

**A Glimpse Into The  
History Of  
THE GRAND LODGE  
OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**1966 – 2013**



**By  
Brian C. Loughnan,  
PGH, PGL**

**February, 2014**

**A Glimpse into the History  
of the  
GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA  
1966 – 2013**



*By*

**Brian C. Loughnan,  
PGH, PGL**



# CONTENTS

Forward .....	2
Preface .....	3
Chapter I..... 1966-1975 .....	4
Chapter II ..... 1976-1985 .....	23
Chapter III ..... 1986-1995 .....	37
Chapter IV..... 1996-2005 .....	59
Chapter V ..... 2006-2013 .....	80
The Roll of Lodges.....	105

## FORWARD

When I was approached two years ago by then Deputy Grand Master Reo J. Matthews to compile a history of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia I was both honoured and somewhat daunted by the prospect.

To write a follow up, if you will, from a '*Short History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia*', by R.S. Longley and R. V. Harris, was a challenge. As the modern history of the Grand Lodge could not be as colourful as that earlier period.

The primary sources have been the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, the minutes of meetings of various bodies and information I have accumulated over several years. My involvement on several committees has provided me with an insight that has greatly aided in the writing.

To Past Grand Master Reo Matthews, I extend my appreciation for his faith and his encouragement throughout.

Brian C. Loughnan,  
PGH, PGL

## **PREFACE**

It has been forty-seven years since Past Grand Masters Ronald S. Longley and R.V. Harris published their collaborative work, *A Short History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia*, in 1966. That informative publication was a Centennial Year project to commemorate and tell the story of the beginnings of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia and the events surrounding the eventual formation of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and its evolvement over a period of one hundred years.

The period of time since the Centennial of the Grand Lodge is, of course, still within the memories of many Masons in this jurisdiction. Therefore, it becomes even more incumbent on the author to exercise care when recording the history, to provide a fair and accurate account based on what he determines to be relevant in the compilation of a history that will be as interesting as the subject will allow.

This account has been divided into five chapters. Each of the first four chapters cover a period of ten years and the fifth, eight years. As an aid to the reader, I have chosen to divide the chapters using sub-headings to, as far as possible, group developments of particular areas of Grand Lodge activity. Additionally, the same titles appear in most chapters for continuity purposes.

Those who have maintained an active membership in the fraternity for many years, will have noticed significant changes in Craft Freemasonry. Despite those among us who advocate that Freemasonry has to make itself more appealing to the young men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the truth is that many changes have been made to keep pace with advancing technology. Wisely, we have resisted many of the cries for change in our ritual and the relaxation of our insistence that proficiency be demonstrated to a high standard. Freemasonry possesses a certain mystique that has an appeal of its own in a society that has lost touch with the basic principles that men have lived and died for. Masonry has endured and will continue to endure as long as there are men who truly wish to improve themselves in Masonry and believe in the simple tenets that have withstood the test of time.

The following account is indicative of the efforts of our beloved Fraternity to remain relevant in a fast changing society. Freemasonry has weathered storms in the past and will survive the tempests of the future so long as a steady course is maintained.

Halifax  
February, 2014

Brian C. Loughnan  
Past Grand Historian

## **CHAPTER I**

### ***The Second Century Begins***

#### **1966 - 1975**

An account of the events that led to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and the story of the first one hundred years is contained in "A Short History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia" by R. V. Harris and R. S. Longley, published to coincide with the Centennial Year, 1966. All that needs to be restated here is that the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, consisting of ten lodges, previously warranted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland and its Provincial Grand Lodge, held its first meeting on June 21, 1866. An eleventh lodge was formed under dispensation and named, The Lodge of St. Marc, No 11.

A Centennial Committee under the chairmanship of Past Grand Master Clifford Levy had been formed to organize and coordinate activities in preparation for the centennial of the Grand Lodge. The celebrations were to take place at the same time as the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, in Halifax. Many distinguished guests were invited from jurisdictions in Canada, the United States and from the United Kingdom. Their presence underlined the significance of this historic event.

The following account of the celebrations, published in the Grand Lodge Proceedings of 1967, provides the reader with a sense of the pride that surely existed in the Fraternity at the time of the centennial. It is reproduced here in its entirety:

### **GRAND LODGE CENTENNIAL**

#### **1866 — 1966**

The Centennial of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nova Scotia was appropriately observed 14-17 July 1966. The weather was all that could be desired, the exceptionally large number of distinguished guests added luster to the occasion, the Brethren were in a gala mood, and the lengthy programme was carried out smoothly and efficiently under the fine leadership of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. To commemorate the occasion, Grand Lodge struck a Centennial Jewel bearing a facsimile of the seal of 1866 and published A Short History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia by M.W. Bros. R. S. Longley and R. V. Harris.

Thursday afternoon, 14 July, the M.W. the Grand Master opened an Occasional Lodge in the Commonwealth Room of the Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax, N. S., and conferred the three degrees "at sight" upon Henry P. McKeen, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. He was assisted by Virgin

Lodge No. 3 in the Entered Apprentice Degree, St Johns Lodge No. 2 in the Fellowcraft Degree, and St Andrews Lodge No.1 in the Master Mason Degree. The work was almost perfectly done, the candidate most appreciative, and the attendance taxing the accommodation. The unusual ceremony was arranged to add a unique touch to the Centennial.

Friday featured the opening of the One Hundred and First Annual Communication with its attendant ceremonial, the reception of the many distinguished guests, representing eighteen Grand Lodges, the address of the M.W. the Grand Master, and the regular business session. That afternoon the guests and their ladies were entertained at Government House. At the Grand Master's Banquet in the evening speakers included the M.W. Grand Master, M.W. Bro. R. V. Harris, and three distinguished guests, the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, of the United Grand Lodge of England, and of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. That evening also the ladies were entertained at a buffet supper at the Saraguay Club.

Saturday morning a wreath was laid at the Erasmus James Philipps Ashlar, following which the Brethren and their ladies assembled for divine service in historic St. Paul's Church. M.W. Bro. Rev. Thomas S. Roy, P.G.M. (Massachusetts) was the special speaker, and the Temple Choir assisted in the music. Following the service, the M.W. the Grand Master laid a wreath at the cenotaph and the Brethren paraded down Barrington Street to the Nova Scotian Hotel, where Grand Lodge business was completed. At the noon luncheon, the special speakers were the M.W. Grand Master of Masons in Ontario and the Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. The day's programme ended with a reception in the Commonwealth Room.

Sunday afternoon 17 July, a very large number of Brethren, their ladies and families gathered at a garden party on the spacious grounds of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home at Windsor. There, at four-thirty o'clock, the Grand Chaplain conducted a service of thanksgiving that brought the Centennial observance to a fitting conclusion.

Of particular interest in the above account is the rare act of "making a Mason at sight", when the Grand Master, Ronald S. Longley, opened an 'Occasional Lodge' and conferred the three degrees upon the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, the Hon. H.P. McKeen. This marked the first time in the history of this Grand Lodge that the controversial prerogative of a Grand Master had ever been implemented and indeed only the third time in the whole of Canada.<sup>1</sup>



Not surprisingly, the Grand Historian in his report to the Annual Communication in the Centennial Year, emphasized the need for each lodge Historian to accumulate newspaper clippings and other information on individual members to provide material to add a more human touch when lodge histories are compiled or updated. He remarked on the case of a member of Burns Lodge, No. 10, who was born in 1857, nine years before the present Grand Lodge was formed. Thomas Yould became a member of the Craft on January 1, 1879. This remarkable centenarian passed away only four months before the centennial celebrations, at the age of 108 years, 11 months and 15 days. He had been a Mason for an astonishing 87 years!

A special jewel was struck to commemorate the first hundred years and was known as the Centennial Jewel. The Grand Master, R.S. Longley, in his Centennial Communication Address, expressed a wish that it would be worn on the breast of every brother. A Centennial Jewel was later sent out to every lodge in the jurisdiction with the direction that it be affixed to the collar of the Worshipful Master.

Ronald S. Longley was elected to serve as Grand Master for a third year, but sadly he was not to complete the third term. He was called to the Supreme Grand Lodge Above on January 7, 1967. The Deputy Grand Master, Frederic E. C. Morrison, became Acting Grand Master and finished out the term.

The One hundred and Second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge was opened in Freemasons' Hall in Halifax on Thursday morning, June 1, 1967, in due form by the Acting Grand Master, Frederic E.C. Morrison. After the appointment of two necessary committees, the Grand Lodge was called from labour to refreshment to resume labour in Amherst, on Friday, July 1, 1967. This unusual arrangement was to accommodate pre-arranged plans to permit the late Grand Master to be in attendance at the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England. The Acting Grand Master presided over the Annual Communication at Amherst and was elected to serve as Grand Master for the ensuing year.

In the wake of the flurry of activity associated with the Centennial celebrations, the activities of the Grand Lodge gradually assumed a more business as usual practice. Finances returned as an issue to be dealt with, as did the need to streamline and improve the efficiency of the Grand Lodge offices.

The following is an attempt to confine the history to certain areas of interest and is designed to aid the reader in piecing together and following developments in those particular areas.

## **GRAND LODGE OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Acting Grand Master's address, in 1967, contained a reference to an accommodation problem that existed at Freemasons' Hall, in Halifax, where the crowded offices of the Grand Lodge were spread over two floors. The Acting Grand Master had been tasked to consider options to maximize the use of space for better efficiency, including the addition of a reading room. In the meantime, however, a proposal by certain Masons for possible development of a multi-story building to house the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Scottish Rite and other Masonic bodies had received agreement in principle from those bodies. The proposed building would include a reading room and a museum. In light of these developments, the plan to reorganize the present Grand Lodge offices was placed on hold. It should be noted here that no further mention was made of the ambitious proposal.

It was revealed, in 1968, that plans to consolidate the Grand Lodge offices on the first floor of Freemasons' Hall had to be abandoned after it was learned that the area had been rented to other tenants! Discussions then centered on how to configure the space on the second floor.

At a Special Communication of Grand Lodge, in 1972, plans to consolidate the space rented by Grand Lodge failed to gain approval. Alternate arrangements were considered, which included a reduction of the library holdings. Proceedings of many jurisdictions would no longer be retained past five years, while those of other more favoured jurisdictions would not be so limited. With this decision, the dream of having a decent museum, library and reading room was ended.

A pressing need for a well-configured office complex was not the only concern. The loss of many valuable artifacts, donated in good faith to the Masons of Nova Scotia, was attributed to a lack of a secure environment. During the summer of 1971, two silver trowels and seven gold and silver jewels were stolen. The stolen artifacts were later recovered after an individual attempted to sell the items to Grand Lodge Officers. The man was taken into custody and then had the gall to demand the Fraternity reimburse him a sum of \$675, the price he had paid for the items.<sup>2</sup> Needless to say, his demand was rejected.

## **FINANCIAL SITUATION**

In the past, the Grand Lodge required, as it does now, cash funds to maintain its operations. Subordinate lodges were assessed annually for an amount to cover the annual costs of the operation of Grand Lodge.

The lodges were also assessed an amount to be transferred to Freemasons' Home for maintenance purposes. In 1959, the Grand Lodge found itself with insufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. As a result, it withheld approximately \$7,440 destined for the Home. The Home in turn, found it necessary to borrow from its own Endowment Fund to make up for the shortfall. By the year 1962, the Grand Lodge debt to the Home had nearly doubled, prompting the auditor to make a polite recommendation in his report that the amount owing be paid to the Home. The Home would then be in a position to set its own house in order. However, the outstanding debt was not entirely paid off until 1970.

Whenever there was a need to raise funds for large ventures, it was customary to solicit donations from the subordinate lodges and their memberships. In keeping with that practice, it had been decided to raise \$300,000 to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home. The money was to be divided between the cost of construction of additional accommodations and a sizable donation to the Endowment Fund. The campaign officially started on February 1, 1958 with voluntary donations, but by 1961 it was obvious that the goal could not be attained by donations alone. To reach the target, it was resolved to assess each member one dollar for each of the next six years. The fund became known as the Golden Jubilee Fund. Many lodges paid their obligations in full without delay, but by the end of December 1967, fifty three lodges still owed a total of \$8,9024.30. Not only that, \$6,450.26 in unpaid pledges had to be written off. The Golden Jubilee Fund was finally concluded in 1972 and in total had raised in excess of \$332,000.

Following the defeat at the Annual Communication in 1967 of an attempt to have the dues to Grand Lodge raised to \$3.00 per member, the Grand Master appointed a committee to conduct a study of the operations of Grand Lodge and make recommendations on ways to reduce costs. Faced with a continued decline in membership, increased costs and having no Capital Fund in place upon which to draw, the Grand Lodge found itself in financial difficulty. The Grand Treasurer had resorted to requesting lodges to submit prepaid dues (dues paid in advance) to carry the Grand Lodge operations over until the lodges started paying their annual assessments.

In a preliminary report, the committee charged with reviewing Grand Lodge operations, while recognizing the dilemma, did not recommend any staffing cuts and felt that operations should continue at their present level. To generate sufficient revenue to operate Grand Lodge and take care of some of the outstanding debt to the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home, the motion was again made at the Annual Communication, in 1968, to

amend the Constitution to increase dues to Grand Lodge from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per member. Still unwilling to grant the Grand Lodge the amount requested, an amendment to the motion was eventually approved and the rate was set at \$2.50 per member.

## **BENEVOLENCE AND CHARITY**

Grand Master Fred Morrison, in his address at the 1968 Annual Communication, related a touching story of Masonic charity, in which a tragic motor vehicle accident in Cape Breton had taken the lives of a Mr and Mrs MacDonald of Strathlone. Ten children were orphaned by the accident, the oldest being only seventeen years of age. The Masons of Cape Breton rallied to set up a trust fund to aid the children and provide for their education. Incidentally, the bereaved mother's father and brother were members of the Craft. An appeal was sent out to all lodges and it was expected that contributions from the fraternity alone would exceed \$20,000. This was a large sum of money at the time and was a testimony of the generosity of the Masons of Cape Breton.

Until July 1970, the Grand Lodge dispensed relief through the Fund of Benevolence which had a connection with the Freemasons' Home. This circuitous route made it more difficult to manage than if the Fund was under the immediate control of the Grand Lodge. To correct the situation, the name was changed to "The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia". The Foundation was set up to receive donations and bequests etc., to build up a trust fund and thereby be in a position to participate in charitable activities. Providing assistance to the sick and aged, awarding bursaries, donating to Canadian charitable organizations and participating in general disaster relief were all identified as worthy charitable endeavours. The Foundation was recognized as a charitable organization under the terms of the Income Tax Act. Final changes to the Constitution were effected in 1974.

With only \$2,570 income from investments to work with in 1975, a total of \$1,800 in donations were made to various organizations, included among them were the IWK Hospital, Boy Scouts, Moncton Police Fund, a project in Ghana and the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church " Hot Lunch Program". A further \$600 was expended in relief.

## **MASONIC EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS**

Over the years, the importance of Masonic education has been recognized as a desirable feature of lodge meetings. Ritual work of a high standard on its own does not and did not fill the needs of many Masons.

Grand Master Longley spoke of the need for a rededication to the fundamental principles of the Fraternity. More needed to be done to challenge the members. Past Grand Master R. V. Harris had done more to acquaint the members with the history of the Craft than any other and his efforts to provide material to lodges to promote Masonic education was simply not taken advantage of, considering the wealth of material that was available. Moreover, few lodges took advantage of a list he had compiled of speakers willing to speak on special occasions. An additional list containing titles of forty short papers on topics of general interest had been sent to the lodges and only one lodge had expressed any interest.

Grand Secretary H. F. Sipprell, in an effort to maintain interest, had engaged in a practice of sending ten copies of a monthly bulletin out to the lodges, but by his own admission it was not enough. He felt that Grand Lodge should provide more educational material to the members. However, such an initiative was hindered by a distinct lack of available funding.

In Halifax, a "Masonic Conference", sponsored by St John's Lodge, No. 2, held for the First and Second Halifax City Districts was met with enthusiasm and was followed up the next year by an equally well attended event. A third conference was held in Fairview, in 1970.

The Board of Masonic Education reported that a very successful workshop, conducted over a two day period, in March 1968, had been held in Yarmouth. Similar workshops were held the following year in Stellarton and Oxford. Another well received workshop was later held in Bridgewater. In 1974, two more workshops were conducted, one in Truro and the other in Sydney.

## **RITUAL AND CEREMONY**

Grand Masters are often asked to make decisions on special requests to circumvent standard or regulated practices. Burns Lodge, No. 10, queried whether it might confer the First Part of the Third Degree and defer the Second, or Drama Section until a later date. Grand Master R. S. Longley, in 1966, replied that every degree should be conferred in full on the same day. He was also asked by Ionic Lodge, No. 73, to approve a by-law preventing a candidate from being initiated on the same evening of the ballot on his application. He denied the proposed by-law change citing many reasons for his decision. Wisely, he ruled that it should be left to the discretion of the Master, but he did acknowledge that the custom of a lodge may be such that candidates should be balloted on well in advance.

In 1968, the King's County Advisory Board proposed an even briefer short form of opening and closing on each degree than what was already contained in the Authorized Work. After due discussion at the Board of Ritual, the proposal was not recommended. Four years later the matter was raised again, the Board of Ritual on this occasion recommended that Grand Lodge accept the short form, as submitted.

The Board of Ritual busied itself in 1974 and 1975 providing answers on conduct of floor work and elementary questions such as the proper manner of giving signs. The Grand Lecturer had observed in his travels, a distinct lack of uniformity in this regard.

## **HISTORY**

The Centennial Year naturally focused on the progress and achievements over the preceding one hundred years, and beyond to the early days of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia. However, for the first fifty years of the existence of Grand Lodge there was no office of Grand Historian and certainly the office of a lodge Historian was unheard of in subordinate lodges. In 1916, there was sufficient interest in historical matters to create a unique lodge dedicated to the research of Masonic history. The Nova Scotia Lodge of Research was granted a warrant on June 14, 1916. Reginald V. Harris became the Secretary of that new lodge. Also in the same year, a Grand Historian was appointed in the person of James H. Winfield, later to serve as Grand Master for three years.

Lodge Historians eventually became a requirement and their duties were to record the history of their respective lodges. Many diligent historians actually undertook to record lodge histories, often with the aid and guidance of the Grand Historian. Others merely filled the office and essentially did nothing. A lack of ability, or access to resources, may have hampered some in the performance of their duties. Grand Historian Edwin T. Bliss, in his Annual Report, in 1966, provided useful hints and recommendations for anyone compiling a lodge history. He noted in passing that very little is ever recorded about the lives and backgrounds of individual members. Leaving an incomplete image for the use of future historians; a deficiency that could be easily avoided. Initially, a few lodges published their histories and copies were presented to the Grand Lodge library. However, in the five years previous to 1974 only one lodge history had been submitted to the Grand Lodge for placement in the library.

## CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Some interesting motions to amend the Constitution, not referred to in other sections of this chapter, were dealt with as explained here briefly:

- An attempt to have the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary be made elected offices failed to gain approval.
- That the Lodge Treasurer, Secretary and Chaplain may be appointed. That the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens to be elected by written ballot. This motion was passed.
- By motion, the opening of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication was fixed as the first Friday in June, commencing in 1976.
- Moved that, “the use of spiritous liquor, beer, wine or any beverage containing alcohol is prohibited within the confines of a lodge room at any time after the lodge has been opened and until it has been closed”. This motion was defeated, as was another motion of an even more restrictive tone.

Note: The question of the sale and use of alcohol on lodge premises had long been a hot issue.

- In 1975, action was taken to resolve the issue of jurisdiction over petitioners. The section on membership was amended to reflect, “All lodges in Nova Scotia shall have concurrent jurisdiction over petitioners for Initiation.”



Erasmus James Philipps Memorial  
St. Paul's Church Old Burial Ground, Barrington St., Halifax



## GRAND MASTERS 1966 – 1971



Ronald S. Longley  
1964 - 1966



Frederic C. Morrison  
1967 - 1968



Harold W. Horne  
1969 - 1970



Ernest L. Eaton  
1971



## GRAND MASTERS 1972 – 1975



Alan S. Jackson  
1972



Gordon Morrison  
1973 – 1974



James G. Veinot  
1975 - 1976

## GRAND MASTERS SUMMONED TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE 1966-1975



In the period of time covered by this chapter, six Past Grand Masters and one serving Grand Master were summoned to the Grand Lodge Above.

Gordon Stewart Walker	Grand Master 1962	Died 4 March 1966
Ronald Stewart Longley*	Grand Master 1964-1966	Died 7 January 1967
Alexander H. MacMillan	Grand Master 1946-1947	Died 5 February 1968
Reginald Vanderbilt Harris	Grand Master 1932-1934	Died 2 August 1968
David Arthur O'Neil	Grand Master 1948	Died 10 August 1968
Norman Thompson Avar	Grand Master 1936-1938	Died 1 August 1969
Angus J. MacDonald	Grand Master 1939-1940	Died 9 June 1970
Robert Clifford Levy	Grand Master 1963	Died 4 March 1971

\* Died in office.

Each of these Grand Masters left his mark on Freemasonry in Nova Scotia, probably none more than Reginald Vanderbilt Harris. His involvement as an historian and Masonic researcher was considerable and earned him respect in many Grand Lodges. Besides serving as Grand Master for three years, 1932-1934, he also served the office of Grand Historian for a total of twenty years, Grand Secretary for thirteen years and at the time of his death he was Associate Grand Secretary. The latter office was made redundant by an amendment to the Constitution a year after his death. No reason was cited for the elimination of the office.

Reg Harris, as he was known by many, was initiated in St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, in 1913 and served the Lodge as Master in 1918. He was a charter member of Atlantic Lodge, No. 103, Wentworth Lodge, No. 108, and Uniacke Lodge, No. 128 and honorary member of Royal Standard Lodge, No. 398 E.C. and Keith Lodge, No. 17.

He was a founding member of the Canadian Masonic Research Association and promoted the use of the historical articles emanating from that productive organization. He was tireless in the pursuit of the story of Freemasonry in Atlantic Canada and was disappointed that the Grand Lodge did not have the will to publish his extensive works. That his work be published was a view shared by other Grand Historians, for there was a valid fear that many of this dedicated Mason's works would become lost forever.

