

“The Royal Craftsman”

A newsletter for Royal Arch Masons, about Royal Arch Masons,
of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

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A Message from our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, M.E.C. Robert MacDougall.



Companions. Welcome to the third edition of the phoenix known as the Royal Craftsman. It has been a long two and a half months but as is evident, the Light is still shining and getting brighter. The efforts of the individual Chapters to keep their

Companions informed and in touch is what our Fraternity stands for. I realize it has been a long hiatus but everyday brings us closer to renewing and rebuilding our Chapters. As our Jurisdiction is different from all others, we transcend two Provinces, we must wait until the elected Leaders of those areas decide to reopen. On another note, a Committee has been struck to research the idea of an online virtual Chapter. This would, in conjunction with the Royal Craftsman, allow information to flow and virtual meetings to take place.

Be safe and check on each other.



The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone.

Bro William Howard Taft

Submitted by R.E.C. Michael Lutes, DGS. Dist 1.

Message from The DGS and Officers of District #1 Grand Officers & Companions,

The entire World is once again facing a crisis of yet unknown proportions. No one is immune from its tentacles. Borders, governments, citizens cannot yet keep it in check. This crisis alone is cause for great concern. Yet in the midst of this crisis; quiet, peaceful, harmless Nova Scotia has fallen victim to unimaginable hatred and uncertainty. How many lives have been lost in so many different ways; COVID 19; Murder; Accident; Suicide; Wide-ranging Illness; and for some more fortunate souls, Old Age. For all of these victims, there are many more family members, friends and co-workers left to mourn their loss, trying to cope with the current inability to gather in mutual support and comfort. These are indeed, trying times.

We, as Masons, have been ‘inconvenienced’ by the suspension of our normal masonic activities. None of the deaths above are ‘inconvenient’ except for Old Age. The others are tragic. Keeping things in perspective helps us look at our masonic activity as a moral lifestyle. We can still practice our masonic teachings through the way we act in society, not just within our Lodges, Chapters, Councils, etc. So let’s continue to be masonic in our actions every day; show kindness to others; lead by example; obey lawful restrictions and keep in contact with one another by whatever means.

For those remaining in office for another year, we have another kick at the cat to get it right. Don’t pass it up! For those recently installed, you have two years to accomplish what many before were only given one year to do. Consider it a Blessing!

To the Luddington Family who recently lost their Father in an accident, our Thoughts and Prayers are with you. We would be physically there for you if we could.

Now we anxiously await the time when we can once again be together to share Brotherly Love. Stay Safe & Healthy!

Fraternally,

Mike, Freeman, Harvey & Bob

Offerings from the Grand Secretary, M.E.C. Fred Richard.

"Hi Companions:

Hard to believe that another month has gone by and we are still in isolation. Although some things are opening up, things are sure different. Maybe it will be this way, the new normal as some people have indicated.

Hope everyone is staying well and looking after yourself and family. It is nice to hear from a few chapters by email and post mail letting everyone know what they are doing to pass the time.

Not much going on with the Grand Secretary. Filling some orders for supplies and keeping up with the few emails that come in. Lady Joan and I are well, keeping busy with out-door work, lawn mowing and flower gardens. Talking to our family on Face-Time, sure is nice with Social Media. Trying my hand with Zoom, with a couple of upcoming meetings coming up.

Until next time and continue to stay safe.

Fred, Grand Secretary

***Submitted by Ex Comp Quentin Hardy, Secretary,
George S Wright Ch No 27***

On December 28, 1874, Charity Lodge #69, held their first meeting at the Star Theatre in Mahone Bay. After 140 years the Lodge experienced a steady decline in membership resulted in serious financial difficulties which ultimately led to its closure. A ceremony marking the lodge's closing was held in Mahone Bay on November 19th 2014.

R.E.C. Frank Vienot, George S. Wright Chap #27, subsequently acquired two staves from Charity Lodge #69 and donated them to George S. Wright Chapter #27 for use in degree work. EC Quentin Hardy, took on the task in restoring them and a year later, during the Covid-19 pandemic, he finally had time to work on this project. Using two cans of paint stripper over a three week period he subsequently removed about 20 coats of paint from the Staves. Now stained and varnished they will be presented to Chapter #27 at our next regular meeting. They will be a very useful addition to our Chapter and a part of Charity Lodge's history will survive for years to come.

So, who was Bezalel

Well according to Wikipedia, this Character of Masonic lore, was important indeed, though seldom celebrated within our Craft.

In Exodus, **Bezalel, Bezaleel, Betzalel**, was the chief artisan of the Tabernacle and was in charge of building the **Ark of the Covenant**, assisted by Aholiab. The section in chapter 31 describes his selection as chief artisan, in the context of Moses' vision of how God wanted the tabernacle to be constructed, and chapters 36 to 39 recount the construction process undertaken by Bezalel, Aholiab and every gifted artisan and willing worker, in accordance with the vision.

Elsewhere in the Bible the name occurs only in the genealogical lists, but according to cuneiform inscriptions a variant form of the same, "Šil-Bēl," was borne by a king of Gaza who was a contemporary of Hezekiah and Manasseh.

The name "Bezalel" means "in the shadow [protection] of God." Bezalel is described in the genealogical lists as the son of Uri (Exodus 31:1), the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. He was said to be highly gifted as a workman, showing great skill and originality in engraving precious metals and stones and in woodcarving. He was also a master-workman, having many apprentices under him whom he instructed in the arts. According to the narrative in Exodus, he was called and endowed by God to direct the construction of the tent of meeting and its sacred furniture, and also to prepare the priests' garments and the oil and incense required for the service. G.C.P.

Editor's Note

The editor invites any and all Royal Arch Masons to submit items and photos for publication. The editor does reserve the right to edit pending space and content. Submissions in plain text only to gcpraven@gmail.com

"For the good of the Craft"

Comp G.C. Patterson, PGHP