



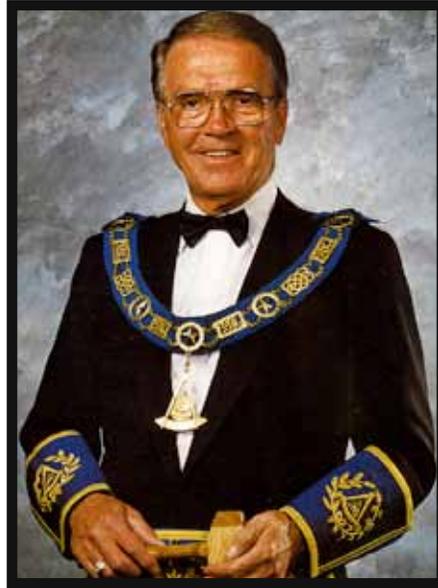
## In memoriam

### MWBro Raymond Harvey McBride (Ray) Burton

MWBro Raymond Harvey McBride (Ray) Burton, passed away 7 October 2013 at the Southwood Hospice in Calgary at the age of 87.

He was born 25 March 1926 in Cedarvale, BC, where he was raised and educated. Brother Burton was initiated in the Yukon at Whitehorse Lodge No. 146, Bc&Y on 15 April 1957 and raised on 30 September 1957. He affiliated with Kerr Lodge No. 230, Grand Lodge of Canada in Barrie, ON, in 1962 and remained a member of that Lodge until he affiliated with Kelvingrove Lodge No. 187, GLA in 1979. He was Worshipful Master of Kelvingrove Lodge in 1984 and again in 1990.

He was elected District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 6 in 1987–88 and appointed Representative of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1988. He became a charter member and the first Worshipful Master of Loyalty Lodge No. 197 in 1988–89. Bro Burton was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 1988, served as Vice-chairman of the Finance



**MWBro Ray Burton**  
25 March 1926 – 7 October 2013  
Grand Master 1994–1995

Committee 1988–89 and was a member of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee 1989–90. He was installed as

the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in June of 1994.

He was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Scottish Rite Mason and was invited into the Royal Order of Scotland in 1998. He was also an Honorary member of several Lodges and a member of Golden West Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons.

Brother Burton joined the Canadian Army (active) 13 July 1944 and served until June 1946. He re-enlisted in the Canadian Army (Regular) 11 June 1949 and, having served in various locations in Canada, Germany and Cyprus, retired in April 1974 with the rank of Captain. After his retirement from the Armed Forces, he was employed by Transalta Utilities in their Human Resources Department for fourteen years as an analyst, retiring in July 1987.

During his wartime service in Calgary, he met and married Esther in December 1945. His wife for 64 years, she passed away in 2010. They had five children, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

## The Rite of Destitution

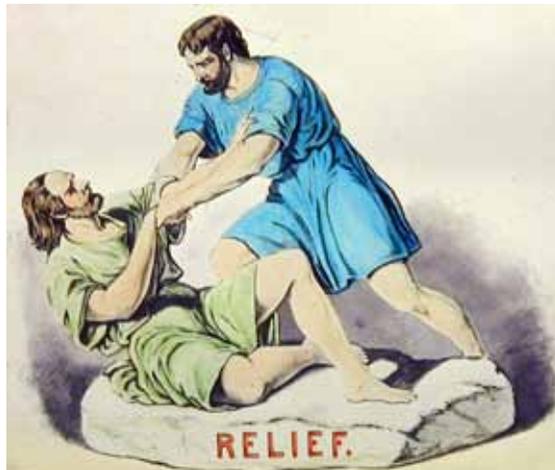
VWBro Gary Muir, *The New Zealand Freemason*, Vol. 41 (1): March 2013

Following the investiture of the candidate he is beginning to feel more at ease and relaxed with the proceedings. He is conducted to the northeast part of the Lodge and is then confronted with a charge in which he is asked to make a donation to charity. Having been properly prepared, the candidate finds he is unable to grant this request.

