

Northern Ontario Visitation

By R.W. Bro. Robert McLeod

In May, a group of distinguished mason's embarked on a five-day trip to Northern Ontario for visitations to lodges in the Temiskaming and Nipissing East districts.

The trip began with the germ of an idea. It came into being as the result of a conversation between Wayne Nelson of Englehart and Terence Shand, then Deputy Grand Master. Someone, in the course of the conversation, suggested "it would be nice to have a casual visit with our brethren in Northern Ontario". This casual remark resulted in a delegation visiting lodges in Haileybury, Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing, Timmins, and Kirkland Lake. The group consisted of now M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, G.M. and Grand Lodge Officers; R.W. Bro's Don Campbell, Terry McLean and Wayne Nelson.

Monday saw the group meet at New Liskard for dinner with R.W. Bro. Dion Ramkissmoonsingh, Englehart Lodge, and a delegation from Temiskaming District, who then left for Haileybury to attend Silver Lodge, where they were joined by R.W. Bro's Marvin Thomas and Robert McLeod, D.D.G.M's, to be impressed and entertained by a presentation on the history of Silver Lodge and the community of Haileybury. Then off to stay at the home of Wayne & Nancy Nelson in Englehart.

On Tuesday, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Robert McLeod, D.D.G.M, they next travelled to Cochrane where they were given a tour of the new lodge building. The pride seen in the eyes of R.W. Bro's. Bud Johnson and Hilliard Carter, their tour guides, was gratifying indeed. They concluded their visit to Cochrane with coffee at the "Original Tim Hortons" hometown to the hockey great.

Then it was off to Iroquois Falls for the installation of W.Bro. Lance Sagle, Abitibi Lodge, a great feed of homemade sausage during the banquet hour, then on to the home of Terry & Kathy Pachal of Timmins, who provided excellent overnight accommodation and first class Northern Ontario hospitality.

Wednesday, included a visit with the brethren of Spruce Falls Lodge in Kapuskasing where good fellowship was had by all at the luncheon hosted by W.Bro. Doug Chalklin, W.M. and the brethren of Spruce Falls Lodge.

That evening, it was back to Timmins for the installation of W.Bro. Ed Goldthorp, Golden Beaver

Lodge, where a \$5000 cheque was generously donated for the Help 2 Hear Project.

On Thursday morning a delegation attended a 50 year pin presentation at the home of Bro. Halbert, Golden Beaver Lodge, a well respected mason and community volunteer, then it was back to Englehart.

Thursday evening following dinner with Robert and Dorette McLeod, the group attended the installation of W. Bro. James McLean at Doric Lodge, Kirkland Lake. R.W. Bro Terry Shand was received into Doric Lodge and received honorary membership. The evening concluded with a festive Banquet Hour.

Friday morning, relaxing in Englehart with hosts Wayne and Nancy Nelson, the group reflected on the experience gained by Masonic visitation before their return home. The hand of friendship extended to visitors has real meaning.

Thanks to the brethren of Temiskaming and Nipissing East Districts for your fraternal hands of welcome.



L. to R - Wayne, Terry and Kathy, Terry and Don



L. to R. - Wayne and Nancy with Terry