



300th Anniversary Committee

03 October 2016

To the District Deputy Grand Masters and members of the Board of General Purposes:

RW Sirs:

As you are all no doubt, well aware, 2017 marks the 300th anniversary of the formation of what was to become the United Grand Lodge of England, from which our Grand Lodge has its origins. The Grand Master has asked me to chair the Ad Hoc Committee to celebrate this most auspicious occasion. I am certain most of you have been getting enquiries from brethren in your respective districts, as well as having questions of your own, wanting to know what is being planned. I am pleased to now be able to pass on some of those details.

1. Grand Lodge will be hosting a gala on the Monday night of Grand Lodge (July 17th, 2017). Plans are for an 18th century table lodge to be portrayed by the Wellington District 18th century degree team as part of the evening's celebrations. This is still in the formative stages but more details will follow as they become known.
2. We are hoping to invite the Governor-General of Canada to be the guest speaker at the Grand Master's banquet on Wednesday night, July 19th. His schedule does not get confirmed until at most, six months from the event.
3. There will be a jurisdiction-wide Open House with all lodges within this Grand Lodge opening their doors to the general public on Saturday June 10th. Tours of the facilities and explanations of some of the lodge furnishings may be offered in addition to other things determined by the lodges, such as refreshments and snacks, face painting for the kids, etc. One community plans to invite those members who have not been to a lodge meeting in several years to join them for an informal gathering with light refreshments and social time.
4. Our Grand Historian, RW Bro Michael Jenkyns, has been preparing a series of articles that will be distributed once a month for publication in the local media. In June or July there will be a major insert prepared that will again appear in each newspaper in the province.
5. A commemorative coin is being prepared. It will be in colour and one side will acknowledge the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation and the other side will reflect the 300th anniversary of formal masonry. These coins will be available for sale at a probable cost of \$5 each.
6. The Grand Master will be attending a special reception in Kenora the weekend of May 27th and 28th. The weekend will include some special activities still being finalized.
7. A series of 30 second commercial-grade ads for use on TV will be prepared to promote Masonry in a positive light. It is expected these will be shown on channels such as SportsNet, Discovery, History, etc.
8. In conjunction with this, a video promoting Masonry to the general public will be prepared.





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9. As many districts and lodges will be planning events of their own, the Grand Lodge website will include a special section listing those activities so anyone can check them out and plan to attend as they are able.
10. Brief biographical statements of famous Canadian Masons has been prepared and these will be shown on the Grand Lodge website, in the Ontario Mason magazine, as well as pop-ups on social media sites.
11. The Sankey lecture in March will have as its theme the 300th anniversary.
12. The Masonic Foundation Ontario is preparing a three-part series on Masonic Charity: Past, Present and Future.
13. The logo and the banner, as they appear in this letter, are available for use with related 300th anniversary events.

Other activities are being considered and as these become clearer and more defined, details will be sent out. Your assistance with this is requested in several regards.

- Keep your respective districts informed of these events and activities as they are made known to you.
- As details are firmed up for events and activities within your districts, please pass those on to myself for posting on the Grand Lodge website.
- In order to have the articles indicated in item 4 above distributed to the many newspapers in this province, it would be extremely helpful if someone within each community became the contact person so that the articles are sent to him and he then forwards them to his contact with the newspaper(s) in that community or district. This is a significant undertaking and will require dedicated, reliable individuals to see it through.
- Encourage the lodges to make early arrangements for the Open House on June 10th.

More information will be forthcoming as the details for these and other activities become finalized. Thank you for taking the time to share these items in your districts and happy 300th.

Faternally,

Ron Findlater
Chairman,
Ad Hoc 300th Anniversary Committee

