

GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF CANADA



From The Office of the Grand Secretary

RW. Rev. Bro. Robert Short+ 424 Regal Park NE, Calgary, AB T2E 0S6
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March 12, 2024

His Majesty The King
Buckingham Palace
London SW1A 1AA

May it please Your Majesty.

That I write to you today on behalf of the Officers and Members of the Loyal Orange Association of Canada and the Ladies Orange Benevolent Association of Canada; who wish to express their steadfast devotion and loyalty to His Majesty The King and the Crown of Canada. May His Majesty be assured of our continued prayers and warm thoughts for our King especially during this time of illness and we pray that God will shed His face upon His Majesty, to be your strength and shield in your hour and need.

I have the honour to remain, Sir Your Majesty's most humble and obedient servant

RW Rev. Bro Robert Short+
Grand Secretary (Pro Tem)
Grand Orange Lodge of Canada.



Places of Meeting
Due to members serving in the armed forces Grand Lodge did not meet
In the years of 1941, 43, 44, 45

1830 – 1843 Brockville Ont.	1895 Halifax NS.	1952 Montreal Que.
1844 Hamilton Ont.	1896 Collingwood Ont.	1953 Charlottetown PEI.
1846 Toronto Ont.	1897 Windsor Ont.	1954 Saskatoon SK.
1847 Cobourg Ont.	1898 Ottawa Ont.	1955 Ottawa Ont.
1848 Toronto Ont.	1899 London Ont.	1956 Winnipeg MB.
1849 Toronto Ont.	1900 Toronto Ont.	1957 Vancouver BC.
1850 Hamilton Ont.	1901 Niagara Ont.	1958 Montreal Que.
1851 Drummondville. Que.	1902 Winnipeg MB.	1959 Edmonton AB.
1852 Port Hope Ont.	1903 Picton Ont.	1960 Toronto Ont.
1853 Kingston Ont.	1904 Owen Sound Ont.	1961 Brockville Ont.
1854 Brantford Ont.	1905 Toronto Ont.	1962 Halifax NS.
1855 Toronto Ont.	1906 Vancouver BC	1963 St. John's NL.
1856 Brockville Ont.	1907 Midland Ont.	1964 Regina SK.
1857 Quebec City Que.	1908 Peterborough Ont.	1965 Niagara Ont.
1858 London Ont.	1909 Brantford Ont.	1966 Winnipeg MB.
1859 Hamilton Ont.	1910 Winnipeg MB.	1967 Moncton NB.
1860 Ottawa Ont.	1911 Fredericton NB.	1968 Vancouver BC.
1861 Kingston Ont.	1912 St. John's NL.	1969 Ottawa Ont.
1862 Montreal Que.	1913 Regina SK.	1970 Winnipeg MB.
1863 Belleville Ont.	1914Winnipeg MB.	1971 Fredericton NB.
1864 St. Catherines Ont.	1916	1972 Calgary AB.
1865 Goderich Ont.	1917 Charlottetown PEI.	1973 Montreal Que.
1866 Brockville Ont.	1918 Ottawa Ont.	1974 Niagara Falls Ont.
1867 Ottawa Ont.	1919 Calgary AB.	1975 Winnipeg MB.
1868 Halifax NS.	1920 Toronto Ont.	1976 St. John's NL.
1869 Toronto Ont.	1921 Kingston Ont.	1977 Vancouver BC.
1870 Kingston Ont.	1922 Winnipeg MB.	1978 Ottawa Ont.
1871 Hamilton Ont.	1923 Sault Ste. Marie Ont.	1979 Halifax NS.
1872 Montreal Que.	1924 Vancouver Ont.	1980 Regina SK.
1873 Belleville Ont.	1925 Ottawa Ont.	1981 Toronto Ont.
1874 St. Catherines Ont.	1926 Saint John NB.	1982 Winnipeg MB.
1875 Sarnia Ont.	1927 Edmonton AB	1983 Moncton NB.
1876 Cobourg Ont.	1928 Montreal Que.	1984 Ottawa Ont.
1877 Ottawa Ont.	1929 Brockville Ont.	1985 Edmonton AB.
1878 Saint John NB.	1930 Hamilton Ont.	1986 St. John's NL.
1879 Ottawa Ont.	1931 Montreal Que.	1987 Toronto Ont.
1880 Toronto Ont.	1932 Regina SK.	1988 Vancouver BC.
1881 Port Hope Ont.	1933 Halifax NS.	1989 Quebec City Que.
1882 Sherbrooke Que.	1934 St. John's NL	1990 Halifax NS.
1883 St. Catherines Ont.	1935 Charlottetown PEI.	1991 Winnipeg MB.
1884 London Ont.	1936 Ottawa Ont.	1992 Ottawa Ont.
1885 Cornwall Ont.	1937 Fort William Ont.	1993 Regina SK.
1886 Toronto Ont.	1938 Winnipeg MB.	1994 Saint John NB.
1887 Belleville Ont.	1939 Vancouver BC.	1995 Toronto Ont.
1888 Winnipeg MB.	1942 Toronto Ont.	1996 Edmonton AB
1889 Goderich Ont.	1946 Winnipeg MB.	1997 St. John's NL.
1890 Saint John NB.	1947 Niagara Falls Ont.	1998 Vancouver BC.
1891 Kingston Ont.	1948 Hamilton Ont.	1999 Hull Que.
1892 Montreal Que.	1949 Montreal Que.	2000 Charlottetown PEI.
1893 Sault Ste. Marie Ont.	1950 St. John's NL.	
1894 Lindsay Ont.	1951 Fredericton NB.	

