

# THE GRAND EAST

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

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*Achieving Harmony In Diversity*

VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 1  
JUN 2025

## Grand Master's Message

Brethren,

As I reflect on the recently concluded 150th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, I am filled with pride and gratitude. It was heartening to see so many members in attendance—actively participating in the proceedings and bearing witness to the Installation of the new Grand Lodge Officers. This strong turnout is a clear sign that our Jurisdiction is becoming more engaged and committed than ever before.

First and foremost, I extend my sincere congratulations to Most Worshipful Brother Emad Bisharat on a successful and memorable term, capped by the magnificent celebration of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba's 150th anniversary.

I also wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the brethren for entrusting me with the honour of serving as your Grand Master for 2025–2026. I am deeply humbled by the confidence you have placed in me, and I pledge to serve our Craft with dedication, integrity, and unwavering commitment.



Allow me to share once again what I mentioned during the Investiture of the Grand Master's Cuffs this past Saturday. I found it difficult to bend my elbow to adjust my collar or scratch my nose—yet I could fully extend my arm without effort. To me, this served as a powerful reminder: as Grand Master, I am called not to serve myself, but to reach out—to lead, to guide, to assist, and to be an example to all the brethren. In fulfilling this duty, personal comfort may often be set aside, but the privilege of serving this great Jurisdiction far outweighs any sacrifice.

Brethren, I believe that this is a great start. I encourage you to not lose this momentum and let us all focus in working together harmoniously.

Faternally,

**MWB Rey Galapon**

Grand Master, 2025-2026

Grand Lodge of Manitoba

*Achieving Harmony in Diversity*



## A Farewell Message from the Grand Master – June 2025

It is with a full heart and deep humility that I offer these parting words, as I conclude my term as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. Serving in this role has been one of the greatest honours of my life—an experience rich with meaning, growth, and profound connection.

From the beginning, I was embraced with warmth, wisdom, and unwavering support by my fellow Masons. To each of you who shared this journey—who offered your time, counsel, and friendship—I extend my sincerest thanks.

My deepest gratitude goes to Most Worshipful Brothers Kris Goodmanson, Doug Webster, and Ted Jones for your leadership; to Right Worshipful Brothers Lynn Latozke and Bruce Taylor for your invaluable guidance; to the Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, and the 150th Anniversary Committee for your tireless dedication. Together, we created a truly memorable year.

Visiting lodges across our jurisdiction was a privilege beyond measure. From rural halls to urban temples, I witnessed the living heart of our Craft—fellowship, tradition, and brotherhood thriving in every corner of our province.

We also stood proudly among our extended Masonic family—Job’s Daughters, Daughters of the Nile, Eastern Star, Shriners, Royal Arch Masons, and Royal Order of Scotland—each upholding the virtues we hold dear: charity, leadership, and service.

One of the greatest highlights was the 150th Anniversary Gala. It was more than a celebration; it was a moment to honour our past and inspire our future. I’ll never forget the pride I felt that evening. Nor will I forget the recognition from the Lieutenant Governor, provincial leaders, and the Manitoba Legislature—culminating in a standing ovation in the House. That moment was not mine alone—it belonged to every Mason in Manitoba, past and present.

A major highlight this year was the successful launch and growth of *The Grand East Newsletter*. My sincere thanks to MWB Chibu Uson and WB Lan Mendez for their outstanding work. More than just sharing information, the newsletter became a vital link—keeping brethren informed, connected, and inspired across our jurisdiction. Your dedication made it an essential tool for unity and communication within our Craft.



My guiding motto this year was K.I.S.S.—Keep It Simple and Strong. Simplicity kept us grounded; strength gave us clarity and courage. Through it all, I’ve learned that leadership is rooted in humility, patience, and service—not in title, but in the quiet resolve to walk beside one’s brethren.

As I now pass the gavel, I do so with peace in my heart and confidence in our future. Freemasonry in Manitoba is strong—because it is built on brotherhood, guided by principle, and driven by purpose.

