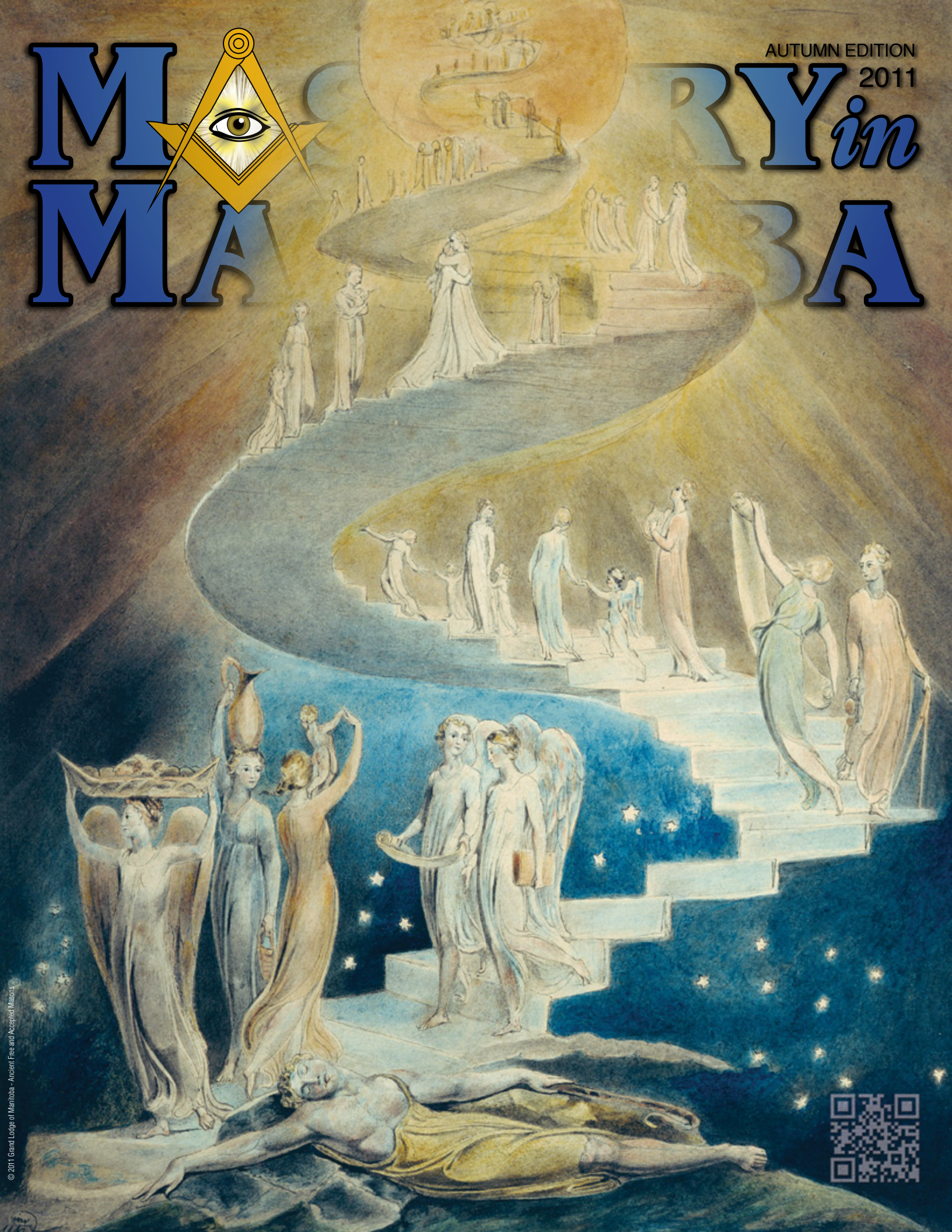


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AUTUMN EDITION  
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Our Autumn cover features “Jacob’s Dream”, the work of William Blake who was an eminent English poet and painter of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He is now considered a seminal figure in the development of the Romantic Age, indeed one contemporary art critic has proclaimed him as ‘far and away the greatest artist England has ever produced’. Certainly he is held in high regard by later critics for his expressiveness and creativity as well as the philosophical and mystical undercurrents displayed in his work.

Jacob’s Ladder of course is introduced in the Junior Warden’s lecture and serves to present the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity. This ladder with its symbol of moral and intellectual progress existed almost universally in antiquity and although the number of steps varied, the favourite seems to have been seven, reinforcing the mystical character given to that number. In the General Charge at installation the four cardinal virtues are added to these theological ones to achieve that sacred value.

Genesis relates how Jacob while travelling to Haren stopped for the night at a certain place and with a stone for his pillow lay down to sleep. He dreamed of a great ladder set upon the earth with its top reaching Heaven, with angels ascending and descending. And the Lord stood above it and He told Jacob: “*The land where thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.*” This place was the summit of Mount Moriah where Solomon would eventually build his Temple. It is also reported to be the rock from which Mohammed ascended into heaven and so is also sacred to Islam. Today the Dome of the Rock covers this ancient sacred site.

