

# **Canada and Canadian Freemasonry**

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## Canada and Canadian Freemasonry

### Introduction

When I was mulling it over in my mind how I would address this topic with some degree of organization to it and recognizing that while everyone in this room knows where Canada is but probably not much more, the first part of my talk is about Canada and its development. In this way, I can set the stage for Canadian Freemasonry and its development.

I will get into how Freemasonry arrived on Canada's shores, some of the major (and minor) players and how the Grand Lodges developed across the country - right up to the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1997. This will include how Grand Lodges are organized and how there are many differences between each including some of the differences in the Rituals.

I will conclude with some happenings across Canada now and in the immediate future with a more particular emphasis on my own Grand Lodge of Alberta.

### Canada Today



Canada is a country covering 9,957,540 Km<sup>2</sup> (3,844,907 sq. mls.). This figure includes 755,051 Km<sup>2</sup> (291,548 sq. mls.) of inland freshwater lakes. It stretches from Cape Spear in Newfoundland, the most easterly point in North America at 52°37' west to 141° west, which coincides with part of the Alaskan-Yukon frontier. Although much of the border with the USA lies at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, the most southerly point is Middle Island in Lake Erie, at latitude 41°41' north and most northerly part on land is Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island at latitude 83°07' north. It is divided into 10 Provinces and 3 Territories and while they may be considered similar to the States of the United States, nothing could be farther from the truth.

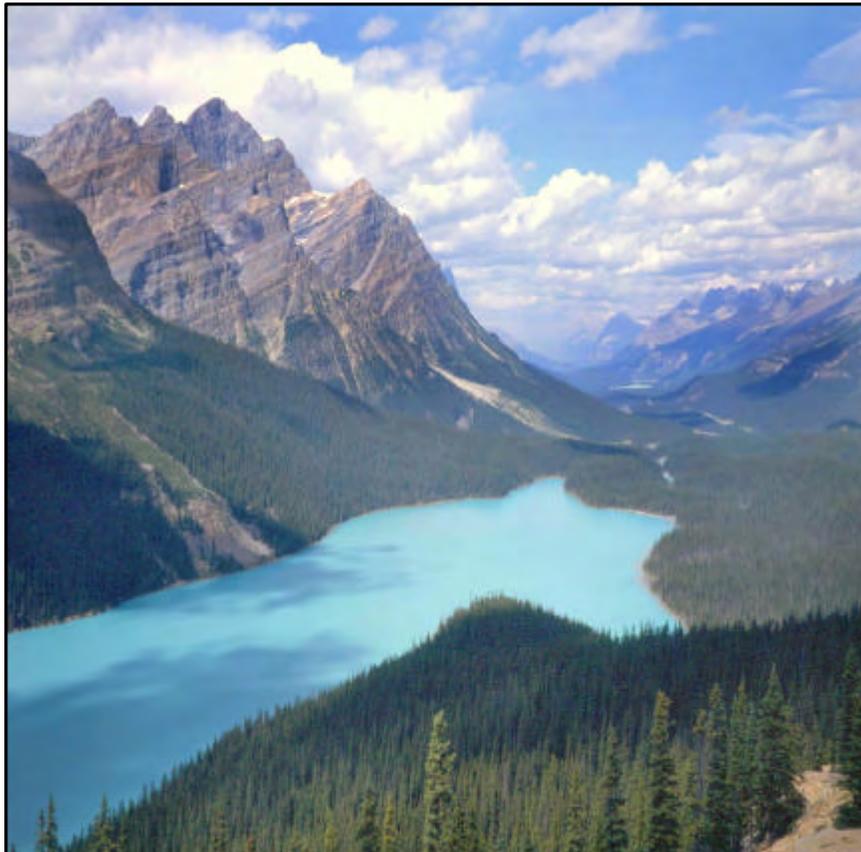
In the organization of the United States, most powers were given to the individual States and what was left over – the residual powers – went to the Federal level. In Canada, the opposite is true, the British North America Act of 1867, which gave Canada its independence, provided the central government – the federal government – with the major powers and the residuals went to the Provinces and while there are constant political “discussions” about power sharing and changing the powers, nothing much has changed. Canada has a centralized form of government, very similar to the British model on which it is based. Enough of politics, this is a Masonic gathering.

It has an estimated population of over 32 million with 76 percent living in urban areas and two-thirds living in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The overall population density is 3.1 persons per square kilometre. Compare that to the UK which has a density of 244.1 persons per square kilometre.

Roughly 90 percent of the population lives within 160 kilometres (100 miles) of the border with the United States of America so, in reality, there really are vast tracts of wilderness in Canada.

Like most countries in the Western World, the population is composed of people from every part of the world, of every faith and belief and every colour. The vast majority of immigrants move to the major cities and not to the less populated areas.

Today, Canada is famous or well-known for:



The Canadian Rockies

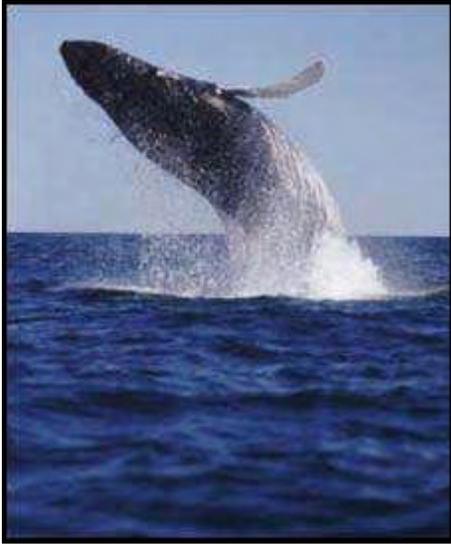
Niagara Falls



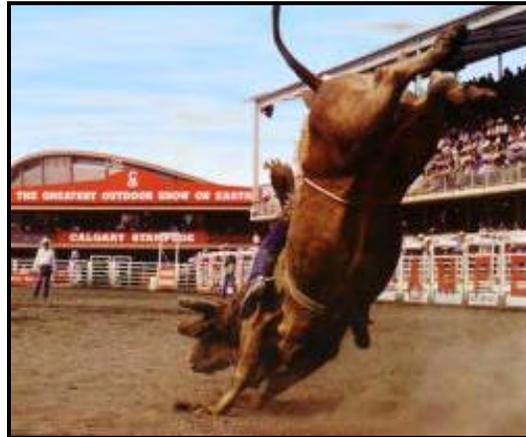
CN Tower



Whale Watching on the East and West Coasts



Calgary Stampede



and many more beautiful sights and sounds.