**With that,** I extend my heartfelt congratulations and full support to our new Grand Master, MWB Rey Galapon. I’m confident the Grand Lodge of Manitoba will thrive under your calm strength, dedication, and servant-hearted leadership. You won’t walk this path alone—I’ll be here for you, as a friend, Brother, and helping hand on the journey ahead.

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide and bless our beloved fraternity.  
May peace and brotherly love always prevail.

*Thank you, my Brothers.*

*Emad Bisharat*

Most Worshipful Brother Emad Bisharat  
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Manitoba



# Grand Lodge Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters 2025-2026

## 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 Treasurer	RW Bro. Rey Laferriere (12)
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) *GM Appointed
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)

## 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 / Organization	Location
<b>GM Galapon - Tentative Itinerary - Subject to change</b>					
07-Jun-25	Saturday	1pm	GLM - ANCOM - Installation	GLM	MMT- 420 Corydon
07-Jun-25	Saturday	6pm	GM Galapon - Banquet		Hilton Airport Suites
11-Jun-25	Wed	6:00 PM	Starbuck Lodge #160 - Steak Night	Starbuck #160	Starbuck, MB
12-14 Jun 25	Thur/Sat		AB - ANCOM	GL AB	Edmonton, AB
13 - 14 Jun 25	Fri/Sat		ND - ANCOM	GL ND	Fargo, ND
19 - 21 Jun 25	Thur/Sat		BC/Y - ANCOM	BC/YUKON	Kelowna BC
19 - 21 Jun 25	Thur/Sat		SASK - ANCOM	GL SK	Saskatoon, SK
26-Jun-25	Thursday	7:00 PM	BOGP Emergent Meeting	GLM	MMT- 420 Corydon
05-Jul-25	Saturday	10:00 AM	DDGM training session	GLM	Boardroom MMT
12-Jul-25	Saturday	10:00 AM	Selkirk Biz Parade (w/shrine?)		Selkirk, MB
15-17 Jul 25	Tues/Thurs		GL CAN/ON - ANCOM	GL CAN/ON	Toronto ON
24 - 27 Jul 25	Thur/Sun		Austin Thresherman's (parade SAT)	GLM	Austin, MB
30-Jul-25	Wed	10:30 AM	Tuscan Lodge	GLM	MMT- 420 Corydon
04-Aug-25	Mon	9:00 AM	Gimli (Parade - Islandigadaran		Gimli, MB
05-Aug-25	Tuesday	5:30/6:00	Sphinx Temple - Supreme Queen -dinner	Sphinx	MMT- 420 Corydon
09-Aug-25	Saturday		Peace Garden - Hands/Border?		Boissevain, MB
09-Aug-25	Saturday	1:00 PM	Prince of Wales/ meet & BBQ	P/Wales #14	Minnedosa, MB
16 -17 Aug 25	Sat/Sun		Filipino Street Festival		Maples Community Club
23-Aug-25	Sat		Corn/Apple Festival parade		Morden, MB
18-20 Sep 25	Fri/Sat		GL IOWA - ANCOM	GL Iowa	Sioux City, IA
06-Oct-25	Mon	7:00 PM	Sturgeon Creek Lodge #145	SCL#145	Sturgeon Creek Lodge
18-Oct-25	Sat		Potentate's Ball	Khartum	T.B.D.
23-25 Oct 25	Thur/Sun		GL California - ANCOM	GL Calif.	San Francisco, CA
28-Nov-25	Friday	7:00 PM	Fil-Can Cable Tow #189	FCCL #189	EKMT - 205 Kimberly
07-Dec-25	Sun	1 - 4 PM	GM/GLM Christmas gathering	GLM	MMT- 420 Corydon
12-18 Feb 26			Conf. GM's & G/Sec		Chicago, USA
10-11 Apr 26	Fri/Sat		All Canada Conference	GLM	T.B.D.
12-24 Apr 26			GL Philippines- ANCOM & visit	GL - Phil.	Philippines



## THE BEEHIVE

As with many of the symbols represented in Speculative Masonry, before it was incorporated into the rituals of our fraternity, bees and beehives meant different things to various cultures. One case can be found in Hinduism where gods were frequently associated with bees, including Vishnu, Krishna, and Indra. These three are referred to as Madhava, the nectar-born ones, and are represented by the bee.