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund I am pleased to submit this report to the members of Provincial Sessions. The report is designed to provide an update around the operations and results of The Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund.

By way of background, I have been the Chief Executive Officer since December 13, 2015, and prior to my appointment as Chief Executive Officer I was on the Board of Directors of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund for over 10 years and for a significant portion of that time also acted as the Chair of its Audit and Finance Committee

The Grand Orange Lodge of Canada's insurance operations are conducted under the operating name The Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund. The insurance operation of The Grand Orange Lodge of Canada was established for the purpose of assisting lodge members, their spouses, children, and other appointed beneficiaries in their time of need. The insurance operation continues today to provide insurance protection and basic wealth management products to members at competitive rates across the country including such products as enhanced whole life, term life, guaranteed issue, and legacy insurance products as well as basic wealth accumulation annuities.

The Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund is regulated by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions ("OSFI"), an agent of the federal government of Canada. As such, the Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund is required by law to maintain a requisite level of regulatory capital to ensure that the operations can continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future to meet its obligations to the policyholders and members of The Grand Orange Lodge of Canada.

The Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund is overseen and governed by a Board of Directors. The current directors and their year of appointment are listed below.

Board Member	Year of Appointment
Steven Willard	2003
Gerald Budden	2004
Michael Strain	2005
Roy Dawe	2007
Don Wilson	2016
Paul Tyers	2019
Trevor Perry	2022

All but one of the directors (Trevor Perry) are members of the Orange Association. Since my last report three directors resigned for personal reasons (John Chalmers, Art Duncan and Lynn Shire).

The management team remains the same with Michael Strain being the CEO and Tara Sadler being the CFO. Michael and Tara are professional accountants each with over 20 years experience in the financial services industry. There are three full time staff members dedicated to sales and policyholder administration. The investment management and actuarial services remain outsourced and those key external service providers are Rae Lipskie Investment Counsel in Waterloo and Warden Zaluski Consulting Actuaries Ltd. in Winnipeg respectively.

- Achieve further progress on sales, operating expense, and regulatory capital strategic objectives.

The state of The Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund is currently strong but with new and emerging risks it is essential that the focus remain on ensuring strong capitalization to be able to manage unexpected adverse challenges and still fulfill the needs of the current policyholders and members.

In terms of the longer-term strategic initiative whereby OBF would exit the insurance industry through an Assumption Reinsurance transaction we are continuing through the first step which is a regulatory process to get the new entity that would assume OBF approved for incorporation. A formal application of more than 600 pages was submitted to OSFI in October 2023 and since then there has been three iterations of further information submitted and clarification provided to OSFI with the most recent submission in February 2024. We have no reason to believe that we will not be successful and once that is done a formal proposal can be made to the members of the Orange Association to assume the insurance liabilities and allow the Orange Association to exit the insurance industry. Further updates will be provided as they arise.