Initiation is a term originally used by the Romans to designate admission into the mysteries of their sacred and secret rites and today is applied to all of the rites of ancient times. These rites all fall under the general term ‘Ancient Mysteries’ and have ever pertained to the belief that man possesses an immortal spirit. To be most effective an initiation must make a significant emotional impression upon the candidate. In the EA Degree the left side is emphasized, which being connected to the right or feminine hemisphere of the brain reinforces the importance of emotion in this degree. One can scarcely compare the image of Jacob’s Ladder as portrayed on the EA Tracing Board to this virtual explosion of the Glory of the Lord, standing at the top of the ladder, the beauty of the angels ascending and descending and the impression of a direct line of contact and communication between man and his Creator.

As the Enlightenment swept through Europe starting in the 18th century, intellectuals began to distrust the traditional sources of authority and started to look at the power of human reasoning to understand the world and man’s place within it. The Church did not escape their scrutiny and what had previously been accepted on faith alone was now questioned. Certainly many of the claims were more believable if considered as an allegory as opposed to historical facts. Stating that the earth was at the centre of the solar system was Freemasonry’s way of challenging the established Church in Rome. Later, in the MM Degree we are admonished to ‘look beyond the narrow limits’ of all authority.

Blake’s works display a reverence for the Bible but an open hostility to organized religion, especially the Church of England. In his book “The Everlasting Gospel” Blake records these conflicting thoughts and beliefs:

## Masonry in Manitoba

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The vision of Christ that thou dost see  
Is my vision’s deepest enemy. . .  
Thine is the friend of all mankind,  
Mine speaks in parables to the blind. . .  
Thine loves the same world that mine hates,  
Thy Heaven doors are my Hell gates. . .  
Both read the Bible day and night  
But thou read’st black where I read white. . .  
Seeing this False Christ, In fury and passion  
I made my Voice heard all over the Nation. . .

*The lessons of virtue which proceed from the East...*

Brethren, I trust that you and your families had an excellent and enjoyable summer. Firstly, I thank you for entrusting to me the leadership of our Jurisdiction for this coming masonic year. Rest assured that I will do my best in representing and serving our beloved fraternity and jurisdiction.

Since our installation in June, the other Grand Lodge senior officers and I have been busy representing our masonic jurisdiction. Along with some of the B.G.P. committees, we have started planning for and working on some of our key initiatives. These include strategic planning, delivering masonic education by correspondence and online, optimal use of technology, review and rationalization of Grand Lodge organization and operations, enhanced engagement with the Canadian Cancer Society, and blood donation drive.

As lodge members, you know one of our collective objectives is to ensure that every brother has an enjoyable and fulfilling lodge experience. To help achieve this, it is important that lodges go back to and focus on the **basics**. These include the following: vigilance at the West Gate, effective masonic education and mentoring, excellent ritual and floor work (which will mean having practices), observing protocol, conducting efficient and interesting meetings, providing wonderful fellowship and social events for the brethren, ladies and families, and engaging in charity work. Each lodge should focus on what it is good at doing. From there, the lodge can start adding more basics to its focus list. In doing so, the brethren will hopefully enjoy being in the Craft, stay active in lodge and embrace Freemasonry as a way of life, thereby becoming exemplars of our fraternity. This might then encourage other good men to become interested in knocking at the doors of Freemasonry. You and I know that it will be great to have more good men accepted into lodges and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Brethren, I want to remind you that the amnesty program remains in effect until December 31, 2011. Call your lodge secretary or the Grand Lodge office for more information. Let us get those good men back into lodges so they can again share in the rights and benefits of Freemasonry.

I hope that you will be able to join me and the other Grand Lodge officers at some of the upcoming Grand Lodge events and visits. View the Grand Master's itinerary at the Grand Lodge website ([www.mbgrandlodge.com](http://www.mbgrandlodge.com)) or call your lodge secretary or the Grand Lodge office for information and details. The key events in the near term are:

- Sunday August 28, 1pm, Khartum Shrine Temple - Masonic Family Round-Up. Open to Masons, Ladies, families and friends.



- Thursday September 8th, to Sunday September 11th - Grand Master's Northern Trip. Open to Masons, Ladies, families and friends. Registration deadline is August 20.
- Monday September 12th, 6pm, Stony Mountain Masonic Temple - Amalgamation of Stonewall Lodge No. 12 and Stony Mountain Lodge No. 134.
- Monday September 19th, 7:30pm, Portage la Prairie - Official Visit to Assiniboine Lodge No. 7.
- Sunday September 25th, 10:30am, Knox United Church - Grand Master's Divine Worship. Regalia should be worn. Open to Masons, Ladies, families and friends.

Lastly, I invite you to read my blog (a blend of the term "web log") at <http://masonicjourney.blogspot.com/> for a chronicle of this chapter of my Masonic journey.

With sincere and warm fraternal regards,

Chibu Uson

"Freemasonry - a way of life" ∴

Autumn is probably one of the most pleasant seasons, the rush of the growing season is over and it is time to collect the fruits of our labours. September brings a breath of cool air, welcome relief from the oppressive heat of summer and the shorter days trigger one of nature's most spectacular displays, the scarlet and golden leaves of the deciduous trees which will in due time fall, enriching the soil for future generations. Such is the nature of the Grand Design and we are not immune to the great cycles of life, death and rebirth. This is all just a normal part of the Great Truth which Freemasonry was designed to convey.



In this issue we will publish the details of the awards presented by M.W. Bro. Kris at his 136th annual communication. We will also offer congratulations to those who will lead our fraternity over the next twelve months and beyond, in particular will look at some of the designs on M.W. Bro. Chibu's Tracing Board.

