

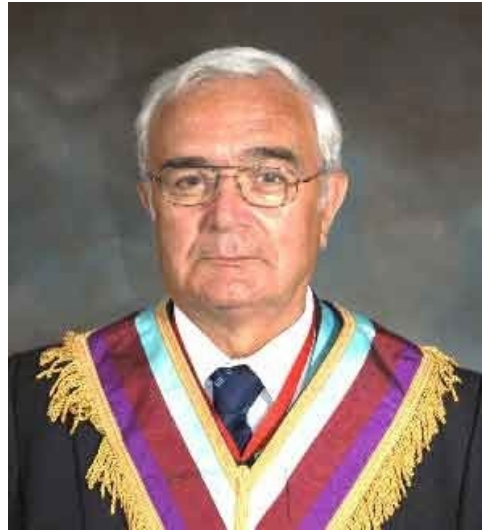
# THE KEYSTONE



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

## Grand First Principal's Message

Volume 13, Issue 2



### Companions,

As I reflect back upon my year as the Grand First Principal of BC/Yukon, I am amazed at how quickly the time passed, and I cannot help but recall the overwhelming hospitality that was shown to my wife and I as we travelled throughout our Grand Jurisdiction, and she joins with me in expressing thanks to you all.

Outside the lower mainland, I was struck by the dogged determination of the Companions to keep their Chapters alive and viable---some of these Companions travel great distances under adverse weather conditions to attend Chapter.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Grand Officers, and in particular the Grand District Superintendents who were outstanding in the performance of their duties,

for their support this year .

From my observations over the past year, I can only conclude that Royal Arch Masonry is alive and flourishing in BC & Yukon. However, we cannot relax our efforts. The continued success of our order will require the ongoing efforts of us all.

To the incoming Grand First Principal, REC Ken Overy, and his slate of Officers, I extend my best wishes for your year, and I pledge to you my continuing support.

**Yours in the Faith,**

**Most Excellent Companion**

**Tony Brown**

**Grand First Principal**

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## *Grand Chaplain's Message: What Is Important*



Companions,

You are probably familiar with the story of the professor who demonstrated the point to his students that important things in our lives must be worked on first rather than the small trivial things. To illustrate this, he took a large glass jar and filled it with golf balls, and then asked the question: was the jar full? Many said yes. He asked the same question after adding small ball bearings. Students began to understand his question more fully. Some answered ye; some no. He further added sand and filled the jar to the brim, and again he asked the question whether the jar was full. Skeptically, students now were not sure. Some did agree that the jar was not full. At this stage, the jar seemed to be unable to accept anything more. The professor then proceeded to add cans of beer until the jar was full to the brim. His point was now understood clearly by the class: every space was now full with material. Trying to fill the jar with all that material if it were added to the jar in reverse would have been impossible. The golf balls had to be added first if they were to fit.

The golf balls represent the most important things in our lives, which have to be attended to

first. Attempting to add golf balls after filling the jar with beer, then sand, then small ball bearings would have been impossible without spilling the contents.

Our lives are bombarded with so many jobs, tasks, chores, and expectations that it appears almost impossible to determine what should be done first and what should be left for later. Unless we determine first what is important in our lives, and we have them clearly identified, we can find our time being eaten away by inconsequential work on small things that, ultimately, are not satisfying. The solution is first to decide what is important in our lives and to ensure that our highest priorities are given to them.

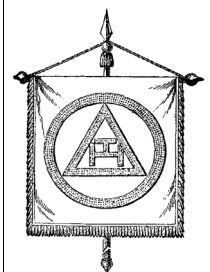
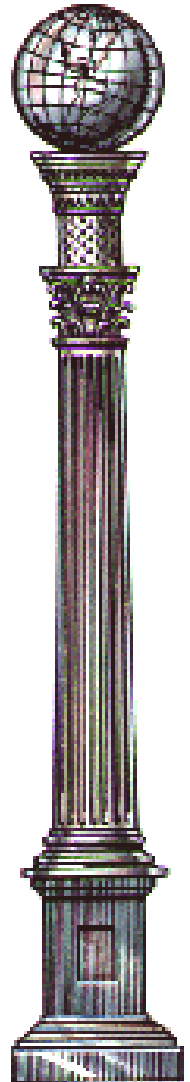
You have probably attended many fraternal meetings when you shake your head at the time and energy expended on small matters when the bigger matters seem to have been ignored.

Richard Koch is a British author, speaker, and investor, and a former management consultant and entrepreneur. He has written over twenty books on business and ideas, including *The 80/20 Principle*, a book about how to apply the Pareto principle in management and life. For those unfamiliar with that principle it simply states that in anything, a few (20%) jobs, tasks, chores or expectations our are vital, and many (80%) are trivial. Some 20% of work consumes 80% of the time. Koch wrote the following:

*Few people take objectives really seriously. They put average effort into too many things, rather than superior thought and effort into a few important things. People who achieve the most are selective as well as determined.*

Perhaps his quote should be a reminder that our Royal Arch Chapters should spend time determining the important things first, before proceeding too far along. We have no real mission statement for Grand Chapter; that is, a statement that tells the main purpose of our existence. Sometimes it is worth sitting down and chatting about that purpose. Such a statement should guide our actions, set down our goals, and hence determine the paths we should follow. Just once a year, we should just sit and talk about the state of our Masonic lives. We need that time to determine what are the important things in our lives, so that we focus on them and them alone, allowing what time we have left for the not so important things. The true message of our work, the importance of our members to the family of the Chapter, their needs being met, their development of their learning, - whatever you consider the important things - are what we should always focus on. And more important is that our families are not squeezed out from our decision about the important things in our lives.

Comp. Stephen Godfrey  
Grand Chaplain



*Panama Canal Cruise with MEC Tony Brown**28 September - 18 October, 2013**Holland America Line aboard ms Zuiderdam**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](http://grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca)**Grand Chapter Convocation****Best Western Rainbow Inn, 43971 Industrial Way, Chilliwack****Friday, September 20**

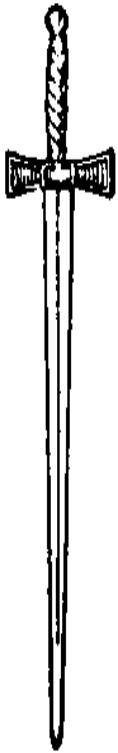
<b>8:00-12:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>1:30-4:30</b>	<b>OHP and RA Foundation AGM</b>
<b>7:15-9:15</b>	<b>Informal Opening</b>

**Saturday, September 21**

<b>7:00-9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>8:30-10:30</b>	<b>Formal Opening</b>
<b>1:30-4:00</b>	<b>Grand Chapter</b>
<b>7:00-10:00</b>	<b>Banquet</b>

Details on line at : [grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca](http://grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca)

## *Remembering REC Basil Roland Hobbs*



You will, most all of you, be aware by now that the whole Masonic Family lost a great friend and leader on 21 August 2013, after a very brief battle with cancer.

REC Basil Roland Hobbs was born on 19 October 1946 in Montreal, Quebec and grew up in Vancouver, BC. He was the grandson of distinguished aviator and Freemason, Basil Deacon Hobbs (see Keystone Vol. 3, Issue 3), for whom he was named. Basil followed his grandfather both as a pilot and a Freemason.

A lawyer active in Rotary, Basil was intrigued by the fact that many of his fellow Rotarians were Freemasons. After he asked the inevitable question, he was initiated, passed and raised in Nanaimo Lodge No. 110.

Like Rotary International, Freemasonry suited Basil well, and

he it. Basil went on to not only join many Concordant Bodies in Freemasonry, but to become a leader in many of them. And his favourite of all was the Holy Royal Arch, of which he became Grand First Principal in the 2003-2004 Masonic Year.

As Grand First Principal, Basil's theme for the year was "Facing the Challenge," and face it he did, encouraging Companions throughout BC and Yukon to become more involved with the communities of which they are all a part.

The Royal Arch Cruise through the Hawaiian Islands and Fanning Island was one of the highlights of the year, and Basil had been looking forward to the 2014 Royal Arch Cruise to the Caribbean Islands before he was so sadly and suddenly struck down.



Basil had a rich and fulfilling life, enjoying many accolades and positions of distinction as well as the joys and ability to travel that come with success. But he treasured one thing above all others, and that is your friendship. Thank you to all of you for helping to make Basil's life the wonderful experience that it was.

- VEC John McIntosh

### *All Things Beautiful*



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Editor  
V.E.C. John McIntosh

Grand Scribe Ezra  
R.E.C. Les Robinson

5561 Turner Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6B3

Phone : (250) 729-0190

