

Grand Todge Bulletin

Vol. 64, No. 1

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

January 1999

1999 New Year's Message

Now that the Holiday Season decorations are returned to the attic, the last of the turkey has been made into soup and our lives have returned to a more normal level, it is time to reflect on 1998 and to lay plans for the year ahead.

Depending on your point of view, 1999 may or may not be the last year of the current millennium, but it is certainly the last opportunity to carry out our "best laid plans" before the meter clicks over to the year 2000.

By now you will be aware of the new initiative developed by a representative cross section of members of the Craft in Alberta. The "Foundation for the Future" program has been well researched and carefully thought out. All that now remains is for each and every member to put his support behind this move to preserve and improve our Fraternity. I would encourage each of you to become familiar with the potential and benefits that the program offers and to respond appropriately.

If we simply refer to the "ideal of a Freemason" as contained in the General Charge and use this as our guide for the year ahead we will enter the year 2000 with much stronger and more vibrant Lodges, a higher and more favourable profile for our fraternity and the knowledge that we have in our own ways contributed to this success.

Best wishes to you and yours as we continue to build our "Foundation for the Future" together.

RWBro Art Jones, Deputy Grand Master

Institution of Millennium Lodge UD

On Saturday, September 5, 1998, 120 Freemasons from all over Alberta witnessed the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master of Alberta, James Roberts, institute a new Lodge, Millennium, in Fort McMurray.

Work aimed at forming this new Lodge was started in December 1997. A petition signed by 37 Master Masons was submitted to Grand Lodge in April 1998. A Dispensation authorizing the new Lodge was signed by the Grand Master (MWBro Hugh Young) on May 16, 1998 in Edmonton while visiting Commercial Lodge No. 81.

Both the Grand Lodge of Alberta and the Al Shamal Shriners provided strong support for the meeting of Institution by organizing bus transportation from Calgary and Edmonton to Fort McMurray. The continual support of the Brethren of Fort McMurray Lodge No. 195 was once again demonstrated by their strong presence.

The new Lodge received congratulations from many Canadian Grand Lodge Jurisdictions and contributions of furniture and regalia from Alberta and Manitoba.

The new Lodge already has five candidates desiring to be initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry.

The Meeting of Institution was followed by a BBQ Banquet which was attended by 180 Masons, their spouses and guests. It was a Masonic event that will be remembered for many years to come in Fort McMurray.

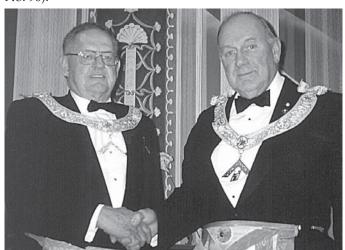
WBro Brian Shimmons WM Millennium Lodge UD

Best Wishes...

...to our Brethren of the Islamic Faith who, since December 20th and until January 19th, are observing the solemn fast of Ramadan, the 9th month of the Muslim year.

Change of Command...

...at FIAT LUX Lodge of Research, where **RWBro Herb Laycraft** took over the reins for 1998/99 from **RWBro John Forsdick**. Shown in the photograph, on the left Bro Laycraft (Zetland Lodge No. 83), on the right, Bro Forsdick (Norwood Lodge No. 90).



Important Date Change

Please note that the 1999 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge will NOT commence on the second Friday in June but rather on the **FIRST Friday**, **June 4** (and conclude Saturday June 5) **1999**, in Red Deer, Alberta. Please make your plans accordingly.

Please be advised also that an enjoyable Ladies' Program is being prepared in anticipation of many couples planning to attend. Watch for future, detailed announcements.

Grand Lodge Bulletin

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The Editor reserves the right, due to limitations of space, to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication.

Deadline for copy is the 1^{st} day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

Editorial

Have You Had The Benefit?

Knowing that every year each Lodge of our jurisdiction receives two copies of the Proceedings of the recently held Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, and also one copy of the *Proceedings of the Inter-Provincial Conference of the Four Western Masonic Jurisdictions*, how much benefit does the Brother on the side-lines derive from the wealth of the good-to-know contents of these publications? Right in front of the Grand Lodge Proceedings, the Worshipful Master is charged with having certain portions read in open Lodge, and with delegating a Brother to study the contents and to bring in a detailed report for discussion at an early time. By now, in January, the Brethren of all Lodges in Alberta have heard these reports and participated in discussion — or have they?

