

THE GRAND EAST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Achieving Harmony In Diversity

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 3
AUG 2025

Grand Master's Message

Brethren,

The months of July and August have been a busy and fulfilling time for both myself and the Grand Line Officers. We have been actively representing our Grand Lodge by attending Annual Communications and participating in various community events, including street parades, alongside representatives from across the entire Masonic Family.

This is a vital aspect of our responsibilities as Grand Master and Grand Line Officers. Through our presence at these events, we aim to raise awareness, enhance visibility, and reaffirm that Freemasonry remains active and engaged here in Manitoba. It is important that the public sees the Grand Lodge of Manitoba as a continuing force for good, committed to serving our community.

I would like to share with you some key points from a recent Committee Report presented at the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon's Annual Communication— Report on the Future of Freemasonry in B.C. "More men today say they would become Freemasons.... If they knew it existed authored by Wor. Bro. Bill Bishop.

Researchers have tracked a steady and sustained growth in the number of Canadians shifting towards traditional values of family, community and belonging to Morality based institutions. Study shows that more young Canadian men would join organizations like Freemasonry. There is just one problem. The same data also shows they don't know it exists.

Studies over the past seven years have established a persistent and growing trend of men increasingly prioritizing personal responsibility and moral principles ahead of highly individualized goals, hedonic pursuits and progressive ideology. Research done since 2017 by University of British Columbia has tracked an increase of 7% to 10% among men desiring membership to morality based organizations centred on Fellowship and Community service.

This presents freemasonry with one of the largest shifts in masculine realignment with moral, traditional and fraternal institutions in 60 years. However, compared to 60 years ago, Canadian men have almost no idea who Freemasons are, or that such an organization exists. This may be shocking to some Freemasons. But there are still more shocks. Starting with dispelling three of the greatest masonic myths. First the Doomsday Myth; that freemasonry is in irretrievable decline, It isn't. Next the Logo Myth; that everyone recognizes the square and compasses, they don't. Last the Relevance Myth; that the order is out of touch with today's man, it isn't. And here is the most important insight: Awareness is low but the appeal is high. This makes it the Field of Dreams "If you build it, they will come". In this case, the "it" is building community presence with a plan to attract and retain new members.

The conclusion is that the tide is again rising for freemasonry. The traditional values of fraternal fellowship, moral development, community service and personal accountability are again values of a significantly expanding proportion of young men. And while evidence shows that more men are seeking what freemasonry offers, the same data shows that they don't know it exists. The work, therefore, that freemasons need to do is make freemasonry known again. Build up community visibility, public awareness and online presence. If you build it, they will come.

Enjoy the rest of the summer brethren.

Fraternally,

MWB Rey Galapon
Grand Master 2025–2026
Grand Lodge of Manitoba

Achieving Harmony in Diversity



Grand Lodge Officers

Elected Officers

Grand Master	MW Bro. Rey Galapon (136)
IPGM	MW Bro. Emad Bisharat (3)
Deputy Grand Master	RW Bro. Gord Greasley (3)
Sr. Grand Warden	RW Bro. Tim Klassen (154)
Jr. Grand Warden	RW Bro. Jeff Chartrand (180/189)
Grand D of C	RW Bro. Villarico Villarin (136)

Temporarily Appointed by the GM

Grand Secretary	MW Bro. Kris Goodmanson (136)
Grand Librarian	RW Bro. Brian Rountree (174)
Grand Archivist	W Bro. Trevor Millar (1) <i>*GM Appointed</i>
Grand Chaplain	RW Bro. Dennis Henney (182)
Grand Historian	RW Bro. Ted Yorke (183)

