

CENTENNIAL HISTORY  
OF  
GRANITE LODGE NO. 446 GRC

FORT FRANCES,  
ONTARIO CANADA

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September 1998

## Early History

The Fort Frances area has been home to human habitation for about 9,500 years following the last ice age and the receding of glacial Lake Agassiz 2000 years previously. They were nomadic hunter/gatherers operating in a similar climate to today and living off very similar game and plants to now. First settlements date to 300 BC and clay pottery, burial mounds, stone and native copper tools of the Laurel culture can still be found near the Manitou and Long Sault rapids of the Rainy River. The Blackduck culture followed this and just about the time of first European contact, the Ojibway nation displaced the Assiniboines of this area.

The first European to come through was Pierre-Jacques Payen de Noyan in 1688 on his way west exploring trade routes. The area was regularly traveled by fur traders by 1720, and the first white habitation, Fort St. Pierre was built in 1731 and named after Pierre LaVerendrye the explorer. The fort was built at Pither's Point, a traditional gathering place for the 5,000 natives living in the area and served as a fur trade post for the French for some time, but was eventually abandoned. In 1793 the Northwest Company built a fort below the Koochiching Falls at the present Legion West End Park. At the same time, the Hudson's Bay Company constructed their first fort further west in the Riverview Drive area. By the early 1820's the two rival trading firms had merged under the Hudson's Bay Co. name, with a new fort being built right below the falls near the present site of the paper mill office. This post was a major stopping site on the Fort Garry to Fort William trade route. The name was changed to Fort Frances in 1830 in honour of Frances Ramsay Simpson, wife of the Hudson's Bay Governor who passed through first in 1825.

In 1857 Simon Dawson and Henry Hind explored the area and recommended the upgrading of the old voyageur route as a major artery to the west, which it became when the 1869 Riel rebellion brought the Gen. Garnet Wolseley expedition through on its way to put down the revolt. The facilities here were improved and a military garrison established. As a result, roads were built, portages improved and a canal and lock begun around the falls. Steamboat traffic on the Rainy River started and later also was initiated on Rainy Lake. The canal project was stopped in 1884 when the Canadian Pacific Railway reached Rat Portage (Kenora).

Settlement really started after the signing of Treaty No. 3 with the local natives in 1873, whereby they gave up vast tracts of land in return for Reserve territories and other continuing rights. Lumbering flourished from the 1880's to 1900 with many sawmills established on the river and lake to cut the virgin pine forests. Farming became feasible with the survey of 20 townships in 1876, with settlers getting 160 free acres to clear and till with an option to purchase a further 80 acres. To supplement boat traffic down the river, the colonization road was built in 1885. The boundary dispute with Manitoba being settled in 1889, Fort Frances officially became part of Ontario at that time.

The Hudson's Bay Co. fort, which had burned and been rebuilt in 1874, was turned into a retail store by the company, but when it burned in 1903 it was not rebuilt as there were many other merchants operating here in a central business district on Front Street by that time. The first municipality, Alberton had been established in 1891 and included Roddick, Crozier, McIrvine and Fort Frances. It had 146 residents at its founding. In 1898 McIrvine and Fort

Frances broke away to form their own municipality, with the Town being incorporated April 11, 1903. The first elementary school was established in 1887 in the Alberton Hotel with Mrs. Edward Scott as teacher, but it soon moved to the Little Red School House on Mowat Avenue (behind the present CIBC). In 1898 crowding necessitated the construction of the Scott Street school (present Museum) which served also as a combined Elementary/High School from 1907 up to Robert Moore school being built in 1914. The first newspaper was the Alberton Star, published Tuesdays by W.B. Little from early days. It was supplanted in 1897 when J. A. Osborne moved the Rainy Lake Herald from the US side to town, renaming it the Fort Frances Times. In 1898 the first library was created as a branch of the "Mechanic's Institute" an English idea for self-improvement of the working classes, with W.J. Clarke as the first librarian. Such was the situation in Fort Frances at the end of the century just as the first Masonic Lodge was being established.

## Formation

Granite Lodge was formed, under dispensation from Bro. Elias T. Malone, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario on July 27, 1898. It was founded, as are all Lodges of Freemasons, on the three grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. That is, a love and concern for all mankind, assistance to those in need, and adhering to the principles of honesty and morality. This dispensation was issued to Granite's founders during the annual communication of Grand Lodge, which was always held in the summer. The first official meeting of the new Lodge was held on Thursday, August 25 with all ten founding members in attendance.

But the organization of what became Granite Lodge had been going on for more than a year prior to this. The first documentary evidence of Masonry in Fort Frances is a typed page in the Lodge archives titled "Mr. Keating's List". It is an extract from a meeting held on Saturday September 25, 1897 at the Orange Lodge hall located on the south side of Church St. in the 200 block (currently site of the civic parking lot) across from the present Legion Hall. Bro. Walter J. Keating acted as secretary to this meeting of Master Masons where a list of Masons resident within a radius of 40 miles of Fort Frances was compiled from the knowledge of all those present. The list comprised 35 names, ten of whom, before the next year was out, would be the founding members of Granite Lodge. The meeting resolved to collect a subscription of \$15. from the Masons willing to support the foundation of the Lodge. It also authorized three men to act as collectors – Francis W. Stuart for the Seine River area, Walter J. Keating for the Rainy River end, and Dan Mosher for Fort Frances. Of the eight present, six subscribed to the venture and all paid some cash toward it totaling \$65. All six of these would be later listed on the Charter as founders.

Obviously, this minute was not the first time the brethren had assembled, as the name of the prospective Lodge was already chosen. We do not know who picked the name Granite or how it was agreed on, but we must assume that the inspiration for the Lodge name came from that ancient rock of the Canadian Shield which starts to the north and east of town and which was then playing such a large part in the development of the area, as Mine Centre was just then a booming gold field.

