

# THE GRAND EAST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 Issue 10

MAR 2025

### Grand Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

As we step into the month of March, we welcome the arrival of spring—a season of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. The longer days and warmer air remind us that change is constant, and with it comes the opportunity to refresh our commitments to our Craft and to one another.

March also brings us St. Patrick's Day, a celebration of heritage, camaraderie, and good fortune. As we take part in these festivities, let us reflect on the bonds of brotherhood that unite us, much like the bonds that have sustained our fraternity for generations.

Excitement is building as we approach a momentous occasion—**our 150th Anniversary Celebration on April 25 at the RBC Convention Centre**. This is a time to honor our rich history, reflect on our achievements, and set our sights on the future. I encourage all members to be part of this significant milestone.

For those who have the time and ability to contribute, I urge you to sign up on the volunteer sheet that has been circulated. Your assistance will help ensure that this event is both memorable and successful. Many hands make light work, and your support is invaluable.

I recently had the privilege of attending the **Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America**. It was an extraordinary opportunity to engage with fellow brethren, share insights, and gain valuable perspectives on strengthening our fraternity. The discussions were enlightening, and the spirit of unity was truly inspiring.

I look forward to sharing these experiences with you at our upcoming Board of General Purposes meeting. We will explore ways to implement key learnings, ensuring that we continue to grow as an organization while staying true to our core values.

As we navigate the months ahead, I encourage each of you to embrace the principle of **KISS—Keep It Simple and Strong**. Simplicity allows us to focus on what truly matters: the meaning of brotherhood, the respect we hold for one another, and our commitment to the values that make us Masons. Let us continue to strengthen our fraternity by fostering unity, respect, and a shared vision for the future.

May this season of renewal inspire us all to work together in harmony, ensuring that our legacy endures for generations to come.

Fraternally,

**MW Bro. Emad Bisharat**  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba



# Grand Lodge Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters

2024-2025

Grand Master	MW Bro. Emad Bisharat (3)
Deputy Grand Master	RW Bro Rey Galapon (136)
IPGM	MW Bro. Mason Jardine (62)
Sr. Grand Warden	RW Bro. Richard Lacoursiere (1-175)
Jr. Grand Warden	RW Bro. Glenn Ramos (111-189)
Grand Treasurer	RW Bro. Gord Greasley (3)
Grand D of C	RW Bro. Thor Weidenbacher (3)

## APPOINTED BY THE BOARD

Grand Secretary	<b>M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson (136)</b>
Grand Librarian	<b>R.W. Bro. Brian Rountree (174)</b>
Grand Archivist	<b>Bro. Trevor Millar (1)</b>
Grand Chaplain	<b>R.W. Bro. Dennis Henney (182)</b>
Grand Historian	<b>R.W. Bro. Ted Yorke (183)</b>

## APPOINTED BY THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Lodge Education Officer	<b>V.W. Bro. Jeff Price (186)</b>
J.R.C Evans Lecturer	<b>R.W. Bro. Thor Weidenbacher (3)</b>
Sr. Grand Deacon	<b>R.W. Bro. Gerry Derhak (3)</b>
Jr. Grand Deacon	<b>V.W. Bro. Michael Hall (136)</b>
Grand Organist	<b>V.W. Bro. Gordon MacDonald (4)</b>
Sr. Grand Steward	<b>V.W. Bro. Don Benson (25)</b>
Jr. Grand Steward	<b>V.W. Bro. Jan Andrew Beloro (136-192)</b>
Gr. Sword Bearer	<b>R.W. Bro. Roy Van Luven (178)</b>
Gr. Standard Bearer	<b>V.W. Bro. Kevin Latozke (186)</b>
Grand Pursuivant	<b>V.W. Bro. Elmer Maranan (136-192)</b>
Grand Piper	<b>V.W. Bro. Troy Blair (1)</b>
Grand Tyler	<b>V.W. Bro. Joward Rosales (14)</b>

## DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

First Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Jeff Olafson (186)</b>
Tenth Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Tim Klassen (154)</b>
Thirteenth Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Arnold Calambacan Sr. (136)</b>
Assiniboine Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Robert Nicolas (36)</b>
Parkland Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Ronald Morton (68)</b>
Unity Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Chartrand (180)</b>
Grand Master's Area	<b>R.W. Bro. Bryan Cruda (174)</b>