Yes, it is a time of beginnings, the birth of yet another cycle in the Grand Lodge's annual history and an opportunity to embrace and support their activities which we all hope will move our great fraternity forward.

It is becoming abundantly apparent that Freemasonry is currently enjoying the beginning of a cycle of renewed interest in the teachings of our ancient institution. We tend to consider 300 years as quite a long time, not realizing just how long man has entertained a recognition of his divine nature and the special relationship we share with our Creator.

Some of our ritual may trace its origins back to ancient Egypt, mirroring their Osirian rituals, but Egypt too was borrowing still older legends and myths.

Archaeologists have discovered the burial sites of the Neanderthal dating back some 40,000 years. They have concluded that their dead were laid to rest with some degree of reverence and tribute was paid by placing mounds of flowers over the body. They have also uncovered caves whose walls are virtually covered with extraordinary paintings of animals, men and various other symbols. This art dates back some 15,000 years and these caves are thought to be the sites of spiritual initiations of young hunters, an early *rite of passage* ceremony.

To better understand the natural world great megalithic structures were erected. These served to identify the solstice and equinox dates as mankind sought to better understand the complexities of the universe. Until recently we thought that Stonehenge was probably the most ancient of these structures but sites of a spiritual nature dating back roughly 11,000 years have been uncovered in

southern Turkey. Here primitive man, using only primitive flint tools carved huge T shaped limestone pillars in a stylized human form and covered them with bas-relief carvings of deadly creatures, scorpions, lions and wild boars to name only a few. With a total weight of up to 16 tons transporting them to the sacred site and standing them on end would have been quite an accomplishment! They were arranged in circles with two larger ones located in the centre.

We know now that this area is included in the Cradle of Civilization, which is much larger than originally thought. Initially it considered only the area between the Tigris and



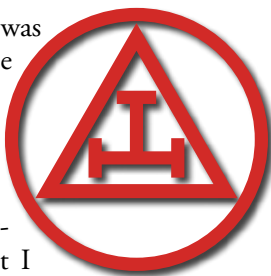
Euphrates Rivers, the area called Sumner, or present day Iraq but now it includes a vast crescent extending between the desert of Saudi Arabia in the South and the mountains of Turkey in the North, all the way to the Holy Land. Here architects have uncovered settlements dating back some 13,000 years. Like the people who built the Temples at Göbekli Tepe these people were still hunter/gatherers. The latest theory is that they gathered together, not as farmers but as a people with a common spiritual belief and that this was the catalyst which promoted the cultivation of crops and the domestication of animals which would ultimately lead to the beginning of civilization.

Over the ages these various beliefs became stabilized and recognized as a particular religion. In most cases they have continued to evolve. During the 14th to 16th centuries, during the period we call the Renaissance a belief developed, in which man had a higher destiny in terms of spiritual and temporal development. Speculative Freemasonry comes into existence during the period now referred to as the Enlightenment. Mankind was now searching for the Truth and questioned some beliefs that seemed improbable or impossible. During this period the philosophies of the late Renaissance were refined. It was believed that the underlying concept was to develop the mind, hence the emphasis on the art of memorization. This would be one of the means by which mankind hoped to evolve to a higher level of communication with and understanding of the Great Architect of the Universe. Our lodges were designed to provide a rarified or sacred space where men could meet and pursue their personal development, ultimately benefiting both themselves and society at large. ∴



## Royal Arch Masonry

I remember well the night I was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. My dad raised me and I raised my son Greg. I now realize how special this was for Brother Beattie Senior. It became increasingly apparent as the degree progressed that I was in harm's way but I felt somewhat assured that my Dad would not cause me any serious damage however I wasn't really sure, and then everything went black!



It was disappointing to discover that the genuine secrets of a Master Mason had been lost. I was surprised that the two kings would actually take that important secret to the grave but apparently they did. Other biblical stories reinforce just how seriously a promise made to the Creator was actually taken and so this is not really so unbelievable. Still it seemed that we should at least be looking for *that which was lost* but apparently we are not and in the almost 300 years since Speculative Freemasonry has been in existence we are no closer to uncovering this mystery. Slowly I came to the realization that this as well as the remainder of the story was an allegory but the loss of our secrets still bothered me.

Then some years later a brother explained that the lost secrets had indeed been discovered and they formed the foundation of one of the concordant bodies - the York Rite. At one time and in certain jurisdictions, this was included in the Craft Lodge but now is a separate body. Still this prompted the idea that one's Masonic experience could or should not be considered complete until it includes the lessons of the Holy Royal Arch. I was interested, listened intently to the remainder of his presentation and promptly submitted my petition. Let me explain some of the historical background to this intriguing revelation...

Solomon was King of Israel at the pinnacle of that country's history. He is remembered for his legendary wisdom and the magnificent Temple which he erected as a dwell-

ing place for the Jewish god Yahweh. He was the product of a legendary bloodline. His father, King David, was a part of the royal line beginning with Abraham and Isaac. Through his Mother, Bathsheba he inherited a genetic tie to Abraham's first son, Ishmael, born of his Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar. Following his death in 933 BCE unrest finally resulted in a rebellion, splitting the kingdom into two states, Judah in the North and Israel in the South.

