



THE GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL & SELECT MASTERS OF ONTARIO

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER 2022:

My fellow Companions,

I stand here today with humility and accept this great honour you have bestowed upon me. I am humbled but honoured by your decision to elect me as your Most Illustrious Grand Master, a decision I pledge, will never go in vain. My promise to you my Companions, that I will do my best to uphold and maintain the dignity of this high Office and walk in the path many of my predecessors have travelled. I also pledge that I will dedicate my life for the next 2 years and beyond to promote Cryptic Masonry in Ontario.

I only wish at this time our beloved, the late, M. Ill. James A. Shaw PMIGM was here with us.

First of all I would like to thank R. Ill. Comp. Ronald K. Johnson for his kindness in sponsoring me into Adoniram Council No. 2 and thereby making it possible for me to be part of this great Organization. Today I am very honoured that R. Ill. Comp. Johnson was able to invest me with the regalia of my Office. I would also like to thank M. Ill. Comp. W. Denis Amendola PMIGM for appointing me to the Office of Grand Marshal and thereby giving me this great opportunity.

Next, my sincere “Thank You” to M. Ill. Comp. Bryan S. Cunningham PMIGM, for the kind and warm manner in which he has conducted the installation of this Grand Council. Sir, we have known each other for many years and have become firm friends and today that bond has been further cemented. I thank you once again for your friendship and guidance

I also like to thank our retiring Most Illustrious Grand Master Brian R. S. Manson for a wonderful term of Office and for leading this Grand Council with distinction, especially during this horrible pandemic. He has been a mentor and a teacher for me while I went through the officers’ line in Adoniram Council No. 2 where he was the devoted recorder for many years.

To our Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters: I thank you for your continued support. I have no doubt that our Grand Council will continue to prosper under your guidance.

To our Grand Deputy Master R. Ill. Comp. Howard F. Adams Congratulations on your promotion to the Office of Grand Deputy Master. I am looking forward to working with you for the next two years and beyond.

To our newly minted Grand Principal Conductor of Work R. Ill. Comp. Sheldon V. Stannard, Congratulations and welcome. R. Ill. Comp. Stannard comes with vast Masonic

knowledge and experience, and I know he will be an asset to our Grand Council. I must remind the Companions that our GPCW and his wife Carol have hosted a social gathering called ‘the garden party’ for many years, the proceeds of which have raised a substantial amount of money for the Cryptic Rite Charitable Foundation. Thank you R. Ill. Sir. Please convey my greatest appreciation to Carol.

To the elected and appointed Grand Officers and Chairmen of Various Committees: My congratulations to all those worthy Companions who received their Grand rank today and I charge them to do their best for the future of Cryptic Masonry. I urge you to keep up the momentum, dispense light and instruction to your junior colleagues and continue to set higher standards. If the sky’s the limit – then why are there footprints on the moon!

To all members of our Councils. You are the main reason for the existence of our Order. You are the front line workers, the grass roots of our Order. Your presence here shows your passion and dedication. We must focus on maintaining a proper balance between securing new candidates and ensuring that they are educated and engaged.

Going forward:

During this term we will have a working Grand Council with working Committees. They will be active and bring positive results.

- I have appointed R. Ill. Comp. Kenneth M. Collard as the Grand Lecturer and have reinstated the instruction class for the Grand Inspectors General. His responsibilities will also expand by assisting Councils with proper protocol and instructing Companions on rituals and in conferring Degrees, as needed.
- Public Relations Committee will be chaired by T. Ill. Comp. Michael Locke. This will be our “flag ship” Committee and will work hard to promote Cryptic Masonry in every corner of our Grand Jurisdiction.
- All Grand Inspectors General will be instructed to appoint “Public Relations and Communication” Chairman and “Assistance to Councils” Chairman in their own districts to promote awareness of Cryptic rite, District and Grand Council Communications and to help Councils who are in need of assistance in any Degree work or Installations.
- The administration of this Grand Council relies on the shoulders of the Grand Officers but also I believe they should be able to assist Councils in any way possible. I have no objections if they have to perform ritual when visiting other Councils or in their own Councils for the good of our Order but by memory only. The only exception is the Grand Inspectors General on the occasion of their Official Visits, they will **not** take part in any ritual work.
- It is my hope that we will concentrate on membership and ritual during the next two years. Properly memorized ritual, long form opening and closing, education, visitation and treating members with respect, will motivate and retain membership.

M. I. Grand Master’s Official visits.

- It is my hope to visit every Council of our Grand Jurisdiction in the first year. I know it is little intensive but it is time to work. The Councils need our support. In the second year, I plan to attend Installations and continue with the fraternal visitation.
- I understand the occasion of the MIGM’s Official visit is to honour him and that night is dedicated to him only. But my Companions; it is my wish that if you have Candidates waiting and their initiation or advancement has been delayed due to this pandemic and my visitation is going to make them wait longer, I do not mind you conferring Degrees on my Official Visits. It would be a night to remember for the Candidate(s) and an honour for me to be with them as they enter the Secret Vault.
- Companions, our Grand Council will work with you to promote and increase membership in your Councils. You only have to ask.
- Any special events for the members, for example anniversaries, special events at the Lodge, Chapters and or any Masonic concordant bodies, please do not hesitate to keep me informed. They need our support.

Membership Challenge: I challenge all Companions on a membership drive. If any Companion secure at least 5 Candidates during this year (First line sponsor), I will pay for his 2 room nights and all meals if he attends the 2023 Grand Assembly, but there will be no substitutes.

To our “One and Only” Grand Recorder R. Ill. Comp. Richard B. Allgood: Thank you for your tireless work and commitment to this Grand Body. I am very proud to call you my Brother and friend.

To our visiting Companions and representatives of our sister Jurisdictions.

Your presence here today, means so much to us. It is my hope that your stay with us was of profit and pleasure. Please take away with you, our warm fraternal greetings and fond memories. I am looking forward to attend your Grand Sessions and strengthen our bonds.

May I have the members of Adoniram Council No. 2, Huron Council No.25, Salem Council No.9, Enoch Council No.10 and Alpha Council No. 23 to stand and be recognized.....

Companions, these are the Councils of which I am a member of. Thank you my Companions for being here today, also for your support and encouragement.

Last but not least I must thank Shanthi, love of my life and my wife of 38 years. Without her I would have never achieved anything I mean anything, not only in Masonry but also in Life. She has given me unconditional love, encouragement and support from the time we met 42 years ago but also after I became a Mason. I hope it will never end.

Before we close, I must pay a special tribute and thank all the Companions whose company and friendship I have so much enjoyed and long may it continue. Brethren, enjoy your Cryptic Masonry to the fullest. I look forward to being with you all, on many occasions.

- Companions; before you leave please obtain a copy of my Itinerary from our Grand Marshal.

I will leave you with these words "***At the end of the game the King and the pawn will go back in the same box***".

Thank you my Companions, thank you all. It's been a wonderful weekend. I Hope to see you all at the Banquet tonight and the Divine Service tomorrow morning, if not, safe travels home. God bless.

Prince D. Selvaraj

M. Ill. Comp. Prince D. Selvaraj

Most Illustrious Grand Master (2022-2024).