



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON**

**ADVANCE PROCEEDINGS for the
101st Annual Grand Convocation**

**At
Kelowna, BC**

September 20 – 21, 2019

**MEC Les Robinson
Grand First Principal**

2019 GRAND CHAPTER ADVANCE PROCEEDINGS

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ADDRESS OF THE GRAND FIRST PRINCIPAL

Report of the Grand First Principal

M.E.C. Les Robinson 2018-2019

PREAMBLE: - My Companions, my year as your Grand First Principal has concluded and it has been my privilege to serve you over the last twelve months. I have endeavoured to visit as many Chapters or districts as possible, and for the few Chapters I did not get to, my apologies, scheduling did not just allow it. Wherever I travelled this last year I was very well received, and I thank all the Companions for their kind reception. This year I decided that if I attended an installation I would not install the First Principal, because I feel that Chapters should not rely on the executive officers to do that job for them every year.

On my visits I found that some Chapters had many candidates and some just 1 or 2, and while we having candidates join our fraternity we are losing many to demits and suspensions, and maybe that is something that can be looked into and addressed. One of the ideas I adopted this year was to encourage companions to get to know all new masons joining the craft, by actively taking part in their mentoring and also when a brother is raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason let your Chapter scribe know so he can send him an invitation from the Grand First Principal and an information pamphlet in the mail to join our Holy Royal Arch.

GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS: - I would like to thank the entire executive for their support in either visiting with me or representing me at other meetings. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Grand Scribe Ezra MEC Ken Overy for his help in keeping me informed on a day to day basis, without a good scribe my job would have been very difficult. Also with the forming of a new society and all the difficulties that came with it I would like to thank our Grand Treasurer REC Tom Balabanov and REC Peter Guichon for their endeavours in getting it all completed efficiently. To my District Superintendants thank you for your efforts in representing me in your districts. This year we have two companions who have submitted their names for the position of Grand Principal Sojourner, and I wish them both well.

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS: - During my travels there are a few Chapters that have problems and of course they know who they are. If a Chapter cannot have meetings on a scheduled basis because of a lack of a quorum it may be time to consider consolidating was another Chapter, to make one strong Chapter as opposed to two weak ones. It is only as a last resort that a Chapter hands in its Charter, after seeing to it that all other options have been considered.

PERMANENT RANK: - Permanent rank will be conferred of those officers who have attended both annual convocations, and I will confirm them during the convocation. To those companions who have served on our various committees I thank you for your dedication, all committees have an essential part in the running of Grand Chapter

CONCLUSION: - I would like to thank my wife of 55 years for her constant support and love, without which I could not have taken on this position. As you all know this is my second time as Grand First Principal, and I hope I have not disappointed you on either occasion, and believe me there will be no third time. In the coming years I will be around to give assistance to the Grand Officers when requested, and I extend by best wishes to Phillip Robinson (no relation) your incoming Grand First Principal, and may he have as much fun and pleasure as I did during my year.

Once again my Companions I thank you for the privilege and honour you bestowed on me for serving as your Grand First Principal.

I hereby move that this report be referred to the committee on the Grand Z's address.

Seconded by:-

Report of the Grand Second Principal (Haggai) 2019

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal and the members of This Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon.

Thank you my companions for your continuing support and confidence, I have had an enjoyable year as your Grand 2nd Principal, thanks in a great part to your generous welcome when I have visited your chapters. Each year brings a change of responsibilities, which is always a challenge particularly this year as chair of the executive committee, fortunately, as it should be among companions, there have been no really contentious items to deal with, though a couple of difficult questions needed to be answered.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many chapters this year with our Grand Zerubbabel to great welcomes, happy meetings, and new friendships. I also had the honour of participating in several installations of Chapter Officers. I unfortunately was unable to attend International night in Bellingham WA, but was able again to attend the “Hands Across the Border” Ceremony at the Peace Arch, I look forward to seeing many companions at both visitations in 2020. I was honoured to represent this Grand Chapter at the Grand Council of Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada held in Canmore Alberta; and because our Grand 1st principal was suffering the rigours of a cruise in the Mediterranean at the time I represented you at the Grand Lodge of BC & Y in June.

I hope that during my year as your Grand Haggai I have helped to remind our companions that the pleasure of each other’s company is a necessary component of our success as an organization, we meet as companions, part as friends, and at each meeting those bonds of friendship are renewed and made stronger.

My thanks to M. Ex. Comp. Les Robinson for his continued encouragement and support, to the executive, for making my year as their chairman easy; and not least to our Grand Scribe Ezra for his valiant attempts to keep me on the straight and narrow.

Respectfully Submitted

R. Ex. Comp. Phillip Robinson

Grand Haggai

REPORT OF THE GRAND THIRD PRINCIPAL (JOSHUA) – 2018/2019

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon.

As I sit here at the keyboard the end of July is getting near and already thoughts of our next Royal Arch season are starting to go through my grey matter. This report gives me time to reflect on this past year.

Throughout our Masonic year, I attended the two Chapters I belong to, albeit on a slightly less regular basis than normal due to scheduling conflicts. Often accompanying other members of the Grand Line, I visited thirteen different Chapters in our Jurisdiction (several more than once) and was warmly received in all. During those visits I witnessed or participated in nine Installations and Investitures. I was present at the Annual General Meetings of both our Royal Arch Masonic Home Society and the Keystone of Life Society. I acted as scribe for the Executive and Financial Meetings of this Grand Chapter. It was also my pleasure to assist the Grand S/E with mailing list updates and other minutiae. I hope to be able to continue with that practice next year.

The downside of my year was attending the Memorial for M.E.C. Alastair M. Ross in January, followed by a Celebration of Life for the wife of Companion David Officer of Simon Fraser Chapter in April and the Interment of M.E.C. Tony Brown earlier this month. I intend to be at the Memorial for M.E.C. Brown at Kamloops Chapter in October.

In May my wife and I attended the Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta which coincided with the Grand Assembly of Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada. Both events were enlightening and served to reinforce the fellowship we have developed with that jurisdiction. Internationally, I enjoyed being present at "Affirmation Sunday", (the last Sunday in October), at the Peace Arch border crossing. It was a sunny day and meeting with our Washington State Companions was a pleasure as usual. In November, I enjoyed an evening with the Grand Lodges of BC & Yukon and the Grand Lodge of Washington at the annual "Hands Across the Border" event.

My goal this year as Grand Joshua was to observe, listen and learn in order to best prepare myself for my elevation to Grand Haggai in the coming year. I endeavored to reach out to as many brethren as possible to elicit their suggestions and concerns in order to make our fraternity stronger. It is a work in progress that I will carry forward into the coming year.

In conclusion, I thank you for the opportunity to have served you as your Grand Joshua and look forward to the ensuing term as Grand Second Principal, Haggai for 2019 – 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

R.E.C. John M. Laing

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

For the Year-ended 31st December 2019

To the Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon.