Almost 400 years later all of Jerusalem, including the legendary Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE and its inhabitants were sent to exile in Babylon. There they would remain for seventy years, until Cyrus, King of Persia conquered the area. He believed that God had ordered him to free the Israelites and allow them to return to their homeland. There they would rebuild their Temple and once again practice their ancient rites although their sacred Ark of the Covenant was lost. There is much speculation as to where it may be today including an intriguing story of it having been spirited away to Ethiopia but the circumstances of this, the most sacred of all Jewish artifacts, remains unknown.

Although the Royal Arch ritual briefly studies the building of Solomon's Temple it is only to set the stage for the building of the Second Temple. There were three leaders in this endeavour: Zerrubabel, the Prince of the People, Haggai, the Prophet and Joshua, the son of Jozadak, the High Priest. The temple they would build would eventually be renovated by Herod who had captured Jerusalem and Judea in 37 BCE. His masons reused the massive foundation stones which undoubtedly were quarried for Solomon's Temple. They measured up to 40' long, weighed some 600 tons and bore the identifying marks of the original operative stone Masons. To completely crush the Maccabean revolt, the Romans would once again reduce Jerusalem to rubble in 70 CE. Today all that remains of these three magnificent temples is the Western Wall, known to the Jews as the Wailing Wall and regarded today as Judaism's most sacred site. Deep within the foundations of the original Temple, workmen stumbled across a sacred vault in which the three original Grand Masters had concealed that secret which by the untimely death of Hiram Abiff had been lost for so many years.

There are seven Royal Arch Chapters in Manitoba: Prince Rupert No. 1 located in Winnipeg, Keystone No. 2 in Portage la Prairie, Keystone No. 5 in Brandon, Raboni No. 7 in Dauphin, Prince of Wales No. 11 in Selkirk, Pre-Cambrian No. 17 in Flin Flon, and Red River Valley No. 22 in Starbuck. There is a "Grand" Chapter which assumes authority over these local Chapters. The principal officers are M.W. Companion Bill Cooper, the Grand First Principal, R.W. Companion Richard Laronde, the Grand Second Principal and R.W. Companion Garry Dunn, the Grand Third Principal. ∴



## Initiation

Initiation is the process by which an individual is separated from the masses, becoming a part of a select group to whom more critical information is made available. This is the nature of the study conducted by a serious student of Freemasonry.

There are many clues concealed within the ritual, clues that many of us never even look for. Some even deny that there is more to Freemasonry than the story relating to the building of the Temple at Jerusalem. To them it is merely a fraternity whose aim is to make good men better and to assist our widows and orphans, nothing more.

As every action in the EA Degree begins with the left hand, the actions obviously are intended to influence the right, the feminine or the emotional hemisphere of our brain. Initiation is intended to make a significant emotional impact upon the candidate, to change his life and the way he thinks about himself and his relationship with his Creator. Our ritual is designed to generate emotions such as feelings of tranquillity, ecstasy, security and awe. On rare occasions and given a proper set of circumstances one might even describe his mental state as one of *spiritual transcendence*.

Let's examine the words of W.L. Wilmshurst who was a mystic with a practical knowledge and a profound understanding of the various religions of the world. In his book *The Meaning of Masonry* he offers his profound thoughts about our Craft:

*"Masonry offers to those capable of appreciating it a working philosophy and a practical rule of life. It discloses to us the scheme of the universe. It indicates our place, our purpose and our destiny in that universe.*

*Let us be careful not to cheapen the order by failing to realize its meaning and by admitting to its ranks those who are unready or unfitted to understand its import.*

*Look to find in it a living philosophy, a vital guide upon those matters which of all others are the most sacred and the most urgent to our ultimate well-being. Realize that its secrets which are 'many and invaluable' are not upon the surface; that they are not those of the tongue, but of the heart; and that its mysteries are those eternal ones that treat the spirit rather than of the body of man.*

*For whosoever is carefully and deliberately 'squaring his stone' is fitting himself for the place in the 'intended structure' which though erected by ourselves, one day will become manifest of our clearer vision and will appear 'more like the work of the Great Architect of the Universe than that of human hands.'*

Perhaps we can whet your appetite for a search beyond the obvious! The initial prayer, offered on behalf of the candidate, kneeling in the West offers an exciting insight: **"Endue him with a competency of Thy Divine Wisdom, that assisted by our Masonic art he may better display the beauty of true godliness."** To understand how a mere

mortal could be enabled to display the beauty of godliness we have to look back in history to the writings of Hermes Trismegistus. Initially thought to be a contemporary of Moses, however Hermes' book *The Corpus Hermeticum* is now considered by most historians to have been written late in the 2nd century. Hermes Trismegistus is probably a fictional character, thought perhaps to be the most recent reincarnation of Thoth of Egypt and the Hermes of Greek mythology. This book however has had a tremendous impact upon Western esotericism and our understanding of the development of our culture. A short quote from that publication may give us an understanding as to why the 'Moderns' chose this particular wording for that prayer. **"If you do not make yourself equal to God, you cannot comprehend God. Leap clear of all that is corporeal and make yourself grow to a life expanse with that greatness which is beyond all measure; rise up above all time and become eternal...deem that you too are immortal and that you are able to grasp all things in your thought."**

We learn that our mysteries are concealed by symbols and revealed in allegory. Therefore within the ritual we need search not for the obvious but a hidden, concealed or implied connection to the story we need to discover. The method by which we approach the Altar is a multiplication of the numbers of Pythagoras' famous right angled triangle. Of course Pythagoras is an important figure in Freemasonry as his triangle forms the basis of the Past Master's Jewel. His discoveries in mathematics and geometry would have been tremendously important to those who plied the operative trade. As speculative Freemasons perhaps we should be more interested in his theory of the transmigration of the soul which of course implies that within our bodies there is a spark of divinity which is immortal. This concept greatly influenced the teachings of the great Plato whose work continues to influence man's understanding of his spiritual nature, even today.