## DISTRICTS

In his address to the Annual Communication in Halifax, in 1966, Grand Master R.S. Longley spoke on the origin of District Meetings. Since 1924, these meetings have been held to answer questions about Masonry and to promote Masonic education and fellowship. The role of District Deputy Grand Masters was that of leaders in their respective areas and for this reason careful selection was essential. Two years later, Grand Master Frederic Morrison commented on the less than satisfactory attendance at District Meetings throughout the jurisdiction. He stressed the need to select the man for the job and not to use the appointment as a means to confer a title on a lodge member, as Grand Lodge and Masonry would inevitably suffer under poor leadership. He made it abundantly clear that District Deputies were responsible for the programmes of District Meetings and they should not expect Grand Lodge Officers to control the format of these Meetings.

By 1973, the practice of employing a question and answer format at District Meetings had given way to open discussion on any subject. The less formal atmosphere was well received.

Despite the importance and usefulness of conducting District Meetings, Halifax City District No. 2, in 1974, could not arrange a compatible date for a District Meeting.

The annexation, in 1969, of the western suburbs by the City of Halifax created serious concern for two lodges meeting in Fairview, **Atlantic Lodge, No. 103**, and **Fairview Lodge, No. 126**, and one in Spryfield, **Duke of Kent Lodge, No 121**. The annexation effectively placed these lodges in violation of the Constitution requiring all lodges in the City of Halifax to meet in Freemasons' Hall on Barrington Street. A dispensation was issued by the Grand Master to continue operations in their existing locations until the Constitution could be amended. The lodges would continue to be part of Halifax County District.

During the period covered by this chapter, 1966-1975, the jurisdiction was divided into sixteen districts. The largest of which was the Halifax County District, with fourteen lodges located from Port Dufferin in the east to Head of St. Margaret's Bay in the west. A district of that size and distance placed a heavy responsibility on a District Deputy Grand Master.

## SUBORDINATE LODGES

In 1966, there were 118 subordinate lodges in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. On March 13<sup>th</sup> of the following year, **Lahave Lodge, No. 81**, in Riverport, surrendered its charter. Many of its members made their living on the sea and their extended absences made it difficult to fill offices and conduct the affairs of the Lodge.

**Polaris Lodge, No. 114**, Goose Bay, Labrador, had a special association with the Grand Lodge. The Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force established bases within two miles of each other at Goose Bay during the years of the so-called 'Cold War'. For the threat of Russian aggression at that time was very real indeed. Given the extent of the facilities at Goose Bay, there were many Masons within the ranks of the personnel stationed there.

Labrador was somewhat isolated from Newfoundland, so it was no surprise that the District Grand Lodges of Scotland and England both waived their rights to the formation of a lodge in that location. Hence, a petition, recommended by **Margaree Lodge, No. 100**, in Cape Breton, was sent to the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia seeking a warrant to form a lodge at Goose Bay. After several delays, the lodge was eventually constituted and consecrated on November 18, 1950, and placed under the supervision of the Grand Master.

Years later, with improvements in transportation to St. Johns and the creation of a lodge in Labrador by one of the District Grand Lodges in Newfoundland, a decision was made by members of Polaris Lodge to surrender their charter and apply to a District Grand Lodge in Newfoundland for a new warrant. Accordingly, the Nova Scotia charter was surrendered on December 31, 1974 and the lodge was warranted by the United Grand Lodge of England as No. 8618 E.C., on January 1, 1975.

The loss of a lodge hall by fire is a constant fear of Masons. When a disastrous fire destroyed several buildings in Lockeport, on February 3, 1975, **Taylor Lodge, No. 62**, lost its meeting place and much of its furnishings. Fortunately, the records were not housed in the building. The Warrant, Great Lights and other objects were saved by the brethren. Other lodges rallied to the needs of the displaced members. For example, **Albert Lodge, No. 30**, offered the use of their lodge hall in Shelburne until suitable facilities could be found. **Inverness Lodge, No. 83**, also lost its meeting room in the Autumn of 1975 and was able to procure alternate accommodations.

The following lodges were recognized and added, as per the Constitution, to the list of 100 Year Lodges, during the period 1966 - 1975:

**The Lodge of St. Mark, No. 38**, Halifax  
**Acacia Lodge, No. 39**, Bridgewater  
**Rothsay Lodge, No. 41**, Bridgetown  
**Eureka Lodge, No. 42**, Sheet Harbour  
**Truro Lodge, No. 43**, Truro  
**Tyrian Youth Lodge, No. 45**, Glace Bay  
**Philadelphia Lodge, No. 47**, Barrington Passage  
**Widow's Son Lodge, No. 48**, River Philip  
**Western Star Lodge, No. 50**, Westville  
**Eastern Star Lodge, No. 51**, Dartmouth  
**Harmony Lodge, No. 52**, Aylesford  
**Kentville Lodge, No. 58**, Kentville  
**Laurie Lodge, No. 70**, Springhill  
**Clarke Lodge, No. 61**, Chester  
**Taylor Lodge, No. 62**, Lockeport  
**Sircom Lodge, No. 66**, Whycomagh  
**Minas Lodge, No. 67**, Parrsboro  
**Curren Lodge, No. 68**, Hopewell  
**Charity Lodge, No. 69**, Mahone Bay  
**Eastern light Lodge, No. 72**, Guysborough  
**Ionic Lodge, No. 73**, Middleton  
**North Star Lodge, No. 74**, Londonderry

**Unity Lodge, No. 4**, Lunenburg, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1971.



## **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

The number of Masons of this jurisdiction rose steadily from 1942, to peak in 1958 at 14,851 members. The numbers have been in decline ever since and is a reflection of the general decline in membership in all Masonic jurisdictions in North America. Many explanations for the drop in numbers have been offered and many have been the remedies put forward.

The Grand Secretary, in 1968, reported an interesting fact. Apparently, in 1962, only 69 men under the age of thirty joined the Craft. In 1967, the figure increased to 116, perhaps as a result of the centennial euphoria. Statistics are useful in many ways and a distressing dilemma was apparent in 1975 - demits and suspensions exceeded the number of members raised.

Membership totals for the years 1966-1975 are shown below.

Year	Number of Lodges	Membership
1966	118	13,345
1967	117	13,074
1968	117	12,821
1969	117	12,511
1970	117	12,310
1971	117	12,058
1972	117	11,906
1973	117	11,714
1974	117	11,541
1975	116	11,266

In 1966, there were two lodges with over 300 members on their rolls, The Lodge of St. Mark, No. 38, and St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, with memberships of 374 and 350 respectively. By the year 1975, these figures had slipped to 277 and 269 respectively. These last figures represented a dramatic loss in membership for the lodges and indeed several other Halifax lodges also experienced severe declines. A number of factors may account for such losses, for example, a population shift to the suburbs, an aging membership fearful of navigating the darkened streets of Halifax and even the emergence of television entertainment was offered as an excuse. Whatever the cause, the fact remained, membership had been in steady decline since 1958.

Past Grand Masters R.S. Longley and R.V. Harris provided their own insight on the problem in the final chapter of their **"Short History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia"** with the following observation: "We are evidently in a period of 'leveling off', and so must do our best to see that 'leveling off' does not become a retrogression or decline."

## DEMOLAY

The Chairman of the Committee on Youth and Demolay, Harvey C. MacDonald, was passionate about the Order of Demolay. For several years he laid out the problems facing youth today and what steps could be taken to restore our faith in the younger generation and in turn prove to the young men that the older generations really cared about their well being. The Grand Lodge lent moral support for the work of Demolay and provided funding for the Order. An appeal had been made to lodges for financial support but few responded. What was most needed, was actual involvement and mentorship. Few in number were those prepared to give of their time and this proved to be the biggest hurdle for those in authority in the Order to overcome. In 1970, there were eight chapters in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, located in Halifax, Trenton, New Glasgow, Truro, Goose Bay, Liverpool, Kentville and Sydney. A Canadian Grand Council of the Order of Demolay was established in 1970.

The virtues of the Order were:

- Love of home and family
- Reverence for sacred things
- Courtesy
- Comradeship
- Fidelity
- Cleanness (a clean mind in a clean body)
- Patriotism

By 1973, the number of active chapters had slipped to four in Nova Scotia and one at Goose Bay (under the sponsorship of Polaris Lodge, No. 114). There had been no meetings of the committee all year owing to the impossibility of arranging a suitable date. Harvey C. MacDonald was clearly frustrated and tendered his resignation as chairman after eight years of involvement.

Two years later, W. Marshall Black submitted a report in his capacity as Executive Officer of the Canadian Order of Demolay. He reported that he had suspended the charter of the Sydney chapter, leaving only three chapters currently working in Nova Scotia. Plans to open a chapter in Dartmouth had failed. Once again the apparent lack of commitment, or interest, by the Masons of Nova Scotia did not bode well for the Order of Demolay in this Province, despite financial assistance from the Grand Lodge.<sup>3</sup>

## NOVA SCOTIA FREEMASONS' HOME

Since the Home was first opened in 1909, there have been 326 residents according to the Report of the Board of Trustees, in 1966.

The Act of Incorporation of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home was amended to clearly define that the home was a charitable institution exempt from certain taxes and that guests, other than those with Masonic connections, would now be admitted providing there was room available. The first such guest was admitted in 1967.

Lieutenant Governor H. P. MacKeen, who had been made a "Mason at Sight" a few months earlier, toured the home and was soon after elected Patron of the Home.

In 1967, Grand Master Frederic Morrison in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Home made it known that the Grand Master's duties were onerous enough without having the additional responsibility of acting as Chairman of the Board. An amendment to the bylaws was approved empowering the Board to appoint from their numbers a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. However, the possibility remained that the Grand Master could still be appointed Chairman.

The Home by this time, no longer maintained farming operations and was being transformed into a business. Twenty one acres of farmland, plus right of way, were sold to representatives of the Payzant Memorial Hospital as the site for a new hospital. The sale realized \$10,500, which was added to the Endowment fund of the Home.

The **Home Endowment Fund** had its origins in a special fund set up to receive all bequests to the Home. The Fund had grown from \$1000, in 1917, to \$502,290, in 1967. A portion of the Jubilee Fund, previously mentioned, was also placed into the Endowment Fund. Interest from the Endowment Fund was used for operating expenses.<sup>4</sup>

As expected, operating costs of the Home were on the increase. Employees now worked a forty hour week and enjoyed recent pay increases. In addition to the interest obtained from the Endowment Fund, the Grand Lodge contributed a two dollar assessment from every lodge member plus five dollars from initiation fees. Yet, with decreasing memberships, revenues were down \$6,000 from twelve years previously. There was concern that many Masons in Nova Scotia were not aware that Nova Scotia was the only Grand Lodge jurisdiction in the whole of Canada



to maintain a Home and were not familiar with the operations of the Home. For this reason, the Grand Secretary's Bulletin, regularly sent out to lodges, contained information concerning the Freemasons' Home.

### **Notes**

1. The first Occasional Lodge was convened in Toronto, Ontario, in October 1937. The second in Edmonton, Alberta, in June 1946. **"Occasional Lodge"** notice under Grand Lodge seal, July 14, 1966.
2. The Advisory Board of the time refused to pay for the recovery of the items and left the matter in the hands of the police. **Proceedings** 1972, p. 28.
3. An extensive report outlining accomplishments and failures was submitted. **Proceedings** 1975, p. 35.
4. "We cannot expect to be on "Easy street" until we have at least one million dollars in safely invested funds." **Proceedings** 1968, p. 53.

## **CHAPTER II**

### ***Falling Memberships - Rising Costs*** **1976 -1985**

This was a time of concern for the Craft in Nova Scotia. Membership numbers continued to decline and the inflationary spiral was adversely affecting the operations of lodges throughout the jurisdiction. Building maintenance costs were increasing dramatically, resulting in higher annual dues for members. There was a glimmer of hope, however, that legislation would be enacted to ease the tax burden on non-profit organizations.

### **GRAND LODGE OFFICE OPERATIONS**

The highly respected Grand Secretary, Hugh W. Sipprell, passed away suddenly in December, 1976, in his nineteenth year in office. He was succeeded by Reginald A. Coombes of Composite Lodge, No. 105.

Within two years, Grand Secretary Reg Coombes found it necessary to retire and W. Harvey Francis of Duke of Kent Lodge, No. 121, was appointed in his place in June, 1978.

Grand Treasurer Albert E. Nichols retired in June, 1979, after serving the office since 1966. He was reappointed in July, 1981 to replace G. E. Burnham who retired after only two years of service.

Concern was raised, in 1977, that Grand Lodge could not be termed a good employer when it paid less than the going rate for stenographic services and, making matters worse, had no form of pension or retirement plan for its employees.<sup>1</sup>

As in preceding years, the problem of establishing a fully functional library became a focus of attention. Renovations in the area of the library were on-going and extensive cataloguing of the holdings was far from completion. New plans for an extensive library surfaced in 1981, and hopes were raised once more for a successful conclusion to the saga of the elusive dream library. Funding was approved the following year for the work; but it was earnestly hoped that volunteers would step forward to assist in the endeavour.

At the close of this ten year period, the library and museum had still not reached a state of completion. Much had been done, including the sorting of the accumulated material. In the meantime, the ever present fear of loss by fire prompted the Advisory Board to deposit many valuable documents in the Provincial Archives for safe keeping under proper atmospheric conditions.<sup>2</sup>

## FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Advisory Board, already a sizable body, was further expanded in 1976, by constitutional amendment, to include all members of the Board of Finance. Thereby adding more weight at the table to approve recommendations respecting financial matters.

A motion to amend the Constitution to set the annual dues to Grand Lodge at \$3.00 per member and dues to the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home at \$2.50 per member, was itself subjected to a further amendment to set dues to Grand Lodge at \$2.75. When the questions were called, both the amendment and the original motion were defeated. This action was a clear indication that the members of Grand Lodge were in no mood to dig into their own pockets to relieve the financial ills of the Grand Lodge.

By the end of 1976, Grand Lodge expenses exceeded revenue by \$196 and it was projected that this would rise to \$1,300 the following year. As if to emphasize the point, the Advisory Board published the following figures in 1977:

### Annual Dues During the Past 15 years

Year	Dues to Grand Lodge	Dues to Freemasons' Home
1962-67	\$2.00	\$2.00
1968-70	\$2.50	\$2.00
1971-74	\$2.25	\$2.25
1975-77	\$2.50	\$2.50

Having laid out the financial predicament, two separate motions were made to amend the Constitution. The first, to raise dues to Grand Lodge to \$3.50 and the second, to raise dues to Freemasons' Home to \$3.00. Fortunately for Grand Lodge, both motions were carried by the requisite majority.

Notwithstanding the recent difficulty in raising dues, the Grand Lodge sought a further increase four years later (1981). This time it was approved to set the dues to Grand Lodge at \$4.50 and to Freemasons' Home at \$4.00. Either owing to inflation, or reduced revenue from a declining membership, the dues for Freemasons' Home were further increased to \$6.00 per member, in 1983, and the dues to Grand Lodge were subsequently raised to \$6.00, in 1984.

The need for a Grand Lodge reserve or capital fund was now apparent and gave rise to the establishment of the **Capital Fund**, in 1982. The goal

was to attain a total of \$100,000, with each lodge in the jurisdiction contributing a sum of \$500 over a period of five years, payable in increments of \$100 per year. The Capital Fund was to be administered by the Board of Finance. By 1985, the Fund had grown to \$24,023. Seventeen lodges had paid the full amount of \$500. Certificates were presented to all lodges that made the full \$500 contribution.

## **THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA**

With investments of approximately \$35,000, the Fund relied on the interest earned to provide the source for charitable donations and relief. Through reasonable interest rates, the annual donations to charities and the funds expended in relief averaged \$3,000 per year during this ten year period.

Donations to charitable organizations far exceeded the funds disbursed for the relief of the distressed. Taylor Lodge, No. 62, received a grant to re-establish themselves after the fire, in 1975. Small donations were made to a variety of charitable organizations. For example, the list of various charities assisted in the year 1982 alone, is as follows:

- The Nova Scotia Chapter Cystic Fibrosis
- Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children
- Sir Frederick Fraser school for the Blind
- Nova Scotia Division of the Girl Guides of Canada
- Nova Scotia Division of the Boy Scouts of Canada
- Cornwallis Street Baptist Church - Hot Meals for Needy Children
- The Salvation Army - Christmas Cheer Fund
- The Goodfellows Club of Nova Scotia
- Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children
- Canadian Red Cross - Nova Scotia Division
- Canadian Cancer Society - Nova Scotia Division

## **MASONIC EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS**

Prompted by falling attendance at District Meetings and at certain designated workshops, a committee looked into the advisability of continuing the practice of holding these meetings and workshops. The recommendation was that the meetings were indeed valuable and should be continued. It was agreed that three workshops per year, using the same program, would be held under the direction of three Past Grand Masters with the assistance of the District Deputy Grand Masters of the districts where the workshops were to be held. The Grand Lecturer was to be in attendance to provide input at Questions and Answers sessions. It was further recommended that there should be an afternoon session

followed by a banquet and a further two hour session after the banquet.

The workshops promoted by the Board of Education were only partially successful. Attendance varied from a couple of dozen to what was described as “well attended”.

To promote participation and encourage visitation, the Board of Masonic Education urged lodges to consider putting on Masonic plays and follow the lead of **Fellowship Lodge, No. 112**, in Truro.

**“The Nova Scotia Freemason”** was created, in 1978, to replace the popular Grand Secretary’s Bulletin, once distributed through the Grand Secretary’s office. The new publication was placed under the control of the Board of Masonic Education with input anticipated from Lodge Secretaries and Historians. However, a permanent editor was not named until 1982, when the Grand Master appointed Lawrin C. Armstrong editor with instructions to publish four issues per year.

The Kings County District Masonic Education Committee published, **“Designs upon the Trestle Board”**, a collection of talks and lectures given from 1978 -1981. While the committee admitted most of the material was not original, the objective was “to generate interest in Masonry through education”. Three years later, a second and larger volume was published containing a selection of the papers of the late R. V. Harris. This was considered a positive step in promoting Masonic Education.

## **RITUAL AND CEREMONY**

It was evident the quality of ritual work in lodges had deteriorated significantly. The lack of proficiency was even apparent in the openings and closings of lodges. To rectify the situation, District Deputy Grand Masters were encouraged to hold schools of instruction for incoming Masters and Wardens.

The Boards of Ritual, during this period, were occupied in furnishing the answers to questions on ritual matters and entertaining suggestions to improve the Ritual. Despite numerous directions, the excessive use of the Sign of Fidelity was a concern that could not, and would not, be resolved easily. In response to a question regarding the acceptability of Wardens conferring degrees, or parts thereof, it was made abundantly clear that only Masters or Past Masters may do so, or indeed, administer any lectures associated with the various degrees.<sup>3</sup>

Efforts were made to produce lodge layouts, showing suitable locations for lodge officers and alternate positions for the lesser lights not covered by previously adopted floor plans. The proper manner of carrying Stewards' and Deacons' staves continued to be a controversial issue. It was reiterated in 1976 that staves or wands should be carried perpendicularly. However, three years later, the matter was reconsidered and the decision was made to carry the staff under the right arm, inclined forward at an angle of 30 degrees from the vertical.

The Board of Ritual, in 1980, recommended the use of a new ***“Memorial Service for Departed Brethren”*** for use in the lodge room and also recommended the use of a much needed ***“Presentation of the Master Mason Dress Apron”*** lecture. New ritual was written for a short form lodge closing and was distributed to the lodges with the stipulation that it only be used, “when it is considered wise to do so”.

In 1985, Grand Master Ronald Finnie formed a committee to determine whether this Grand Lodge had ever possessed a banner or standard. He directed the committee to present suggested designs and estimates of the costs, for consideration.

## **HISTORY**

The **Canadian Masonic Research Association** had long been supported by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and in particular by Reginald V. Harris. Since his passing, interest in the Association and its work had waned and there was a distinct possibility that operations would cease altogether, unless dedicated Masons came forward to take up the reins. The early history of Masonry in Canada had been recorded, but now there was a need to research and document the more recent history of Masonry.

Grand Master Fred Hayter related a touching story in his address to the Annual Communication, in 1979. He had presented a Seventy Year Bar to a Captain William MacLeod, at his daughter's home, in Halifax. The presentation had a very personal significance to the presenter. In Grand Master Fred Hayter's own words, “He was the First Mate on my father's ship that was lost in July, 1911, off Beaver Harbour, with eleven men, my father included. He was the only one saved out of the twelve aboard.”

Grand Historian Edwin T. Bliss passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 16 January 1982. He had served as Grand Historian from 1965 till the time of his death. His comprehensive annual reports reflected the extent of his feelings on every aspect of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia.

## CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

The following amendments to the Constitution, not already mentioned, have been edited as necessary for brevity while still retaining the intent.

A special committee formed, “to make careful study of the whole matter of jewels and awards”, submitted its findings in 1976. The report concerned the:

- Erasmus James Philips Medallion
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Fifty Year Jewel
- Past Master’s Jewel
- Secretary’s Long Service Medal

Also considered was a proposed Twenty Five Year Honourary Jewel.

No change was recommended to regulations governing the Past Master’s Jewel or the Secretary’s Long Service Medal. The proposed Twenty Five Year Honourary Jewel was deemed unnecessary as a Twenty Five Year lapel pin already existed.

In 1977, the changes to regulations for the Erasmus James Philips Medallion, Meritorious Service Medal and Fifty Year Jewel were included as amendments to the Constitution. The amendments were approved with the exception of the former, respecting the Erasmus James Philips Medallion.

Sweeping changes were made to the regulations governing the Meritorious Service Medal. Whereas the medal was originally conceived as recognition of commendable service of a member who could never become a Master of the Lodge; it was now open to all members, regardless of rank.

The Erasmus James Philips Medallion was originally adopted in 1921 and bears the words, “**Masonic Lodge of Research**” which was active at that time. The medallion was intended to be awarded to Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters, to the Grand Historian and Past Grand Historians. It could also be awarded to “distinguished brethren from other jurisdictions who had contributed to the history, literature or jurisprudence of British North America and in special cases to those of other jurisdictions”.

The new proposal would eliminate the Grand Historian as a recipient and also those who had made contributions described above. In the case of the latter, the reason offered was, “since little attention is being paid to them”. The votaries at the Annual Communication had no doubt recognized the hypocrisy of a resolution that would eliminate the original intent of a

medallion struck in the name of the Masonic Lodge of Research. The very next year, the motion to change the qualifications of recipients reappeared in a modified form, stipulating that the medallion would be awarded, upon recommendation of the Advisory Board and approval of Grand Lodge, to brothers of this jurisdiction who had distinguished themselves in any field of masonic activity. In this form the motion was accepted.<sup>4</sup>

There were several administrative amendments passed in 1978. One of which forbade lodges to meet on a Sunday for the purpose of conferring a degree.

In 1981, several housekeeping motions were adopted. Also adopted was a motion to permit candidates to be balloted upon 'en bloc'.

