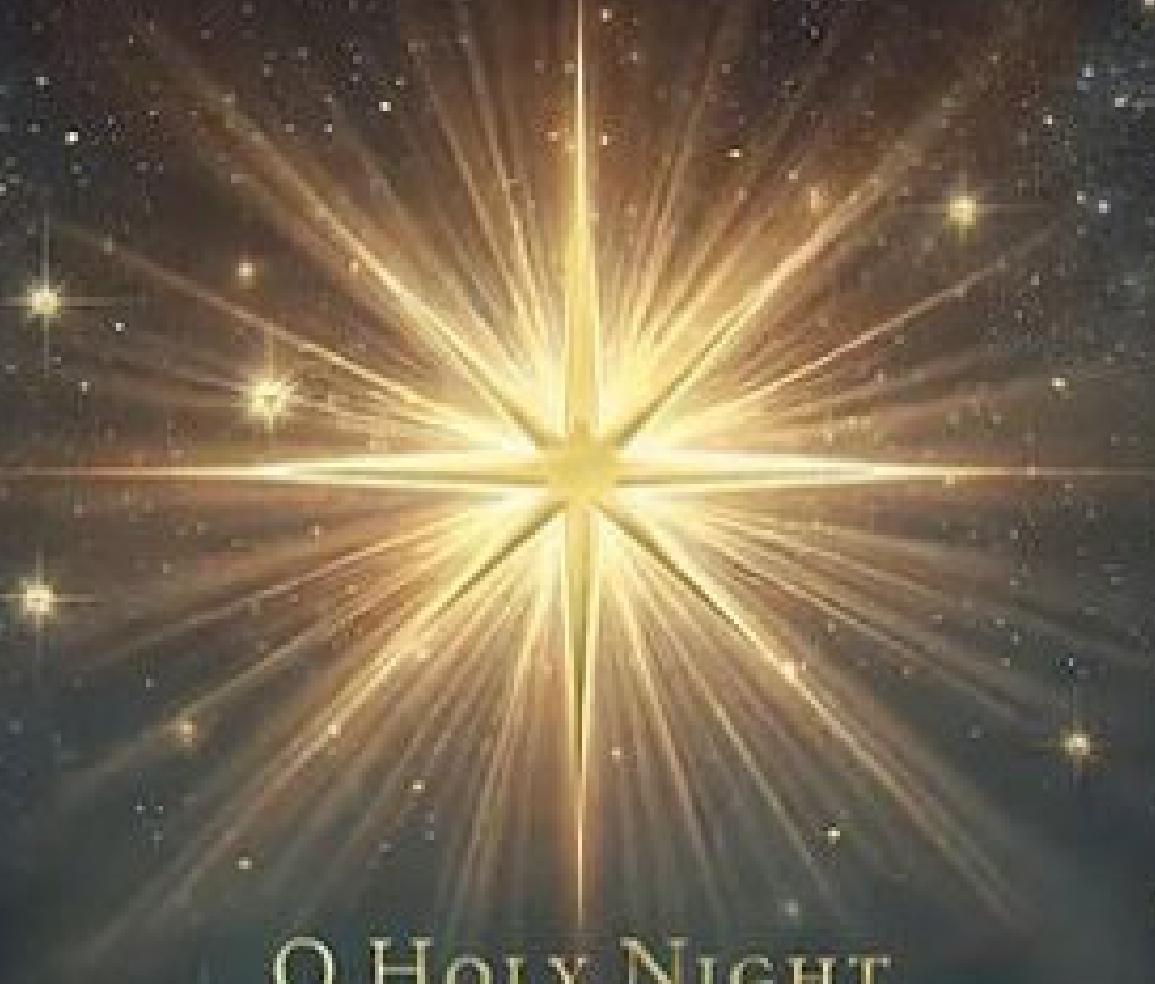


# THE SENTINEL

OUR COAST TO COAST CONNECTION



*For Unto Us A Child Is Born  
A King The King of Glory*



O HOLY NIGHT

*Merry Christmas*

## The Sentinel

Winter 2025 Volume 151 - 3

Editor: John Chalmers.

Please continue to forward all your articles and photos to [jodachal@yahoo.ca](mailto:jodachal@yahoo.ca)



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**ORANGE & PROTESTANT  
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(Formerly The Rosemere Home)

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*They Stand Tallest Who  
Scoop To Help A Little Child...*

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**Thank you for  
your continued Support**

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Operating a community based childrens facility, addressing the physical social and emotional needs of all children with multiple learning needs and abilities

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2025 FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING



A few weeks ago, the Queen and I were delighted to make a state visit to the Vatican where we prayed with Pope Leo in a historic moment of spiritual unity. Together, we celebrated the Jubilee theme "Pilgrims of Hope". "Pilgrimage" is a word less used today, but has particular significance for our modern world, and especially at Christmas. It is about journeying forward into the future, while also journeying back to remember the past and learn from its lessons. We did this during the summer, as we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup>. anniversaries of VE and VJ Day.