From that meeting onwards, the name of the man at the head of the pages of minutes and who sat in the chairman's seat and who would become "the father of Granite Lodge" was Bro. Charles J. Hollands. We have four more existing examples of minutes, all handwritten on scraps of paper, some in pencil, still in the archives. These documents were saved for the Lodge by Bro. Carl Schubring, first historian of Granite. They are dated April 28 (held at the Presbyterian Church, southeast corner of Church and Mowat), May 5, May 12 and August 2, 1898. These minutes show that the effort to, form the Lodge proceeded quickly. By the April meeting, premises had already been secured by Bro. Hollands in the Williams Block at the corner of Front and Church streets and that it had already been partially prepared for use. The completion of the work was duly authorized. They also decided on their first set of officers at this meeting – Charles J. Hollands as Worshipful Master, George Webster as Senior Warden, Fred W. Coates as Junior Warden, Dan Mosher as Senior Deacon, Alex Davidson as Junior Deacon, Francis W. Stuart as Chaplain and Edward G. Scott as Director of Ceremonies. There was no Past Master among the group and it testifies to the influence of Bro. Hollands that he should be elected Master over all others among the founders. Only Alex Davidson would not be among the founders when the Lodge was constituted, for what reason we do not know for sure, but possibly because his mother lodge was in the USA, Clayton 296 of New York.

At the subsequent meeting, Magnus Begg was elected secretary pro tem and a committee was struck to finish purchasing "all the necessary supplies for the furnishing and working of the Lodge". This meeting was the first where the minutes are headed Granite Lodge rather than just as a meeting of Masons. It also is the first indication that the meeting was opened and closed ritually in due form in the Masonic fashion. At the next meeting a week later, the furniture had already been ordered, an initiation fee of \$30. , an affiliation fee of \$5. and annual dues of \$5. were set, indicating that men were anxious to join the new Lodge. A meeting was set for a week later, but these minutes have been lost. The last set of loose minutes is dated August 2, 1898 and deals only with the alteration of the Lodge room and gives authority to borrow \$50. to meet current expenses, one of which would have been the cost of the dispensation from Grand Lodge which had been issued just days before. What is missing in these minutes are essential ingredients that we know took place early in 1898, such as a letter to Pequonga Lodge No. 414 in Rat Portage (Kenora) to seek their support for a new Lodge in Fort Frances. This was a necessary step in the process that had to be done, and evidence exists in Kenora that this support was sought and granted. Also an official petition to the Grand Lodge for a dispensation to meet had to have gone in along with the necessary fee. This petition obviously was sent to Hamilton in a timely manner since the dispensation was issued under seal of the Grand Lodge as previously mentioned at its annual communication on July 27. This dispensation, signed by the Grand Master, Elias Talbot Malone and the Grand Secretary J.J. Mason named the following as Founding Officers and members:

Charles J. Hollands	Worshipful Master
George Webster	Senior Warden
Fred W. Coates	Junior Warden
Daniel Mosher	
Gordon W. Johnston	PM
Jesse Eldridge	
Magnus Begg	

The dispensation authorized Granite Lodge to meet on the Thursday on or before the full moon of every month and to “Enter Pass and Raise Free Masons”. This dispensation would be in effect until such time as a Warrant was issued by Grand Lodge, which would normally be at the next Grand Lodge communication if the Lodge had been able to prove it could operate properly in that year. With the granting of that dispensation, Granite Lodge UD began its official existence under the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Curiously, this dispensation still hangs on the wall of the Lodge room, although it was supposed to have been surrendered when the official Warrant was sent in 1899. This is unusual to say the least, possibly unique in Ontario.

## Establishment

There were ten founding members on the 1899 Warrant of Constitution as follows: Charles J. Hollands, age 42, member of Pequonga 414 since 1891. He was an English immigrant born in London who had fought in the Riel Rebellion of 1885. He came to Fort Frances in 1889 as the Crown Land Agent. He owned an insurance business located on the river bank at Couchiching Falls and was the Police Magistrate until his death. George Webster, age 49 was the government license inspector for the hotels and bars and came from Warton Ont. where he belonged to Cedar Lodge 396. Fred W. Coates, age 32 was the captain of one of the large steam boats that plied Rainy Lake on the Mine Centre run to that thriving mining community 40 miles to the east of town. He belonged to Pequonga 414 in Rat Portage. Edward G. Scott, age 48 was one of the first Europeans to come to Fort Frances. Born in the Orkney Islands, he came to Canada with the Hudson’s Bay Co. at age 17 serving in Norway House, Fort Garry and the Northwest Angle before settling in town in 1871. He served as chief blacksmith during canal construction in 1874, later building the first hotel (the Alberton on Front St.) and after selling it, the Scott House (which became the Fort Frances Hotel). After the fire of 1905 destroyed his business, he became a farmer. He donated the land for the first church in town, the Presbyterian at Church and Mowat. He belonged to Pequonga Lodge.

Robert and Daniel Mosher were father and son aged 66 and 33. Robert was a mariner on Rainy Lake and Daniel was a ship-builder. They both were members of Pequonga Lodge. Robert Mosher was also the first of the Founders to die, of pneumonia in 1904. Francis W. Stuart was a farmer and also a member of Cedar Lodge 396 in Warton. Gordon W. Johnston was the only Past Master amongst the founders, and that is about all we know about him. Magnus Begg was the Indian Agent and a member of Bow River Lodge No. 1 in Calgary. He had come to Fort Frances several years previously from Saskatchewan where he had been Indian Agent at Duck Lake where the first shots of the Riel Rebellion took place. Jesse Eldridge, aged 59 from Walsingham Lodge 174 was an engineer who had come to town to assist with the building of the Fort Frances canal.

These ten men represented a cross-section of Fort Frances society in 1898. The first two initiates to the Lodge were Herb Williams, noted merchant and the Lodge’s landlord and William Floyd a cabinet maker, furniture store owner and undertaker. Their admission to Masonry was accomplished in the time-honoured way, that is through them asking an existing member about joining. No solicitation for members is allowed.

A potential applicant has to submit his petition to the Lodge, signed by two members as his sponsors. His name is read out at a regular meeting and an investigating committee is appointed to interview him and his wife if he has one. Meanwhile the name of the petitioner is published in the summons calling the next meeting so all members have a chance to vote. If the committee reports favourably, a secret ballot is taken, with two negative votes required to reject a petition. If he passes the ballot then he can be initiated, so the whole process takes at least two months to play out. Before he is initiated, a candidate must declare to the Lodge that he believes in God and Holy scripture, and that good is rewarded and bad punished by the Supreme Being. The application process and these questions are what we call Landmarks of Masonry, that is things that cannot be altered if the organization is to be deemed pure ancient Freemasonry.

## Early Years

The Lodge grew quickly in its early years and became the preferred organization for the leading citizens of the town. The only other fraternity at this time was the Orange Order which was the first group to be established in town. The first two mayors of Fort Frances were members---W. J. Keating the local Master of Titles and J. A. Osborne, the founder of the Fort Frances Times. In all 14 of the 23 mayors have been members of Granite up to Allan Avis, the owner of West End Motors, who served the town from 1972 to 1980. Fifteen of the first 27 Councillors were also Masons. The early Town Clerks were all members including J.W. Walker who held his office from 1911 until his death in 1959. Three schools in town (Walker, Huffman and McKenzie) are also named after members as are a total of 24 present and former streets in town. Six Members of Provincial Parliament have also been Masons serving a total of over 50 of the 90 years since Rainy River riding was established. These were William Preston, James A. Mathieu for 15 years, William Elliot, William R. Croome for 10 years, Mel Newman for six and Bill Noden for 12 years. They include both Liberal and Conservative members. Granite very early on started turning down applicants, a situation that persisted for many years. In the beginning it only took one black ball to reject an applicant, and it took many years and several attempts to change the bylaws to increase this to two by 1914. The first two applicants rejected were Louis Christie the "Beef King", a pioneer town butcher and cattle breeder and William Bishop, a hotel-keeper, both in November 1898. Christie eventually was initiated in 1899 and Bishop in 1900. Bishop was in fact rejected twice before being successful. There was a feeling then that a man should make several attempts to join if he was serious, and he was required to wait a year between applications. This kept good men out, who on being rejected refused to apply again and face the humiliation. Twice, four applicants were black balled in one night (1945 and 1956). Four of the eight eventually were accepted. The record year for rejections was 1929, with 9 being black balled. These included the Mayor of the town and one future Master of the Lodge and one a future Life Member. The record for most times rejected was one individual connected to the hotel trade who was black balled six times between 1948 and 1955. He later joined a Lodge in another town.

Benevolence and Charity also started early, with the first committee appointed in December 1899. The Lodge voted \$25. to start the account and the first charity was the Sick Childrens' Hospital in Toronto, which was started by an Ontario Grand Master. This became a regular

annual recipient of Granite's charity for many years.. Early on the Lodge also purchased a Masonic burial plot at the Fort Frances cemetery for the use of indigent Masons, whether members or not. This plot is 30 by 40 feet in size and there are presently four graves in it, all with headstones flush to the ground with metal inlaid name, dates and a square and compasses. All those buried there were members in far away Lodges, or were without living relatives in Fort Frances at their time of death, with burial costs covered by Granite.

Our first Masonic library was also established in 1899 when on Installation night Dec. 27, Bro. Hollands donated the two volumes of J.R. Robertson's "History of Freemasonry" to the Lodge.

The site of Williams' store and the first location of Granite (April 1898 to spring 1901), was on the southwest corner of Front and Church, just where the street to the toll booth at the international bridge is now located. The new Lodge room was dedicated to Freemasonry by the District Deputy Stanley Beaver of Port Arthur with 28 Masons present. He also presented the Grand Lodge Warrant (costing \$10.) to Granite at this time, and the first Masonic banquet was held in his honour. This building burned down when the entire business district at Front Street (now Central Ave. in the area where the tourist information is located) went up in flames in 1905. The Lodge had already moved to Scott St. where the whole downtown was relocated. This second Lodge room was on the third floor of the new High School (currently the museum) when this area was surplus to the School Board's needs from spring 1901 to December 1905.

Granite moved upstairs at Fraleigh's drug store at 244 Scott, and in November 1907 moved next door at 242 Scott above Wells Hardware (where CFOB radio is now located). In those days there were no street lights, so the Lodge put up its own light over the upstairs doorway to help members see better than just moonlight. The Lodge was to remain a "Moon Lodge" for its first five years, that is the regular meeting was held on the Tuesday on or before the full moon of each month. After the town put in lighting, the meetings were changed in 1906 to the first Tuesday of the month which they still are. This room was used until 1921, when the present Masonic Building was completed.

In 1904, Granite assisted a new Lodge to be established at Rainy River, called Ionic Lodge No. 461 in much the same manner as Granite had started. This meant that the Masons of the west end no longer had to travel by boat all the way down the Rainy River to attend Lodge, but it also meant Granite losing a handful of its members. The first installation of officers for Ionic as held jointly with Granite on Dec. 27 1904 (St. John Evangelist Day) with Granite's Past Masters carrying out the ritual.

In the early days of Masonry, the Lodge could conduct Masonic trials to discipline its members who had transgressed the rules of the Lodge. Granite has two such trials, with the Master acting as judge and each side represented by a lawyer or other member of his choice. The members acted as jury after hearing all evidence. The first trial in September 1902 was for un-masonic conduct with the actual offense not specified in the minutes. In any case the brother in question offered his apology to the members and promised never to repeat the offense, and charges were then dropped. The other trial, in August 1904 had a different result.

The brother was charged with three offenses: gross intoxication on a certain date, being addicted to strong drink in general and using scandalous and insulting language to the Master in public. This trial ran its course, and the offender was found guilty on counts 1 and 3 and suspended indefinitely from the Lodge. He never had this suspension lifted. The language he used was outlined in full in the minutes and was indeed scandalous, insulting and threatening. These trials are no longer held in constituent Lodges, but any charges are handled by a committee of Grand Lodge.

The first Granite member to be elevated to Grand Lodge rank was of course our first Master, Chas. J. Hollands. After serving as Master in 1898, 1899 and 1900, in 1906 he was elected District Deputy Grand Master for Algoma District No. 17 which covered the area from the Lakehead to the Manitoba border and contained 8 Lodges (Shuniah 287, Fort William 415 and Royal 453 at the Lakehead, Pequonga 414, Keewatin 417 and Lake of the Woods 445 in the Kenora area and Granite 446 in Fort Frances and Ionic 461 in Rainy River). When Hollands made his official visits to these Lodges in June 1907, he attended Granite on Tuesday June 12, took the steam boat to Rainy for Wednesday, then by boat to Rat Portage for the three Lodges there on three consecutive nights, before taking an overnight train to Fort William for the three Lodge meetings there. This also included presiding as acting Grand Master at the dedication of the Fort William Masonic Temple as an additional duty. He then returned by the same route by train and boat to Fort Frances, accomplishing all this in fourteen days, surely a record of speed and Masonic endurance for his time. When Holland visited Granite as DDGM he was presented with a purse full of gold in the value of \$110. by the members as a mark of their esteem.