Certainly there are many more clues but in keeping with tradition we will explore only three. Charity is mentioned in several different places but the lesson taught at the North East angle of the Lodge, often simply referred to as the Charity Lecture is one of the more powerful. It begins by having the candidate symbolically represent the foundation or cornerstone of the new Temple that he discovers he is beginning to build. Sooner or later he discovers that it will be patterned after the famous one built in Jerusalem by the wise King Solomon. Solomon's Temple had one main purpose and that was to be the earthly dwelling place for their God, Yahweh. The temple we all have supposedly begun to build has a similar role, to be the earthly dwelling place to house our Great Architect of the Universe, by whatever name we choose to use to identify Him or Her, depending upon our individual belief. Again we see the concept of a divine spark existing within our fragile tabernacles of clay.

Looking at the Entered Apprentice Degree along these concepts will prepare you for deeper and more profound lessons in the degrees to follow. ∴

## Union Historical Lodge No. 108

In 1987 Union Lodge No. 108 in Brookdale surrendered their Charter. The D.D.G.M. of the Second Masonic District, R.W. Bro. Alvin Hewitt dreamed of having their building moved to the Homesteaders Village site at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin thus ensuring that Freemasonry's part in settling our province would be recognized and remembered. The generosity of the Freemasons of Manitoba ensured that the building could actually be moved and restored to near original conditions. Drop siding, replacing the more modern lap siding, was installed and painted by a team of volunteers. They also cleaned and painted the interior of the Lodge room which featured beautifully stamped metal panels. A unique 'Square and Compasses' carpet, donated by Strathcona Lodge No. 117 in Belmont was laid on the floor. The building is now due for a fresh coat of paint, cedar shingles will soon replace the curling asphalt ones and with new fascia and soffitt it will once again look like it did in 1916 when the Lodge purchased it for \$470.00!

At an Emergent Meeting of the Grand Lodge, M.W. Bro.



Bruce Porter reconstituted Union Lodge as Union Historical Lodge No. 108 and installed the officers. It was unfortunate that R.W. Bro. Alvin Hewitt did not live long enough to see his dream realized but we are confident that he is

aware that he was posthumously named as the Immediate Past Master. The principal officers were M.W. Bro. Ken Turnbull as Worshipful Master, R.W. Bro. Roy McMillan as Senior Warden and W. Bro. Don Beattie as Junior Warden. And so Union Historical Lodge No. 108 was born. We meet twice yearly, on the last Friday of September and May. Dues, payable only once in a lifetime are \$50 and membership is open to any Freemason in any jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. To date we have a membership of 156 although some of them have passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

On Friday, May 27th, 2011 our semiannual meeting was conducted with R.W. Bro. Doug Atchison in the East. Bro. Doug is R.W. Bro. Alvin Hewitt's son-in-law. The electrical power had been disconnected for some service work and so there was no hydro available that evening. As the twilight slowly deepened, the lesser lights provided the only lumination in the Lodge Room and provided a warm glow on our proceedings.

As well the Lodge is normally open during the Thresherman's Reunion and each year literally thousands of visitors drop in for a visit. However to really experience Union Historical Lodge you have to attend a meeting, sit shoulder to shoulder with other men in a small sparsely furnished Lodge room and feel the age old appeal that our fraternity exerted and continues to exert on good men everywhere. ∴

## A Virtual Experience

*Excerpts from W. Bro. Nick Johnson's Blog*

"So I visited a lodge in Manitoba."

"Wow, Manitoba, isn't that like 8 hours from your house? When did you find the time?"

"Actually, I visited the lodge in the spare bedroom of my house."

"Wait, what?!"

I've had one of the most interesting Masonic experiences of my short time as a Freemason; I visited the virtual lodge, Castle Island Lodge U.D.

So what is a virtual lodge? A virtual lodge meets online. The brothers assemble online wherever they are located.

I visited Castle Island Lodge during its June 29th stated communication. Castle Island meets through an online video conferencing service. I sent the lodge secretary a letter of introduction from my Grand Lodge and was invited to attend the web conference. We ritually opened and began the business of the lodge in the same recognizable format that thousands of lodges do each and every month. After all business was dispensed with, the lodge was ritually closed.

This is an important first foray into combining Freemasonry and the Web. The Web is redefining our sense of place and our sense of time. Castle Island Lodge is breaking down the conception of what makes us Masons. Can Speculative Masonry work without a physical meeting place? Can we experience Freemasonry wherever we are so dispersed? I think the answer to both these questions is a resounding yes.

I really enjoyed my time with the brothers *who are* dedicated to moving our Fraternity forward. I've seen a new route that Freemasonry is taking as she enters the burgeoning world of technology.

I don't see a virtual lodge as interfering with our practice or the only way that Masonry should be worked. What I do see it as is a new effort at making connections. That is what Masonry is all about.