Not forgetting, of course, a true symbol of Canada, the Mountie:



Canada also holds a unique place in the world. An active member in many United Nations peacekeeping missions since 1950; a member of the G8 Group of Nations signifying that, although living under the shadow of our super-power neighbour to the south, Canada is an independent nation with its own place in the world. Canadians are not Americans nor are they British although most of the cultural establishments, including Freemasonry, are derived from Britain – we are Canadians.

Today, the major industrial base is in Ontario and Quebec while in the western Provinces, the oil and gas industry as well as ranching and farming are strong. In the Atlantic region, years of hard times are diminishing with the development of offshore oil and gas fields. The major centres of population are:

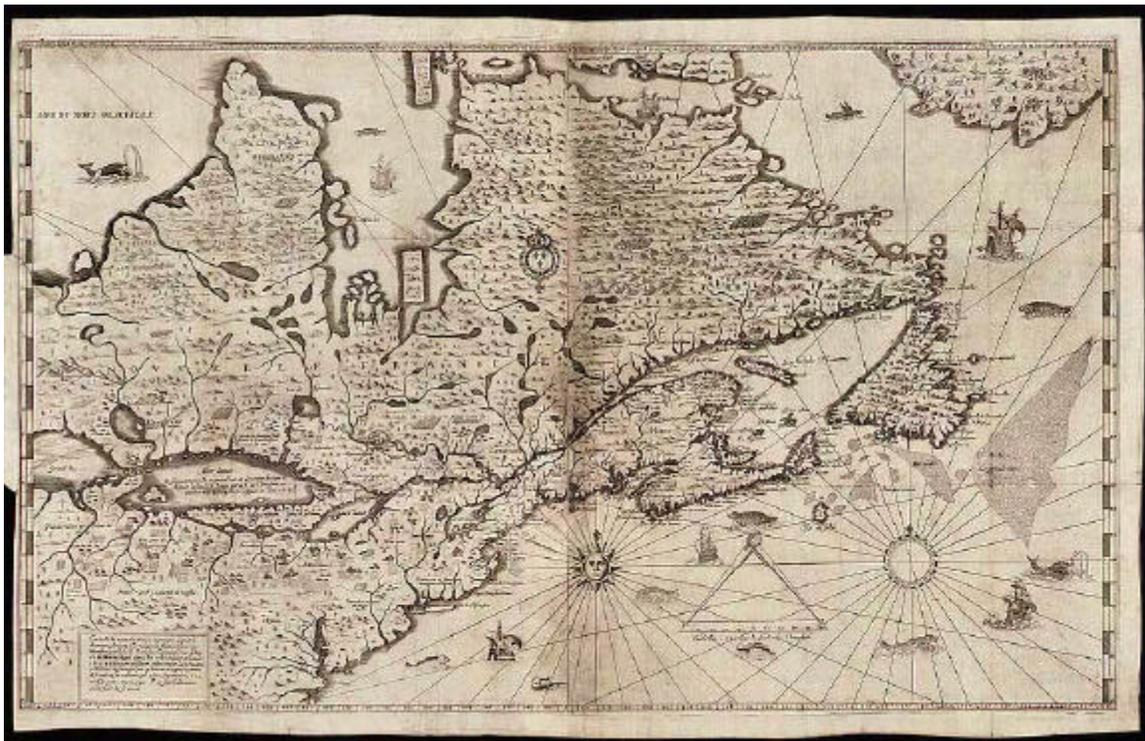
- Toronto at 5.2 Million
- Montreal at 3.6 Million
- Vancouver at 2.2 Million
- Ottawa-Gatineau at 1.1 Million;
- Calgary just over 1 million; and
- Edmonton at 700,000.

What has been an interesting development over the last few years has been the movement of large corporation head offices out of Quebec and Ontario to Calgary. The one with the biggest political impact was in 1995 when CP Rail which moved its head office from Montreal to Calgary. Calgary now houses all of the major oil industry head offices and more head offices than any other city in Canada except Toronto.

But the move west by the head offices merely mirrors the overall development of Canada which is the next area I want to delve into.

### **Canada's Development**

One of the early maps of Canada was the one by Samuel Champlain in 1652. Champlain was an early explorer of Canada for France.



The map is, of course, only of eastern Canada. What today is known as Newfoundland, the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and part of modern Ontario. What I find amazing is the detail of Hudson Bay, and the southern tip of Greenland. While it can be argued that the map is very rudimentary, it also contains much relatively accurate detail.

Bringing the name Champlain to the fore, is a good way to remind everyone that Canada was settled, not by the British, but by the French and into the 18<sup>th</sup> Century there were two parts of North America. The northern part was New France with its chief location in Quebec City and the southern part was New England centred around Boston. When England and France were at war, which was a lot, so were New England and New France. It was the Peace Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 that ceded all the provinces of Acadia, with the exception of Cape Breton Island from France (and thereby New France) to England (and New England). This was renamed Nova Scotia. By leaving Cape Breton Island in the hands of the French, England caused itself future problems. As this was the only sea link for France to guard her province, they built an impregnable fortress on the east side of the island and named it the Fort of Louisburg.

In 1744, France and England were again at war and in 1745 an English force under the command of Sir William Pepperell, acting with Commodore Warren of the British navy, set sail from Boston for Louisburg, laid siege to the fort and finally captured it. But their efforts were in vain, for three years later, the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle gave it back to New France.

This caused some consternation in Boston and to prevent any invasion from the north, the harbour of Halifax in Nova Scotia was fortified, garrisoned by a military expedition led by Colonel Edward Cornwallis and occupied in 1749.

We "fast forward" now to 1754 when fighting broke out between New England and New France with George Washington fighting for New England against Montcalm on the other side. The way the battles developed the fortress of Louisburg became isolated and in 1758, the British sent a special expedition and on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1758 captured it – this time permanently. Three years later, they razed it to the ground to prevent any further threat at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

The turning point in Canadian History of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century came in 1759 when Wolfe met Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham (outside Quebec City) and while Wolfe was killed on the field of battle, he had won the battle and Britain became supreme in Canada. There was no more New France.

I am going to gloss over the rest of the development of Canada, and just give a few points most of which have relevance to the subject of Masonic development in Canada.

1776 - The American Independence, which resulted in large groups of Empire Loyalists moving north into Nova Scotia and modern Ontario.

1791 – The Constitutional Act divided Canada (Quebec) into two parts – Upper and Lower Canada. The former is today's Ontario and the latter Quebec.

1812 - The War of 1812 (ending in 1814) was fought between the United States and Britain (Canada and India supplied troops as well) over control of the British North

American colonies. It ended with the Treaty of Ghent and was important in establishing a Canadian identity separate and distinct from the United States.