Companions All:

I now present the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018. The Accounts of your Grand Chapter have been reviewed by REC J. Laing and REC P. Guichon, to which they have signed the Reviewers Report and accepted the Financial Statements for the year 2018.

These Statements comprise the following reports:-

General Account.

1. Income & Expenditure Statements
2. Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

Bursary Account:-

1. Statement of Financial Position – Capital Fund
2. Income & Expenditure Statement – Capital & Annual Fund

Royal Arch Masonic Society of BC & Yukon Account:-

1. Statement of Financial Position

GENERAL ACCOUNT:- Income and Expenses

1. How did we do last year, compared to the 2018 planned results? Our Actual Net Operating Income was \$6,491.43 more than Plan, This is primarily due to Investment Income \$3,939.40 more than budgeted and Per Capita dues \$3,134.00 more than budgeted due to the raise of per capita from \$19 to \$23)

- 2 In reviewing the Expenditures for last year compared to Plan they were favorable by \$1,329.75 in total. The investment loss was greater than budgeted for as well as regalia expenses. We had a significant line item of \$467 for computer expenses which was the cost for computer toner for the Grand Scribe printing.

The Statement of Financial Position is quite different this year. Due to the formation of the Royal Arch Masonic Society of BC & Yukon (RAMSBCY) the investment assets of \$278,657.95 have been transferred from Grand Chapter to RAMSBCY. All regalia have now been fully depreciated, and we have moved the \$16,000 of regalia reserve from the investments to Grand Chapter. Our 2018 surplus is \$3,656.18 similar to last year. Please note in order to facilitate the reporting all investments were deemed to be transferred as of December 31, 2018.

BURSARY ACCOUNT:-

Regarding the Bursary Account we awarded \$ 6,300 in Bursaries last year, and had a \$ 4,754.91 net increase in our Capital Account, and our total Investment Holdings at year end 2018 increased to \$167,429 from \$162,673.

As with the Grand Chapter General account the investments of the Bursary funds of \$167,428.60 have been transferred to RAMSBCY.

With regard to Donations received for last year, I would like to thank all those Companions and Chapters who generously made donations.

Our Constitution allows us to transfer up to 80% of the interest earned in our Capital Fund to the Annual Fund and that sum and any donations to the Annual fund as well as outstanding amounts in the Annual Fund can be used for bursaries for the current year. The Capital Fund income for 2018 is \$4,754.91, and with the outstanding Annual Fund of \$9,909.64 means we can donate up to \$14,664.55.

Companions don't forget that if and when you send in a Donation to the Bursary Fund please specify whether it is applicable to the Capital or Annual Fund.

ROYAL ARCH MASONIC SOCIETY OF BC & YUKON ACCOUNT:-

On the Statement of Financial Position we see the transfers from the Grand Chapter General and Bursary Investments. As of December 31, 2018 the Equity of the Society stands at \$430,336.55.

2019 OUTLOOK and BUDGET:

General Account and Bursary Account.

Income is predicted to be \$939 lower than budgeted due to fewer per capita than budgeted.

For 2020 and 2021 I have adjusted expected per capita based on projected revenue on a \$24 per capita with budgeted total income of \$23,305 and \$22,465 respectively. On expenses 2019 is expected to be down significantly to \$19,706 being the current prediction. Budgeted expenses for 2020 and 2021 are \$22,830 respectively. With that we expect a profit of \$475 for 2020 and shortfall of \$365 for 2021. Next year we will review the interim budget for 2021 and adjust accordingly.

Bursary account budget is subject to donations which is why we encourage any companions to contribute to the education of our young students.

Royal Arch Masonic Society of BC & Yukon Account

We have been doing well over the last few years in the investments. With discussions with Odlum-Brown we have reduced somewhat our equities and increased fixed income to take profits from the last few years and take a defensive stand against possible market volatility. We do expect the Investment income to be fairly steady over the next 3 years. Expenses are shown as donations which we would like to keep steady at \$7,500.00 per year. We do have an option to transfer to Grand Chapter should it run in a deficit but only as a last resort. In all years we are aiming for a net positive income each year however due to the variability of the stock market performance, there is no guarantee but likely will do well.

Fraternally Submitted

REC. Tom Balabanov – Grand Treasurer

September 2019.

GRAND CHAPTER of ROYAL ARCH MASONS
British Columbia & Yukon
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT – “GENERAL FUND”
For the Year Ended December 31st 2018

INCOME	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2018	PLAN 2018	VARIANCE to Plan 2018
Capita Dues	19,688.00	22,134.00	19,000.00	3,134.00
Bank Interest	68.81	0.07	85.00	(84.93)
Investment Interest	10,459.57	11,939.40	8,000.00	3,939.40
Proceedings	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Certificates	230.00	400.00	200.00	200.00
Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Misc Income (note 2)	289.07	32.96	730.00	(697.04)
TOTAL INCOME	30,735.45	34,506.43	28,015.00	6,491.43
EXPENDITURE				
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
Grand “Z” – Travel-B.C.	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
Travel Yukon	700.00	700.00	700.00	-
Grand “E” Travel	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Honorarium	8,400.00	8,400.00	8,400.00	-
Grand Trea Honorarium	500.00	500.00	500.00	-
Travel	145.00	250.00	250.00	-
Rent	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	-
District 10 Travel	600.00	600.00	600.00	-
Jewels/Pins/Regalia	213.92	1655.85	500.00	(1,155.85)
Regalia Repairs	1,090.66	0.00	250.00	250.00
Regalia Replacement Fund	250.00	250.00	250.00	-
Printing – Proceedings	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
- General	49.97	0.00	200.00	200.00
Postage	345.37	177.62	500.00	322.38
Telephone	975.08	840.00	1,125.00	285.00
Stationery/Office Supplies	421.11	341.45	1,000.00	658.55
Cases – Regalia	0.00	0.00	180.00	180.00
Miscellaneous	244.86	66.84	300.00	233.16
computer supplies	0.00	467.06	0.00	(467.06)
Amortization	455.17	212.67	500.00	287.33
Convocation Costs Net	1,408.06	350.00	700.00	350.00
Donation	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	-
Move – Grand Scribe Office	350.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
Investment Loss(Profit)	(3,387.23)	1,338.76	1,000.00	(338.76)
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,111.47	30,850.25	32,180.00	1,329.75
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 3,623.98	\$ 3,656.18	\$ 4,165.00)	\$ 7,821.18

Report of Grand Scribe Ezra

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon.

Thank you Companions for your help and support again this year. A look at my report on the status of the Chapters shows that we are still in a declining situation. I have this year attempted to arrive at a true count of the numbers of Companions in our Jurisdiction. I started by trying to determine the amount of plural memberships there were.