A motion to permit Wardens to confer degrees, with the exception of the obligation, and to permit Master Masons to present the working tools, present the lambskin and deliver the charge was defeated. As if undaunted, two more motions effectively endeavouring to achieve the same ends, were presented and defeated at the next Annual Communication.

An attempt to save either postage or printing costs, prompted a motion to permit a lodge to send out one notice containing information for an entire year to members. Yet another motion was presented to permit lodges to mail notices of two meetings in one envelope. Both motions failed to pass.

## **DISTRICTS**

In 1976, there were no workshops held and the need to hold District Meetings at all came under the scrutiny of a committee formed to examine the situation. Following the committee report, the Advisory Board emphasized the value of District Meetings. To improve attendance at workshops and encourage participation, a comprehensive agenda was to be put into practice. A minimum of three workshops per year would be held, with the Grand Lecturer in attendance at each. In the first year, all workshops would follow an identical format and would be changed in subsequent years.

The format of District Meetings was the subject of frequent scrutiny. The importance of incorporating a question and answer period was stressed and District Deputy Grand Masters were encouraged to include such features in their meeting agendas. Lodges would be advised of the need to submit questions in writing to the Grand Secretary, at least one month prior to



meeting dates. Forewarned, suitable responses could then be prepared by appropriate committees.

Despite a desire to boost attendance at District Meetings, the same routine of handing out certificates and providing answers to previously solicited questions continued to be the norm through to the end of 1985.

Halifax County District, in 1982, consisted of fourteen constituent lodges covering a large area from Port Dufferin in the East, to Head of St. Margaret's Bay in the West. There had been frequent calls in the past for the District to be divided. Given the complex geographic situation of the lodges, there were several possible options to be considered. A Special Committee appointed to assess the feasibility of splitting the Halifax County District determined there was no need for a split. However, a motion was approved to set up an independent committee to study the same question and the possibility of merging the lodges on the west side of the harbour with those of Halifax City 2 District.<sup>5</sup>

## **SUBORDINATE LODGES**

Sadly, two lodges found it necessary to surrender their warrants: **Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 120**, Port Maitland, on 31 January, 1984, and **Cabot Lodge, No. 109**, Cape North, on 12 March, 1985.

An Emergent Meeting of Grand Lodge was held in Bridgewater on April 13, 1985, for the purpose of dedicating the new lodge hall of **Acacia Lodge, No. 39**.

The following lodges were recognized and added, as per the Constitution, to the list of 100 Year Lodges during the period 1976 - 1985:

**Corinthian Lodge, No. 63**, Great Village  
**Wallace Lodge, No. 76**, Wallace Wimburn  
**Lodge, No. 75**, Oxford  
**Hudson Lodge, No. 77**, Thorburn

There were now over fifty lodges on the list of 100 Year lodges.

**New Caledonia Lodge, No. 11**, Pictou, celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 1985.

**St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1**, **St John's Lodge, No. 2** and **Virgin Lodge, No. 3** all attained the status of 200 year lodges.

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Membership levels continued their slow decline and by the end of the year 1985 had slipped back to the level of membership at the end of 1944.

Only three lodges maintained a membership in excess of 200 - **St. John's Lodge, No. 2**, and **Burns Lodge, No. 10**, in Halifax and **Keith Lodge, No. 23**, in Stellarton. Each of the three lodges had a membership of about 206.

Membership totals for the years 1976 - 1985 are shown below:

Year	Number of Lodges	Membership
1976	116	11,155
1977	116	11,001
1978	116	10,861
1979	116	10,722
1980	116	10,556
1981	116	10,444
1982	116	10,281
1983	116	10,106
1984	116	9,898
1985	114	9,711

An interesting statistic was supplied by the Grand Secretary, based on figures available in the year 1978:

- 65 lodges set dues levels in the \$20 - \$25 range.
- 35 lodges set dues at \$15 - \$18.
- 2 lodges only \$9 and,
- one lodge set dues as high as \$40.

Everything is relative and the cost of living and average incomes of those times plus geographic locations must be considered. Nevertheless, it is difficult to grasp how a lodge with annual dues of nine dollars was able to pay their 'per capita' assessments and still have sufficient funds remaining to cover all the other necessary expenses.



## GRAND MASTERS 1977 – 1981



Frederick C. Hayter  
1977-1978



Hector G. Hill  
1979



David J. C. Waterbury  
1980



George P. Carroll  
1981

## GRAND MASTERS 1982 – 1985



Cyril L. Collins  
1982



C. Ralph MacLean  
1983



Ronald H. Finnie  
1984



Charles H. Thompson  
1985

## GRAND MASTERS SUMMONED TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE 1976 – 1985



In the period covered by this chapter, six Past Grand Masters were summoned to the Grand Lodge Above:

Jeptha Seth Munro	Grand Master 1954 - 1955	Died 22 May 1981
Gordon Morrison	Grand Master 1973 - 1974	Died 23 April 1983
Ernest Lowden Eaton	Grand Master 1971	Died 29 October 1984
Harry M..Standish	Grand Master 1950 - 1952	Died 15 July 1983
Kenneth L. Crowell	Grand Master 1956 - 1957	Died 6 April 1984
Frederick Calvin Hayter	Grand Master 1977 - 1978	Died 15 January 1985

Of these Past Grand Masters, one stands out as the exemplar of the Masonic virtue of Charity. Fred Hayter was not a man of great academic standing or intellectual repute. He was a big man with an even bigger heart. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame was that he became Maritime Heavy Weight Wrestling Champion, in 1934, and retired undefeated in 1945. In contrast, this soft spoken, friendly man had a genuine interest in visiting shut-ins and those who were sick in hospitals and nursing homes. His dedication earned him the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for Humanitarianism, in recognition of his many visitations. Fred once admitted, "Giving eighteen hours a day to Masonry, the sick and shut-ins was not enough for me".

### YOUTH and DEMOLAY

W. Marshall Black, the Executive Officer for Nova Scotia to the Supreme Grand Master, submitted his resignation effective May 1976. At that time, Crusader Chapter, sponsored by **The Lodge of St. Mark, No. 38**, was the lone Demolay chapter in Nova Scotia and was in danger of losing its charter. Which it subsequently did for a short time. Notwithstanding the setbacks, the resigning Executive Officer recommended continuance of the program.

Members of **Burns Lodge, No. 10**, resurrected Crusader Chapter of Demolay with twenty members registered. These young men were active and even carried out a cleanup of St Paul's Cemetery. Despite this flourish of activity, by 1985 no further Demolay activity was recorded anywhere in this jurisdiction.

## **NOVA SCOTIA FREEMASONS' HOME**

In a move to be more equitable, the requirements for admission to the Home were changed from demanding 90% of a prospective guest's assets to a more reasonable 50%. In 1976, there were a total of 38 guests in residence, 9 men and 29 women. Three years later, the figures reflected 55 guests in residence, 13 men and 42 women, a sizable increase and closer to the maximum capacity.

Costs of heating and utilities were escalating, placing an ever increasing burden on the operating budget. Insulation was added to the older section of the home and carpeting installed in an effort to reduce heating costs.

The Home received donations of small appliances from different sources, including from the Order of the Eastern Star and individual Masons donated wheel chairs. One anonymous donor contributed a Mason & Reich piano. While some lodges donated money and books. All contributions were very much appreciated by the residents and staff.

By June 1983, the driveway into the Home had been re-paved and emergency lighting installed in the buildings. Ever more safety conscious, the Fire Marshall's Office had demanded additional improvements. Solid core doors on all rooms, fire-resistive ceiling in some sections of the Home and a completely new fire alarm system were now required.

An initiative taken to increase employee wages to a level more in line with comparable nursing homes, only inflated operating costs.

Further improvements were implemented in 1984, including a new fire escape on the old wing and the installation of a new emergency generator. The improvements were sufficient to obtain "fully licensed" status from Social Services for the Province of Nova Scotia.

The home was now operating with near capacity occupancy with about 60 residents.

In the meantime, the Endowment Fund increased substantially during this period and in 1985 exceeded \$2,150,000.

## **BROOM AND GAVEL CUP**

Past Grand Master Reg Harris had donated the trophy known as the Broom and Gavel Cup in 1933, as a challenge cup. After teams had initially competed for the Cup and a winner determined, the Cup thereafter

became a challenge cup. Any lodge team could challenge for the Cup once a season, provided they could assure that, in the event of winning the Cup, curling facilities would be available for a defense of the Cup in the area where the lodge was located. The regulations governing the Broom and Gavel Cup were laid down in the Constitution.

In 1978, it was decided to establish an entirely new format by establishing a bonspiel involving winning teams from playoffs in each district. Support for the concept was slow in coming and the various districts were approached a second time. Kings County District hosted the first bonspiel at Wolfville, in February 1979. Ten districts sent teams and six other teams were recruited to provide the required sixteen teams.

The bonspiel was a great success and it was hoped to pursue it as an annual event. The winner of the Broom and Gavel Cup was **St. George's Lodge, No. 20**. Winner of the "B" Event was **Acacia Lodge, No. 39**, and winner of the "C" Event was **Scotia Lodge, No. 31**.

The Broom and Gavel Cup Curling Bonspiel was held annually in various parts of the jurisdiction and, in 1983, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cup was celebrated. A rink of Past Grand Masters participated in the competition. The rink comprised: Alan Jackson, Dave Waterbury, J. G. "Mike" Veinot, and Cyril Collins.

### Notes

1. **Proceedings** 1977, Pg. 32.
2. **Proceedings**, 1984, Pg. 39.
3. Extensive report of the Board of ritual on these matters. **Proceedings** 1980, Pg. 34.
4. **Proceedings** 1978, Pg, 44
5. The original 4 man committee was reduced to 2. One resignation revealed an apparent difference of opinion that led to the call for an independent review to be conducted by those outside of the District. **Proceedings** 1983, Pg. 46.

## **CHAPTER III**

### ***Freemasons' Home Closes***

#### **1986 -1995**

Now commenced a period of self evaluation for the Fraternity. Attempts were made to address the perceived problems and take the necessary steps to resolve them.

### **GRAND LODGE OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Following the frequent turnovers of the offices of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary over the previous ten years, the tenures of Grand Treasurer Harold E. Crosby and Grand Secretary Gerald G. Vickers, were to prove more lasting.

There had always been a number of part time employees and volunteer assistants over the years and their services were greatly appreciated. With the acquisition of a computer in the office, technological assistance and instruction was now required. The Grand Lodge office had taken the first steps towards word processing and digitalization of records.

The library project was still ongoing and the length of the delay was in part due to lack of adequate funding. A carpet had been laid and bookcases set in place. Plans were afoot to provide large tables for library use and also to facilitate conference and board meetings. In the interim, Past Grand Master Charles Thompson supplied chairs and tables.

In 1988, Past Master George Robinson, assumed the task of indexing every publication in the library for, among other things, insurance purposes. He dedicated his summer vacation to working five days a week in far from comfortable conditions. Working under the same conditions the following year, he continued the work and arranged the books in sequence by author's name in the many display cabinets.

Grand Secretary Gerry Vickers announced his retirement for the second time and set the date for his departure at 31 July 1995. He introduced his successor, Robert H. Northup, Burns Lodge, No. 10, to the members of the Masonic Secretaries Association.



## FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Finance Committee, faced with an increased deficit in 1986, placed an amendment to the Constitution before the Annual Communication to increase annual dues to Grand Lodge to \$9.00. The motion was carried. To further offset the impact of the deficit, a second motion was presented to levy a special assessment of \$2.00 for the year 1987 only. This motion also received approval.

Since the Grand Lodge relied on annual dues, paid through an annual assessment on each member, for its primary source of revenue, it was essential that the Grand Treasurer maintain control over expenditures through sound management of the annual budget. Attempts to set the per capita assessments to adequately reflect the needs often involved a struggle with the will of a fickle body on the floor of the Annual Communication.

The Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home was also in need of additional revenue and in 1988, by amendment to the Constitution, an effort was made to increase the annual dues to the Home, from \$6.00 to \$11.00. The motion was not approved. The Board of Trustees of the Home pressed for another increase in 1989. The situation had become more dire and the request this time was for an increase to \$16.00 per member. Approval was given to the request.

Having just approved a substantial increase in per capita assessment to Freemasons Home, the members were reluctant to give additional approval to another ambitious plan to bring the dues to Grand Lodge up to a workable level at the 1989 Annual Communication. An amendment to the Constitution to increase dues by one dollar in each of the years 1990 - 1994, was rejected.

A study of the expenses of Grand Lodge listed in the Financial Statement ending December 31, 1987, reveals a total of \$8,591.00 for word processing and computer equipment. The reader will appreciate that early computer systems may have been slow and antiquated, but they were exceedingly expensive.

Still faced with a rising deficit, the Grand Treasurer embarked on a different approach for the 1991 Annual Communication, and attached a "Financial Forecast, 1991 and 1992" to provide justification for an amendment to the Constitution to increase the Grand Lodge dues to \$11.00 per member. Laying out the plain truth proved successful on this occasion.

The future of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home was of great concern to the Board of Trustees (see the section on the Home in this chapter). A change to a per diem rate for all new residents made possible the elimination of the per capita assessment for the future operation of the Home. An approved amendment to the Constitution removed the \$16.00 annual dues (per capita assessment) for the Home and substituted it with an annual dues of \$6.00 for the Masonic Foundation. Further, for the year 1993 only, there would be a \$10.00 assessment per member for the Freemasons' Home. Thereafter, there would be no further annual dues payable to the Home.

In 1995, a five year plan for the years 1996 - 2000 was introduced as an amendment to the Constitution. For these years, dues to Grand Lodge would be set at \$16.00 per member based on the annual returns for December 31, 1994. After being put to a vote, the motion was duly passed.

To better understand the increases in annual dues to Grand Lodge and to Freemasons' Home, the following table has been compiled to conform with that shown in Chapter II.

#### **Annual Dues (Per Capita Assessments ) 1978 – 1996**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grand Lodge</b>	<b>Freemasons' Home</b>	<b>Masonic Foundation</b>
1978 - 1981	\$3.50	\$3.00	
1982 - 1983	\$4.50	\$4.00	
1984	\$4.50	\$6.00	
1985 - 1986	\$6.00	\$6.00	
1987	\$11.00	\$6.00	
1988 - 1990	\$9.00	\$6.00	
1991	\$9.00	\$16.00	
1992	\$11.00	\$16.00	
1993	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
1994 - 1995	\$11.00		\$5.00
* 1996	\$16.00		\$5.00

\*shown to indicate the per capita assessment changes resulting from the motion passed in 1995.

The **Capital Fund** continued to grow throughout this period and on 31 December 1994 totaled \$97,048.

## THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Foundation pursued its charitable and relief activities using the interest earned from a principal of approximately \$40,000. In the last year of its pre 1992 configuration, \$4,000 was expended on charitable donations and \$2,100 was provided in relief.

In 1992, extensive financial restructuring of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home was proposed. Included in the proposal was an expanded role for the Masonic Foundation. A portion of the annual dues (per capita assessment) previously payable to the Home, would now be directed to the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia for charitable purposes, as of December 31, 1993.

It was proposed that a "Masonic Scholarship Program" and a "Drug Education Program" be established and placed under the control of the Masonic Foundation.

Authority was granted to establish the Scholarship Program. In its first year (1993), thirty five lodges participated, awarding a total of forty one scholarships with a total value of \$26,000. The program was known as **"The Nova Scotia Freemasons Scholarship"** and involved an equal cost sharing arrangement, with lodges meeting the minimum requirements. Scholarships varied between \$500 and \$1,500.

A list of successful applicants from across the jurisdiction was inserted in editions of the Halifax Chronicle Herald and the Halifax Mail Star, as a means of attracting publicity for the Fraternity. The Drug Education Program was also in operation and expended \$5,000 during the same period ended 31 December 1993. A **"Parenting Meeting Challenges"** program was started and was initially presented to a PTA group associated with Millwood Elementary School, in Sackville.

## MASONIC EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS

The Board of Education was comprised of eleven members, all of them knowledgeable Masons. The Board met on many occasions collecting, sorting and validating the content of various papers for distribution to lodges through the lodge secretaries. The concern was expressed that many lodges did not have education committees in place and that much of the supplied material would not reach the intended target. As a prevention, it was suggested that District Education Committees be established that would function under the direction of the Board of Masonic Education.

Plans were made to produce handbooks for lodge officers together with an information booklet for new members. Despite the recognition of a need for handbooks and guides, suitable end products rarely ever materialized. The only handbook of substance to be produced was the Secretary's Handbook, which proved to be a valuable aid.

A successful educational workshop was held in Great Village with eighty Masons in attendance from Cumberland, Colchester and Hants Counties, in May of 1987.

Two "Search and Solve" sessions were held, in 1989, to engage the brethren in active group participation. Each group was required to provide answers and recommendations for action on a series of predetermined questions. A morning session was devoted to group discussion and solution finding and the afternoon session was set aside to hear the various offerings and gauge the feelings of the assembly as a whole. One session was held in Halifax and the other in Truro at local educational facilities. These sessions were regarded as very rewarding and thought provoking.

### **The Nova Scotia Freemason**

An Editorial Committee was set up in 1986, under the chairmanship of R. P. Mertens, to revive the **Nova Scotia Freemason** which had not been published for a year. The name of the publication was changed to the "**New Nova Scotia Freemason**" and three issues were published, according to the report of the Board in May of 1987. It was hoped that future issues would contain pictures. Changes were also made to the editorial policy with a view to include material from concordant bodies.

Despite the proposed new plans, the paper was discontinued only to be resurrected, in 1991. Under the guidance of new co-editors, Barry S. Imber and Howard Spence, the name reverted to "**The Nova Scotia Freemason**". A policy was adopted to limit content to Craft Masonry only. It was anticipated that the District Deputy Grand Masters would solicit input from the brethren of their respective districts.

Initially, a subscription rate of \$5.00 was charged for 4 issues per year. Each lodge was provided with six copies at the same subscription rate. In the summer of 1992, it was announced that the rate would be increased to \$20.00 to cover increased costs. By the winter of 1992, the editor reported that every member of the jurisdiction would receive a copy of "**The Nova Scotia Freemason**".

Four issues of 9,000 copies each of "**The Nova Scotia Freemason**" were published, in 1993/4. The printing was carried out at cost by the Atlantic Provinces Technical and Vocational Centre, in Amherst, and represented a financial saving to the Grand Lodge.

Sufficient copies of "**The Nova Scotia Freemason**" were mailed in bulk to Lodge Secretaries with the expectation that each member would receive a copy along with his lodge summons. Lodge Secretaries were assured there would be no requirement for extra postage. Despite this assurance, some failed to mail the copies to their memberships, thereby limiting the circulation.

Unfortunately, in 1995, a decision was made to close the facility which had printed the publication for five years and it became necessary to seek alternate arrangements.

## **RITUAL AND CEREMONY**

Over the years, efforts were made to standardize the balloting procedure, but some customs were not easily relinquished! A subordinate lodge was reported, in 1986, to have employed black beans in the ballot box to cast a negative ballot. Following a ballot on a petition, a complaint was registered with Grand Lodge and the Grand Master subsequently ruled that the ballot be declared void and a new ballot be taken using the appropriate black cubes.<sup>1</sup>

The Authorized Work was amended to incorporate all changes approved by Grand Lodge since 1978 and was submitted to the printers in 1986. Included, was an appendix outlining the proper sequence to be followed when displaying and closing the Great Lights and Lesser Lights when opening or closing a lodge.

Periodically, questions arose regarding the ancient penalties contained in the obligations. Whether it is acceptable to ask a candidate to make what is clearly a solemn oath on the Volume of the Sacred Law, while at the same time being reminded of an ancient penalty, that would in itself be in violation of the law of the land.

Grand Master Roy Hale directed the Board of Ritual to discuss and recommend ways of removing the ancient penalties from the obligations and placing them elsewhere in the ritual. His directions were carried out and two motions were presented at the Annual Communication, in 1988, to address the issue. The motions were considered together. The first was worded to remove the ancient and traditional penalties from the

obligations and have them explained as part of the degree work. The second motion proposed new wording in the affected parts of the Authorized Work that would be implemented should the first motion be approved.

The Grand Master, himself, held very strong views on the issue and handed his gavel to the Deputy Grand Master in order to step to the level to speak on the motion. In spite of his impassioned contribution to the debate, the motions were defeated.

At the same Annual Communication, the Board of Ritual submitted a series of changes to the Handbook of Ceremonies, Part 1, (Installation of Officers of a Lodge ) for approval. The changes were small in nature and were all approved in one motion and incorporated in later editions of the booklet, save one. One item slipped through and was completely ignored. The item effectively removed the sword as an implement of the Office of Inner Guard. In December 1987, the Grand Lecturer had stated that, "*The Inner Guard should not be presented with a sword. A sword or any other weapon is an abomination in a lodge*". Whatever the Grand Lecturer's view may have been at the time, Inner Guards continued to be armed with a sword.<sup>2</sup>

In accordance with the Constitution, all lodges in this jurisdiction with the exception of St. John's, No. 2, and Virgin lodge, No 3, are to practice the work styled "Ancient York Rite". Grand Master Fred Clarke, in 1991, directed the Grand Lecturer to determine whether the ritual in use in Acacia Lodge, No. 8, in Amherst, was in conformity with the Constitution. After careful study of a copy of the ritual concerned, the Grand Lecturer reported that minor differences were apparent. Suggested changes were then made before the ritual was deemed acceptable.

A suitable ceremony for an open installation of Grand Lodge Officers was devised by the Board of Ritual with the assistance of Past Grand Master Ian S. Robb. The new ceremony was demonstrated in the Open Installation of Grand Lodge Officers at the Annual Communication of June 1992.

The Authorized Work was reviewed and a decision was made to employ a loose leaf format for the first time. The principal change in the ritual itself was the use of the words, "Volume of the Sacred Law", to replace the words "Holy Bible" wherever they appeared. The change removed a conflict with Chapter I, Section 1(c), of the Constitution of the day.

## HISTORY

### 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freemasonry in Canada

A Special Session of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia was held Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1987, at Annapolis Royal, to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freemasonry in what is now Canada.

A special committee of Grand Lodge had been appointed three years earlier by then Grand Master, Charles H. Thompson, under the chairmanship of Grand Historian Earle C. MacDonald and consisting of several Past Grand Masters, to plan in collaboration with a committee from **Annapolis Royal Lodge, No. 33**, the celebrations for the anniversary.

The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary had been a grand affair and two Masons, W. Everett Moseley and Douglas C. Home, who had been in attendance at that event, were also present on the occasion of the celebrations of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Grand Master Harris A. Pipes presided over the events and presented certificates and 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jewels to the many distinguished visitors who had come from New England and Eastern Canada to participate in the important celebration.

