

MESSAGE
FROM
THE GRAND MASTER

**MW Bro. Donald W.
Newell**



GRAND MASTER'S REPORT

Conference of Grand Masters And All Canada Conference

I am most pleased to share a review of the activities of The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America held in Nashville, Tennessee in February and the All Canada Conference held in Winnipeg In March. The Conference of Grand Master Masons was attended by most of the Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Senior Wardens and Grand Secretaries of North America , Mexico, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Many other Grand Lodges throughout the world were in attendance as observers.

Historically, groups such as the Masonic Services Association; the National Sojourners; the Child Identification Program; the Masonic Renewal Committee; DeMolay International; Job's Daughters; Rainbow Girls International; National Masonic Foundation for Children; the George Washington Memorial and others were quite visible; many with

booths and educational material readily available. The Imperial Potentate and his Imperial Divan also attended sponsoring a breakfast for DeMolay and Delegates

Reports were heard from each of the aforesaid groups including the Conference Planning Committee, Executive Secretary and the Nominating Committee, Committee on Information and Recognition and Time and Place Committee prior to breaking off into the Grand Masters' Conference and the Grand Secretaries Conference which were held concurrently. During the next couple of days we had the option of selecting and attending our choice of several Breakout Sessions that addressed many pertinent subjects.

From my own observation and participation perspective, I found that they were well attended and did engender much discussion during and after various presentations. The individual facilitators were well prepared, interesting, knowledgeable, and capable in their assigned topics setting the tone for group discussion. I did avail of the opportunity to visit one of the Grand Secretaries Conference sessions and was again impressed with the topics chosen for discussion. This, too, is a marvelous forum allowing our Grand Secretaries to glean a lot of pertinent and valuable information and ideas assisting them in their most important roles.

Then on March 31st and April 1st, I was accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary to the Twenty- Fourth All Canada Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This annual conference continues to provide the venue for discussion and exchange of ideas on subjects common to management and operation of our Canadian Grand Lodges.

As in the North American Grand Master's conference several papers were presented including an appropriate one entitled "Membership Problems and the Need for Change", given by our Grand Secretary, RW Bro. Larry Grandy. I also had the opportunity to present a report of the Grand Master's Conference of North America.

These Conferences present visible realization of the vastness of our great fraternity and provided confirmation of the fact that most; if not all; Grand Lodges have similar successes and failures. Most importantly they provide the venue to share and exchange ideas, information and opinions This gives us the opportunity to derive benefits and resultantly be more effective as leaders of our Grand Lodge.

Brethren, we have just celebrated the blessed Easter Season which , like music, should have " lifted us up ' . The world has never needed as Easter any more than it does today. Our hearts should be lifted up and our faith renewed as we meditate on the assurance Easter brings. It's message of joy and hope carries a shaft of light which brightens the darkest tunnel. In our imagination we catch something of the joy brought the disciples that first morn on hearing the words, " The Lord is risen. " His resurrection brings Christians courage - courage to stand for that which is right, courage to face opposition when we are in the midst of daily conflicts dispelling our fear and face them with confidence."

It is my fondest wish that you and your's have experienced the many blessings of Easter.

Fraternally submitted,
Donald W. Newell
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador.

Board of General Purposes

The Board of General Purposes is the administrative body of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland. The Board of General Purposes meets on a quarterly basis on the third Thursday of the month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m. The Board functions through a committee structure with each Board Member chairing a committee. All Committee Chairpersons are expected to report monthly in writing on the activities of their committee to the Grand Secretary. The structure is as follows:

Deputy Grand
Master
Chairman

Grand Secretary

Grand Master

Assistant Grand Secretary (**Sect. Of Board**)

5 Deputy District Grand Masters

Past Grand Masters

Grand JW/ Grand SW

Grand Treasurer/ Grand Registrar

8 Elected members

8 Appointed members

The Board governs the general affairs of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador with the main emphasis placed on the areas below:

-  Audit and Finance
-  Benevolence
-  Condition of Masonry
-  Constitution and Jurisprudence
-  Discipline
-  Fraternal Correspondence and External Relations
-  Library, Museum, and Archives
-  Long Range Planning
-  Executive Committee
-  Masonic Education

This is not to say that there are not other items that come under their agenda, for more information please refer to a copy of the Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Notre Dame Lodge Holds Charity Brunch

On December 4, 2005 Notre Dame Lodge No. 6 held its annual charity brunch and raised nearly \$500.00. This event is now in its fourth year and provides the lodge with the bulk of its charitable givings for the year.

This year the funds were split between the Salvation Army Happy Tree in Springdale and the Stephenville flood relief and were presented to The Salvation Army on December 9, 2005.

