

THE GRAND EAST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 Issue 12

MAY 2025

Grand Master's Message

Brethren,

April was a month full of energy, connection, and celebration. We had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Grand Masters and their delegates from across the country to the **All-Canada Conference**—a memorable time of fellowship and shared purpose.

One of the most exciting highlights was the **150th Anniversary Gala of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba**—an extraordinary evening that brought our Masonic community together in celebration. From the beginning, I envisioned a celebration that would honor 150 years of achievements and legacy. Countless ideas were considered, but the concept truly took shape during the weekend of the All-Canada Conference. While many committee members came and went throughout the planning process, I remained committed to promoting this milestone event until it gained the momentum it needed. I extend my heartfelt thanks to two key groups whose efforts made this historic celebration unforgettable: our generous sponsors and the dedicated members of the 150th Anniversary Committee.

Our **sponsors** played a vital role. Their support allowed us to host an elegant, accessible event, secure a beautiful venue, provide meaningful entertainment, and create an evening worthy of our legacy—without placing a burden on our members. Their investment was not just in the event, but in our community and future.

The 150th Anniversary Committee deserves special recognition for their thoughtful work—from producing a powerful historic video and commemorative magazine to coordinating an immersive lodge room display that offered deeper insight into our traditions. Their collaboration and commitment brought the vision to life.

Another proud moment came on **April 23, when the Grand Lodge of Manitoba received a Service Award from Mayor Scott Gillingham** in recognition of 150 years of contributions to the community. We are honoured by this acknowledgment and grateful for the continued partnership with our city.

Looking ahead, the **Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba** is fast approaching. Events begin Thursday, June 5 with the opening of **the Hospitality Room followed by meetings and the Grand Master's Gala on Friday**. The weekend concludes with the installation of our incoming **Grand Master, RWB Rey Galapan, on Saturday, June 7**—followed by his Gala that evening. (Details can be found in the registration form)

Brother Rey, I wish you every success as you ascend to the Grand East. Your steady leadership, vision, and commitment to the Craft are clear to all who know you. The Grand Lodge of Manitoba is fortunate to have you at the helm. Know that I stand ready to support you whenever you need.

As we continue to build on our momentum, let us remember the value of simplicity and strength—**KISS: Keep It Simple and Strong**. I look forward to seeing many of you and shaking your hands at the Annual Communication.

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	MW Bro. Doug Webster
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	M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson (136)
Grand Librarian	R.W. Bro. Brian Rountree (174)
Grand Archivist	Bro. Trevor Millar (1)
Grand Chaplain	R.W. Bro. Dennis Henney (182)
Grand Historian	R.W. Bro. Ted Yorke (183)

APPOINTED BY THE GRAND MASTER

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

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

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

Grand Master's Itinerary May & June 2025

DATE	DAY & TIME	EVENT
May 2, 2025	Friday @ 6:00 p.m.	Royal Arch – Ceremonial Opening at Hilton Hotel
May 2, 2025	Friday @ 7:00 p.m.	Capital Lodge
May 3, 2025	Saturday @ noon	10 th District
May 3, 2025	Saturday @ 4:00	EKMT Fund-raising
May 9, 2025	Friday @ 6:00 p.m.	Royal Order – Ladies' Night
May 10, 2025	Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.	Unity District semi annual meeting
May 10, 2025	Saturday @ 1:00 p.m.	Shriners - MMT
May 13, 2025	Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.	150th Anniversary Committee Meeting at MMT
May 14, 2025	Wednesday @ noon	Management Meeting
May 14, 2025	Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.	Starbuck OV
May 16, 2025	Friday @ 6:30 p.m.	Manitoba Maharlika – OV and open installation
May 23 – May 26, 2025		Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Quebec
May 26, 2025	Monday @ 7:00 p.m.	OES Opening Ceremonies – Easter Star – Hilton Hotel
May 30, 2025	Friday @ 6:00 p.m.	Austin Manitoba
June 5, 2025	Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room at The Hilton Hotel
June 6, 2025	Friday @ 9:00 a.m.	Grand Lodge Business Session at MMT
June 6, 2025	Friday @ 5:30	Grand Master Bisharat Banquet at MMT
June 7, 2025	Saturday @ 8:00	Grand Lodge Regular Opening and Session at MMT
June 7, 2025	Saturday @ 1:15	Open Installation at MMT
June 7, 2025	Saturday @ 6:30	Grand Master Galapon Banquet at The Hilton Hotel

Masonic Education

The Beginning of Freemasonry in Canada

In 1717, Col. Richard Phillips was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia and Placentia (Nfld.). The garrisons at Annapolis Royal, Canso and Placentia were under his command. He continued as Governor until 1749. During that time, he was mostly away from the area and left its control to Lieutenant Governors.