The end of the Second World War is now remembered by fewer and fewer of us as the years pass. But the courage and sacrifice of our servicemen and women, and the way communities came together in the face of such great challenge, carry a timeless message for us all. These are the values which have shaped our country and the Commonwealth. As we hear of division, both at home and

abroad, they are the values of which we must never lose sight

For instance, it is impossible not to be deeply moved by the ages of the fallen – as the grave-stones in our war cemeteries remind us. The young people who fought and helped save us from defeat in both world wars were often only 18 – 19 – or 20 years of age.

Journeying is a constant theme of the Christmas story; the Holy family made a journey to Bethlehem and arrived homeless without proper shelter. The wise men made a pilgrimage from the east to worship at the cradle of Christ; and the shepherds journeyed from field to town in search of Jesus, the saviour of the world. In each case, they journeyed with others, and relied on the companionship and kindness of others. Through physical and mental challenge, they found inner strength.

To this day, in times of uncertainty, these ways of living are treasured by all the great faiths and provide us with deep wells of hope; of resilience in the face of adversity; peace through forgiveness; simply getting to know our neighbours and, by showing respect for one another, creating new friendships.

Indeed, as our world seems to spin ever faster, our journeying may pause to quieten our minds in TS Elliot's words "*At the still point of the turning world and allow our souls to renew*" In this, with the great diversity of our communities, we can find the strength to ensure that right triumphs over wrong.

It seems to me that we need to cherish the values of compassion and reconciliation; the way

our Lord lived and died. This year I have heard so many examples of this, both here and abroad. These stories of the triumph of courage over adversity give me hope, from our venerable military veterans to selfless humanitarian workers in this country's most dangerous conflict zones; to the ways in which individuals and communities display spontaneous bravery, instinctively placing themselves in harm's way to defend others.

As I meet people of different faiths, I find it enormously encouraging to hear how much we have in common; a shared longing for peace and a deep respect for all life. If we can find time in our journey through life to think on these virtues we can all make the future more hopeful. Of course, the great pilgrimage of all is the journey we celebrate today – the story of the One who came down to earth from Heaven; whose shelter was a stable, and who shared his life with the poor and lowly.

It was a pilgrimage with a purpose, heralded by angels, that there should be peace on earth. That prayer for peace and reconciliation – for doing to others as we would have them do to us – which rang out over the fields near Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago, still reverberates from there and around the world today. It is a prayer for our times, and our communities too as we journey through our lives.

**"So, with these words and my whole heart I wish you all a most peaceful and very happy Christmas"**



## ***Message From the Grand Master & Sovereign Grand Orange Lodge of (BA) Canada***

### ***Greetings Brethren and Sisters,***

Once again, the blessed season of Christmas is upon us. As the calendar turns, we find ourselves immersed in the familiar and heartwarming festivities of the season—buying gifts for loved ones, planning grand meals, and eagerly awaiting the arrival of visitors and family members, just as we do every year.

It is a time of warmth, charity, and fellowship, but it is also a profound time for pausing, reflecting on where we have been, and looking ahead to where we are going.

This season serves as a dual signpost. We look back on this past year, reflecting on the collective efforts we have made to ensure our beloved Order remains vibrant and resilient. We think of the work done to make our lodges stronger and larger: the candidates we have welcomed, the degrees we have conferred with dignity, and the fundraising efforts that have supported in our communities.

We must also take a moment to remember the fundamental question: Why did we join the Orange Lodge in the first place? Was it not for fellowship, for faith, and to be part of something greater than ourselves? As the New Year approaches, many of us will make personal resolutions. This year, I challenge you to make a resolution specifically for your lodge.

Let us look forward with a renewed vision, seeking ways to make our meetings not just administrative necessities, but active, successful gatherings of like-minded souls. Let us resolve to keep our meetings positive and productive. We must be vigilant in keeping negativity outside our doors; instead, let us support one another, lifting each other up rather than offering discouragement.

It is time to lay down old grudges and clear the air of past grievances. Our focus must be on finding ways to keep our lodges open and thriving, rather than accepting closure as an inevitability. A resolution we could all make—and keep—is to dedicate ourselves to the rebuilding of our Order. Let us commit to making all branches of the Orange family strong and successful. We do this by honouring the year that has passed, celebrating our accomplishments, and honestly identifying the areas that need work. Let us move forward with optimism, rebuilding our foundations and moving the lodges toward a brighter future.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, joyous, and prosperous New Year.

God bless you all, and God save the King.

