

## **Building Bridges**

Installation of Colborne Lodge No. 91 – October 19, 2011

We are fortunate in Colborne Lodge to have two wonderful bridge builders. Our Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Prosper Lepine is serving for the second time as the Master of Colborne Lodge. He has served in this role so that the junior officers coming up through the chairs could get ample opportunity and experience before assuming the chair of King Solomon. That activity is about building a bridge to assist those officers.

At the same time, I have watched Bro. Gordon McArthur, Worshipful Master Elect as he has assisted junior officers with their work and assisted in the role of mentor in Colborne Lodge. This assistance is providing a bridge of communication and understanding to assist those Masons to be better in their respective roles.

We are-- or should be-- constantly building bridges in other walks of our lives such as within our family and when working in service clubs, church, youth and community organizations.

Let me share with you a wonderful poem by Will Allen Dromgoole. While I read it to you, think about your position in your lodge, in your family, in your church and in your community.

### **The Bridge Builder**

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned, when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,  
"You are wasting strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide-  
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today,  
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm, that has been naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

As lodge officers we are the bridge builders and it is our duty to keep our bridges in good repair.  
The real question becomes, "What kind of a bridge are you building?"

To assist our Worshipful Master Elect I have for him my fourth symbolic Working Tool of a  
Worshipful Master. It is a tape measure. I would have brought a 24" gauge however I thought that the  
tape measure would be more convenient to carry in an apron.

Have a great year.

R. W. Bro. Douglas E. Galt  
DDGM Ontario District