

# Fraternal Tidings

Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador



April 2005

MESSAGE  
FROM  
THE GRAND MASTER

**MW Bro. Donald W.  
Newell**



## GRAND MASTERS REPORT

Since my Installation in October, I have been in constant contact with the Deputy Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Masters and the Grand Secretary on a regular basis addressing several initiatives, problems and house keeping items.

Several of the proposed initiatives and goals are being addressed by the appropriate committees of the Board of General Purposes, while other subjects, in the planning stage are being considered at the Executive Committee level. Needless to say, we have prepared ourselves for new challenges, setting new goals and are not lacking in either avenue.

I will not itemize the many local activities since October. Suffice it to say that I have responded to and acted upon all invitations and have confirmed that there is a great degree of interest and activity amongst the lodges.

Membership is an ever-perplexing problem for many organizations, but more particularly for this Grand Lodge. We must all continually promote stability of existing membership and encourage growth in our various lodges.

I have read with great interest that several lodges are enjoying growth such as Lodge Westmoorland, Lodge McLeod, Polaris, Whiteway and others. It was delightful to have had three new members initiated at Whiteway who, when placed in the north-east corner joined three other Entered Apprentices. That particular evening saw Brothers Lorne Warren, Max Sceviour, and Gordon Warren sharing the pride, joy and excitement of initiating Brother Lorne's son into the Craft. History was made wherein a Lewis initiated his son, a Lewis, with two Grandfathers and a Cousin participating in the degree.

It is my firm desire that we continue to take our responsibilities seriously, as Leaders and members of the Craft, in making this a viable and cohesive Grand Lodge bringing our desires of unity to each and every lodge in our jurisdiction and promoting our identity as such. Certainly, we have to earn the identity and respect and realize that we are indeed a Grand Lodge and not a District as we once were. Regretfully, we are still struggling with this identity problem.

Brethren of the St. John's area are in the midst of facing the challenge of transition to a newer home and leaving the beautiful old Masonic Temple, which has been the home of Freemasonry for many decades. Escalating costs, declining membership have contributed to this sad and unfortunate conclusion. There will, no doubt, be many opinions, emotions

and difficult decisions to be made but it is important that we proceed with the confidence of our minds and not the wishes of our hearts, working in unity for the benefit of the Craft.

You will be interested in knowing that your Grand Secretary and I attended the Conferences of Grand Master Masons and Grand Secretaries of North America in Calgary in February. On April 1, I was accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary to the All Canada Conference where the Grand Secretary gave the opening Invocation and I presented a paper for discussion purposes. These visits will certainly provide the basis for bringing you up-to-date in the world of Freemasonry. I will provide a more detailed report in the next newsletter.

Brethren, it is indeed an honour and privilege to represent and to work with and for you. I extend my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you for your support, advice, direction and for believing in this great fraternity.

Let us continue to work with unity of purpose, in harmony and with Brotherly love so as to LET OUR LIGHT SHINE.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Donald W. Newell

Grand Master.

### ALL in The Family

On Past Masters Night, January 10, 2005, Whiteway Lodge proudly initiated three candidates, Ivan Hibbs, Darren Jones, and Robert Warren.



Robert's initiation was a particularly memorable occasion for his family in that his father and two grandfathers participated in the ceremony. The accompanying picture shows, L to R, VW. Bro. Gordon Warren who filled the office of IPM, VW. Bro. Lorne Warren who occupied the Chair, Robert, and RW. Bro. Max Sceviour, who acted SW for the occasion. Whiteway now boasts that it has three generations of the same family currently active in the Lodge.

This addition of three young men had the affect of lowering the average age of Whiteway members by almost two years and is proof that the youth movement promoted by VW Bro. Lorne at the turn of the century is really paying dividends.

## Our DDGMs

Western District  
RWBro Larry Moss  
was born 1943 in  
Eastport. He retired  
as a Superintendent  
of Education. He  
has resided in  
Springdale since  
1971. He has two children Bradley (St  
John's) and Vicki (Edmonton).



Brother Moss was initiated and passed in Notre Dame Lodge in 1995 and raised in 1996. he served his Lodge as Worshipful Master 2001-2002. He is also a member of Member of Farnham Lodge of Research No. 33, Member of James Strong Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masons, Most Excellent High Priest 2001, Grand Secretary, Grand Chapter of Newfoundland and Labrador 2003 – 2005, Member of Central Newfoundland Council No. 16, Royal and Select Masters, Thrice Illustrious Master 2003, Member of Crossroads Preceptory No. 80, Knights Templar, Presiding Preceptor 2002, Recorder 2003 - 2005 Member of Grand Council, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada 2004-05, Member of Terre Neuve College York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Member of Redeemer Conclave No 33 Red Cross of Constantine, Member of St. Andrew's Tabernacle, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests, Member of Beaumont Hamel Tabernacle, and Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests.

Avalon District  
RWBro Harry Vokey  
was born May 9,  
1953, in St. John's.  
He works as a Br  
Mgr Lighthouse  
Lumber Wholesalers  
Ltd. He is married to  
Pam and they have one child. Brother



Vokey was initiated in Saint John's Lodge #1 in 1987, and passed and raised in 1988 and was its Worshipful Master in 1999. He has served on the Board of General Purposes and has held a number of offices in Grand Lodge.