Respectfully submitted:



Michael Strain

Motion: # 2 Moved by M. W. Bro. Gerald Budden and Seconded by R. W. Bro. Donald Smith that the Report of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America Benefit Fund be adopted as presented.
(Carried)

Report of the Striking Committee:

Correspondence Committee:

Michael Thomas (Chair)
Ross Davidson
Terry McCurry

Finance Committee:

Todd Thornbury (Chair)
Ian Gillespie
Jim Pyke
Nigel Kerr
Darrell Barr
Orange Insurance present Board Members

Credentials Committee:

Don Smith (Chair)
Murray Penney
Jim Bell

Suspensions & Expulsions:

I wish to thank M.W. Brother John Chalmers for his dedication to the publication of our national paper the Sentinel. As Brother Chalmers has stated, the Sentinel is only as good as the information supplied to him. Please continue your support of our paper so all Canadians can see what the Orange Association has been doing.

Orange Insurance:

The Orange Benefit Fund continues to thrive under the leadership of CEO Michael Strain and the talented staff. We have now started the process in which we hope to divest our ownership of OBF. To be clear, this does not in any way effect our policy holders, their policies are protected by the oversight of the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI). Grand Orange Lodge of British America has found that the rules and reporting required by the government have made the operation of OBF very difficult and very expensive. On March 25th 2023 a special meeting was called under Rule #38 to inform the membership what was taking place. A vote was called and a vast majority of the membership agreed for GOLBA to proceed with the result of what would be the exact offer we would receive from the prospective company interested in assuming ownership of OBF. The working of our federal government in this process has been extremely slow and frustrating. We expect a positive reply from OSFI and then a respectable offer in the near future, in which at that time another special meeting under Rule #38 will be called to vote on the offer. Until that time OBF will continue operations.

Visitations:

As in past years I have tried to visit as many jurisdictions as possible. I had the honor of attending the opening of Diefenbaker Memorial LOL #2748, where, after the opening of the new Lodge, we proceeded to the grave site of John Diefenbaker where we laid a wreath in honor our Orange Brother. I attended the Remembrance Day service at our National War memorial in Ottawa, where I laid a wreath for our fallen Brothers and Sisters and all who served in our armed forces in times of need.

In Conclusion:

Brethren this past six years as Grand Master of our order it has at times been very rewarding, but in other instances it has been very trying. We have now entered into a law suit with the former members of LOL #269 over the sale of the hall. I feel very disheartened by this situation and the members of this lodge who blatantly ignored our Constitution and Laws for their own benefit. As we are presently involved legally with this matter it would be better for me to say no more till the successful conclusion of the lawsuit.

I would like to thank all Brothers for your support over this last six years and wish the new incoming executive all the best. May God Bless you all.

M.W. Donald Wilson

Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Orange Lodge of Canada.

Motion: # 4 Moved by Brother Gerry Morgan and Seconded by Brother Edgar Carman that the Grand Master's Report be accepted as presented with thanks and entered in the report of proceedings.
(Carried)

Correspondence Committee

We your committee on Correspondence beg leave to report, that we have examined the files given to us, we find that the correspondence has been acted upon in a professional manner we commend the acting Grand Secretary for his efforts since taking the officewide term. He has an excellent job in keep the office of Grand Secretary functional to these biannual sessions.

Respectfully Submitted R. W. Bro. Michael Thomas Chairman
M. W. Bro. Terrence McCurry
R. W. Bro. Ross Davidson

Motion # 7 Moved by Michael Thomas and seconded by Ross Davidson that the correspondence committee Report be accepted and printed in the report of proceedings. **(Carried)**

Suspensions and Expulsions

Motion # 8 Moved by Wayne Hodgson and second by Steven Hunter that we accept the suspensions and expulsions committee report and have it printed in the report of proceedings. **(Carried)**

Recommendations from the Constitution and Laws Committee and recommendations from the Executive s Committee:

- #1. That the travel expenses of those entitled to receive compensation be restricted to expenses incurred from Monday to Thursday in relation to attending Grand Orange Lodge of Canada Sessions.

