

THE KEYSTONE



Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

Grand First Principal's Message

Volume 13, Issue 3



Companions,

As we approach that time of year when we celebrate the birth and life of our Saviour, it is time to reflect on how fortunate we are to have our family and friends around us. Amid all the sparkling lights, joyous music, brightly wrapped presents and gatherings around the festive table, it should also be the time not only to remember those who have moved or drifted away from our daily lives, but to extend a

friendly and charitable hand to those who are less fortunate than us. During my visits to various Chapters in this jurisdiction as well as to one south of the border, it is quite evident that we as Royal Arch Masons embrace the virtues of friendship and charity, year round and not only during the Christmas season. Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if everyone behaved to each other as we do in our Chapters?

My wife Joan joins me in wishing all Companions and their families a very happy Christmas, Hanukah, or however you may choose to celebrate the Holidays. We hope that the New Year will bring good luck and prosperity to your lives.

Fraternal Regards,

Ken Overy

Grand First Principal

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Grand Chaplain's Message: What Is Important



Companions.

It is that time of year again when we all gather around the decorated tree and festive board, with family and friends, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year. But why do we always wait until these few "special days" of the year? We should extend that feeling toward others all year-round. If you will remember Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", look at all the years that poor old Ebenezer went without friends or family, even shunning his only nephew. Would we want to grow old in the same manner? Fortu-

nately, Ebenezer found out the errors of his ways before it was too late.

Christmas is the occasion to extend the message of love, sincerity and care and to make up for having failed to do so widely during all the rest of the year. Our friends always occupy an important place in our lives. Without friends, life is nothing. And Christmas is a time when friends will go far to get together and make this short time special.

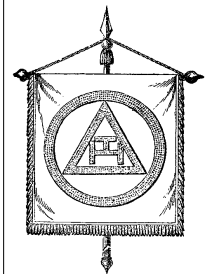
It is also a time for giving. And, as we reach out to family and friends, let's also open our hearts to those who are lonely and in need, to those people less fortunate than ourselves, and to the people who are far from home at this time; especially to the soldiers working for world peace both at home and abroad and to their families here at home who are keeping a constant vigil for their

safe return.

While we are enjoying the camaraderie of friends and family, we should not forget who brought us this time and spirit. There is no better time than now, this very Christmas season, for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the true meaning of Christmas: the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. There is no better time than now for all of us to recount the principles He taught us. And, as we strive to maintain those principles, we will have happiness in our lives and peace each day of the year.

I sincerely hope your Christmas will be enjoyable, and may the true essence of Christmas be always with you. May the peace and blessings be yours, and may the coming year be filled with happiness and prosperity.

V.E.C. Lorne Hammett
Grand Chaplain



Caribbean Cruises with REC Ken Overy

16 February - 27 February, 2014

16 February - 9 March, 2014

Princess Cruises aboard ms Emerald Princess

See details on line at grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca

Consider Kamloops

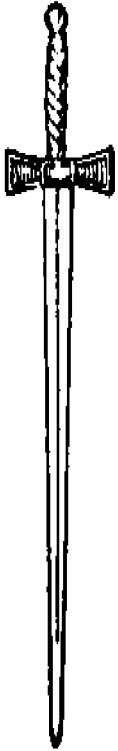
Site of the 2014 Spring Board of General Purposes



Kamloops is located at the confluence of the two branches of the Thompson River near Kamloops Lake. It is the largest community in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. The surrounding region is more commonly referred to as the Thompson Country. It is ranked 37th on the list of the 100 largest metropolitan areas in Canada, with 85,678 residents in 2011. "Kamloops" is the anglicised version of the Shuswap word "Tk'əmlúps", meaning 'meeting of the waters'.

Kamloops is home to many galleries including nationally recognized Kamloops Art Gallery, the Kamloops Symphony Orchestra, Western Canada Theatre, the British Columbia Wildlife Park, the Kamloops Heritage Railway, and Riverside Park. Kamloops is also well known for its public art including numerous pole carvings and murals. Join us for the Spring Board of General Purposes on April 5, 2014.

November in our Grand Jurisdiction



REC Jim Whyte has reported on line the progress of this year's Movember campaign in our Grand Jurisdiction. The network of Freemasons of Canada raised \$16,461 among 64 members. Fully half of that membership comes from the network of Freemasons of BC and Yukon, whose 32 members raised \$10, 845. REC Whyte was the captain of the Royal Arch Mo's team whose 3 members raised \$1530, making them # 3 in rank among the teams in the Freemasons of BC and Yukon Network.

All of the Companions who took part in the 2013 campaign to raise funds for the fight against prostate cancer and to raise awareness among us all of the dangers of prostate cancer and the promising prognosis for treatment (if it is detected early) are to be commended. And sincere thanks goes out to all of you who contributed to the campaign

whether individually or as part of a Masonic body.

The amount of donations continue to rise, year after year, both in Canada in general and in BC and Yukon in specific. And Canada continues to lead the world year after year in terms of funds collected for the Movember campaign.

But the participation in the campaign by Freemasons is relatively small compared to the numbers of those of us in our Craft or in our Royal Craft. While there are a few Companions and Chapters whose participation and/or support have been consistently exemplary, theirs is the stellar exception rather than the rule. This is surprising when the cause of fighting prostate cancer is one that is so close to the vital, personal interests of us all.



**3 Years
Continuous
Participation**

It is still possible to donate to the Movember Campaign until December 31, 2013 by going to the website ca.movember.com and searching for the team or member under whose campaign you wish to donate. Please campaign in your Chapters for this important cause.

- VEC John McIntosh



Companions or businesses may purchase from Grand Scribe Ezra a business card ad, running for 3 issues of the Keystone at a cost of \$20. Please include a copy or electronic file (jpg preferred) of your card. to Grand Scribe Ezra at the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of BC and Yukon.

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