Appointed by the Grand Master

Grand Lodge Education Officer	VW Bro. Jeff Price (186)
JRC Evans Lecturer	VW Bro. Michael Hall (136)
Sr. Grand Deacon	VW Bro. Carlos Alt (25)
Jr. Grand Deacon	VW Bro. Donico Estanislao (68)
Grand Organist	VW Bro. Gordon MacDonald (4)
Sr. Grand Stewart	VW Bro. Mark Mariano (168)
Jr. Grand Stewart	VW Bro. Josel Sta. Ana (154)
Gr. Sword Bearer	VW Bro. Rolan Tan (154/145/192)
Gr. Standard Bearer	VW Bro. Cocoy Borja (168)
Grand Pursuivant	VW Bro. Roland Mendez (192)
Grand Piper	VW Bro. Troy Blair (1)
Grand Tyler	VW Bro. Brian Pareja (62)
Grand Treasurer	MW Bro. Chibu Uson (189)

District Deputy Grand Masters

First Masonic District	RW Bro. John Drew (145)
Tenth Masonic District	RW Bro. David Corder (112)
Thirteenth Masonic District	RW Bro. Jose Casares (111/192)
Assiniboine Masonic District	RW Bro. Elmar Quitiong (168)
Parkland Masonic District	RW Bro. Ryan McKay (14)
Unity Masonic District	RW Bro. Victor Lopes (127)
Grand Master's Area	RW Bro. Bryan Cruda (174)

Grand Master's Itinerary 2025-2026

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LODGE/ORG	LOCATION
Jul 5, 2025	Sat	10:00 AM	DDGM Training Session	GLM	Boardroom MMT
Jul 12, 2025	Sat	10:00 AM	Selkirk Biz Parade		Selkirk MB
Jul 15 - 17, 2025	Tues/Thurs		GL CAN/ON - ANCOM	GL CAN/ON	Toronto ON
Jul 24 - 27, 2025	Tues/Thurs		Austin Thresherman (Parade Sat)	GLM	Austin MB
Jul 30, 2025	Wed	10:30 AM	Tuscan Lodge	GLM	MMT - 420 Corydon
Aug 2, 2025	Sat	9:00 AM	Dauphin Parade		Dauphin MB
Aug 4, 2025	Mon	9:00 AM	Gimli (Parade - Islandigadaran)		Gimli MB
Aug 5, 2025	Tues	5:30/6:00	Sphinx Temple - Supreme Queen - Dinner	Sphinx	MMT - 420 Corydon
Aug 9, 2025	Sat		Peace Garden - Hands/Border		Boissevain MB
Aug 16 - 17, 2025	Sat/Sun		Filipino Street Festival		Maples Community Club
Aug 23, 2025	Sat		Morden Parade		Morden MB
			Corn/Apple Festival Parade		
Sept 13 - 14, 2025			Northern Manitoba Trip		
Sept 18 - 20, 2025	Thur/Fr/Sat		GL IOWA - ANCOM	GL IOWA	Sioux City, IA
Sept 27, 2025	Sat	1:00 PM	Prince of Wales / Meet & BBQ	P/Wales #14	Minnedosa MB
Sept 28, 2025	Sun	12nn	Grand Master Golf Tournament		KP Golf Course
Oct 6, 2025	Mon	7:00 PM	Sturgeon Creek Lodge #145	SCL#145	Sturgeon Creek Lodge
Oct 18, 2025	Sat		Potentate's Ball	Khartum	TBD
Oct 23 - 25, 2025	Thur/Sun		GL California - ANCOM	GL Cal	San Francisco CA
Nov 1, 2025	Sat		Hands Across the Border		Brandon MB
Nov 28, 2025	Fri	7:00 PM	Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge #189	FCCL#189	EKMT - 205 Kimberly
Dec 14, 2025	Sun	1-4:00 PM	GM/GLM Christmas Gathering	GLM	MMT - 420 Corydon
Feb 12 - 18, 2025			Conf. GMs & G/Sec		Chicago, USA
Apr 10 - 11, 2025	Fri/Sat		All Canada Conference	GLM	TBD
Apr 12 - 24, 2025			GL Philippines - ANCOM & Visit	GL - Phils.	Philippines

Masonic Poetry in Motion

Source: Today in Masonic History
with additions by V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom



Brother Robert Service
1874-1958

Robert William Service was a British born Canadian poet. Service was born in Preston, Lancashire, England in 1874. He had been sent to live in Scotland with his aunts and paternal grandfather. On his 6th birthday he allegedly wrote:

*"God bless the cakes, and bless the jam;
Bless the cheese, and the cold boiled ham;
Bless the scones Aunt Jeannie makes,
And save us all from bellyaches. Amen".*

Masonic Education

At the age of 9 Service returned to live with his parents who were living in Glasgow. While there he attended Hillhead High School. Before leaving Scotland he went to work for the Commercial Bank of Scotland, now named the Royal Bank of Scotland. While he was there he was writing and trying to sell his verses.