***Richard Heatherington*** Grand Master and Sovereign  
Grand Orange Lodge of British America (Canada)





# *Message from the Grand Chaplain*

## **WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM**

***“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, fell down and worshipped him” (Matthew ch. 2 vs 11)***

Life is so much easier for the modern-day traveller. Instead of bothering with awkward roadmaps or Tom-Tom devices, we can now have OnStar installed in our vehicles, or we can simply Google our final destination on our cell phone and it will instantly provide us with the fastest way to get to where we want to go.

First century travellers did not have this luxury, instead, they had to rely on the stars, or, in this case a certain star to lead them to an obscure village known as Bethlehem Ephrata. These ancient travellers, also known as Magi, or simply wise men had each left their home country in the East in search of the prophesied “King of Kings”.

These travellers had three things in common. They were seekers: (Matthew ch. 2 vs1-2) They were worshippers: (Matthew ch. 2 vs 11) They were Messengers: (Matthew 2 vs 12)

The major difference between King Herod and the Magi was in the “intent of the heart” the Magi were in search of the babe so that they could worship him. Herod was in search of the babe, so that he might destroy him and prevent the establishment of his long-awaited kingdom.

This Christmas season, may we all be wise men and woman seeking for a deeper personal relationship with our Lord. May we always strive to be faithful Seekers, Worshippers and Messengers. And remember the old saying.....

***” Wise Men still seek Him”***

***MW Bro David Liley  
Grand Chaplain of Canada***



## **GRAND ORANGE LODGE BI-ENNIAL SESSIONS 2026**

### **PROCLAMATION**

#### **L.O.L. - R.B.I. – LOBA SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 8th. – 11th 2026**

The Capital Hotel St. John's NL

Rooms are \$ + H.S.T. per night Single/ Double \$144.00 - King \$144.00 - Suites \$164.00

Held under Group ID (GRAND ORANGE LODGE) arr. June 6th. Dep. June 11th.

Cut off for this price is Thursday, May 15, 2026,

Those wishing to arrive sooner, or depart later will receive the same quoted room rate.

**Tel. 1-(709) 738-4480 Email. sales@capitalhotel.ca**

A Divine Service of Praise will take place in the Hotel Monday June 8th. 7.00pm Regalia to be worn.

The Banquet will be held in the Hotel Tuesday June 9th. 5.30pm Social time & cash bar 6.00pm Dinner

Banquet Tickets are \$60.00 Please inform the Grand Secretary of any dietary requirements

### **LOL**

Sessions will open with due ceremony at 9am-1pm Wednesday June 10. Continuing 9am-5pm Thurs. June 11th. 2026

LOL Pre-registration will be available at 2026 Provincial Meetings, And prior to Sessions. Reg. fee is \$20.00.

Pre-Registration will be available at your Provincial Grand Lodge Sessions.

All Members of Grand Lodge shall have the Scarlet Degree and be in good standing in a Primary Lodge.

### **PROPER CREDENTIALS**

Brethren who intend to register as Proxies, Special Delegates, or others as referred to in Rule #6, must have the proper credentials and or letters signed and with the Seal of the Lodge being represented. Failure to comply will disqualify the Delegate from voting in this capacity.

### **ENTITLED TO VOTE**

Please refer to Rule #6 Const. & Laws as to who is entitled to vote.

### **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Members of the following Boards or Committees will be advised as to the following meetings.

Grand Lodge Executive – Constitution & Laws Committee –Ritual Editing—

Canadian Council will meet Monday June 8th 8:30pm

**Richard Heatherington Grand Master & Sovereign      Rev. Robert Short Grand Secretary for sessions**

### **RBP**

Sessions will open with ceremony at 9am Mon. June 8th. Continuing at 9am Tues June 9th. 2026

Registration available Sunday June 7th. Mon. 8th. Tue 9th. Prior to Chapter opening. Reg. Fee \$20.00

Pre-Registration will be available at your Provincial Grand Lodge Sessions.

### **VOTING AND HOLDING OFFICE**

See Rule 11 subject to other provisions and by Rules 16 & 20.

Those having the Red Cross Degree and proper requisite are invited to attend

All Petitions & Appeals, Notices of Motion, applications for Hon. Dep. G.M. Hon. Memb. etc. must be on official letterhead, and separate letters for each where applicable should be addressed under Seal, to the Grand Registrar no later than May 31st. 2026. (Note, forms for Hon. Dep. G.M.'s are sent to Prov. Gr. Registrars.

Grand Chapter Officers must wear appropriate Dress; others should adhere to the dress code.

Grand Chapter Officers who cannot attend the sessions, are requested to send their Office Regalia to the Gr.

Registrar by March 31st. 2026 or with the permission of the Grand Registrar,

send it with a responsible Sir Lt. To the sessions. **PLEASE ADHERE STRICTLY TO THIS REQUEST**

A rehearsal for the Grand Chapter will take place Sunday evening, or Monday morning prior to opening.

