



Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

The Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan

To be the Fraternal Organization of choice for men in the Province of Saskatchewan

The Traveling Gavel

Grand Master's Monthly Bulletin



M.W. Bro. Ernie Butz
Grand Master - 2010-2011

Born: September 2, 1944 Died: January 26, 2026

Grand Master's Message



Greetings brethren, I hope everyone enjoyed the early taste of spring before second winter decided to show back up. Firstly, we honour the life of MW. Bro. Ernie Butz who was called to higher service on January 26th, 2026, when notice of his passing had come just after the February edition was sent out, I wanted to ensure it was acknowledged in this month's edition. His service was on February 17th, 2026 and was very well attended by members with full Masonic Rites given. Our collective condolences go to Lady Susan Butz and family in their hour of grief.

The month of February was busy but a productive one and now that the surgery was completed on the 18th it gives me a chance to recover a bit prior to the next busy period in April. I am looking forward to visiting the three lodges scheduled in March so long as the recovery goes well.

If you are wanting an official visit, please contact the Grand Lodge office to make arrangements.

Maple Leaf No. 9 March 12th, 2026

St. Andrew No. 174 March 18th, 2026/ Anniversary Supper

Britania No. 23 March 19th, 2026

Moosomin No. 7 April 1st, 2026



Official Visit to Melfort No. 18 February 3rd, 2026.

Accompanied by RW. Bro's Mike Keogan DGM, Gord Davey GSW, Judicael Moukoumi GJW, Dave Waldner DDGM North East District as well as Senior member of Melfort No. 18 and Bro. Drew Kenke the most Junior member of Melfort. Thank you again to the brethren of Melfort No. 18 for the hospitality and warm welcome as well as the brethren from Tisdale No. 76 and Nipawin No. 183 for coming out to the meeting.



Moose Jaw No. 3 February 10th, 2026

Official Party: MW. Bro. John Leyshon PGM, RW. Bro's Mike Keogan DGM, Gord Davey GSW, Judicael Moukoumi GJW, Richard Snell PDDGM and most Senior Brother of Moose Jaw No. 3 as well as Bro. Ricky Porto most Junior Brother. A wonderful visit, thank you again for the hospitality.



Official Visit to Imperial No. 60 February 11th, 2026.

Accompanied by MW. Bro.'s Denis Skuce PGM, Patrick Davis Immediate PGM, RW. Bro.'s Mike Keogan DGM, Gord Davey GSW, Judicael Moukoumi GJW, George Frederick DDGM West Central District, Declan McAuley PDDGM, Adam Green PDDGM and WM of Rosthern-Duck Lake No. 13 and VW. Bro.'s Roger Bell Grand Steward North East District, Garth Buitenhuis most Senior Brother of Imperial No. 60 as well as Bro. Rob Kinnarid most Junior Brother present. Thank you again for the hospitality and warm welcome especially.



Official Visit to Rosthern-Duck Lake No. 13 February 12th, 2026.

Accompanied by MW. Bro. Patrick Davis Immediate PGM, RW. Bro.'s Mike Keogan DGM, Gord Davey GSW, Judicael Moukoumi GJW, George Frederick DDGM West Central District, and Randy Evans PDDGM and most Senior Brother of Rosthern-Duck Lake No. 13 as well as Bro. Barrett Greyeyes most Junior Brother present. Thank you again for the hospitality and warm welcome.



Official Visit to Kinistino No. 1 February 13th, 2026.

Accompanied by MW. Bro.'s Rick Galloway PGM and most senior brother of Kinistino No. 1, Gerald Waldern PGM Grand Lodge of Alberta, RW. Bro.'s Mike Keogan DGM, Gord Davey GSW, Judicael Moukoumi GJW, Dave Waldner DDGM North East District, Ron Crush North West District, George Frederick DDGM West Central District, Chris Howe PDDGM and WM of Twin City No. 89 and W. Bro. Ryan Hoffman WM of Grand Prairie Lodge No. 105 Grand Lodge of Alberta, as well as Bro. James Mitchell most Junior Brother present. Thank you again for the hospitality and warm welcome, and again a wonderful job to Kinistino No. 1 on the Buffalo roast and those helped make it happen.

Masonic Trivia & Tidbit facts

In 1799, Barton Lodge in Upper Canada accepted "good merchantable wheat" in payment of lodge dues.

Lodge St. George in Bermuda has rented an old state house since 1816 from the Governor for the sum of "one peppercorn per year."

The largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge #33 Murphys, CA. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.

When the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880, there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, causing some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. This issue is still open to debate.

On August 23, 1879, Lodge #239 of France held a meeting in a balloon flying over Paris, at which time a brother was initiated.

On his famous solo flight across the Atlantic, Charles Lindbergh wore a square and compasses on his jacket as a good luck piece. He was a mason.

Richard E. Byrd and his pilot Bernt Balchen, both brothers, dropped Masonic flags over the north and south poles. Brother Balchen also tossed his shrine fez on the South Pole.

Gordon Cooper, in his Mercury capsule, carried a Masonic coin and a blue Masonic flag on his 22 hr orbit flight, which he later presented to his mother lodge.

Montana's first livestock brand was a square and compasses and is still in use. It was registered by Pointdexter Orr of Beaverhead County, MT in 1872.

Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty bell in Independence Hall of July 8, 1776 to call the people together to hearing the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell developed a crack when it was rung for the death of Chief Justice Marshall, Past Grand Master of Virginia.

John Aasen of Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, CA was the largest known MM ever raised. At the time he was 8.5 feet tall and weighed 536 pounds.

Charles Stratton, a.k.a. Tom Thumb, was 24 inches high and weighed 16 pounds when raised in 1862.

At one time, Golden Lodge #5, Stanstead, Canada occupied a lodge room, which straddled the boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances on both sides of the border.

How long have lodges with speculative masons been in existence?

To be historically accurate, one cannot go beyond six centuries to find lodges of masons accepting men other than operative craftsmen. And for many centuries few, other than actual craftsmen, were accepted. But it's not unreasonable to assume clerics and other educated men were readily united with the craftsmen (most of whom couldn't read or write). Grand Lodge says the first record of non-operatives being accepted was in July 1634 when Lord Alexander, Sir Anthony Alexander and Sir Alexander Strachan were admitted "fellow craft" in the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel).