



# The Beacon

Central District Masonic Newsletter

September 2009



October is

## *Higher Education Bursaries Month*

*Can you give up ONE good cup of Coffee a month*

*See page 3 for details*

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My fellow brothers, we are starting a new and exciting Masonic season. I hope are ready to make our Fraternity stronger and more interesting for the new people who want to join us in our Masonic journey. Looking forward to seeing you all in my travels around our district.

I am looking forward to some input for the betterment of the craft.

Fraternally yours  
 Randall D Robinson  
 DDGM Central District 2009/10

### **RW Bro. Randall Robinson**

#### **District Deputy Grand Master**

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### **Central District Officers 2008 - 2009**

District Secretary	W. Bro. Scott Campbell	403-318-7775	prairesand@shaw.ca
Masonic Higher Education & Bursary	W. Bro. Mitch Thompson	403-309-2544	waycat@telusplanet.net
Masonic Foundation	W Bro. Bob Cantwell	403-986-4242	rrc1@telus.net
Research & Education	W Bro. Bob Cantwell	403-986-4242	rrc1@telus.net

### ***D.D.G.M. - ITINERARY - 2009***

September 29th	Beacon #190, Red Deer	Official Visit
November 2nd	Mountain View #16, Olds	Official Visit
November 3rd	Kenilworth #29, Red Deer	Official Visit
November 4th	Britannia #18, Ponoka	Official Visit
November 10th	Kitchener #95, Rimbey and Red Deer #12, Red Deer - in Rimbey	Official Visit
November 12th	Lochearn #151, Rocky Mountain House	Official Visit
November 19th	Innisfail #8, Innisfail	Official Visit
November 21st	District Meeting Red Deer Freemason Hall Registration 12 noon - Tyle 1:00 pm Dinner 5:00 pm	Contact: <u>RW Bro. Randall Robinson, DDGM</u> or <u>W Bro. Scott Campbell, D Sec.</u>



## Masonic

### Higher Education Bursaries

The Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund was instituted by the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. at its Annual Communication in June of 1957. The intent was and is to provide assistance to those students wishing to receive a higher education but lacking the ever increasing funds to do so.

The first 4 Bursaries were awarded in 1959 and since that time well over 1,200 bursaries totaling approximately \$1.2 Million has been distributed. (This includes \$80,300.00 which was awarded in 91 Scholarships through a separate fund generated from a bequest from Mr. & Mrs. Frank Milling).

In recent years between 50 and 90 Bursaries have been awarded annually to students of Alberta!!!

The Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund obtains its funding through donations from the Members of the Craft, Memorial Donations and Bequests placed in Wills. The Fund is a Registered Charitable Fund and receipts for Income Tax purposes are issued. Expenses incurred in general administration of the Fund are paid by the General Operating Fund of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. No expenses are taken from the donations, memorials or bequests directed to the Fund.

Bursaries are awarded on a basis of need and proven scholastic ability.

An application form (in Adobe Reader .pdf format) is to be found on the Grand Lodge web page which can be printed off, completed and forwarded to the Grand Lodge Office.

<http://www.freemasons.ab.ca/mhebapp.pdf>

Masonic Higher Education Bursaries are funded from your donations and the donations of other Masonic related groups. The goal of the Foundation is to have every Mason donate at least ten cents per day. This amounts to the princely sum of \$36.50 per Mason per year, or only \$3.04 per month. Brethren, this is only slightly more than a cup of coffee per month. Do the math. With a little bit of effort we could double the number of Bursaries granted each year.

Its nice to see the Bursaries presented each year - see next page for this years Central District recipients and I am glad to see the parents being included in some of the presentations. However, if you want to really see the effect of this program ask the incoming DDGM to take you out to meet the students during the initial interviews. You will be amazed by the enthusiasm and the drive of these young people. They have dreams - and we can help them realize those dreams. Our future may well be in their hands - so how about it - is \$36.50 really to much?

### Masonic Higher Education Bursary Recipients Central District 2009 - 2010 12 Recipients - \$24,000.00



Lochearn Secretary W Bro. Marc Spencer, W Bro. Alan Train, and Bro. Denis Gray join with the DDGM in presenting a Bursary to Lance Tyrer (Living Faith Bible College)



VW Bro. Don Anderson (WM) and W Bro. Andy Jones of Apollo #27 assist the DDGM in presenting a bursary to Tyler Nietz (U of A)



The Rimbey Lodge BBQ saw the Past DDGM, RW Bro. Len Clarke and W. Bro. Allan Tarleton present Bursary to Anna Maynard and Miss Curran, their parents also attended the BBQ



W Bro. Hugh Robinson (Mountain View #16 and the DDGM attend the Olds High School to present Bursaries to Lexya Oulton (UofA), Catriena Huuijzer (UofL) and Kerstyn Lane (UofA). Presentations were made at the High School



Red Deer Bursary recipients and their families attend Beacon #190 along with the DDGM for the presentation of Bursaries to Bret Halina (UofA) Linsey Watson (RDC) and Kayla Fairbrother (RDC).



Angela Kosolifski



Thank you  
Beacon #190

Editor's Comments: Thank-you to the Brethren of Beacon #190 for your generous donation of \$10180.00 to assist with the purchase of this specialized wheel chair for Jordon Roberts of Delburne. Jordan is a spastic quadriplegic with epilepsy and this chair represents his only mod of movement or transportation. Jordan is now 19 years old and now is classified as an adult

which restricts the assistance which is available to him from Government agencies. 51% of the cost was covered by ADLS (Aids to Daily Living), a provincial government organization; Beacon #190 covered 24.5% and a request was submitted to the Masonic Foundation of Alberta for the remaining 24.5%. The assistance of MFA is unknown at this time as they cannot provide direct assistance to individuals, and on that basis they turned the request down. However, I have since heard that they may be reconsidering the request if they can find another charitable association to run the donation through.

The sad part about this is that there is a danger of the donation through the "charity" causing a reduction in Jordan's ASHE payments of \$1180.00/mth. - I wonder, does this mean we are giving charity to the Provincial Government?

To: Clark and The Masons

Clark thank you very much on Jordan's behalf for going to your group for funding. We really appreciate you doing this for us. It helped tremendously to get half of what we owe. Please give our thanks to the Masons for us.

Geoff & Dani Gunter  
&  
Jordan Roberts



Congratulations to Bro. Glen Tubillara on being presented with his Master Mason's Certificate at the September meeting of Innisfail #8. The presentation was made by RW Bro. Russ Fisher of Beacon #190, under the direction of the WM of Innisfail #8, W Bro. Frank Davis.

If you are in Innisfail, check out the new "rock" sign at the Lodge hall. The "solar powered" light above it is from the original Lodge Hall,

It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up:

'I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire.'

They did that.

'Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him.'

They did that, too.

'Now, what do you see, looking ahead?'

'The face of a Brother Mason through the flames.'

'What do you feel in front of you?'

'The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night.'

'What do you feel at your side?'

'The warm hand of a Brother.'

'OK. Now, drop the hands, and turn around.'

They did so.

'Now, what do you see, looking ahead?'

'Complete darkness.'

'What do you feel, looking ahead?'

'A sense of loneliness, of being alienated.'

'What do you feel at your side?'

'Nothing at all.'

'What do you feel on your backside?'

'The warmth of the fire.'

'So it is with Masonry,' said the old man. 'In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of a Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother.'

But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you.'

-- Unknown



**Something Different:**

Kalispell Lodge #42, infused with young and vibrant members looking for something new created the idea of the first aquatic lodge on Flathead Lake. The pontoon boat was kept East and West by our Treasurer, Ron Hopkins PWM and a regular business meeting proceeded under the leadership of WM Billy Angel. Such an idea was found



interesting enough that the meeting was visited by our Past Grand Master, Doc Harkins.

Geo. D. Cowan, Lodge #42

**Computer tips – Money-Saving Draft Picks**

You can extend the life of any printer cartridge, monochrome and color laser printers included, by **printing in draft mode.** (*also speeds up printing*)

Try it: From the Start menu, click on *Settings, Control Panel, Printers and Faxes*, select your printer, then right-click *Properties*. Choose the Device Options tab and click Print Quality, select the lowest quality, and exit the menus. Then print something.

The print and graphic quality will be a little less sharp and colors might not be as bright. But hey, it's okay for most of the day-to-day stuff you print -- and you'll save some ink.

(Tip #2) If you're following me so far, you may have a new printer driver -- for monochrome printing only. Now I'll suggest you create another two: one for draft mode, the other for high-quality printing.

It's easy enough: As you did earlier, open the Control Panel's Printers and Faxes, and repeat the process to install another copy of the printer driver. Save the one set for draft mode as "draft" and set the next one's print quality to a higher level. (Name this one "high quality" or, more aptly, "money waster.") When you need high-quality prints, choose *File, Print* and select that printer from the drop-down menu.