**(Bil) Segui Grand Master**

**Ralph Ford Grand Registrar**

### **LOBA**

Sessions will open with ceremony at 9 am Monday June 8th continuing 9 am June 9th 2026

Registration available Sun. June 7th Mon. June 8th and Tues. June 9th, Prior to Grand Lodge opening.

Reg. Fee \$20.00. If you have any questions please reach out to

**Myra Knight the Grand Secretary**

**or**

**Linda Irwin Grand Mistress.**

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



May the Peace and Joy of Christmas remain with you all in the New Year.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
MW Bro. Donald C. Smith  
Deputy Grand Master  
G.O.L. Canada

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
MW Bro. Don Wilson  
Imm. Past Grand Master.  
GOL Canada

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
Best wishes for the coming year  
MW Bro Gerald Budden  
PGM GOL Canada  
Past Imperial Gr. President  
Imp. Orange Council World

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all our members of the Orange Family.  
Best wishes to all  
RW Bro Ron Murphy  
Prov. Grand Master  
PGOL  
Western Canada

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
Best wishes for 2026  
RW Bro James Allen  
Prov. Grand Master  
PGOL Quebec

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
RW Bro. Sid Hatcher  
P.G.M. PGOL  
Nova Scotia

Wishing all members of the Orange Family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
Health and prosperity to all Brothers and Sisters in 2026  
MW Sis. Judy Barnes  
PGM LOBA Canada

Seasons Greetings to all Members for 2026  
Officers and Members of Ruby LOBA 239  
Kelligrews NL

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
Officers and Members of Prince of Orange  
LOL 23 Kelligrews NL  
Wor. Bro. Edgar White W.M.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
Best wishes for 2026  
Board Management & employees  
Orange Benefit Fund

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to all members of the Orange Family  
RW Daniel Grasse Gr. Secty  
Provincial Grand Orange Lodge  
New Brunswick

Wishing all a Merry and Blessed Christmas and Happy Health New Year,  
MW Bro. W. Johnston  
Past Grand Master  
GOL Canada

Compliments of the Season  
Royal Oak Lodge #1285  
St. John's, NL  
Wor. Bro. Derek Tizzard  
Wor. Master

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our Orange Brothers and Sisters on behalf of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West Executive Officers and Members,**

May we enjoy this time to be with family and friends, be joyful and safe, know our stresses will be our successes. While we gather and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour let's reflect on our faith which bonds us together. As times evolve we see many of those who take less time to attend churches and practice faith, thankfully so many still celebrate Christmas, In its form as a family gathering there is recognition and practices of traditions that have been passed on from generation to generation, the star on the tree, the angles, mangers, family recipes, gifts, the feast, are all key parts of the birth of Jesus, the message is sometimes hidden but ends up in front of us always. For it's the most wonderful time of the year, following the 12th of July of course.. For the love of Christianity and Christmas, may God continue to bless us all, be safe and prosperous, from my family to all of you  
Merry Christmas

and Happy Birthday Jesus  
**RW Bro Gerry Morgan**  
Prov. Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Ontario West

## **GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTY ORANGE LODGE OF TORONTO**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the brethren in Toronto County Orange Lodge and all members of our association in in our great country of Canada and accross the world a Blessed Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year  
Looking towards 2026, our County Lodge will be welcoming the officers and members of LOL 1053 Star of The North, from Belfast N.I. and a visiting band which will be accompanying them in our Annual 12th of July parade, planned for July 18th. 2026 being celebrated at the Ted Reeve Sports Dome starting at 11am.

We are also planning another Ladies night in early October, and our Reformation Church Service will be held in Ajax Baptist Church on Sunday October 25th. For 2026 we have a number of new golf shirts with our new logo which was designed for our County ties which are also available for sale.

I would like to thank my executive for their help and guidance this past year.

Lastly, on behalf of my wife and myself, I would extend our best and warmest greetings to each and every member and their families through this Christmas Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In closing I will share wth you a verse from 1 Peter ch. 2 - vs.17

*Honour all people*

*Love the Brotherhood*

*Fear God -Honour the King*

**MW Bro Richard Glover.**

C.D. County Master of Toronto



### **Imperial Grand Master's Christmas Message 2025.**

As Imperial Grand Master, I wish to extend Christmas wishes to the members of the Orange family across the world.

For many of us, Christmas is a special time - an opportunity to take a break and to spend time with family and loved ones for others however, it can be a lonely time.

The qualifications of an Orange-man state that the 'welfare of man' should be one of our motives. I would therefore encourage you to reach out, and spend time with the elderly, sick, bereaved and vulnerable in our communities this Christmas.

As the year ends, Christmas reminds us of new beginnings and the fulfilment of God's promise of a Saviour. On that first Christmas, God became man in the form of a newborn baby so that we might know salvation through His grace and redeeming power.