## Grand Master's Itinerary 2024 – 2025

DATE	DAY & TIME	EVENT
March 3, 2025	Monday @ 7:00 p.m.	MMT Board Meeting
March 6, 2025	Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.	The three lodges in Brandon – O.V.
March 12, 2025	Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.	150th Anniversary Committee Meeting at MMT
March 13, 2025	Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.	Phoenix O.V.
March 15, 2025	Saturday starting @ 10:00 a.m.	Masonic Family Condition of Freemasonry GLO Meeting
March 15, 2025	Saturday eve.	Bethel #9 Job's Daughters Manitoba – Dinner celebrating Supreme Visit
March 17, 2025	Monday @ 7:30 p.m.	Ancient Landmark Lodge # 3 St. Patrick Day
March 18, 2025	Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.	150th Anniversary Committee Meeting at MMT
March 21, 2025	Friday @ 7:00	BGP
March 23, 2025	Sunday @ 1:00 p.m.	Sphinx Temple No. 116 Installation
April 1, 2025	Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.	150th Anniversary Committee Meeting at MMT

## Masonic Education

### Did a Mason shoot down the Red Baron?

Many thanks to R.W. Bro. Iain Waites for sharing this story. Sadly, this story is all too commonplace today. Yesterday, I was at Deka, the Carp hardware store, to pick up a bottle of TSP and some crazy glue. On the way out there was a young lad – 22ish – “manning” the cash register. Christmas songs were blaring over the store PA system and when I reached the cash, the eternal Snoopy’s Christmas – Red Baron song came on.

As the young lad was pretending to be interested in me while swiping my TSP purchase across the code reader, I asked him if he’d ever heard the Snoopy song before. He gave me a look that could only be levelled by a twenty-something upon a senior as he grumbled, “Ya... lots’ a times.” I fired back, “Do you really know who really shot down the Red Baron?” He looked back at me in bewilderment while another nearby clerk, now intrigued, had swung around, and was also waiting for an answer. I threw him a bone, “It wasn’t Snoopy!”

Snoopy and the Red Baron engaged in endless battles, though the Red Baron never was physically shown (Schulz decided to not depict adults in the cartoon strip Peanuts). Sometimes, Snoopy was the clear victor in battle, but other times, the Red Baron triumphed, causing Snoopy to shout, “Curse you, Red Baron!”



By now, he had finished ringing me up, and as I paid, he said, “Ya...not really”. And that’s when I pulled the rug out from under him when I said, “The Red Baron was shot down over one hundred years ago by a young lad about your age. But the coolest part of the story is that he was born and lived in Carleton Place a 15-minute drive from Carp. (Ontario, Canada).

Stunned didn’t begin to describe the look on the young lad’s face or the look on his co-workers’ faces. As I grabbed my bag to head out, I said, “Merry Christmas”, and urged him to Google “Roy Brown – Red Baron” and check his Wiki. On my way out the door, I glanced over my shoulder to see two clerks, heads down and thumbing their smartphones. We would know him as our late Bro. Arthur Roy Brown, a member of St. John’s Lodge No. 63, A.F.&A.M., Carleton Place. (GL of Canada in the Prov. of ON)

Arthur Roy Brown, fighter pilot and ace, businessman, and civil aviation pioneer, was born on December 23, 1893, in Carleton Place, Ontario and died on March 9, 1944, in Stouffville, Ontario. Brown is credited with killing Germany’s top First World War ace, Manfred von Richthofen, the famed “Red Baron”. Richthofen may, however, have been shot down by two Australian army machine-gunners. Brown was one of five children (two girls and three boys) born to Mary Elizabeth Brown and her husband, James Morton Brown, a flour mill, and power company owner. He attended school in Carleton Place and then studied accounting at a business school in Ottawa. He was then invited by an uncle to Edmonton, Alberta, where he completed high school. While in Edmonton, he became friends with Wilfrid “Wop” May, who would also become a pilot.

In the summer of 1915, Brown returned to Carleton Place. He applied to join Britain’s Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) but was told he first needed a private pilot’s license. The nearest Canadian flying school was full, so he attended the Wright School of Aeronautics, in Dayton, Ohio.

On November 13, 1915, Brown obtained his pilot’s license. He enrolled in the RNAS and sailed to Britain. On arrival, Brown was sent to RNAS Station Chingford in northeast London to learn the fundamentals of military flying and dropping bombs.

On May 2, 1916, Brown crashed a training airplane. At first, he appeared to be uninjured, but the next day he discovered he had a broken vertebra, which required two months of hospitalization. He was then posted to Eastchurch Gunnery School in September, followed by advanced training in January 1917.

In March 1917, Brown was posted to No. 9 Naval Squadron, which flew patrols in Sopwith Pups along the Belgian coast. The squadron’s main task was to defend Royal Navy ships. Brown was injured again and did not recover until May. Brown was next posted to No. 11 Naval Squadron, where he flew a variety of Sopwith aircraft from the Frontier Aerodrome near Ostend, Belgium. German flights had increased, and aerial combat, known as dogfights, became more frequent.

On July 17, 1917, Brown scored his first victory when he downed a German Albatross Dill. Promoted to flight lieutenant, he went on to score three more victories. They were unconfirmed, however, and did not become part of his official total.



