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# From the rough ashlar

by MW Bro. William Unrau

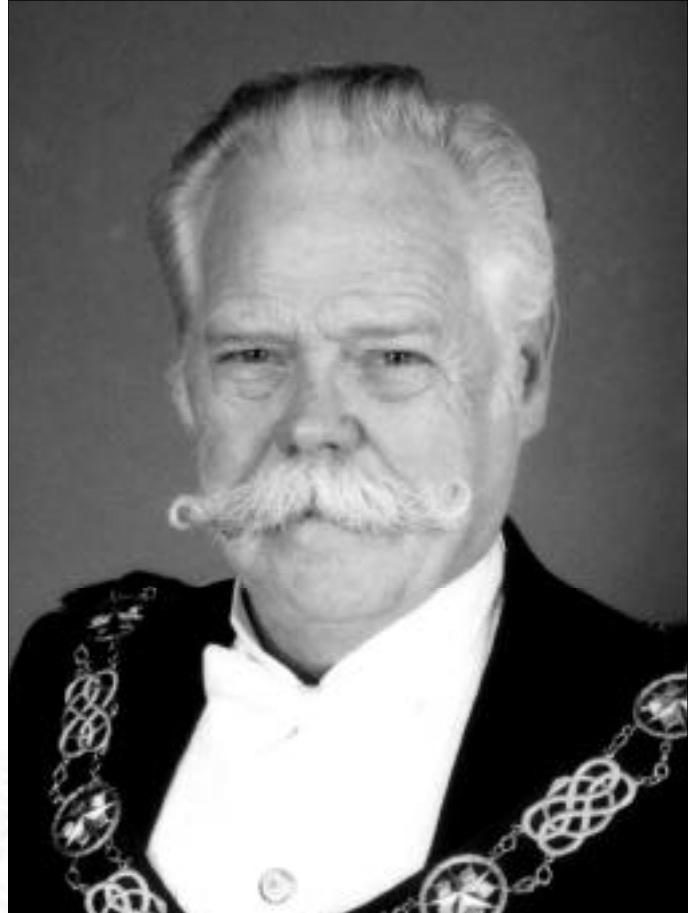
## The journey from the Rough Ashlar to the Perfect Ashlar

I stand before you today, humbled by the honour you have bestowed upon me in electing me your Grand Master, and, together with your Grand Lodge officers, committed and determined to face the challenges that must be dealt with to further develop this organization that we all love and cherish. My theme, "The Journey from the Rough Ashlar to the Perfect Ashlar", involves making ourselves and our communities better places, both for your lodge in general, and for individual brethren in particular.

It is a journey of challenges. It is a journey about change. And this change challenges all of us to grow and to adapt. Change is not something for us to fear or to resist. By embracing and promoting positive change we can learn more about who we are and what we can accomplish.

We can make a difference by improving ourselves and by enriching our community. I ask you to join me in this journey.

We have, in Grand Lodge, allowed ourselves to become too complacent, and we must re-dedicate ourselves to continue this journey from the Rough Ashlar to the Perfect Ashlar. The world around us is changing at an accelerating pace. Our choice is simple. Adapt and thrive or fall behind. We face today, at this moment, very serious challenges. And we must face them squarely, with proper long-term planning and a determination to meet them. They stem from a perceived irrelevance of this organization and the contributions of its members. The result is an ever-aging and, unfortunately, shrinking membership. To survive we must adapt, we must embrace change, and we must immediately be seen by our community to be a relevant force of leadership in our society.



MWBro. William Unrau, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

And we must not waste one single minute in taking the steps to do so. So how will your Grand Lodge go about this? Certainly not without your help and support.

Firstly, commencing immediately, we will begin an aggressive campaign to promote the good works of Freemasonry throughout the communities of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Secondly, we will, immediately, take steps to examine and to reduce all Grand Lodge expenditures. We will reduce the *per capita*. We will make

Grand Lodge more efficient. Look at the example of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. They have reduced their *per capita* each year for the past four years. If they can accomplish this, so can we. We must. And we will. Count on it.