1840 – Act of Union reunited Upper and Lower Canada into Canada East and West.

1866 – British Columbia (New Caledonia) and Vancouver Island joined together into one colony.

1867 – The passing of the British North America Act by the British Parliament which created the Dominion of Canada in the British Empire. This covered the Provinces of Canada (East and West), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick only and created 4 Provinces - Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

1869 – Rupert's Land purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company and annexed into Canada.

1869 – First Metis Rebellion in Manitoba

1870 – The Province of Manitoba is created within Canada

1871 – British Columbia joined Canada on the promise of a railway joining it to the rest of the country.

1873 – Prince Edward Island admitted to Confederation.

1884-1885 – Metis Rebellion in Manitoba

1885 – The final rail of the Canadian Pacific Railway trans-continental line was laid at Craigellachie, British Columbia in 1885.

1905 – Formation of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan out of the Northwest Territories.

1948 – Newfoundland joined Confederation.

1982 – Constitutional Act was passed in London, England granting complete autonomy to Canada.

Now that the stage has been well set, we can move on to the development of:

### **Freemasonry in Canada**

There is general agreement that the major impetus for the development of Freemasonry was the military lodges which existed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century although there were other items as well.

The first *documented* record of a Freemason in North America was that of Lord Alexander in New France (Canada) in 1634. The "*Viscount Canada*", founded a colony of Scots on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. He was a member of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), now No. 1 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. <sup>1</sup>

It is believed that the first lodge on what is now Canadian soil was instituted under a Boston warrant at Annapolis Royal in Acadia, now Nova Scotia, and was active in

1738 with the founder being a soldier administrator, Erasmus James Philipps <sup>2</sup>, followed by another in 1749 at Chebucto (now Halifax). However, the main impetus came from the military.

One thing that struck me as I researched this subject was the willingness of various brethren to “take the bull by the horns” and make decisions. Some appeared to live by the maxim – it’s easier to ask for forgiveness than permission. An example of this is that after the capture of Quebec in September 1759, the various Regiments which had Travelling Warrants (6 of them), primarily from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held a meeting.

“Quebec on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1759, and of Masonry 5759, which was as soon as convenient after the surrender of this place to His Britannic Majesty’s Arms.

“The Masons and Wardens of the following Lodges, viz.: No. 192 in the 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, No. 218 in the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment, No. 245 in the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Dispensation 136 in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Dispensation 195 in the Artillery, all of the Registry of Ireland, and No. 1 of Louisbourg Warrant; Mett in form at 6 o’clock in the evening when it was consulted and agreed upon as there were so many Lodges in this Garrison that one of the Brethren present of the greatest skill and merritt should take upon him the name of Grand Master from the Authority of the above Lodges until such time as a favourable opportunity should offer for obtaining a proper sanction from the Right Worshipful and Right Honourable the Grand Master of England, and in consequence thereof of our True and faithful Brother, Mr. John Price Guinnett Lieutenant in His Majesty’s 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment was unanimously and to the great satisfaction of the whole Fraternity assembled proclaimed Grand Master for the ensuing year.” <sup>3</sup>.

And thus was created the first Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada, headquartered at Quebec.

One person of distinction fits into the Canadian Masonic scene about this time and this is Thomas Dunckerley. He was on board the *HMS Vanguard* at the Siege of Quebec but has left for England before the above meeting was held. However, in 1760, when in London to attend his mother’s funeral, “he obtained the patent to regulate Masonic affairs in the newly acquired Canadian provinces, and, indeed in any part of the globe he might visit where no Provincial Grand Master was in control.” <sup>4</sup>.

Back in Quebec on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1760, Dunckerley installed Colonel the Hon. Simon Fraser of the 78<sup>th</sup> (Highland) Regiment as Provincial Grand Master of Canada. This appears to have been about the only ceremony in which Dunckerley was involved.

After the news of the capture of Quebec reached Europe the immigration floodgates were opened and it should be no surprise that although there was a self-proclaimed “Provincial Grand Lodge”, they appear to have focused all their efforts on themselves in the military and so a group of civilians, formed themselves into a Lodge in Quebec and got, from the Grand Lodge in London, a proper Warrant or Charter to act as such, under the name and special number of “Merchant’s Lodge, Quebec, No. 1. This was undoubtedly the first warrant issued under the British regime in Canada.

In October 1760, the members of this new lodge showed their Warrant to the military lodges, and it was decided by the latter that they should present a petition to London to "legalize" the Provincial Lodge. A committee was formed and in November 1762, the Petition was dispatched.

Difficulties and delays met this Petition. The first "Deputation" was signed in May 1764 and the "deputation" was duly dispatched on ship for Quebec. The ship got across the Atlantic safely but was delayed by adverse winds off *Cap Tourment*. A group of enthusiastic Masons travelled to the ship's location, boarded it, borrowed a small ship's boat, took the document with them and started to navigate the thirty odd miles themselves. Unfortunately, they were caught in a bad squall and all were drowned and the "deputation" lost.

Again, in 1766, another application was made and in March 1768, the Grand Warrant was signed and, at last, the first "Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada" became regular and recognized.

As was stated in the previous section, Canada was originally French and it is, therefore, fitting that it would appear that French Masonry existed prior to the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Pemberton Smith, in his listed book, quotes from a letter written in 1768 to the Provincial Grand Master at Quebec which indicates the existence of French Masonry:

"Bro. Pierre Gamlin has a grand warrant from the Grand Master of France for the whole Province of Canada, which is ordered to be registered in the proceedings here: as I thought it better to assemble together promiscuously than set up any such distinction as English and French workmen." <sup>5</sup>

A good Masonic decision.

The American War of Independence had a major negative effect on Freemasonry in Quebec as the garrisons were moved to other locations which could be better defended against the rebels and 1777 return to the Grand Lodge at London listed only five Lodges, all civilian, including one at Detroit. As Britain did not cede Michigan to the United States until 1796, this Lodge came under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada.

It is of interest to note that the famous American Mason, Benjamin Franklin came to Quebec, which the Rebels had "captured" without a shot being fired, and set up a printing press to persuade Canadians to join with the rebels. He failed and returned south, leaving the printing press behind a M. Mesplets, whom he had brought from France, to be the "first printer of Montreal" and the publisher of the Montreal Gazette newspaper.

The changing of Merchant Lodge's No. from 1 to 9 by the Provincial Grand Lodge appears to have been a sore point and in 1786, the Lodge which held the first Canadian Warrant from the "Modern" Grand Lodge in England, became the first civilian Lodge in Canada to be warranted by the "Antients" as No. 40 on their Roll. Two other civilian Lodges were warranted by the Antients in Quebec in 1787.