This past year there was a request sent out to the Chapter Scribes to send a current copy of their membership list along with the Annual Returns to allow me to update our files. This proved a much more difficult task than I had envisioned. I discovered that there were over 300 Companions more in my data base than what was declared on the returns. With the help of those scribes who honoured my request, and I thank you very much for the effort, we cleared some of the names off of the list, and I was delighted to find 25 Companions I did not know about, who were not a part of my base for whatever reason. I am now down to less than 200 Companions to account for. I would ask again for a copy of your data base to be enclosed with your Annual Returns or just send me a copy when you are able,. I would like to know their status and info for our records, of the Companions. I hope that this will go a long way in straightening out all of our Data bases.

There are still a few Chapters who do not have me, the Grand Line or the Grand Historian on the e-mail list to receive the summonses. Companions, this is an easy way to keep us informed as to what is happening in the Chapters. A lack of summons also leads us to believe that these particular Chapters have not held any meetings for up to two years in some cases. Also by not including the Grand Historian to the mailing list, there will be no way of his knowing or recording the events of your Chapter for prosperity. Please add us to your list.

In Conclusion I must say how enthused I am in being a part of Grand Chapter in this our 100th anniversary, and am looking forward to being a part, however small, in our future as we start working towards our next Centennial.

Thank you once again for the privilege of once again being your Grand Scribe. Attached you will find my usual report of the Status of the Chapters.

I ask that this report be received.

Respectfully submitted
MEC Ken Overy - Grand Scribe Ezra

YEAR END REPORT 2018

Chapter	No.	Total. Mem								Comp. In Care Homes	Total Mem. Dec -17	Surplus/ Loss
		Jan - 17	Exhalt	Rest.	Affil.	Decd	Susp	Demit	Expel			
Columbia	1	72	4	0	0	3	4	4	0	1	65	No Report
Rossland	4	22	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	20	-\$233.00
R. Mount.,	7	25	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	24	\$104.37
Keystone	8	24	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	25	No Report
N. Island	10	69	4	1	2	5	0	1	0	4	70	No Report
Kaien	13	19	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	18	\$244.00
NV – KS	16	45	1	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	38	-\$1,074.51
Kelowna	17	31	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	29	-\$658.98
Kamloops	18	27	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	26	\$3,214.46
Chilliwack	19	26	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	24	-\$415.14
Penticton	22	25	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	24	\$575.35
Composite	24	39	3	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	36	-\$1,635.00
Tzouhalem	26	33	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	32	\$206.42
Granite	29	22	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	22	No Report
Joppa	31	72	6	0	0	1	3	2	0	2	72	\$151.14
Majuba	33	23	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	20	\$220.48
Semiahmoo	34	47	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	50	\$264.55
Cathedral	35	24	1	0	1	5	1	3	0	2	17	No Report
Ft.George	36	60	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	4	55	\$3,410.72
Kalum	37	34	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	31	-\$819.00
Yukon	38	26	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	23	-\$5.91
Georgian	39	22	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	19	\$180.65
S.Fraser	40	42	4	1	1	0	1	3	0	2	44	\$262.67
D. Creek	41	53	2	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	48	-\$1414.56
Caribou	43	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	-\$129.00
Pac.Rim	44	29	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	1	29	-\$98.87
<hr/>												
Totals		939	32	6	11	38	24	39	0	28	886	Loss of 50 Companions
Totals for 2017		1022	50	2	25	32	25	55	0	32	964	Loss of 58 Companions

Note that the numbers indicated with the boxes should be the same.
The number in blue is as of December 31, 2017 while the other boxed number
is as of January 01, 2018. A loss of 25 members overnight! ?

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon

Report of the Finance Committee

For the year 2018

TO THE COMPANIONS OF GRAND CHAPTER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Companions:

Your Finance Committee met several times this past year, in conjunction with the Board of General Purposes.

Your Grand Chapter and related Society are in sound fiscal position.

Your Grand Chapter Treasurer has summarized the financial position of your Grand Chapter in his report.

However, due to the declining membership, your Finance Committee is recommending that the Per Capita fees be raised by \$1.00 per person beginning January 1, 2020.

The membership summary has been included in your Grand Scribe's report.

The executive continues to review and monitor the annual budget and endeavours to operate Grand Chapter as economically as possible and still be effective in administering the Jurisdiction effectively.

Respectfully Submitted

REC Peter Guichon

Chairman, Finance Committee.

CONSTITUTION AND JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

Report of the Constitution and Jurisprudence Committee 2019

To the Most excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of
The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason of British Columbia and Yukon:

We are pleased to report that only a few minor problems were reported to the committee.
These were resolved with satisfaction to those concerned.

The Constitution and Jurisprudence Committee finds the six Constitutional Notices of Motion acceptable as to form and not objectionable as to their conflicting with Masonic custom and usage but offer no view as to the wisdom of the policies they advocate.

We thank MEC Ken Overy, Grand Scribe Ezra for his assistance.

Fraternally submitted,

MEC Jeremy Gomersall,

MEC David Grange,

MEC Leonard G. Pickell, Chairman

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS TO GRAND CHAPTER CONSTITUTION FOR 2019

1. Original Section

N/A

Proposed New Section.

17.8 Term of Appointment.

“The term of an appointed Grand Superintendent shall be two (2) years.”

Reason for Change.

To reduce the number of District Superintendents appointed and to allow more time for the aforesaid to fulfill their duties.

Other Sections Impacted.

None

Proposer. R.E.C. Peter Guichon. Semiahmoo Chapter #34

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

2 Original Section.

34.1 AT LEAST SIX TIMES: Each Chapter shall hold a regular convocation at least six times in every twelve months unless by dispensation. (Rev. 2014)

Proposed New Section.

34.1 AT LEAST FOUR TIMES: Each Chapter shall hold a regular convocation at least four times in every twelve months unless by dispensation.

Reason for Change.

Improve attendance

Other Sections impacted.

None.

Proposer. R.E.C. John Patterson. Pacific Rim Chapter #44

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

3.Original Section.

11.3.2.14.- Grand Organist

Proposed New Section:

11.3.2.14 – Grand Director of Music

Reason for Change:

There are very few Organists to be found in this Grand Jurisdiction. Any musician or person with the capability could run an electronic or other instrument and provide appropriate specific pieces or background music in a Grand Chapter as required.

Other Sections Impacted

The term “Grand Organist” would be changed to “Grand Director of Music” where mentioned in **15.1** and **20.21**

Proposer. R.E.C. John M. Laing. Simon Fraser Chapter #40

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

4 Original Section:

35.2 – Business – All regular business, including election of officers, may be conducted in either a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters or in a Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch. Investiture of Officers may be public.

Proposed New Section:

35.2 – Business – All regular business, including election of officers, may be conducted in either a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters or in a Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch.

Reason for Change:

There is no business or ritual adopted or authorized for use with the public in attendance. Installation and Investiture should not be addressed under this topic.

