



The *Nova Scotia* FREEMASON

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA

A New Slate of Officers for 2024-25



"Freemasonry is an organization of like-minded men who accept a lifestyle based on a universal system of morality dedicated to the self-improvement of its members and thereby contributing to the building of a better community."

The Nova Scotia Freemason

The Official Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Freemason is published electronically bi-monthly August, October, December, February, April and June. Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the preceding month

Editorial Board

M.W.Bro. Barry S. Imber, Managing Editor

Editors at Large

R.W. Bro. Gerald Settle

W.Bro. Giles Crouch

Bro. Tom Rice

The Editors accept no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

Submissions for upcoming editions can be sent either through the Grand Lodge website or can be sent to the Grand Secretary: Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia
167 Coronation Avenue
Halifax, NS, Canada B3N 2N2.

Please send written submissions as text files.

Advertisement for Lodge or District activities, as well as Personal advertisements are printed free of charge.

Business advertisements are charged at the following nominal rates:

Full page - \$30.00

Half page - \$20.00

Quarter page - \$10.00

Please note that any revenues accruing from advertisements will go to the Grand Lodge Capital Fund.

Advertisements can be sent to the Managing Editor at barryimber@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue September 16th

Contents

	page
The Grand Master's Message	3
From the DGM	4
From the SGM	4
From the JGW	5
From the Grand Lecturer	7
Millennial Apprentices Data.	9
The Masonic Con.	10
What Came You Here to Do? Part 2	11
Our Past GM's	13
Questions Answered	13
In and Around the Jurisdiction	14

I hope everyone is having a great summer! My apologies for the tardiness of this issue but things have been a little hectic. After a very enjoyable Grand Communication I would like to congratulate all the elected and appointed officers and hope that you all have a successfully and rewarding year.

As you might have remembered we were in search for a volunteer to take over the editorship and production of the Nova Scotia Freemason. I am very pleased to announce that Bro. Wayne Savoury has stepped forward to take on the role and I am sure you can look forward to a new and exciting format for future issues. This and the next issue will mark the transition of responsibilities so after the publication of the October issue all submissions should be sent either to Bro. Savoury or the Grand Lodge Office. More details will be in the next issue.

- Ed

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE:

Good day Brothers,

I hope the summer is treating everyone well and they are enjoying some well deserved rest from all the Masonic activities and endeavours. My Grand Master address will be up on the web site some time soon, once Grand lodge reopens this month. I truly believe in everything that it speaks about.



My theme for my term is "Prepare for Success". I truly believe that there will be a resurgence of interest in Masonry in this Province. The problem is if we, the Grand lodge, the Districts, the Lodges and the Brothers are not prepared for it, all will be the same as it has been in the past. This resurgence will pass us by. New members will come and those members will go if we don't get back to the grass roots of Masonry.

Over the decades and centenaries our organization has slowly changed with changing technologies. As an example, in the past members spent quantity time with new members repeating the catechisms and lecture pieces because it wasn't written down. This quantity time created quality time, and loyalty and strong friendships resulted. Today we hand a brother a book and expect him to learn the question and answers without and quantity time.

Now I am talking about the quality of the relationships built not the perfection of the recitation of the written work. I have been a Mason over 30 years and I have delivered many lecture pieces and heard many Brothers deliver lecture pieces. I have heard some really great work, some amazing work, and some different approaches to the work, but I have never heard anyone do it perfectly. Everyone forgets something, adds a word, changes a word, misses the cadence, the punctuation, or the intonation. We are not looking for perfect; we are looking for everyone's best. Be careful not to fall into the trap of Perfectionism.

My goal, well a dream really, a hope, a wish, a desire, a want is to see the population of Masonry in this Province double in the next 5 years. I know a lot of people will say it's a pipe dream, and unachievable. But looking quickly at the numbers, that is like each lodge bringing in 6 new members a year for the next 5 years. Now bring them in slowly, no super-manning them. It should take almost a year for a petitioner to make his way to the complete 3rd degree.

Some lodges are on mark with this already, others are struggling. I understand. In goal setting when you do not hit your mark, you review, readjust and re-set the next goal. This growth will also precipitate down to all the concordant bodies as a result. A lot of good work is being done in the concordant bodies. But it was never intentioned that you wouldn't also be in your craft lodge meetings. Whether or not we hit this goal is not the point. If we reach 80%, 50%, 40%, 10%, 5% we will be better off then we are now. Actually if we hit just one tenth of 1% (0.1%) we will be better then we have been in the last ten years. Aren't you just sick and tired about being sick and tired over the yearly negative membership report at Grand Communication? Well let's do something about it!

As I said in my address, the Grand Lodge, the BOGP, the Grand Lecturer and the Masonic Foundation have created the tools and programs needed for lodges to re-vitalize, develop and grow. But its like leading a horse to water, you have to want it. I know the founders of every lodge would want your current officers and members to keep your lodge going. Why not take 5 years and grab a hold of what's available and work with it. If your lodge is not as successful as you want or think it should be then your right. If you are not participating in the Cornerstone project, what is holding you back? It is the first stepping stone to getting your lodge on track with a yearly, unique, persistent, consistent development program tailored to your lodges particular needs and abilities. If you think its something new or some kind of change, it isn't. It's putting your lodge back on track with where it was in the beginning 50-100-200 years ago. If you don't understand that

last sentence reach out and ask, I am happy to explain it.