Another instance can be found in the ancient Egyptian culture where the bee represented both royalty and their obedient subject. One example shows that as early as 3,500 BCE, the bee represented the King of Lower Egypt.



## The Third Degree

It is unclear precisely when the Beehive was integrated into Masonic ritual, but as W.M. Sollie divulged it was mentioned as early as 1724 in Ireland. (Ireland was under England at that time so the ritual was that of the first English Grand Lodge)

In the lecture of The Master Mason degree, (Antient York) it is taught that the Beehive is emblematic of Industry and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in the heavens, to the lowest reptile of the dust. It teaches us, that as we come into the world rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones, never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want, especially when it is in our power to relieve them, without inconvenience to ourselves or family.

When reflecting on our ancestors in the operative lodges, the old meaning of Industry, it described how the guilds' work was completed without modern heavy machinery. In this antiquated system of industry, individual stonemasons were assigned specific tasks based on their skill level, whether it was carrying a stone, or building tools, or sculpting a proper piece for the structure. Every man from the apprentice to the master was essential for completing the job just as every bee has its duty and contributes to the success of the hive.

While Masonic lodges may be different in practice, the parallels with the Beehive remain the same. Lodges follow a structure that requires workers on all levels to make the lodge function and be successful. Master Masons and more seasoned brothers must impart their knowledge and experience with our Entered Apprentices. We all must do our part to make lodge endeavors successful and harmonious. Considering the Masons' diligent and cooperative nature, stemming back to the Operative Masons of the middle ages, it is no wonder the Beehive came to be the powerful symbol in our work that it is today.

### The Ark

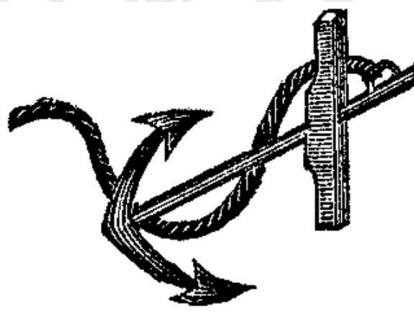
The Ark refers to the Ark of Noah. All the Ancient Mysteries seem to have contained allusions more or less clear to the deluge and Noah's Ark. There being so many other symbols common to Masonry and the Mysteries, it is not surprising to find the Ark also employed as a Masonic symbol. To the pre-Christian ages, the idea of a regeneration, or a new birth, was as familiar as it is to us. In the Ancient Mysteries, we are best able to judge, the tradition of the Deluge and the Ark, by which the human race was reputed to have been both purified and perpetuated, was in a variety of forms employed to teach this doctrine of regeneration.

In the Funeral Ritual of the Egyptians, it is by means of the Ark or solar boat that the deceased passed to Aahlu (paradise) or Amenti. (Hades) We are all familiar with the Greek myth which represents Charon as ferrying the shades of the departed over the river Styx. Thus it is seen that the Ark has for ages been the symbol of the passage from this world to the next. We attach to it a very similar meaning, it symbolizes to that power or influence by which we are fitted for and raised to a higher state of existence in the life that is to come.



### The Anchor

The anchor does not seem to have belonged to ancient symbolism. St. Paul appears first to have employed it as an emblem of hope of immortality, and bliss after this life. Kip, in his Catacombs of Rome, says that the primitive Christians looked upon life as a stormy voyage and that of their safe arrival in port the anchor was a symbol. Mrs. Jameson says that the anchor is the Christian symbol of immovable firmness, hope, and patience. Though apparently of Christian origin as a symbol, there is nothing narrow or sectarian in its significance, and it may with equal propriety be employed by Jew and Gentile, as well as by all others who share in the belief of a peaceful place of abode hereafter for those who have made a proper use of this life. In the symbol of the Ark, and Anchor we therefore see again, pressed upon our attention the doctrines of Deity, the Mediator, regeneration, resurrection. and immateriality.