The closing years of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century were difficult for Freemasonry in Quebec, which after 1791 was "Lower Canada". Lodges were founded in Montreal but only after some growing pains did they become stable. However, Charters were issued to various new Lodges, one in New Brunswick, one in the State of New York, and the remainder in "Canada Proper" including Hamilton and Cornwall (both in Upper Canada – now Ontario), one in the State of Vermont and finally one with the name of "Saint John's Lodge of Friendship" in Montreal. Lodges existed owing allegiance to both of the main Grand Lodges in England.

In 1792, the Antients appointed William Jarvis as "Substitute Grand Master of Masons for the Province of Upper Canada" <sup>6</sup>, and he continued in that position until his death in 1817. However, in 1802, brethren who objected to the Grand Warrant being removed from Niagara, formed a schismatic Grand Lodge at Niagara which continued until 1822.

It was also in 1792 that HRH Prince Edward a "Modern" Mason was made an "Antient" Mason and became Provincial Grand Master of the Antients in Canada.

As you can tell, a rather disturbing picture of Freemasonry is now developing with rival Grand and Provincial Lodges in existence and this continued for some years.

Canadians had been hopeful that the Union of the two Grand Lodges would provide the cure for the Masonic ills and bring harmony to the Craft in Canada. Regretfully, this was not the case. Indeed, the presence of Canadian Lodges, added to the complexity of assigning numbers in the roll of the United Grand Lodge especially when some Charters had, basically, been purchased from Military Lodges when they left.

The complexity of the situation of jurisdiction was not eased when in 1820, after a delay of 7 years, the "Patent" for the Provincial Grand Lodge arrived and it was made out "for the City of Quebec and the District of Three Rivers" only. <sup>7</sup> This oversight, if it were such, resulted in Masons in the Montreal area and the Eastern Townships of Quebec working to establish a new Provincial Grand Lodge in Montreal. A Petition was indeed presented to London and in 1823, it was granted, effectively splitting Lower Canada into two Provinces. A third Provincial Grand Lodge was formed - the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada - with headquarters at the town of York (modern day Toronto).

It would appear that Grand Lodge in London thought that the Canadian brethren would be delighted at this re-organization but such was not the case. Following swiftly on this was the demand for the Antient Lodges to turn in their Antient Warrants and be issued with a new "United" one. However, the number being assigned to these Lodges was not based on their formation date but on the date on which they turned in their "Antient" warrant. A fact that was used to encourage Lodges to join the new Grand Lodge of Canada some 30 years later.

In dealing with Lodges formed under the 1759 Senior Provincial Grand Lodge of "Moderns", the United Grand Lodge bureaucracy merely marked them as "Erased as from 1813" <sup>8</sup>.

For the next thirty years, the three Provincial Grand Lodges ruled as could be expected with varying degrees of success, however, constant neglect by London resulted in discontent and in 1855, an independent Grand Lodge of Canada was formed.

In 1852, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada had petitioned London seeking independence. This Petition was ignored and in the City of Hamilton on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1855, a Grand Lodge, known as the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> of the same year, a Past Grand Master of the State of Michigan attended and installed the new Officers.

An interesting sideline of the creation of this new Grand Lodge, when:

“On the same Canadian problem the authority of the Earl of Zetland, then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, was challenged by the Earl of Carnarvon, who speaking on a resolution in effect to take the matter of Canadian Masonry out of the hands of the Grand Master and refer it to the Colonial Committee for report thereon, spoke at the Quarterly Session on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1855, as follows:

‘There are two principles of government, compulsion and persuasion. Compulsion is idle for us to take of, and it is irritating to them; persuasion is a legitimate weapon; it will not break in your grasp, because it is a well tempered blade, on which is engraven the talismanic characters of “Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth! There is a third course which stares one like a phantom in the face. I protest against your standing with folded arms while the stately edifice falls to pieces. Better have an indifferent policy than none at all. Better have any principle than be like the mastless vessel before the storm –

Come it slow, or come it fast,  
This is the fate must come at last.”<sup>9</sup>.

Every Lodge in Upper Canada (Ontario) joined this Grand Lodge and so in a moment, one Provincial Grand Lodge ceased to exist. Over the next year, all of the Lodges (except for two and a half) in the Montreal area also joined this Independent Grand Lodge and the remaining Lodges petitioned to dissolve the Provincial Grand Lodge and report to London directly. The third Provincial Grand Lodge (at Quebec) continued to operate under the United Grand Lodge of England until it became the Grand Lodge of Quebec in 1869, following the creation of the Provinces under the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

The move to independent Grand Lodges based on Provinces was not one that the Grand Lodge of Canada readily agreed to especially when it came to Quebec as it saw that area in particular as part of its sovereign jurisdiction. However, with the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia in 1866 and the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick in 1867, precedent had been established; cooler heads reigned and harmony was restored. The Grand Lodge of Quebec was formed in 1869 and then each existing Province had its own Grand Lodge and Masonic territorial government was firmly established in Canada.

With the passing of revised Constitution in 1887, the Grand Lodge of Canada added the phrase “in the Province of Ontario” to its title, which has continued to the present day.

In Nova Scotia, when, in 1738, the first Lodge was formed under the warrant from Boston and Erasmus James Philips became its first Master, he was also appointed as Provincial Grand Master of Nova Scotia by Henry Price, the Provincial Grand Master of Masons in North America. In 1749, the present city of Halifax was founded and a year later a Petition was forwarded to Philips to form a Lodge in that city, which was granted. However, the schism of England extended to the heart of Nova Scotia and in 1755, the Lodge at Annapolis Royal changed its loyalty from Boston to the "Antients" Grand Lodge, followed by the Lodge at Halifax and in 1757, the Grand Lodge of "Antients" issued a Provincial and two Lodge warrants as requested. This Provincial Grand Lodge "died" about 1776 due to many difficulties encountered with the American Revolution and Freemasonry struggled to continue to exist. However, with the evacuation of Boston in 1776, those citizens who wished to remain loyal to the British Crown moved north and there was an influx of loyalists into Nova Scotia – many of them were Freemasons and a resurgence occurred and a Provincial Grand Lodge was re-established. The only other major difficulty encountered in Nova Scotia (as well as other Canadian areas) was the fallout from the Morgan affair in New York State in the 1820's.<sup>10</sup>

The other early Grand Lodge in Canada (1867) was the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. Freemasonry came to this part of the new world with the granting of a Warrant to Hiram, No. 17 at Saint John by the two Lodges at Halifax acting as a *pro tempore* Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia (waiting for their Provincial Warrant from the "Antients") in 1784. Unfortunately, this first Lodge, due to its members acting in an unmasonic fashion existed only until 1796 when its Warrant was seized and its members expelled. However, by that time other Lodges existed in New Brunswick and Freemasonry continued in strength.