Similarly, although the same duty is not imposed on the Rulers of our Craft Lodges, the Western Canada Conference Proceedings, each year, contain a wealth of challenging material for our Brethren. This particular booklet is just coming off the press and, therefore, would not have been available earlier, but it certainly provides a lot of valuable thoughts for Lodge discussions during the spring months.

In both instances, even though the responsibility for educating the members rests with the Worshipful Master (regardless of whether there is a Masonic Education Committee or not, because "the buck stops here"), a nearly equal share of responsibility must be borne by the member at large. After all, a copy of the Grand Lodge Proceedings is to be on the Secretary's desk at every meeting, and it is available to any Brother, just for the asking! The same goes for the other book. So, when was the last time you asked to borrow one or the other, my Brother?

Take the Proceedings of the 58th Interprovincial Conference (of 1998) for instance. There is a full text of the keynote address by RWBro William Ord Walls of British Columbia, entitled "Smile, You're a Freemason!" He's not preaching to us, he speaks our language, expresses our own thoughts. Then there are the papers of the four Senior Grand Wardens, of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and the full transcripts of the ensuing discussions. What a wealth

A Timely Reminder



of material which just asks to displace the humdrum of some meetings lacking adequate preparation. RWBro Jack Harper (BC) presented a thought-provoking paper, "Freemasonry: Built Forever and Forever Building," very much future-directed. It suggests a three-year plan for Lodges (partly along the lines of the Five-year planning committees of some Lodges in Alberta). Particularly worthy to note is his suggestion that such planning not remain a committee affair, but be carried into each Lodge meeting, as a crucial, integral part: "Committees can organize and develop plans but the dialogue must be conducted in open lodge with physical arrangements that are conducive to an exchange of ideas... The setting is informal, titles are dispensed with and discussions are open and honest... The more participation, of course, the more relevant the results."

RWBro Gerald T. Webber (AB) chose a theme close to his heart and his practical involvement: "Foundation for the Future." He relates the steps planned in Alberta to effectively deal with the decline in membership, offering workable solutions. This also is a future-oriented treatise, acquainting the reader with the step-by-step approach towards success, and well worth study within all Lodges in the province. The papers by the other two Senior Grand Wardens (SK & MB) are equally worthy of perusal, and all offer much for the edification of our members. Pity the Master who does not avail himself of these sources which are already in his possession and pity the Brethren who, because of not knowing about the existence of such information are deprived of many a meaningful gathering with their Brethren, and never learn how other thoughtful Brethren propose solutions to problems which plague us.

So, have you already had the benefit of learning about all this? If not, do something about it!

Jephthah

by MWBro Myron Lusk, PGM

Abridged from the papers of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research 1980 **Part 1**

Variously referred to in Scripture and by Old Testament Scholars as "son of a harlot," "mighty man of valour," "freebooter" and many others, Jephthah was one of the most fascinating, tragic and mysterious heroes of the Old Testament.



Our encounter with Jephthah in Masonic Ritual is brief but impor-

tant. We learn that he subdued the Ammonites in war, followed by hostile confrontation with the haughty Ephraimites. Defeating Ephraim, he put them to flight and then intercepted them at the river Jordan fords where they were massacred while attempting to reach their homeland. Jephthah's life story leading up to these events is an epic tale contained in the Book of Judges. In that book two parallel historic developments occur which set the scene for our Jephthah drama. They occurred about 300 years after the time of Moses and the exodus from Egypt.

Another period of apostasy and idolatry prevailed in Israel. Yahweh had fallen from favour with the people and was abandoned. They substituted all manner of gods, the Baalim and Ashtaroth of Canaan; Hadad, Baal, Mot and Anath of Syria; Chemosh of Moab; Molech of Ammon; and Dagon and Baal of Philistia.