Not a day goes by in the last 3 years that I don't think about the state of Masonry in this Province. Where it will be in 5-10-20-100+ years. What can be done to help it? I promise you from my position that the Grand Lodge, the BOGP, and the Masonic Foundation will be working and

promoting Masonry in this Province. It's up to you to be prepared for the success that awaits. Looking forward to visiting and seeing you all, in the lodges.

Sincerely and Fraternally
MWBro. Andrew Beeler
Grand Master of Nova Scotia 2024

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Brethren, as we enjoy the warmth of summer let us also enjoy the Brotherly love and affection of our Masonic Fraternity.



As I visit Lodges in our Jurisdiction, I am overcome by the fraternal bond that I witness. It is truly heartwarming, Brethren supporting one another and working in harmony for the benefit of their Lodge. To witness newly installed Officers performing memorized Ritual work is a testament to their effort,

encouraged and guided by their Brethren, and should be commended. Our Ritual Work, when well done, is a source of pride to all and is one of the attributes that distinguish our Fraternity from others.

With the approach of Fall our schedule of Masonic activities shall increase and I look forward to visiting your Lodge to share in our Brotherhood.

Fraternally
Frank Gammell
DGM

FROM THE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

Greetings Brethren –



It is my hope your summer is all you wanted it to be thus far.

As we prepare for the re-opening of lodges be sure to review our ritual so we can be prepared for a new masonic year. If you have accepted an office within your lodge I thank you for taking on that

commitment. It is important that you review the ritual for your office prior to the re-opening of your lodge.

Please be on the lookout for the several lodges that remain open in July and August and try to support these lodges.

Also, there are at least two “Quarry Lodges” happening this summer. These are always a pleasure to attend and if you have never been to one perhaps now is the time. It will be well worth your time.

Over the summer months remember to reach out to our brethren that are ill or suffer from mobility issues as I am sure they would cherish the contact.

Stay well, be happy and stay safe!

Happy trails until we meet again!

Fraternally yours,
Gerald Settle
Senior Grand Warden

FROM THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN



Recently, I was asked, “Could you please take the time to” And I started thinking about time. “Time is of the essence”, “time is fleeting”, “there’s no time like the present”....

And, of course, the iconic song of Steve Miller Band, “Fly Like an Eagle (Time Keeps on Slipping into the Future)”. It’s a song about the power within people to rise above and help one another. And that is the basis of Freemasonry – helping one another now, so that the future is more promising.

Shaping that future we envision requires creativity, innovation, dedication, and the willingness and foresight to adapt. Throughout history, Freemasons have looked to the future by adapting in the present.

By forming a masons’ guild, men banded together, gaining strength of community. By using words and handshakes in the present time, friends could be distinguished from enemies, providing protection and security, going forward into the future.

The Knights Templar had the foresight to establish escort services and a banking system for people traveling from Europe to the Holy Land, protecting the travelers and their possessions. They adapted to their present situation to ensure stability in the future. Not only for themselves, but for friends, family and strangers – for their community as a whole.

Our fraternity has continued to adapt, to change, as the situation has arisen. Through expansion first to non-guilded craftsmen, then to greater geographical inclusion, membership grew. Through the realization that community needs were not being met, the development of benevolence, education and charity programs were supported, hand in hand, by the belief in the strength of brotherhood and fraternity. The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia is a well-established charity and is proving to be a model

for other Canadian provinces that do not yet have a charitable arm. Of that we should be proud.

We are a fraternity based on past tradition with adaptation to the present, in preparation for the future. Let’s not lose sight of the fact that, in order to be strong in the future, we must be willing to work now, to analyse our situations, to make solid plans, and to have the resolution to see those plans through to their conclusion.

We have the perfect strategic plan, or road map, already laid out for us to follow. The Cornerstone Project lays out the goals, objectives, strategies and tactics we need to survive and thrive. And many of the activities that are suggested are based on time: using our time now to help a new widow navigate her new future; using our time to ensure that one of our Brothers feels supported and less isolated during his time of convalescence; using our time and blood to give life to strangers.

Halifax District One has put out the challenge to Halifax District Two to support the Canadian Blood Services’ donation program. To date, Halifax 1 has had the participation of 85 of its members, their families and their friends in this initiative of the Cornerstone Project. An Initiative that takes some of our time now, so that another member of our greater community will have a chance to see more time on this Earth in their future.

I’m looking forward to spending my time in the next months and years in meeting old friends and making new ones in my travels; in seeing how lodges are adapting in their present situations using creativity and ingenuity to bring their visions to a conclusion.

To a conclusion that sees stronger individual lodges with greater membership and proud, fulfilled members. What can we, as Freemasons, do now for ourselves, our lodges and our communities to ensure we will have successful futures? We must not delay. The time is now!