Jumping ahead a bit but staying in the Atlantic region of Canada, the next Grand Lodge to be formed was the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island which was formed in 1875, two years after it had joined the Canadian Confederation. Freemasonry in this Province started as a result of a criminal act that took place in November 1775, when two American privateers plundered Charlottetown and carried away the leading members of the government. Although George Washington released them quickly, the British feared that another attack could occur and dispatched four independent companies of infantry from New York to Charlottetown in the spring of 1778. The Masons in this garrison force provide the first record of organized Freemasonry in Prince Edward Island. Even after the departure of the military in 1783, Freemasonry continued and when in 1875, the Grand Lodge was formed it consisted of eight Lodges, seven under the English Constitution and one under the Scottish Constitution.

While the Atlantic and central parts of Canada were developing, civilization and the population were moving westward and the colony of British Columbia was growing on the western side of the Rockies.

On the 19th March, 1859, a warrant was granted by the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England, authorizing the formation of a lodge at Victoria, Vancouver Island (The Warrant arrived in 1860). This was followed by a Lodge in New Westminster on the mainland. Once again, jurisdiction became an issue when some American brethren resident in British Columbia petitioned the Grand Lodge of Washington to form a Lodge. Upon strong objections from the BC Brethren, the brethren withdrew their Petition. The year 1871 saw the formation of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia – the same year as British Columbia entered Canadian Confederation. In

the early 1900's several Lodges in the Yukon Territories petitioned both the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and the Grand Lodge of British Columbia for Warrants and indeed two received them from both, However, as time passed, British Columbia extended its sole jurisdiction over the Yukon. This was clearly shown in 2000 when the name of this Grand Lodge was changed to "The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon".

The Province of Manitoba was established in 1870 and five years later, the Grand Lodge of Manitoba was regularly formed by three Lodges chartered under the Grand Lodge of Canada. While only comprising of three Lodges with a total membership not exceeding 200, this Grand Lodge covered the vast extent which today encompasses the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta as well as the Northwest and Yukon Territories – over 5.5 million square kilometres (2.1 square miles) – over 55% of Canada. Of course, the population was almost non-existent. There was no difficulty in the recognition of this new Grand Lodge by other Canadian Grand Lodges.

The above paragraph suggests that the development of Freemasonry in Manitoba had been a very orderly one under the direction of the Grand Lodge of Canada. As with most things in Masonic history, this was not the case. While it is surmised that Masons were present at Fort Prince of Wales built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, due to "Masonic" marks found on stones there, the first recorded instance of Freemasonry in the area now called Manitoba was in 1864 when the Grand Lodge of Minnesota chartered Northern Light Lodge at Pembina (now Winnipeg). This Lodge went quietly out of business with the events of the first Metis Rebellion in 1869. It may seem strange that the Grand Lodge of Minnesota would be approached for a Warrant but all of the Petitioners were United States soldiers belonging to the squadron drafted for duty at Fort Pembina. The international boundary was not what it is today.

As with Central Canada, the arrival of the military in 1870 sparked the creation of Prince Rupert's Lodge with all petitioners for this lodge being British soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition. The Warrant was granted by the Grand Lodge of Canada and the Lodge was given the name of Winnipeg Lodge and numbered 240 on the Grand Registry but in 1871 this was changed to Prince Rupert's Lodge under which name it continues to this day with only a slight variation, due to an amalgamation with another Lodge, to Northern Light Prince Rupert's No. 1. of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba continued to grow until 1905, when the Grand Lodge of Alberta was formed with 18 Lodges then under the Grand Lodge of Manitoba followed in 1906 by Saskatchewan with twenty-nine lodges and finally, in 1907, two Lodges in the Yukon with charters from Manitoba transferred to the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

Finally, in relation to the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, like many other Grand Lodges in their early days, strong personalities, forgetting the ideals of harmony, caused problems in two regards; one was the ritual to be adopted and the other was that one Lodge refused to return its Grand Lodge of Canada Warrant as was required after the formation of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba along with several other matters resulting in the Warrants of the first two Lodges being arrested by Grand Lodge in 1878. A schismatic Grand Lodge formed by these two Lodges existed until mid 1879 when the rift was healed and harmony restored.

Moving into the twentieth century, when the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed 100 years ago in 1905, the Grand Lodges of Alberta (in 1905) and Saskatchewan (in 1906) were formed. Alberta had 18 Lodges chartered under the Grand Lodge of Manitoba when they were formed and Saskatchewan had twenty-nine. Interestingly, the Grand Lodge of Alberta, by act of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, has Masonic jurisdiction both in Alberta and that part of the Northwest Territories lying to the West of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian. [I'm not sure how a legislative assembly of a Province can give jurisdiction outside of **ITs** jurisdiction]. Freemasonry arrived in Alberta in 1882 when Saskatchewan Lodge in Edmonton became No. 17 under the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, however, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1888, the Secretary of this Lodge wrote to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba "The Worshipful Master and Officers of Saskatchewan Lodge No. 17 have decided to return the Charter of this Lodge as they find it impossible to keep it up any longer". <sup>11</sup>.

Freemasonry did return to the current Province of Alberta in 1883, a few months before the arrival of the first Canadian Pacific Railway train in Fort Calgary. A notice was posted calling upon Freemasons to meet in a local store. This meeting resulted in the formation of Bow River Lodge, originally No. 28 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and today No. 1 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Unlike the earlier days of Freemasonry when Lodges were established upon the arrival of the military, in Alberta, it was the arrival of the CPR and settlers on to the prairies. Freemasonry grew until there were 18 Lodges under the jurisdiction of Manitoba which formed the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1905.

The foundation of the first lodge in Saskatchewan shows the difficulties faced by some of our pioneer brethren. Brethren at Prince Albert had applied to form Kinistino Lodge at that location to the Grand Lodge of Canada and on May 22, 1879, a Dispensation was granted. Owing to difficulties of transportation with the connection to Winnipeg being ox or pony cart or stage for the 700 miles, it was not received until the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. It would appear that this Lodge applied for a Warrant in 1880 and that it was granted as No. 381 but there is no evidence that the Lodge was ever constituted.

This Lodge did, however, continue to work and in 1882 formally withdrew from the Grand Lodge of Canada and affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. Freemasonry continued to grow and in 1906, a year after the Province of Saskatchewan was formed, the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan came into existence comprised of twenty-nine Lodges.

Finally, Freemasonry in the last Province to join Canadian Confederation followed, and continues to follow, a different path. Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1948 and at that time there were Masonic Districts of both the English and the Scottish Constitutions in the Province. This continued until 1997, when the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador was formed. All of the Lodges of the English District joined the new Grand Lodge together with four from the Scottish District with the rest remaining part of the Scottish District. It took the Newfoundlanders 50 years after Confederation to create their own Grand Lodge and it may take another 50 for the other Lodges to join – or maybe never – and, in my humble opinion, that is a decision for the brethren of the individual lodges for Freemasonry is a lodge-based institution.

Each Grand Lodge in Canada is independent. There is NO Grand Lodge of Canada although one has that name. There is an annual meeting of the senior officers of the Canadian Grand Lodges in Winnipeg but it is a meeting which is for discussions on topics of Masonic importance and for non-binding agreements on directions to be taken on matters of concern. I can assure you that on some matters there is no agreement other than to disagree and for each Grand Lodge to act according to the wishes and in the best interests of its members.

### **Differences from England**

That is an overview of the development of Freemasonry in Canada and before moving on to specifics in each jurisdiction, I would like to talk about a few areas in which Freemasonry differs from that in England. Some of these differences relate to the Grand Lodge level and others to the Lodge level. I am not going to cover every difference because I do not have the required knowledge of Freemasonry in England to do so especially as I have never had the privilege of sitting in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In North America, Grand Masters serve either a one or two year term with a very few for three. My own jurisdiction is for one year. This results in numerous Past Grand Masters – in Alberta, there are currently about 20 Past Grand Masters. In jurisdictions with two year terms the number is about half. In some jurisdictions, there is a formal Past Grand Masters' Committee; in others, informal meetings take place. In Alberta, we usually have an annual dinner meeting with the new Grand Master at his invitation. There can be no doubt that Past Grand Masters, like Past Masters in a Lodge, are in a position to provide expertise based on experience and can be perceived to exert influence over the incumbent Grand Master – sometimes for the better; sometimes not – but always with the best interests of the fraternity at heart.

In all Grand Lodges in Canada, the actual organizational structure is very similar to the United Grand Lodge of England but on a smaller scale. There are no Provincial Grand Lodges within Canadian Grand Lodges but Districts. In Alberta, there are 15 Masonic Districts each with a District Deputy Grand Master being the Grand Master's representative. A District differs from a Provincial Grand Lodge in that it is not a legal entity but an administrative grouping of Lodges to which the Grand Master appoints a representative – the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM). While the DDGM is appointed by the Grand Master in some jurisdictions; in Alberta, he is elected by the brethren in the District with the election being confirmed by the Grand Master. This raises the question, are there cases where the Grand Master has not confirmed the election? The answer is "Yes" but it is rare and only for good cause. In some Canadian jurisdictions, the DDGMs are not elected but are actually appointed by the Grand Master. As I mentioned early in this paper, each Grand Lodge is sovereign unto itself.

The Officers of a Lodge are very similar to those in England except, outside of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, the minor or assistant ones do not exist. For example, in most jurisdictions, you will not find an Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies or an Education Officer. We really find no need for the assistants and the duties of an Education Officer are handled by the Chairman of the Lodge Education Committee.

The positioning of Officers in Lodges varies across Canada and from England, I am sure. In Alberta, the Director of Ceremonies sits on the floor in the South East corner of the Lodge directly in front of the Secretary (or Secretary-Treasurer), while in other Canadian jurisdictions, I have seen him located in the North West corner of the Lodge to the left of the Senior Warden. In Alberta, the Chaplain sits in the middle of the north side directly opposite the Junior Warden, while in British Columbia, he sits in front of the East at the south end.

One of the most interesting variations happens in Ontario in the East where Grand Lodge Officers sit to the left of the WM and visiting Lodge Master and Past Masters to the right. This is the only jurisdiction where I have observed this reversal from the norm.

The regalia worn in Lodges and Grand Lodges are the same as worn in England, although cloth collars which appear to be prevalent in the English Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges are not used. The collars are metal ones with cloth backing.

There is no Mark Grand Lodge and the Mark Master Mason degree is the first of the three degrees of Royal Arch Masonry. In the Royal Arch jurisdictions of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward island and Newfoundland, as well as one Chapter in British Columbia, the Virtual Past Master Degree is also conferred. Each jurisdiction has a Grand Royal Arch Chapter which is separate and distinct from the Grand Lodge in the jurisdiction.

In the area of ritual, all Grand Lodges authorize The Work in their jurisdiction as in England and each jurisdiction uses the Canadian Rite which is a form of the Emulation Ritual. However, some jurisdictions have also authorized other rituals in addition to this one. In Alberta, we also use The Ancient York Rite, which is very similar to the ritual practiced in the USA and came to Alberta due to a heavy American influence in the southern part of the Province, where the majority of the first Lodges developed. In the Province of British Columbia, five rituals are authorized: The Canadian Rite, the Ancient York Rite, the American Rite, Emulation Rite and the Australian Rite.

The following table summarizes, the results of a questionnaire which brethren in different Canadian Jurisdictions answered specific questions on position of Officers in the Lodge etc. Regrettably, it does not cover every jurisdiction. Please note also that the Newfoundland (NF) response is from a Lodge on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland:

	<b>AB</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>QU</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>NF [GLOS]</b>
Position: Chaplain	North Centre	SE	In front of and left of WM	Left of WM on the level	North Centre	North	SE	West	East
Position: Treasurer	NE or with Secretary in SE	SE	In front of and right of WM	Right of WM on Level	Not assigned: In the East: Left of Secretary in SE	NE	NE	West	South
Position: D of C	SE in front of Secretary	NW	Left of SW	Left of WM on the level	E – far left of WM: Between IG & SW: Left of SW: E – 3 chairs from WM: West: SE: No Assigned Seat: Left of JW	SE in front of Secretary	W – right of SW	West	South

	AB	BC	SK	MB	ON	QU	NS	PE	NF [GLOS]
Position: Stewards	South – left & right of JW	South	South – left & right of JW	South – left & right of JW	SS – SE & JS – NW: South – left & right of JW: One in E & one is W.	South – left & right of JW	South – left & right of JW	South	North
Position: IPM	Left of WM	Left of WM	Left of WM	Left of WM	Right of WM	Left of WM	Left of WM	No Response	Not Known
Position: Grand Lodge Officers	Right of WM	Right of WM	Right of WM	Right of WM	Left of WM	Right of WM	Right of WM	No Response	Not Known
Number of Rituals	2	4	2	2	1	3	1	1	
Rituals	Ancient York & Canadian	Canadian, York, American Emulation & Australian	Canadian: American	Ancient York & Canadian	Canadian	Emulation-type; Webb-type; Scottish type	"The Authorised Work" [Canadian]	Nova Scotia	DM Goudielock [Lodge Specific Ritual]
Hold Sign on "to order"	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Hold sign when addressing WM	No	No	No	No	Yes & No	No	No	No	Yes
SoF when VSL attended	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Response	No [but all ready at SoF when standing]
Toast to Grand Lodge or Grand Master	Grand Master	Grand Lodge	Grand Lodge	Grand Master	Grand Lodge	Grand Lodge	Grand Lodge	No Response	Not Known
Grand Lodge Officers give GL/GM Toast	No	Yes	No		No	No	Yes	No Response	Yes
Education	Committee	Education Officer		Committee	Education Officer or Committee	Study Group – Monthly	Committee	Education Officer	

While I have restricted this paper to Craft Masonry, I think it is important that I mention two areas of concordant bodies which are different from England.

The first is the presence of the Order of the Eastern Star. It is primarily a woman's organization with Master Masons also being members. All ladies must be related to a Master Mason, living or deceased, with the definition of relationship being quite broad. It was founded in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century by a Past Grand Master of Kentucky, Dr. Rob Morris, who saw it as the female branch of Freemasonry but was unable to win support for his vision. The first Grand Chapter of the Order was founded in 1867 in Michigan. Today, the Order exists in most North American jurisdictions and the largest meetings held in Masonic Lodges are normally Eastern Star special functions. Their presence affords a good support to the fraternity.

The other area is the youth organizations affiliated with Freemasonry – there are three.

For the boys, aged 11 to 20, with no Masonic affiliated required, is the Order of DeMolay. Until a few years ago, the local Chapters were under the superintendence of a Canadian Supreme body, however, with dropping memberships and fewer Chapters, this body closed and now all Canadian Chapters come under Demolay International in the States.

DeMolay has two degrees, the Initiatory and the DeMolay Degree which is an exemplification of the martyrdom of Jacques deMolay and the lessons of fidelity to be learned from it. The principle adult in a Chapter is the "Chapter Dad" who is a Mason

or a senior DeMolay. Quite a few of the DeMolay boys eventually petition to become Masons especially in those Chapters which have enjoyed strong Masonic support.

There are two organizations for girls aged 11 to 20, the Internal Order of Job's Daughters and the *International Order of the Rainbow for Girls*. The former, similar to the Eastern Star, requires Masonic affiliation for its members, which the latter does not. Both are American based groups with Canadian Supreme Bodies.

*The International Order of Job's Daughters* was founded in Nebraska in 1920 by Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick and today has behtel (local group) in many countries including the USA, Canada, Australia, The Philippines. There is only one degree in Job's Daughters.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is very similar both in development and history to Job's Daughters with the one main difference that there is no Masonic affiliation required of its members. Rainbow Girls was founded in 1922 in Oklahoma by Bro. William Mark Sexson, a Minister by Profession.

Job's Daughters is active in all major parts of Canada and Rainbow in Ontario.

All three groups work hard at moulding the character of our youth according to Masonic principles with a healthy respect for their parents, each other and the world at large.

### **Canadian Grand Lodges Today**

Now let's look at today – Province by Province – from the east coast to the west coast with a special emphasis on Alberta as that is the jurisdiction with which I am most familiar. The information which is presented is gleaned from the Grand Lodge websites and personal contacts and knowledge.

#### Newfoundland

While the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador was only constituted in 1997, the Masons of Newfoundland had created a complex called Masonic Park, a community within a community.



A Senior Citizens' complex, owned and operated by the Masonic Fraternity of Newfoundland and Labrador, situated on approximately twenty-four acres of land within the City Limits of Mount Pearl and home to over 300 people.

This first class facility continues to be operated today by the Masons of Newfoundland and Labrador.

## Nova Scotia



To mark the Millennium, the Masons of Nova Scotia became, along with the Government of Canada, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Royal Canadian Legion, a major sponsor of a memorial and park at Camp Hill Veterans Hospital in Halifax, the final home for many Masons. The contributions for the project came from various Masonic sources and many individual Masons and Lodges. The recognition given serves the Craft well in Nova Scotia.

## New Brunswick

Each year the Masons of New Brunswick raise in excess of forty thousand dollars so that 50 children, ages 8 - 13 years, can attend for a week at the Masonic Camp Goodtime under supervision of the Canadian Cancer Society. Since the project started a few years back, Masons have donated over \$200,000 to the annual camp. Individual lodges hold various fund raisers throughout the year such as raffles, dinners, book sales, etc.

## Prince Edward Island

Like many Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island provides Scholarships and Bursaries to deserving and needy students.

## Quebec

Each Lodge has unique events, some which have taken place for many years, so it is in the Province of Quebec. Each year since September 19<sup>th</sup> 1857, a Lodge has been held "atop the mountain" in the Quebec Eastern Townships at 713 m (2,345 feet) above sea level. It is well attended by brethren from Quebec and other jurisdictions in Canada and the USA.

This is not a large Grand Lodge but I hold them in high respect. In the 1990's they stood by their principles and recognized Prince Hall Masons as being regular and entered into amity with one of them. As a result, the United Grand Lodge of England forbade their members from visiting any Lodge in Quebec. Quebec did not waiver from their decision and eventually the UGLE and other Canadian Grand Lodges recognized the wisdom of their decision.

### Ontario

2005 marks the sesquicentennial year for The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and many Lodges and area as well as Grand Lodge celebrations have taken place. They have produced memorabilia such as the Sesquicentennial Coin, designed to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as a souvenir chalice.

Since 1994, this Grand Lodge has been operating a publicity program called "Friend to Friend". Now you can watch the full video on line at the Grand Lodge at <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/>

### Manitoba

In Manitoba, the Masonic Library was replaced with a Masonic Resource Centre opened on March 30, 2004 at a cost of \$47,000 – donations from individual Masons, Lodges, Grand Lodge and concordant bodies. The purpose of this centre is to support Masonic activities within this provincial jurisdiction for the benefit of Freemasons and the non-Masonic community. Its uses vary from being a cultural centre that celebrates all of humanity's diversity; to a learning centre which devotes time and attention to exploring the traditional Masonic seven liberal arts and sciences; it is a social centre for meeting and greeting as well as a quiet place of solitude for meditation and reflection. This unique Temple is dedicated to God and to knowledge in the broadest sense and will further advance the strategic interests of the Masonic community well into the future.<sup>12</sup>

The Masons of Manitoba are active with several public programs:

- The Masons Care program - a shuttle service for cancer patients established in Winnipeg and Brandon;
- The Kids ID program- helping parents ID their children;
- The Masonic Foundation of Manitoba Charity - which raises and distributes \$50,000 annually to charitable causes.<sup>13</sup>

### Saskatchewan

Next year sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Grand Lodge and there is a special emphasis on recognizing brethren as being the integral part of the organization.

The 100th Anniversary Committee of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan is requesting each Lodge to select a member Past or Present to be honoured "Each Month" by the Lodge during the 100th Year of Masonry as the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. Beginning September 2005 until May 2006 each Lodge is asked to select from their membership whether alive or deceased, nine Masons who made a Significant Impact within and without their Lodge. Each Lodge (by any way it prefers) is asked to recognize the members selected by a Plaque, a Certificate or a Memorial Donation.

### Alberta

This year the Grand Lodge of Alberta celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Lodges and Districts throughout the Province have arranged special events to mark the occasion. Apart from calling the Annual Communication the centennial one, Grand Lodge itself has no specific plans to celebrate the event. The actual date is October 12<sup>th</sup> and unlike the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, nothing is happening on or near that date. The oldest Lodge in the Jurisdiction is, however, holding an Especial Meeting on the night for the benefit of the participants at the Western Conference [senior Grand Lodge Officers of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba] which is taking place at Canmore on that evening.

However, other good things are happening in the jurisdiction, all of them precipitated by individual Masons and Lodges.

There is the “potato patch” with up to 40,000 pounds of potatoes being donated to the Food Bank. All the work, especially the weeding, is done by Masons.

A small lodge in a rural community was the catalyst in donating a Zamboni to the local hockey rink – the Zamboni is the machine that cleans the ice between periods – an amazing \$200,000.00 from a Lodge of 60 members.

Both Calgary and Edmonton have historic Lodge Rooms in their respective historic villages, maintained and manned by Masons.

The Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund has existed since the mid-1950s and is the second largest fund in the Province.

The Masonic Foundation of Alberta dates from the 1980s and has a special emphasis on the youth of Alberta.

A Lodge was consecrated last year at Inuvik in the Northwest Territories, the second Lodge in the territories and at 68° 18' N is definitely the farthest north on North American continent. However, there are 4 Lodges in Norway and one in Russia which are farther north <sup>14</sup>.

For a weekend, each year since the 1960s an annual Masonic Workshop takes place in the Rockies. It is a time of relaxation and a time for recharging Masonic batteries. Quality speakers, workshops and in-depth discussions form the core of this event.

Like British Columbia, Alberta supports the “We Can Help” Program – see below.

#### British Columbia & Yukon

BC runs a couple of major public charities:



The first is the Cancer Car Program established in the Vancouver area in 1989 and expanded to two other parts of the Province. A fleet of 17 cars with volunteer Masonic drivers (about 85%) collect cancer patients from their homes, airports, ferries etc. and transport them to their treatments and return back with no charge to the patient or the Cancer Society.

Clearly identified cars do much to present a positive image of Freemasonry to the general public.

The second program is the "We Can Help" program, a first-aid and safety awareness program for children in the fourth year of school (about 9 years of age), administered by the St. John Ambulance organization and funded by the Grand Lodge and Concordant Bodies. A great program for taking the symbols of Freemasonry as well as the Masonic principle of care for your fellow man to the next generation.

#### Coordination and Cooperation

While each Grand Lodge has sovereign jurisdiction over its members and area of jurisdiction, there is coordination between them to a degree.

As mentioned earlier, there is an annual meeting of the senior officers of the Grand Lodges and the Scottish District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador, which takes place in Winnipeg each Spring. These meetings started in the 1950s and were originally bi-annual with the site moving between different centres, however, in the 1960s they became annual and now are always held in the city of Winnipeg, which is relatively central to all of the participants.

For the western side of the country, one of the most important events in regards to coordination and cooperation took place in 1941 when the first conference of the Grand Lodge Officers of the Four Western Jurisdictions took place at Banff, Alberta. This conference was known for many years as the Banff Conference but in 1995 moved from Banff to Kananaskis and later to Canmore but remained in the Canadian Rockies in Alberta. Its short form name is now the Western Conference.

There was a preliminary meeting of this conference in 1936 but it took the efforts of one man – MW Bro. George Ellis, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta to make it happen.

Imagine, during the second World War, in an era before planes and good long distance roads, this conference was established.

It is a combination of speeches and discussions on topics relative to the time and place.

For over 60 years, the senior officers of the four Western Grand Lodges – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba – as well as other distinguished Masons have presented papers and added their wisdom to discussions.

The first 60 years of the conference are available on CD and provide a valuable resource into the history of Freemasonry in this area, into what was important when it was important. Speeches and discussions on matters which are now historical but presented then as current events.

## Conclusion

This paper was intended to present an insight into Canadian Freemasonry as it was and is today. With the immensity of the country and the diversity between Grand Lodges it is a difficult task, which I hope has been successful.

Working through this research, one thing has been demonstrated repeatedly. Freemasonry is a grass-roots organization. Progress has been made not because of Grand Lodges but in spite of them.

Grand Lodges, like any governing body of any organization, are designed to maintain the *status quo*. It is only through the efforts of individual Masons that progress has been made in the Science.

1. [http://www.zetlandlodge.org/masonic\\_history.html](http://www.zetlandlodge.org/masonic_history.html)
2. Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia Website
3. Smith, p.8 [Quote from book by James Thompson]
4. Chudley, p.14
5. Smith, p.2
6. Robertson, p.339
7. Smith, p.87
8. Ibid., p.97
9. Woods, p.31
10. William Morgan was a Mason, possibly given his degrees in New Brunswick, who decided to expose the secrets of Freemasonry. He disappeared and the conspiracy theorists of the day managed to convince a large part of the populace that the Masons had abducted and murdered him. Such was the impact that in the State of New York, membership in the Craft dropped from 20,000 in 1826 to 3,000 in 1836. An anti-Masonic political party formed and put a candidate for President which was unsuccessful, however, several members were elected to other political arenas
11. Collett, p.2
12. <http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca/masonic.html>
13. <http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca/index.html>
14. MW Bro. Robert Juthner, PGM, The Grand Lodge of Alberta AF & AM

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