

# “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, it has been six months since COVID 19 and its accompanying social and medical restrictions caused our beloved Chapters to close their doors until we receive instructions allowing us to resume our labours they will remain that way. We made it through the first wave. As Provinces are starting to ease restrictions, your Grand Chapter is working towards reopening our doors at a time and in a manner, which will be safe for all Companions. Companions be safe and keep in touch with each other.



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

*"Hi Companions:*

*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.*

*The Board of General Purposes did have the opportunity to meet virtually via ZOOM. This gave us the opportunity to review our Finances, deal with necessary correspondence, receive reports from our committees, pass motions applicable to the Board, and to discuss a way ahead. There was a good turnout for the meeting and we are hoping that a few more will join us via this method should we not be able to meet in person in the future. All Companions are reminded that they are always welcome to observe these meetings. Your Secretary will be advised of the time and date for the next.*

*Until next time and continue to stay safe.  
Fred, Grand Secretary*

## From St John's Chapter No 8



Earlier this year, during the good times, St John's Chapter had the opportunity to present certificates to their newest members. L-R; Rt Ex Comp Harris MacKenzie DGS, Comp George MacLellan, Comp Trevor Wise, Comp Scott Hale, and V Ex Comp Randy Hubley MEHP. Welcome Companions. We hope to see you in the flesh soon.

## A bit more in the story of the Second Temple

Based on the biblical account, after the return from Babylonian captivity, arrangements were immediately made to reorganize the desolated Yehud Province after the demise of the Kingdom of Judah seventy years earlier. The body of pilgrims, forming a band of 42,360, having completed the long and dreary journey of some four months, from the banks of the Euphrates to Jerusalem, were animated in all their proceedings by a strong religious impulse, and therefore one of their first concerns was to restore their ancient house of

worship by rebuilding their destroyed Temple and reinstating the sacrificial rituals known as the korbanot.

On the invitation of Zerubbabel, the governor, who showed them a remarkable example of liberality by contributing personally 1,000 golden darics, besides other gifts, the people poured their gifts into the sacred treasury with great enthusiasm. First they erected and dedicated the altar of God on the exact spot where it had formerly stood, and they then cleared away the charred heaps of debris which occupied the site of the old temple; and in the second month of the second year (535 BCE), amid great public excitement and rejoicing, the foundations of the Second Temple were laid. A wide interest was felt in this great movement, although it was regarded with mixed feelings by the spectators (Haggai 2:3, Zechariah 4:10).

The Samaritans wanted to help with this work but Zerubbabel and the elders declined such cooperation, feeling that the Jews must build the Temple unaided. Immediately evil reports were spread regarding the Jews. According to Ezra 4:5, the Samaritans sought to "frustrate their purpose" and sent messengers to Ecbatana and Susa, with the result that the work was suspended.

Seven years later, Cyrus the Great, who allowed the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild the Temple, died (2 Chronicles 36:22–23) and was succeeded by his son Cambyses. On his death, the "false Smerdis", an impostor, occupied the throne for some seven or eight months, and then Darius became king (522 BCE). In the second year of his rule the work of rebuilding the temple was resumed and carried forward to its completion (Ezra 5:6–6:15), under the stimulus of the earnest counsels and admonitions of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. It was ready for consecration in the spring of 516 BCE, more than twenty years after the return from captivity. The Temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius, amid great rejoicings on the part of all the people (Ezra 6:15,16), although it was evident that the Jews were no longer an independent people, but were subject to a foreign power. The Book of Haggai includes a prediction that the glory of the second temple would be greater than that of the first (Haggai 2:9). (Wikipedia)

For those of you who are Knights Templar, you will recall through the Ceremony of The Illustrious

Order of the Red Cross, the details of how Zerubbabel had used his witt, wisdom, and diplomacy to gain the support of the Persian Ruler and thus further the Jewish cause, permitting the work to continue in the Second Temple.

(G.C.P.)



## What are the Ancient (Old) Charges

The Old Charges are ancient documents that have come down to us from the 14th century and their legends, rules and regulations are now incorporated within our traditional history.

The physical makeup of these documents are found in the form of handwritten paper and parchment rolls, each unit having been either sewn or pasted together or are comprised of hand-written sheets stitched together in book form, as well as in the more familiar, modern, printed book form.

Some of these Old Manuscripts have been found to have been incorporated into the Minute Books of lodges. They range in estimated date from 1390 until 1714. A few of them are specimens of Gothic script. Most of them are in the safekeeping of the British Museum and the Masonic Library of West Yorkshire, England.

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## Thought to Ponder

*"The Society or Fraternity of Freemasons is more in the nature of a system of Philosophy or of moral and social virtues taught by symbols, allegories, and lectures based upon fundamental truths, the observance of which tends to promote stability of character, conservatism, morality and good citizenship." – H. W. Coil*

### 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](mailto:gcpraven@gmail.com)

**"For the good of the Craft"**

**Comp G.C. Patterson, PGHP**

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