At the age of 21, Service headed to British Colombia with thoughts of becoming a cowboy, he even had a Buffalo Bill style outfit. He traveled all over North America. He went as far south as Mexico, as far west as California and as far north as the Yukon. In 1899, working as a clerk, Service had a chance meeting with the editor of the Daily Colonist, a Victoria newspaper. He told the editor about some of his verses and shortly after they published the verses in the Colonist.

In 1903, Service was down on his luck, so he took a job with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In 1904, the bank sent him to their Whitehorse branch in the Yukon. There, Service took part in the social scene reciting poems at public events. He generally recited Casey at the Bat and Gunga Din, which became stale in Service's mind. One evening, after returning from a walk, inspiration struck, and he wrote one of his more famous poems:

The Shooting of Dan McGrew

*A bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Malamute saloon;
The kid that handles the music-box was hitting a jag-time tune;
Back of the bar, in a solo game, sat Dangerous Dan McGrew,
And watching his luck was his light-o'-love, the lady that's known as Lou.*

*When out of the night, which was fifty below, and into the din and the glare,
There stumbled a miner fresh from the creeks, dog-dirty, and loaded for bear.
He looked like a man with a foot in the grave and scarcely the strength of a louse,
Yet he tilted a poke of dust on the bar, and he called for drinks for the house.
There was none could place the stranger's face, though we searched ourselves for a clue;
But we drank his health, and the last to drink was Dangerous Dan McGrew.*

*There's men that somehow just grip your eyes, and hold them hard like a spell;
And such was he, and he looked to me like a man who had lived in hell;
With a face most hair, and the dreary stare of a dog whose day is done,
As he watered the green stuff in his glass, and the drops fell one by one.
Then I got to figgering who he was, and wondering what he'd do,
And I turned my head, and there watching him was the lady that's known as Lou.*

*His eyes went rubbering round the room, and he seemed in a kind of daze,
Till at last that old piano fell in the way of his wandering gaze.
The rag-time kid was having a drink; there was no one else on the stool,
So the stranger stumbles across the room, and flops down there like a fool.
In a buckskin shirt that was glazed with dirt he sat, and I saw him sway;
Then he clutched the keys with his talon hands — my God! but that man could play.*

*Were you ever out in the Great Alone, when the moon was awful clear,
And the icy mountains hemmed you in with a silence you most could hear;
With only the howl of a timber wolf, and you camped there in the cold,
A half-dead thing in a stark, dead world, clean mad for the muck called gold;
While high overhead, green, yellow, and red, the North Lights swept in bars?
Then you've a hunch what the music meant, hunger, and night, and the stars.*

*And hunger not of the belly kind, that's banished with bacon and beans,
But the gnawing hunger of lonely men for a home, and all that it means;
For a fireside far from the cares that are, four walls and a roof above;
But oh! so cramful of cosy joy, and crowned with a woman's love —
A woman dearer than all the world, and true as Heaven is true —
(God! how ghastly she looks through her rouge, the lady that's known as Lou.)*

*Then on a sudden the music changed, so soft that you scarce could hear;
But you felt that your life had been looted clean of all that it once held dear;
That someone had stolen the woman you loved; that her love was a devil's lie;
That your guts were gone, and the best for you was to crawl away, and die.
'Twas the crowning cry of a heart's despair, and it thrilled you through and through —
"I guess I'll make it a spread misere", said Dangerous Dan McGrew.*