Thirdly, on the other side of the ledger, we will increase our fund-raising and we will immediately develop a fund-raising strategy to grow the financial capabilities of Grand Lodge.

Fourthly, we will immedi-  
**continued on page 2**



VOLUME 68 / NUMBER 1

EDITED by Trevor W. McKeown for the Grand Secretary's Office and published by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia and Yukon. The VIEWS AND OPINIONS expressed in the *Masonic Bulletin* are those of the individual authors and writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. CORRESPONDENCE: 1495 West Eighth Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6H 1C9 Canada. WEB: <http://freemasonry.bcy.ca> TELEPHONE: +1-604-736-8941. FACSIMILE: +1-604-736-5097. EMAIL: [editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca](mailto:editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca)

## From our Grand Master from page one

ately take steps to promote greater public contribution to our Capital Funds thereby enabling our masonic charities to better assist our communities.

Finally, we will immediately take steps to encourage freemasons to become involved in volunteering with youth activities throughout this jurisdiction.

These are attainable and measurable goals by which you may judge your Grand Lodge.

Your Grand Lodge intends to continue the initiative established by our recent Grand Masters: MW Bro. John T. Harper (2000-2001) "Building Through Participation"; MW Bro. James C. Gordon 2001-2002) "Positive Thinking Freemasonry"; MW Bro. William O. Walls 2002-2003) "Actions Speak Louder than Words"; and MW Bro. C. William Ferguson (2003-2004) "Lets Get to Work".

I challenge you, and state in 2004: now is the time for action. We continue to develop and restructure the Board of General Purposes as an effective and operational body to ensure continuity in the governance of Grand Lodge. It is essential for our future that we do so.

We will also continue our commitment of strengthening the entire masonic family and work more closely with our concordant masonic bodies as they are what make up the wonderful, unique fabric of

Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction.

On behalf of the elected and appointed officers of your Grand Lodge and I really mean, *your* Grand Lodge, let me assure you of our commitment and our determination to travel on this journey from the Rough Ashlar to the Perfect Ashlar.

We are in a wonderful time of trials and tribulations, looking for help. The help we are looking for is in one word: change.

As a positive thinker I have never looked at a glass as half empty, always half full; never seen an obstacle that could not be used as a stepping-stone for something better or a challenge to try to make a change.

Together, with your help, we can, and will, make Freemasonry more relevant in our communities and more relevant in our lodges. We will increase the growth of the organization as a vital and effective leader in our community. It is our commitment to you. Count on it.

To the brethren of Salmon Arm, we all thank you for making this such a successful Grand Communication. We appreciate the difficulties you faced in arranging the facilities and accommodation and, with some minor changes, you were successful.

Brethren of our jurisdiction: we thank you so much for your attendance here. It sincerely helps in the making and governing of this Grand Lodge of ours so successful.

To the visitors: we have enjoyed your presence and we hope you have had a pleasant time with us. Our next Annual Communication will be in Penticton, BC in June 2005 and we wish you to bless us with your presence at that time also.

To the retiring officers and committee members of 2003-2004: thank you for your loyal work towards making this jurisdiction what it is respected for; and for what it is.

To the new appointed

officers: we thank you for accepting this challenge.

We are sure you will not regret the support we are asking of you and we know we will be successful. Again my brethren I ask you to join me in this journey—"Now Is The Time For Action!"

## Lodge notes

This summer the brethren of **Rainbow Lodge No. 180** used their chuckwagon at a local baseball tourney, raising some \$200 to be donated to local sports. They then made an additional donation of \$500 to the Masonic Community Charities Fund to purchase fuel for the Cancer cars.

Once again, five deserving pupils of the five senior secondary schools in Maple Ridge have this year received bursaries of \$500 each from **Prince David Lodge No. 101**. This brings the total amount given by this lodge to students in Maple Ridge to over \$77,000 since the inception of the program in 1952.

On 22 April 2004. VW Bro. Fred Lefley and the officers of **Cumberland Lodge No. 26** were installed for the year 2004-2005. Two practices and one week later, on 29 April, they conferred the Fellow Craft degree on two candidates. W Bro. Les Routledge asks, "One for the *Guinness Book of Records*?"

**Far North Lodge No. 199**, Inuvik, on the registry of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, was constituted and consecrated under the direction of MW Bro. Rod Ponech on 3 July 2004.

Delegates began arriving by air from Alberta on 1 July 2004 while other delegates and friends arrived by road, having traveled the Dempster Highway which was in excellent driving condition with the exception of a few rough spots and lots of dust. Local sightseeing and a barbeque hosted by Far North

Lodge UD entertained the visitors, with a flightseeing trip to Tuktoyaktuk being very popular.

The majority of the delegates were from Alberta with Saskatchewan also represented. BC and Yukon delegates came from Kitimat, Prince George, Kamloops, Canoe, Whitehorse and Dawson City.

## Ideal masons

We in the Kootenays are proud to have amongst us two brethren who exemplify the true meaning of Freemasonry.

They are RW Bro. Bruce Morrison of **Nelson lodge No. 23** who was elected Citizen of the Year in the city of Nelson and RW Bro Bruce Hadley of **Corinthian Lodge No. 27**, Rossland.

This past May the Knights of Columbus honoured RW Bro. Hadley for his volunteer service with Meals on Wheels, the Trail Public Library and Girl Guides, and as Associate Bethel Guardian for Job's Daughters Bethel No. 4 in Trail, the group that nominated him for Trail-Warfield Citizen of the Year award.

We congratulate these brethren on their awards.

*Submitted by Bro Gary Lelliott  
JW of Sentinel Lodge No. 146*

## Centennial

**Columbia Lodge No. 38** was founded 100 years ago in the Columbia Valley. Over the past year, this group of freemasons has been celebrating this unique milestone in their history. The contributions of the founding members were acknowledged through historical displays at the lodgehall and at the museum. Ranchers, steamboat captains, businessmen and even a Lieutenant Governor made up the early members of this lodge, an indication of the



W Bro. Palmer Cox

depth of interest, commitment and tradition generated by the brothers of that early era. The year of celebration was marked with many lodge activities including the reënactment of the first lodge meeting, a golf tournament and a barbeque and pig roast. During the year Columbia Lodge No. 38 was honoured to receive two Grand Masters of our jurisdiction: on 10 May 2003 MW Bro. William O. Walls (2002-2003) joined 150 members, wives, widows, and special guests at a Gala Ball to celebrate their anniversary. Then, on 11 October 2003 the lodge welcomed MW Bro. C. William Ferguson on his official visit to District 8. ■

## Chaplain's corner

by RW Bro. Ian Paton, Grand Chaplain

Many of us have heard or read the *Salutation of the Dawn*, a poem fragment attributed to the fifth century BCE Vedic playwright, Mahakavi Kālidāsa:

"Listen to the salutation of the dawn. Look well to this day, for it is life. The very life of life. In its brief passage lie all the realities and varieties of our existence: the bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendor of beauty. For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well therefore to this day."

These old Sanskrit writings have no doubt inspired countless numbers of troubled people over the centuries.

They don't mention the fact however that for most of us there are many days when it is awful hard to "look well to this day."

There are for all of us many yesterdays that are not dreams of happiness and there will no

doubt be tomorrows that will not be visions of hope.

These are the days when we must recall that peculiar evening in our masonic careers when we knelt between two great pillars, poor and penniless, neither naked nor clothed, neither barefoot nor shod. We were asked one very simple question—In times of difficulty in whom do you place your trust? On bad days—and good days—let us remember the answer we gave and rejoice in the knowledge that we don't face any of our days alone. ■

## Guide dogs

Our Grand Lodge continues its support of the BC Guide Dog Services. Our first sponsored dog, Hiram, continues in his puppy-raising programme, while we now have a second Labrador and Golden Retriever cross puppy named Jephthah. ■

## The Queen

It has been the general—but not universal—practice in this jurisdiction for the toastmaster at our festive boards to rise and propose a toast "to the Queen and the Craft." Brethren who have taken the time to review our *Lodge Officers Guide* will discover that the toast is listed simply as "the Queen" although later noted as the Loyal Toast "The Queen and the Craft."