Tip borrowed from [www.techbite.com](http://www.techbite.com)

**Subject Alzheimer's Test**

Count the "F's" in the following

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RE-  
SULT OF SIENTIF-  
IC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE  
EXPERIENCE OF YEARS...

Manage it - How Many ?????????????????? - See page 7

## Links



### Alberta Widows Sons

<http://widowssons.ca/alberta/>



Making Good Men...  
...Better.



<http://www.britannia18.ca/>

**This is a new site for Britannia—Remember to change your bookmarks**



Internet Lodge of Research, GRA, AF & AM  
Calgary, Alberta

<http://www.internetlodge.ab.ca/home/>

A Page about Freemasonry  
(Worlds Oldest Masonic Web site)

<http://web.mit.edu/dryfoo/Masonry/>

Central District Web Page

<http://mastermason.com/Beacon190/ddgm.htm>

Knock - Knock - Knock  
Who's There?  
Candy  
Candy Who?  
Candy Date For Freemasonry



## Many Volumes of the Sacred Law

Brother Tofique Fatehi, Lodge Al-Ameen No. 1412 (Grand Lodge of Scotland), Bombay, India

Almost every Lodge in India, irrespective of which constitution it belongs to, has 5 Volumes of Sacred Law placed open on the Altar while the Lodge is open. They are: Geeta, Koran, Zend-Avesta, Granth-Sahib and the Bible. And yes, they are referred to as Volumes of the Sacred Law - note the plural.

There are 5 officers at the District level: the Bearer of Geeta, the Koran-Bearer, the Avesta-Bearer, the Granth Bearer and the Bearer of the Bible - collectively known as the Bearers of the Volumes of Sacred Law. If we have a candidate not "subscribing" to any of these faiths (ours is a very multi-faith society) we ask him to bring his own Volume of Sacred Law, which is also then placed on the Altar and on which he takes his obligation, and seals that obligation "in a manner most binding on his conscience" as beliefs vary with respect to how one reveres the VSL.

There are many non-English speaking Christians in the world for whom God is meaningless as it is in the English language. I know many Christians here in India who pray in a Church to Ishwar, which is the Hindi word for God, and whose very Christian names are Yesudas (Yesu = Jesus, Das = worshipper) or Ishwardas etc. They are baptized in the Church with those names. I even know of a couple of Arab Christians who know only Arabic and no English. I am sure they are praying to Allah, which again is the Arabic word for God ... Al-Lah, the Divine. This word is more amorphous - like the VSL or the GAOTU. It is only a great misconception that Allah is the God of the Muslims that makes this a sacrilege. It is just that in Arabic God is called Allah. He is the same God as the God of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad.

And now, a bit off track, we in India (and I believe the 'rest of the world') refer in the first degree to TGAOU, in the second degree to TGGOU, in the third degree to the MH, and several other degrees by various other acronyms as TGOOU and TGDOA and the FOAF etc.

The so-called Masonic Bible is just the James Version of the Bible - with an additional index to the Masonic references to the Bible - e.g. winding staircase.

Incidentally, when I visited the Lodges in US I took the Tyler's Oath (something unknown here in India) on the VSL, which was the Bible. I also attended a 3rd Degree work in a Lodge where the Bible, on which the Candidate had taken his 3 obligations was presented to him after raising, having been signed ('autographed') by all those present. When it came to taking my signature, they were a bit hesitant. Then the WM asked me if it would please me to sign the Bible, only if I didn't mind, and I gladly did so with great satisfaction, and also a great appreciation of the gesture of the WM in asking my approval before I signed it.

This article copied from Bro. Tofique Fatehi's web page at: <http://tofique.fatehi.us/>



Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Lodge of Perfection, Central Valley  
 Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 8:00 pm  
 Freemason Hall, 4722 - 49B Ave, Lacombe, AB  
 Contact Vern Otto, 403-782-3988



Royal Arch, Lebanon #38  
 Meetings: Third Thursday  
 Apollo Lodge Hall, 5114-50 Ave Stettler, AB  
 Contact: Jim Lockhart, jim.lockhart@ufa.com 403-742-5775