Other Sections Impacted:

None

Proposer. R.E.C. John M. Laing. Simon Fraser Chapter #40

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

5. Original Section:

37.2 Installation and Investiture of Officers :

Investiture of any Chapter officer, except the Principals and the Immediate Past First Principal, may be conducted in a tyled Royal Arch Chapter, a Lodge of Mark Master masons or Most Excellent Masters. Public investiture is permissible in a Royal Arch Chapter at refreshment with the exception of the Principals and the Past First Principal.

Proposed New Section:

37.2 Installation and Investiture of Officers :

Investiture of any Chapter officer, except the Principals and the Immediate Past First Principal, shall be conducted in a tyled Royal Arch Chapter, a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters. The Principals and the Past First Principal must be Invested and Installed by a Council of Installed Principals in a tyled Royal Arch Chapter.

Reason for Change:

Until a ceremony is adopted and authorized for the public Installation and Investiture of Officers, public participation should neither be condoned nor authorized.

Other Sections Impacted:

None

Proposer. R.E.C. John M. Laing. Simon Fraser Chapter #40

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

6. Original Section:

28.3 Officers :

The Officers of a Chapter consist of the First, Second and Third Principals, Immediate Past First Principal, Treasurer, Scribe Ezra, Scribe Nehemiah, three Sojourners, Masters of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Veils, Director of Ceremonies, Tyler, and other officers provided for by the bylaws of the Chapter, such as an **Organist** or Historian.

Proposed New Section:

28.3 Officers :

The Officers of a Chapter consist of the First, Second and Third Principals, Immediate Past First Principal, Treasurer, Scribe Ezra, Scribe Nehemiah, three Sojourners, Masters of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Veils, Director of Ceremonies, Tyler, and other officers provided for by the bylaws of the Chapter, such as **Director of Music** or Historian.

Reason for Change:

There are very few Organists to be found in this Grand Jurisdiction. Any musician or person with the capability could run an electronic device or other instrument and provide appropriate specific pieces or background music in a Chapter as required.

Other Sections Impacted:

The term or “Organist” would be changed to “Director of Music” where mentioned in 23.4.21 / 37.4.3

Proposer. R.E.C. John M. Laing. Simon Fraser Chapter #40

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

7. Original Section:

38.1 Officers : Required to open:

No Chapter is opened or held except by nine or more Royal Arch Masons, seven of whom must be members of the Chapter and one of whom must be a Principal. If the First Principal is absent and no Past First Principal is present then the Second Principal or in his absence the Third Principal may declare the Chapter open for the transaction of business other than conferring the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

Proposed New Section:

38.1 Required to Open: No Chapter is opened or held except by seven or more Royal Arch Masons, seven of whom must be members of the Chapter and one of whom must be a Principal. If the First Principal is absent and no Past First Principal is present then the Second Principal or in his absence the Third Principal may declare the Chapter open for the transaction of business other than conferring the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

Reason for Change:

Some Chapters due to declining membership are having difficulty getting a quorum to open a regular Chapter meeting. It is very disappointing to prepare a Chapter room and then be short one

or more members to form the present quorum of nine which has caused some Chapters to have to cancel increasing numbers of meetings.

Other Sections Impacted:

None that I am aware of.

Proposer. M.E.C. Thomas Oliver Mickey Yukon Chapter #38

Decision of C.& J. Committee. Acceptable as to form.

Recommendations:

The three recommendations proposed by the Executive regarding amalgamation of Districts are not Constitutional items but should be considered under Jurisprudence. This Committee finds that these three recommendations are acceptable as to form to be discussed but offer no view as to the wisdom of the policies they advocate.

The Executive has after some discussion concerning the decline in membership and the reduction in the number of Chapters in our Jurisdiction have arrived at the following recommendations.

- 1.** District No. 7 and District No. 2 in the Lower Mainland be combined under the designation of District No. 2.
- 2.** District No.1 and District No.11 on Vancouver Island be combined under the designation of District No.1.
- 3.** District No. 6 and District No. 10 in the North be combined under the designation of District No. 5.

With the diminishing number of Companions and the struggling of some of the Chapters themselves, it is getting increasing difficult to find willing and capable Companions to fill the Office of Superintendent. This will provide a broader base to choose from, and requires only one Grand Superintendent for each of the new Districts.

GRAND CHAPTER REPORT ON THE RAMHS

ROYAL ARCH MASONIC HOME SOCIETY REPORT Grand Convocation September 20th 2019

Companions,

My name is George Heggie, the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the R.A.M.H.S. I would like to present an update of our actives this year.

Funded, to a large extent, by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, it is still very dependent on the financial support of the Royal Arch Masons of BC & Yukon.

The Home is considered by many to be the flagship among all the care homes in BC and those of you who have never visited the Home are welcome to take advantage of a tour (our regular monthly tour is scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm – contact Reception at 604-437-7343 ext. 221 to confirm) and see for yourself how your money is being put to excellent use.

I would compliment the members of the Board of Directors; they are all dedicated, hard working Royal Arch Masons and, to those who have left the Board, we thank them for a job well done. If anyone is interested in becoming a Board Member, you must apply in writing to the Secretary of the Royal Arch Masonic Home Society using the RAMHS Application for Board Membership. The RAMHS Board Nominating Committee must receive your application no later than May 1st of the current year.

During the past year, the Board has completed the following projects:

Apartment:

Replacement of Apartment Garden Patios \$70,000.00 (12 complete).

Care Home: During the past year, the Board has approved funding to:

Nurse Stations \$50,000.00

Kitchen Duct replacement \$ 65,000.00 Complete

Kitchen Steamer \$ 30,000.00 Complete

Patio Furniture	\$ 10,000.00	(Explain)
Patio Planters	\$ 15,000.00	
Mechanical upgrades	\$78,000.00	
Mattress	\$36,000.00	(38)

Funding for the following items was approved by the Board for the comfort and safety of the residents.

I strongly urge all Chapters to participate and each Companion of those Chapters to become a *Life Member of the Society*. Personal donations, as well as bequests, are other ways of providing financial support.

Your support is imperative at our Annual General Meeting as the numbers attending reflect on the viability of the Society.

I will close by thanking every Companion who has donated this year, both in time and energy to this Charity. You have made a difference in another person's life through your support.

My request is that we continue to be the *Flagship of Senior Care* and charity of Royal Arch Masonry.

Respectfully submitted by

R.E.C. George Heggie
 (Secretary R.A.M.H.S.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PAST GRAND “Zs” REPORT

To the Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of BC and Yukon.

This is the report of the Grand First Principals Award committee for the greatest percentage increase in membership for 2018.

My Companions on reviewing the statistics supplied by Grand Scribe Ezra I find them very disappointing, once again we have had an overall loss of 53 companions in 2018 which is a loss of 5.6% and we now have a total membership of only 886 companions.

Last year we had only 32 brothers exalted while we saw a loss of 24 suspended and 39 demitted. Unfortunately 38 of our members passed to the Grand Lodge above.