It is a curious anomaly—and a topic of some controversy—that the non-masonic protocol for the toast is simply, "The Queen" while the masonic practice of toasting "The Queen and the Craft" (or "The King and the Craft") dates back to Anderson's *Constitutions* of 1738 in which he cited the toast proposed at the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Banqueting Hall at Whitehall in 1607.

In 1911 E. Letchworth, UGLE Grand Secretary, sent a letter to the English lodges in

which he wrote: "there are some who think that it would be more loyal to make the first toast "The King" in the ordinary manner instead of coupling His Majesty's name with the Craft. This view, no doubt, results from a prevalent misapprehension as to the origin and meaning of the toast "King and Craft".

He goes on to say: "the real significance of the toast is that loyalty to the King is an essential principle of Freemasonry. The Pro Grand Master has been asked by many brethren to give a ruling as to the proper form of the toast, but he does not feel justified in interfering with the discretion of Masters of lodges in that which appertains to the convivial part of Freemasonry. The Pro Grand Master... hopes that the ancient form of toast "King and Craft" will be generally retained."

In some lodges and in some jurisdictions in countries of the Commonwealth the first toast is to "The Queen", followed by the singing of God Save the Queen. The second toast is to the Grand Master.

So, which practice is correct for freemasons in this jurisdiction? As in all matters not determined by *Grand Lodge Constitutions* or lodge by-laws, the decision is the Worshipful Master's to make. ■

## One opinion

**FREEMASONS**, *n.* An order with secret rites, grotesque ceremonies and fantastic costumes, which, originating in the reign of Charles II, among working artisans of London, has been joined successively by the dead of past centuries in unbroken retrogression until now it embraces all the generations of man on the hither side of Adam and is drumming up distinguished recruits among the pre-Creational inhabitants of Chaos and Formless Void.



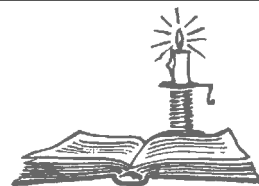
The Committee on the Appointment of Grand Secretary invites suitably qualified brethren interested in applying for the position of Grand Secretary to submit résumés to our Grand Lodge Office, 1495 West Eighth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1C9. The position will require a daily attendance at the Grand Lodge offices, Monday through Friday and will provide a suitable honorarium.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.

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*The Library at Grand Lodge*

The order was founded at different times by Charlemagne, Julius Cæsar, Cyrus, Solomon, Zoroaster, Confucius, Thothmes, and Buddha. Its emblems and symbols have been found in the Catacombs of Paris and Rome, on the stones of the Parthenon and the Chinese Great Wall, among the temples of Karnak and Palmyra and in the Egyptian Pyramids—always by a freemason. ■

*Ambrose Bierce. The Devil's Dictionary. The World Publishing Company: Cleveland and New York. 1941. p. 108.*

## Medical Research

by Bro. Ronald P. Kamp

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory's history dates back to 1947 when the Masonic Grand Lodge of New York created the Masonic Foundation for Medical Research and Human Welfare, a not for profit corporation. Over the next seven years, the fraternity raised and the Foundation allocated nearly \$1.5 million to research programs at various institutions dedicated to the elimination of rheumatic fever. Encouraged by their success in raising funds and in making a significant contribution to the eradication of this dreaded disease, the fraternity sought a new challenge. In 1954, a decision was made by the Grand Lodge of New York to build and equip a medical laboratory that would carry the mantle of Freemasonry and be supported by the masonic fraternity. It was dedicated on the grounds of the Masonic Home in Utica, NY in 1958.

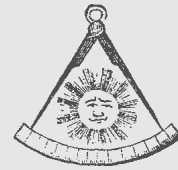
From those humble beginnings, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory has developed into a world renowned research centre, especially in the area of experimental cardiology. The chief sources of extramural support

include the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Heart Association (AHA). Findings generated by the research programs at the Laboratory are published in the finest medical peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals worldwide.