A banquet was held on Saturday at the Legion Centre. The guest speaker was Past Grand Superintendent of Works and Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia, the Honourable John M. Buchanan. The Premier joined the Grand Master and the Master of Annapolis Royal Lodge, Norman Amirault, in cutting the Anniversary Cake.

A dance was held later that evening at the same location and from all reports was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning, an open air church service was conducted on the grounds of Fort Anne, attended by the brethren and their families. Following the church service, the brethren paraded from Fort Anne through the town to Sinclair Mews, where the Grand Master assisted by the Grand Chaplain and Grand Historian, rededicated the Erasmus James Philipps Commemorative Plaque.

Presented and dedicated at the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 1938, the plaque had been placed in the Fort Anne Museum Building and was since removed and relocated on a granite stone in Sinclair Mews.

## CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

The following motions of significance to amend the Constitution, not mentioned elsewhere in this chapter, are here simplified for brevity:

At the Annual Communication in 1986, several motions concerned with changing minor procedural practices were defeated or withdrawn. Of nine motions submitted, those of interest were:

- A motion to delete the section prohibiting the use of spirituous liquors and wines at all lodge entertainment was approved.
- An attempt to raise the minimum fee for conferring the three degrees of Masonry to \$150 was defeated.

The following year, 1987, produced another bumper crop of notices of motion. Many of which were straightforward housekeeping motions to amend the Constitution. Motions of concern were:

- A motion to drop the time requirement for the Meritorious Service Medal from 25 years to 5 years, was defeated.
- To lower the age for an application for membership to 19 years of age, was also defeated.
- A motion to limit the terms of Grand Representative appointments to five years was defeated. It had been reasonably argued that more members would thereby have an opportunity to hold an appointment.
- Concern about a failing public image, prompted a motion to be presented to permit the Grand Master, or presiding officer, to invite the press and electronic media personnel to witness the proceedings of Grand Lodge and report the same to the public. The motion was defeated.

In the late 1980s, there was a growing movement toward empowering lodges to conduct business on any of the three degrees. The practice of excluding Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts from being present in lodge at every meeting, was considered detrimental to the desire to establish a closer bond with new Masons and keep the flame of interest alive among them. After all, historically it was the residual paranoia after the Morgan Affair that inspired the decisions of the Baltimore Convention that had left those jurisdictions working the "York Rite" at odds with jurisdictions in the rest of the Masonic world.



In an effort to address the problem of exclusion, a motion was presented in 1989 to establish a committee to investigate advantages of amending the Constitution to permit business to be conducted on any degree. The motion was defeated and an opportunity was lost.

Dissatisfaction with the governing powers was also apparent. A motion to replace the Advisory Board with a Board of General Purposes, consisting of 14 members, failed to gain approval.

In 1990, another dozen amendments to the Constitution were proposed. The more interesting among them are mentioned as follows:

- Official recognition was approved of several appendant bodies and also included, by amendment, was the Order of the Eastern Star.
- A standard logo of the Square and Compasses was adopted and its use denied for advertisement of private business.
- An effort to remove certain sections of the Constitution and rename them, "Laws, Rules and Regulations" was defeated.
- A motion to permit lodges to transact business on any of the three degrees with the exception of conferring degrees was defeated.
- Also defeated was a motion to recognize all Masons of this jurisdiction as members of Grand Lodge.

Eighteen notices of motion were dealt with at the Annual Communication, in 1992. Most were of a procedural nature. The following outcomes are of interest:

- The office of Grand Piper was created.
- Approved to set up apparatus to initiate dialogue with Prince Hall Masonry.
- A motion to allow demitted time and time suspended for non-payment of dues, upon reinstatement and payment of dues owing, to be classed as continuous service to count towards a 50 year jewel, was defeated.

At the Annual Communication of 1993, another twelve motions were presented. The following were of interest:

- A motion to delete the section in the Constitution requiring all business of a lodge to be conducted on the Third Degree was tabled.
- A motion was approved to recognize those Prince Hall Grand Lodges approved by the Conference of Prince Hall Grand Lodges as being regular Masonic Grand Lodges.
- To help defray some of the expenses incurred by the Grand Master in the normal discharge of his duties, it was proposed that an additional \$1.00 per capita assessment be included in the Annual Assessment. The motion was defeated.
- Extending Grand Lodge membership to all duly elected or appointed officers of a lodge was defeated.
- That the Deputy Grand Master shall succeed to the office of Grand Master without election and the Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens shall be elected by ballot after nomination. A nominee for Deputy Grand Master must have served as a Grand Warden or as District Deputy Grand Master. The motion was approved.

All twenty two motions brought to the floor of the 1994 Annual Communication to amend the Constitution were of either a housekeeping nature or of minor importance. Among the motions to amend the Constitution brought before the Annual Communication in 1995 were the following:

- A motion to bring the minimum age of a petitioner in line with the legal age (19) in Nova Scotia, was defeated.
- All business of the lodge to be conducted on the First Degree except when conferring the Fellow Craft or Master Mason Degrees or providing instruction therein. This motion was referred to the Advisory Board.
- Approved for a lodge to award a Treasurer's Long Service Medal to honour a Lodge Treasurer after ten years of service.
- Approved a motion, submitted on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee, to delete **Chapter VI, Grand Lodge Boards and Committees** in its entirety and insert a new Chapter VI.

This last motion was the culmination of extensive work by the Long Range Planning Committee. The formation of a Board of General Purposes had been discussed and recommended in the past and was now being brought into fruition. The Board was to consist of many of the same members who comprised its predecessor. The Board of General Purposes will be discussed in more detail in the next chapter.

## **DISTRICTS**

In order to realign the districts to reflect changing membership levels and lodge locations, the District of Shelburne and the District of Yarmouth were consolidated to form one district to be known as Yarmouth/Shelburne District, in 1986.

To accommodate the wishes of Cape Breton District North and Cape Breton District South, the two districts were combined to form Cape Breton North/South District, by amendment to the Constitution, in 1990.

Various Committees on the Condition of the Order, based in part on the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, commented in strong terms on the situation prevalent in many lodges. One report stated that while attendance was low, so also were the lodge dues far too low! Furthermore, there was apparent bickering within the lodges and even within the districts some brethren would not associate with each other. The report of 1990 was critical of the manner in which some District Deputy Grand Masters had performed their duties and it was felt many were unsure of what these duties entailed. Five years later, another report cited poor lodge attendance and officer absenteeism, coupled with poor quality ritual work, as areas that required immediate attention.

## **SUBORDINATE LODGES**

The Masonic Secretaries Association, a body composed of Lodge Secretaries, met annually prior to the opening of the Annual Communication to discuss common problems and provide impetus to initiate changes that would, in the long term, benefit the lodges. In the mid 1980s, a few members of the association attempted to pressure municipalities and the provincial government to consider providing tax exemptions to nonprofit groups such as ourselves. It was felt that the pressure should to be maintained if anything useful was ever to be achieved. This same association suggested that Grand Lodge form a committee to investigate the possibility of obtaining a blanket insurance policy to cover all lodge buildings and furnishings in the jurisdiction. Each of these endeavours would eventually lead to positive action.

For a short period, there was a Protocol Committee in existence. Its function was to be of assistance to lodges and provide advice on questions in regard to matters of protocol within lodges. The Committee identified the most important issue to be dress and deportment at lodge meetings. A set of minimum dress guidelines were submitted to the Grand Master for his approval. The matter was addressed by the Grand Master to the extent that he brought it to the attention of the District Deputy Grand Masters for their action. The Committee recommended its own disbandment and was discontinued after 1989.

**Concord Lodge, No. 24**, Clarke's Harbour, surrendered their warrant on March 31, 1986. Concord Lodge had once been No. 436, under the Scottish Constitution, located at Barrington, prior to moving to Clarke's Harbour.

The following lodges were recognized and added, as per the Constitution, to the list of 100 Year Lodges, during the period 1986- 1995:

**Temple Lodge, No. 57**, Mulgrave.  
**Poyntz Lodge, No. 44**, Hantsport  
**Mechanics Lodge, No. 78**, Caledonia  
**Mariners Lodge, No. 80**, Louisbourg  
**Canso Lodge, No. 79**, Canso

**Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 6**, Halifax, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**St. George's Lodge, No. 20**, Wolfville, was officially recognized as a 200 year old lodge, effective 1984, after a lengthy dispute over eligibility.

**Timberlea Lodge, U.D.** was granted a dispensation on 14 February 1986 and **Timberlea Lodge, No. 136**, was constituted and consecrated on 27 April 1987, by Grand Master Ian S. Robb.

**Sackville Lodge, U.D.** was granted a dispensation on 3 June 1986 and was constituted and consecrated as **Sackville Lodge, No. 137**, on 5 December 1987, by Grand Master J. Roy Hale.

**Loge La France, U.D.** was granted a dispensation by the Grand Master, in 1995. The Grand Loge Nationale Francaise, had proposed that the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia form a lodge to be named **Loge La France** and they in turn would name one to honor Nova Scotia. Since there was already a lodge in France by the name 'Nova Scotia', it was decided to name their lodge **L'Acadie**. The first meeting of **Loge La France, U.D.**, was held in Freemasons Hall, in Halifax, on April 6, 1995. This lodge was to be a lodge of affiliation. Lodge membership could only be obtained through affiliation as no degrees would ever be conferred.

## New Lodge Buildings

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held on October 17, 1987, for the purpose of laying the cornerstone and dedicating the new Masonic temple of **Western Star Lodge, No. 50**, in Westville. Adding significance to the occasion was the knowledge that Grand Master Roy Hale was himself a member of that lodge.

Another notable event attended by Grand Master Roy Hale was the burning of the mortgage of **North Star Lodge, No. 74**, in Londonderry. A small lodge with 35 members, it had in four years built a new lodge hall and burned the mortgage. Such commitment is indeed worthy of praise! Since 1869, **Eastern Star Lodge, No. 51**, was the principal Masonic Lodge in Dartmouth and in 1909 had built the fine old building on Ochterloney Street that was to be their meeting place for over 95 years. This building also became home to **Cornwallis Lodge, No. 95** and **Wentworth Lodge, No. 108**, as well as to a chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. For some time, the Masons of Dartmouth realized that there would be a need for new quarters and the **Dartmouth Masonic Building Limited** was incorporated in 1955. Briefly, the role of the new company was to issue shares and acquire suitable property for use as a Masonic Temple in the Dartmouth area. A sizable bequest made to the company, with a time sensitive rider attached, provided further incentive for action.<sup>3</sup>

Other Dartmouth lodges, **Fidelity Lodge, No. 119**, **John Albro Lodge, No. 122**, and **Woodlawn Lodge, No. 131**, all met in different locations in Dartmouth. Each was later approached to purchase shares in the new Building Company.



Eastern Star Lodge, No. 51, Ochterloney St. Dartmouth  
1909 - 2005

Under the guidance and persuasion of the Building Company president, Peter Douglass, an acre lot was purchased in Woodside Marine Park, in 1990. The building was completed and the corner stone laid on 28 April 1990, by Grand Master Frank E. Milne. There were more than 800 in attendance at the event, including eight Past Grand Masters.

Each of the Dartmouth lodges elected to make the new Dartmouth Masonic Centre their home with the exception of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 51, which remained in their old quarters on Ochterloney Street for a further 15 years. The old lodge hall was finally sold in the Fall of 2005. Eastern Star Lodge moved into the Dartmouth Masonic Centre and held its first meeting there in September 2005. Previously, John Albro Lodge, No. 122, had opted to meet in the Bedford Masonic Hall.

Unfortunately, the New Dartmouth Masonic Centre ran into financial difficulties and a group of prominent local Masons took over the management of financial matters. Much of the revenue was derived from 'Bingo,' a game popular among the ladies. A large extension was added to the building to accommodate the Bingo players and land was purchased for a parking lot expansion. Before long, the Dartmouth Masonic Centre stabilized its situation and was soon able to make donations to several local charities. Thereby promoting the good name of Freemasonry in that area.

## GRAND MASTERS 1986 – 1989



Ian Scott Robb  
1986



James Roy Hale  
1987



Harris Alden Pipes  
1988



Frank Emmett Milne  
1989



## GRAND MASTERS 1990 – 1993



Frederick W. Clarke  
1990



Harald R. K. Weiland  
1991



James E. McNair  
1992



D. Frank MacKay  
1993



## GRAND MASTERS 1994 – 1995



David Wesley Hatt  
1994



Gordon F. Conrad  
1995

## GRAND MASTERS SUMMONED TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE 1986 – 1995



In the period covered by this chapter, five Past Grand Masters were summoned to the Grand Lodge Above:

Harold William Horne	Grand Master 1969 - 1970	Died 3 March 1990
James Garfield Veinot	Grand Master 1975 - 1976	Died 16 October 1990
Cecil Ralph MacLean	Grand Master 1983	Died 17 May 1992
Hector Gordon Hill	Grand Master 1979	Died 2 July 1992
Ronald Hancock Finnie	Grand Master 1984	Died 10 November 1992

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Membership totals for the years 1986 - 1995 are shown below:

Year	Number of Lodges	Membership
1986	113	9,526
1987	113	9,268
1988	114	8,957
1989	114	8,832
1990	114	8,600
1991	114	8,406
1992	114	8,149
1993	114	7,896
1994	114	7,718
1995	114	7,554

The accuracy of these membership figures has always been dependent on the diligence of Lodge Secretaries in reporting membership changes and it is reasonable to assume there are substantial errors in the totals shown.



## FREEMASONS' HOME

The Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home continued to enjoy an enviable reputation for the level of care enjoyed by its guests. However, the maintenance of the facility and the need for conformity to rigid codes and requirements set by governmental authorities, placed pressure on both the finances and upon those entrusted to manage the operation of the Home. A conflict of policy led to the resignation of some management personnel in 1988. Internal changes were made and the welfare of those in residence remained the primary concern of the Home staff members.

The year 1988 was a critical milestone for the operation of the Home. For the first time, the per capita assessments and the admission settlements could no longer cover the costs of operations. There was an unfunded operating deficit of \$16,000. Despite a maximum capacity of sixty residents, the actual number had dropped to fifty one as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Decreasing lodge memberships meant less revenue from per capita assessments. Consequently, there was an immediate need for a substantial increase in the per capita assessment.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees in his annual report offered three options for operating the Home:

- Increase the per capita assessment on the Masons in the province and/or substantially increase the Endowment Fund to provide the funds necessary to cover the costs of the operations.
- Change the method of operation to permit future residents to pay for their residence on a per diem basis; such per diem rates would be set to fully recover the operating costs.
- Discontinue the operation of the Home.

A decision was made to accept new residents on a per diem basis. Those already in residence were to continue as before. Eventually, all residents would be using the per diem arrangement. At which time, there would be no direct financial support for operations from the Masons of Nova Scotia.

The Masons of Nova Scotia would continue to own and operate the Home, but henceforth there would be many admissions of those not connected in any way with the Fraternity.

It was stressed that it would take a period of years before the per diem system would be capable of providing a balanced budget.

In January 1993, the Board of Trustees of the Freemasons' Home created the **Assisted Housing Programme** as an initiative to provide, under certain circumstances, financial assistance to Masons and their widows in order to improve their quality of life and enable them to remain in their own homes.

By June 1993, everything appeared to be going smoothly with the Home. There was an occupancy figure of sixty one residents. However, special care homes were now under the control of the Department of Health and Level II Care was the priority. This meant that expanded accommodation for the higher level care of residents was now a requirement and was more than what the home was capable of providing.

The license had been extended to November 30, 1993, pending the decision of the Board of Trustees in response to a Fire Marshall's report, with regard to his concerns about how Level II residents were being accommodated. Conditions were considered substandard in the home. The width of doors and hallways in the Level II area were identified as a particular concern. It appeared a decision had to be made to expand the existing facility or to build a new one.<sup>4</sup>

A special committee had been formed to delve into the matter and meet with the concerned government departments. The committee studied every aspect and left no stone unturned. A report was submitted to the Board of Trustees with the recommendation that the Home be closed over an eighteen month period.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the recommendation and the announcement was made official on October 19, 1993. The Fire Marshall would not approve the eighteen month plan and the license was only extended till January 31, 1994, and thereafter might be extended on a month to month basis.

All the residents had been transferred by March 31, 1994, the last day of operation of the Home. It had been opened on August 25, 1909 and operated for over eighty four years. It had been the place where many Masons and their widows had lived out their final days in pleasant surroundings. A jewel in the crown of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia, finally succumbing to the red tape and bureaucracy of modern times.

Financial responsibility for the twenty two Masonically sponsored residents, now in the care of other homes and institutions, was still very much the concern of the Freemasons of Nova Scotia. That responsibility would remain till the last resident had passed away.

## **BROOM AND GAVEL COMPETITION**

The Broom and Gavel Cup Bonspiel found a permanent venue for competition in the Brookfield Sportsplex. The centrally located facility was well-suited for the annual event.

Over the years, the number of trophies available grew, till in 1989 the trophies included, the Broom and Gavel Cup, the Stone and Square, 'B' Trophy and 'C' Trophy. Also awarded were plaques for the runners-up of the Broom and Gavel Cup and the 'C' Trophy Section.

The teams participating in the Bonspiel usually numbered around twenty, ensuring good competition and even better fellowship. The event was always capped off with a delightful banquet at the curling rink.

## Notes

1. Taylor Lodge had been using black beans of varying sizes instead of black cubes. After a complaint, the Grand Master ruled the ballot void and ordered a new ballot taken with the proper white balls and black cubes.

**Proceedings** 1986, Pg. 31.

2. The wording, "I place in your hands this sword" was removed from the charge to the Inner Guard. Lodges, however, continued to provide the Inner Guard with a sword at his installation.

**Proceedings** 1987, Pg. 18, 61.

3. Details were kindly supplied by Peter Douglass of Wentworth Lodge, No. 108, who was a central figure in the drive to form a new meeting place in Dartmouth.

4. Low nurses' wages were also a concern. The Fire Marshall's demands were the nail in the coffin for the Home.

Report of Chairman of the Board of Trustees - **Proceedings** 1993, Pg. 75.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### ***Board of General Purposes Formed – Warrants Retired 1996 -2005***

The powers of the Grand Master are eroded and decision making takes a new direction. Lodges succumb to the apathy of members.

#### **BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES**

By constitutional amendment passed in 1995, a Board of General Purposes was created and held its inaugural meeting on July 8, 1995. Its early mandate was stated as:

- The Board of General Purposes shall be responsible for all matters concerning the operation of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.
- All committees shall be responsible to the Board of General Purposes for all matters concerning the operation of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Membership consisted of the Grand Master, all Past Grand Masters resident in the Province, all the line officers, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Historian, Grand Lecturer, all District Deputy Grand Masters and one elected member from each District. The Deputy Grand Master assumed the role of Chairman of the Board each year. The total membership was approximately sixty members, but a quorum consisted of one third that number.

The various committees were made up of members of the Board with additional personnel recruited by virtue of their expertise in particular fields. Limitations were imposed on the length of service of the non-Board members of a committee.

The Board was required to meet as soon as practicable following the Annual Communication and met quarterly in the months of February, May, September and November, but could be convened at anytime by the Chairman.

Many of the committees under the control of the Board bore similar titles as they did previously, performed the same tasks and were expected to submit reports at meetings of the Board. The establishment of a Public Relations Committee was seen as an attempt to better communicate with the general public and manage any dealings with the electronic or print media concerning Grand Lodge affairs.

In the first year of operation the Board held six meetings, at locations in Windsor, Truro and Dartmouth.

By the second year of operation, the various committees had been sorted out and the Board began to function as intended. Thereafter, the Board endeavoured to meet quarterly. The Long Range Planning Committee was the largest committee of the Board and with an abundance of expertise proceeded to take on some ambitious projects. One important undertaking was the splitting of the existing Constitution into three parts, Constitution, Laws and Rules. Acceptance of the concept would place amendment of the Laws and Rules in the realm of the Board of General Purposes. (See the section "Constitution Amendments" of this chapter).

As the years passed, the impetus that had been so evident at the start began to wane, the Long Range Planning Committee began to address issues that were more ambitious and too demanding of time and commitment and may even have been inappropriate, given the fact that some Board members served only one year terms.

## **GRAND LODGE OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Grand Secretary Robert Northup, in his first year on the job, was determined to get a firm grasp on the Grand Lodge membership data base and was able to announce that major advances had been made and fewer corrections had been necessary. The impact of new computer systems enabled more work to be accomplished in house, resulting in a monetary saving to the Grand Lodge. Even the system of handling of supplies had been greatly improved.

Cleaning of the Grand Lodge vault was undertaken by volunteers from Burns Lodge, No. 10, and Robert Walker of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 51, helped out in the office by updating the Grand Register.

Both computer hardware and software were updated on an on-going basis in the Grand Lodge office to maximize efficiency, as evident from the Grand Secretary's Annual Reports over this time period.

At the direction of the Board of General Purposes, the Grand Secretary conducted four Secretaries' Workshops at the following locations:

- Baddeck Masonic Hall, April, 17, 1999.
- Tri-Lodges Masonic Hall, New Glasgow, October 30, 1999.
- Sackville Lodge Hall, Lower Sackville, April 17, 2001.
- Howard Johnson Motor Inn, Truro, April 20, 2002.

An Administrative Workshop for senior lodge officers was conducted at the Howard Johnson Motor Inn, in Truro, on April 26, 2003. All of these workshops were well received.

Prior to 1996, the Grand Lodge Library had more or less functioned as a responsibility of the Advisory Board and, due to its access through the Grand Lodge office, an element of responsibility also lay with the Grand Secretary. In addition, the Grand Historian had a distinct interest, especially in the preservation of old and valuable books. Therefore, the Board of General Purposes made a logical decision in 1997, when it formed a Library Committee under the chairmanship of the Grand Historian, with the Grand Secretary and George Robinson (who had devoted so much time to the library) forming the remainder of the committee.

The library was painted and new shelving installed. Most of the books had been catalogued and entered in the database. The Committee had done a creditable job, but still sought volunteer assistance in the sorting and classification of material.

Sadly, George L. Robinson was called to the Grand Lodge Above soon after completing the cataloguing of the library holdings, a project he had laboured so hard to complete.

Museum artifacts, placed in suitable display cases, were located in the same area as the library for all to see. However, additional work was required to properly identify many of the holdings.

The story of the development of the Grand Lodge Library and the associated museum had been one of great vision and good intention; but whenever the goal appeared within reach, it invariably slipped away. Even after the great work of George Robinson, the lack of a dedicated custodian to continue the essential library cataloguing on a regular basis, resulted in deterioration of the resource in a few short years. The library was destined to face even more upheaval in the coming years.