Of course, some things can never be recreated in the virtual world. You cannot have a festive board with all the brothers assembled around a table. A virtual lodge, and indeed any lodge with a different take on Freemasonry, will invariably lose one aspect to gain another.

The lodge will still have to perform the three degrees in the physical world. The lodge *officers* will still have to be installed in the physical world. That's okay with me. The idea that brothers from every corner of the globe can and will be available to labor and feel the fraternal bonds of our Craft is revolutionary.

I was reminded by the brothers of Castle Island that this lodge and its novel concept will continue to improve. All the parts are working and only minor tweaks will need to be made.

I will cherish the new found friends that I have met during my visit to Castle Island Lodge. I will be visiting again in August and I'm very excited with the prospect of presenting an educational piece to the lodge. Thanks go out to all the brothers of Castle Island Lodge. I had a wonderful time. ∴



## Introducing the Grand Master

It is our pleasure to present the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, M.W. Bro. Chibu Uson who was installed into office on June 4th, 2011 in the presence of family, friends, and brethren from far and wide, including the Grand Master and brethren from the Philippines.



*Grand Master elect R.W. Bro. Chibu Uson taking his Obligation*

M.W. Bro. Chibu was born in the Philippines and grew up in Quezon City. His education includes a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of the Philippines and a MBM from the Asian Institute of Management. He is currently the Materials Manager of Iders Inc., located in Oakbank.

In 1991 Chibu was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry in Capitol City Lodge No. 174. The next year he became a Royal Arch Mason and in 1996 he became a Shrine Mason at a ceremonial in Manila hosted by Afifi Temple of Tacoma Washington. To complete his masonic education he joined the Scottish Rite and was made a 32° in 1997.



*M.W. Bro. Chibu Uson passing through his Guard of Honour, members of Demolay International, Job's Daughters, and Khartum Komediens*

In 1997 the Uson family, wife Mae, daughter Ana and son Mikey moved to Winnipeg. Mae works for the RCMP. Anna's education includes a BA in Psychology and a BSc in Biology and Biochemistry and recently completed her final year of medical school. Mikey is in his second year of Actuarial Science at the U of M.

Given the name of his mother lodge, Bro. Uson affiliated with Capitol Lodge No. 136 and was immediately set to work. He began as Junior Deacon in 1998 and progressed through the various chairs, finally sitting in the East in 2002. In 2004 he affiliated with the Winnipeg Valley, Scottish Rite and served as 'Thrice Puissant Grand Master' of the Winnipeg Lodge of Perfection last year. In order to spend some time with him, Mae joined him in the Order of the Eastern Star, Queen Winnipeg Chapter No. 1, where he was elected Worthy Patron in 2009. As well he affiliated with the Khartum Shriners and then became President of the Khartum Komediens in 2006. The Order of DeMolay is very active in the Philippines and he relishes the opportunities to be a positive role model for the young men of that order. He was appointed Grand Organist for 2005-6 and was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2006. In 2008 he was elected Junior Grand Warden, beginning his ascent to the Grand East.

M.W. Bro. Chibu is the 1st Vice President of the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education and will be President when Manitoba hosts the 2013 Conference in Winnipeg. He is also the Vice President of the All-Canada Conference of Grand Lodges which also meets in Winnipeg every spring.



*Lady Mae Uson being presented with the Grand Ladies Pin by Lady Rita Bergen*

Freemasonry truly is a family affair. Mae is also a member of the Daughters of the Nile, Anna is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Mikey is the Immediate Past Master Councilor and Scribe of Winnipeg Chapter, International Order of DeMolay. ∴





*R.W. Bro. Allan Hadley taking his Obligation as Deputy Grand Master*

## The B. Stuart Parker Award

Our Regulations state that in memory of the late M.W. Bro. B. Stuart Parker, there shall be an award known as the **“B. Stuart Parker Award”** which may be presented to any Master Mason, regardless of rank, who exemplifies in his life and actions, the “Ideal of a Freemason”.

The Parkers may be the only father and son who have served as Grand Masters of our jurisdiction. M.W. Bro. Parker senior was Grand Master in 1943-44 and M.W. Bro. Stuart Parker served in that capacity in 1961-62. They were both lawyers, hailing from St. John's Lodge No. 4. Bro. Stuart served as Worshipful Master in 1951 and was President of the Past Masters' Association in 1954.



*Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson congratulating R.W. Bro. Gary Evans on receiving the B. Stuart Parker Award*

R.W. Bro. Gary Evans was actually speechless when his name was announced as the recipient of this most prestigious award. His biography is very interesting. He was born on February 2nd, 1935 at St. Boniface Hospital. He attended several schools in Fort Rouge, graduating from Tec Voc. While there he was on the student council and sang in their school musicals. He was also in the boy's choir at St. Luke's Anglican Church. As a youngster he joined the Sea Cadet program later joining the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, and sailed on “HMCS Ontario” to Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. He was employed with the CNR, completing his electrical apprenticeship in 1959 and then joined the St. Boniface Police Department in 1962, patrolling ‘les rues’ of St. Boniface wearing the famous buffalo coat. In 1982 he was awarded the Canadian Association of Chief's of Police Medal. He was a member of the Police Combat Pistol Team which won numerous trophies at competitions across Canada and in the USA. He was a Charter Executive Member of the Police Association, serving as their secretary from 1976-1977. He continued singing and as a member of the Winnipeg Police Choir participated in their 100th anniversary celebrations. He retired from active service in 1994. In May 2003 Gary was awarded the Queen's 50th Jubilee Medal for Distinguished Service.