The laboratory has played and continues to play a prominent rôle in providing valuable insight into many of the medical problems that afflict humankind. The laboratory's achievements include research findings that have helped to form the foundation for the modern day practice of cardiology worldwide. Its scientific work in the field of experimental cardiology has received seven international awards within the last three years, an achievement that is unprecedented for an institute of its size.

Other major areas of concentration are studies designed to probe the basis for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The specific causes of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome have eluded scientists and physicians for many years. The first direct evidence linking SIDS to a congenital heart defect associated with a life-threatening abnormal heart rhythm appeared in the July 2000 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The report is the result of a collaboration between investigators at the University of Pavia in Pavia, Italy and the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.

Millions have benefited from the research conducted at the MMRL and at similar research facilities worldwide. The need to intensify support of medical research is undeniable if we acknowledge a responsibility to leave, as a legacy to our children and grandchildren the prospect for a healthier life, one free of pain and suffering that many of us have endured. It is our hope that dissemination of the laboratory's achievements will help foster pride in our



### GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY SEPTEMBER, 2004

|       |     |                                     |                      |                  |
|-------|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 4     | Sat | Melon Fest                          | Kettle Falls No. 130 | Kettle Falls, WA |
| 10    | Fri | Concordant Bodies Meeting, 10:00 am |                      | Vancouver        |
| 11    | Sat | Supreme                             | Job's Daughters      | Peace Arch Park  |
| 14    | Tue | Merit Award                         | St James No. 80      | White Rock       |
| 16-18 | Thu | Royal Arch                          | Grand Chapter        | Campbell River   |
| 18    | Sat | Presentation                        | Langley No. 184      | Langley          |
| 20    | Mon | GM Visit                            | Kirkland No. 150     | Kirkland, WA     |
| 22    | Wed | Presentation                        | Richmond No 142      | Richmond         |
| 23    | Thu |                                     | Lynden No. 56        | Lynden, WA       |
| 25    | Sat | Installation                        | Tsawwassen No. 185   | Delta            |
| 28    | Tue | Blighty Night                       | Comox No. 188        | Comox            |

great fraternity and makes the light of Masonry shine brighter than ever before. ■

*Reprinted from The Short Talk Bulletin, published monthly by the Masonic Service Association of North America in Silver Spring, Maryland.*

## One day masons

This October the state of Pennsylvania will hold a "Super Bowl of Freemasonry" where they hope to initiate, pass and raise 10,000 candidates in a thirteen-city-wide one-day class. According to a recent survey by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, over 10,000 new freemasons were raised in one-day classes in 2002. Today more than 60% of Ohio lodges have officers who joined through one-day classes. ■

## Royal Arch

HRH The Duke of Kent (MW The Grand Master), during his address to Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication, 10 March 2004, thanked the Strategic Working Party, set up by the Pro Grand Master (The Marquess of Northampton), for their hard work on the proposed revisions to Royal Arch and that Grand Lodge had

already taken a historic step by adding a paragraph to the '1813 Declaration'.

He continued by stating that, this allows us to recognise, formally, that the Royal Arch is a separate order of freemasonry and will strengthen the status of Supreme Grand Chapter without affecting the relationship of the Royal Arch to the Craft.

"I know that some of you have expressed concern that this change may tend to weaken those historic ties but I want very strongly to endorse the phrase used by the Pro Grand Master in his speech last September, when he emphasized that the Royal Arch is to remain 'indissolubly linked to the Craft'."

"There is no compromise here, brethren: that bond is to remain as strong and as close as ever and the Royal Arch should be regarded by all as the important final step in pure Antient Freemasonry."

In conclusion The Grand Master [UGLE] remarked that that he would have more to say about the future of the Royal Arch at the Annual Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter. ■

*Reprinted from MQ the official magazine of the United Grand Lodge of England, April 2004, Issue 9.*