In one swift and searching moment, the candidate realizes, perhaps for the first time in his life, what it feels like to be destitute and reliant on others for support. This one action teaches a profound truth and is not left to his imagination, as he is actually put in the place of someone seeking his help.

Finally, the charge exhorts the

candidate to “remember that peculiar moment when you were received into



*A depiction of Masonic relief from degree slides found in the Iowa Masonic Library.*

Freemasonry, poor and penniless, and cheerfully embrace the opportunity of practicing that virtue we all profess to admire.” It is in the light of these meanings of Freemasonry that we must try to interpret the Rite of Destitution, an expression that is seldom heard or discussed once a Brother has made progress in the Craft. To fulfil the obligations of this rite we must give not simply money, but something of ourselves, which leads to the question, “What is Masonic Charity?”

Freemasonry is founded upon three great principles: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is the second, Relief (or Charity), with which I am concerned.

Dictionary definitions of charity come from a variety of early classic languages and all have the same basic meaning. They include



A coloured reproduction of the famous painting by J. Stothard, ca. 1790, showing the Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini, leading the girls from the Masonic School he founded in 1788 into the first Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street (Thomas Sanby, architect) before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, afterwards King George IV, and other distinguished Freemasons. The school, now the Royal Masonic School for Girls at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, was the first Masonic Charity and predates a Masonic school for boys by ten years.

benevolent goodwill towards, or love of humanity, generosity and helpfulness especially towards the needy and the suffering, a gift for public benevolent purposes and lenient judgment of others.

William Preston, in the *Illustrations of Masonry*, said in 1772, "To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Freemasons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes and miseries and restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections."

In simple terms our early Brethren understood Relief to mean the alleviating of the suffering of a Brother or the dependants of a deceased Brother. They did this by giving money or such sustenance that they had until the circumstances improved.

In modern terms, Relief has the wider context of Charity and does not necessarily mean the giving of money. It is also the caring and giving of time and talents in the service of our communities as a whole and not just to our Lodge members. We have for so long linked charity with money that the word has, to all extent and purposes, lost its real meaning. There are situations where gold cannot satisfy our worldly needs, no matter how much we hope it will. If a young person fails or makes a bad mistake, then the hand laid on the shoulder in a friendly way is worth more than all the money in the world. To fulfil

our obligation, we must give not simply money, but something of ourselves.

From the day of his initiation, the Brother is called upon, at various Lodge meetings, either at home or away, to make a donation to charity that his circumstances in life may fairly warrant and he gives generously without fear or favour. Relief is awareness that our fellow man is not always successful in his endeavours, whether temporary or permanent.

It has been suggested by some that, as charity is so inextricably linked to the Craft, it could be assumed that it is one of the landmarks. Without the principles of relief, Freemasonry would be a different organization.

Charity was so important that, even in the earliest surviving documents such as the manuscript of the Old Charges or the Gothic Constitutions, there are documents comprising a history of the Mason's craft. They contain charges that outline a Mason's duty to his God,

his Master, his family and society in general. These early manuscripts were operative in character and were used by Rev Dr. Anderson when writing the Ancient Charges in the 1723 issue of the Constitution. It enjoined a Mason to succour the needy and act with charity to all mankind.

The most common concept of charity is of giving, either in time, money, or property. However, there are more important functions of charity, namely benevolent goodwill towards, or love of, humanity and lenient judgment of others. We, as Freemasons, are under the obligation to assist all humanity, the most primary of which is to succour one's fellow man in desperate plight.

Why then are we more focused on the charity of giving and not on the charity of loving one another? Is it because we find it easier to put out hands in our pockets than extending our brotherly love to each other? Charity should mean not only the giving of money and other material things, but that we should have a charitable heart, which means we should be always willing to listen to and see the best in our Brethren and to cast the best light on their actions.