Bro. Gary Evans was initiated into the Craft in St. John's Lodge No. 4 on February 19, 1975. He was passed to the Fellowcraft Degree on March 19th and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on April 16th of that same year. He served as their Worshipful Master in 1985 and another ten years later was the D.D.G.M. of the 1st Masonic District. He served the jurisdiction as Executive Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba from 1994-96 and also on the Board of General Purposes from 1996-99. He became a member of the Scottish Rite in 1979 and received his 32° on March 27, 1980. He was the Most Wise Sovereign Bethesda Chapter 18° in 1998. He is a Noble in the Ritualistic Unit of Khartum Shrine and a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

All agree that Bro. Gary has enjoyed a full, fascinating and rewarding life and with this award the jurisdiction recognizes his many contributions to both the fraternity and to society in general.

Congratulations Bro. Evans! ✨

## The William Douglas Medal

Another Regulation provides that “There shall be in the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, an award known as the **“William Douglas Medal”** given for exceptional service to the Craft by a member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction. The recipient shall not have attained the rank of Worshipful Master.

William Douglas was born on January 28, 1878 at Kelso, Scotland. His vocation was an office manager. Bro. Douglas hailed from St. John’s Lodge No. 4, sitting in the East in that Lodge in 1910. He most capably served our jurisdiction in several areas. We are most fortunate that he served as our Grand Historian from 1939 to 1963 for the results of his researches were published in the volume aptly named ***Freemasonry in Manitoba 1864-1925***. He also served as the Editor of *Masonry in Manitoba* from 1945-1963. He passed to the Grand Lodge Above on December 11, 1963.



*Brother Al Vanderpont receiving the William Douglas Award from Grand Master M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson.*

Bro. Alan Vanderpont was initiated into the Craft in Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 on February 22, 1982, passed to the Fellowcraft Degree on March 22nd and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on April 20th of that same year.

For virtually all of his 29 years as a Freemason he has been an active, contributing member, supporting their various activities and taking part in the degree work. Bro. Al particularly enjoyed portraying the Master Mason Degree.

His serious demeanour was noted and he was appointed as Chaplain in 2002 and also served on their Executive Committee. He also became very involved, serving as Chairman of their Widow’s Committee. The ladies all appreciated the special care he exercised in the performance of his duties.

In accepting his award he made special mention of the many years he was involved with the Canadian Cancer Society’s Transportation Program, calling it one of the most rewarding programs he had ever been involved in.

In his nominating letter, W. Bro. Fardoe quoted a few of the lines in the General Charge: “If you see a man who

quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life; who without blemish...” intimating that to the brethren of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 Bro. Alan Vanderpont does indeed portray the ideal of a Freemason. The many brethren who know and love Bro. Al agree wholeheartedly!

Congratulations Bro. Vanderpont! ∴

## Grand Master’s Award of Merit

R.W. Bro. Alfred Carlyle Borgstrom was initiated into the Craft in Flin Flon Lodge No. 153 on January 22, 1974, passed to the Fellowcraft Degree on February 19th and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 19th of that same year. He served his lodge with dignity and competence, having sat in the East on two occasions and filled the demanding role of Secretary/Treasurer for nine years. He served as the Grand Master’s representative for the Northern Lodges and received the rank of an honorary Past District Deputy Grand Master in recognition of another job well done. He has always been a key player in helping to organize the Grand Master’s Northern Trips and accompanied the guests throughout their entire visit. He was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2010

‘Borgie’ has continued his masonic education by joining the Royal Arch and has served as the First Principal of Pre-Cambrian Chapter No. 17 on more than one occasion and also has held several Grand Chapter positions.

Bro. Lyle and Bev have travelled extensively in the Mid-West attending Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter functions. They are well respected throughout the neighbouring jurisdictions. We all join the Grand Master in applauding the contributions R.W. Bro. Lyle has made and is continuing to make to the fraternity we all love.

Thank you Bro Lyle and Congratulations! ∴



*R.W. Bro. Lyle Borgstrom receiving the Grand Masters Award for Merit from the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson*

*R.W. Bro. Lyle Borgstrom and his wife Beverley, Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson and Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Chibu Uson*



## JRC Evans Lecturer 2011-2012

**D**r. Jack Robert Charles Evans was born in Nainaimo on March 15, 1890. He was the principal of Brandon College and later when it became a University he served as its Dean. He was a member of Tweed Lodge No. 113 in Brandon and served as our Grand Master in 1954-55. Well respected by both the brethren of our fraternity and his professional associates, he was acknowledged by both as an outstanding speaker. The JRC Evans Memorial lectures were established as a tribute to Bro. Evans.

This year the speaker is W. Bro. Gordon Greasley who was born and raised in Winnipeg and is employed with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He was initiated into the Craft in Sturgeon Creek Lodge No. 145, during his father's (Gervin) term as Worshipful Master. He later affiliated with Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 and has served as Worshipful Master in both Lodges and using both rites. He joined the Scottish Rite in 1994 and received his 33° in 2007.