*The music almost died away ... then it burst like a pent-up flood;
And it seemed to say, "Repay, repay," and my eyes were blind with blood.
The thought came back of an ancient wrong, and it stung like a frozen lash,
And the lust awoke to kill, to kill ... then the music stopped with a crash,
And the stranger turned, and his eyes they burned in a most peculiar way;
In a buckskin shirt that was glazed with dirt he sat, and I saw him sway;
Then his lips went in in a kind of grin, and he spoke, and his voice was calm,
And "Boys," says he, "you don't know me, and none of you care a damn;
But I want to state, and my words are straight, and I'll bet my poke they're true,
That one of you is a hound of hell. . .and that one is Dan McGrew."*

*Then I ducked my head, and the lights went out, and two guns blazed in the dark,
And a woman screamed, and the lights went up, and two men lay stiff and stark.
Pitched on his head, and pumped full of lead, was Dangerous Dan McGrew,
While the man from the creeks lay clutched to the breast of the lady that's known as Lou.*

*These are the simple facts of the case, and I guess I ought to know.
They say that the stranger was crazed with "hooch," and I'm not denying it's so.
I'm not so wise as the lawyer guys, but strictly between us two —
The woman that kissed him, and pinched his poke,
was the lady that's known as Lou.*

About a month later he wrote another of his more famous poems *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, the inspiration for the poem was a tale circulating about a man who actually had cremated his friend.

Around 1907, Service gathered enough poems for a book. He sent the collection, along with a check, to his father, who had immigrated to Toronto. He asked his father to find a printer for the book. The printer he found took one look at the poems and returned Service's check and included a contract for 10% of royalties.

In 1908, Service was transferred to a branch in Dawson. There he wrote his second book. After the second book was published, Service became a wealthy man and traveled extensively. He returned to Dawson City in 1912 to write his third book of poetry, *Rhymes of a Rolling Stone*. During that time he became a Freemason, being initiated into Yukon Lodge No. 45 in Dawson.

Masonic Education

Service served as a war correspondent during the Balkan Wars. During World War I he attempted to join the Army only to be denied for medical reasons. He went to work again as a war correspondent. He was arrested as a spy during an outbreak of "spy hysteria" in Dunkirk. By the end of the war he worked as a stretcher bearer, and an ambulance driver.

After the war, Service married and settled in France, specifically in Lancieux. Prior to World War II, Service wrote a satirical poem called the Ballad of Lenin's Tomb. After World War II started, Service and his family fled to the United States. When the Nazis invaded France, they went to Service's now empty home in France, looking for the man who had mocked Hitler in newspaper verse.

From 1949 to 1955, the final years of his life, Service wrote prolifically. He published six books, one was published posthumously.

Thought for the Day

"Your suffering needs to be respected. Don't try to ignore the hurt, because it is real.

Just let the hurt soften you instead of hardening you. Let the hurt open you instead of closing you.

Let the hurt send you looking for those who will accept you instead of hiding from those who reject you."

— Bryant McGill



Events & Announcements

WINNIPEG RIVER LODGE NO. 154 MAKES WAVES DURING PIONEER DAY IN STEINBACH

By: Bro. Ian Carganillo (Viking 175)

The day before August 1st, the brethren of Winnipeg River Lodge No. 154 were trying to beat the hands of time preparing their first ever float for the Pioneer Day Parade in Steinbach. On the early morning of the parade, with the weather forecast of 31 degrees Celsius, the Winnipeg River Lodge 154 brethren made a last minute tweaking on the trailer float installing tarpaulins, lodges and blue lodge flags to complete the aesthetics.