*Ken Simmons
Junior Grand Warden*



Halifax District One has put out the challenge to Halifax District Two to support the Canadian Blood Services' donation program Volunteers for the Blood Drive

Colchester County Quarry Degree held on July 20th 2024. A full third degree drama was held with a great turnout and a bbq put on by the Widows Sons afterwards.



FROM THE GRAND LECTURER

Masonic Rules of Order



Have you ever sat in that endless lodge meeting? You know the one where the Worshipful Master seems out of control. Brothers are rising or not rising and addressing the lodge. First names are used when conducting the business of the lodge. The WM is unsure of how to proceed with a motion or amendment to a motion. Frivolous debate goes on and on over a simple motion. At the completion of a long and painful business meeting the Lodge finally gets to the degree work at nine pm. and closes to the festive board at 10:30pm or 11:00pm. Chances are you are not keen on returning to that lodge and worse if it is happening in your own Lodge.

In a Nutshell this is why we use Rules of Order; knowledge of them allows us to move through business smoothly and efficiently getting on to the important Masonic Labour of Education and degree work.

Rules of Order have been developed to govern the making of group decisions in an orderly fashion. Known as "Parliamentary Procedure" usual rules of order are, in many details, not applicable to Masonic Lodges, which have developed a special set of rules to govern business procedures within themselves. Roberts Rules of order Masonic Edition, or (Robert's Rules here for short) as outlined, recognize general rules of parliamentary law as used in other Legislative bodies, and unless they conflict with the Masonic Code or Masonic usage.

While often followed in general, "Rules of Order" are the Master's 'will and pleasure' and "should never be introduced where they, interfere with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, Lodge Bylaws, or Landmarks of Freemasonry or with the high prerogatives of the Master".

In a secular body, the presiding officer is subject to the dictates of the organization and may be removed by it...The Master of a Lodge is not controlled by the Lodge and can only be removed by the Grand Master. If the Master is negligent in his Duties the Senior Warden with upon the written request of any seven members in good standing, shall through the Grand Secretary refer the manner to the Grand Master.

In a secular body the presiding officer's decision can be overturned by the body itself...The Master's Decision in a Masonic Lodge can only be appealed to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

The Presiding officer of a secular body is supposed to conduct its meetings according to the "Rules of Order"...The Master of a Masonic Lodge is totally responsible to the Grand Lodge, The Grand Master and the fraternity in general for all that his Lodge does and, as such, is clothed with all the authority needed to exercise full control.

As the Masonic Lodge is sometimes said to represent King Solomon's Temple and the Master is said to represent King Solomon; so, must the good Master exercise the Wisdom of Solomon in his governing of the Craft. He must be careful not to either over-exercise his authority or fail to exercise it; for either way he will drive his members away from the meetings.

How business is conducted in lodge

Business is brought before the lodge either by a motion of a member or by the presentation of a communication to the Lodge.

It is not usual to make motions to receive reports of committees or communications to the lodge.

There are many other cases in the ordinary routine of business where the formality of a motion is dispensed with but should any brother object a regular motion becomes necessary or the WM may put the question without waiting for a motion.

Obtain the Floor

Before a brother can make a motion or address the Lodge in debate he must obtain the floor

1. The brother rises after the floor has been yielded (the brother speaking has finished)
2. He Stands Salutes the WM with the sign of the degree the lodge is on
3. Addressed the Worshipful Master by his official Title "Worshipful Master"
4. If a lodge is large the brother should state his name for the WM "Worshipful Master Brother Smith"
5. The brother has the floor when the WM recognizes him to have the floor by announcing his name or his office. WM "Brother Smith or Brother Junior Warden" the worshipful master addresses the member as Brother

6. The WM is not to recognize the brother by his Grand Lodge Rank "RW Bro Smith" is not used instead his Grand Lodge office is used when assigning the Floor "Brother Grand Historian" is appropriate.

Rules of Order help ensure that the order is maintained in transaction of a Lodge's business. The first step a Master must take in maintaining order is to have a specific plan for each individual Communication or meeting. The Master must remember Masonic Rules of Order. That he is "in charge" and should have his own written 'Order of Business' prepared for each meeting.

Although the business of a stated communication should contain many different items, after the ritualistic opening and before closing, the particular order of business is not as critical as having a set order that is known to all present.

Certain general rules should be observed during the transaction of business, such as:

No alarms should be attended to at the door, nor members or visitors admitted while the Lodge is opening or closing (Exception of the Grand Master), or during the reading of the minutes or conferring a degree.

Here in Nova Scotia Members may, if necessary, enter or retire by Discretion of Worshipful Master. Under some jurisdictions and emulation rituals this is done by the Senior Warden at (Discretion of Worshipful Master) who is to help the Worshipful Master in governing the Lodge attends to this function. This is the case in Grand Lodge communication the Senior Grand Warden is reported to for entering and retiring.

All votes (exception being for the election of candidates, members, or officers, or the granting of proficiency, advancement, transfers or demits, or the acceptance of charges) should be taken by a show of hands.