The attraction of this idolatry was short-lived. It kindled the Lord's anger and he doomed them to eighteen years of oppression and warfare, by the Philistines to the southwest and the Ammonites to the southeast. Affection for the false gods waned rapidly under these conditions. The Israelites acknowledged to the Lord the impotence of the heathen idols to deliver them from their plight, but God was not satisfied by their admission of sin. He wanted repentance and unqualified commitment to His law. "Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation" (Judges 10: 14) was the awesome reply of the Lord.

Reality had sunk in. The vacillating Israelites had to face hard facts. The encroachment of the covetous Ammonites grew strong daily. They wandered without control, throughout Gilead, killing, kidnapping, plundering. Finally Ammon decided to annihilate Israel.

During this period about 1089 B.C. a man called the "son of Gilead" was born to an unnamed harlot. According to the Targum, she was an innkeeper, not a full blooded Israelite. Whether Gilead was the actual name of his father or of the country is not certain. Scripture attests that the illegitimate son was named Jephthah and had half-brothers from a legitimate mother.

Jephthah was a bastard and as such, the "legal" sons of Gilead drove him from the household, rejecting him as unfit to share in the inheritance of the family. He fled to the land of Tob where he established an outlaw society; "and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah and went out with him" (Judges 11: 3). Here he gained fame as a chief and captain, assembling and welding these desperate men into a tough, nomadic fighting unit.

This period of about 18 years, paralleled the return to idolatry in Israel and the consequent oppression. Jephthah's fame as a skilled warrior gained the attention of the elders of Gilead. Could this be the intrepid hero to lead the Gileadites to regain their identity? The elders agreed to seek his aid and went forth to enlist him as their military commander.

The Gileadites implored him to overcome the injustices of the oppressors. Jephthah saw this as a short term exploitation. They would endure his command until he had defeated the oppressors, but once rid of them, he would again become expendable and unfit to live among them as a true Gileadite. Jephthah reproached them for not helping him when he needed them. "Did ye not hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?" (Judges 11: 7)

Jephthah put an ultimatum before the elders. He would accept their offer on one condition. He insisted that he be made the absolute ruler, civil and military.

The elders acquiesced. Jephthah demanded a compact before the Lord at Mizpeh. Mizpeh was a place of sacred character. Yahweh was believed to reside at Mizpeh. Apparently it was a high place or "lookout", the exact site is uncertain.

Jephthah was installed as both civil and military ruler, although the former position was to have been dependent upon the success of his action to deal with the Ammonitish aggression. His first official act was to attempt to negotiate peace, however, the pleas of Jephthah fell on deaf ears. The overbearing Ammonite king rejected Jephthah's appeasements. This meant war! Jephthah must muster an army. To accomplish this he had to make a sweeping journey throughout Gilead and Manasseh to recruit forces sufficient to engage and defeat the Ammonites.

The reference to Manasseh implies that Jephthah probably made an unsuccessful appeal to the Ephraimites for aid, as Ephraim was adjacent to both Manasseh and Gilead. Jephthah called a final muster in Mizpeh before setting out for war. Consumed by zeal, Jephthah made a "rash vow" to the Lord. "If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, Then it shall be that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering" (Judges 11: 30,31)

Then, Jephthah took the initiative and advanced his army to engage the Ammonites on their home ground. We are told he defeated them "with a very great slaughter." (Judges 11:33)

To be continued...

A Special Thank You

Steven, David and I, along with all the Thompson family, would like to thank all the Masons for their kind courtesies and considerations shown to us at the time of Gordon's demise. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered and appreciated.

Joan Thompson

Congratulations...

...to Mrs June Lore, wife of our esteemed RWBro Jim Lore, PDDGM and Past Grand Treasurer, on her having been awarded the "Alberta Order of Excellence" in recognition of her many years of dedication and commitment to her fellow citizens.

Out of the Ordinary

As was explained in Vol. 61, No. 9 of the Grand Lodge Bulletin, November 1996, news of the presentation of long service awards is not normally considered to be of more than local interest, however, from time to time there may be instances meriting space in the Bulletin, because of their uniqueness. The following are some of these.

WESTLOCK LODGE No. 114 — Identical twins, Bros Jack and George Kaleil, who had become Freemasons in 1946 and who are still active in farming in the Fawcett area, were presented with their 50-Year Jewels. Who else can claim the same, in Alberta or the rest of Canada?