Of the 26 Chapters 19 saw a loss of members while 3 remained static, and only 4 saw an increase. The Chapter that had the highest percentage increase in membership was **Simon Fraser #40 with an increase of 4.7%** for which they receive the Gran Past Z's award for 2019.

Companions while the numbers are disappointing for 2018 it's up to each Chapter to try and get new members to our Royal craft, and see if we can reverse those statistics, and grow our fraternity.

I request that this report be received.

M.E.C. A. Les Robinson

Sincerely submitted

M.E.C. Les Robinson - Chairman

M.E.C. Ken Overy

GRAND HISTORIAN'S REPORT

It remains a pleasure to be your Grand Historian, especially in this auspicious year of our Grand Chapter's 100th anniversary. My thanks goes to M. Ex. Comp. Les Robinson in re-appointing me to this position and to the Chapter Scribes E. who have seen fit to e-mail me their notices. Some even send minutes. Unfortunately, there are still Chapters which have never communicated with me and others that don't pass along my address when they elect a new Scribe E.

The Founding of Grand Chapter

Royal Arch Masonry was around British Columbia more than 50 years before our Grand Chapter was formed. In the Colonial days, Masonic lodges were warranted by the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. Thus the first Chapter in our jurisdiction was under Scotland. Columbia Chapter No 120 held its first meeting under charter in Victoria on February 10, 1867; both English and Scottish Masons were members. There was one other Scottish Chapter—Keystone No 234 in Nanaimo, constituted in 1891. By this time, the Grand Lodge of B.C. had been in existence for 20 years.

There was a great deal of excitement when B.C. joined Confederation in 1871 but the new province stagnated until the Canadian Pacific Railway construction began. Towns sprung up along the rail route and a flood of Easterners arrived on the West Coast when the line pushed through to Port Moody, then Vancouver. Among them were Royal Arch Masons who belonged to Chapters under the Grand Chapter of Canada, headquartered in Ontario. Because there was no independent Grand Chapter west of the Lakehead, they gathered in cities and towns across Western Canada and requested charters from Ontario. Vancouver No 98 first met at the end of 1888, the city being less than two years old but with two very quickly growing lodges.

A mining boom was now getting underway in the Kootenays and this helped spread Royal Arch Masonry further. Canada warranted the following Chapters: Kootenay No 120, Kaslo (1898); Rossland No 122, Rossland (1899), Nelson No 123, Nelson (1900); Westminster No 124, New Westminster (1900), Rocky Mountain No 125, Fort Steele (1900); Revelstoke No 128, Revelstoke (1901); Crow's Nest No. 137, Fernie (1904); Cyrus No 142, Cumberland (1904); Klondike No 154, Dawson, Y.T. (1906); Okanagan No 157, Vernon (1906); Boundary No 174, Grand Forks (1910); Kaien No 178, Prince Rupert (1910); Camosun No 182, Victoria (1911); Pacific No 190, Vancouver (1913); North Vancouver No 191, North Vancouver (1913) and Kelowna No 206, Kelowna (1916).

In addition, Keystone gave up its Scottish charter and affiliated with Canada as No 127 in 1901.

With the “head office” so far away from British Columbia, and with Freemasons in the province having their own Grand Lodge since 1871, it’s natural that some Royal Arch Masons felt it would be in the best interests of Capitular Masonry to be governed a little closer to home. M. Ex. Comp. Harry Holgate Watson recalled there was talk starting around 1910 and a meeting was held in conjunction with a Grand Lodge communication in Victoria around 1914 but decided the time was not right. Meanwhile, some Alberta Chapters arbitrarily declared their independence from Ontario and organised their own Grand Chapter in 1914. The Grand Chapter of Canada—and this included all its Chapters in B.C.—refused to recognise the new body and differences weren’t settled until 1917.

When World War One ended in 1918 and returning soldiers started knocking on the doors of the Craft for admission, talk resumed again of forming a Grand Chapter of B.C. Now was a time of growth for our Lodges and some foresaw similar fortunes for Royal Arch Masonry. For a number of years, the North Vancouver and Vancouver Chapters held a joint installation, and it was in conjunction with the ceremony on January 14, 1919 that M. Ex. Comp. Watson was appointed the chairman of a committee to see what could and should be done.

There may not have been a better choice to lead the steps to what became our Grand Chapter. M. Ex. Comp. Watson had been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1900 and later served as Grand Treasurer for decades. He had been a tireless Grand Superintendent in 1897 for the Grand Chapter of Canada, which named him an Honorary Past Grand Z. in 1909. In 1919 he was on the Grand Chapter Executive Committee. During his Superintendency, he consulted informally with Columbia and Keystone Chapters about joining Canada. They decided to remain as they were, and he advised the then-Grand Z. to respect that decision and avoid getting involved. When Keystone became moribund for a few years and tried to reorganise, it was M. Ex. Comp. Watson who guided them into the Canadian fold, even coming over to Nanaimo from Vancouver to assist them in perfecting an unfamiliar ritual.

M.E. Comp. Watson sent a circular to all 17 Canadian Chapters in B.C. pointing out the fees and dues being sent to Ontario, the distance from Central Canada that hampered growth of the Royal Arch in the province and the fact another jurisdiction (Alberta) separated the two. Snails generally move faster than Masonry, but in this case the answers came very, very quickly. A petition for separation to form an independent Grand Chapter was submitted on April 26, 1919, with 12 Chapters signing; Cyrus, Rocky Mountain and Boundary had not responded by the deadline (but were added), Klondike took no action despite its Companions’ desire to join, Crow’s Nest had gone dormant, while Nelson favoured a Grand Chapter of B.C. and Alberta.

Our First Grand Chapter meeting was on June 18, 1919 in Vancouver, the day before the Grand Lodge communication was to begin there. 22 Royal Arch Masons were present representing 12 Chapters in

person or by proxy. First on the order of business was to elect a Chairman and Secretary. M. Ex. Comp. Watson was chosen as the former and R. Ex. Comp. William Burns of Vancouver No 98, who had been handling correspondence on the separation since January, was picked as the latter. A telegram was then read from the Mother Grand Chapter giving its unanimous approval to the birth of the new Grand Body. R. Ex. Comp. Frank Wheeler of North Vancouver then moved, and Ex. Comp. William Coates Taylor of Pacific seconded, a motion that a Grand Chapter be formed. It was carried unanimously. Next, officers were elected and appointed, then installed, with M. Ex. Comp. Watson becoming Grand Z.; R. Ex. Comp. Daniel Hazen Morrison of Kaien, Grand H.; R. Ex. Comp. Charles Frances Sherwin of Kootenay, Grand J. and R. Ex. Comp. John William Prescott of Pacific as Grand Scribe E. Interestingly, no Grand Historian was appointed, though Ex. Comp. the Rev. Samuel Fea was later considered Grand Registrar (as the office was then called) from the outset.

