For 20 years, he has been a Piper with the Red Deer Legion Pipe Band and, for 15 years, a member of the Ponoka Burns Club.

Phoenix District

RWBro R.A. Raymond (Ray)

McClellan was born 26 October 1942 in a small town six miles from the suburbs of Belfast, Ireland. He received his post primary education at Larne Technical High School and attended Stranmillis University College, receiving a three-year certificate in Religious Studies, a four-year certificate in General Studies and a Specialist qualification in Heavy Crafts, and then taught at the Rupert Stanley College of Further Education in Belfast. With the beginning of the civil unrest in 1969 he was hired to teach in Brandon, Manitoba. There he taught at Brandon Collegiate Institute and also coached the Senior Boys Soccer Team.



That same fall, RWBro McClellan met his future wife, Jean, and they were married in 1972. They have two adult daughters, Dr. Kristen, BSc, DC, and Gillian, an IT specialist.

In 1969 he also returned to his studies part-time and received his BA and BEd from Brandon University and a MEd from the University of Alberta.

RWBro McClellan was initiated into Freemasonry at Tweed Lodge No. 113, Brandon, Manitoba on 7 October 1971. He affiliated with Provost Lodge No. 61 shortly after he and his family moved to Alberta and finally retired to Airdrie, where he affiliated with Airdrie Wildrose Lodge No. 2001 and was Worshipful Master 2009–2010.

He is a member of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, Past First Principal of Lloydminster Royal Arch Chapter No. 31 in Saskatchewan, an affiliated member of Strathmore Chapter No. 21 and a member of The Battlefords Preceptory No. 75, Knights Templar, in North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Throughout his years in Canada, RWBro McClellan has participated in many school and community activities. He was active as a soccer coach and player, as a member and officer of the Western Manitoba Teachers Credit Union and with the Provost Piranhas Swim Club.

For relaxation, RWBro McClellan enjoys classical music and reading and writing poetry. He is an avid coin and stamp collector and enjoys visiting Lodges and Concordant Bodies within the Calgary region when time and weather permit.

Mighty Peace District

RWBro Lyle B. Campbell

was born on 13 December 1955. Lyle grew up in the Mighty Peace District, in Wembley. After completing high school, Lyle went to work for Northwestern Utilities Limited (now ATCO Gas) in 1974. Lyle retired from ATCO Gas in 2012 with 38 years of service. In 1977 Lyle married his wife Barbara and they had four children: Alpha-Dawn, Casi-Anne, Karson, and Jacee-Lea. Lyle and Barb have four grandchildren: Mckenzie, Kieran, Kaydan and Maverick.



In his younger years, Lyle was very active in sports, playing broomball and fastball. Now Lyle and Barb enjoy time with their children and camping with friends and family. Throughout the years Lyle has been on the Board of Directors of the Grande Prairie Homebuilders Association, the Grande Prairie Home Builders Safety Committee and the Board of the Grande Prairie Football Booster Club. While involved with the Football Booster Club, they did the finishing touches on the football tower and installed the much needed field lighting and bleachers.

Lyle joined Freemasonry in 1979 — initiated (1 February 2012), passed and raised in Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106 — and found out that Masonry had already been part of his family — his grandfather, Cecil Penney, and cousin, James Murphy, had been Masons. Lyle was involved with Job's Daughters when his two older girls were involved, and was involved in Eastern Star when his mother, Mary, and daughter Alpha-Dawn were going. Lyle is also a member of Wapiti Chapter No. 34 of the Royal Arch Masons in Grande Prairie.

Lyle is also very proud to have his son, Karson, join Lake Saskatoon Lodge.

Alpha District

RWBro William (Kim) Parkyn

was born 16 November 1956 in Edmonton, where he was raised. In 1975 he started work with Imperial Oil in Edmonton with the Systems and Computing Services department. He then moved to the Redwater fertilizer plant in 1984 as the Systems Manager, moving to Calgary in 1992. He worked for 16 years with Imperial Oil before being outsourced to Digital Equipment Corporation, which



See Alpha, page 5.