Over recent years our membership has declined, and at times we have come under adverse criticism from outside sources. Surely one of the best ways to encourage new members and to

## Grand Master's Itinerary December

- 2 Strathmore No. 53; Namaka
- 3 Kenilworth No. 29, Moose Dinner; Freemasons' Hall, Red Deer.
- 5 Millenium No. 2000; Senior's Centre, Fort MacMurray
- 6 Aurora Borealis No. 201; Senior's Centre, Fort MacMurray
- 7 Fort MacMurray No. 195; Senior's Centre, Fort MacMurray
- 10 Crescent No. 87; King George Masonic Hall, Calgary
- 11 Canada No. 165; King George Masonic Hall, Calgary
- 20 Cabletow Society; Freemasons' Hall, Calgary

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian who are members of

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Senior Grand Warden	RWBro Chris Batty
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro James Ratchford
Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W. Kopp



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#### 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  
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discourage adverse comment is to show by example that we live by those principles and tenets which we obligated ourselves to uphold — by showing the world that we do not just give lip service to our principles but practice them daily, especially the greatest principle of all: charity.

Masonic charity is usually quiet, compared with civic charities, which are often accompanied by exposure aimed at generating funds. While this “quietness” seems to fit well with our traditions, it does little to promote our good work and, I believe, is somewhat detrimental to our organization. Having said this, however, we are under special obligations to our Brethren in the Craft by the prompting of our own hearts and the vows we have taken.

These principles are far from being narrow and selfish, and have the endorsement of Saint Paul the Apostle when he said in his Letter to the Ephesians. “As we do good unto all men, especially unto them who are the household of faith.” This can be interpreted as “charity begins at home” and, in this sense, home means Lodge.

In New Zealand, Freemasons’ Charity

ranges over many areas, and charity is the word used to describe many of the activities undertaken by Freemasons. Previous issues of *New Zealand Freemason* have carried articles illustrating the diverse range of activities undertaken by The Freemasons Charity. These range from immediate assistance to those in need, through funding of medical research from Pediatrics to Gerontology and through grants to assist Lodges in their support for a diverse range of community organizations.

The Freemasons Charity has now contributed, through university scholarships, more than \$4 million towards the education of our leaders of tomorrow. Secondary school students have also been assisted with scholarships and, for those with a science bent, through the FREESTA program.

While we can justly be proud of what we are doing and contributing to, there is still a question to be answered. “Is there a future for Masonic charity in what seems to be an increasingly selfish and materialistic world, constantly at the mercy of economic forces over which no one seems to have any real control?”

I would like to suggest that the answer

to the question is a resounding **yes**, but a yes carrying with it the implication that we will have to dig even deeper into our pockets if we are to keep all our Masonic charities going. What is often forgotten is that money is not the only form of charity and the non-financial aspect of charity is one which we will see even more emphasized in an era of reduced spending power.

Sometimes we need to see or hear the obvious words so that they have a greater impact on our lives. By the influence of brotherly love we are to regard the whole human race as one family, whom we are to aid, support and protect

Brotherly love and charity in attitude and actions are the outward expression of that affection. On this, Masonry unites men of every country, sect and principles, and causes true friendship to exist among those who might have remained forever at a distance.

In conclusion I quote a phrase from the Grand Lodge of California’s second degree: “...and now abideth, Faith, Hope and Charity, but the most important of these is Charity”.

Such, Brethren, is my interpretation of the Rite of Destitution.

noticed, live to make your absence felt.”

*Anonymous*

- “The superior man acts before he speaks, and afterwards speaks according to his action.”

*Confucius*

- “In every journey comes a moment... one like no other. And in that moment, you must decide between who you are... and who you want to be.”

*JC Marino*

- “Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don’t turn up at all.”

*Sam Ewing*

- “Never work just for money or for power. They won’t save your soul or help you sleep at night.”

*Marian Wright Edelman*

- “If people knew how hard I worked to achieve my mastery, it wouldn’t seem so wonderful after all.”

*Michelangelo*

- “The greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground.”

*Unknown*

- “No man is free who is not master of himself.”

*Epictetus*

WBro John Hackwell

## *Alberta Miscellany*

### **Redwood Lodge No. 193**

I had the pleasure of watching a Third Degree on Wednesday at Avon Glen Lodge: it’s always interesting to see how other Lodges do things and to learn from them. It was extremely well executed by everyone involved and it was very evident a lot of work had been put in by both the officers and the two Fellowcraft.