## **FINANCIAL SITUATION**

The Grand Lodge entered this period with expenses exceeding revenue. With a much needed increase in per capita assessment in place, the finances could now be expected to be manageable. Salaries of the office staff had been frozen since 1993 and belt tightening had been the order of the day for some time.



On a brighter note, the Capital Fund finally attained the \$100,000 target on May 31, 1996. In accordance with the Constitution, after a period of twenty four months had elapsed, 80% of the earned income became available for Grand Lodge purposes.

Office staff in the past had not been in the employ of Grand Lodge for extended periods of time and no provision for a retirement pension fund had ever been made. Miss Ardith Pye, on the other hand, had been employed for over twenty five years and was nearing retirement age. The Finance Committee recommended that the useable portion of earned income from the Capital Fund be allocated as a Staff Retirement Reserve. The recommendation was duly approved by the Board of General Purposes and the first steps were taken to set up a suitable staff retirement fund. To bolster the fledgling reserve, large amounts were transferred from the operating account.

In response to concern regarding the manner of calculating the per capita assessment based on December 31, 1994, membership levels, a motion, supported by the Finance Committee, was proposed to apply a new formula for the calculation. The motion was adopted at the Annual Communication, in 1998. Henceforth, the per capita assessment would be approved by the Board of General Purposes and no longer by motion at the Annual Communication. The rate would be obtained by dividing the total annual budget, as approved by the Board, by the total number of members on the lodge rolls at the end of the fiscal year preceding that for which the budget was approved. No longer could a disgruntled assembly at the Annual Communication reject a motion to ensure continuation of adequate revenue for the operation of the Grand Lodge. As part of the same motion described in the previous paragraph, the assessment for the Masonic Foundation remained and was lowered to \$3.00 for the year 1999 only. This assessment for the Foundation was completely removed by the year 2000 and thereafter the Foundation was supported by donations from other sources.

### **Annual Per Capita Assessments (formerly Annual Dues) 1996 - 2005**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grand Lodge</b>	<b>Masonic Foundation</b>
1996	\$16.00	\$5.00
1997	\$16.00	\$5.00
1998	\$16.00	\$5.00
1999	\$17.13	\$3.00
2000	\$19.00	
2001	\$19.44	
2002	\$20.48	

2003	\$21.24
2004	\$22.08
2005	\$23.05

The practice of holding the Annual Communications of Grand Lodge at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel, in Truro, each year on a trial basis, had proved to be a financially sound decision. Costs could be predicted with reasonable accuracy and a routine was soon established. In addition, the Dartmouth Masonic Centre generously contributed approximately \$2,000 each year to defray much of the costs of the Grand Master's Reception.

With the operations of the former Freemasons' Home no longer making fiscal demands on the Grand Lodge membership, Grand Treasurer Harold Crosby succeeded in bringing the finances of Grand Lodge under control through sound budgetary management and investment policies.

## THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Masonic Foundation's several programs for the most part increased in popularity, especially the Scholarship Program. On the other hand, the Drug Awareness Program never reached its expected potential and was discontinued.

The Foundation investigated other options that might provide worthwhile projects that could involve the participation of Masons throughout the entire jurisdiction. Thereby yielding the public awareness and promotion of the Fraternity that appeared to be generally lacking. One such charitable program was named "**The Masonic Outreach Program**". It involved encouraging individual Masons to reach out to seniors and others in local communities. As it turned out, Masons were not inclined to bother with application forms to obtain a few dollars to assist with expenses to pay for acts of kindness they had provided freely in the past. Gratified that the spirit of Freemasonry was alive and well in Nova Scotia, the Foundation terminated the monetary incentive part of the program.

It came to the attention of the Foundation that the **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** organization was in financial difficulty. A one- time monetary donation made to the Halifax/Dartmouth Agency eased the problem and enabled the agency to continue its good work.

The Foundation undertook to sponsor another new program known as "**In School Mentoring Program**" run by nine agencies of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. The extremely successful venture, in

addition to aiding the children in the schools, brought favourable publicity to the Fraternity. Past Grand Master Lawrin Armstrong, at the annual meeting of the organization, in Toronto, accepted on behalf of the Foundation, a crystal vase in recognition and appreciation of the leadership shown by the Freemasons of Nova Scotia in establishing the **“In School Mentoring Program”**.

The Foundation partnered with Cape Breton Centre Masonic District Association in funding the supply of school materials for under-privileged children through the **“Back to School Program”**, sponsored by “Every Woman’s Centre”, in 1998. Later, the Provincial Government provided aid to those families on provincial assistance, but left many other deserving families out in the cold. The latter group continued to be assisted through the **“Back to School Program”**.

To encourage lodges to participate in endeavours that would benefit the welfare of local communities and as a consequence raise the image of Freemasonry, the Foundation offered to share funding for approved projects for a one year duration. These were to be known as Joint Programs”. Initial response to the concept was slow in manifesting itself.<sup>1</sup>

In 2004, the **Shared Funds Program** guidelines required that all applications be received by the Foundation prior to January 15. The amount of funding for each project was limited to the lesser of 50% of the project cost, or \$2,500. The guidelines would become more attractive in later years.

The **Nova Scotia Freemasons Scholarship Program** continued to be a source of pride to the Fraternity. In the year 2004, a total of 151 scholarships were awarded for a total value of \$93,300. Approximately one half of this figure was financed by the lodges, using the shared funding arrangement.

Benevolent assistance was still provided as required and remained an important function of the Foundation. It should be noted here that much of the funding for the Masonic Foundation came in the form of donations from funds of Freemasons’ Home, which was still in the process of winding down.<sup>2</sup>

## **MASONIC EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS**

In addition to the workshops conducted by the Grand Secretary, previously mentioned, workshops were held in various districts by the respective District Deputy Grand Masters. To improve the level of Masonic

knowledge of new Masons, the Education Committee made an effort to produce a package of material to encourage self study. Whether because of a costing issue, or a lack of will to complete the project, the concept never really came to fruition.

Notwithstanding the numerous times annual reports had revealed the inability of many lodges to conduct meetings with acceptable decorum, the underlying causes still remained unaddressed. The Committee on the Condition of the Order, in 2005, placed responsibility squarely on the Education Committee and criticized the Board of General Purposes for not ensuring that the Committee was actively engaged in reversing the less than acceptable trend. Both the Education and the Ritual Committees were advised to take immediate steps to improve the level of the work.

The Board of General Purposes, in 1997, approved a **“Friend to Friend”** program, specifically written for use for Lodge Open Houses, Ladies Nights or for any similar events, with an adaptable format to fit the occasion. The program was based upon a program of the same name employed by the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario. The Board also approved purchase of 14 copies of a video produced by the Masonic Services Association for use with the program. District Deputy Grand Masters were encouraged to make the videos available to the lodges as required.

## **The Nova Scotia Freemason**

After 1998, the Nova Scotia Freemason came under the control of the Public Relations Committee. A new printer had been located and 8,000 copies were expected to be produced four times a year. The editorial staff was headed by Lorne Urquhart. The committee proposed that the bulletin content should include information from the concordant bodies. A mailing data base was to be compiled from data provided by the secretaries of the several bodies and vetted to prevent duplication. The publication was to be expanded to cover more than the four page editions of the past. The ambitious proposal, however, never came to fruition.

The Nova Scotia Freemason retained its Craft Masonry exclusivity and the cost of the printing was passed on to the constituent lodges by means of a 50 cent charge for every member of the lodge which was included as an item on the Annual Assessment invoice. This charge was discontinued as a direct billing after the 1999 Annual Assessment and was thereafter absorbed into the per capita assessment.

## **Grand Lodge Web Site**

The Grand Lodge, with an eye to the future, recognized the value of the Internet as an alternative means of communicating with brethren throughout the Masonic world and its benefit as an aid to those searching the web for information concerning the Fraternity. The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia went on line with a basic web page, in 1997, through the efforts of Thomas Trappenberg, who then immediately sought employment outside the country. When Victor Lewis returned to the area, he became involved in the development of the site and proceeded to transform the web site into an arguably enviable asset.

## **RITUAL AND CEREMONY**

Certain amendments to the Constitution passed at the 1996 Annual Communication, or referred to the Ritual Committee for action, were important in as much as the ritual and ceremonial procedures now required revision to accommodate deviations from what had been the accepted practice.

A form of open installation of Grand Lodge Officers had been developed and employed since 1992. It wasn't surprising, therefore, that some Masons would seek to have the same privilege extended to constituent lodges. A motion to that effect, introduced in 1996, was initially tabled and then referred to the Ritual Committee to devise a suitable procedure for consideration at the next Annual Communication. The motion was accordingly lifted from the table the following year and, after a report from the Ritual Committee was read, the motion was put to a vote and promptly defeated.

Approval was finally granted, in 1996, to permit lodges to conduct business on any degree except for the conferral of degrees and the instruction therein, at the discretion of the Master. Attendance at meetings would be limited to those who qualified in the degree on which the lodge was opened. Only Master Masons were permitted to vote on any subject. This bold initiative enabled newly initiated brethren to be present in lodge and promoted a feeling of belonging which had not been present under the previous arrangement. Suitable changes to the Authorized Work (Fourth Edition) in the form of appendices reflected these modifications and were subsequently approved by the Board of General Purposes.

Efforts were directed towards preparation and publication of a Fifth Edition of the Authorized Work. After a lengthy period, the Fifth Edition was printed, in 2003, in a larger ring- binder form and separated into tabbed

sections. The book was somewhat cumbersome and not readily carried in a suit coat pocket. To make matters worse, the content was rife with errors and not at all satisfactory.

It was felt there was a need for a Grand Lodge Standard to be carried at the head of all Grand Lodge processions. The office of Grand Standard Bearer was duly created at the Annual Communication in 1997.

A competition, opened for submissions for the Grand Lodge Standard, attracted many excellent designs and the Grand Standards Committee, formed to review all entries, made the difficult choice of a winning design from Gregory Randall of Elmsdale Lodge. The findings of the Committee were officially adopted and Grand Master Sam Karrel proclaimed Gregory Randall to be the first Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. The Grand Lodge Standard made its first appearance at the 1998 Annual Communication.

## **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

The following motions of significance to amend the Constitution and not mentioned elsewhere in this chapter, are here simplified for brevity:

At the Annual Communication in 1996, a total of sixteen notices of motion to amend the Constitution were submitted. Many were of a minor nature and some were even withdrawn. Of interest was:

- A motion, presented on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee, to replace the section of the Constitution concerning the election of Grand Lodge Officers was intended to.... “change the process of electing the senior Grand Lodge Officers and give more members an opportunity to serve at that level.” The motion contained proposals that were not widely acceptable and failed to gain approval.

It had been suggested in the past, that a permanent and more central location be chosen to hold the Annual Communications of Grand Lodge. Although not an amendment to amend the Constitution, but more a resolution, the following amended motion was approved:

- “That this Grand Lodge select a permanent, central location at which to hold its Annual Communication for a trial period of three years and that this central location be the Town of Truro. And further that this trial period commence no later than the Annual Communication of 1997 and reviewed after the three year period to determine whether the practice should continue or not.”

The year 1997 brought a further fourteen notices of motion to be dealt with. Of note were:

- Another motion to change the process of electing Grand Lodge Officers was presented in almost the same form as that of the year before. Again the motion was defeated.
- Grand Representative appointments may well be for life. Another attempt to limit appointments, this time to three year commissions, to provide opportunities for others to experience the honour of an appointment, was defeated.
- The Ancient Landmarks recognized by this jurisdiction are not those listed by Dr Albert Mackey. Confusion on this issue had persisted over the years. A motion was made to add an additional note in Chapter I of the Constitution that would remove any ambiguity. The motion was tabled for further study.
- Also approved was a motion to permit the Grand Master to appoint a Grand Parliamentarian to act as an advisor upon request, but who would take no active part in debate.

Following the tabling of the motion concerning Landmarks, the matter was placed in the hands of the Grand Lecturer and the Ritual Committee. The conclusion reached was that ambiguity did exist between the familiar Mackey listing of twenty five Landmarks and the nine Landmarks and Fundamental Principles recognized in Chapter I of the Constitution.

The Grand Lodge had repealed, in 1930, a requirement that Mackey's Landmarks be read once a year in subordinate lodges. Yet confusion concerning the Landmarks persisted. To end the confusion, a motion was presented in 1998, which read as follows:

- "That Chapter IX, Part II, section 22 (c) be deleted."  
Explanatory note; Despite its intent, the presentation of this booklet has fostered a misunderstanding of what Landmarks are recognized by this jurisdiction. The motion failed to gain approval.

Also presented at the 1998 Annual Communication were the following:

- A motion to replace the existing 'Secretaries Long Service Medal' (which bore the seal of the Grand Lodge) with a jewel similar to that adopted for presentation to Treasurers for long service, was roundly defeated.

- A motion to establish an additional Board of General Purposes committee to be known as “The General Arrangements Committee” to organize and oversee the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was approved.

At the 1999 Annual Communication, the following were dealt with:

- A motion to permit Associate Secretaries to qualify for the Lodge Secretaries Long Service Medal was not approved.
- An attempt to extend lodge membership to Entered Apprentices was defeated.
- A motion to allow Master Masons to wear dress regalia at Masonic Funeral Services was not approved.
- Another motion to make all Master Masons members of Grand Lodge, while members in good standing in a lodge of this jurisdiction, failed to gain approval.

The Long Range Planning Committee on behalf of the Board of General Purposes introduced motions at the 2000 Annual Communication that seriously impacted the Constitution:

- That the Constitution be split into three parts: Constitution, Laws and Rules. This motion was approved.
- The procedure for amending the Laws and the Rules to be by a two thirds majority of the Board of General Purposes members present and entitled to vote. The appeal processes were laid out in separate motions. Both were approved.

A test of the credibility of the Board of General Purposes to properly function in its capacity as the amending authority of the “Rules” occurred one year later, in 2002. The Grand Master of the day had let it be known that a secret vote was to be taken on an amendment that had not been properly handled from the start. The secret vote was taken and the amendment was declared approved. Certain members present at the time of the vote objected and brought the matter to the floor of the Annual Communication, seeking to have the Board decision set aside. The case was made to the members present and when the question was called, the motion was lost. It could not be denied, however, that the Board’s actions could be deemed improper.<sup>3</sup>



At the same Annual Communication, the sensitive issue of Grand Lodge membership was again raised in the following motion:

- The Grand Lodge shall consist of all members of this jurisdiction who have attained the Degree of Master Mason so long as they remain members in good standing of a lodge in this jurisdiction. The motion was hotly debated and failed to receive approval.

In 2003, an incident with regard to the election of an Elected Member to the Board of General Purposes made it necessary to lay down a suitable procedure to be followed for the selection of Elected Representatives. The new procedure, proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, was duly approved.<sup>4</sup>

## DISTRICTS

District Deputy Grand Masters have been described as the eyes and ears of the Grand Master within their districts. If all District Deputies performed their duties to the high standard expected of them, Grand Masters could rest assured that the jurisdiction was in safe hands. Much has been said about the questionable ability of some of the Grand Master's representatives and critical comment has appeared in successive Condition of the Order Reports, based in part on the information contained in the District Deputy Grand Masters' Reports. On the positive side, one such report, submitted by a dedicated representative of the Grand Master in Halifax County District, was so well written it was afterwards used as an example of how a District Report ought to be written.

The Long Range Planning Committee had been formed prior to the creation of the Board of General Purposes and sought ways to improve the selection process of District Deputy Grand Masters. The Committee completed a full rewrite of **Chapter V - District Deputy Grand Masters** and presented it as an amendment to the Constitution, in 1996. All the Committee's hard work was dashed when the amendment failed to gain approval.

District Deputy Grand Master selection, in the majority of districts, continued to be a hit and miss process, at best. Therefore it was inevitable that poor candidates, virtually lacking in leadership skills, would find themselves at the helm, unable to steer a true course. The complaints continued to be registered and the cries for help were invariably lost in the wind. The only saving grace was the knowledge that there would be a new crewman on the wheel the following year!

The Board of General Purposes routinely went through the motions of updating the content of the one day school of instruction for new District Deputy Grand Masters and overlooked the lack of suitability of some of those appointed by incoming Grand Masters. In fairness, the declining membership resulted in a shallower pool, but this only emphasized the need to make absolutely certain the best man for the job was selected.

Many Committees on the Condition of the Order took great pains to record their findings and make the necessary recommendations; but the lack of action to resolve or even address their concerns at the Board level became extremely frustrating. Years would pass before any real attempt would be made to correct the situation.

The size of many districts and the distance travelled by District Deputy Grand Masters was a concern to some in the jurisdiction. In 1997, two motions to change the makeup of the districts in the Halifax area were presented. The first was a proposal to take all lodges in the Halifax Regional Municipality and divide them into four equal districts based on geographic location and distance between lodges. The concept was logically sound and the motion was tabled for further discussion within the impacted districts.

The second motion was concerned only with Halifax County District and would split the District into two districts, with all lodges east of and including those meeting in the Dartmouth Masonic Centre forming one district and the remainder forming the other. This particular motion was rejected.

Not daunted by the failure of the last motion, another was presented in 1998 to split the Halifax County District into two districts, having been found acceptable to the lodges of the existing district. Second Halifax County District would comprise all lodges in Dartmouth plus Timberlea and St. Margaret's Lodges. First Halifax County District would consist of all other lodges. This motion was duly approved.

## **SUBORDINATE LODGES**

Nine lodges elected to surrender their warrants in the period 1996 - 2005:

**Composite Lodge, No. 105**, Halifax, 15 April 1998

**Zarthan Lodge, No. 82**, Pubnico, 21 December 1999

**Scotia Lodge, No. 31**, Yarmouth, 31 December 1999

**Margaree Lodge, No. 100**, Margaree Valley, 31 December 1999

**Inverness Lodge, No. 83**, Inverness, 31 December 1999

**White Ensign Lodge, No. 129**, Halifax, 31 December 1999

**Acadia Lodge No. 14**, Halifax, 31 December 2000  
**Dufferin Lodge, No. 89**, Port Dufferin, 31 December 2001  
**Atlantic Lodge, No. 103**, Halifax, 22 February 2003  
**University Lodge, No. 110**, Halifax, 20 September 2005

The warrants of these lodges are considered “retired”, but may be reactivated at some future date.

**Freeport Lodge, No. 65**, Freeport, was recognized as a 100 Year Lodge, in 2004.

**Unity Lodge, No. 4**, Lunenburg, celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 1997.

**The Saint Andrew’s Lodge of Cape Breton, No. 7**, Sydney, celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 2000.

**Loge La France, U.D.**, originally issued a dispensation in 1995 (see Chapter III), formally requested a warrant in March 1997. However, certain irregularities were found in the lodge books and records and the warrant was not granted. Indeed, the Lodge was informed that it would be necessary to start the whole process over again, providing certain recommendations were adhered to. A new dispensation was granted to Loge La France on January 31, 1998, and **Loge La France, No. 138**, was duly constituted and consecrated on November 12, 1999, by Grand Master Lloyd Blagdon, at Bible Hill.

**Sackville Lodge, No. 137**, purchased Faith United Church on Gloria Avenue, Lower Sackville, in December 1999, and proceeded to convert it to a suitable Lodge hall. The first meeting in the new building was held on September 11, 2000. The dedication ceremony was performed by Grand Master Arthur Brown on September 20, 2000.

Grand Master Tabor Caulier travelled to Yarmouth, on November 10, 2001, to dedicate the new Lodge hall of **Hiram Lodge, No. 12**. A large crowd was on hand to witness the occasion.

**Truro Lodge, No. 43**, and **Fellowship Lodge, No. 112**, founders of the Tru-Fel Building Society, constructed a handsome new building in Bible Hill. More than 200 Masons were present to observe Grand Master Tabor Caulier conduct a Cornerstone and Dedication Ceremony, on April 27, 2002.



Tru-Fel Masonic Centre, Bible Hill

## GRAND MASTERS 1996 – 1999



Samuel Karrel  
1996



Lawrin C. Armstrong  
1997



E. Carson Jackson  
1998



Lloyd Blagdon  
1999

## GRAND MASTERS 2000 - 2003



Arthur S. Brown  
2000



Tabor J. Caulier  
2001



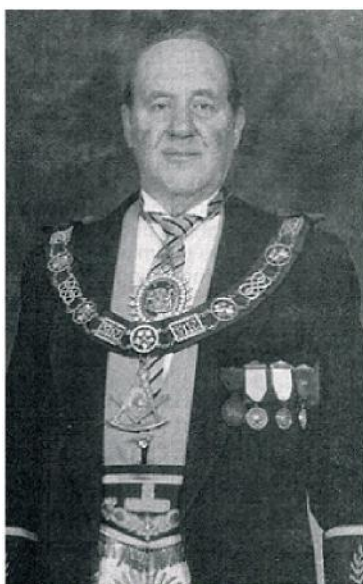
Earl M. Faulkner  
2002



G. Shane MacFarlane  
2003



## GRAND MASTERS 2004 – 2005



Earle C. MacDonald  
2004



H. Simeon Hardy  
2005

## GRAND MASTERS SUMMONED TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE 1996 – 2005



In the period covered by this chapter, six Past Grand Masters were summoned to the Grand Lodge Above:

Cyril Leroy Collins	Grand Master 1982	Died 27 December 1996
W. Everett Moseley	Grand Master 1960-61	Died 26 February 2000
James E. McNairn	Grand Master 1992	Died 2 April 2002
D. Frank MacKay	Grand Master 1993	Died 13 May 2004
James Roy Hale	Grand Master 1987	Died 14 December 2004
Earl M. Faulkner	Grand Master 2002	Died 27 March 2005

Past Grand Master W. Everett Moseley was still active in his mid-nineties and was often seen at Lodge Installation Ceremonies. He was well known for his ability to deliver the Ancient Charges to a Master-Elect entirely from memory.

## **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

Membership levels continued to decline at a rate of an average of 2% per year. The figures shown below are indicative of the actual single memberships at the end of each year. This figure became available owing to the improved capability of the membership data base. Figures shown in earlier years were not a true reflection of the actual single memberships and were always dependent on the accuracy of returns by Lodge Secretaries and indeed still are. The figures presented below may appear to lack credibility, but they have been calculated using the data provided by Lodge Secretaries. Several members did hold multiple memberships and many lodges relied on these members for their existence.

