

Paul Edward Todd

Grand Master 2017 – 2019 of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario



Photo from the Grand Lodge

Prepared by VW Bro. Marshall Kern.

Paul E. Todd was born in Belleville, Ontario, on August 1, 1945. He grew up in Trenton, Ontario and attended Trenton High School. In Ottawa, he began working as an apprentice Mechanic obtaining his Class A license. He also joined the Ontario Provincial Police Auxiliary Unit, retiring with the rank of Corporal. He worked part-time for Ontario Ambulance in Carleton Place, Ontario, leaving this position after 10 years of service.



Paul Todd joined the Township of Nepean Fire Department in 1971, which is now part of the Ottawa Fire Services. The Governor General awarded him the Federal Fire Service Medal for Exemplary Service, and the Ontario Fire Marshal awarded him the Ontario Fire Marshal Long Service Medal. He retired in 2002 after thirty-one years of Service.

Paul Todd was the Rector's Warden of St. James Anglican Church, Carleton Place, for two terms and for 12 years a member of the Church Choir. Paul is married to Gloria, and they have three children. V.W. Bro Shawn Todd (Past Grand Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and a member of St. John's Lodge No. 63, Carleton Place) and his wife Michele live in Westboro, Shannon Moore and her husband Danny live in McLaren's Landing. Shannon is also a member of the Ottawa Fire Service as coordinator of the Platoon Chief's Office. Alanna Renaud with her husband Budd live in Carleton Place. He also is a proud grandfather to six beautiful grandchildren, Olivia, Alisha, Tristan, Camryn, Rowan, and M.J.

Masonic Career

M.W. Bro. Paul Todd joined Masonry on April 13, 1983, in St. John's No. 63, Carleton Place, becoming its Worshipful Master in 1994-1995. He affiliated with Luxor Daylight Lodge No. 741, Ottawa District No. 2, and was the Worshipful Master in 2003. Ottawa District No. 1 elected R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd to be the District Deputy Grand Master for 1999-2000. All the Masonic Education presentations he gave during his Official Visits were collected by R.W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns and published with the title Lifting the Veil.

He was the President of the Carleton Place Temple Corporation for five years, and District Chairman of Blood Donors and Masonic Education for Ottawa District No. 1. M.W. Bro. Todd was a member of the Provincial Emergency Service Degree Team.

M.W. Bro. Todd was appointed to the Board of General Purposes in 2001, 2003 and 2005. Then he ran for election to the Board of General Purposes and was successful in 2007, and again in 2009. In 2008 he was elected to the Management Committee and in 2009 he was re-elected for a three-year term.

While serving on the Board of General Purposes, M.W. Bro. Todd was a member of the Masonic Education Committee, where he was the Team Leader responsible for the Masonic Education Newsletter, the Chairman of the Committee of Long-Range Planning, and the Committee for the Condition of Masonry.

M.W. Bro. Todd retired from the Board of General Purposes in July of 2011 due to health issues. To keep active and contribute to the Craft he joined the Lodge of Instruction Team with M.W. Bro. Don Mumby and traveled as a presenter for two years.



To support the visibility of Freemasonry in the community, M.W. Bro. Todd was the Local Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee for the International Plowing Match in Carleton Place, and a member of both the Navan and Crosby International Plowing Match Committees.

As a member of the Grand Lodge 150th Anniversary committee, M.W. Bro. Todd was an actor in the commemorative play presented at several Especial Communications.

M.W. Bro. Todd has served as the Grand Lodge Representative to Lodge Amalgamation Committees in Ottawa, Cornwall, Kingston and Bath.

He is a founding Director of the MASONICHiP Foundation of Ontario. He was Co-Chair of the Local Committee on Arrangements for the Especial Communication of Grand Lodge in Ottawa and has Chaired four Grand Master Receptions Committees for the Ottawa Districts.

M.W. Bro. Todd was appointed a Director of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario for six years. He accepted roles as with responsibility for the web page, and for approval of Masonic Foundation District projects.

In 2017 he became a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

He was elected Deputy Grand Master in July of 2015 and Grand Master in 2017.

M.W. Bro. Todd is the representative of the Grand Lodge of New York near the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

In Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry he is a Past Thrice Puissant Grand Master of the Ottawa Lodge of Perfection, a member of the Murray Chapter of the Rose Croix, and a member of the Ottawa Consistory. He was coroneted a 33-degree Honorary Inspector General in Vancouver on September 11, 2008.

As a member of Tunis Temple, Land O' Lakes Shrine Club, he participates in the Tunis Temple Oriental Band, where he is the Hajji. He was appointed to the Divan of Tunis Temple in 2012 as Marshall.

As a member of Royal Arch Masonry, M.W. Bro. Todd was advanced as a Mark Master Mason on October 4, 2016, in Ottawa Chapter No. 222. He then was received and acknowledged as Most Excellent Master on December 18, 2016, and exalted to Holy Royal Arch on February 23, 2017. He was appointed as Past First Principal of Ottawa Chapter No. 222 during the April 2017 Grand Chapter Convocation at St. Catharines by Grand First Principal Alan Donovan. M.W. Bro. Todd was appointed Grand Senior



Sojourner at the Grand Chapter Convocation held in April 2022 at St. Catharines by Grand First Principal George Napper. M.W. Bro. Todd affiliated with Maple-Granite Chapter No. 63 Carleton Place, March 4, 2022.

As Grand Master

As the 78th Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Todd presented 9 Wm. Mercer Wilson medals to deserving Masons. And six Meritorious Service Medals were awarded.

During his term there were 10 Lodges that determined that it was in their best interest to amalgamate. And there were 6 Lodges that decided to close by extinguishing the lights.