The photograph taken on the occasion shows, left to right, RWBro Bob Drury who made the presentation, Bro Jack Kaleil, the WM of the day, WBro Bill Grieve, and Bro George Kaleil.

BUFFALO PARK LODGE No. 44 — June 4, 1998,

WBro John Murray was presented with his 50-Year jewel by Brethren from Lonach Lodge No. 182, GRS (Marsden, SK). WBro Murray had joined Masonry in 1948 in Albion Lodge No. 97 (Chauvin, AB) and upon surrender of its charter in 1981 affiliated with Lonach Lodge. The role played by the Brethren from Saskatchewan on this occasion



was a fine example of "Hands Across the Border". The photograph shows WBro Murray with his 50-Year certificate.

THE COMPASS AND SQUARE CRICKET CLUB —

Membership is not an honour to be bestowed but rather a new Masonic social endeavour in the making. The organizer foresees a congenial group of Masons interested in the gentlemanly sport of cricket, whether active participants in the game or partakers of its social side. Anyone interested in playing ("no experience necessary"), assisting in the organizing of the club, giving advice or perhaps donating equipment, please write or e-mail to:

Bro Ed Meers 205, 10149 – 83 Avenue Edmonton, AB T6E 2C5 e-mail: emeers@compusmart.ab.ca

Though this is meant for the Edmonton area, Bro Meers encourages anyone in the Calgary area to take up the same idea — perhaps there could be an annual Masonic Cup match someday between North and South!

LOCHEARN LODGE No. 151 — On May 14, 1998, Bro Harold Rutledge presented his father's Past Master's apron to the Lodge. It is of special historical value, as the late WBro Phillip Colin Rutledge had been the Charter Worshipful Master of Lochearn Lodge. The apron will now be displayed in the Lodge.



The photograph shows RWBro Bob Ross, then DDGM of Central District, Bro Harold Rutledge holding the historical apron, and WBro Dick Howard, WM.

PERFECTION LODGE No. 9 — On July 27, 1998, the

Brethren of Perfection Lodge arranged for an "afternoon tea" to meet with Mrs Vera Ireland to help celebrate the occasion of her 100th birthday. The Lodge had two plaques engraved, one in honour of MWBro William (Bill) Ireland (Grand Master 1944/45) of Perfection Lodge No. 9, Calgary, and one in honour of Bro George L. Jacques of Kenilworth Lodge No. 29, Red Deer. These plaques are on the board in the lobby of Freemasons' Hall in Calgary, honouring Mrs Vera Ireland



on that milestone in her life which she had reached on June 19, 1998. Mrs Ireland graciously accepted this celebration and felt "right at home" among our Brethren.

The Photograph shows Mrs. Ireland on that occasion.

NORWOOD LODGE No. 90 — WBro Art James, who had been WM of St. James Lodge No. 121, GRM (Winnipeg) in 1947, was presented with his 50-Year Past Master's Jewel by MWBro Norman MacIver, and with a Grand Master's letter of appreciation by RWBro Lorne Langman. MWBro MacIver,

who had previously presented WBro James with his 50-Year jewel in 1981 and his 60-Year bar in 1991 was initiated in 1947 in Northern Light Lodge No. 10, GRM (Winnipeg) in the presence of WBro James. Both had worked in the same bank since 1946 until retirement.

MYSTIC TIE LODGE No. 188 — On April 22, 1998 RWBro Jim Drinkwater was presented with the "Gold Honour Award" by VWBro Jesse Carr, Governor of Alberta Rose York Rite College No. 52, an award granted by that body of

Masonry"...to any Masonic Brother for rendering faithful and outstanding service to any branch of Freemasonry." Shown in the photograph, at the altar, are the recipient, RWBro Drinkwater, and the presenter, VWBro Carr.



Also at Mystic Tie Lodge, on May 13, 1998, **RWBro Don Turvey**, who had faithfully served his Lodge as Secretary-Treasurer since 1983 and has now stepped down from this office, was honoured by being elected Secretary-Treasurer emeritus by his peers and Brethren.