That Christmas, mankind was gifted the most precious of all presents, and it is my earnest prayer that you all may know God's presence, love and mercy this Christmas and in the year ahead

**MW Bro. Edward Stevenson**

**Imperial Grand Master**

## **ROYAL BLACK INSTITUTION IN CANADA MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER**

Sir Knights, Brothers & Sisters  
As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Royal Black Institution in Canada extend sincere Christmas greetings to members of our Orange family.

The Christmas season calls us to reflect upon the great gift of grace, peace and redemption given to the world through Christ.



At this sacred time of year, we give thanks for the fellowship we share, the faith that unites us and the principles we are called to uphold.

May the message of Christmas strengthen our resolve to walk in Christmas charity, humility and service, both within our Institution and in the wider community.

We wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and pray that the coming year will be guided by God's wisdom, protection and blessing.

Steadfast in faith and fellowship.

***Bil Segui, Grand Master***

Royal Black Institution  
Canada

## **CHAPLAINS MESSAGE ROYAL BLACK INSTITUTION IN BRITISH AMERICA (CAN)**

Throughout Church History there was a saying about different movements within the Church. If it is not of God it will die. Looking around this country, I know that Church attendance is down and yes, it is very concerning. What is even more concerning I often wonder about our membership. How often do the membership go to church? Are the Orangemen/Blackmen involved with their Church are they playing an active role within their Churches?

We are supposed to go to Church to support a Church of the Protestant or Reformed Faiths, it is an integral part of living up to our obligations as Brothers, Sir Knights and Sisters of the Orange Order. Being involved with a Church of your choosing is the lifeblood that keeps the ship upright why because it maintains our connection to the source of all life that being our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I know of Brothers and Sir Knights that are high up in our order but yet they have no religious life. The Lodges as much as I do love each and everyone of those Lodges it was never suppose to take the place of Church. Church is where we go to be fed spiritually and in that feeding, we receive the blessings of our Lord and Saviour, it brings to us the life that we so desire and it is the balm to the soul when we are down and the fire in our heart that shows this world the love it so badly needs.

Many members of the several different lodges have expressed to me their concern for Lodge membership, and I completely understand. But the question must be asked how well are you living up to your obligations? Are you an example of living up to those obligations?

In truth what I see as the issue for the Lodge when it comes to membership is above all a spiritual one. We need to take our obligations seriously and to be an example to our younger brothers those who may even think about becoming involved in the Lodges. If your Church is having a bible study Brothers, Sisters and Sir Knights should be signing up feeding your soul feeding the part of you that desires to have knowledge when it comes to scripture. If Lodges across this country began to sit as a body in Church maybe once a month people will start to wonder who you are, we are a people that need to have the love of Christ in our hearts and when we express that love to each other as Brothers, Sisters and Sir Knights. We can and will become something that would be attractive. When we show those around us, we are Christian and hold the Gospel to our hearts, we will be surprised just what may happen.

My dear Brothers, Sisters and Sir Knights in Christ this message today is about you all and rededicating yourself to the Church what ever Church you so wish to be part of from the Protestant and Reformed faiths, we must be seen as a Christian Organization, taking leadership

roles with those Churches and therefore become the example that will spread the seed of Orangeism. Most people today do not know what the Orange Order is about or that we are indeed a Christian Organization, it is only through becoming visible within our Churches, returning kindness when rude comments come our way. Being the example of what it is to live up to the obligations that we all professed.

So, in the coming year I am asking you all to think about your obligation, and what you can do to live up to that obligation better then you have before. Make it a New Years resolution, let the Holy Scripture Guide and direct you in all your actions. May it be a light unto your path and sure help in times of trouble. Let the Orange Order in Canada be an example to the wider public of the Christian life well lived.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you, may He shine the light of His love within each and everyone of you. Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy Prosperous New Year. May God Bless the work of our Hands.

**M W. Sir Knight and Brother  
Robert Short [Grand Chaplain  
of the Grand Black Chapter of  
British America (Canada)]**



## WESTERN CANADA LODGES MEET TO CONSIDER THEIR FUTURE



Above picture from the joint meeting of Winnipeg Golden West LOL 2311, Newdale LOL 1533, and Keyes LOL 1755. The meeting was chaired by the GM of the Grand Orange Lodge of Western Canada Brother Ron Murphy with representation of the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada being the Grand Treasurer Brother Carlisle. Many issues were discussed some being recruitment and the County Lodge. Updates on the three MB lodges were given by their respective Worshipful Master's. A good meeting was held and all brothers were pleased to share in fellowship.

left to right: RW PM Darrell Barr -, RW PM Scott McCurry, - RW PM Billy Naismith, - RW GM GOLWC Ron Murphy, - RW Grand Treasurer GLOC Marty Carlisle, - Br Wullie Wilson, - RW PM Jack Cox, - RW Master Keyes LOL 1755 Terry McCurry, - RW Master Newdale LOL 1533 Jeff Suski, - Br Aaron Croning -, RW Master Winnipeg Golden West LOL 2311 Nigel Kerr.