Minutes are "confirmed" by the Master after he is satisfied they are correct (Minutes are not moved "approved" by a vote of the membership); and no Lodge can be reduced into a "Committee of the Whole.

Reading and Confirming of Minutes – of last regular and all intervening communications. After the minutes of the last regular communication, begin with the oldest and work to the most recent individually, so that each set of minutes is confirmed on its own merits. The Master satisfies himself that the minutes are correct by asking if the Wardens or

any Brother about the Lodge knows of any errors or omissions. Hearing none, he declares those minutes confirmed as read. If errors or omissions are noted and the Master is satisfied that they should be included in the minutes, he directs they be included and Declares the minutes confirmed as corrected. A motion that the minutes be approved (or rejected or corrected) is out of order.

Reading of Communications – "Brother Secretary, are there any communications to be read?" At this time the Worshipful Master may also call for any bills to be read to the Lodge. This may be an appropriate time to dispose of the subject matters of the communications (letters, notices, etc.) and bills. The Secretary is to make sure all communications are read, or the lodge is made aware of them and can obtain a copy to read if they wish.

All official communication such as edicts and direction from the Grand Master or Grand Lodge shall be read in open lodge "no exceptions". It is not the duty of the Lodge Secretary to vet what communications is presented to the Lodge, and the Worshipful Master should receive a copy of all communications the Lodge receives.

Reports of Investigation Committee

This report is given as Favourable or Unfavourable, nothing else is to be said as to the committee's findings.

Second Reading of Petitions and Balloting – any petitions for which a committee report has been received should be balloted upon immediately. Balloting follows Masonic Ritual.

Reception of New Petitions – Petitions for the degrees, affiliation, reinstatement, etc. After reading, investigating committee(s) should be immediately appointed.

Reports of Committees request all reports. "Brother have you a report from the Committee?" After the report, open the floor for discussion and motions for any appropriate action. It is noted that many reports may be made verbally, however, this should be at the prerogative of the Worshipful Master if he wants a written report submitted.

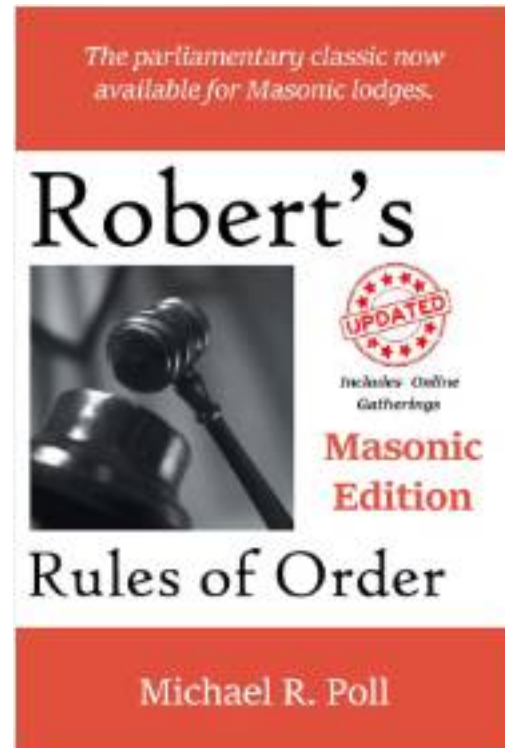
The Master should control (with wisdom) the business presented to the Lodge and, preferably, be informed before any matter is presented.

Business for the Good of the Order – “Has anyone any business for the good of the Order?” Announcements, thanks, remarks, sick reports, etc.). In our emulation Lodges this is usually left to the three risings of the Master before he closes Lodge.

Remarks from Brethren At this time the Master asks if any Brother has anything to bring before the Lodge. This is when Visitors give their remarks in most Nova Scotia Lodges. In Lodges operating Emulation Ritual and in some jurisdictions such remarks are given only at the Festive Board. If the DDGM, Grand Master, or Grand Master’s representative is present they should be the last to speak. After that the Worship Master should be the only one to speak and lead into closing the Lodge.

Ritualistic Closing – A lodge is never “recessed” or “adjourned”. The lodge is Called to Refreshment or Closed at the prerogative of the Worshipful Master. A motion to adjourn or close is out-of-order.

*James Logan
Grand Lecturer.*



MILLENNIAL APPRENTICES DATA

BY SAMUEL FRIEDMAN

The millennial population of the USA currently stands at 75 million people and is expected to reach 81 million in 2036. Both generations [millennials and baby boomers] account for over a quarter of the nation. As millennials come of age, American society is poised to change once again to the beat of its largest cohort of citizens. Freemasonry has a potential to be on the cutting edge of this wave of change. Many facets of American culture are already beginning to mark this transition with new products, philosophies, and outreach measures. [...]

If we believe that attracting millennials is important to the future of the Craft, then it is important that we all understand what makes our target audience stick. An old business axiom states “If you’re marketing to everybody, you’re marketing to nobody.” A basic understanding of millennial traits and a willingness to enhance already existing Masonic principles and structures can lead to a boom of growth among this newest cohort of American men. [...]