Some Excerpts from "Masonic History, Usages and Customs"

Presented by **RWBro Joshua Phillpotts**, **DDGM** — **Lakeland District** at the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Kitscoty Lodge No. 131 on June 23rd, 1998.

The Fraternity: Modern Freemasonry, born at London's Goose and Gridiron Tavern in 1717, is the world's largest fraternal organization; and now, as then, it invites good men, true and trusty, to join its ranks; and embrace its principles; to practise what it inculcates; and to exhibit in unsullied splendour the beneficial effects of our time-honoured institution.

Operative Masons: The forerunners of today's AF & AM, or F & AM. They were engaged in erecting stone edifices; evidences of their skill have over the span of several centuries survived the ravages of time, as seen in cathedrals, castles, monasteries, hospitals and such.

Regius Manuscript: So called because it formed part of the Royal Library commenced by Henry VII; and presented to the British Museum by George II.

Old Charges: Used by operative Masons since about the 14th century were lengthy manuscripts which dealt with 1) GOD and religion; 2) The Craft of Masonry, including geometry; 3) Regal Duty. These Old Charges had a Christian tone.

James Anderson: A Presbyterian clergyman undertook the task of revising the 'Old Charges' which he called the "Gothic Constitution," his revised work was called "The Charges of a Freemason" and this was accepted by the Order in 1723. In 1738, Anderson revised his work which he called "The Old Charges of the Free and Accepted Masons." Thus by 1738, Operative Masonry evolved into Accepted Masonry; and by the later 18th century the organization further evolved into Speculative Freemasonry.

Speculative: mg. Interpreting the symbols and artifacts of

operative masons in an allegorical, religious manner. GOD is central in Masonic thought; and contemplation of both the Being of GOD; His creative activity, and eternal sustaining power are truths enjoined upon every Mason. Speculative Masonry teaches lessons of exalted morality, impeccable conduct, unwavering fidelity ennobling speech, and sincere piety towards GOD. We delight to profess that as a Mason we are building the temple of the inner or spiritual life.

What Is A Lodge?: Exactly what the word indicates. "A temporary shed or hut erected near the construction site; the word goes back to about 1278 among Operative Masons.

Freemasons: This name was used by the operatives for several centuries, and the term 'free' has been variously interpreted; a couple meanings being: i) Free from feudal serfdom — the modern expression being "free-born" ii) A worker in 'free' stone.

Cautionary Word: In these days when global travel is relatively so easy, let us all be alert to the fact that there is a fundamental distinction between English and New World Masonry on the one hand; and certain fraternities in continental Europe, Asia and elsewhere, which also use the name 'masons' on the other; so that when in our travels we encounter persons who identify themselves to us as 'masons' we will remember that we were taught to be cautious. A 'worst case scenario' in certain old world countries could be, unwittingly to fraternize with a so called 'mason' who in reality is a member of a subversive group, and because of this, you find yourself detained for questioning by local authorities, or perhaps even thrown in gaol. Such an experience could quite nicely wreck a vacation.

Freemasonry in the British Isles, and North America, which of course includes Canada, is by its Constitution, non-political; indeed, the introduction of politics in the context of Masonic activities is strictly forbidden; while at the same time Masonry remains very supportive of churches and religion; with most of its members belonging to synagogue, church, or some other religious entity.

Masonic Lodges frequently sponsor Church parades, as by so doing the intent being to impress indelibly upon the minds of its members, that we acknowledge GOD as: our Creator, Sustainer, Protector, Guide and Teacher; and maintain belief in immortality of the soul, and this belief kindles within us the desire to spend eternity with HIM. The immutable truth of the Fatherhood of GOD, and the Brotherhood of man, is a foremost tenet of our Fraternity.

Grade and Degrees: We learn from Masonic scholars that among the Operative Masons there were grades which indicated the mason's skill and work. Today we have the apprentice or learner who, as he progresses becomes a journeyman, i.e., one capable of working on his own for daily hire, then the master who is able to teach the particular craft or skill to others. In the 1720s among non-operative masons the progression through 'grades' was replaced by the term 'degrees.'