Fourteen brethren showed up to participate in the annual Pioneer Day Parade in the holding area for participants lining up Hespeler Street. Leading the lodge in attendance on the float were WM Albert de Luna, SW Jolens Legaspi, Immediate Past Master Emmanuel Rabanera and RWB Jonathan de Vera PDDGM for Masonic District 10. Joining their delegation is no other than RWB Tim Klassen, the Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba who is also a member of Winnipeg River Lodge No. 154, his twin brother Terry Klassen and Bro. Dave Caldwell of Templum Sion No. 186, lady Susan Caldwell and their 2 grandchildren and Lady Marlyne de Vera. The lodge float traversed Main Street where a crowd of fascinated onlookers lined up including kids who eagerly waited for the goodies being handed out by the candythrowers Bro. Rodgyn Labrador, Bro. Ruel Maranan, WB Emmanuel Rabanera with the daughters of WM de Luna, Abby and Sabin. When one of the girls was asked, how the parade made her feel, "It was an amazing experience for me and my sister to see the crowd and to see kids dancing as soon as they hear the music we were playing on the float. We will join my dad and his brothers again for the next year's parade for sure," says Abby de Luna.



Events & Announcements

“It was a successful event although we didn’t anticipate that the bags of candies we prepared will not be enough as there was a massive crowd who showed up for today’s event,” says WM de Luna. The Senior Grand Warden himself was also surprised to see the large crowd who watched the parade. “This is a huge achievement for the lodge and for freemasonry in general to have participated and be seen in a public event like this,” according to RWB Klassen. “This is just one of the many activities Winnipeg River Lodge No. 154 will be participating in especially now that the lodge has transferred it’s venue to meet here in Steinbach,” added WB Rabanera. The other brethren who participated in the parade were brothers Jun Villanueva, Allan Villanueva, Chris Eser and Jonathan Cayrel. The brethren and the others present retreated to WB de Luna’s residence to share a sumptuous meal prepared by Lady Pat.



Freemasonry is the largest and oldest fraternity with Grand Lodges in almost every country across the globe promoting brotherhood and charity regardless of political and religious beliefs. Its aim of making good men better through its teachings is the ultimate goal of the fraternity.



Events & Announcements

Selkirk Biz Parade – July 12, 2025



Events & Announcements

Floating the Ark Ark Mariner



Events & Announcements

Grand Lodge of Can/Ont Annual Communication – July 15-17, 2025



Events & Announcements

Austin Thresherman's Reunion Parade – July 24-27, 2025



Events & Announcements

Ukranian Street Parade – Dauphin, MB – Aug 2, 2025



Events & Announcements

Awarding the 60 Year Bar to WBro. Ron Good (Past Master of Capitol Lodge #136)
– Richmond Hill, Ontario



Icelandic Parade – Islandigadaran
– Aug 4, 2025 Gimli, MB



Events & Announcements

Official visit of Supreme Queen Walliker
– Aug 5, 2025



Achieving Harmony In Diversity



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!



Help cancer patients in your community



Canadian
Cancer
Society

**WHEELS
OF HOPE**

For more information

Email volunteer@cancer.ca
or call 1-888-939-3333



WHEELS OF HOPE TESTIMONIAL

I just wanted to drop you a line saying how helpful and wonderful the Wheels of Hope program is! I had seen the vans around, but it never really clicked in how essential they would be until I started going through my treatments. Especially during radiation, I noticed JUST how many people it is helping! Watching van, after vehicle picking up so many people in the loop outside the hospital, it's really overwhelming how much love people have to give.

All of the drivers are so kind, and it was really interesting learning about their stories and how they became volunteers. Cancer is so consuming, and they decided to give back. I love that. In particular, there was an absolute wonderful driver I had named Trevor. His wife had battled breast cancer twice, and was doing well. He is a gem of a human being. Super funny, always with a fun anecdote about what he had done on the weekend. Open with his wife's battle, and just so so kind.

Trevor always made my day better. Made me realize that there is hope, that if his wife could do it, so could I. That there's still no reason not to smile, and be kind toward others.

Cancer can be super lonely, and until you are in the thick of it, you don't realize what a gift just seeing a smiling face can be.

Holly Thiessen

Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba or any of its officers or members, but are solely those of the writer. Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity. It is comprised of adult men (18+) of good character from every country, religion, race, age, income, education, and opinion. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, his faith, his country, and his fraternity.

For submissions/requests and inquiries please contact:

TGEMonthlyNewsletter@gmail.com

Deadline of submission(s) and request(s) for the Sept issue is on Aug 31