A common expression used among Masons to describe the fraternity to outsiders is that “Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality, veiled and allegory and illustrated by symbols.” [...] In a recent poll, 46% of millennial Mason surveyed said that they had joined Freemasonry because they were searching for either personal or spiritual knowledge. The words “esoteric” and “education” were used many times in the responses from this group.

In contrast, regardless of age, creed, or race, only 29% of the respondents claimed to have joined Freemasonry to experience a brotherhood and universal fellowship. Only 11% of those respondents were drawn to Freemasonry because of its history and only 12% were drawn to the Craft because of our charitable works or community activism.

It is safe to infer that Lodges that guide its younger Brothers through varied and interesting educational opportunities will see millennial Masons come to the door in droves.

(Excerpted from, Samuel Friedman, Millennial Apprentices: The Next Revolution in Freemasonry. (©2015, by Samuel Friedman), pp. 64, 66, 72.)

THE "MASONIC CON"

Does the mere mention of "Masonic Education" still get an eye roll in your Lodge. That is a real shame if that is the case. But the tide is shifting. In most jurisdictions - and I would like to think ours included - Masonic attitudes are more understanding that men walking through our doors are searching for more than camaraderie, fund raising, and social events. (Not that those are unimportant.) But they are in a small minority. Education and spirituality rank high among polled Masons.

What are we doing at the Lodge level to keep our members engaged; and most importantly, learning? These are important questions.

Since the mid-20th century, English speaking Freemasonry's educational ideal was abandoned. But, since the turn of this 21st century, there has been a resounding crescendo of demand for return to that ideal as well as Masonic excellence.

The Observant Movement has helped usher in a new level of attention to detail in Lodges like never seen before; and from then, more internal Masonic education began to grow. From those Observant creative grass-roots, Masonic Conventions (or Masonic Cons as they are known) were born. They have been bursting forth all across the USA and, more recently, in Canada as well. **(The first in Hamilton, Ontario May/04/2024.)**

In 1717, a group of scholarly Masons gathered to promote and create the Premier Grand Lodge of England, with the hope that fraternal bonds, philosophy and education could be freely learned, debated and discussed. They were the Renaissance Men of their time; and today, many Masons are flexing their own intellectual might with educational podcasts, degree classes, esoteric social media, lectures, books, magazines—and the biggest flex of them all, Masonic Conventions—also known as Masonic Cons!

Masonic Con has come to be a brand; it stands for quality speakers, engaging conversations, and cross-jurisdictional bonding. Brothers who attend Masonic Cons often refer to them as changing their view on what Masonry is and opening their minds to explore

deeper. Most importantly, brothers take a piece of their Masonic Con experience back to their home Lodges and share the knowledge they gained from the speakers and other brothers they met. For close to a decade now, (the first in Attleboro, Massachusetts, April 2016), a surge of day-long, and some three-day-long Masonic Cons, give credence to a renewed form of Masonic education - an exciting venture that also includes social gatherings, seven course dinners, cool music, hip panels, pop culture and festive boards.

What is really interesting is that Masonic Cons are not created, organized or endorsed by Grand Lodges. They are created by the Lodges themselves.

Masonic Cons are excellent destination experiences that bring brothers of the Craft together under the umbrella of enlightenment that leaves such an impression on Masons that empowers them, at the very least, to expand their own light; and often to bring that fire back to their own Lodges.

Upcoming Masonic Cons

2024

July 27 - Kansas City, Kansas

Aug 2&3 - Fort Worth, Texas

Oct 4 -6 - Attleboro, Massachusetts

2025

Jan 17&18 - Cooperstown, New York

Mar - Burlington, Ontario

Apr 25&26 - Great Falls, Montana

Jun 14 - 16 - Manassas, Virginia

July - South Pasadena, California

Aug - Greensboro, North Carolina

Sept - Chicago, Illinois

*Leigh MacConnell
(Ionic #73 & Sophia Perennis #139)*

WHAT CAME YOU HERE TO DO? PART TWO

What Came You Here To Do?
(Part 2 of 2)

(With Permission - November 20, 2018 – Stated Communication, Lexington Lodge No. 1 Andrew Hammer, PM, Alexandria Washington No. 11, Secretary, Fiat Lux 1717, Washington, D.C., and President, Masonic Restoration Foundation.)

Clearly, we are not just talking about simple goodness, but rather an attempt to surpass, or rise out from ourselves as we were, to make ourselves something more than we have been in every respect. It cannot be just getting out of it what we put in, or we will have ended up with nothing more than what we started out with. That means that we will have never moved beyond the question of what we came to the Craft to do. Sadly, many Masons seek to get out of the Craft only what they wish to put in, and despite physically moving through the degrees, they have never truly advanced beyond the door of the Lodge to understand the business in which they are meant to be engaged.