Nelson Chapter was not represented but had apparently changed its mind about the new Grand Chapter; the first Superintendent of District No 4 was R. Ex. Comp. John Henry Lemmon of that Chapter. Columbia No 120 was not present either, but it must have been understood that it would be joining upon approval of the Grand Chapter of Scotland; it's mentioned as No 1 in the list of Chapters in the 1919 Proceedings. M. Ex. Comp. Watson sent an extremely courteous and diplomatic letter to Columbia, which agreed to join under terms including retaining its Scottish ritual, regalia and honours, and Past Grand Z. rank being conferred on three of its very respected Past Zs., Angus McKeown (a Past Grand Master), William Trickey and Edward E. Leason. Another concession of sorts was made—the following year, the Grand H. and J. stayed in their positions and M. Ex. Comp. Edward Burness Paul of Columbia (Grand Master in 1910) was installed as Grand Z. The other two eventually became Grand First Principals.

Thus our Grand Chapter was off to a fine start and soon applications for dispensations for new Chapters came in.

M. Ex. Comp. Watson passed away in 1949, M. Ex. Comp. Morrison in 1935, M. Ex. Comp. Sherwin in 1930 and R. Ex. Comp. Prescott (the only Secretary ever fired by the Master of Lodge Southern Cross) in 1937.

Joppa 80th Anniversary

Joppa No 31 celebrated its 80th birthday with a social following a short convocation on June 17, 2019. The Chapter was born in the days of Masonic expansion in the Marpole area. Emerald No 134 had split off from Mt. Lebanon No 72 in 1948 and now Royal Arch Masons who lived in the area looked to form their own Chapter. After some preliminary discussions, an organisational meeting was held on November 7, 1948 at the Marpole Oddfellows Hall to request a dispensation to form a new Chapter. It was quickly granted and the first meeting U.D. was held the following January 3rd. R. Ex. Comp. John Gordon Campbell Hogg was the first Z., Ex. Comp. Don Peters (who died in 1952) was H. and Ex.

Comp. John Rowland was J.; he was the first W.M. of Emerald Lodge. The Chapter was Constituted on August 1, 1949 in the extremely hot Oddfellows Hall. Of note is the first D.C., Ex. Comp. Frank Morgan, was the only member who conferred the Past Master Degree in Joppa until it was abolished.

Joppa struggled in the 1980s until a push from Grand Chapter resulted in the Chapter amalgamating with Pacific No 15 and Mt. Horeb No 32, with the formal ceremony on February 19, 1990. Pacific supplied the senior officers, Mt. Horeb provided the junior officers, Joppa contributed a meeting place and M. Ex. Comp. Stephen Redgrave went out in a successful search for petitioners. It should be noted three members of Pacific were at the anniversary meeting—R. Ex. Comps. George Heggie, Kambiz Forouhar and Comp. Helio da Costa (the two remaining members of Mt. Horeb—myself and Comp. Jack Barr—did not attend).

An Historical Quirk

To complete this 15th report, let me note that this past year I also served as Grand Historian of Grand Lodge. The Masonic year 2018-19 marks the only time the same person has been Grand Historian of both bodies.

Fraternally,

V. Ex. Comp. Jim Bennie, Grand Historian

KEYSTONE OF LIFE FOUNDATION

REPORT FOR 2018 GRAND CONVOCATION

COVERING PERIOD August 2017 to August 2018

The Keystone of Life Foundation (KLF) is a registered non-profit organization, and a charity supported by the Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and the Yukon.

The KLF was founded in 1975 as a means to provide small value grants to hospitals throughout the region for much needed primary care equipment. KLF actively seeks out smaller hospitals in the region where needs for such grants are greater.

In the past 12 months, KLF has been pleased to deliver and /or approve over \$37,000 of grants. These grants include:

September 2017	Interior Health	\$10,471
September 2017	Castlegar & District	\$ 5,292
May 2018	Bella Coola Hospital	\$10,960
May 2018	Surrey Memorial Hospital	\$11,084

The KLF acquires its funds for grant awards from donations , membership dues, and bequests together with income from invested assets. Although to date almost \$600K of grants have been awarded, downturns in both investment returns and particularly donations / members dues over the past few years continue to restrict the Foundation’s ability to award regular grants .

Our “operating funds”, ie the money we have available for distribution as grants, is still largely derived from the generous donations and membership dues from our Fraternity.

KLF does not seek to build large monetary assets, which benefits only investment companies and monetary markets in the short term, but attempts to disburse grants as frequently and broadly as prudently feasible, so that the residents of this jurisdiction may benefit as soon as possible from the acquisition of the essential hospital equipment that these grants make possible.

Donations from some individual Masons, Chapters and other Masonic organisations do continue to be received, and for those we are very grateful. However we are encouraging the message of KLF's needs to be spread by **all Grand Chapter officers** whilst visiting, and in their own Chapters, to try to resurrect the same level of enthusiasm and financial support your KLF charity enjoyed a decade ago. **The KLF Board particularly encourages gifting through planned regular giving, bequests and non-monetary donations such as insurance policy and securities transfers.** Any Companion or friend of the Foundation can contact any Board member of KLF to set up the simple process of making such donations. Tax receipts are always available against donations from individuals.

KLF is registered with "CanadaHelps", a national website database of all Canadian charities that allows potential donors to make an on-line donation using a credit card.

Work is still ongoing to encourage more individual membership from RA Masons, Craft Masons, and their families throughout the region. Our aim is for each and every Royal Arch Mason throughout the jurisdiction to become a member of KLF!

The Foundation thanks all donors and members for their continuing support of this Royal Arch Charity.

The KLF Board is committed to increase awareness of the Foundation amongst all Chapters and Lodges in this jurisdiction and to increase membership in the coming year.

The Keystone of Life Foundation encourages Chapters, through their members, to locate hospitals in their geographic area (particularly those smaller establishments with smaller budgets), who may like to apply for a KLF grant and to put them in touch with a KLF Director.

Wherever possible, representatives from Chapters local to the grantee hospital are invited to be present at formal grant cheque presentations so that Royal Arch Masonry is more broadly promoted as a charitable institution and receives significant press publicity as a result.

The KLF Board continues to work hard to raise money for this important charitable cause, and to distribute grants to needy hospitals whilst keeping the Foundation's operating costs to an absolute minimum.

KLF recognizes that there are many worthy causes deserving of a Freemason's charitable support and that we all have limited resources to donate to these causes, but we

earnestly encourage all Royal Arch, and indeed Craft Masons, to consider this Foundation a prime object for your charity.

Thank you for your support!

Peter Edwards

ROYAL ARCH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia & Yukon

NO REPORT RECEIVED**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of BC & Yukon****Regalia Report 2019**

As reported in prior years it is difficult maintaining track and condition of inventory items when spread throughout the Province with various companions.

