

THE GRANDMASTER'S MESSAGE

Grand Master's Acceptance Speech Address

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Distinguished East, Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers, Members of Grand Lodge and Special Guests.

Being Elected as Grand Master on the occasion of our 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia is especially humbling to me. I am honoured by the trust you have placed in me. It is my intention to carry out my duties in a manner befitting this high office. To those Past Grand Masters who have encouraged me and offered assistance I am truly grateful.

To Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Carson Jackson and those Past Grand Masters who assisted him today with the Installation Ceremonies my sincere thanks and congratulations on their impressive work. I am very fortunate to have the support of a talented group of Grand Lodge Officers. My congratulations to them and my best wishes for the year ahead. Together we will continue the work of those who have gone before us to establish a firm foundation for our young Master Masons who will take up the challenges that lay ahead.

I am encouraged by the number of new candidates coming forward; good men of strong character and high morals. Hopefully, their contributions will promote a strong and vibrant fraternity, well into the future. In the months ahead we will be concentrating on retention of these newly raised brothers through improved quality of lodge meetings.

It is my intention to make Official Visits to all Lodges that request them during the year. All requests should be made through the Grand Secretary. If I am unable to attend, I will appoint a Grand Lodge Officer to represent me, enabling them to become acquainted with the brethren throughout the jurisdiction.

My congratulations to the newly installed District Deputy Grand Masters. I look forward to keeping in close contact with them and assisting them wherever possible in their very important roles in their respective districts. The importance of the work they do cannot be underestimated. They provide a vital link between their districts and Grand Lodge.

The Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden are very aware of the policy of continuity that has proved so valuable over the past few years. Together we will continue with efforts to raise public awareness by appearing in parades, attending District Church Services and encouraging lodges to hold open houses.

The first Inter-Provincial Meeting took place in September last year at Westmorland Lodge in Port Elgin, New Brunswick where over one hundred masons from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia met for the first time. This very successful event will be held in Nova Scotia at Alexandra Lodge in Amherst on September 26th.

To all visiting dignitaries from our neighbouring jurisdictions as well as the representatives of our various concordant bodies: Your presence and participation is very much appreciated and adds immensely to our Grand Lodge Session. Thank you for your attendance. I hope you and your ladies enjoy a very pleasant visit with us. I am looking forward to my visits to other jurisdictions in the year ahead.

Between Grand Lodge Communications, the business of the Grand Lodge is carried out by the Board of General Purposes. My congratulations to Brother Gary Patterson as the newly elected Chairman of the Board of General Purposes. A big thank you to Brother James White for his tireless work as Chairman over the past years. He ensured that the work of the board

was conducted amicably and peacefully.

A special thank you to R.W.Bro. Malcolm Marshall who encouraged me to put my name forward as a line officer.

My daughter Suzanne has been at my side over the last four years and she has made my experiences so much more enjoyable. Thank you Suzanne.

My theme for the year ahead is honouring

those brothers who have gone before us by ensuring our beloved fraternity is on a firm foundation for all those Master Masons who follow in our footsteps.

To all the brethren and guests here today I am so grateful for your support.

Respectfully submitted
Peter J. Ponsford
Grand Master



M. W. Bro. Peter Ponsford, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Masons in Nova Scotia having been installed in the Oriental Chair To his right is R. W. George O'Leary, the Deputy Grand Master.

On the next three pages are some of the people and events from the 150th Annual Communication. See page 8 for the list of photographs.