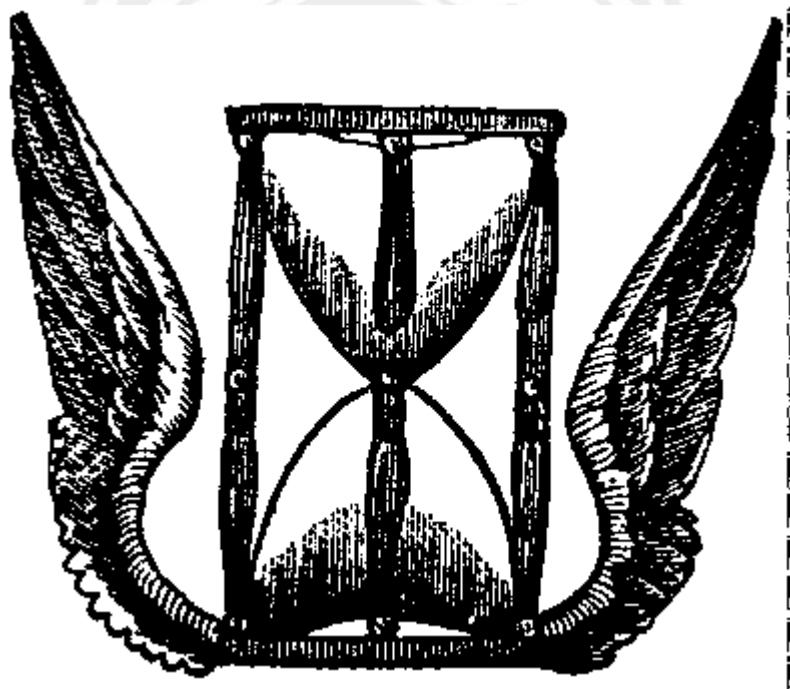
### The Hourglass

An hourglass is an early device used to track measures of time. It became popular in the 15th century for its dependability, finding regular use on ships, in kitchens, and in churches. While today the hourglass is not used for time telling time, its literal depiction of the past, present, and future have helped it endure the centuries as a popular symbol. Often depicted with wings, it represents humanity's fleeting nature, emphasizing that time will run out for each individual.

The first encounter of the Hourglass is during the lecture of the third degree, (Antient York) where it is explained to be an emblem of human life. It represents the continuous passing of time and serves as a reminder that life is finite. Additionally, the two containers of the hourglass are an analogy on their own: that the need to flip the hourglass signifies the cycle between life and death. It also denotes the notion that we must be able to reverse our perceptions, attitudes, and actions at times for us to move forward.

The completion of the Master Mason degree is almost certainly not a Brother's first experience with an hourglass, symbolically or otherwise. What makes the Hourglass unique in how it is employed in Freemasonry is the challenge it poses to brethren. As with all the symbols and lessons taught in our fraternity, the Hourglass is meant to encourage Freemasons to live a full life and make the most of our time.

It is a reminder to work for a life of compassion, honesty, and integrity so that we may improve not only our own lives but those in our community as well.



**An article by the Grand Lodge of Ohio  
It has been edited by V.W. Brother Barry D. Thom**

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John's Lodge No. 4 - May 7, 2025



Manitoba Maharlika Lodge No. 192 Public Installation of Officer – May 16, 2025





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grand Lodge of Quebec – May 24, 2025



Austin Manitoba Official Visit – May 30, 2025





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minnedosa Official Visit – May 31, 2025



Royal Order of Scotland – May 9, 2025





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shriner's Ceremonial – May 10, 2025



Manitoba Maharlika Lodge No. 192 – May 16, 2025





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eastern Star – May 26, 2025



Austin Manitoba – May 30, 2025





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open Installation of Grand Lodge Officers 2025-2026 – June 7, 2025



Delegates Send-Off Picnic – June 8, 2025



# VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!



Help cancer patients in your community



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society

**WHEELS  
OF HOPE**

**For more information**

Email [volunteer@cancer.ca](mailto: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:

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*Deadline of submission(s) and request(s) for the July issue is on June 30*