Al Azhar Shriners - A.A.O.N.M.S. Red Deer Unit  
 Meetings - 3rd Wednesday  
 Freemason Hall, 4811-52nd Street, Red Deer, AB  
 Contact: Box 42, Red deer, AB, T4N 5E7  
 Club Pres. Dude Hughs dmhughes@xplornet.com 403-356-1807  
 1st Vice Garry Hodge ghodge@shaw.ca 403-356-1807



**Mountain View #1** (Olds) 1st Tuesday  
**Venus #2** (Red Deer) 2nd Monday  
**Alexandra #4** (Lacombe) 2nd Tuesday  
**Victoria #14** (Stettler) 3rd Monday  
**Innisfail #37** (Innisfail) 1st Thursday  
**Battle River #47** (Ponoka) 3rd Thursday  
**Lochearn #129** (RMH) 1st Saturday - 2 pm

#### Editor's Comments:

- This newsletter is not an official Masonic publication and does not express the policies or opinions of any specific Masonic Lodge, District or Grand Lodge.

So go ahead and enjoy it as my gift to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve it let me know - I will always listen, I may not do anything about it, but I will listen. I would love to publish some of the stories from around the District or even Alberta. Stories about individuals, Lodge happenings or histories of Lodges.

This newsletter will not be published in paper format, but feel free to print it out and pass on to a brother.

The subscription list for this newsletter came from the CDMEL (Central District Masonic Email List). If you would rather not receive this Newsletter, let me know and I will remove your name - Your name will not be removed from the CDMEL unless you specifically request it. If you would like to be added to the subscription list send me an email.

W. Bro. Clark Johnston  
 Beacon #190  
 cjohnst@telusplanet.net

**A Beacon never goes anywhere  
 It's just helps points the way**

**Are you your brother's keeper?** Several Masons in the District do not have access to computers &/or the Internet. If you know of such a Bro. And you think this newsletter is worth while, why not print off a copy to pass on. Another idea—if you would like a copy, but do not have a computer, ask your son or grandson to print it for you -he may get an idea of what it is you do at that secret Lodge!

NovaNewsNow.com - Article online since June 29th 2009, 14:40

## **Digby's Masons active over 200 years in community**

The Masons are one of the oldest fraternal organizations in the world with over five million members worldwide, and many famous leaders, scientists and philosophers have been associated with this ancient order.

Some notable Masons include Sir John A. Macdonald, John G. Diefenbaker, Norman Vincent Peale, Jesse Jackson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Alexander Fleming, Sir Alexander Keith and many U.S. presidents.

Yet even in communities where there is a large Masonic presence, the general public seems oblivious to the basic tenets of this brotherhood and there are a lot of misconceptions.

I have long been aware of the charitable works of our many Masonic lodges in Digby County, but I really did not know much about their administration, philosophy and activities. Recently, I had the good fortune to speak with Bill Hilden, the Worshipful Master of the historic Digby lodge.

The first and most important aspect is that the Masons do not recruit members. If a person is interested in joining, he must ask a Mason. Hence the slogan 'to be one you must ask one'. The fact that an individual interested in membership is required to seek out a current member and request consideration for joining has been a challenge.

Bill told me a story about a dear friend who was a Mason and as he put it "never asked him to be part of the brotherhood." He was hurt at the time but later he came to understand that the onus was on him to ask his friend to support him in his application. Other criteria for association with the Masons are a belief in a supreme being and a minimum age of 25. As well, a candidate must be of good morals and of good reputation.

The belief in a supreme being has often been misinterpreted. Freemasonry explicitly and openly states that it is neither a religion nor a substitute for one. There is no separate Masonic god, nor a separate proper name for a deity in any branch of Freemasonry. Indeed the belief in a supreme being includes many faiths and many traditions. Acceptance of a higher power that guides and supports one in times of great challenges is just one aspect.

Faith, family, responsibility to community and fellow citizens is key to all the values and rituals of the Masonic Order. Granted, Masonic Lodges have what they call secrets that are known only to other Masons but these are rituals and activities associated with modes of recognition amongst members and particular elements within the ritual.

Central within Freemasonry is the preoccupation with good and charitable works. For over 200 years the Digby lodge has been actively involved in our community. I was particularly impressed by the outreach to the young and the lodge's efforts to ensure that young people have opportunities.

At high school graduations, it is worthwhile to note the educational rewards bestowed upon students seeking to further their educations. The Digby lodge gives two \$500 bursaries every year to graduates of Digby Regional High School. They also support youth groups like Scouts.