It reminded me that we are all blessed with certain talents, be it intelligence, athletic ability or artistic ability, and some of us with more than others (and some, as in my case, with no abilities whatsoever). However, those blessings in themselves do not make the man, and although it may seem that they set the playing field, in reality the playing field is evened by work ethic and tenaciousness.

Despite what talents we were or were not blessed with, we all have the ability to achieve most of our goals with pure effort and hard work.

At this time of year we can look to the NFL football draft as a prime example (and yes I love NFL football). If it was as easy as determining athletic

prowess or pure strength, multi-person coaching/scouting teams would not have spent thousands of hours watching, interviewing, testing and analyzing the potential draft prospects. Teams are just as concerned with attitude, work ethic, and what that player brings to the locker room and the community as a whole. Great talent alone is no guarantee for success and quite often is wasted by lack of character. It is character that determines who a man truly is and is the ultimate measuring stick in life.

Let that be a reminder to us all that everything in life is achievable if the desire is present and the work is done, and the sense of accomplishment that comes with that effort is the ultimate prize.

To look yourself in the mirror and know that person staring back at you is one you can respect brings its own sense of peace and happiness found in the love for oneself.

As many before me have said, and have said much better than I ever could, I leave you with these points to ponder:

- “Don’t strive to make your presence

## **From Other Jurisdictions:**

# **EMMESSAY NOTES — The Masonic Service Association of North America**

## **Illinois High School Academic Bowl**

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl [took] place in 2012, as a Grand Lodge program for getting local Lodges more involved in their communities. Sectional Tournaments [were] held at 26 sites across Illinois on 18 February, and the State Tournament [was] in Springfield on 3 March. Last year [2011], 271 local high schools participated in the tournament. Local Lodges are encouraged to sponsor area high schools. Representatives of the Lodges are urged to attend tournaments. And this year [2012], for the first time, young men and women from DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow Girls are providing assistance as part of their service projects for the Grand Lodge. Monetary scholastic awards are given to winning schools at the different levels of competition.

According to Dale Thayer, chairman, the Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl has become known statewide as being very competitive and well operated, and "the Masons of Illinois can be very proud that they have had a part... to help with the scholastic achievements of many of our high school students."

*[The next tournament will be held 1 March 2014 in Springfield, IL. As of 31 October, 197 participating schools were already registered. Ed.]*

## **First Masonic College in Oregon**

Some 70 Masons from 40 Lodges convened in Cottage Lake for the First Annual Masonic College of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. This represents 34 per cent of all the Lodges in Oregon. It was a full weekend of food, fun, fellowship — and learning — which, according to the Oregon Masonic News, was "a rousing success." Senior and Junior Wardens and Senior Deacons were brought together for an educational experience to better prepare them for the journey to be Masters of their Lodges. Twelve different breakout sessions, including major presentations on Planning Your Masonic Year, Installation Procedures, Effective Leadership, and the Future

of Masonry, were held. A "Lodge of Disarray" program was the Friday night highlight.

A schedule for the ladies was also part of the weekend. At the Saturday evening banquet, the guest speaker was Jordan Kent, a former star athlete at the University of Oregon, who provided insight into following your dreams and the pursuit of excellence.

*[This year's college was held 25–27 October 2013. Ed.]*

## **High School Masonic Bands Sponsored**

Masonic band camps have proven very popular in Kansas and Nebraska as great public relations tools for the Grand Lodges. The Kansas Masonic All-State Marching Band has attracted cream-of-the-crop high school musicians for 28 years, while the Nebraska Masonic All-Star Marching Band has be-

come an annual drawing card for top bandsmen in the Cornhusker State for 17 years. In both cases, the students spend several days in band camps, which involves many hours of practicing, enjoying evening activities, performing concerts, and marching in pre-game and halftime shows at a Shrine-sponsored, all-star high school football bowl game.