As mentioned earlier, Hollands had participated in putting down the last Riel rebellion of 1885. Another Granite member, who joined in 1906 when he moved to town was also a participant in that great adventure. William Bleasdel Cameron had been a young Hudson's Bay Co. clerk in 1885, serving in Frog Lake which is in northwest Saskatchewan. This was the site of the opening of that war, when Chief Big Bear, Riel's Cree ally massacred all the white men at the trading post, except Cameron. He had disguised himself as a woman, and was taken off by Big Bear as a captive while he ran from the Canadian army. Cameron and the women were able to escape from the Indians and flee to safety at Battleford. Big Bear was eventually caught, tried and executed for his misdeeds. Cameron meanwhile became the editor of the Rainy Lake Herald here (predecessor of the Times) and eventually left to become editor of "Field and Stream" magazine in New York. He wrote a book called "Blood Red the Sun" about his adventures in the Riel war.

Starting in about 1907, it was decided to hang a picture of each Master on the wall so that a permanent record of all the men who had served in that office was kept. This was probably precipitated by the tragic death of lawyer Henry Sissons who was Master of the Lodge and First Principal of Alberton Chapter that year, and who was drowned in Ranier rapids while on his way up to the lake to settle a labour dispute at his sawmill. They had to go back a couple of years and procure pictures of the first Masters, some of them touched up, but since then it has been tradition that a Past Master does not get his jewel presented by the Lodge until he has a suitable photo framed and mounted on the wall. Alberton Chapter, which came into being in 1906 has followed the same pattern, so both side walls of the Lodge room show a bit of the history of our Lodge in pictures.

The year 1909 saw an interesting episode, when J.C. Chamberlain, a lawyer was elected Master of Granite. He had joined in 1904, and as he lived in International Falls had required the permission of the nearest American Lodge, Vermilion Lodge 197 of Tower as well as dispensation from the Minnesota and Ontario Grand Masters to be initiated in Fort Frances. Just as he was about to be installed as Master, he was prevented from taking the chair by our Grand Lodge because he lived outside the jurisdiction. The news was delivered by telegram at the last minute, so Chas. Hollands ended up serving one more term as Worshipful Master as a last minute fill in. Also in 1909 the first visit by a sitting Grand Master took place, when Bro. Douglas F. Macwatt attended to dedicate the Granite Lodge room above Wells Hardware.

Although a Masonic Ball was held as early as December 1898 (with a profit of \$7.20) and approval to hold a Masonic "At Home" had first been given by the Lodge in 1901, the first recorded social activity took place in 1912 when the Lodge was treated to a series of vocal duets and trios as well as some enlightening Masonic talks such as John P. Wright on "My Early Years in Masonry" in Fort Qu'appelle Sask. where he was Indian Agent. "At Homes" were held for many years, although not every year, with the 21st being in 1958 as the Lodge's 60th anniversary celebration and the 31st in 1968. They died out in the 1970s as interest waned in them, but many Lodges in the district still hold annual "Ladies Nights" which are much the same. Granite now only puts on events such as the Grand Master's reception every 10 years when we have a sitting DDGM or for other social occasions. The last one was in 1994 for "Carl Schubring Night" to honour one of our most dedicated members in his old age.

## War Years and Beyond

The Great War had an impact on Granite as at least 16 of the young members signed up to fight in that great enterprise. The Lodge had to a couple of times compress the waiting time between degrees to accommodate those being shipped out. In August 1915 brothers Campbell and Elston Graham along with Fred Bethune had their second and third degrees conferred on consecutive nights; in February 1918 Gilbert Gillon was passed and raised on one night, the same thing happening to Geoffrey Hollands in August of that year. Grand Lodge issued many dispensations for this type of thing in support of the war effort. Three Granite brethren died in World War 1: Percy Wright was the first to die at age 29 in December 1916 "from injuries received in a flying accident" according to the records; Louis Tucker, 38 died at Passchendaele in November 1917 and is buried at Ypres Canadian War Memorial; and Frank Floyd of the Army Air Corps died aged 30 in November 1918. Following the war, Granite honoured these three by having photos of them in uniform mounted in special Masonic frames and hung in the Lodge. Only two of these pictures still exist, and they hang in the coat room today.

Following the War, Lodge membership increased dramatically as the men who returned from Europe desired to continue the fraternal fellowship that had been developed during that great contest. Additionally the work of the Masonic Order overseas had favourably impressed many men, with many food and tobacco packages having been sent over to the fighters and the Lodge-sponsored network of canteens in the rest areas behind the front. Membership in Granite rocketed from 100 in 1918 to 204 ten years later. The record year for degree work

performed was in 1921 with 21 initiations, 14 passings and 15 raisings being performed. Many of these men however did not last as members as the depression of the 1930's caused financial hardship, and membership dropped to 164 by 1934. This pattern was repeated across the Masonic world.

The year 1921 was a big one for Granite, when it finally got its own permanent home. The Lodge had been active off and on for years looking for permanent quarters. Early on, in 1899 they had purchased a 40 by 75 foot lot on the riverbank below the falls. After getting prices on a building which was about \$2,000., the idea was dropped and the lot sold. In 1905 the corner lots at Scott and Mowat were bought (present day CIBC bank and Pharmasave) but these were leased out for a few years until they were sold in 1907.

The Scott and Portage property was bought after several years of problems with Wells Hardware over leasehold improvements. It cost \$75. per frontage foot to buy the land (\$4,500.) and the John East Co. was contracted to build it for cost plus \$2,000., which turned out to be \$45,000. It was designed by the members to have two large rental spaces on the main floor that could be divided into four front and back. The upstairs was half Lodge premises and half offices for rent. These rental premises have always allowed the building to make operating income and keep the dues affordable for the Lodge. The cornerstone was laid on April 23, 1921 at the northeast corner of the building in a ceremony that Bro. Schubring witnessed as a boy as he cut through the back alley on his way to a Saturday matinee at the local movie theatre.

The building was finished enough by September 6 to have the first meeting held in it. Much of the furnishings and regalia came directly from England to outfit the new premises. It was not until April 4, 1922 that the Lodge was dedicated by our own DDGM Bro. J.W. Walker assisted by Bro. Hollands. There were 66 Granite members in attendance and 48 visitors from as far away as Fort William, and the event was written up in the Times. The total 114 present is still the record number of Masons ever to sit in our Lodge. Later in 1922, a record number of Granite members, 69, turned out for a Past Masters night, along with 39 visitors for a total of 108 Masons.

In the early 1900's the establishment of a Lodge at Emo had been discussed at Granite, and a request from some Emo brethren for support was received in 1907, but it was tabled indefinitely at that time. By the 1920's this idea was again advanced, and Granite indicated its approval in 1924 and assisting and sponsoring the brethren in their petition to Grand Lodge. In September 1926, Manitou Lodge 631 was dedicated, with Bro. Hollands assisting DDGM Greene in the ceremony.

Early in 1927 the first Master of the Lodge, Bro. Hollands died of heart problems complicated by influenza, and a huge Masonic funeral was held for him, marking the esteem in which the "father of Granite Lodge" was held. All four of his living sons, attended the funeral. He had had five sons who had become Masons over the years in Granite, but one had died at a young age just the previous year. His body was brought back from Rainy Lake by a team of searchers from the Lodge. Later on, in June 1931, a suitable memorial window dedicated to Granite's first Master by the brethren was unveiled by the Grand Master in St.

John's Anglican Church, where Hollands had been a long-time member. The Lodge has in its museum a couple of mementos of its first Master, including his Past Master's jewel, the first given out by the Lodge on Dec. 27, 1900 and his DDGM regalia from 1906 all of which he wore in Lodge right up to the month before his death.

On April 19, 1927 a 23-year old clerk at the Bank of Commerce was initiated into Granite, by the name of Walter C. McDonald. This brother joined the fraternity because of the example provided to him of the quality of men who were Masons by his bank manager. He only stayed in Fort Frances for a year, being called home to Roland Manitoba by the illness of his father, and the necessity to take over the family business. This brother ended up demitting two years later on joining Shiloh Lodge in his home town, but he never forgot his mother Lodge. He later became a District Deputy Grand Master and was Grand Master of Manitoba in 1948. He also rose to the top of the Scottish Rite of Masonry for all of Canada. He returned to Fort Frances to get his 50 year award in 1977 and was visited by a delegation from here in Roland when he passed 70 years a Mason in 1997. He reached 95 years old in 1998, and was honoured by getting his 50 years a Past Grand Master award at the Manitoba Grand Lodge session. This record of longevity and high office is unequalled, and he is the only man initiated in Granite Lodge to serve as a Grand Master of any jurisdiction.

## Depression and War

The year 1931 also saw the creation of Western District when the eight Lodges west of the Lakehead were separated from their eastern counterparts who kept the name Algoma District. Since that time, it has been the custom of each Lodge to nominate a District Deputy Grand Master in turn rather than have a free-for-all election yearly that might see some of the smaller Lodges not able to elect one of their own. So Granite's next DDGM came in 1934 when Fletcher H. Huffman represented us at Grand Lodge. In 1942 A.H. Watson had that honour. As the district expanded to 10 Lodges prior to our next turn Granite became eligible every tenth year from 1950 onwards, and has never failed to have a candidate ready.

Membership in the Lodge bottomed out in 1934 in the depths of the depression, but it recovered from there until the start of the second World War. The thirties and forties saw the heyday of the specialty degree team, where a group of members with a certain affinity would occupy the chairs in a degree put on for one of their own group. For example, a Court House degree team in 1931, a Kiwanis team in 1938, Legion war veterans in 1940, Jaycees in 1946 and the O&M paper mill degree team of 1948. In 1933, a second Worshipful Master-elect was prevented by Grand Lodge from being installed, as he had moved away because of his job. This time, the sitting Master, Bro. Binning stayed in the chair for a second consecutive term to get the Lodge out of its jam, getting installed in February rather than the customary December date.

Granite's District Deputy Grand Master in 1942 was Bro. A.H. "Granddad" Watson who was a very old man of 81 at the time. He had been a founder of the firm Watson and Lloyd, which was the successor to the old Herb Williams general store. Watson & Lloyd turned their business into the first tourist outfitting service in the district in the early years of the century. They were located next to the current museum, which now as Brockie's jewelers is owned by

a descendant of the Lloyds. At Bro. Watson's official visit to Granite that year, he was accompanied by his son-in-law, W.T. Cameron who had been initiated in Granite and had later moved to Sioux Lookout, where he became their District Deputy. The two of them participated in the initiation of H.R. Cameron, their grandson and son. Also present was F.H. Warner who had been Master of the Lodge in 1911 when Watson and Cameron were both initiated into Granite.

World War 2 also saw many Granite brethren serve overseas with the Canadian forces. Two members died in that war, Bro. Lawrence V. Morran in 1941 in England, and Keith C. Ferguson who had been Master in 1937, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in Holland right near the end of the hostilities in March 1945. Again the Lodge was active in sending parcels of tobacco and other necessities overseas, and participated in the "Food Parcels for Britain" campaign that went on long after the war ended, as England was still suffering under shortages and rationing until the end of the 1940's. Grand Lodge did its part during the war by commuting the dues of all brethren on active service overseas, returns to that effect being filed by the Lodge every six months. Membership in Granite again rose dramatically after the war, just as it had after the Great War eventually reaching its all time peak in 1960 at 256. Since then, a gradual but steady decline has brought us to about 130 members, but it has stabilized at about this number over the past few years.

In the period 1946 to 1948 a crisis with regard to the Masonic building played itself out. The original investors in the building had been the brethren of the Lodge. Over the years these men had died or sold their shares, and ownership had become concentrated in the hands of several shareholders and trustees for estates who formed the board of directors. An offer was made on the building by an outside party, and several shareholders were interested in selling. A piece of land in the east end for a new building was offered by Bro. Rusty Green to replace the Scott St. location. The sale and move became quite controversial and a committee was appointed to defend the interests of the members, with Bro. Ed Wilkins leading the effort. After much negotiating, a scheme was realized whereby individual investors could sell or donate their shares to a new body controlled by the three Orders viz. Granite Lodge, Alberton Chapter and Ledger Preceptory. Each organization came up with funds or appealed to its members for donations. At the end of the day in 1954 the three Orders obtained all the shares and still hold them. Granite Lodge is the largest shareholder (598 of 954 shares) and controls over half the votes for seats on the Board. Each of three appoints one representative, with the one from Granite generally becoming Secretary Treasurer of the corporation, and a further four directors are elected by the proxy-holders every January. These seven directors are responsible for the operation of the building and the reps report back to their respective Lodges from time to time between annual meetings.

In 1947 the first Granite member (although not our initiate) was presented with his 50 years a Mason pin. Bro. Franklin H. Warner was initiated in Kent Lodge 274 in Blenheim Ontario in 1947, and was very proud to be the first Granite recipient. He had served as Master of the Lodge in 1911 and was later a Grand Steward of Grand Lodge. On his death that same year, his family presented Granite with his 50 year jewel and also his apron which hangs framed in our museum. This apron was passed down through his family and is white lamb-skin with light blue silk ribbon trim, which is not unusual. The unique thing about it is that it is hand

decorated, with Masonic symbols drawn in black India ink on the body of the apron. From the symbols and from research into its style, it appears to have come from the US (New Hampshire was the family home) and to have been made in the mid to late 1700's. These aprons were very popular just before the American Revolution and were either drawn in ink or embroidered in silk thread. It is undoubtedly the oldest and most valuable item in our museum collection and a suitable reminder of a faithful and long-serving brother. The first Granite initiate to get his fifty year jewel was Benjamin Gwatkins, a boarding house keeper from Mine Centre, initiated in March 1900 who died in 1952.

November 13, 1948 saw the celebration of the Lodge's 50th anniversary with a gala dinner held at the Rainy Lake Hotel ballroom. Bert Henry was the Master that year and he welcomed the brethren, including a Past Grand Master of Manitoba, Bro. P.T. Pilkey. Rev. Bro. A.J. Sinclair, the Presbyterian minister, did the invocation. The dinner was sugar-cured ham with all the trimmings. The usual toasts were given – the King and the Craft by Bro. Wellington Smith, the Toast to Grand Lodge by Bro. J.W. Walker with the response by the Grand Master, and the Toast to the visitors by Ed Wilkins, with the reply by H.S. Cade of Keewatin. It can be assumed from this toast list that no wives were invited to the big event. The program showed that there were ten members of Granite that year who had been members for over 40 years. The officers for both 1948 and 1898 were listed as well as the names of the Founders of the Lodge.

## Years of Growth

In 1950 it was again Granite's turn to nominate a District Deputy Grand Master, and Bro. Stanley Marsh had the honour of that position. He came from a long line of Masons with his father and grandfather (as well as his sons) being Granite members. They owned the Coca-Cola bottling works in town for many years up to the 1980's.

In 1952 the only operative stone mason who was a member of Granite, George Henry, died. He had created and donated the first set of ashlar for the lodge to use after his initiation in 1913. These are now in the museum, having been replaced by a set donated by Wellington Smith, Past Grand Senior Warden in 1970 in memory of his father-in-law, John East, who built the Masonic building in 1921. A family degree also happened that year when Van and Bob Green were initiated together in the presence of father Rusty Green and grandfather Henry Nelson.

Granite again served as Mother to a new daughter Lodge in 1955, when seven of our members, along with several other Masons formed Atikokan Lodge 668. This was our third daughter Lodge, following Ionic 461 in Rainy River (1904) and Manitou 631 in Emo (1926). One of these founders, William H. Davies had long been Granite's unofficial rep. in Atikokan, taking in petitions for membership, organizing candidates to travel by train to Lodge here and even hosting traveling Granite meetings in Atikokan. Bro. Davies remained proud of his membership in his Mother Lodge, remaining a member until his death in 1972, having been a member for over 51 years.

Our Mother Lodge, Pequonga 414 in Kenora, celebrated her 75th anniversary in 1957 with a dinner and a degree ceremony, and Granite brethren made the trip north for that. They also attended the district reception that same year to Rainy River by our Grand Master, Harry L. Martyn.

The next year, 1958 was Granite's 60th anniversary which was celebrated by a dinner at the Rainy Lake Hotel visited by the District Deputy Grand Master, John B. Fraser of Atikokan, who was a Granite initiate. Entertainment was provided by our own Masonic Choir (Bros. Cyril Maffey, Norm Johnson and Ed Wilkins, Harry Jones, Colin Thompson, Glen Steele, Steve Bond and Nick Andrusco) accompanied by Newton Wright, the Lodge organist. Two humorous skits were performed by Dave Hughes, Ed Eldridge and Bill McKinnon ("A Hole in One") and Van Green and Allan Robertson ("The Fishermen").

In 1960 Granite nominated Bro. Norm Johnson as District Deputy Grand Master, and he served the office with distinction. This brother was a customs broker for many years and the next door neighbor to the writer. He is now living in retirement in British Columbia, is over 90 years of age and still keeps in touch with his old Lodge. This year also saw the highest membership number in the Lodge, at 256. In tandem with Masonry worldwide, our membership has been slowly declining since that peak year.

The Lodge purchased a new organ in 1960 to replace the one from the 1940's which had been donated by the Herb Williams family. Music had always been a part of the degree ceremonies with members singing odes, and organist Newton Wright served from 1950 to 1970 when he moved out of town. Since that time, Granite has not had an appointed organist. Another big part of Lodge life in those years was the sick and visiting committee, chaired by Harry Jones all through the 1960's and 1970's. On his death, Haldo Halverson took over for the 1980's until he died in 1992. These years saw the large numbers of members from earlier years get old and end up in hospital or nursing home and visiting them was a duty taken seriously by members. In recent years, as membership has decreased and members are able to live longer on their own at home, there are fewer brothers in care, but members still take every opportunity to visit with the shut-ins.

In the early 1960's a relationship with Hematite Lodge in Virginia MN. flourished with much inter-visiting for special evenings and dinners with speeches. This also led to Granite being invited down for Royal Arch activities and culminated in attendance at a degree held at the lowest level of the old Vermilion Mine at Tower Minn. In recent years, besides our regular contact with our nearest Masonic neighbours at Koochiching Lodge No. 270 in International Falls, Granite also has developed a close relationship with Chippewa Lodge in Deer River MN., through Bro. Jim Alden of that Lodge.

Granite has for some years inter-visited with Lake Harriet Lodge of Edina (Minneapolis) Minn. This came about because of the dual membership of Bro. Bruce Warner who was initiated in Granite in 1926 and later moved to the Twin Cities. This 72 year relationship with Bro. Warner is Granite's longest-standing one ever, although it has not been recognized by our Grand Lodge owing to Bro. Warner having resigned from and then re-joined our Lodge in the middle of these years. A highlight of this relationship was our visit to Edina in 1995 to exemplify our third degree for a packed house at Lake Harriet.

For Canada's centennial in 1967, the lodge decided to replace the original 1908 wool Masonic carpet in the lodge room. The original had been installed in the old Wells Hardware premises at a cost of \$580.66 in that year. It was later moved to our present building in 1921. This distinctive design had been produced in Scotland and bought through Eaton's, and in 1966 the exact pattern was again obtained (this time for \$4,148.30) from the same factory and remains in the room today. The old carpet was given to Ionic Lodge in Rainy River, who used parts of it until about 1995, testifying to its quality. The carpet today is worth many thousands of dollars and remains in very good condition. Also at about this time the four square and compasses design door knockers were installed on the outer lodge doors and dedicated to four long-time brethren who had died within the previous several years.

Our 70th anniversary came in 1968 and was combined with the 31st "At Home" with a dinner at the Rainy Lake with all the usual toasts and a speech by Dr. W.G. Martin followed by accordion solos and vocal duets by several young people.

About this time, Bro. Delbert Ross was initiated, and as of the writing of this history, he holds a unique place in Lodge annals, as he has served as Chaplain of Granite for over 30 consecutive years and he has served Alberton Chapter almost as long as Scribe N. Del received the Royal Arch Distinguished Service Award in 1997 for his service to the Chapter. Other members have served for long periods but not nearly that long: John Miller, 12 years as Tyler through the 1950's; James Angus, 15 years as Secretary in the 1930's and 40's.

## Last Quarter Century

Carl Schubring was our District Deputy Grand Master in 1970 and he embarked on an ambitious visiting programme for his year. At each of the ten Lodges in Western District to which he made his official visit, the veteran newspaper editor spoke at some length on both the history of that particular Lodge in our district, but also some topic of philosophical interest that the members might enjoy. His notes and all his files from that year were saved in the Granite archives in our fire-proof vault in the basement of the Masonic building.

In November 1972 the outgoing Master, Stewart McQuarrie presented a beautiful set of silver working tools in an oak case to the Lodge for use during the three degrees as a way to show his affection and appreciation to the Lodge. Over the years, the gift of various bits of furniture and other items by individuals has become a much appreciated custom at Granite. Other things are jointly-owned with other Orders using the building such as the two pillars in the west which belong to Granite Lodge and Alberton Chapter, or the lectern, which Ledger Preceptory donated. The present organ in the Lodge room belongs to Evergreen Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star but may be used by other Orders, and of course the secretary's desk from 1900 is shared by all.

The ante-room to the lodge was remodeled in 1975, when the rosewood paneling imported from Japan was installed, making it one of the loveliest rooms in the district to enjoy coffee and conversation. For many years, there was a well-attended and organized coffee club that met every day in the ante-room, which is attested to by several photos in the museum area. Retired members and their friends met all through the 1970's and 1980's and raised funds to purchase coffee equipment for use of all members.

Bob Cumming, publisher of the Fort Frances Times, was Granite's DDGM in 1980. His father had also been a member of the Lodge from the time he arrived in town in the 1930's to take over the paper with Russ Larson (also a member) until the time of his death. In 1980 a 60 years a Mason pin was presented in Granite to Cecil Rhodes Lyons who had affiliated from Manitou Lodge in 1971. He was the former station agent at Emo and was a Past Master and Past DDGM (1935) from Manitou. Bro. Lyons also had the distinction of raising his 101st candidate in Granite Lodge in the 1980's shortly before his death.

1982 again saw Pequonga Lodge celebrating, this time their 100th anniversary, the first Lodge in the district to reach that milestone. This Lodge had started its existence in 1882 as Pequonga Lodge No. 22 of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. This was before it was finally determined that Kenora was to be in Ontario because of the boundary dispute. It wasn't until 1887 that Pequonga petitioned for and received a Warrant from Ontario, just before the next Lodge, in Keewatin was started. Thus Keewatin also had its hundredth celebration in the 1980's, in 1987. Pequonga still has some close ties to Lodges in Manitoba that it inter-visits with.

Our District Deputy in 1990 was John Myers, a pilot and businessman who was assisted by Ray Pitkanen as his district secretary. Toward the end of his year, he hosted a reception at the Red Dog Inn for the Grand Master, David Bradley. A suite of eight Grand Lodge officers visited and there were 7 past District Deputies. Eighty attended in all, hearing Bro. Bradley talk about "Masonry into the 21st Century" in which he stressed the need for good lodge management skills and techniques, separate from the ability to do ritual well. He took the opportunity to present Bro. Leroy Newman with his 60 year jewel and the brethren were entertained by Margarete Kostiuk, soloist and Jessie Laurion pianist who also led a rousing sing-along. Bro. Nick Andrusco played the piano for the brethren as they sang the two anthems.

In 1991, Bro. Alan Tibbetts started up the Granite museum using artifacts that he had discovered in the vault and in various cupboards and hiding places while he was looking for research materials for writing the history of the lodge for the centennial in 1998. Several glass cabinets were procured from a former tenant, and as part of this project, the Lodge library was also re-started in earnest. Scrap books of pictures and printed items are also available. These collections have grown over the years to include many items, photographs and books of interest that chart the first hundred years of the Lodge in Fort Frances. Also, subscriptions to several publications come in regularly to supplement the books, and many articles of interest from the Internet are also added regularly. As a result of all this Granite now has a great deal of educational materials available to members as well as a written record of its history.

The Lodge undertook a benevolent activity in 1990 when it organized a work party to fix up an elderly widow's home including fixing windows, the roof and other areas in bad repair. This project showed that helping within our Masonic family can take various forms, and is good for both the recipient and for those giving of their time and resources. This despite the fact that the Master that year, Albert Carrier had been confined to hospital and home for some time after a severe fall. The Past Masters took up his duties for part of the year while he recovered. Granite also got involved in helping with an Alcohol and Drug Awareness

program at the High School sponsored by the Masonic Foundation. This took place twice in consecutive years, and from it an on-going peer counseling service for teens was established. The brethren also undertook a wheelchair project for a multi-handicapped individual which raised enough to supply a custom-built chair which the government would not fund.

The early 1990's saw the presentation of a number of 50 year service pins, and many of our members were showing their years. In line with this, Bro. Jim Curr organized a gala dinner in the spring of 1992 to honour Carl Schubring, elder statesman and mentor of Granite to recognize his many contributions to the Lodge and Western District. The well-attended event went off very well, and Bro. Schubring was very moved at the honours paid him by the members. An organization needs to recognize those who built it up before they are gone. Bro. Schubring died in 1993 and his extensive library was given to the Lodge to incorporate into its own. His eulogy in the Lodge Minutes, by secretary John Myers mentioned his "sense of dignity, leadership and understanding. He was a friend to all."

In December 1991 the first Granite children's Christmas party was organized, and in June 1992 the Father's Day fish fry began, both put together by Bro. Alan Tibbetts. These social events have continued with the members participating enthusiastically with their families. Including the families has been a success for the Lodge in getting members more involved outside of formal meetings.

Extensive renovations were undertaken by the Building Association in 1993 to improve the looks and comfort of the facility for the members. The upstairs rental area was converted to a banquet hall, now used by all the Orders and rented out for the Rotary Club's weekly lunch meetings and other seminars. Male and female washrooms were put in this space. The entry way to the ante-room was extensively altered, with a new meeting room created using the 24-foot long board table procured from the local hospital. A new office with new furnishings and up to date computer and copying machines was also included. The ante-room window overlooking Scott Street were re-opened and replaced with energy efficient ones and new carpet was laid throughout. A chequered pavement in the coat room was a special Masonic touch.

The washroom was modernized and expanded for candidate preparation purposes, and in the Lodge room a new storage closet was created in the east as well as solid oak doors and oak half-paneling put in throughout the room. A new space was created for the secretary and the organist and a whole new way of displaying the photos of the Masters and First Principals was built. Despite all the changes, the rose-wood paneling was saved and used, with patterns matched as before. The heat/cool systems for most of the building were also upgraded, making it much more comfortable to meet at all seasons. The final result of all this work, is the most attractive and comfortable Masonic Lodge premises in Western District and for some distance beyond.

Also in 1993, the newest Masonic organization in town, the Allied Masonic Degrees started up with several Granite members instrumental in its formation. Permission of all the Orders was secured so they could use the building for meetings. As a research Order, the start of the AMD has helped encourage Granite members to give talks in Lodge, an activity that has continued and grown since then.

About this time, Grand Lodge began, after years of lobbying by northern Lodges, to look at alternatives to the high cost of attending every summer in Toronto, and the very low participation level in elections. Their answer was to hold balloting for Grand Lodge offices in the north at the District Meetings. The Lodges each passed motion in 1995 to approve of the idea, and by 1996 local balloting was tried. This applies to Algoma and Western Districts only, and has been carried out each year since at the discretion of the Grand Master. It certainly makes us feel more involved in the affairs of Grand Lodge and is a good start to changes needed.

In 1995 Granite changed its by-laws, eliminating the Life Membership provision. The last to take out his Life Membership was Bro. Bruce Murray, the 105th since Granite started. At present Granite has 13 remaining life members. Also the Lodge ended its support of the Music Festival, which had been on going for several years and started a process to find a new charity to support, The Long Range Planning committee was given charge of organizing the Lodge centennial in 1998 and fundraising began. The final change was to bring the bylaws in line with Grand Lodge procedures of giving the newly-raised Master Mason his apron right after his third degree rather than making him prove his proficiency in the degree first. This overturned a very old tradition at Granite, but had been pushed by the younger members for some time.

There was a special initiation that year, when our Member of Parliament in Ottawa, Bob Nault joined the Lodge. It had taken some time to ensure he was eligible to join because of his place of residence (Kenora), but we finally learned that all of Western District shares concurrent jurisdiction so he could join where his friends are members, at Granite. Twenty visiting Masons attended his initiation out of a total attendance of 43. He joined a long line of politicians as members, although he is the first federal member to belong to Granite.

After several years of large drops in membership, mostly due to deaths, the Lodge addressed the issue by surveying the members as to how to increase numbers. Several good suggestions came up, and resulted in some changes. A Yearbook was produced, and a regular monthly newsletter "Portals" goes out to all members with their summons. So, the system of Masonic education short talks has become a regular feature of meetings with all officers taking part on a rotating basis. Two open houses have been held which have resulted in a couple of petitions. There has since been a leveling off in membership with no losses and some slight gains as members join or affiliate from other Lodges. Deaths, demits and suspensions have fallen dramatically. Another change was to lend support to a local charity, the Salvation Army, with funds and food collections. The local commander came out and spoke in Lodge to the members explaining the increased need for assistance, and the members have responded well. Granite has also emphasized special occasions to liven up meetings, such as the January 1997 meeting where Ed Wilkins was honoured as a 50 year Past Master with his sons Peter and Tom taking part along with Mike Pierce receiving his 50 years a Mason pin, as the first initiate of Bro. Wilkins year in the chair. The Lodge has put on dinners in the new banquet hall next to the Lodge room at Installation or other special times. Honourary membership was bestowed in 1997 on two Manitou Lodge brethren who have for years been great supporters of Granite – Bros. Bill McQuaker and Archie McClendon, and this was marked by a large attendance. Informative talks such as the ones given by Bros. Alan Tibbetts and Jerry

Ossachuk about their travels to England and Scotland in early 1998 or about their trip to Manitoba to present a plaque to Past Grand Master Walter McDonald on his 70th anniversary of being initiated by Granite Lodge also provide interest to meetings and have helped to increase participation in the Lodge.

Lastly, the celebration of Granite's 100th anniversary as a Lodge in September 1998 was another opportunity for the brethren to participate in a special Lodge activity and to get the message of our wonderful institution of Masonry out to the community that we have grown up with over the years. Bro. Joe Bodnar, Master of the Lodge, hosted a centennial weekend for members and guests from near and far. This included an Initiation ceremony on Saturday, September 26 in the afternoon followed by a gala dinner and dance with live music at the Rendezvous on the shores of Rainy Lake. Attendance at the meeting was outstanding, with the Lodge room being full to capacity with members and visitors. A large delegation from Lodges in Minnesota came across the border, including three serving Grand Representatives from nearby Districts. The three Lodges in the Kenora area were also well-represented and the Masters of all three of Granite's daughter Lodges, in Rainy River, Emo and Atikokan attended. A fifty year pin was presented to Bro. Bill Gray of Winnipeg, who journeyed to Fort Frances to be honoured. The dinner dance attracted 120 Masons and their spouses to a wonderful evening of brotherhood.

The following day the brothers in their regalia, along with their families attended church parade at St. Andrew's Presbyterian. A moving sermon on the good that Freemasonry does in the community was preached by Rev. Mary Whitson. This was followed by a lunch catered by the ladies from Evergreen Chapter of the Eastern Star and a public Open House at the Lodge building so the entire community could help celebrate our first 100 years.

May Granite Lodge No. 446 prosper for another century of Masonry in Fort Frances.

SO MOTE IT BE