Membership totals (actual Masons) for the years 1996 - 2005 are shown below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Lodges</b>	<b>Membership</b>
1996	114	5,841
1997	114	5,834
1998	114	5,832
1999	114	5,723
2000	109	5,609
2001	108	5,489
2002	107	5,408
2003	106	5,285
2004	106	5,186
2005	106	5,079

## **NOVA SCOTIA FREEMASONS' HOME**

Although the Home was no longer in existence and the lands were up for sale, the Administrator, Reginald Stone, faithfully visited the former residents, now dispersed from Windsor to Truro, to Halifax and down the Annapolis Valley. He made himself available to the administrators of the various homes to assist in any way possible. In 1996, there were fourteen former guests for whom the Masons of Nova Scotia were financially responsible.

The financial cost of supporting our former residents varied from location to location, and the income from the Endowment Fund was not always sufficient to cover these costs. Consequently, it was necessary to use a portion of the Fund capital to make up the shortfall.<sup>5</sup> The Fund had been boosted by generous bequests and the favourable return on investments came as a result of a healthy investment climate.



By June 1999, there were still seven former residents being taken care of in five separate locations.

The per diem rates to maintain the Homes' former residents rose 20% in only two years and reflected the surge in nursing home costs and the care of the elderly in general.

Little or no interest had been shown after a few years in the lands of the former Home, listed for sale at \$400,000. The taxes on the property were approximately \$2,000 and insurance coverage cost an additional \$800. The property had become shabby. Several large trees had broken limbs and some of the older trees were dying. To remove what had become a stain on the reputation of Freemasons, the Home Administrator took action to have the property cleaned up and made presentable. The property was finally sold in November of 2000 for \$350,000, well below its valuation.

The **Assisted Housing Program**, set up in 1993 and first mentioned in Chapter III, had provided assistance since its inception. The extent of its assistance was improved upon and given increased exposure by means of the Grand Lodge web site and through District Deputy Grand Masters in their lodge visitations, in 2001. Despite these attempts to reach the members of the lodges, it was evident that many were totally unaware of the existence of the program. Earl Banks, the Chairman of the Assisted Housing Committee, had taken great pains to personally visit lodges to extol the benefits of the program and impress upon the members the need to be vigilant of the situation and needs of elderly members and widows of departed brethren.

The total value of the Endowment Fund had risen slowly over the years and by 2003 had reached \$5,000,000. The Board of Trustees had periodically approved grants to the very successful Masonic Foundation Scholarship Program and in the year ending December 31, 2002, a grant of \$50,000 was made to the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Two former residents, now housed in Dykeland Lodge in Windsor, were the last remaining Masonically sponsored residents at the end of the year 2005.

Further grants were made to the Masonic Foundation and an additional sum of \$50,000 was provided for the establishment of a Children's Learning Centre for dyslectic children.

The Board of Trustees had managed the responsibility of their mandate in an exemplary manner and provided good management through a difficult period.

## BROOM AND GAVEL COMPETITION

The Broom and Gavel Bonspiel continued to be held annually at Brookfield Sportsplex. The popularity of the event was very high during this period. As many as 114 Masons ventured onto the ice with every level of experience, but all with one aim, that of having fun and good fellowship. The number of sections had increased from 'A', 'B' and 'C', to 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'E'. Each section had a trophy with the runners-up also being recognized. The awards were presented at the banquet as usual on Sunday to conclude the weekend's events.

### Notes

1. This program was probably the forerunner to the later "Shared Funds Program". **Proceedings** 1999, Pg. 95.
2. See Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home Annual Report. **Proceedings** 2004 Pg. 94.
3. The preamble to this motion is compelling and convincing. **Proceedings** 2002, Pg. 37.
4. The procedure is here laid out. **Proceedings** 2003, Pg. 18.
5. In 1996, approximately \$29,000 was charged against the capital of the fund. **Proceedings** 1997, Pg. 105.

## **CHAPTER V**

### ***Grand Lodge Endeavours to Improve Public Awareness 2006 -2013***

The Board of General Purposes reorganizes. Freemasons' Hall on Barrington Street is sold. Lodges struggle to maintain relevance in a changing society.

#### **BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES**

The Board of General Purposes had now been in existence for over a decade and despite being heralded as a more democratic approach to the administration of the Grand Lodge, the Board came under frequent criticism. The Condition of the Order Committee, a committee traditionally appointed by the Grand Master, based its annual report to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication upon the reports of District Deputy Grand Masters, the reports of various Grand Lodge Officers, the Board of General Purposes Chairman and the several committees of the Board. As the title of the Committee suggests, the purpose of the report was to provide an unbiased assessment of the state of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction and, if necessary, to make realistic recommendations for improvement.

Reports of the Condition of the Order were a legitimate vehicle to identify perceived shortcomings of the Board of General Purposes. The sheer size of the Board membership prior to 2010 was viewed as an impediment for the effective conduct of business. The Board, as a whole, met only quarterly and meetings were considered to be conducted too hastily and did not afford sufficient time for meaningful debate. The lack of any positive action taken upon the recommendations of the previous Committees was a further source of concern. In an effort to confront the lack of action, the Board appointed an ad hoc committee to address the recommendations soon after the Annual Communication of 2006. This committee then had its own set of recommendations to submit to the Board. One recommendation was to include the Condition of the Order Committee as one of the standing committees of the Board of General Purposes. This action was intended to eliminate the need for an ad hoc committee to be formed each year to address any recommendations. The change was effected in a revision of the Constitution in October 2009. A marginal reduction in the size of the membership of the Board was achieved in the same revision. A later realignment of the districts of the jurisdiction resulted in a further reduction in Board membership.

Since its inception in 1995, the Board of General Purposes had been chaired by the Deputy Grand Master. Following acceptance of the constitutional changes in 2009, the chairmanship became an elected position for a term of three years. James J. White, Welsford Lodge, No. 26, was elected to the position by acclamation at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, in 2010.

Within weeks, the Chairman was faced with a serious dilemma, an unfortunate dispute between the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary threatened to disrupt the harmony of the Craft in this jurisdiction. However, good judgment and cooler heads prevailed and the situation was resolved agreeably. The incident was clear evidence of the underlying stresses between those who embraced a traditional view of the prerogatives of the Grand Master and those who supported the more democratic concept of a governing board.<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps the lack of timely and informative communications between the Board and the lodges contributed to the negative criticism directed at that body. In fairness, it must be said that some districts were more informed than others and this was in part the result of strong representation at the Board table and an active District Masonic Association. It was the policy that all notices of motion to amend the Laws and Rules, and later the Regulations, were to be forwarded as soon as possible to lodges for debate and comment. District Elected Representatives were, in theory at least, in a position to express the opinions and concerns of the lodges in their respective districts at the next Board meeting. Apparent limitations on meaningful debate may have been partially responsible for the dissatisfaction felt at the lodge level.

The need for a comprehensive system of communication between the Board and lodges was a perennial concern recorded by successive Committees on the Condition of the Order and it was never effectively attained. The Long Range Planning Committee of 2011 addressed this concern, and others, by recommending that a three year plan to improve the operation of the Board be undertaken. In the first year, the matter of improving communications between the Board and the lodges would be tackled. The second year would involve improving the structure of the Board. Year three would be devoted to a review of the policies and procedures of the Board. The recommendations, or suggestions, of the Long Range Planning Committee were valid and if implemented would have been viewed as a positive step to improve the credibility of the Board of General Purposes. However, there was no recorded attempt to institute the three year plan. Indeed, there were no further reports submitted by the Long Range Planning Committee and the impetus to improve the Board was lost.

## **GRAND LODGE OFFICE OPERATIONS**

After 35 years of dedicated service to the Grand Lodge, Miss Ardith Pye bade farewell and was guest of honour at a retirement party held at Ashburn Golf and Country Club.

Mrs. Pat Richards joined the staff in December 2006 and quickly settled into the routine of the Grand Lodge office and proved to be a valuable employee.

Grand Lodge had been a tenant of Freemasons' Hall Limited, on Barrington Street in Halifax, since 1924. Rising costs and diminished attendance at lodge meetings in the downtown location, prompted Freemasons' Hall Ltd. to search for new premises. There was considerable attachment to the old building and many members held a strong affection for the venerable lodge room known as the "blue room", dominated as it was on the North wall by a large portrait painting of Past Grand Master Alexander Keith.

The older lodges that met in this location were all shareholders in Freemasons' Hall Ltd. The decisions made at meetings of the trustees did not come without concerned debate. Burns Lodge, No. 10, in particular, was not in favour of a decision to purchase the property of the former St. Pius Roman Catholic Church, in Fairview (see section "Subordinate Lodges").

With the sale of Freemasons' Hall on Barrington Street finalized and the successful procurement of the property in Fairview, arrangements were made to transform the former Glebe House, at 167 Coronation Avenue, into the site of the new Grand Lodge office. The main former church building, of course, became the meeting room adjacent to a sizable banquet hall.

The Grand Lodge office was relocated to the Fairview site in March of 2008. The new premises required much upgrading and renovation before being considered fully functional. Extensive upgrades needed to be carried out in the basement prior to becoming the new home of the Grand Lodge library, museum and archives. The cost of the move and subsequent renovations was to be borne by the Grand Lodge. Initially, an attempt was made to pass the expense on to the lodges in the form of a one time \$10.00 additional per capita assessment. This proposal was not well received at the Board of General Purposes meeting and the motion was tabled pending reaction from the lodges. A more sensible option was later pursued with the decision to procure a loan of \$50,000 from the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia.<sup>2</sup>

In a move to keep pace with technological advances, the Grand Lodge office acquired a multi-purpose copier to substantially reduce printing costs. Additional features rendered the new equipment capable of producing certificates and booklets in-house.

The cataloguing and preservation of the volume of archival material, accumulated over the years in the Barrington Street location, presented a formidable challenge. To address this problem, the office of Grand Archivist was created in 2009. Past Grand Master Dan Campbell was appointed to the office and promptly set about forming the beginnings of an archive in the basement of the new Grand Lodge offices. In addition, the portrait pictures of Past Grand Masters were dutifully displayed, in order of seniority, along the walls of the ante-room. Two years later, the office of Grand Librarian was established and the cataloguing of the reduced holdings of the new library began in earnest once again.

With the appointment, in 2011, of James Tirrul-Jones to the office of Grand Archivist, the Grand Lodge gained the services of an experienced museum curator. His knowledge in the proper preservation of old documents and artifacts was welcomed. The new Grand Archivist wasted no time investigating the possibility of a semi permanent museum display and the first tentative steps were taken, with the permission of Freemasons' Hall Ltd., to use a space adjacent to the lodge room.

There were three Administrative Seminars held during this time period. Two were conducted in Halifax and the other in Truro. Each seminar was well attended.

## **FINANCIAL SITUATION**

The finances of Grand Lodge continued in a stable state under the guidance of Grand Treasurer Harold Crosby. Projected budgets were reasonably accurate and the problems encountered in previous years to set a realistic per capita assessment appeared to be long past.

### **Annual Per Capita Assessments 2006 – 2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
2006	\$24.60	2010	\$30.95
2007	\$25.63	2011	\$32.34
2008	\$29.30	2012	\$33.61
2009	\$30.94	2013	\$33.61

With the retirement of Miss Ardith Pye, the Staff Retirement Reserve came into play with an initial total value, in 2007, in excess of \$90,000. With less than favourable interest rates available, this figure dropped to less than \$79,000 by December, 2012. Nevertheless, it was still expected that the Reserve would be in a position to provide adequate funding of Miss Pye's retirement allowance. It should be noted that the Capital Fund, from which 80% of the annual interest was directed to the Staff Retirement Reserve, was valued at over \$138,000.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the relocation costs of the move to Coronation Avenue were partially financed through a loan from the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia. The actual cost of the move was \$67,922. A loan of \$50,000 was secured from the Foundation, repayable in five annual payments of \$10,000 at 4.5% interest. The final payment was made in 2011, after a double payment was made in 2010.

Provision of suitable General Liability and Crime Insurance coverage for the Grand Lodge and subordinate lodges had been initiated prior to 2003 in a desire to ensure that sufficient coverage was available in today's litigious society. Coverage was later extended to cover lodge buildings and contents. Removal of duplicate coverage of other commercial insurance policies was desired in order to make the plan work effectively.

Many lodges had been under insured and the coverage offered by the Grand Lodge Insurance Plan provided far better coverage for a reasonable premium. For those lodges employing oil-fired heating systems in their buildings, a third party pollution liability insurance became available in 2011, and the coverage became mandatory the following year.

## **THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA**

The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia expanded its role during this time. The Foundation's mission statement clearly defined the role:

**“The mission of the Masonic Foundation is to encourage the active practice of the Masonic Principles of Benevolence and Charity, and to promote a positive image of Freemasonry in the community.”**

An informative booklet outlining the various programs offered by the Foundation was produced and distributed for the use of all lodges. In 2006, the **Shared Funds Program** underwent a major change. A lodge could now raise 25% of a project cost and apply for an additional 75%, to a limit of \$1,500 for the total cost of the project. This substantial change was viewed as an incentive to generate increased participation from lodges.

Additionally, the deadline for application submissions was extended to April 30<sup>th</sup>. The applications would be reviewed after that date and decisions rendered dependent upon the availability of funds. The aim was to have lodges support local projects and charities, but not national charities.

A Masonic Learning Centre for Dyslexic Children opened in Dartmouth, in September 2006. From the outset, the Centre received substantial funding in the form of grants from the Foundation and other sources. These direct grants fell under the category of **Administered Programs** or **Administrative Funds**. Included under this category, was support for funding for the Q E II Foundation for the procurement of an advanced diagnostic imaging machine. A campaign titled, “**Seeing is Believing**” had been initiated to raise funds to purchase a Spectralis OCT, a high speed laser scanning device, for “diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of retinal conditions”.

What had previously been known as the **Nova Scotia Scholarship Programme**, underwent a name change, in 2007, and became **The Nova Scotia Freemasons Bursary Program**. The program functioned the same under the new appellation, but the title was deemed to be more appropriate.

All of the above mentioned programs were administered over and above the more important functions of the Foundation, Fraternal Benevolence and the Assisted Home Program. The relief of the distressed, a necessarily more confidential charity, had taken a back seat to today’s more attention-getting programs of the Foundation. It was recognized that perhaps some of the public social programs had a role in relieving the need for masonic benevolence. But as a former Chairman of the Foundation noted, the brethren of lodges should be ever vigilant to recognize a genuine need for assistance.

The Masonic Foundation, in 2012, was in a sound financial position with net assets in excess of \$7,650,000. This substantial figure ensured the continuance of the good works carried out by the Foundation under the guidance of its governing Board.

An informative web page, linked to the Grand Lodge Web site, was created to bring information concerning the Masonic Foundation’s activities directly to the Masons and the general public of Nova Scotia.



## **MASONIC EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS**

Cognizant of the repeated recommendations contained in many Condition of the Order Committee reports, the Education Committees of this time frame set about addressing the short comings associated with the “School of Instruction” for District Deputy Grand Masters, their District Officers and all elected Grand Lodge Officers. A series of documents were produced setting out the ceremonial procedures to be followed and guidelines for the conduct of District Meetings, Masonic Church Services and Masonic Funeral Services. Other handouts were updated and revised to reflect changes.

Much of the material, once approved by the Board of General Purposes, was placed on the Grand Lodge web site in an area accessible only to Master Masons of this jurisdiction. Ready access to educational material such as this on the web site, was considered to be the way of the future. Masons could now download pertinent material and be more conversant about current practices.

The two Halifax County Districts, in response to the apparent success in other jurisdictions, put together a composite mentorship program to promote the teaching of basic practices to new Masons under the guidance of experienced lodge brethren. The program had been adopted for use in these district lodges and was found to be an effective tool. The Grand Lodge Education Committee therefore, recommended that this Mentorship Program be accepted for immediate use throughout the Jurisdiction.

Although approved by the Board of General Purposes, the Mentorship Program was clearly not embraced by all lodges.

Education Committee Chairman, Leigh MacConnell, in his report to the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, in 2010, commented on the lack of usage of documents specially produced for use in workshops and Lodges of Instruction. The intention was to achieve some measure of uniformity in the practice of even the most basic ceremonies. The Committee had developed a guide for a Masters and Wardens Workshop, yet despite adoption by the Board of General Purposes, it had rarely been used. The Committee had striven to meet the recommendations of Condition of the Order Committees, only to find that the incentive to educate and inform had failed for lack of forceful leadership where it was most needed, at the district level.

## **The Nova Scotia Freemason**

Printed editions of **The Nova Scotia Freemason** publication ceased after the summer edition of 2007. The Public Relations Committee of the time declared that the publication was not considered to be the mandate of a true public relations committee. In fact, the feeling existed that it should be controlled by the Education Committee. The Board of General Purposes created an Editorial Committee which failed to revive the publication. Printing costs and unsatisfactory distribution of the product at the lodge level were major factors in the demise.

In the Grand Master's Address at the Annual Communication of 2011, Grand Master Owen Walton suggested that the time had come for **The Nova Scotia Freemason** to be published in an electronic format, where it could be viewed, or downloaded, from the Grand Lodge website. Grand Master Barry Imber, in his own address the following year, announced that the fifth edition, a new electronic version of the revived publication, was about ready for viewing on the Grand Lodge web site. The on-line version supported coloured photographs and was more versatile than its printed predecessor. Nevertheless, there was still a hope that Lodge Secretaries would make copies available to those members without internet access.

Past Grand Master Barry Imber re-assumed his role as editor of **The Nova Scotia Freemason** and was still active in that capacity at the time of writing this history.

### **Grand Lodge Web Site**

The usefulness of fraternal web sites lies in prompt updating of the site's content, the relevance of the messages conveyed and an appealing user friendly format. There had been grumbling in recent years concerning the state of the Grand Lodge website. The web master at the time, Victor Lewis, was reported to have less time available to provide assistance in the maintenance of the site and believed that it was time for a contractual arrangement to be put in place. The decision was taken to commence a search for a new web master.

A new web master, in the person of Jonathan Watson, was recruited to assume the duties. He completed the task of migrating the web site from its server in the United States to a new server located in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Technology had advanced sufficiently over the ten years of operation of the Grand Lodge web site to warrant a complete make-over of the site.

The new web site featured two much needed calendars; one enabling lodges to post coming events, and a second calendar to track the Grand Masters' Masonic and social events.

## **RITUAL AND CEREMONY**

The Fifth Edition of the Authorized Work, although intended to be easily navigable, contained a multitude of typographical errors and unworkable forms for moving between degrees. Additionally, there was a distinct need for clearer direction in many of the existing rubrics. A committee of knowledgeable Masons, well skilled in the practice of the Ritual, were assembled to review the Authorized Work to create a Sixth Edition that would be as comprehensive and free of errors as possible.

Every edition of the Authorized Work since 1947 was made available to the committee to settle any questions of form or spelling. All changes affecting ritual were duly noted. Discussion on issues was democratic and settled by consensus. The use of a lap top computer to edit the work and the ability to project pages of the Work upon a screen, as an aid to identify punctuation errors, for example, greatly enhanced the ability to scrutinize the Work and progress the review. Hours of detailed scrutiny was carried out by committee members using their own home computers in advance of scheduled committee meetings.

After over three years of deliberations, a suitable product was produced in a hard cover, resembling the size of the earlier booklets. As an incentive to encourage the purchase and use of this new Sixth Edition, it was offered for sale, in 2009, at a low cost, with an added discount if an older edition was turned in at the time of purchase.

The Ritual Committee of this period were unanimous in condemning the overuse of short form opening and closing ceremonies. It was held that ritual work should be a solemn and serious business, performed with dignity and decorum to capture the true essence of the ritual and create an atmosphere that would have lasting meaning to participants and observers alike.

The Handbook of Ceremonies, Part I, Installation of Officers of a Lodge, was reviewed. Handbooks prior to 2009 were improved by the insertion of added rubrics and the addition of spoken directions in the early stages of the ceremony. A controversial decision to permit constituent lodges to conduct open Installations of Lodge Officers with family members present, had given rise to various homegrown ceremonies to accommodate the

need for some sort of ceremony. To establish control over the situation regarding open installations, the Education Committee had been tasked to rewrite the handbook to include various scenarios and with one section dedicated to open installations. Certain perceived traditional usages had been dropped in the revised handbook, of 2011, and the deletions were not universally applauded.

In passing, it has been this writer's experience that previously unknown practices have a tendency to creep into our ritual and ceremonies from time to time, to the detriment of the practice of a standard ritual. The Ritual Committee has a responsibility to protect our ritual and ceremonies from outside influences.

Overall, it may be said that the years covered by this chapter were productive. The Grand Lecturers and their committees strove to meet the needs of the Craft in ceremony and ritual. Many handouts and guides were produced with the intention of having them readily available on the Grand Lodge web site to those members who cared enough to seek them out. On the other hand, moves to generate interest in creating district education officers, reporting to the Grand Lecturer, were mostly met with apathy and disinterest.

## **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

At the Annual Communication of June 2008, the following motions were presented:

- To create the Office of Grand Archivist. Although seconded, a point of order was raised and the decision was made to deal with the motion at the next Annual Communication.
- A lengthy motion to lay out the qualifications and procedure for the selection of candidates for appointment as District Deputy Grand Masters was tabled for further study.

As anticipated, the motion to create the Office of Grand Archivist reappeared at the Annual Communication of 2009 and the motion was duly carried.

All amendments to the Constitution must be debated at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge or a special session called for that purpose. However, the Board of General Purposes had the power to form a Constitutional Review Committee to determine whether the Constitution

in its present form was still acceptable and whether it comprised more than was actually required of such a document. With this in mind, a committee was formed, in 2005, to review the Constitution yet again. The last major change to the Constitution had taken place following a recommendation by the Long Range Planning Committee, in 2000, as explained in Chapter IV. That change produced the **Constitution, Laws and Rules**.

The Constitutional Review Committee submitted a proposal to the Board of General Purposes, in 2008, that would replace the **Constitution, Laws and Rules** format with the two-part **Constitution and Regulations**.

The chapter of the Constitution dealing with the Board of General Purposes was completely rewritten. The Organization and Powers section was reduced, leaving no meaningful listing of the powers of the Board. However, one new added item clearly stated the power of the Board to assess constituent lodges an annual levy to finance the operations of Grand Lodge, as the Board deemed fit. A similarly worded paragraph had appeared at the end of a list of powers of Grand Lodge in Chapter II of the existing Constitution. In previous years, the capital assessment had been merely included in the Finance Committee's annual budget and was ratified on the basis of an acceptance of the budget by the Board. The new item would now enshrine that power in the Regulations and place it firmly under the control of the Board of General Purposes.

Clear definition of the composition and mandates of the several committees of the Board of General Purposes were now to be found in the new expanded Chapter IV of the Constitution dealing with the Board.