Masonry calls us to excellence, or what one might specifically refer to as the perfection of the stones with which we work. To excel means to surpass someone or something, to be better than we have been, in a particular quality or action. The pursuit of excellence in every aspect of your life is what it means to observe the Craft. That means seeking more out of yourself, and consequently seeking more out of the Craft than you might have originally done. It means a continual effort at self-development and lifelong learning.

But how do we relate this demand for excellence to that man who will agree to surpass himself? We start by understanding that Freemasonry, unlike other social endeavours, is not for everyone, and should never be offered as such.

Masonry is and was always intended to be an initiatic organization that an individual must seek to join. He does so not out of necessity or hope of material benefits, but out of an inner calling to

greater intellectual and spiritual light. Then after he makes that choice, he must in turn be chosen by others who agree to admit him into their assemblies. In such an environment, the nature of such an individual far outweighs the number of men knocking at our doors. Quality of character far outweighs quantity of candidates, and less is more. While the idea that fewer men should become Masons might be utterly baffling to some brothers, the idea is not so difficult to understand.

In many corners of the Craft it is thought that more men need to be convinced to become Masons in order to save dying Lodges, or because some brothers are looking at the Craft in the same way that they might look at any other commercial enterprise. They relate numerical decline - for whatever reason, even if it be the natural result of a decline in population growth - to failure.

The fundamental problem with such a viewpoint is that Freemasonry is not just another commodity to be bought and sold. To be fair, the selling of degrees to all comers was a practice that affected the Craft from the very beginning of speculative Masonry. At the turn of the 18th century, so-called 'Masons' could be made instantly, in dockyard pubs, merely by paying a nominal fee.

But what is significant to point out about that fact, is that it was perceived to be such an unacceptable situation that it was one of the motivations for the creation of the Grand Lodge in 1717. In that moment, which was the first codification of Freemasonry as we know it today, reputable brothers saw the indiscriminate mongering of Masonic initiations as a problem and took steps to correct it. Imagine what those brethren might think of the billboards and television advertisements found in some places today, which openly solicit men to become Masons, to do what they have not yet arrived to do of their own free will and accord.

Are such efforts today any different than the efforts of those who attempted to sell Masonry so long ago?

William Preston's response in 1772 was stern and uncompromising, and could just as well have been written today:

"It is an obvious truth, that the privileges of Masonry have long been prostituted for unworthy considerations, and hence their good effects have been less conspicuous. Many have enrolled their names in our records for the mere purposes of conviviality, without inquiring into the nature of the particular engagements to which they are subjected by becoming Masons. Several have been prompted by motives of interest, and many introduced to gratify an idle curiosity, or to please as joy companions. A general odium, or at least a careless indifference, must be the result of such conduct. But the evil stops not here. Persons of this description, ignorant of the true nature of the institution, probably without any real defect in their own morals, are induced to recommend others of the same cast to join the society for the same purpose. Hence the true knowledge of the art decreases with the increase of its members [emphasis mine], and the most valuable part of the institution is turned into ridicule..."

The very essence of membership in the Craft is not about bringing people in, for whatever reason. The essence of membership in the Craft is that it must be sought.

Not only should not every man be a Mason, but not even every good man should be a Mason, any more than he should be an airline pilot, doctor or mechanic. Only the man who knocks in earnest, in full knowledge of both the risk that he may be rejected, and yet proceeds anyway because the search for light is that important to him - only such a man is one who should become a Mason.

Why? Because such a man will understand that as with all things worth doing or having, the 'true knowledge of the art' takes time and cannot be achieved in a day. It requires a sincere pledge of time and effort.

Men who should be Masons will make time for the Craft. A man who 'hasn't time' to make that commitment is a man who, no matter how fine he may otherwise be, is not ready to become a

Mason, nor should we want him to. The Craft must not change its principles, methods or techniques to descend to take all men at all costs, especially those who have told us that they do not have the time for it.

Consider a plumber, carpenter or electrician. If he was in a hurry looking for a quicker way to do the job, not because he is looking for a better way to do it, or one which would provide savings to you, but simply because he hasn't time to do it the usual way, the way he should, would you hire him?

Then why would you bring a man with that attitude into the Craft? To do as little as possible as quickly as he can.

An undignified and undemanding approach to membership results in an undignified and undemanding organization.

Again, the words of William Preston:

"Many are deluded by the vague supposition, that our mysteries are merely nominal; that the practices established amongst us are frivolous; and that our ceremonies may be adopted or waived at pleasure."

Too many brethren are hurried through the degrees and become a "Master Mason" without the benefit of understanding what the degrees mean, what they were to learn, or how to go about improving themselves. They accept offices and government of the Lodge without learning the meaning, significance or ritual of the office, and even not always showing up, and don't know the regulations and constitution of the institution they pretend to support.

The consequence is obvious. They live in darkness despite the light.

We did not join Freemasonry to remain in ignorance. Freemasonry was never intended, and cannot be allowed, to keep good men ordinary.