The following items are on Regalia Inventory:

Grand 1 st Principal apron	New	1
Past Grand 1 st Principal Collar & Jewel		2
Grand 2nd Principal apron	Poor	1
Grand 3 rd Principal apron	Good	1
	Old-poor condition	3
Grand Officer collars	New	2
Grand Superintendent of Districts	New	1
	Fair	2
	Poor	3
Grand Chaplain	Poor	1
Grand Sojourners Collar	Poor	4
	Fair	1
	Good	2
Grand Tricolor Sash	New	2
	Good	
	Fair	1
Apron cases vinyl [foldover type]	Good	5
	Fair	2
Apron case Leather	New	1
Companions sash(need new braid}	Poor	6

We will be monitoring the regalia at Grand Convocation in September and replacing any collars or aprons we feel are in bad or poor condition.

Submitted by REC Neil Marsh Chairman

Report of Grand Superintendents 2018-2019

2019 Summary Report on GDS

Summary Grand District Superintendents Reports

Committee REC Ian Thompson

REC James R Elton

REC Roy Friis

To the Grand Chapter of B.C. and Yukon and Companions present, we your committee have reviewed the GDS Reports that were sent in by your District Superintendents.

A Summary of their observations includes some familiar issues such as low membership and poor attendance at some meetings of chapters.

In some Chapters, the superintendents report that newer members seem to be reluctant to take on some of the various offices and they wind up having senior members taking on those roles and lectures. Most of those senior officers don't want to be seen as trying to "run" the chapter. Healthy progression of chapter officers would be desired & newer members should be a part of all ceremonies & lectures.

Memorization of degree work seems to be improving at some chapters.

Scribe Ezra and Treasurers duties are mostly properly carried out. Scribe Ezra's and Treasurers should have their books & financial statements ready to be seen by Superintendents on their official visits.

Finances mostly seem to be sound. There are some chapters that are operating at a deficit and of course, that cannot continue. The Executive Council advise the membership that they running a deficit & investigate to find the basic cause and "take steps" toward a balanced budget.

The District Superintendents should use the reporting forms available on the GC website and fill in all the boxes requested and give your honest comments on the health of the chapter.

Superintendents also report that some Chapter meetings are too often conducting business in the MMM degree even if there are no MMM's present; business should be conducted in the HRA degree.

In closing, membership and attendance continues to be an issue in the Royal Arch and Masonry in general. We need to involve everyone to stimulate their interest and participation in Chapter affairs.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Your committee

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia & Yukon

Bursary Committee Report to the 2019 Annual Convocation

The Bursary Committee make educational financial awards to close relatives of Companions of Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia & Yukon.

The ability of the Bursary Committee to make awards, depends upon the generosity of individual Companions and Chapters.

The charities operated under the umbrella of Grand Chapter namely the Royal Arch Masonic Home Society, the Keystone of Life Foundation and the Royal Arch Charitable Foundation are fine and deserving charities which warrant our support. However not being a Registered Charity, donors to the Bursary Fund do not benefit from receiving a tax deductible receipt. For this reason individuals may chose to donate to the three previously mentioned charities rather than the Bursary Fund. The Bursary Fund, our only charity which directly benefits Companions, is therefore suited to donations from individual Chapters, since they are not able to benefit from charitable receipts.

To date, in the 2018/2019 year, donations have been received from the following Chapters – NVKS Chapter #16, Kelowna Chapter #17, Tzouhalem Chapter # 26 and Simon Fraser #40. We thank these Chapters for their generosity. Semiahmoo Chapter # 34 deserve a special mention

for their usual substantial annual donation over many years. Last year we were also very fortunate in again also receiving a substantial donation from Joppa Chapter #31. In 2018/19 the total donations received from individuals and Chapters plus interest was \$4,026.

This year a total of 7 applications were received which was down from 9 received last year. Of the 7 applications received, one was rejected as there was no Royal Arch connection.

The Royal Arch Companion relatives of this year's grant beneficiaries come from;- Langley, Nanaimo, Penticton & West Vancouver.

Considering the funds available for distribution and the needs of the applicants, the committee awarded 5 grants of \$1,200 and one grant of \$1,500, for a total of \$7,500. The difference between the funds raised for distribution in the current year (\$4,026) and the grants distributed (\$7,500) - \$3,200 came from interest earned by the Bursary Endowment Fund plus \$274 from funds remaining in the Annual Fund.

During the period 2009-2019 the Bursary Fund has distributed educational grants totalling \$57,600.

In 2019 six grants have been given compared to seven in the previous year. Due to the number of grants requested and the funds available for distribution, the average grant this year was able to be increased to \$1,250 up from \$1,071 in 2018 and \$875 in 2017. These increases were due to an increase in donations however we must not be complacent in our fund-raising efforts.

We encourage all Chapters and Companions to consider contributing to this worthwhile cause. A contribution from every Chapter each year will greatly help us in our ability to assist deserving students.

We also acknowledge and thank the financial support given by the Grand Chapter through their contribution from the General Fund.

We ask that all Scribe Ezras inform the companions of their Chapters of the availability of these bursary funds. The application form, conditions and submission deadline are available on the Grand Chapter website.

We wish to thank the committee members for the time and efforts given to this committee.

Respectfully submitted:

REC John Young – Chairman
REC Peter Guichon
VEC Alphonse Quenneville

REC Tom Balabanov
REC Andrew Law
EC Cole Harvey

30th August 2019

Report of Information Technology Committee 2019

Companions:

This will be my last report as chairman of the IT Committee and web master. It has been an enjoyable experience and one which, I hope, contributed to the growth and vibrancy of our Grand Chapter.

The web site began in a basic format in 2000 when MEC David D.S. Anderson's enthusiasm for the project directed the domain name for British Columbia and Yukon be registered. Since that time every Grand First Principal has been supportive of the web site and it's objectives. The site is primarily an information site for the members of this Grand Jurisdiction but also offers general information about Royal Arch Masonry for the general public. Some years ago the web site came under the direction of Grand Scribe Ezra as it became an important vehicle for distributing information to the constituent chapters.

A web site constantly evolves in appearance as technology changes and new web browsing hardware becomes available. Devices such as the I Pad were not available until 2010. Now there is hardly anyone who does not have immediate access to the World Wide Web using cellular technology, their tablets, I Phones and I Pads.

The Grand First Principal, M.E.C. Robinson says the Executive Council have a plan to take the web site to a more modern appearance that will be compatible with the latest mobile devices. A startup cost will be incurred to convert the web site to ensure compatibility and ease of maintenance but in the future should prove worth the cost.

It is exciting to hear the web site that provided simple information in the early days has evolved into an integral part of Grand Scribe Ezra's office routine and keeping the Companions of the Grand Jurisdiction informed in a cost efficient and timely manner.

As web master, I had the opportunity to meet many of the Companions of the jurisdiction or receive their e-mails. Thank you for your many kind remarks over the past 19 or 20 years.