Perhaps one of the most notable proposed changes to the Constitution was a completely rewritten chapter dedicated to masonic discipline. Chapter V, Discipline, would now comprise one-third of the whole content of the Constitution. Perhaps this may be viewed as a sign of the times, but it is a sad reflection on a fraternity supposedly composed of good men and true.

After review and adjustment by the Board of General Purposes, the proposed Constitution was forwarded to the Annual Communication to be debated on the floor of the Grand Lodge. Owing to the magnitude of the proposal and the need for constituent lodges to consider the document, the decision was made to hold a Special Communication of Grand Lodge, in Halifax, on October 17, 2009, to debate the proposed Constitution. At the Special Communication of Grand Lodge, held in October, 2009, the

proposed revised Constitution was debated at length and approved with minor amendments.

After the dust had settled, following the adoption of the 2009 Constitution, some Masons were of the opinion that too much had been removed in the paring down process. This was evident in the presentation of two motions at the Annual Communication of 2010.

The Grand Lecturer had been dropped from membership on the Board of General Purposes. Since this officer is designated as the Chairman of the both the Ritual and Education Committees, it was considered proper that he should retain membership on the Board to present and field questions with regard to reports and other matters of concern to these committees. A motion to include the Grand Lecturer as a member of the Board was duly made and received approval.

The question of continuing the custom of appointing Grand Representatives had been discussed at Board of General Purposes meetings, and the Fraternal Relations Committee had attempted to provide more clarity to the system of appointments and duties of Grand Representatives. Amidst a climate of lack of support and interest for the practice of the exchange of Grand Representatives between jurisdictions, it was not surprising that there was no reference to Grand Representatives in either the Constitutions, or Regulations, of 2009. Many felt that the wrong message was being conveyed concerning this Grand Jurisdiction's sincerity about fraternal relations.<sup>3</sup>

Consequently, a motion was made to insert a section in the Constitution, Chapter III, to be titled Grand Representatives, and that an additional reference to Grand Representatives be inserted in Chapter IV under Fraternal Relations. The motion was duly approved.

The Constitution of 2009 had also removed the automatic succession of the Deputy Grand Master, enabling the Grand Master, or some other Past Grand Master, to offer for an additional term. Some did not favour this change and a motion was presented to revert to the former procedure. The motion was defeated.

The whole concept of the Board of General Purposes had come under scrutiny in recent years. Despite criticisms of the manageability and function of the Board, changes had been introduced to improve operations. Nevertheless, a similar system had been viewed as a failure in the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario and was subsequently

discontinued. At the 2011 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, the following motions were presented:

- A motion to replace the Board of General Purposes with a Grand Master's Advisory Board was introduced. Although there was considerable debate on the motion, it failed to realize the required two-thirds majority and was defeated.
- A motion to enable Master Masons to submit a notice of motion to the Board of General Purposes to amend the Regulations, to speak to the motion as the mover, but not to vote, was debated, amended and duly carried.
- A motion to create the Office of Grand Librarian was approved.

By the year 2012, there was noticeable concern respecting the future of Freemasonry in this and other jurisdictions. The average age of the membership had risen sharply in recent times. Efforts to attract younger men into the Fraternity had been made in most jurisdictions. Even to the extent of advertising on commercial television in the United States. The drop in overall membership was viewed by many as part of a natural cycle. In reality, there had been a noticeable decline in the numbers of qualified Masons willing to stand for election to Grand Lodge Office, or even to serve as District Deputy Grand Masters. With an uncertain future facing the Fraternity, it was not surprising that the following two motions were presented at the Annual Communication of 2012.

- A motion to make Master Masons in good standing members of Grand Lodge was moved, debated and duly carried. Similar motions had been roundly defeated in the past.
- A motion by the Grand Secretary, to amend the Constitution to include a procedure to be followed should a nomination not be previously received within the normal time frame for a particular Grand Lodge Office, was carried.

Also dealt with at the same time were the following:

- A motion to add a further paragraph in the Constitution to discourage direct correspondence with the Grand Master concerning Masons or Masonry except through the Grand Secretary. The motion was passed.

- A proposal for the addition of a new committee of the Board of General Purposes, to be known as the **Heritage Committee**. The motion was duly approved.

## DISTRICTS

In previous chapters, the role played by District Deputy Grand Masters has been shown to be one of great importance. These appointed representatives of the Grand Master were expected to have their fingers on the pulse of their particular district lodges. Official Visits were an opportunity to inspect the books, observe the quality of the ritual work and gauge the competence of the officers to practice Freemasonry to an acceptable standard. In general, District Deputy Grand Masters were expected to provide leadership and direction, and to encourage inter lodge visitation within their districts. Well managed District Masonic Associations, normally chaired by the District Deputy Grand Masters, were intended to create a forum to discuss common areas of concern, provide guidance on matters to be brought before the Board of General Purposes, and to work for the betterment of the lodges within the district.

Annual reports, required to be submitted to the Grand Master, were to be based upon observations and inspections. The value of these reports was proportional to the ability and desire of the writers to provide meaningful accounts of the state of Freemasonry within their districts. The reports were also directed to the Committee on the Condition of the Order for scrutiny and assessment. Diligent committees relied heavily on the content of these reports to support recommendations to correct what were considered to be areas of immediate concern.

Many annual reports were comprehensive and well written, but more were lacking in useful information, and in some cases reports were non-existent. Given the perceived inconsistencies in the quality of reports, there was widespread dissatisfaction among senior Grand Lodge Officers, and others, with the system of selection of District Deputy Grand Masters.

District Meetings were frequent objects of criticism, usually for the lack of interesting content and good organization. The success of a District Meeting was totally dependent on the incumbent District Deputy Grand Master's leadership and organizational skills, his popularity within the district and not least, a host lodge committed to supporting him in every way. Planned absences by some Grand Masters were calculated to provide free rein to District Deputy Grand Masters to preside over their own



meetings as official representatives of the Grand Master. Some District Deputy Grand Masters performed their duties admirably under these circumstances.

District Grand Director of Ceremonies and District Grand Chaplains were introduced a number of years ago to perform certain duties within their districts and were selected by the incoming District Deputy Grand Masters. At the time of writing this history, it was the norm for most lodges to have an abundance of Past Grand Lodge Officers who had held the aforementioned offices, some having served more than one term. A proposal to eliminate these district offices and create the office of District Grand Lecturer, or District Education Officer, was suggested, but was viewed negatively within many districts. The proposed offices were intended to promote Masonic Education within the districts through the Board of General Purposes' Education Committee, chaired by the Grand Lecturer. Some progress was made in this direction to appoint District Education Officers.

Despite well-intentioned initiatives to change the selection process of District Deputy Grand Masters, the administration at district levels essentially remained unchanged. Kings County District had long been a well-managed district and had set the example for other districts to follow. Unfortunately, many districts failed to take advantage of a success story and regressed further.

The loss of lodges in the Halifax area over the period, hastened the need to realign the Halifax County and Halifax City Districts. The Long Range Planning Committee had looked at the options for realignment of the districts and an unintentional leak of a proposal to the affected districts caused concern among the lodges that they had not been consulted. It was quickly decided to circulate the proposal to the various lodges for comment. One of the factors taken into consideration had been the distance to be travelled by District Deputy Grand Masters.

The two Halifax City Districts became **Halifax District 1** and the two former Halifax County Districts became **Halifax District 2**. In the final analysis, the one lodge most affected, St. Margaret's Lodge, No. 118, located at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay, was removed from the old Halifax County grouping and joined the Halifax City lodges. Each of the two districts were then composed of ten lodges each. The new alignment became effective at the Annual Communication of 2011.

## **SUBORDINATE LODGES**

The struggle to maintain membership levels has long been a problem for most lodges. The deteriorating economies of many rural Nova Scotia communities led to the out-migration of young men seeking better employment opportunities in the larger cities and the promise of careers in the Western Provinces. Lower population levels meant fewer potential members for rural lodges.

The dilemma was also felt in Halifax, but the older established lodges were partly responsible for their own demise. For years, the Grand Lodge leadership had repeated the need for lodges to be imaginative in planning meetings and stressed the importance of Masonic Education. Lodges found they could not maintain the interest of the membership. Attendance fell to the point where lodge offices could not be filled and the sidelines were devoid of members and visitors. Even lodges with relatively large memberships found it impossible to draw the brethren back in numbers to attend meetings.

Freemasons' Hall in Halifax was once the popular meeting place for several masonic related bodies besides the lodges of Craft Masonry. With the passage of time, the numbers decreased and rental income fell accordingly. Freemasons' Hall had opened with much fanfare in 1925, but the building was now in need of costly repairs and upgrades. The trustees were faced with the prospect of selling the premises and finding alternate accommodations.

Given there must have been some opposition to a sale among the lodges holding shares in Freemasons' Hall, none were more vocal than the members of Burns Lodge, No. 10. Burns Lodge was a proud lodge with its Scottish traditions and distinctive regalia. In an earlier initiative, fees and lodge dues were increased substantially in a move to avoid "underselling" Freemasonry. A decision which may have had the undesirable result of disaffecting a portion of the membership. What was once a lodge with over 200 members in 1985, slipped to about a quarter of that number by the year 2008.

From the first rumblings of an impending sale of Freemasons' Hall, the brethren had complained about the lack of communication between the executive and the major shareholding lodges. The frustration was very apparent in Burns Lodge and was only amplified when word came that a deal was being considered to essentially exchange the Barrington Street facility for the decommissioned St Pius Catholic Church and the adjacent Glebe House on Coronation Avenue, in Fairview.

Throughout the year of 2008, there was a measure of tension between Burns Lodge and the Grand Lodge.<sup>4</sup> Burns Lodge was bound by a section of the “Rules” that required all lodges in the City of Halifax (with two exceptions) to meet in Freemasons’ Hall. With the relocation of Freemason’s Hall to Fairview, Burns Lodge held that the restrictive rule should be deleted, thereby affording the Lodge the opportunity to meet elsewhere. When the motion to delete the relevant section of the Rules was presented at the December meeting of the Board of General Purposes, it was tabled, placing almost impossible demands on the Lodge to provide financial documentation to support the motion. Not surprisingly, there was no further action taken on the matter.<sup>5</sup>

Sadly, Burns Lodge held their final meeting in the Bedford Masonic Hall and went into darkness in December, 2008, after 160 years of existence. Another old lodge, The Lodge of St. Mark, No. 38, also meeting in Freemasons’ Hall, chose to surrender their warrant the same year.

On a brighter note, one rural lodge, **Corinthian Lodge, No. 63**, of Great Village was an example of what could be done when brethren are determined to save their lodge hall. To carry out necessary repairs and upgrades, the members raised their dues substantially to meet the projected costs. Although some members opted to demit, the remainder soldiered on and carried out the work, expending \$35,000 on needed improvements. On completion of the renovations, the lodge dues were reduced and it was found that attendance at meetings had greatly improved. Such determination demonstrated the resolve of the Masons of Great Village to stop complaining and do something.

**King Edward Lodge, No. 86**, River Hebert, was recognized as a 100 year lodge, in June 2008. **Welsford Lodge, No. 26**, Windsor, celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. A commemorative tree was planted by Grand Master Barry S. Imber to mark the occasion.

On October 6, 2012, a monument depicting a broken column, a project of members of **Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 6**, was dedicated in a ceremony attended by Grand Master Reo Matthews, several Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers and other brethren. A number of ladies including widows of departed brethren were also in attendance. The Grand Master gave a moving address befitting the occasion.

A bequest from Marian Rockwell, a widow of a departed brother, supported by additional funding from Royal Sussex Lodge, provided the financing for the memorial, suitably inscribed, ***“In honour of All Masonic***

***Widows & Departed Brethren***". The monument is located to the left of the main entrance to Freemasons' Hall, on Coronation Avenue, Fairview.



Broken Column erected by Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 6



Freemasons' Hall, Fairview – 2013



Former Freemasons' Hall, Barrington St. Halifax

## GRAND MASTERS 2006 – 2010



Roger E. Eisner  
2006



Daniel G. Campbell  
2007



Roy E. Lively  
2008



Reno P. Favretto  
2009



## GRAND MASTERS 2010 – 2013



Owen F. Walton  
2010



Barry S. Imber  
2011



Reo J. Matthews  
2012



George A. Grant  
2013

## **GRAND MASTERS SUMMONED TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE 2006 – 2013**



In the period covered by this chapter, four Past Grand Masters were summoned to the Grand Lodge Above:

George P. Carroll	Grand Master 1981	Died 10 January 2007
Roger Ellis Eisner	Grand Master 2006	Died 31 May 2008
Charles H. Thompson	Grand Master 1985	Died 18 November 2009
Frederick W. Clarke	Grand Master 1990	Died 28 December 2010

### **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

As in previous years, the membership totals are only as accurate as the information supplied to the Grand Lodge office. The numbers are a close reflection of actual Masons, as computed in May of the year indicated. The 'number of lodges' column represents the number of lodges active on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the indicated year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Lodges</b>	<b>Membership</b>
2006	105	4,992
2007	103	4,911
2008	99	4,819
2009	97	4,723
2010	96	4,651
2011	96	4,566
2012	96	4,467
2013	96	4,329

The membership figures shown above indicate a 13% decrease in overall numbers of Masons over a seven year period.

## **NOVA SCOTIA FREEMASONS' HOME**

The Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home Board of Trustees still functioned in 2006. The Administrator, Reginald Stone, had been called to the Grand Lodge Above on December 30, 2005. He had performed his duties faithfully, caring for the needs of the former residents of the Home following its closure. The Grand Lodge office now assumed the task of carrying out the administrative responsibilities for the two remaining former residents. The Board continued to transfer funds to underwrite the approved programs operated by the Masonic Foundation. A sum of \$125,000 was approved for transfer, in 2006. The end of the requirement to maintain the Home Board was now in sight and discussions were underway with the Board of Directors of the Masonic Foundation to facilitate the inevitable dissolution of the Home Board and the transfer of all assets to the Masonic Foundation.

One notable point was agreed upon, and that was to maintain the first priority for any future disbursement of funds to the relief of the distress of Masons and their families. The Home Board had paid particular attention to this aspect in the past.

In May, 2006, the Trustees of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home passed a resolution authorizing the transfer of all of its assets and undertakings to the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia, effective January, 2007. By special resolutions passed at the time of the Annual Communication of June, 2006, the transfer was approved. Total net assets, as reported at the end of December, 2006, were approximately \$7,700,000.

The care of one remaining former resident of the Home would now be the responsibility of the Masonic Foundation. It should be noted here that the last remaining resident passed away in October of 2007.

Thus the chapter was closed on the dream of Masons in Nova Scotia to operate a home for elderly Masons. The first expressions for a home had been made at the end of the nineteenth century and the concept had become increasingly popular, highlighted by the very successful 1906 Masonic Fair, held in Halifax, to specifically raise funds for such a home. The Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home was officially opened in Windsor, on August 25, 1909.

Many residents have been housed in the Home over its long life; but the Home fell victim to ever increasing operating costs and restrictive governmental regulations. Freemasons of Nova Scotia should be proud of the accomplishments of those who have gone before us, those who laboured so diligently and so aptly exemplified the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.



## BROOM AND GAVEL COMPETITION

Competition at the Broom and Gavel Bonspiel, usually held in February of every year, provided the many curlers with a weekend of good fellowship. Written reports on the events of the Broom and Gavel Bonspiel ceased to be published in the Annual Proceedings of Grand Lodge after the year 2006. Perhaps in a move to provide wider circulation, the report has appeared in the electronic publication of *The Nova Scotia Freemason*.

## HISTORY

### Grand Master's Levee

The Main McNally Building of St. Mary's University **was** the site, on March 24, 2012, of the Grand Master's Levee titled, "**Light, Fire and Opportunity**". Grand Master Barry Imber invited Clifford Porter, a well known Masonic speaker and author to be guest speaker. The presentation was inspiring and well received. The afternoon's events were ended with a ceremony known as "The lighting of the Lamps" presented by the Knights Templar of Nova Scotia.

Following the success of the Levee, a second Grand Master's Levee was held at the Coronation Avenue location of Freemasons' Hall, in March of 2013, presided over by Grand Master Reo Matthews. Speakers on that occasion were members of the Craft in Nova Scotia.

### 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia

The year 2013 marked the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia and plans were made to suitably celebrate the milestone event. The Public Relations Committee of the Board of General Purposes, under the chairmanship of Past Grand Master Roy Lively, capitalized on the opportunity to increase public awareness concerning Freemasonry in Nova Scotia. Banners were produced to be hung from the Angus L. MacDonald Bridge, to be displayed at Annapolis Royal and at the border crossing-points. Video vignettes depicting the historical events associated with the founding were available for use on the Grand Lodge website and elsewhere.

The morning of March 30, 2013, was cold and uninviting. Yet a hardy group of Masons gathered at the Old Burial Ground of St. Paul's Church on Barrington Street, to join Grand Master Reo Matthews and a group of 40<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment re-enactors to hold a brief service at the Erasmus James

Phillips Memorial, followed by a deafening musket volley. Upon completion of the service, the group repaired to Freemasons' Hall, in Fairview, to take part in the Grand Master's Levee. The date had been officially declared "Freemasons Day".

The Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held in Digby, in June 2013, as it offered suitable accommodations and facilities near to Annapolis Royal. The Grand Master's banquet was held on the site of the old RCN training base at Cornwallis.

In a light breeze on the Sunday morning in Annapolis Royal, the bearers of the newly designed lodge flags carried their fluttering charges proudly on parade through the streets of Annapolis Royal to Fort Anne, where a divine service was conducted. Led by a pipe band, the procession marched to the Town Hall where a replica of the "1606 Stone" was dedicated. The original Stone had been discovered on the Granville shore, in 1827. It had been loaned to the Canadian Institute in Toronto and subsequently embedded in the wall of a new building, in 1876. Unfortunately, the engraved side of the Stone was reversed and the Stone was never located again, even after the building was demolished.<sup>6</sup>

A 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medallion was struck to commemorate the occasion and was available for purchase by the Masons of Nova Scotia. To further celebrate the anniversary, Grand Master George Grant encouraged Masons to appear in regalia in static displays and in local parades on floats or other means of conveyance.

## **In conclusion**

The purpose of this book was to produce a history of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia covering a span of some forty seven years. It is certainly not all inclusive, but has focused on those aspects that illustrate the evolution of its administration and financial management. Emphasis has been placed on the importance of Ritual and Masonic Education and the accomplishments of the various committees which have striven to address the problems facing modern Craft Masonry. The loss of the Nova Scotia Freemasons' Home was inevitable, but from the ashes has arisen a stronger Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia. The policies of which must continue to embody the principles of relief and charity.

## Notes

1. An ad hoc committee was formed by the Board of General Purposes to delve into the matter of the conflict. Refer to **BOGP Minutes** of October 16, 2010.
2. This is more fully explained. - **BOGP Minutes** of November 24, 2007.
3. Fraternal Relations Committee Report explains attitude well. **Proceedings** 2009, Pg. 66.
4. Strong wording contained in correspondence. **Burns Advisory Board Minutes** of October 16, 2008.
5. Exact wording of the tabling conditions to be found in **BOGP Minutes** of December 13, 2008.
6. While it may be admitted the replica Stone had good public relations value, the original Stone, as noted many years ago by Past Grand Master and noted historian, Reginald V. Harris, could not be assumed to be evidence that there was any form of organized Freemasonry in Nova Scotia preceding 1738, particularly in 1606. Refer to **“A Short History of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia”** by Longley and Harris, Pg. 11.

## THE ROLL OF LODGES

Note. The lodges marked with an asterisk are extinct.