Last year, 167 young musicians gathered in late July at the Fort Hays State University in Kansas. On May 31, some 265 of the state's best high school band members converged at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

for band camp.

In addition to the public relations value for Kansas and Nebraska Freemasonry, the band camps are vehicles for hundreds of students from all over their states to come together, form life-long friendships, improve their musical skills, and take part in an experience they'll remember forever. Over the years, thousands of young men and women have participated in these opportunities, provided by the Masonic Fraternity.

In Kansas, the annual event is sponsored by the Kansas Masonic Foundation, and the Grand Lodge encourages Lodges to contribute and help sponsor the participants. Each year, one member of the All-State Band is selected as the annual Outstanding Musician, and receives a \$1,000 grant for college. In

Nebraska, the long-standing high school band tradition is administered by the Grand Lodge, with Lodges and all the appendant bodies contributing "scholar-

ships" that allow the students to attend. Many participants come back when they are in college to be volunteer music assistants or chaperones for the teenage band members.



*Kansas Masonic All-State Marching Band on the field.*



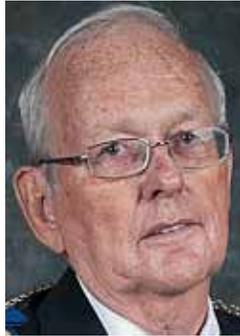
*Kansas Band Camp: For the 30<sup>th</sup> year, the All-State Masonic Band provided music and colour as a backdrop to the Kansas Shrine Bowl. This year's band camp on 23 July 2013 experienced a somber note. A four-year former member of the band, trumpeter Jeff Atherly, had become a Topeka police officer and was killed in the line of duty last December. He was remembered at last summer's camp, and a \$1,000 scholarship awarded in his honour.*

# Your DDGMs 2013–2014

*We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2013–2014 term. This will be continued in the next two issues of The Alberta Freemason.*

## Chinookarch District

**RWBro Tom Edgar** was born in Vancouver, BC in 22 April 1947, moved to Alberta in 1965 and to Lethbridge in 1991. He worked for TD Canada Trust for 35 years, retiring as a Senior Account Manager in 2002. He and Cynthia have been married for 40 years and have one married daughter who lives in Toronto. In their spare time they enjoy travelling, especially cruising.



RWBro Edgar was initiated in Drayton Valley Lodge No.182 on 13 April 1989, passed on 11 May 1989 and raised on 26 October 1989. He affiliated with Charity Lodge No. 67 in January 1992, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1997 and 2004 as well as Secretary from 2009–2012. He was the Secretary for Chinookarch District for 2012–2013.

He is a member of Shekinah Chapter No. 4, Royal Arch Masons, having served as “Z” in 2004, and a member of Al Azhar Shriners, having served as president of the Lethbridge Shrine Club in 2007 and 2008.

## Calgary-Highwood District

**RWBro Stephen R Broadley** was born 24 October 1949 in Yorkshire, England. He received a HNC in Civil Engineering while indentured at The City of Bradford. He married his wife Jan in 1972, and they have three children and nine grandchildren.



They emigrated to Canada in 1975 with their son Matthew and lived in St. Catherines, ON where Sarah was born, and then moved to Calgary in 1979 to work for an international construction company setting up in Calgary. Soon after that, Drew was born. There seemed to be a connection between moving and having children so they decided to stay in the Calgary area.

In 1992, RWBro Broadley started Raynor Construction, offering management services in southern Alberta and BC. He was partner in a house building company for six years and was trying to slow down, but In 2010 was recruited as a Construction Manager to assist in mentoring junior engineers and project personnel. He is presently VP of Construction.

He has been actively involved with the community as past president of two community associations, and has coached real football (soccer) from community to Provincial level during his 30 years as a coach. He still plays in Calgary and has coached/played at the World Masters Games in Edmonton and Sydney.