Penninsulas  
District  
RWBro Bennett A.  
Wiseman, born

November 10, 1949,  
retired as a High  
School Principal. He  
has been married to  
Shirley for almost 33 years and they  
have two children and one grandchild.  
Son Steve is a Ph. D. student at the  
University of Waterloo and daughter  
Alison is a Welding Engineering  
Technologist with ARMTEC Ltd. in  
Guelph.



Brother Wiseman was initiated in Fidelity Lodge No. 1659 in 1976, and passed and raised in 1977. He is a Member of Atlantic Chapter No. 4, Grand Bank, having been exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 1979 in Atlantic Chapter No. 20.

## Central District

Robin J. Vatcher was born April 20, 1956. He is the owner of New World Island Pharmacy and Twillingate Pharmacy and has been a pharmacist since 1979. He presently serves with the Pharmacists Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) as Chair of Government Relations Committee. He has been married to Shirley for 28 years and they have three children, Phillip Tomothy, and Nicholas.

Brother Vatcher was initiated in 1996, passed in 1996, and raised 1997. He was Master of the Lodge 1999-2000. He is a member Arklie Chapter Royal Arch,

Central Council of Select Masters, and Knights Templar.

## TOAST TO THE GRAND LODGE OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Delivered by W Bro. Dr. Lloyd Drover, Past Master, at the 2005 Installation Banquet of Lodge McLeod No. 28 on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Distinguished Head Table Guests,  
Ladies, Brethren and Invited Guests

I have been charged with a most pleasant task this evening - that of toasting the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador - a Grand Lodge that has been in existence since 1997 - just eight short years. What, you might ask, can be said of a constitution that has existed for such a short period of time? My response, is short in time but long on accomplishments. In just a few years, our Grand Lodge has grown from 25 lodges to, by last account, 30 Lodges throughout this province. This growth has resulted, no doubt, from the recognition of and the understanding and appreciation for the work of a Masonic jurisdiction that is provincial in nature and therefore adaptable to the needs of Freemasonry in our own province. The growth of Lodge McLeod is no doubt reflective of that very movement.

The growth under the banner of our Grand Lodge results, as well, from the flexibility that Craft Lodges are allowed to experience in their governance and operations. Creativity and change are encouraged, within constitutional guidelines, thereby fostering growth through challenges to our collective thinking. Of considerable importance too is that the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador has also allowed us to now become full-fledged

members of the Canadian Masonic Family.

In conclusion, allow me to acknowledge and applaud the courage, dedication and commitment demonstrated by the founders of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador in their bringing this whole concept to fruition and to those dedicated leaders who continue to carry the torch. We are proud to be within your fold.

Ladies, Brethren and guests please rise, charge your glasses and drink with me a toast to our Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador. Thank you.

### Blue Room Pipe Organ



Donated to the Temple Building in 1906, by Sir. John Chalker Crosby, KBE, MM. No. 23, in Whiteway Lodge No. 3541, EC. in memory of his Father, Bro. George Graham Crosbie, MM. in Lodge Harbour Grace No. 476 R.S. It had stood in his private residence, located on Kings Bridge Road, now the Captain's Quarters, a combined Pub and Bed and Breakfast establishment.

Born in 1877 and dying on 5<sup>th</sup>. October 1932, Sir John Crosbie presented the Organ as a token of filial affection, to the Freemasons of St. John's. He and his Wife had Ten children and the

imminent arrival of the Fifth child, was a probable cause to make more room in the house and it is likely that, the Temple, being relatively new, was the only building capable of accommodating such a large pipe Organ, in St. Johns, at the time. Never the less, it was a magnificent contribution to the Lodge room.

This Organ was built in England, by August Bern, an Organ Builder of German extraction, who had learned his trade in Paris, France. He turned to Germany, to obtain much of his working pneumatic mechanisms, from factories that no longer exist.



In 1866, just prior to the construction of this Organ, Aristide Cavaille-Coll, a famous organ builder from Paris France, became a Foreman, for August Bern and brought his skill and flair to the finished products. On this Organ, his touch is found at the aperture on each pipe, they being shaped, much like a human mouth, the corners having been rounded and the upper and lower edges, protruding, like lips.

August Bern having secured a reliable Foreman, soon passed away and Aristide Cavaille-Coll, soon left the company, which had passed to August Bern Jr. and formed his own Organ manufacturing company.

This Organ can still be played but the

bellows 'wheeze' a bit and a small number of reeds need attention, due to the fact that no humidity controls were installed, at the time the upper storey of the building was insulated and refinished. It is, however, still a valuable Organ and a fine ornament both to the building and the donor.

A similar Organ to this, is located in a Carmelite Church, in Kensington, London, England but they are considered to be quite rare, due to the narrow time slot, within which they were constructed and hence, probably fewer than Six were ever built, to this design.

The original August Bern Works was taken over by 'Notaman' and later sold to a John Crompton, under which name the business still trades.

Submitted by V. Wor. Bro. John E. E. Warren. Grand Historian. G.L.N. & L.

Sources:-

1. Mr. David Drinkell, Organist. Anglican Cathedral, St. John's, NL.
2. Inscriptions on silver commemorative panel, on the Organ.
3. Whiteway Lodge Records