### **SAINT ANDREW'S LODGE NO. 1**

Halifax

Founded as the "First Lodge," 1750: No. 4 P.R.N.S., 1758; No. 155 E.C. (Anc.), 26 Mar. 1768; named Saint Andrews, 1781; No. 188 E.C., 1814; No. 137, 1832; No. 118, 1863; No. 1 G.R.N.S., 1869; Eng. Cent. Warrant, 9 Feb. 1871

### **SAINT JOHN'S LODGE NO. 2**

Halifax

Disp., 11 May 1780; No. 211 E.C. (Anc.), 30 Jun. 1780; No. 265 E.C., 1814; No. 187, 1832; No. 161, 1863; No. 2 G.R.N.S., 1869; Scotia Lodge No. 22 amalgamated with Saint John's, 6 Apr. 1874

### **VIRGIN LODGE NO. 3**

Halifax

Disp., Virgin Lodge, 21 Jan. 1782; Artillery Lodge No. 2 P.R.N.S., 9 Sep. 1784; Virgin Lodge No. 2, 31 July 1800; No. 829 E.C., 1829; No. 558, 1862; No. 396, 1863; No. 3 G.R.N.S., 1869

### **UNITY LODGE NO. 4**

Lunenburg

No. 704 E.C., 22 Sep. 1821; No. 47, 1863; No. 4 G.R.N.S., 1869

### **ALBION LODGE NO. 5**

New Glasgow

Disp., Oct. 1838; No. 692 E.C., 30 Apr. 1840; No. 470, 1863; No. 5 G.R.N.S., 1869

### **ROYAL SUSSEX LODGE NO. 6**

Halifax

No. 904 E.C., 22 Sep. 1841; No. 479, 1863; No. 6 G.R.N.S., 1869

### **THE SAINT ANDREW'S LODGE OF CAPE BRETON NO. 7**

Sydney,

Cape Breton Lodge, Disp., 31 Oct. 1800; No. 326 E.C. (Anc.), 1 Oct. 1801; No. 415, 1814; present name, No. 632, Aug. 1844; No. 499, 1863; No. 7 G.R.N.S., 1869

### **ACACIA LODGE NO. 8**

Amherst

Cumberland Harmony Lodge No. 51 P.R.N.S., 1825; No. 840 E.C., 1829; No. 569, 1832; McGowan Lodge No. 330 I.C., 10 Jan. 1854; No. 4 G.R.N.S., 1866; present name, 1867; No. 8, 1869

### **ZETLAND LODGE NO. 9**

Liverpool

Est., 1847; No. 821 E.C., 22 Mar. 1849; No. 562, 1863; No. 9 G.R.N.S., 1869

### **\*BURNS LODGE NO. 10**

Halifax

No. 352, S.C., 1848; No. 1 G.R.N.S., 1866; No. 10, 1869; warrant surrendered, 19 Dec. 2008

**NEW CALEDONIA LODGE NO. 11**

Pictou

Disp. 3 Jan. 1810; No. 35 P.R.N.S., Disp., 1829; No. 826 E.C., Oct., 1849; No. 565 E.C., 1863; No. 11 G.R.N.S., 1869

**HIRAM LODGE NO. 12**

Yarmouth

Disp., 11 Oct. 1848; No. 868 E.C., 4 Sep. 1851; No. 596 E.C., 1863; No. 12 G.R.N.S., 1869

**ACADIA LODGE NO. 13**

Pugwash

Disp., 23 Oct. 1850; No. 888 E.C., 15 Jun. 1853; No. 612, 1863; No. 13 G.R.N.S., 1869

**\*ACADIA LODGE NO. 14**

Halifax

Acadia Lodge No. 416 S.C., 2 Dec. 1844; No. 345, 1848; Athole Lodge No. 361 S.C., Feb. 1852; Acadia Lodge No. 14 G.R.N.S., 1869; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 2000

**\*ATHOLE LODGE NO. 15**

Halifax

Acadia Lodge No. 416 S.C., 2 Dec. 1844; No. 345, 1848; Disp. 5 Dec. 1851; No. 361 S.C., Feb. 1852; No. 2 G.R.N.S., 1866; No. 15, 1869; warrant surrendered, 14 Oct. 2009

**THE KEITH LODGE NO. 16**

Bear River

Disp., May 1851; No. 911 E.C., 30 Jan. 1854; No. 628, 1863; No. 16 G.R.N.S., 1869

**KEITH LODGE NO. 17**

Halifax

Thistle Lodge No. 393 S.C., 5 Feb. 1827; No. 322, 1829; Keith Lodge No. 365, 1852; No. 3 G.R.N.S., 1866; No. 17, 1869

**\*UNION LODGE NO. 18**

Halifax

Disp., 1855; No. 994 E.C., 3 Dec. 1856; No. 693, 1863; No. 18 G.R.N.S., 1869; warrant forfeited Jun. 1916

**ROYAL ALBERT LODGE NO. 19**

North Sydney

Disp., P.R.N.S., (Scot.), 5 Feb. 1857; No. 379 S.C., 1857; No. 18 G.R.N.S.; 13 Mar. 1868; No. 19, 1869

**SAINT GEORGE'S LODGE NO. 20**

Wolfville

Disp., 22 Nov. 1784; No. 11 P.R.N.S., 19 May 1785, at Cornwallis; No. 832 E.C., 1829; No. 56, 1832; transferred to Lower Horton, 1858; No. 1151, 1860; No. 20 G.R.N.S., 1869

**\*DAVIES LODGE NO. 21**

Wilmot

Disp., 1859, as Virgin Lodge No. 425 S.C., 1860; Name changed to Davies No. 5 G.R.N.S., 1866; No. 21, 1869; Warrant surrendered 1870

**\*SCOTIA LODGE NO. 22**

Halifax

Disp., 23 Aug. 1859; No. 411 S.C., 1859; No. 4 G.R.N.S., 1866; No. 22, 1869; amalgamated with St. John's No. 2, 6 Apr. 1874

**KEITH LODGE NO. 23**

Stellarton

Disp., Jun. 1860; No. 1172 E.C., 14 Jun. 1861; No. 870, 1863; No. 23 G.R.N.S., 1869

**\*CONCORD LODGE NO. 24**

Clarke's Harbour

Disp., P.R.N.S., (Scot.), Mar. 1860; No. 436 S.C., 1 Aug. 1864; No. 8 G.R.N.S., 20 Mar. 1866; No. 24, 1869; moved from Barrington to Clarke's Harbour, 1883; warrant surrendered, Mar. 1986

**\*WESTPORT LODGE NO. 25**

Westport

Disp., 29 Feb., 1861; No. 1225, E.C., 23 Aug., 1862; No. 923, 1863; No. 25, G.R.N.S., 1869; warrant surrendered, June 1884

**WELSFORD LODGE NO. 26**

Windsor

Disp., Jul. 1861; No. 1226 E.C., 23 Aug. 1862; No. 924, 1863; No. 26 G.R.N.S., 1869

**\*WIDOW'S FRIEND LODGE NO. 27**

Weymouth

No. 1255, E.C., 30 Mar. 1863; No. 953, 1863; No. 27, G.R.N.S., 1869; warrant surrendered, 3 Jun. 1874.

**SCOTIA LODGE NO. 28**

Canning

Disp., May 1861; No. 1263 E.C., 24 Apr. 1863; No. 961, 1863; No. 28 G.R.N.S., 1869

**PRINCE OF WALES LODGE NO. 29**

Milton

Disp., Apr. 1861; No. 1266 E.C., 30 Apr. 1863 at Liverpool; at Milton, No. 964, 1863; No. 29 G.R.N.S., 1869

**ALBERT LODGE NO. 30**

Shelburne

Disp., Mar. 1862; No. 425 S.C., 20 Mar. 1866; No. 6 G.R.N.S., 20 Mar. 1866; No. 30, 1869

**\*SCOTIA LODGE NO. 31**

Yarmouth

Disp., 27 Mar. 1863; No. 430 S.C., 9 May 1864; No. 19 G.R.N.S., 13 Dec. 1866; No. 31, 1869; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 1999

**\*ELDORADO LODGE NO. 32**

Port Hilford

Disp., P.R.N.S. (Scot.), 27 March 1863; No. 434 S.C., 1 Aug. 1864 at Wine Harbour; No. 16 G.R.N.S., 4 Jun. 1867; No. 32, 1869; removed to Port Hilford, 1869; amalgamated with Queens Lodge No. 34, Sherbrooke, 8 Jun. 1910

**ANNAPOLIS ROYAL LODGE NO. 33**                      Annapolis Royal  
Disp., May 1862; No. 1047 E.C., 22 Dec. 1864; No. 33 G.R.N.S., 1869

**QUEEN'S LODGE NO. 34**                              Sherbrooke  
Disp., S.C., Dec. 1864; No. 10 G.R.N.S., 20 Mar. 1866; No. 34, 1869

**SAINT MARK'S LODGE NO. 35**                      Baddeck  
Disp., P.R.N.S., (Scot.), Jan. 1865; No. 451 S.C., 6 Nov. 1865; No. 9 G.R.N.S.,  
29 Mar. 1866; No. 35, 1869

**THE THISTLE NO. 36**                                  Port Morien  
Disp., Dec. 1865; No. 1109 E.C., 25 Apr. 1866 at Block House, Cow Bay; No. 36  
G.R.N.S., 1869

**\*COBEQUID LODGE NO. 37**                              Truro  
No. 1190 E.C., 14 Aug. 1867; No. 37 G.R.N.S., 1869; warrant surrendered, 31  
Mar. 1881

**\*THE LODGE OF SAINT MARK NO. 38**                      Halifax  
No. 11 G.R.N.S., 16 Jun. 1866; No. 38, 1869; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec.  
2008

**ACADIA LODGE NO. 39**                                  Bridgewater  
Disp., 1865, S.C.; No. 22 G.R.N.S., 14 Jun. 1868; No. 39, 1869

**\*OPHIR LODGE NO. 40**                                  Tangier  
Disp., P.R.N.S. (Scot.), 17 Nov. 1864; No. 457, 6 Aug. 1866; No. 12 G.R.N.S., 8  
Mar. 1867; No. 40, 1869; warrant surrendered, Sep. 1870

**\*ROTHSAY LODGE NO. 41**                              Bridgetown  
Disp., Oct. 1866; No. 1245 E.C., Dec. 1868; No. 41, G.R.N.S., 1869, warrant  
surrendered, 1 Oct. 2009

**EUREKA LODGE NO. 42**                                  Sheet Harbour  
Disp., No. 13, G.R.N.S., 9 Mar. 1867; No. 42, 1869

**TRURO LODGE NO. 43**                                  Truro  
No. 15 G.R.N.S., 14 Jun. 1867; No. 43, 1869

**POYNTZ LODGE NO. 44**                                  Hantsport  
Disp., 15 Mar. 1867; No. 21 G.R.N.S., 3 Sep. 1868; No. 44, 1869; warrant  
surrendered, 1897; restored, 9 Jun. 1920

**THE TYRIAN YOUTH LODGE NO. 45**                      Glace Bay  
Disp., Jun. 1867; No. 1234 E.C., 15 Sep. 1868; No. 45 G.R.N.S., 1869

**SOLOMON LODGE NO. 46** Port Hawkesbury  
No. 19 G.R.N.S., 13 Mar. 1868; No. 46, 1869

**PHILADELPHIA LODGE NO. 47** Barrington Passage  
No. 25 G.R.N.S., 11 Sep. 1868; No. 47, 1869

**WIDOW'S SON LODGE NO. 48** River Philip  
No. 22 G.R.N.S., 1 Sep. 1867; No. 48, 1869

**\*ORIENT LODGE NO. 49** Halifax  
No. 23 G.R.N.S., 1866; No. 49, 1869. This Lodge ceased working and 32 of its members affiliated with Burns Lodge, No. 10, Mar. 1877

**WESTERN STAR LODGE NO. 50** Westville  
No. 24 G.R.N.S., 11 Dec. 1868; No. 50, 1869

**EASTERN STAR LODGE NO. 51** Dartmouth  
No. 26 G.R.N.S., 11 Dec. 1868; No. 51, 1869

**HARMONY LODGE NO. 52** Aylesford  
Disp. 2 Feb. 1866, P.R.N.S. (Scot.); No. 27, G.R.N.S., 17 May 1869

**\*HIRAM LODGE NO. 53** Goldenville  
No. 28, G.R.N.S., 1869; No. 53, 14 Sep. 1869; warrant surrendered, 9 Oct 1889

**KING SOLOMON LODGE NO. 54** Digby  
Digby Lodge No. 6, 29 Sep. 1784, P.R.N.S.: withdrawn, 1824; restored, 20 Sep. 1827 as Saint Marys Lodge No. 55; No. 843 E.C., 10 Mar. 1829; No. 572, 1832; disp., P.R.N.S. (Scot.) 13 Dec. 1866; warrant, 1868: No. 54 G.R.N.S., 1870

**\*MORIEN LODGE NO. 55** Port Morien  
No. 55, 4 Mar. 1870; amalgamated with The Thistle Lodge, No. 36, 1896

**\*HARMONY LODGE NO. 56** Port Clyde  
Disp. 1867; No. 56, 2 Sep. 1870; warrant surrendered 8 June 1892; restored 11 June 1908; amalgamated with Philadelphia Lodge No. 47, June 1944

**TEMPLE LODGE NO. 57** Mulgrave  
Disp., Sep. 1869; No. 57, 2 Sep. 1870; warrant surrendered, Jun. 1892; restored 11 Jun. 1909

**KENTVILLE LODGE NO. 58** Kentville  
Disp., 27 Jul. 1870; No. 58, Sep. 1870

**\*MANITOBA LODGE NO. 59** New Glasgow  
Warrant No. 59, 2 Dec. 1870; consolidated with Albion Lodge, No. 5, 27 Aug. 1871



**\*LEMAN LODGE NO. 60** Petite Riviere  
Disp., 5 Dec. 1870; No. 60, 1 Mar. 1871; warrant surrendered, June 1874

**CLARKE LODGE NO. 61** Chester  
Disp., Dec. 1870; warrant, 1 Mar. 1871

**TAYLOR LODGE NO. 62** Lockeport  
Disp., 27 Sep. 1871; warrant, 5 Jun. 1872

**CORINTHIAN LODGE NO. 63** Great Village  
Disp., 26 Oct. 1871; No. 63, 5 Jun. 1872; ceased working, 12 Nov. 1889; warrant renewed, 11 Jun. 1895

**\*RICHMOND LODGE NO. 64** Arichat  
Disp., 6 Jan. 1872; warrant 5 Jun. 1872; warrant surrendered Jun. 1891

**FREEPORT LODGE NO. 65** Freeport  
No. 65, 5 Jun. 1872; warrant forfeited Jul. 1879; restored, 2 Jun. 1907

**SIRCOM LODGE NO. 66** Whycocomagh  
Disp., 24 Jun. 1872; No. 66, 5 Jun. 1873

**MINAS LODGE NO. 67** Parrsboro  
Disp., 11 Jul. 1872; No. 67, 4 Jun. 1873

**\*CURREN LODGE NO. 68** Hopewell  
Disp., 17 Mar. 1873; No. 68, 3 Jun. 1874; amalgamated with Keith No. 23, 24 Dec. 1895; warrant restored, 9 Jun. 1920; warrant surrendered, 20 Dec. 2010

**CHARITY LODGE NO. 69** Mahone Bay  
Disp., 22 Dec. 1874; No. 69, 27 Mar. 1877

**LAURIE LODGE NO. 70** Springhill  
Disp., 12 Mar. 1875; No. 70, 7 Jun. 1877

**\*GRANVILLE LODGE NO. 71** New Caledonia (Granville Ferry)  
Disp., 4 Mar. 1875; No. 71, 7 Jun. 1876; amalgamated with Annapolis Royal Lodge No. 33, Feb. 1887

**EASTERN LIGHT LODGE NO. 72** Guysborough  
Disp., 30 Mar. 1875; No. 72, 7 Jun. 1876

**IONIC LODGE NO. 73** Middleton  
Disp., 2 Apr. 1875; No. 73, 7 Jun. 1876

<b>NORTH STAR LODGE NO. 74</b> Disp., 9 Oct. 1875; No. 74, 7 Jun. 1876	Londonderry
<b>WIMBURN LODGE NO. 75</b> Disp., 19 Oct. 1877; No. 75, 6 Jun. 1878	Oxford
<b>WALLACE LODGE NO. 76</b> Disp., 24 Oct. 1879; No. 79, 2 Jun. 1880	Wallace
<b>HUDSON LODGE NO. 77</b> Disp., 15 May 1881; No. 77, 7 Jun. 1882	Thorburn
<b>MECHANICS LODGE NO. 78</b> Disp., 1 Jun. 1887; No. 78, 8 Jun. 1888	Caledonia
<b>CANSO LODGE NO. 79</b> Disp., Jun. 1888; No. 79, 14 Jun. 1889	Canso
<b>MARINERS LODGE NO. 80</b> Disp., 11 Feb. 1891; No. 80, 6 Apr. 1892	Louisbourg
<b>*LAHAVE LODGE NO. 81</b> Disp., 24 Aug. 1899; No. 81, 27 Jun. 1900; warrant surrendered, 13 Mar 1967	Riverport
<b>*ZARTHAN LODGE NO. 82</b> Disp., 26 Sep. 1902; No. 82, 12 Jun. 1903; warrant surrendered, 21 Dec. 1999	Pubnico
<b>*INVERNESS LODGE NO. 83</b> Disp., 25 Apr. 1902; No. 83, 9 Jun. 1904; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 1999	Inverness
<b>SYDNEY LODGE NO. 84</b> Disp., 2 May 1905; No. 84, 15 Jun. 1905	Sydney
<b>ROYAL OAK LODGE NO. 85</b> Disp., 15 Oct. 1904; No. 85, 12 Jun. 1907	Sydney Mines
<b>KING EDWARD LODGE NO. 86</b> Disp., 16 Apr. 1907; No. 86, 10 Jun. 1908	River Hebert
<b>ALEXANDRA LODGE NO. 87</b> Disp., 21 Oct. 1909; No. 87, 8 Jun. 1910	Amherst
<b>*MAPLE LEAF LODGE NO. 88</b> Disp., 27 Nov. 1911; No. 88, 12 Jun. 1913; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 2006	New Waterford
<b>*DUFFERIN LODGE NO. 89</b> Disp., 31 Mar. 1913; No. 89, 9 Jun. 1914; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 2001	Port Dufferin

**VALLEY LODGE NO. 90** Berwick  
Disp., 27 Apr. 1914; No. 90, 8 Jun. 1915

**DORIC LODGE NO. 91** Trenton  
Disp., Jun. 1916; No. 91, 13 Jun. 1917

**EUCLID LODGE NO. 92** New Glasgow  
Disp., 24 Apr. 1918; No. 92, 12 Jun. 1918

**HILLCREST LODGE NO. 93** New Germany  
Disp., 9 May 1920; No. 93, 8 Jun. 1921

**EVANGELINE LODGE NO. 94** Lawrencetown  
Disp., 4 May 1921; No. 94, 14 Jun. 1922

**CORNWALLIS LODGE NO. 95** Dartmouth  
Disp., 4 Jan. 1926; No. 95, 9 Jun. 1926

**STORMONT LODGE NO. 96** Isaac's Harbour  
Disp., 20 Sep. 1927; No. 96, 13 Jun. 1928

**\*RICHMOND LODGE NO. 97** St Peter's  
Disp., 22 Sep. 1930; No. 97, 10 Jun. 1931; warrant surrendered, Dec. 2013

**STEWIACKE LODGE NO. 98** Stewiacke  
Disp., 20 Oct. 1933; No. 98, 13 Jun. 1934

**MARKLAND LODGE NO. 99** Kingston  
Disp., 30 Nov. 1934; No. 99, 10 Jun. 1936

**\*MARGAREE LODGE NO. 100** Frizzelton  
Disp., 1943; No. 100, 14 Jun. 1944; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 1999

**W. D. LAWRENCE LODGE NO. 101** Maitland  
Inst., 25 Oct. 1946; warrant, 26 Jun. 1947

**\*KEYSTONE LODGE NO. 102** Tatamagouche  
Inst., 13 Nov. 1946; warrant, 26 Jun. 1947; warrant surrendered, 1 Feb. 2008

**\*ATLANTIC LODGE NO. 103** Fairview  
Inst., 11 Mar. 1947; warrant, 26 Jun. 1947; warrant surrendered, 22 Dec. 2003

**BEDFORD LODGE NO. 104** Bedford  
Inst., 17 Feb. 1947; warrant, 26 Jun. 1947

**\*COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 105** Halifax  
Inst., 28 May 1947; warrant, 10 Jun. 1948; warrant surrendered, 15 Apr. 1998

**EQUITY LODGE NO. 106** Halifax  
Inst., 11 Mar. 1948; warrant, 17 Jun. 1949

**ASHLAR LODGE NO. 107** Musquodoboit Harbour  
Disp., 1 Feb. 1948; warrant, 17 Jun. 1949

**WENTWORTH LODGE NO. 108** Dartmouth  
Disp., 20 May 1948; warrant, 17 Jun. 1949

**\*CABOT LODGE NO. 109** Cape North  
Inst., 23 Sep. 1948; warrant, 17 Jun. 1949; warrant surrendered, Dec. 1985

**\*UNIVERSITY LODGE NO. 110** Halifax  
Inst., 3 Dec. 1948; warrant, 17 Jun. 1949; warrant surrendered, 20 Sep. 2005

**TUSCAN LODGE NO. 111** Weymouth  
Inst., 8 Apr. 1949; warrant, 8 Jun. 1950

**FELLOWSHIP LODGE NO. 112** Truro  
Inst., 27 Apr. 1949; warrant, 8 Jun. 1950

**MACKAY LODGE NO. 113** Sydney  
Inst., 9 May 1949; warrant, 8 Jun. 1950

**\*POLARIS LODGE NO. 114** Goose Airport, Labrador  
Inst., 18 Jan. 1950; const. 18 Nov. 1950; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 1974; 1 Jan. 1975 warranted by UGLE, No 8618 E.C.

**ELM LODGE NO. 115** Upper Stewiacke  
Inst., 22 May 1950; const. 6 Aug. 1951

**SUNRISE LODGE NO. 116** Afton  
Inst., 26 Sep. 1950; const., 23 Jul. 1951

**\*MERIDIAN LODGE NO. 117** Cross Roads, Country Harbour  
Inst., 28 Sep. 1950; warrant, 27 Jun. 1951; amalgamated with Stormont Lodge No. 96, 1 Jan. 1958

**ST. MARGARET'S LODGE NO. 118** Head of St. Margaret's Bay  
Inst., 31 Jan. 1951; const., 30 Aug. 1951

**\*FIDELITY LODGE NO. 119** Dartmouth  
Inst., 2 Feb. 1951; const., 28 Sep. 1951; warrant surrendered, 9 Dec. 2009

**\*GOLDEN FLEECE LODGE NO. 120** Port Maitland  
Inst., 9 Feb. 1951; const., 11 Jul. 1951; warrant surrendered Dec. 1984

**DUKE OF KENT LODGE NO. 121** Spryfield  
Inst., 9 Oct. 1951; const., 3 Nov. 1952

**JOHN ALBRO LODGE NO. 122** Dartmouth  
Inst., 29 Nov. 1951; const., 29 Oct. 1952

**KING GEORGE LODGE NO. 123** Debert  
Inst., 8 Mar. 1952; const., 13 Mar. 1953

**HEATHER LODGE NO. 124** Framboise  
Inst., 25 Sep. 1952; const., 16 Jul. 1953

**C. W. SAUNDERS LODGE NO. 125** Elmsdale  
Inst., 20 Mar. 1953; const., 19 Oct. 1954

**FAIRVIEW LODGE NO. 126** Fairview  
Inst., 29 Mar. 1954; const., 19 Oct. 1955; warrant surrendered, 19 Oct. 2007;  
warrant renewed Jun. 2009 as a 'daylight lodge'

**EAST GATE LODGE NO. 127** Westmount  
Inst., 2 Jun. 1956; warrant, 26 Sep. 1957

**UNIACKE LODGE NO. 128** Mount Uniacke  
Inst., 27 Nov. 1957; warrant, 22 Sep. 1958

**\*WHITE ENSIGN LODGE NO. 129** Halifax  
Inst., 29 Nov. 1957; const. 26 Sep. 1958; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 1999

**AD ASTRA LODGE NO. 130** Halifax  
Inst., 30 Mar. 1959; const., 25 Nov. 1959

**WOODLAWN LODGE NO. 131** Dartmouth  
Inst., 14 May 1959; const., 14 Jan. 1960

**\*HORTON LODGE NO. 132** Kentville  
Inst., 17 Jan. 1962; const., 19 Sep. 1962; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 2007

**\*ARGUS LODGE NO. 133** Kingston  
Inst., 21 Feb. 1962; const., 23 Oct. 1962; warrant surrendered, 31 Dec. 2008

**THE SHORE LODGE NO. 134** Cheverie  
Inst., 15 April 1963; const., Nov. 23, 1964

<b>NORWOOD LODGE NO. 135</b> Inst., 29 May 1964; const., 19 Nov. 1965	New Ross
<b>TIMBERLEA LODGE NO. 136</b> Inst., 10 Mar. 1986; const., 27 Apr. 1987	Timberlea
<b>SACKVILLE LODGE NO. 137</b> Inst., 6 Oct. 1986; const., 5 Dec. 1987	Sackville
<b>LOGE LA FRANCE NO. 138</b> Inst., 21 Jan 1998; const., 12 Nov. 1999	Jurisdictional
<b>SOPHIA PERENNIS U.D. NO. 139</b> Inst., 11 Oct., 2013	Jurisdictional