There is a motorcycle riding club that used a Square and Compasses logo on the patch identifying their members. M.W. Bro. Todd took action to protect the trademark of the Square and Compasses that is owned by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Jurisprudence required M.W. Bro. Todd to approve the start of two Masonic Trials based on complaints against two Masons. He also had to suspend a Lodge for non-payment of semi-annual dues and no communication from the Lodge to explain the negligence.

M.W. Bro. Todd attended a Cornerstone Ceremony for the Windsor City Hall. This event resulted in extensive and positive publicity for our Fraternity.

During his term as Grand Master, he held an Especial Communication of Grand Lodge in North Bay.

M.W. Bro. Todd continued the active participation of Grand Masters from our jurisdiction at the North American Conference of Grand Masters, and the All Canada Conference of Grand Masters. He also attended the World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges in Panama.

There were also trips to the annual communications of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, and the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon. At the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island M.W. Bro. Todd was welcomed and reminded of the close bond between the two Grand Lodges. Our Grand Lodge supported the effort of Masons to form the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island and that support continues to be appreciated.

There was a personal connection to be enjoyed when M.W. Bro. Todd traveled to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon. M.W.

Bro. Douglas Franklin was installed as Grand Master, and he entered our Fraternity in Ottawa where he served as a Worshipful Master, and as a DDGM for Ottawa District 1. The two current Grand Masters have known each other for many years, and were both Worshipful Masters of their respective Lodges in Ottawa District 1 for the 1993 – 1994 Masonic year.

Of particular note is the travel by M.W. Bro. Paul Todd, and M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, to London England to participate in the celebrations of the 300th Anniversary of the formation of the premier Grand Lodge. This very well-organized event began with an opening dinner at the Grand Connaught Room with five hundred guests with the United Grand Lodge of England Deputy Grand Master. This was followed by attendance at the reception of the Grand Master H.R.H. the Duke of Kent in Freemason Hall where each Grand Master had a few moments of introduction, to a reception that evening at the Lord Mayor of London Mansion and concluding the next day at Royal Albert Hall where close to four thousand Masons witnessed an outstanding play “Bringing Light to the World” and concluding with the pomp and ceremony of dedication of the new Soane Ark which contained the Great Lights, and a replica of the Wren Maul.

As Grand Master he feels very blessed that he had opportunity to represent the Masons of this Grand Jurisdiction in a once in a lifetime event. He continued the celebration of the tercentenary of Freemasonry at various events in our jurisdiction including the Greater Toronto Area 300th Anniversary Gala Ball.

A year later, on June 2, 2018, M.W. Bro. Todd was invited to travel to Brussels to the annual communication of the Regular Freemasonry Grand Lodge of Belgium with M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, our Grand Secretary. M.W. Bro. Shand received the Medal of Honor of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium for services rendered from M.W. Bro. Daniel Bauwens, Grand Master. M.W. Bro. Shand was very active in helping the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium form and be recognized in regular Freemasonry.

The charity that M.W. Bro. Paul Todd encouraged Masons to support during his term was the Autism Disorder Research Project. The selection of this charity was prompted by his special grandson, Tristan. To be sure the selection of this charity would be appropriate and useful, M.W. Bro. Todd put together a small sub-committee from Ottawa area Masons. The sub-committee was led by past President of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario R.W. Bro Samuel Kalinowsky PDDGM Ottawa 2, R.W. Bro. Brian Adam PDDGM Ottawa 1 and V.W. Bro Shawn Todd, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Their consideration of the work being done at Canadian Universities concluded that Queen’s University in Kingston, McMaster University in Hamilton and Western University in London were doing deserving research into Autism Spectrum. The committee informed each University that they might be eligible for a research grant if they would submit a written outline of how their research would use the grant monies.

At the end of his two-year term M.W. Bro. Todd was able to announce that a very substantial amount of donations was raised from the proceeds of Grand Master Receptions, decisions by Lodges and by Masons who gave money through the Masonic Foundation of Ontario to the Autism Research Project. The funds were shared equally among the three University Research Groups.

There were many Grand Master's Receptions over his term. The fundraising opportunities were secondary to the other goals of the events. M.W. Bro. Todd used the Receptions across the Province to make sure he, as the figurehead of Grand Lodge, was visible and available to brethren in all areas of the Province. To him it was particularly important to be present in Districts across northern Ontario. M.W. Bro. Todd enjoyed hearing first-hand of the issues facing lodges and then introducing Grand Lodge Officers working on solutions or able to find answers. This effort was a direct result of advice he was given by several mentors including M.W. Bro. Donald Mumby, and his personal experience in traveling across the Province as Deputy Grand Master.

During his term as Grand Master M.W. Bro. Todd enjoyed the opportunity to approve the Institution of two new Lodges in the jurisdiction. Templum Lucis Lodge No. 747 in Stratford is a 'strict observance' lodge with an active program for members and guests. Goodfellows Lodge No. 748 in Parry Sound demonstrated the determination of some Masons in that area to build a new Lodge with a focus on charity and fellowship.

M.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd said in his final remarks as Grand Master how much he appreciated that a non-high school graduate and a working man could become the Grand Master. In his many addresses to Masons at various events and receptions, M.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd would conclude his remarks with the sincere comment: "If we are not willing to learn and change, no one can help us. If we are determined to learn and change, no one can stop us."

A bronze plaque honouring M.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd was placed near the entrance of St. John's Lodge No. 63 by the brethren of the lodge.

Sources:

- (1) *Annual Proceedings* of the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario: 2017, 2018, 2019
- (2) Personal communications, 2023
- (3) Personal communications with W. Bro. Neil Lillico, District Historian, Ottawa District One.