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)*

In a broader context, the Masons raise funds to support hospitals, medical research, food banks and many other commendable initiatives. Masons support each other and enrich the communities in which they are present.

Publisher's Comment: You may be wondering why this article was posted? Well, it is interesting, to me, that the Digby Lodge has been active in the community for over 200 years. But I also found it as an interesting piece that could be altered to serve as a guide for any Lodge to put out a news release in their local paper to promote Freemasonry in their region. It does not hurt to let people know that

**“To Be One You Have To Ask One”.**

## A Masonic Funeral

A new Worshipful Master in a small town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting. The following Thursday the Lodge was all but empty. Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the Altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Chaplain delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead Lodge.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge," all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror. Remember the obligation we all took my brethren attend and support your Lodge!!!!

From page 7 - Answer - “Count the “F’s” How Many ???????????????????  
- Wrong, there are 6 !! - no joke - Read it again

The reason:

The brain cannot process “OF”.

Incredible or what? GO back and look again!!

Anyone who counted all 6 “F’s” on the first go is a genius.

Three is normal, four is quite rare.

## The Beacon - bookstore

The following books can be purchased on line at Natures Colours-Masonic Books, by following the link below or from links on the DDGM or Beacon web pages. Prices are in CAD funds. Digital versions are also available. Payment can be made with Major Credit Cards through the secure PayPal payment system or contact me via email at [cjohnst@telusplanet.net](mailto:cjohnst@telusplanet.net).

<http://www.naturescolours.ca/masonic%20books.htm>

### Masonic Papers and Addresses, by Bro. James W. Roberts

Masonic  
Papers and  
Addresses

Bro. James W. Roberts

**MW Bro. James W. Roberts** is a United Church Minister, a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, a Mason for over 50 years, a Bro. & a Friend. This book is a collection of the papers he has written and presented over 50 years; as Masonic Spring Workshop (Masonry In The Mountains) theme speaker (three times), Grand Chaplin of the Grand Lodge Of Alberta (5 times), His Christmas Message for the Grand Lodge Bulletin (4 times) and his Inaugural & Final presentations as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. As well it includes his presentation to the Grand Lodge of Quebec on Freemasonry and Religion - submitted in November 1993 and his address as Senior Grand Warden, to the Annual Inter-Provincial Conference of the Officers of the Four Western Jurisdictions. The messages contained herein are as relevant to Masonry and society today as they were when they were written and will prove inspirational to any one who reads them.

Originally compiled by the late WBro Harry Noble of Britannia Lodge #18 , G.R.A.  
Updated and re-published by WBro. C Johnston, Beacon #190 G.R.A.

[This book also available from the Grand Lodge of Alberta Bookstore.](#)

### Masonic Etiquettes

Masonic  
Etiquettes

Harry J. Noble, P.M.

**Description:** Etiquette and Protocol as it relates to Craft Lodges in Alberta, Canada. This is a re-production of a book originally published in 1994. An excellent guide for Lodge Officers to maintain the traditions of conduct within the Lodge and to trace the origins of some traditions.

[\(A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book goes to Masonic Charities.\)](#)

Original manuscript of the late WBro Harry Noble of Britannia Lodge #18 , G.R.A.  
Re-published by WBro. C Johnston, Beacon #190 G.R.A.

[This book also available from the Grand Lodge of Alberta Bookstore](#)

History  
of the  
Grand Lodge  
of  
Alberta  
1905 - 1980

J.W. Collett, P.G.M.

### History of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, 1905 - 1980

**Description:** This coil bound book is a reproduction of the hard covered book, by the same title, originally published in the 1980s to commemorate the first 75 years of Freemasonry in Alberta, Canada. It is 154 pages with B&W photos which include pictures of the Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries as well as historical photos. Also includes Lodge distribution graphics. This re-publication was done mainly to make the manuscript available in a coil bound version and digital format. Coil bound and digital versions available from "The Beacon Bookstore on lulu.com.

Original manuscript of the late J.W. Collett, P.G.M., G.L.A.

[. Hard cover original version is available from the Grand Lodge of Alberta - Bookstore](#)

Freemasonry

A Way Of Life

Have You Ever Considered Becoming A Mason?

### Freemasonry – A Way of Life

**A WAY OF LIFE;** a brief overview of what Freemasonry is and what it isn't. Of interest to someone looking to find out more about the craft - with a view to joining.

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A MASON;** a series of questions and explanations directed at someone considering Masonry and wondering if it is an organization suitable to their needs.