*Submitted by Leigh MacConnell
(member Ionic #73 and Sophia Perennis #139)*

OUR PAST GRAND MASTERS



Most Worshipful Brother William Medford Christie

Grand Master 1912 – 1915

**October 18, 1851 – October 27,
1923**

Lodge: Welsford Lodge #26

M. W. Bro. William Medford Christie, K.C. was Grand Master from 1912 to 1915 and was, therefore, in office when the First World War began. He was a member and Past Master of Welsford Lodge No.26. In 1905 he was elected Senior Grand Warden, and in 1912, Grand Master. As a resident of Windsor, he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home. He gave generously of his time and abilities to the promotion of Freemasonry in general. He died in 1923 at the age of seventy-two.



What is significance of the sheaf of corn?

The Masonic Sheaf of Corn, in King Solomon's day, represented part of the wages reaped from the Master Masons' labors.

Today, it is used as a symbol of that time, long ago, mostly during the dedication, constitution and consecration of a new lodge and in the laying of cornerstones. At those times, the Masonic Sheaf of Corn represents the fruit of our labors, our sacrifices and all we have done to deserve them.

The "Plenty" of the Harvest: Corn, wine and oil have been associated with "the Harvest" and "the Plenty" since King Solomon's time...and before.

Masonic Wages: When King Solomon requested of King Tyre the wood (cedar, fir and alnum) which came from Lebanon, for which to build the Temple (Chronicles 2: 8), he promised payment of wheat, barley, wine and oil (Chronicles 2:10).

Masonic Charity: The Masonic Sheaf of Corn represents charity to the less fortunate, as in these excerpts from the Bible.

"When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands." (Deuteronomy 24: 19)

Sheaf of Corn: The Sheaf of Corn represented the "coin of the realm" to our ancient brethren, the people of Israel. While we are paid in dollars and cents, today,... corn, wine and oil were the wages of the fruits of their labors. Most Masonic scholars believe that the Masonic Sheaf of Corn in our Masonic ritual actually represents the more generic term, meaning "grain", in general. This is why you sometimes hear mention of the Masonic Sheaf of Wheat, the Masonic Sheaf of Barley or the Masonic Sheaf of Grain used somewhat interchangeably.

IN AND AROUND THE JURISDICTION



On Monday 3rd June 2024 the members of Truro Lodge # 43 Masonic Lodge, Bible Hill, N. S. presented cheques of \$7,000.00 ea. to recipients of (A) The Colchester East Hants Hospice Society, accepted by, C. E. O., Ms. Stacey HARRISON. (B) Colchester County Food Bank, accepted by C. E. O., Ms. Shelly DEVILLER, & (C) Special Olympics Cobequid, accepted by Coach, Mr. Terry FREELAND, who was accompanied by Olympians: Stephanie, a pentathlon, Brianna, a swimmer & Danny, a pentathlon. V. W. Bro. Adam OGILVIE, Master of Truro 43, & R. W. Bro. Barry STONE, District Deputy Grand Master, & several brothers of the lodge attended the presentations. This funding was made possible through the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia & Truro Lodge # 43.



Learning Center for Children Charity Golf. July 9th. Another big turn out.





Passing on the Travelling Gavel to the Worshipful Master of Equity Lodge. June 17, 2024.



Recently myself ([Mike Blackburn](#)) and RWBRO Phil Randall presented a \$1500 cheque from Wentworth Lodge #108 and Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia to Captain Doug Chase who is the Commanding Officer for RCSCC Iroquois 339 Sea Cadet band.

The money goes toward repairs or new instrument purchase. This is the units 25 year Anniversary and we have given them funds from day one I believe. Very happy and proud to help them out



Every year the Freemasons of Kings District select a worthy project that they wish to participate in and support for the good of the community. For the past several years they have selected "The School Breakfast Program". These Masons have entered into a Shared Funding Program with the Nova Scotia Masonic Charitable Foundation and cooperatively have procured a \$4000.00 gift in support of this project. Shown in the attached photo, is the occasion of the presentation of the check payable in support of the Program. Those present from left to right;

Very Worshipful Brother Craig MacMullen - District Grand Chaplain (Kings), Parker Wood, John Fagan, Scailet Schofield, Jasper Pound, Sherrie Goss - Principal, Coldbrook District School, and Right Worshipful Brother Reginald Jodrie - District Deputy Grand Master (Kings).