Early Growth: Between 1717 to 1733 there was a rapid increase in the number of lodges, from the original four which formed the Grand Lodge of 1717, the number grew to one hundred and twenty six. On April 13, 1733, the first Lodge under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of England, was established in the United States. Thence forward to the present, Masonic growth has continued with periods of ebb and flow, not unlike the 'ebb' mode which is presently being experienced in this, and other jurisdictions.

Our DDGMs

Battle River District

RWBro Arden R. Olsen was born June 30, 1955 in Camrose, AB, where he still resides and plies his trade as a store owner. He had spent twenty years in the construction industry, working in most parts of Alberta. Arden and his wife Joanne have two sons, Wade and Chett. His hobbies of curling, hunting and fishing occupy some of his time, and he has been president of the Camrose Curling Club and a volunteer for the Interna-



tional Viking Cup Hockey Tournament hosted by the city of Camrose.

Our Brother received the degrees of Craft Masonry in 1983 in Camrose Lodge No. 37 and served that Lodge as WM in 1991-92 and again in 1996-97.

Northern Lights District

RWBro Howard R. Townsend, born in Maniwaki, PQ, July 6, 1949, is a Land and Resources Management Consultant, residing in Edmonton. He had attended school in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. Howard and Valerie have lived in Edmonton for 14 years. Prior to their meeting, he was a single parent, raising his son Jeremiah who now stays with his mother, attending college in Montreal. He is an active participant



of the Habitat for Humanity Building Support Committee, and is also a collector of and researcher into military and Masonic medals, and generally a lover of history. He and Valerie attend McClure United Church.

Brother Townsend joined Freemasonry in 1988 in Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188, where he was WM in 1993-94 and 1994-95. He served on the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee from 1995 to 1998, and is a member of the Edmonton Scottish Rite bodies, Norwood Chapter No. 18 RAM and Edmonton Preceptory No. 46, KT.

Palliser District

RWBro Neil Morrison was born on a farm near Invermay, SK, May 19, 1927, but grew up in Flin Flon, MB. He moved to Edmonton in 1949, just in time to take part in the Leduc Oil discovery. He was transferred to Medicine Hat in 1976 and also spent considerable time in Fort McMurray at both tar sands plants. He returned to Medicine Hat in 1986 where he now lives in retirement. Neil was married to Jean (now deceased) and



they raised three children, two boys and a girl.

Brother Morrison was initiated, passed and raised in Quarry Lodge No. 70 in 1978, was its WM in 1989, and for one year (1985-86) an affiliated member of Fort McMurray Lodge No. 195. He also belongs to several other Masonic bodies.

Yellowhead District

RWBro Stewart L. Fyffe was born in Calgary on February 8, 1940. He is a retired former employee of AGT/Telus Finance Dept., residing in Edmonton. He and his wife Andrea have two daughters and one grandson.

Brother Fyffe received the three degrees of Craft Masonry in Temple Lodge No. 167 in 1980, where he served as WM in 1987. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of Edmonton, of North Star and Capital City Chapters RAM, and Al Shamal



Temple AAONMS where he currently holds the office of Treasurer on the Divan.

Three Rivers District

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the death in office of **RWBro John Rigby** who passed to the Grand Lodge above on October 27, 1998. Bro Rigby was born in Wigan, England, May 11, 1942. His Masonic career began in Sentinel Lodge No. 26. He was initiated, passed and raised in 1989 and was WM of Sentinel Lodge No. 26 in 1995-96.



The MW the Grand Master has appointed **RWBro Stewart Christie**, PDDGM, Three Rivers

District, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the 1998-99 term

From a Lodge Summons

...I am looking forward to my year as Master... I will be telephoning any members that I am not personally familiar with, to introduce myself. If you are hesitant to come to a meeting because you do not remember all of the signs or symbols, come to our Rusty Trowel night at which time we will review the basics, so that you will feel more comfortable. You need not wait until then to come to Lodge; your Brethren would much prefer to see you make a few mistakes than not to see you at all.

Parker Foord, Worshipful Master Elbow River Lodge No. 180

Grand Master's Itinerary

January

- 1 New Year's Levee, Edmonton
- 13 Kelvingrove Lodge, Calgary
- 25 Beacon Lodge, Burns Night, Red Deer