

The Grand Chapter Communique

September 2011

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From the desk of the Grand First Principal

The summer has been good to most groups of people. Sunshine was frequent, so those vacationing in Ontario enjoyed warm temperatures. When the rains came about once a week it was a happy time for the farmers. The long range forecast for the Fall indicates a warmer than normal period. However, I suspect there will be significant snowfall near the lakes as the Great Lakes are warmer than normal.

As we return to the quarries, I again applaud and congratulate the elected and appointed officers of Grand Chapter and wish them a successful and rewarding term of office.

In July I attended our Grand Lodge at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Congratulations to the Grand Master M. W. Bro Garry Dowling, may he enjoy his term of office. Congratulations to those brethren who were elected and appointed to serve as officers of Grand Lodge. I also had the opportunity to visit the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Mississauga, in the company of the Grand Master M. W. Bro. Garry Dowling and R. W. Bro. George Hinds and we were well received.

Another successful booth was displayed at Grand Lodge featuring a flat TV screen showing a DVD and a digital frame showing multiple pictures. The Public relations website is active and can be accessed from the current web site.

The Grand Council met in Hamilton on July 7, 2011 to complete the last masonic year and deal with current issues.

August was a very light month and I along with R. Ex. Comp. George Napper (Grand Executive) attended the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan in Lansing. M. Ex. Comp Michael Whiting was installed as Grand High Priest of Michigan. I was nominated and accepted as an honorary member of the Grand Chapter of Michigan.

Earlier in the masonic year many summonses indicate that a number of applicants were advanced in the Royal Arch which is a good sign. However, a few chapters show the need for concern by Grand Chapter. Those chapters who are in difficulty are encouraged to seek assistance to strengthen masonic memberships and/or to amalgamate with another chapter. Their future depends on a positive commitment by all chapter members to design a suitable plan and with the help of a trustee to put it into action. Companions should ensure that they follow the current procedures in the appropriate sections of the Book of Constitution (104 a-l).

The communities of Ottawa area will be hosting the 2011 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo at Chute a Blondeau during the period September 21 – 25, 2011. The IPM opens daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A steady stream of visitors and masons attend the displays and pass through the masonic tent. This meet and greet in the tent city is an excellent social and family event to conclude a beautiful day. The Grand Master and the Grand Council will be present on Thursday 22nd September, 2011.

Companions, Royal Arch Masonry provides the ceremonies which complete the Master Mason degree and together with the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry constitute Ancient Freemasonry. As a Royal Arch Mason, we develop civic awareness, personal responsibility, leadership and skills which are so needed in Masonry and in our society today. I thank the companions for their continued support and diligence in recording and reporting the events and conditions of Royal Arch Masonry in Ontario.

Finally, the Grand Executive meets on Saturday October 29, 2011. Members should be making arrangements to attend. The venue is Richmond Hill Masonic Temple, Elgin Road and begins at 9:00 am. Be careful on the highways and exercise safety precautions while travelling to and from your upcoming meetings.

Yours Fraternaly,

M. Ex. Comp. Roland P. Mandeville
Grand First Principal,
Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario