

## Masters Report Annual Dinner The Hon. Company of Freemen

Past Masters, Members of the Court and fellow Freemen and Honoured Guests

I have been privileged and honoured to have served as your Master for a second term over the past twelve months. Indeed to have served for two consecutive terms has been a highlight for me and a most memorable experience.

I wish to thank all members of the Court for their excellent and dedicated support in the past year.

Over the year we have seen your Court embark upon and complete a number of key initiatives which I had committed to during my tenure over the past two years.

- Improved communications through Emails and issues of Company Comment
- Improving our financial system in order to provide members with better reporting and maintaining up to date accounting standards
- Encouraging better attendance at member events
- Working towards a better gender balance in membership of your Court
- Increasing our Membership in Canada and USA and improve relationships with Livery Company Members in both countries.
- Improving the web.site and formalizing a cost effective sustainable contract
- A review of our Constitution to bring it inline with current Privacy Practices and Standards

### The Court

This year is to be the last for Honourable Treasurer Doug Wilkinson whom we bid farewell to as he and his family embark on a new life in BC.

Next year under the guidance of a new Master your Court will comprise 11 members with new members Roger McMillan and Ishrani Jaikoran.

### Charitable Trust

The charitable trust will be led by Past Master Michael Green, with Past Masters John Bishop and Michael Charles to assist. I would like to say a few words about our Charity and our contract with Western University which is presently under renewal. Your Charity is a most important element of our organization in North America. Funding is received from various sources including your generous donations and special events such as a successful wine tasting that was held at the performing Arts Centre last October. We have focused our giving towards our contract with the University of Western Ontario. Our scholarships assist students spend a year on university exchange in London UK and to date

we have seen three students benefit from this opportunity. We are in the fourth year of our five year contract and Past Master Martin Walmsley and I met with University officials to discuss the success of the program and initiate discussions with a view to extending our contract for a further term. I am very pleased to note that our partners speak very highly of the contract with us and are delighted to work with us on an extension.

### Membership

Our membership now stands at 112 which includes 12 of which are life members.

### Financial Statements

I thank Deputy Master Ken Foxcroft for maintaining the accounts in the interim and he will submit the Treasurers Report. I would comment that the financials have been maintained in accordance with the practices established in 2009 with the addition of a computerized system introduced in 2011 and donated by the Deputy Master. The Deputy Master reports that there is a marked improvement in both the Operating and Charity Accounts due to the cost control efficiencies introduced in 2011 and the increase in Quarterage passed by members at last years AGM

### Events

Your events committee under its Chair John Bishop and Deputy Chair John Welch delivered an excellent year of events which were reasonably supported by members although much needs to be done to increase our membership attendance. I would like to thank our Co Chairs and without taking away from their separate report to highlight that a most successful wine tasting event was held in the Fall generating significant funds for Hon Company and the charity.

In closing I would again offer my sincere thanks to members of the Court for their very good work and dedication to the Honourable Company in helping me to meet my goals and I am confident that the new court will see those that are work in progress proceed to completion in the months ahead. I would add a special thanks to Warden Ashley Prime and his Lady Wife for graciously hosting a Court meeting at their private residence in December 2011.

I have greatly enjoyed these two years at the helm and take pleasure in handing over of this Company to my successor Ken Foxcroft.