### ORANGE ASSOCIATION ONLINE MARKETING MEETING

Join the GrandTreasurer of Canada MW Bro. Martin Carlisle and the Grand Master of Western Canada RW Bro. Ron Murphy, for their upcoming online meeting, to take place on February 21st 2026.

This meeting will be an opportunity for all Lodges and Brethren in Canada to connect with other interested members, to hear and exchange idea's, insights and experiences. Also to explore fresh ideas on current and inovative ways to approach new membership in our respective Lodges accross Canada.

*Don't miss this opportunity*

For more information, or to register for the meeting log - in, contact either  
Bro. Martin Carlisle <[info@barriedj.com](mailto:info@barriedj.com)>  
Bro. Ron Murphy. <[ron@shamrockagency.com](mailto:ron@shamrockagency.com)>



## IN MEMORIAM

RW Bro. Lewis Johnson  
Former member RBP - ABOD  
LOL 27 Shawville PQ  
Passed Oct. 2nd 2025  
83 Years

Wor. Bro. Garth Garland  
Life member & PM LOL 917  
Former member & PM  
Munster OYB 30  
Well known for playing  
baseball for the OYB teams  
in Stittsville.  
Passed Oct. 18th. 2025  
93 Years

Wor Bro Robert McFarland  
Member and PM  
Tobermore LOL 2391  
Birchcliff LOL 2856  
Passed Oct. 24th. 2025  
89 Years.

Wor. Bro. William McKendry  
Member & PM  
Eglinton LOL 269  
Passed Oct. 2025



## 90th. Birthday Celebrations



"R. W. Bro. Frederic A. Williams, IPGM GOL NB was extended warm wishes by family, friends and other community members on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The event was organized by Frederic's family and held in the Hazen Park Center, Oromocto, NB. A large number turned out to honor Bro. Williams for this momentous occasion. Bro. Williams served two terms as Grand Master of the PGOL of New Brunswick (2010-2011 and 2022) and continues to serve the Order in several capacities."

**In the attached photo, L-R:** R. W. Bro. Paul Scott, Grand Master, GOL NB, Bro. Williams, Sis. Valerie Williams, his wife and Wor. Bro. George Lacey, Secretary, Queens West County Lodge.  
Article by Daniel J. Grasse R.W. Grand Secretar GOL NB



**SENTINEL**  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**SAYS**

## **“100th. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION”**



photo shows honorary member  
Sister Gladys Bentley.

Gladys celebrated her 100th birthday on October 4th with a birthday celebration held at York care centre, where Gladys resides in the assisted living section. Gladys is a member Flanders #423 LOBA and holds the office of chaplain. She is very smart for her age, an excellent reader of the scriptures. Gladys very seldom misses a lodge meeting, and she also attends grand lodge sessions each year and acts as a guard. She also looks after the sale table. Gladys drove her own car until a few years ago. *Eva I. Stewart, grand secretary LOBA of New Brunswick and secretary for Flanders #423.*

**SENTINEL SAYS  
“CONGRATULATIONS”  
ON THIS AMAZING  
MILESTONE**

## **PRINCE OF ORANGE CONFER THE ROYAL ARCH PURPLE DEGREE**



Congratulations to Brothers Ben Barbour seated left, and Roger Porter, Jr seated right, on being exalted to the Royal Arch Purple Degree, on November 26th, 2025. Congratulations also on a job well done to the brothers who assisted in conferring of this degree,  
Thanks again Don Smith

---

## **PRINCE OF WALES LOL 26 CONFERS THE ROYAL SCARLET DEG.**



LOL No 26, Cupids, NL exalted two new members to the Royal Scarlet Degree on October 28, 2025. Shown left to right, are the two Sir Knight Companions, Sir Kt. Donald Phillips and Sir Kt. Daniel Gosse.

# COLEBROOK LOL BANNER & LODGE RESTORATION PROJECT



Hi members: We think we have all of the banners that Colebrook has had starting with the one on the left with the mostly red background which would be 19<sup>th</sup> Century (the lodge started in the 1850's) signed by the artist with his home - It was either Sydenham or Harrowsmith. The banner in the centre was put up yesterday after some restoration. There were 15 or so tears and rips in the material and the top was tattered and mostly gone. We used archival tape that museums use to repair paper and fine material to tape the rips and tears. Then cut a piece of red material doubled up and secured to each side of the top section. The new material was bonded to the original by two - 6 foot long by 2-inch-wide strips of "Heat n Bond" Ultrahold adhesive secured with an electric iron. It worked pretty well and If anyone wants to restore a heritage banner this might be a good technique to use. The newest banner on the right was made by a group of hippies living in a commune East of Marlbank in the 1970's or 80's. The last picture shows the inside of the hall with the lights on.

***Special thanks to Wor. Bro. Jamie McClelland for his work on this project***

# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



On Tuesday, November 11, representatives of Royal Oak Lodge #1285 attended the Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying at the National War Memorial in St. John's.

Shown above Wor. Bros. Kevin Wells, D.M. Karl Snow, R.S. and Derek Tizzard, W.M. (Ex. Military)



On Saturday October 25th, Royal Oak Lodge participated in Good Samaritan Anglican Church's Pumpkin Carving Event. At the conclusion of the carving, the kids visited various areas throughout the Church where they received treats. Their final stop was at the Lodge Room of Royal Oak Lodge where they encountered three swabs who greeted them well with their enjoyment.

From left is Wor. Bro. Derek Tizzard, W.M.; Wor. Bro. Kevin Wells, D.M. and Wor. Bro. Karl Snow, R.S. It was so good to see the smiles on the kids enjoying their day and the Lodge is more than happy to support the Kids whenever they can.



The Canadian Fencibles observe Remembrance at Chrysler's Farm Monument near Morrisburg Ont

**At Bugles Call**  
You come in tears to honour us, with  
songs so full of sorrow,  
But we're the ones who spent today's so  
the young may have tomorrows.  
Our bodies lie in nameless graves from  
duties through the world,  
And we can never rest at ease till the flag  
of truth's unfurled.  
It could have been in any time, when for  
Country we did stand  
We fought and died from Europe's  
shores, to Afghanistan's far land.  
So please don't come and weep for us,  
for that we did not strive,  
But never let oppression rule, and keep  
our work alive.  
At Bugles call remember us, we went and  
paid the toll,  
For no one ever died in vain, when freedom was their goal...

# **PRINCE OF WALES LOL 26 CUPIDS NL REMENBERS THE WATERWITCH TRAGEDY OF 150 YEARS AGO**



Prince of Wales LOL 26, participated in the commemoration of the schooner "Waterwitch" tragedy, which occurred 150 years ago.

Nine drowning victims were interred in a mass grave and some of the victims were devoted members of our Lodge. The Waterwitch

struck the cliffs of Pouch Cove NL in a blinding snowstorm on Nov. 29th, 1875, 12 souls were drowned and 13 were rescued.

On December 6th, 2025, Bro. Ray Bursey was honoured to "Walk Before" the horse drawn hearse

***just as our Brethren did on Dec. 6, 1875.***

Our Lodge provided our ceremonial coffin and a beautiful Church commemoration service took place.

One hundred and fifty years ago, on November 29<sup>th</sup>. 1875 the Schooner "Waterwitch" sailed out of St. John's harbour and into a storm that would change the lives of everyone aboard. Within hours, they would be in a fight for survival that would lead to one of Newfoundland and Labrador's most daring rescues.

Captain George Spraklin had sailed to St. John's from his home port of Cupids in Conception Bay, to sell the last of the summer's fishing catch, but the company aboard his ship Waterwitch wasn't its usual crew of fishermen. Instead, as many captains did at the time, Spracklin had brought family, friends and neighbours along for the year-end trip to town, to shop for winter provisions and toast the close of another fishing season.

There were twenty-five aboard in all and they must have been a merry crowd. Half of them were young people in their late teens and twenties, including three of Spracklin's sons and two daughters-in-law. Around sunset on Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>. 1875 once all their supplies had been loaded onto the ship, they sailed north bound for home.

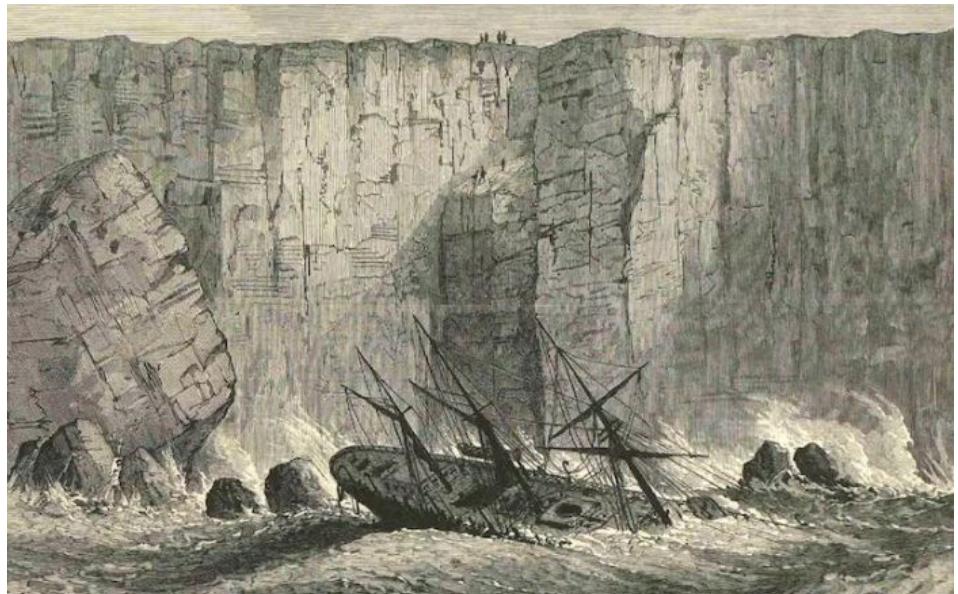
As they sailed north the wind picked up, the crew lost sight of the coast in a blinding snowstorm. Then, thinking that more than enough time had gone by for the ship to have passed Cape St Francis at the northern tip of the Avalon Peninsula, the crew turned west to what they thought would be Conception Bay.