Presented to The Salvation Army at the same time was \$125.00 for Stephenville flood relief by the District Deputy Grand Master, Larry Moss. This represented one half of the monies raised during his visits to the lodges of Western District No. 2 by the sale of masonic coins minted for the relief of Hurricane Katrina. In the midst of raising funds for Hurricane Katrina

the Stephenville flood occurred and Bro. Moss made the decision to split the money between the two. The Hurricane Katrina funds were sent to The Masonic Services Association.

VISIT WITH BRO. JOHN W. DEAN III, OMS

Submitted by MW Bro. George Cull, PGM

During a recent visit to Florida Carolyn and I, along with RW Bro. Cecil E. Templeman and Audrey, had the opportunity to visit with Bro. Jack and Kay Dean. Many of you will recall that Bro. Dean was a great supporter of the establishment of our Grand Lodge and very generously donated our Grand Lodge Banner. He, along with MW Bro. Robert E. Davis, Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, were the first recipients of the Order of Meritorious Service from our Grand Lodge. For those of you who are Shriners you will know him as Illustrious Sir John W. Dean III, Past Imperial Potentate. Bro. Jack advised that W Bro.

Austin Mercer and Rubyann had also recently visited with the Deans.



Bro. Jack and Kay reside in St. Pete's year round and both enjoy reasonably good health. Bro Jack has had

Parkinson's disease for a number of years but is coping very well. He very kindly invited our group to join him and Kay at their club for a most enjoyable lunch.

Freemasonry, including the Shrine, is still very much a part of Bro. Jack's life. He recently received a visit from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, his home jurisdiction. He enlightened us on the endowment fund established by the Grand Lodge to ensure that their very beautiful building in Philadelphia is maintained for the future. If you have the opportunity to be in Philadelphia I would encourage you to plan some time to visit this building. Many of us have seen pictures of or visited the beautiful Freemasons Hall in London, England. I can assure you that this building is equally impressive.

The Dean Family history in Freemasonry is growing each year. Bro. Jack informed us that his 18 year old grandson was the latest member of the family to join the Craft when he participated in a one day class conducted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Family is very important to the Dean's and one can sense the pride and satisfaction when Jack and Kay speak of their family.

Bro. Jack and Kay speak fondly of their visit to Newfoundland and their close association with MW Bro. r

Herman W. Starkes and Judy. Their friendship began when MW Bro. Starkes became Potentate of Mazol Shriners and has flourished throughout the years.

The Dean's sends their best wishes to all.

Cabot Lodge Raise Funds and Socialize



The members of Cabot Lodge in Port aux Basques had a very busy fall, with a number of meetings and social events including Ladies Night in November, and a number of caterings. On the weekend of December 16 - 18, things got especially busy. On Friday and Saturday night, members catered to two Christmas parties. On Sunday, members put off the annual family brunch, complete with a visit from old Santa. The brethren enjoyed the fellowship of working together for the common cause, and shared the spirit of Christmas, and delighted in the reactions of the children and grandchildren to Santa Claus, a.k.a. Worshipful Brother Bruce Burton, who was ably assisted in gift distribution by Worshipful Master David Clarke.



PATRICK TASKER and THE PATRICK TASKER EDUCATIONAL FUND

Patrick Tasker born in Greenock, Scotland on December 3, 1823, came to Newfoundland in 1843, at the age of nineteen, to work in a Family Business and became a Managing Partner of the **House of Hunter and Company**.

Living less than thirty seven years, he accomplished a great deal, both for the Craft and the people of St. John's, assisting in the re-establishment of the Newfoundland Rifle Volunteers, when the French last tried to take over St. John's.

Some of his close associates were Thomas Henry Newman,

of Newman and Company, William Leamon Solomon, Post Master for St. John's and later, Post Master General for the Colony and John C. Toussaint, owner of the Hotel De Paris, located on the present site of the King George V Institute, on Water Street.

These four, were the first Candidates for Freemasonry, at a Saint John's Lodge meeting, held in Toussaint's Hotel, February 2nd. 1849, while the Lodge was still under dispensation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, E.C. and which, upon it's consecration and dedication, on June 19th 1850, became Lodge No. 844, later re-numbered No. 579, under warrant from the Grand Lodge of England. Now, Lodge No. 1 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador.

At an emergency meeting of Saint John's Lodge No. 844, June 24th 1858, held in the Lodge Room, in the Newfoundland British Society Building, Patrick Tasker, who hand been the WM for three years, announced that he had been appointed as the first Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Newfoundland, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, E.C., by Rt. Wor. Bro. Alexander Keith, Provincial Grand Master and he was Installed in Office, on August 6th 1858.