RWBro Broadly was raised to the Degree of a Master Mason in April 1993 in Glenbow Lodge No. 184 and served as Worshipful Master for 2000–2001 and 2008–2009. He has had the privilege of being chairman for the past number of years, with the members of Glenbow, for the presentation

of the Vacant Chair Ceremony. He is a member of Alberta Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons and Cyprus Preceptory No. 33, Knights Templar, as well as being a past member of the Scottish Rite.

## Lakeland District

**RWBro Ron Bacon** was born 16 December 1943 at Fairview Alberta. He moved to Fort St. John, BC in the summer of 1954, was educated at Fort St. John Jr/Sr High School and joined the RCAF in 1961, serving until 1979.

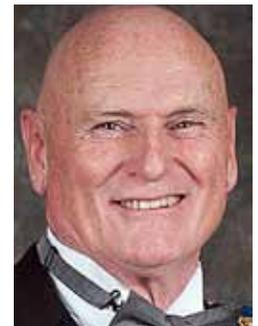


He married Patricia L Trudel in September 1965 and they have two sons and four grandchildren. He enjoys riding motorcycles and visiting other Lodges.

RWBro Bacon was initiated into Masonry in Astra Lodge No. 179 on 25 February 2005, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on 20 March 2005 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on 20 June 2005. He served as Worshipful Master in 2009–2010 and 2010–2011.

## Athabasca District

**RWBro John Girvan** was born in Edinburgh on 29 March 1952. In early 1953 his father left for Edmonton to work in the petroleum industry at Canadian Industries Limited. He and his mother followed by ship, arriving at Halifax and, like so many others, immigrating to Canada via Pier 21 in October 1953. John lived in the Edmonton area until 1958 and then moved to Sherwood Park, where he graduated from Salisbury Composite High School in 1970. RWBro Girvan worked for the Alberta Forest Service before attending the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in Saskatoon in the Renewable Resources Program, graduating in 1976.



In 1977 he met and married Marian, his best friend and partner for 36 years, and they have two sons, both active Masons at Exemplar Lodge No. 175.

He began his 37-year career with the Government of Alberta as a Fish and Wildlife Officer. He was promoted to Staff Officer following his graduation from the University of Alberta in June 1992. In 1998, he moved to Alberta Agriculture as the Head of Compliance for the Diversified Livestock Branch and in 2003 was promoted to Senior Manager, Head of Epidemiology, Toxicology and Surveillance Support (Food Safety Division), retiring in 2008. In 2007, he and his project teams received the Premier’s Award of Excellence and several departmental awards for their work in animal health surveillance and computer tracking systems for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Alberta cattle.

Since 1996, he and Marian have operated several horticultural related businesses from their acreage north of Camrose. In 2006, they broke ground for their berry u-pick operation

which opened to the public in 2010. They grow four types of raspberries, two varieties of Black Currants and four varieties of honeyberries (or Haskap).

RWBro Girvan volunteers his time with several community organizations, most recently with the Stoney Creek Natural Food Society as a Board member. In 2010, he was appointed to the Agriculture Service Board and Subdivision and Development Appeal Board for Camrose. His other important interests or hobbies include hunting, fishing, boating, golf, camping, hiking, wine making, woodworking, reading and travel.

RWBro Girvan's Masonic career began later in life, due to the nature of his career and to being transferred for career development and promotions around the province. He was initiated into Exemplar Lodge No. 75 in September 1992, passed in October and raised in November. In 1998 he was elected and installed as the Master of Exemplar Lodge. He again served Exemplar Lodge as Master in 2011. RWBro Girvan is a member of the Valley of Edmonton, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

## Battle River District

**RWBro Kevin P. Cripps** was born in Calgary on 30 June 1970, the youngest of five boys, and has a younger sister. He was raised in Camrose from the age of seven and spent 13 years as a member of Scouts Canada (Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers), receiving the Chief Scout Award. He attended Camrose Composite High School, graduating in 1989, and attended Red Deer Collage, receiving a degree in Business in 1995. In 2006 he attended NAIT for 5<sup>th</sup> Class Power Engineering. His daughter Kailee Elizabeth was born 18 November 1998.