Being consistent with the Grand Master's mantra that Freemasonry is a way of life, Bro. Gord's presentation is entitled: ***"Why the World Needs Freemasonry."***

He may be contacted at [elmparkcounselling@shaw.ca](mailto:elmparkcounselling@shaw.ca) or by phone at (204) 284-9761. ∴

## Fall Book Study

Brian Rountree, Grand Librarian

**T**he first book study this year will be held on Tues. Oct. 25 at 7pm in the Board Room of the MMC.

The book to get for this study and discussion is *Observing the Craft: the pursuit of excellence in Masonic labor and observance* by Andrew Hammer. W. Bro. Hammer is a Past Master of the Alexandria-Washington No. 22 Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia.



The back cover declares: *"Observing the Craft is a manifesto of sorts for the observant Mason who seeks quality over quantity in every aspect of Freemasonry. It is a stringent argument for the Symbolic [Blue] Lodge as the ne plus ultra of the Craft, asking that Masons put actions behind their statements that 'nothing is higher than the third degree.' It is a book that calls for nothing but the utmost personal effort and commitment to be put into the operation of a Masonic Lodge, and the experience of a Masonic meeting, in search of the transformational experience which Masons define as **making a good man better.**"*

Obtainable from Amazon.com at \$15.99 U.S.

Please inform the Grand Lodge office at 453-7410 that you are coming. Or send me a note at [mrc@grandlodge.mb.ca](mailto:mrc@grandlodge.mb.ca) -- gives us a count to order tea and coffee.

The next book study will take place on Thursday, March 29, 2012. The topic will be announced in the next issue of *Masonry in Manitoba*. ∴

## MLMA here at last!

Brian Rountree, Sec. of MLMA

**T**he Masonic Library and Museum Association will be meeting in Winnipeg from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, 2011.

Formed in 1995, the association holds its annual meeting and conference in a different city each year, usually by invitation of a member institution. (Our invitation was issued and accepted in 2008.) Attendees have the opportunity to visit local libraries and museums, hear guest speakers, and share their expertise and concerns with other members.

From its very beginning, the MLMA has been an international organization. The United Grand Lodge of England was one of the charter members and over the years members have come from (among others) Australia, Bermuda, Canada, France, and Scotland. A similar organization, the Association of Masonic Museums, Libraries and Archives in Europe (AMMLA), was founded in 1989.

In recent years MLMA has concerned itself with bibliographic and **"artifactual"** support, helping small and new member libraries set themselves up and organize their collections. MLMA also acts as a clearinghouse for Masonic queries and for the dispersal of duplicate or bulk-ordered books.

The schedule for this year's meeting includes visits to the provincial archives (including the Hudson's Bay Archives), the Legislative Building and the Manitoba Museum. Guest speakers will come from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as well as our own Al Brock with a survey of Masonic history in the prairies while Jimm Simon will create a new museum display. Other activities will include the annual meeting, a formal banquet, workshops on museum and library topics, and (for the Masons) a special meeting of the Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge. During the conference the non-Masons who have come along usually do sight-seeing and shopping. Hospitality arrangements will be made for the lodge meeting time on the Friday night.

Further information about MLMA can be found at the website <http://www.masoniclibraries.org>. ∴

## Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The Grand Master received the following letter and read it at our Annual Communication:

*On behalf of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, I thank you for your leadership and vision in creating the "Just a Buck" fundraising campaign for the Museum. Your passion in promoting the Museum through this program has inspired many members of the fraternity; both across Canada and in the U.S. Not only has it been effective in spreading the word about the Museum being a catalyst for change in the world, but has also contributed (so far) more than \$38,000 to the fundraising project. Congratulations!*

*We at the Museum are also cognizant and respect the request by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba to have the Masons lay the cornerstone of the Museum. As discussed, this honour has been fulfilled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she dedicated the stone from Runnymede at the Museum in July, 2010. However, we will continue to work together and as plans for the opening ceremonies are developed to determine the opportunities for engagement and participation in the opening of what we believe will be the greatest human rights destination in the world.*

*Stuart Murray*

*President and CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights ∴*



### Just a Buck

M.W. Bro. Goodman has presented his **Just a Buck** campaign to the last three Grand Master's Conferences of North America in California, Washington and Colorado. Represented were 72 jurisdictions in North America and visitors from as far away as Bulgaria and Russia. Several jurisdictions have requested further presentations including North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, Indiana, and Oregon. Since it was introduced at the All Canada Conference in 2005 he has made presentations at all three western provinces and will be attending Newfoundland and Labrador's October Communication. BC and Yukon have announced their own **Just a Buck** campaign in support.

Some of the donations received to date include the following:

Grand Lodge of Alberta.....	\$7,500.00
Grand Lodge of Minnesota .....	\$2,737.50
Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan.....	\$531.00
Grand Lodge of Newfoundland/Labrador .....	\$1,500.00
Grand Lodge of North Dakota.....	\$1,500.00
Grand Lodge of Michigan .....	\$1,200.00
Masonic Family (Manitoba) .....	\$10,000.00
Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 .....	\$1,000.00
St. John's Lodge No. 4 .....	\$1,000.00
Assiniboine Lodge No. 7 .....	\$1,000.00
Keystone Lodge No. 185 .....	\$1,500.00
Templum Sion Lodge No. 186 .....	\$1,000.00



*Members of the Masonic Family at the presentation of a \$10,000.00 cheque to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights*