

Masonry in the Mountains

Masonic Spring Workshop

Delta Lodge at Kananaskis

April 28, 29 & 30, 2006

Masons have met for the past 40 years for a weekend of Fellowship and Instruction in the Alberta Rockies. Over the years, the committee has invited the best in keynote speakers from across Canada, such as the late Dave Bruce, without question, probably the most respected speaker in the Order around here; from the USA, Jim Tresner, author of *Albert Pike, The Man Beyond the Monument*; and from Britain, Chris Knight, co-author of *The Hiram Key* — all who have delivered messages to enlighten, illuminate and stimulate your mind.

Why should you attend?

Casual Environment

The Kananaskis Spring Workshop goal is to create a Masonic, thought provoking weekend experience in a relaxed atmosphere of fellowship. No titles — every one is Brother regardless if he is the Grand Master. No Regalia. No Suits. No Ties. You are not timetabled. You can take the time to pick sessions that suit what interests you and still have time for a quiet walk on the extensive pathways that surround the complex, or go for a swim, or hot tub soak. Did I say bring your Bathing suit?

Being nestled in a spectacular mountain location located at your doorstep in the heart of the Eastern Slopes of the Canadian Rockies — one of Nature's wonders — enriches the Retreat environment. Enhanced by the elegant Delta Lodge at Kananaskis resort, excellent dining supervised by a gold medalist chef; spacious accommodations in Kananaskis Country, it is a totally rewarding weekend for new and to be renewed Brethren to attend.

Benefits & Education

Invigorating themes and speakers spark debate to enhance, to enrich and to educate the Masonic mind. You have the opportunity to be challenged and exposed to new ideas while having the opportunity to express views and to be mentored in the ways of Freemasonry. Lively question periods bring out many points of view, which, history informs me, have been known to be heard long afterwards in corners and rooms throughout the resort.

Throughout Saturday there are workshops presented by skilled facilitators, many based on the theme. You can opt to sit in on any of these programs and glean what you want to take away with you, without being forcibly governed by any agenda. Usually, there are also presentations related to Lodge Officers, such as preparing to be Master of your Lodge aimed at Senior Wardens, or tricks and tips for Secretaries.

It is the duty of each and every one of us to strive to expand our knowledge at all times. An education paper may happen during a business meeting here and there throughout the year at your Lodge (and in many cases does not happen). The same old format and showing up for Lodge may not be the menu you are looking for in Masonic enlightenment and does become stale to the membership. Here you can pick up new ideas to bring back to your own Lodge.

The Spring Workshop is a non-profit, volunteer committee with all receipts going to maintaining the event. The Spring Workshop committee is committed to deliver a second-to-none workshop that is not duplicated by any other Masonic jurisdiction in North America with top notch Speakers that you or I could not afford to bring into our Lodges, as well as time proven facilitators. You have it all under one roof in a pristine relaxed environment. Can this be necessarily available at any other time? Perhaps. Can you get the same enrichment if we were trying to do this as an individual lodge? I would say not. The Spring Workshop clearly delivers the messages that many Masons hunger for.

It not only provides for feeding the mind, but also, for sure, the body with top notch culinary treats. Finally, with your mind and your body refreshed, likewise your spirit and soul is refreshed before your departure with a short ecumenical Sunday service delivering the final theme message from God's word.

Fellowship

One could say we get this by attending Lodge or through visitation. But are you limiting yourself? By meeting your Brethren from other parts of the province, you can further share ideals and strengthen your knowledge by listening to their points of view. You hear refreshing, positive exchanges at the coffee breaks, the meals and in the hallways. What else do you hear? Laughter! There is no negativity. Laughter rings through the weekend. You make new friends. It's a retreat to leave behind the stresses of your business, to breathe in the fresh air, to free and cleanse the mind, and to purify your soul.

Still an Affordable Package

Many Brethren return year after year from the far reaches of the province and drive numerous hours because they recognize the value they are receiving from their attendance.

The weekend package for \$325 per person (double or triple) offers you 2 nights, 5 top quality meals in a 5 star resort hotel, including all taxes and gratuities. Is the best bang for the buck. Drive up Friday afternoon, unrushed, and return Sunday at a leisurely pace in a renewed frame of mind.

A recent advertisement for 1 night, dinner, taxes and gratuities at the Banff Springs Hotel seen in the *Calgary Herald* was to Let Ralph pay for it — \$400 per person.

What do I benefit from the attending the day program?

You save over 50 per cent off the entire weekend cost at \$150, and that will include your lunch and banquet dinner on Saturday. You also will have the benefit of the many programs presented throughout the day — a day away from your daily activities. Cost versus value? You decide!

What is the Theme?

Freemasonry and the Community — The Development of Modern Society

Ideas taken from what Tren Cole, 2006 Chairman wrote in the *Alberta Freemason*.

“• *Has our sense of community changed? If so, why?*

“• *Has our sense of Freemasonry changed?*

“• *Has it changed with society, or is Freemasonry a beacon by which society should change?*

“*Why? Because, when one reviews the history of Freemasons, one cannot help but notice the number of well known leaders who have been Masons, and who have, influenced the building of the foundations of the present world — at least the very foundation of the Western World.*”

Questions you should be asking. What was the philosophy at that time? How is it there are so few visible community Masonic leaders now?

We can refer to the great Kings, Presidents and Prime Ministers who molded our Western World. Dating back to the American Revolution in 1776, the 13 colonies placed their trust in Bro George Washington as their first President. North of the 49th parallel, when by democratic means a new country was formed in 1867, a Brother became it's first Prime Minister — Bro John A. MacDonald. Men such as these great leaders, though different in time and place, had one thing in common — they had a sense of community.

As Tren Cole put it: “*What was valued, then, was the right to be heard.*”

The first Mayor of Calgary, George Murdock — Bow River Lodge; the first Premier of Alberta in 1905, Alexander Cameron Rutherford — Acacia Lodge. These names from our provincial history were men who were leaders and made a contribution to their community. Though they were Masons and made a

collective mark at the time, both in the community and the Fraternity, few today can name them in our schools, our community or even our own Order. It seems their contribution to history is but a glimmering light and their importance is just dissolved into archival facts.

That understood, where are the community leaders now? Can anyone name a Canadian Mason who made a contribution to the community of any significant?

Peter Lougheed? — A man whose values and right to be heard changed a 36-year political landscape in the fall of 1970.

John Ross Matheson? — February 15, 2005 was the 40th Anniversary of our nation's flag. In Kingston, at a ceremony marking the occasion, Prime Minister Paul Martin paid tribute to the man who Prime Minister Lester Pearson said was the one most responsible for the development and adoption of the flag — Ill Bro. John Ross Matheson, 33°.

How is it our Community does not recognize them as prominent Masons as we did in history to the Paul Reveres and George Washingtons?

Is it important, or not, that we, as Masons, are to become community leaders?

What will the Keynote Speaker contribute to this year's theme?

This year's keynote speaker, Mark A. Tabbert, will without question truly represent the theme — "*Masonry and the Community*." Mark was the Curator of the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts. He has recently moved to be Director of Collections at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. He is the Author of *American Freemasons, Three Centuries of Building Communities* and is Worshipful Master of Mystic Tie Lodge, MA. He is a young man who will bring with him young ideas plus his considerable knowledge of Freemasonry's history and enthrall all age boundaries.

Conclusion

This year, following the keynote address, there will be a bear pit Q & A session with Mark Tabbert. In previous years, the speaker did a follow up of his address on Saturday morning. This will not happen this year. You will only hear him again at the Saturday afternoon wrap up. Though there is the offer of a day package, you lose much of the value of attending by rushing from the city on Saturday Morning to get to the opening at 9 AM.

The sizzle is in the entire weekend!

Staying for the weekend, you leave refreshed in all your senses, feeling you benefited from the education, fulfilled as a Mason, to be of better service to your Lodge, to your family, and to your community. It is truly an enriching weekend. You cannot come away feeling any other way. Expect to plan to come next year and the next year after that.

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MSW Committee