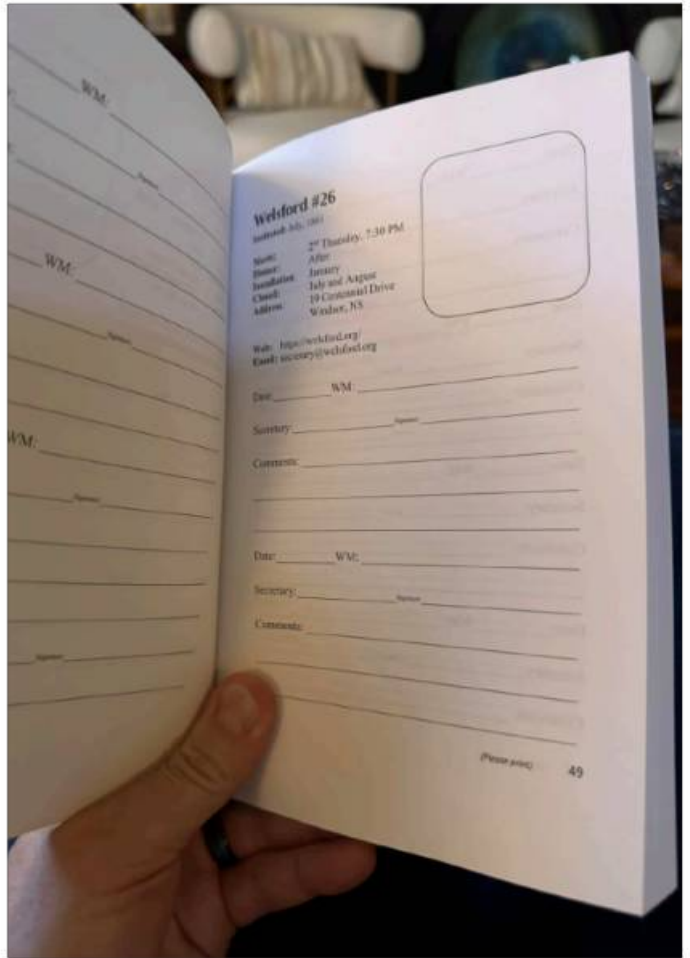
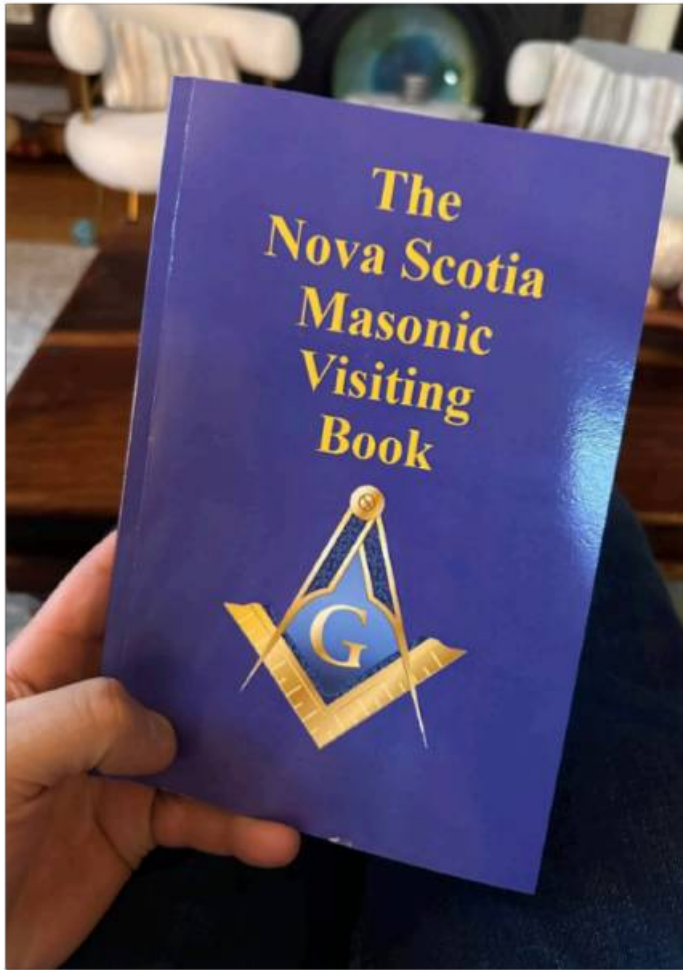


Wentworth Lodge #108 held an Emerg. Meeting to do a Fellow Craft Degree for Brothers Matthew Lobnes, Jonte Bowser and Michael Dolphin last night (July 11/2024) .

.Before the degree, the three Brothers also did a great job on their 1st Degree 2 & A's. We called upon Brother Leo Halal of John Albro Lodge #122 to do the Middle Chamber lecture and he did an excellent job.

We want to congratulate our new Fellow Crafts and thank all the Brothers who were a part of this Degree and Brother Halal for his time and effort to do that Middle Chamber lecture.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the fall



This travel record can be purchased through the Grand Lodge office or Amazon. A great way to record your Masonic visitations through Nova Scotia!



A little cold and wet but we were there.

*St. John's Lodge No. 2, A.F. & A.M. June 2024
Regular Communication*

Our regular communication was enriched by the Grand Lecturer's captivating discourse on King Solomon's temple, a moment of profound reflection. Additionally, the DDGM bestowed Past Master's certificates upon deserving Lodge members, honoring their dedication to the craft. Welcoming a new Brother further adorned the evening, marking it as a cherished milestone in our storied history!



Brother Reg Darroch was presented with his 65 year bar yesterday by Deputy Grand Master Frank Gammell from Western Star Lodge of Westville in his home in Stellarton. In the photo from the left is IPM Hugh Palmer, DGM Frank Gammell, Brother Reg Darroch and WM Cameron Mackenzie. Reg celebrated his 100th birthday on July 5. Congratulations Reg!