It was my pleasure to serve this Grand Chapter.

Jim Whyte
IT Committee.

REPORT OF THE MERIT AWARD COMMITTEE

No names were put forward this year from the Companions.

NIL REPORT SUBMITTED

REPORT OF EDUCATION AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of B.C. & Yukon
Ad-Hoc Committee on Education & Advancement.**

NO REPORT RECEIVED

BIOGRAPHY OF CANDIDATES FOR GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION BARRY EDWARD CHILTON:

Barry was born, the city of Newcastle upon Tyne the County of Northumberland United Kingdom on December 27 1944 twin.

Raised in the village of Lemington 3 miles West of Newcastle.

Schooled at, Sugley primary school, and Walbottle secondary school.

Represented the school, in the games of cricket and football (soccer).

Barry started work on January 2, 1960, starting his apprenticeship in refrigeration and air-conditioning, also attending Rutherford College, and Gateshead technical college.

June 1965 he registered with the British Merchant Navy Officers pool.

On 21 July 1965 he signed on as an Engineer Officer with Ellerman and Bucknell.

The company returned him to England from Montréal 14 June 1966 for his twin sister's wedding (he had the honour of giving the bride away).

Barry decided to change shipping company, and was interviewed by P and O passenger lines.

On the 14th June 1967, he joined and sailed on SS Himalaya for two years.

For the next four years Barry joined and sailed on SS Orsova, SS Chusan, TES Canberra, SS Oronsay, SS Iberia.

Barry by this time had accumulated eight months leave.

Taking a trip to the West Coast of Canada Vancouver, where he was informed, on inquiry that he could take qualifying exams to work in Canada.

Upon acquiring the qualification certificate, and on being made available 20 jobs, he returned to England.

Barry returned to Canada on the 30 November 1973 as a landed immigrant, and started work in the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry.

In 1974 Barry received the qualification certificate of gas fitter, and the qualification certificate of electrical 205.

In 1978 Barry took up the post of teaching at PVI (BCIT) full time days, and a part-time posting to VCC night time.

For a change of pace Barry owned and operated his own HVAC company, from 1984 to 1990.

Progressing on, in 1994 took the University course in real estate, and in 1997 obtained his broker endorsement.

Barry lists his volunteer or unpaid work as follows.

In 1982 became president of the refrigeration workers union 516.

From 1980 to 1984 member of the provincial engineering safety Council.

In 1983 became president of the lower mainland hunters Council.

In 1989 volunteered as an advocate for seniors and welfare recipients working with the ministry of social services.

In 2004 was elected as leader of the British Columbia Conservative Party.

Retired in 2010, but worked part-time in real estate.

Member of Army Navy Air Force Legion # 284 (20+)

Member of Royal Canadian Legion # 291 (20+)

Barry started his journey in Freemasonry on 22 October 2008, when he was initiated into Alliance Lodge number 193, passed on 28th of January 2009, and raised on the 25 March 2009.

He was Worshipful Master of Alliance Lodge April 2012 to April 2015.

In 2016/2017 District Deputy Grand Master, District 14.

In 2011 joined Scottish Rite and is a 32nd degree, at present holding **the position** of TPGM in the Lodge of perfection.

On 11 January 2010 joined Royal Arch Masonry, at the present Grand Superintendant District 7

On 20 October 2012 joined Cryptic Rite Masonry, and at present immediate past T I M.

On 19 November 2012 joined Royal Ark mariner and at present hold the position of IP Noah.

On 19th of March 2015 joined Knights Templar and at present hold the position of Constable

On 3 May 2014 joined Allied Masonic Degrees, and at present hold the position of JW.

Is a member of York Rite College.

Is a member of SRIA.

Is a member of St. Thomas of Acon.

Is a member of Hermetic Chapter of Spiritual Knight.

Barry has been married to Catherine Toshima for 37 years.

He has one son age 53

Second son age 50

Third son premature.

One daughter age 45 who lives in Newfoundland.

His cousin David and nephew David Junior are both Masons in Segedunum Lodge, Wallsend, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Very Excellent Companion Dan McCoy:

Personal:

Very Excellent Companion McCoy was born in 1955 at Galt, Ontario and raised on a dairy farm not far away. The necessity of learning to maintain farm equipment formed a lifelong love of tinkering in general and motorcycles in particular, which led to trading his way through a series of exceptionally "oddball" machines, culminating with a Harley Tour-Glide which he has taken from Coast to Coast.

Seeing that dairy farming was not the life for him, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces for a career that was to last over 35 years. Asked by the recruiter about his hobbies, and responding “motorcycles and hunting,” he was told that they didn’t have a lot of motorcycles, but boy did they have guns! Thus started a career which has taken him coast to coast and around much of the globe highlighted by a yearlong posting to the Former Yugoslavia.

Meeting his wife Joyce while posted to Alberta, they took off on an adventure that has spanned many places and varying commitments, including a series of staff jobs responsible for such things as Explosives Storage and Disposal, Personnel and Careers, Range Maintenance and Safety Management. These were interspersed with field jobs, as a Maintenance Operations Officer, an Air Liaison Officer and as the Chief of a Tactical Helicopter Squadron. He managed to finish his career in the best position imaginable, in the Directorate of Flight Safety, a job that took him around the world as a guest speaker on safety policies, issues.

Dan took up SCUBA diving in the late 1970s, a hobby which culminated in certification as a Master Instructor/Instructor Trainer, as well as a partnership in a shop in Alberta. Not long into that process, Joyce took up diving in self defence. While diving has provided many memories and taken them many places, he has retired from the industry, although they do still manage the occasional dive trip to somewhere warm.

Masonic

Initiated into Astra Lodge 179, Alberta in March of 1994, he became its Worshipful Master in 1999. While maintaining membership at Astra, there followed a series of affiliations and demits, tracking his career through a series of Grand Lodges and Chapters. A highlight of his Masonic career was attending Lodge Kleovoulos on the Island of Rhodes, Greece, while on a 10 day leave from the former Yugoslavia.

VEC McCoy was exalted in Cold Lake Chapter No. 39, Alberta in 1996, and Installed as First Principal in 2000. He later became Scribe Ezra of Coronation Chapter 27, and Secretary of District 2, GR of Quebec. Upon moving to BC, he affiliated with Cyrus Chapter No. 10, which shortly thereafter amalgamated with Discovery Chapter No. 45, where he was later elected First Principal of the newly warranted North Island Chapter No. 10, followed by an appointment as Grand Pursuivant in 2016.

VEC McCoy is active with several concordant bodies, having served various offices in Cryptic Rite, Allied Masonic Degrees, Red Cross of Constantine and most recently with Knights Templar. VEC McCoy has had an exceptional career serving and travelling around the globe, forming a strong attachment to Freemasonry and developing a broad spectrum of Masonic skills along the way and looks forward to the chance to serve further.