In mid-August, No. 11 Squadron was disbanded, and Brown went to No. 9 Squadron. He scored his second official victory on September 3, 1917, flying a Sopwith Camel, while his fifth “kill” on October 13 made him an ace. All subsequent victories were made flying Sopwith Camels. On November 2, 1917, Brown was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for his aerial victories and for aiding a fellow pilot under attack by four German aircraft, even though his own machine guns had jammed.

On April 1, 1918, the RNAS and the Royal Flying Corps merged to become the Royal Air Force (RAF). Brown’s rank became captain, and the unit was renamed 209th Squadron and relocated to the Somme area. A few days later, he shot down two more enemy aircraft bringing his tally to nine.

## Red Baron

On the morning of April 21, 1918, Brown and other pilots in 209 Squadron became involved in a dogfight with a German squadron, including top ace Manfred Von Richthofen (the Red Baron) and his cousin, novice pilot Wolfram Von Richthofen. The “Red Baron” broke off to pursue Canadian pilot “Wop” May, who was on the tail of his cousin. Brown saw that his friend May was in trouble and disengaged to attack Richthofen’s red Fokker triplane. By now the German ace had violated all three of his cardinal rules of aerial combat: never fly alone, low, or over enemy lines.

Brown fired a long burst from behind and pulled out of a steep dive to avoid a collision. Richthofen’s Fokker continued over Allied territory and was fired at by British and Australian soldiers until it crashed into a field. Brown received a bar to his DSC for his work since the first award, including shooting down the German ace.

Others claimed to have shot down the Red Baron, including two Australian machine gunners. Despite this, Brown is still officially credited with shooting down Richthofen.

## Post-War

Brown left the RAF on August 1, 1919, and returned to Canada. He worked in executive positions with the Imperial Varnish and Colour Company of Toronto. On February 19, 1920, he married Edythe Moneypenny, the company president’s daughter. They had two daughters and a son. Brown left the company in 1934 to work full-time with General Airways Limited, which he had founded in 1928.

General Airways Limited operated out of Amos, Quebec. It pioneered year-round service to remote mining companies and communities in northern Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. Brown sold his company when the federal government got into the airline business and worked with the Stinson Aircraft Company of Detroit, Michigan.

Brown tried to join the RCAF when the Second World War began but was rejected. In 1943, he ran for the provincial Liberal party and lost in a landslide. Brown next worked as an advisory editor to Canadian Aviation magazine but quit on his doctor’s advice. He bought a farm near Stouffville, Ontario. Brown died of a heart attack on March 9, 1944, at fifty years of age. He was buried initially in Aurora, but in 1955, his widow had his remains disinterred, cremated, and buried in Toronto’s Necropolis Cemetery. In 2016, a military-style headstone was placed on his grave.

## Memory

In 2015, Brown was inducted into Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame. There are several tributes to him in Carleton Place. These include the Roy Brown Society, a Royal Canadian Legion Branch, an Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque, exhibits in two local museums, a park, a wall mural depicting his aerial combat with the Red Baron and a bronze statue in Lolly’s Park.

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Source: the Ontario Masons Magazine, 2024 Feb. issue, pgs 39-41  
with additions/illustrations by V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom

# NEWS AND EVENTS

Sturgeon Creek Lodge #145  
Presentation of Master Mason Certificates  
Feb 3, 2025



Beaver Ionic Lodge #25  
Official Visit  
Feb 5, 2025





Empire Lodge #127  
Official Visit  
Feb 10, 2025



Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America 2025  
Feb 14-18, 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**

# Grand Lodge of Manitoba 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

### GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA



APRIL 25, 2025

RBC CONVENTION CENTER  
WINNIPEG

HONOURING THE PAST  
CELEBRATING THE FUTURE  
150 YEARS OF MASONRY IN  
MANITOBA



# SAVE *the* DATE

## APRIL 25, 2025

RBC CONVENTION CENTER  
YORK BALLROOM WINNIPEG

COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS  
AN ANNIVERSARY GALA TO CELEBRATE  
BROTHERHOOD & COMMUNITY  
&  
THE GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA'S ESTEEMED LEGACY



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
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EVENTPLANNER@GLMB150.CA



**Subject:** The Clock is Ticking – Only 60 Days Left for the 150th Anniversary Tickets!



Dear Brethren,

Time is moving fast, and we are now **only 60 days away** from celebrating the **150th Anniversary of our Grand Lodge**—a truly historic milestone! This is a **once-in-a-lifetime event**, and your presence is essential to making it a grand success.

If you haven't secured your ticket yet, **now is the time!** Don't miss this incredible opportunity to come together, honor our rich history, and celebrate the future of Freemasonry.

**Get Your Tickets Today – Don't Wait!** [GLMB150.ca](https://GLMB150.ca)

Your participation will not only make this event memorable but also **showcase the unity and strength of our fraternity**. Let's make this a celebration to remember for generations to come!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee





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 April issue is on March 31*

