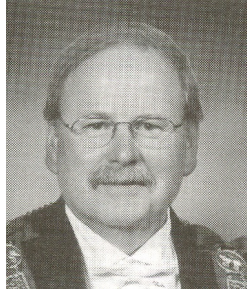


## Gary Laverne Atkinson

Grand Master (2005-06 and 2006-07) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada  
in the Province of Ontario



Gary Laverne Atkinson was born in Petrolia, Ontario. He was raised in Wyoming (now Plympton-Wyoming) and graduated from Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute, Petrolia. He began his career in the automotive industry but changed to the petrochemical field. Beginning with Imperial Oil he transferred to Shell Canada where he remained for his career of 33 years. He was based at the Corunna Refinery where he was a Senior Operator and the site's Chairman of the Safety Promotions Team. He retired in June 2005.

In 1978 he married Sandy Bentley of St. Thomas and they have two sons: Greg, a Heavy Equipment Operator and Apprentice Mechanic, and Drew, a Superintendent/Greenskeeper in the Golfing Industry. Both Greg and Drew are members of their father's Lodge, Burns 153 of Plympton-Wyoming.

He is a member of the Wyoming United Church. He is actively involved in community affairs, including Past President and Director of the Plympton and Wyoming. Agricultural Society, Director for St. Francis Advocates (a home for autistic adults), formerly a member of Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, and Coach in the Wyoming Minor Baseball Association for which he was awarded the Coach of the Year award in 2000.

In February 2003 he received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his contribution to the community and Freemasonry.

## Masonic Career

M.W.Bro. Gary Laverne Atkinson was initiated into Burns 153, Wyoming. He served as WM (1979) and was Lodge Secretary for 15 years, being named as Secretary Emeritus in 2001. He was elected DDGM of Sarnia District (1986-87). He served on the Board of General Purposes from 1989 and was a member of the Benevolence, Masonic Education, Condition of Masonry, Long Range Planning, Blood Donors and Communications committees. He served as a Director of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario from 1994-99 and in 1999 was elected to serve on the Management Committee of Grand Lodge. On July 17, 2003 he was elected as Deputy Grand Master (2003-04 and 2004-05), and was elected and installed on July 23, 2005, as Grand Master (2005-06 and 2006-07). He is currently the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

He is a member and Honorary Past First Principal of Bruce Chapter 53, Petrolia. He is active in York Rite bodies and is the recipient of the Order of the Purple Cross.

In the Scottish Rite he is a member of the Sarnia Lodge of Perfection, London Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix and the Hamilton Consistory. He was coroneted as an Honorary 33° Scottish Rite Mason in September 2005 in Toronto.

He is a member of Mocha Temple, London, A.A.O.N.M.S.

He is a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

[Sources: (1) Annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. (2) *Whence Come We? Volume II*, 2011, Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada.]