At present travel is either Saturday or Sunday, so Grand Lodge officers can attend our Sunday divine service. This results in a considerable expense to Grand Lodge as hotel rooms have to be compensated to those entitled to receive same. Also it is a well known fact that air travel is so much more expensive on weekends. Therefore it is imperative that if we are to continue to have our divine service alternative arrangements have to be made.

- #2. That all efforts be taken to reduce the Grand Orange Lodge Sessions to one and half days instead of two, which would have a cost savings effect on all delegates and visitors who attend these sessions.
- #3. That visits to Provincial Grand Lodges by the Grand Master or his Representative would be restricted to twice in a four year term. With the high cost of travel, and the availability to have costs reduced by being represented by an appointed member at a reduced expense would be more appropriate. There is no need to incur the high costs of attending Provincial Sessions every year during a persons term of office.
- #4. That the Deputy Grand Master, would be Chairman of the Constitution and Laws Committee and Rule 13 would be amended to reflect this change (submitted as a notice of motion).
- #5. From The Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Quebec, dated May 12, 2024
Re: RULE 59 (May also elect) Jr. Deputy, to be added.
Reason: Not all Provincial Grand Lodges utilize a Jr. Deputy and this way

- 6) Be it resolved that we continue to support the efforts of international Orange Members in their battles to maintain civil and religious freedoms where ever and when ever threatened.
- 7) Be it resolved that we stand against any group or organization that try to deprive people of their freedoms and liberties in the world.
- 8) Be it resolved that we encourage our members to attend a place of worship and tell people who we are and what we stand for.
- 9) Be it resolved that we encourage members to investigate their Orange Lineage and share it with family and friends.

All of which respectfully submitted Richard Lowery
 Martin Carlile
 Ralph Ford
 Andrew Long
 Warren Write.

Motion # 11 Moved by Warren Write and Seconded by Martin Carlile that the report of the resolutions committee be accepted as presented and printed in the report of proceedings. **(Carried)**

Petitions and Appeals

It is the recommendation of this committee that we have studied the information before us in this file and report as follows. That the request from LOL # 2870 needs to follow the proper procedures, only after exhausting all ability resolve the situation through their District Lodge or their County Lodge and or Provincial Orange Grand Lodge, it could proceed then to the Most Worshipful Grand Master under Rule # 137. There is no clear Rule to deal with this matter in the Constitution and Laws other then Rule # 128 or Rule # 137. The matter was skipped over the District Lodge Level who should have be option to deal with the matter at the start.

Back up Option

So if they wish to submit a Notice of Motion to create a new Rule for Isolated Lodges they can do so, as long as it follows the appropriate channels of the association.

Respectfully Submitted

Motion # 12 Moved by Norman Nelson and seconded by James Allan that the recommendation of the Petitions and Appeals Committee be accepted as presented and forwarded to Oakwood LOL # 2870 as to the findings of the Committee. **(Carried)**

Finance Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren All, we you duly appointed finance committee beg leave to report as follows, the provided financial paper and numbers we have after talking to the Grand Master and Sovereign, we are certain that there is a program error or typo. Unfortunately, the Grand Treasurers already left and could not be reached to get the needed documents.

Recommendations:

That the incoming executive form a committee to examine the financial budget using actual dollar figures to sum it up, we are not recommending cuts or new expenditures every line item stays as is until the figures can be ascertained. Respectfully submitted by: Todd Thornbury

Ian Gillespie
 James Pyke
 Nigel Kerr
 Darrell Barr

And, as noted earlier with the recent addition of Diefenbaker LOL 2748 in Prince Albert SK in 2023 we are now once again a truly Western Canada Association, with over a hundred members across the four Western Provinces.

Since the elections in April some of the other things we have been working on in the West:

- . The creation of a Letterhead for GOLWC which you see above.
- . The new GOLWC corporate Seal incorporating the King.
- . A current list of all GOLWC Lodge's mailing addresses and current phone numbers and email addresses of current sitting Lodge Secretaries.
- . With distance for traveling to the Lodges being one of our biggest challenges here in the West. Compiling a list of calendar dates for either Provincial, County meetings or convenient Lodge meetings days for myself and others from the executive to visit various Lodges.
- . Supporting Diefenbaker LOL # 2748 to help/plan the organizing of the 2025 annual GOLWC meeting scheduled for Saskatoon, SK next spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Murphy

PGM GOLWC

Grand Lodge Meetings of Canada

Hello everyone, my name is Paul Scott. I am the Grand Master of New Brunswick. I bring greetings to everyone from New Brunswick. It is uplifting to see our members gathered here today.

My first year in the Master's Chair was a learning experience. Two years ago, I was elected Junior Deputy Grand Master because the Grand Master at that time and Deputy Grand Master were unable to continue because of health issues. I was elected to the Grand Master's Chair last year. I am very fortunate to have a great executive to help me through my first year. Our Provincial and Primary Lodges for the most part are financially sound. The problem is our members are aging and we cannot secure new members.

In the past our Primary Lodges would raise money to donate to different organizations. The Organizations would acknowledge the Lodge's support. It seems now that our contributions don't matter much anymore. When visiting our Lodges I suggest our donations would carry more weight if the Lodges helped out in their own small communities. There is always a family or worthwhile cause to help right here at home. I feel this would draw awareness to the generosity of our Lodges. This year we awarded 2 bursaries of \$2000.00 each.

Times are tough for all Lodges. I know we have rules, but I feel we have to do everything we can to help our Lodges stay open. If we force them to close, they will never reopen. We all know the problems that face us. I wish we had the answers to revive our organization.

In closing the Orange Order is not the only organization that is in trouble. The Shriners, Masons, Knights of Columbus and the Legions are also trying to survive.

It is my hope that we will be able to continue. I am proud of my Orange heritage and I hope I will be able to continue to serve.

Thank You

Right Worshipful Grand Master

Paul Scott

would also like to wish each and everyone of you a safe, prosperous and most of all healthy year. And I pray that the seeds that are planted here this week will bring forth an abundant harvest for our glorious organization.

I wish you all safe Travels as you return to your respective homes, and may God bless each and everyone as we labor on behalf of GOL of Canada.

Respectfully Submitted

R. W. Bro. Ryan Butler
Grand Master
GOLNL

Motion # 15 Moved by Bro. Rick Glover and Seconded by Bro. Nigel Kerr that the reports of the Provincial Grand Masters be accepted as presented. **(Carried)**

Elections of Officers

Grand Master and Sovereign	Richard Heatherington
Deputy Grand Master	Donald Smith
Grand Secretary	Robert Short
Treasurer	Martin Carlile
Grand Lecturer	Richard Glover
Grand Martial	Norman Nelson

Motion # 16 Moved by Bro. Ron Murphy and Seconded by Bro. William Scott McCurry that the ballots be destroyed. **(Carried)**

Motion # 17 Moved by Bro. Terrence McCurry and Seconded by Bro. Stewart Hamil that the minutes be adopted as if read and printed in the Report of Proceedings. (Carried)

Grand Orange Lodge of British America Raised to the Scarlet Degree and closed in due form and with Prayer.

Members officially ended the session Singing, "God Save the King"

Wedding Anniversary.....(Any Year).....	\$ 10.00 ea
Birthday Certificate.....(Any Year).....	\$ 10.00 ea
Recognition(Event/Commitment).....	\$ 10.00 ea
Merit.....	\$ 10.00 ea
Past Master Certificate.....(Members Only).....	\$ 10.00 ea
Royal Arch Purple Degree.....(Members Only).....	\$ 10.00 ea
Royal Scarlet Certificate.....(Members Only).....	\$ 10.00 ea

Grand Master's Certificate, awarded by the Grand Master for Special Occasions & Recognition

Literature Available

Orangeism in Canada Today. (Self Copy).....	No Charge
Leaders of The Reformation.....	\$ 1.00 ea
Orangeism (It's Roots & Branches).....	\$ 1.00 ea

Please Note

Some of the promotional items and literature are in short supply, and, as it becomes necessary to re-order, provided they are still available or if another supplier can be found, there may be price changes to some or all of the items listed above.

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Office hours of the Grand Secretary's Office: Tuesday to Friday 9 to 4 pm Mountain Time.

**** (Days that I am not in the office issues that are not an emergency will be dealt with during regular office hours) ****