Col. Richard Phillips had a brother named Erasmus and he had a son by the same name. It seemed to be a military family and by 1726 we see Ensign Erasmus Phillips (now age 21) under his uncle's command in the 40th Regiment at Annapolis Royal. By 1737, Erasmus was now a Major and in Nov. of that year he was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge, Boston Massachusetts. In 1738 Provincial Grand Master, Robert Tomlinson gave Phillips a "deputation" to establish a lodge. A deputation means the right has been given but there is no Charter or Warrant issued. Erasmus then returned and formed the 5th lodge to be founded under the Provincial GL of Mass. and the 1st lodge in Canada.

Phillips was the first Master of this lodge, named Annapolis Royal Lodge F.&A.M. (The GL of Massachusetts does not number their lodges).

The formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, as issued from Boston in 1738 was not legal. The reason being is that one Provincial Grand Lodge is not authorized to form another. Only a Grand Lodge has that power, in this case the Grand Lodge of England. Today this would never happen but times were much different back then.

Personally, I see nothing wrong with a formation such as this, as long as it is done in the right spirit. Erasmus Phillips may have realized that he was not properly sanctioned for we see in 1757 he applied to the Antient GL of England, to be made Provincial GM for Nova Scotia. This request was granted. Three years later Erasmus suddenly died from apoplexy, at the age of 55 years.

It is difficult to say whether Annapolis Royal Lodge was under a Military “traveling” warrant or not. If there was no local lodge then the military were allowed to take in civilians. Although Annapolis Royal Lodge did have civilian members, it was basically a Regimental lodge and their histories are tied together.

In April of 1775 the American Revolution broke out. It is understandable why in Nov. of the same year, the Brethren of Phillips Regiment, re-chartered the lodge under the 2nd Grand Lodge of England (the Antients) to become Annapolis Royal Lodge #42. The Regiment fought at Louisbourg, Quebec City, the American War of Independence and the West Indies. The lodge apparently became dormant before 1810, as in that year, the regiment, now serving in Spain, applied to the Grand lodge of Ireland for a “traveling warrant”. It was granted bearing the number 204. Irish traveling warrants only had numbers and an actual name was never attached.

From 1767 to 1788 Masonry in Annapolis Royal was neglected. In 1788, they applied to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia (Antients) for a charter. There it sat for seven years and in 1795 the request was granted and they became Annapolis Royal Lodge # 25, A.F.&A.M. They carried on for 32 years before dormancy once again set in. We must not be too hard on our Brethren, life in those days was a struggle in itself. This along with the American Revolution, all took its toll.

In 1863 Annapolis Royal Lodge applied to the United GL of England and received Charter number 1047. In 1866, the GL of Nova Scotia was formed. All but one English lodge joined the GL of Nova Scotia and in 1869 a renumbering of the lodges took place. Annapolis Royal Lodge was given #33 and this remains so today.

**Source: "The Beginning of Freemasonry in Canada",
by Wor. Bro. Frederick Harris, P.M., Annapolis Royal Lodge #33
It has been edited with minor corrections and comments by, V.Wor. Bro. Barry D. Thom**



Nova Scotia Freemasons Home - Windsor, Nova Scotia

NEWS AND EVENTS

10th Masonic District
Official Visit
May 3, 2025



Beaver Ionic Lodge #25
Official Visit
April 30, 2025



Corinthian Lodge #178
Official Visit
April 14, 2025



Ladies' Program
@ The Leaf
April 26, 2025



Shriners
Orlando, Florida
April 11, 2025



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Manitoba
Newly Installed 2025/2026 Officers
May 3, 2025



All Canada Conference
Apr 25-26, 2025



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
April 23, 2025



Grand Lodge of Manitoba 150th Anniversary Celebration

April 25 at the RBC Convention Center



150th Anniversary Gala

Thank You Sponsors!

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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 June issue is on May 31