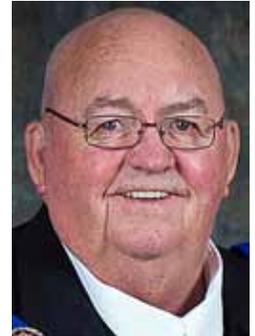
RWBro Cripps has worked in several industries, ranging from sales to labourer in mills or on road construction. He is

now working for RONA in specialized sales as the Installation Services Coordinator. He volunteers at St. Andrews Anglican Church in various capacities.

He was initiated in November 2003 in Camrose Lodge No. 37, passed June 2004 and raised October 2004, serving that Lodge as its Worshipful Master from June 2009 to June 2013. He is also a member of Mount Olivet Chapter No. 17, RAM.

## Dinosaur District

**RWBro Ted Currie** was born in 1946. Fresh out of high school in Garden Grove, California, he joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. After his discharge he returned to his home in Calgary, becoming a Supervisor of Paramedics in the Calgary Fire Dept. He then worked as the medical officer and safety officer on the drill ships for Dome's offshore operations in the Beaufort Sea and then as a safety consultant for pipeline construction throughout Canada, Malaysia, Argentina and China. He spent the last ten years of his career as a Technical Advisor for the Alberta Government in the Workplace Health and Safety Dept.



Ted has been married to Jo for 33 years and they have two grown children, Kevin and Jodi. He is now happily retired, living in Strathmore, Alberta and enjoys (but is not good at) a round of golf and watching all sports on TV.

RWBro Currie was initiated into Freemasonry in Irricana Lodge No. 137 on 18 January 2005. He was passed to the Fellowship degree on 15 February 2005 and raised to the Degree of a Master Mason on 15 March 2005. After sitting in a number of chairs, Ted served as Master of Irricana Lodge for the year 2010. Ted also served as the Dinosaur District Masonic Higher Education Bursary Coordinator for the years 2011–2012 and 2012–2013. He is a member of Al Azhar Shrine and belongs to the Wild Rose Shrine Club and the Director's Staff.

## More Alberta Miscellany Exemplar Lodge No. 175

I feel a Masonic Lodge is like a piece of clay and it is shaped by those who take an active role in it. We, as Freemasons, all have ideas about the way that piece of clay should look, and it isn't the same for everyone. It is those who take an active role and get their hands dirty who mold that clay into their vision.

If you are looking for something or have ideas about the way things should be, ask yourself, "What are you doing to make it possible?"

Remember the lesson we learn from the common gavel: "...the heart may conceive, and the head may devise in vain, if the hand be not prompt to execute the design." It is easy to ask for change; it is hard to make change. If you are unwilling to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty, how then can you ask others to do it for you? Things that you feel strongly about and that are

important to you may not be a priority for someone else. You must be willing to lead by example, otherwise good ideas or projects will be left undone.

We all have ideas about what the Lodge should be and what directions it should go in, but only those who are willing to put in the work make their ideas a reality. To steal a line from the movie *Bruce Almighty*: "Don't just ask for change, be the change."

WBro Iain Girvan

## Zetland Lodge No. 83

I have been wrong in the past about many things and I haven't always handled it very well. I'm sure I'll be wrong about things in the future, and I hope that I will not be found wanting in my response when it happens. Even as a Lodge, we have at times made errors in judgment that were not apparent until later, and these errors were addressed in an open manner and corrected.

I'm not saying we have been found

in error at this time, I am just pointing out that as men of honour and virtue, we must always be aware of how we ourselves react to being found to be in the wrong on any matter.

It is a situation that some people dread and others avoid, as if denying the truth of the thing will make it go away. In any situation where you even begin to suspect that you may be in error, take a moment to step back and truly examine things from as detached a perspective as you can muster. Ask an uninvolved third party that you trust to give you a fair opinion, if that's needed. And finally, if you have been wrong, stand tall, smile, admit your error fully and apologize with grace.

This is the mark of integrity that we often forget to wear, but it is one that will bear tremendous fruit in the respect you will receive from others, and from yourself.

WBro Stuart Bentley