. But the winds had slowed their progress, and suddenly cliffs loomed up on either side of them in the night, they were caught in the aptly named Horrid Gulch in Pouches Cove, more than two miles short of Cape St Francis.

The forceful waves whipped up by the gale buffeted the "Waterwitch" against the rocks, and knowing that the hull couldn't withstand such a battering, two men took a flying leap from the quarterdeck onto the cliff face, where they landed on a small outcrop of the rock face, and as the ship neared the cliff with the next wave more men jumped to join them. Clutching each other on the slippery ledge, they watched as the "Waterwitch" broke apart and sank beneath the rolling surf.

They thought everyone else had been lost until over the roaring of the wind they heard the captains' shouts. Four men had managed to make it off the ship to the opposite cliff face, where the drop was slightly less sheer, and despite the storm three of them decided to try to scale the slippery rocks leaving one of Spracklin's sons behind to give spirit to those remaining on the rocks.

They climbed hundreds of feet in darkness and then walked a mile and a half to Pouch Cove for help. When the rescuers arrived in the wee hours of the morning, they had few options to reach them and a man named Alfred Moores volunteered to be lowered down the cliff by rope. He alighted on a ledge some five hundred feet down where he



could see the survivors below. More rescuers from Pouch Cove were lowered to assist and with long ropes the survivors of the "Waterwitch" were pulled to safety. The last to be rescued was sixteen-year-old James H. Wells who had jumped to the cliff face at some distance from the others and spent the night clinging to the rocks.

Through their ingenuity and bravery, the people of Pouch Cove saved thirteen men that November night, and two dozen men participated in the rescue effort with six of them awarded medals from the Royal Humane Society for risking their lives to save others. Twelve souls perished in the wreck, including all four women who were unable to jump to safety.

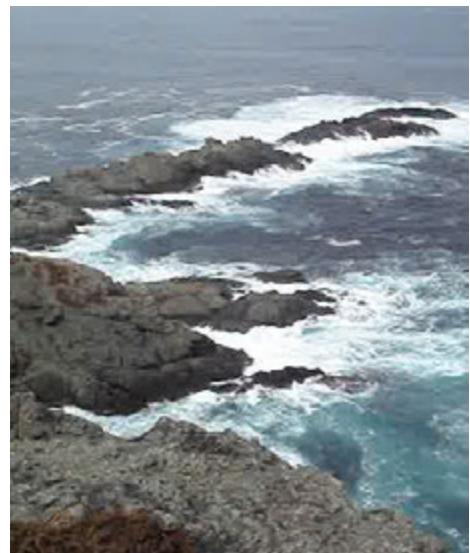
The Spracklin family lost six members that night, among them one of Spracklin's sons and both daughters in law.

In Cupids the following week, the newly built Methodist Church opened its doors to host a solemn first service;

funeral for the victims, and in a town of only 1300, over two thousand were in attendance. Most of those recovered were buried in a mass grave behind Cupids United Church.

#### ***Known victims***

**Joanna Croke - George Ivany**  
- Elias Ford -  
**Priscella Spracklin -**  
**Elizabeth A. Spracklin -**  
**Jonathon Spracklin**  
**Moses Robert Spracklin -**  
**Malvania Spracklin (Cave) -**  
**Soloman Taylor -**  
**Richard Webber**





Merry Christmas  
Loyal True Blue & Orange Home  
wish you & yours a season full of love, joy & happiness

The Loyal True Blue & Orange Home is thrilled to start 2026 supporting people in need.

We would like to extend our support to the communities of LOL & LOBA Lodges. If your Lodge is interested, we are offering to make a \$1,000.00 donation to the Foodbank of your Lodges choice

Simply select one food bank per Lodge and send us the following information no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

- Proper name of the food bank (for the cheque)
- Full address including postal code of the food bank
- Food bank must be a registered charity, you must provide the charitable number

Email the above information to either email address:

[Shelly.thomson@ltboh.org](mailto:Shelly.thomson@ltboh.org) or [Rebecca.hartford@ltboh.org](mailto:Rebecca.hartford@ltboh.org)

Merry Christmas!!

Loyal True Blue and  
Orange Home