In October of the same year, he under took the Consecration of Avalon Lodge No. 1078, under Dispensation from the District Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, E.C. This Lodge was later re-numbered No. 776 and is now No. 2, under the Grand Registry of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Patrick Tasker quickly endeared himself to the people of St. John's and served as President of the Water, Gas and Hospital Boards and was ever ready to lend a hand, where needed, which was quite possibly the cause of his demise, since he had taken ill and died within three days, on November 2nd 1860, approximately one month short of his 37th Birthday.

After his death all the businesses closed, enabling most of the population of 14,000 to line the route of his funeral procession. The route was from the Anglican Cathedral to the Old Protestant Cemetery, between Old Topsail Road and Waterford Bridge Road, where a memorial, in the form of 'The Broken Column' was later placed, by the members of Saint John's and Avalon Lodges, "upon their Master's Tomb".

Following his passing, Bro. J. S. Rutherford, proposed the Motion in Saint John's Lodge, in January 1861, "The Tasker Educational Fund be established, as a memorial to the late beloved Brother, Patrick Tasker".

To avoid the possible perception that the fund was associated only with Lodge Tasker, the name was changed to 'The Patrick Tasker Masonic Educational Fund'. Thanks to donations, bequests, annual church services and the annual revenue from the brethren, the fund has now reached a point that enabled the Elected Executive Committee, to award annual scholarships, to deserving children and grandchildren of Freemasons in

good standing, in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Assistance is supplied to any applicant who can establish 'need', based on guidelines set out by the Executive Committee and approved by the Brethren, at an annual general meeting of the Patrick Tasker Educational Fund. Such assistance provides books and clothing, for the needy child, up to a set limit. Having once established the need, a student may also be eligible for an interest free loan, to further assist them with their Education.

Every new Mason should be made aware of the fund and it's purposes, so that he may acquaint his family of it's existence and in so doing, better prepare them, should he either find himself in hard times, or pass to the Grand Lodge above, prior to the full educational needs of his Family having been met.

VWB. John E. E. Warren, PM.
President, Patrick Tasker Educational Fund.
Grand Historian.
G.L.N. & L.

Free Masonry is alive and well in the Big Land!

Since moving into the new lodge building just less than two years ago, Polaris #17 and interest in Free Masonry have grown. The 3rd degree has been conferred on brothers, Wayne Neil, Lorne Pike, Wayne Winsor, and George Andrews. They were followed closely by brothers, Sean Crann and Max Winsor and then Bro. Clarence Cook joined just shortly after. In April, Brothers Robert Richards and Kenneth Russell were conferred with the second degree.

D.D.G.M. RWB Wilbur Patey continues to represent District 1, Labrador and he was appointed after the unfortunate passing of our RWB Abel Hughes. RWB.

Patey continues to work with the Grand Lodge to resolve the issues concerning Northern Lights Lodge in Wabush.

In October, WB Dwight Vokey assumed the chair

in the East. The Installation was attended by the D.G.M. RWB Maxwell Squires and it was the first time in recent memory whereby all officers were present at the Installation ceremony. A dinner was held later that evening and a large number of brethren attended.

There have been various social activities from potlucks to card games over the past several months. The children's 4 Christmas party was a great success and thank you to our WB Santa for making it fun for all! In addition, the

brethren of Polaris Lodge attended a church service at the Salvation Army Citadel in February.

The Masonic movement is held in high regard within the community and the growing interest is evident as a result of our new Lodge and new Brethren.

We look forward to a busy spring and wish all Masons a safe and Happy Easter!

Fraternal Greetings to all from Wor. Master Dwight Vokey and Brethren of Polaris #17.

Grand Lodge Wind Breakers/ Polo shirts/ and Sports shirts

Shirts and jackets will be sold and they will have the Coat of Arms for the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador on the left breast embroidered with the wording Grand Lodge of NL around it

It will also have a small square and compasses in the centre of on the upper back approximately 2" to 3" below the collar and this will be small approximately 1.75 inches in length

Prices for units include taxes

Wind breaker	60.00 tax included
(The windbreakers are storm-tech units)	
Sports shirt	42.50 tax included
Polo Shirts	40.00 tax included

If you are interested in ordering one of the items or require further information you can email the Asst. Grand Secretary Dan Frampton at FramptonD@DFO-MPO.GC.CA

All orders must be paid up front

What is your Lodge doing?

What is your lodge doing to attract new members? How is your lodge viewed by the community? Do you have a story of interest that fellow brethren would like to read? Then let me know and I will publish it in the next edition of the **Fraternal Tidings**. Send along a story and a picture and spread the news about our great organization. My email is austinkeeping@warp.nfld.net so feel free to send me your stories. The next edition will be published in the fall before the annual communication.

Food for Thought

"One of the usual errors regarding Masonry and religion is the confusion on the part of many non-Masons and a few masons that Masonry is a religion."

LeRoy C. Brandt, Ph.D., Pastor

