

DEDICATION OF ELKS' HOME AND/OR LODGE ROOM

This ceremony may be performed in public or confined to members of the Order. The Altar shall consist of a flat top cairn of four stones which are graduated in size, the top large enough to hold the Emblems of our Order and Book of Constitution and By-Laws. The first and largest stone shall be white with the inscription '**Charity**' in scarlet, the second shall be pink and smaller in size with the inscription '**Justice**' in blue, and the third stone, the smaller of the three shall be blue with the inscription '**Love**' in pink, the fourth and smallest stone shall be scarlet with the inscription '**Fidelity**' in white. A cushion of approximately twelve inches square, to carry the keys, would be appropriate.

The words '**Charity**', '**Justice**', '**Love**' and '**Fidelity**' should be printed on all sides of the stones.

The Officers taking part in the ceremony shall be the Grand Exalted Ruler, Grand Leading Knight, Grand Loyal Knight, Grand Lecturing Knight, Grand Esquire, Grand Inner Guard, Grand Chaplain and Grand Organist or their representatives appointed by the Grand Exalted Ruler.

In addition, the Exalted Ruler, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman of the Building Committee and an Orator, appointed by the Lodge, will take part in the ceremony.

At the discretion of the Lodge and with permission from the Grand Exalted Ruler, the Lodge Officers may accompany the Grand Lodge Officers in the entry march. Should the Lodge Officers be used, they will march on the left of their counterpart and be seated to the right of that Officer at his/her station.

At the set time for Dedication (if Lodge Officers are not taking part in the entrance march) the Exalted Ruler shall take his/her place at the right of the Exalted Ruler's station, the Chairman of the Building Committee to the left of the Exalted Ruler's station and to the rear of the Grand Esquire. (He/she shall have in his/her possession the key to be presented to the Grand Exalted Ruler.) The Orator shall take his/her place to the right of the Exalted Ruler. The Chairman of the Trustees shall be on the right of the Orator, and to the rear of the Grand Chaplain. The Soloist shall be near the organ or piano.

The Grand Lodge Officers shall form in the outer room and the Grand Esquire shall arrange the procession as follows:

(Without Lodge Officers) The Grand Organist shall take his/her place at the organ or piano. The procession shall be led by the Grand Exalted Ruler, followed by the Grand Chaplain, the Grand Lecturing Knight, the Grand Leading Knight, the Grand Loyal Knight, and the Grand Esquire. The Grand Inner Guard shall place himself/herself inside the outer door.

If the Lodge Officers take part in the entrance march, the procession shall form up as follows:

The Grand Organist at the organ or piano, the Grand Exalted Ruler with the Exalted Ruler on his/her left, followed by the Orator with the Chairman of the Trustees on his/her left, the Grand Chaplain with the Chaplain on his/her left, the Grand Lecturing Knight with the Lecturing Knight on his/her left, the Grand Leading Knight with the Leading Knight on his/her left, the Grand Loyal Knight with the Loyal Knight on his/her left, the Grand Esquire with the Esquire on his/her left and the Chairman of the Building Committee. The Grand Inner Guard shall place himself/herself inside the outer door.

The Grand Exalted Ruler shall march around the hall twice in a clockwise rotation in front of the stations.

The Officers will start falling out on the first round starting with the Chairman of the Building Committee, followed by the Grand Esquire, etc. The Grand Exalted Ruler shall be the last to fall out. The Officers remain standing.

At the appointed time, the Tyler will give three raps on the inner door of the Lodge room, thus attracting the attention of the Grand Inner Guard.

GRAND INNER GUARD: "Who comes here?"

GRAND ESQUIRE: "The Grand Exalted Ruler (or Deputy) and other Officers of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, who desire to be admitted in the name of Charity, Justice, Love and Fidelity, for the purpose of dedicating this Home to the uses and purposes of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks."

GRAND INNER GUARD: "Enter in the name of Charity, Justice, Love and Fidelity."

GRAND ORGANIST: "Appropriate marching music to be played."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "My Brothers and Sisters, before any important duty may be performed, it is right and proper that we seek Divine Guidance for all that we do. Brother/Sister Grand Chaplain will offer the invocation." (-O-O-O-)

GRAND CHAPLAIN: "Almighty God, may Thy blessing rest upon this Elks Home which will be this day dedicated to the uses and purposes of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. May the members of this Lodge have Thy Divine Guidance for all the years to come, so that those who perform their daily tasks within this structure may be found always upholding the principles of equality, love, kindness and service to our fellow man. May this building serve well the needs of this Lodge and Community and may the labours performed within it be in perfect harmony thus promoting the spirit of true Brotherhood, so that our Order may be an ever increasing force to make life sweeter, men better and the world happier. Amen."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "We will all join in singing 'O Canada'."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: (*Gives one rap to seat the assembly.*) (-O-)

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "The duty that has called us together at this time is the dedication of this magnificent Elks Home to the uses and purposes of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. All Elks Lodge rooms surround an Altar at which all Elks receive the obligation that binds us to this great fraternity. The Altar typifies no race, religion or creed, but signifies that our belief is in the Supreme Being and the Brotherhood of Man. Therefore it is now our duty to erect an Altar dedicated to the principles of our Order." (-O-O-) "Grand Leading Knight, you will place the first stone of the Altar."

Throughout the laying of stones the organ or piano plays very softly, but strikes a strong triumphant note as the stone is finally placed and maintains it until the Officer resumes his/her station. The music selected for this purpose is "How Great Thou Art" by Stuart K. Hine and/or "Morning has Broken" by Farjeon.

GRAND LEADING KNIGHT: *(Carrying a white stone to the Altar, on which appears the name 'Charity'.)* **"As this stone is the principle foundation in the building of this Altar, so too is Charity a principle foundation of our Order. As I place this stone, may it be a constant reminder of the need for Charity. Thus, may we continue to spread Benevolence in an ever increasing measure throughout the land."** *(Places stone.)*

GRAND EXALTED RULER: **"Grand Loyal Knight, what may your station have to offer by way of contribution in the building of this Altar?"**

GRAND LOYAL KNIGHT: *(Carrying a pink stone to the Altar, upon which is inscribed the word 'Justice'.)* **"This stone represents Justice, the principle that enables us to perceive the merits of others and our own shortcomings. May this stone serve to remind us of our obligation to live up to the teachings of our Order, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, and to uphold firmly the rule of law and order throughout Canada. In the name of Fraternal Justice, I place this stone."** *(Places stone.)*

GRAND EXALTED RULER: **"Brother/Sister Grand Lecturing Knight, what has your station to offer toward the building of this Altar?"**

GRAND LECTURING KNIGHT: *(Carrying a blue stone, upon which is inscribed the words 'Love'.)* **"Into this structure, I build this stone of Love. This fundamental element of our Order emphasizes helpfulness and unselfishness. It promotes the welfare and happiness of all our members through the medium of true fellowship and friendship."** *(Places stone.)*

GRAND EXALTED RULER: *(Handing stone to Esquire.)* **"Brother/Sister Grand Esquire, you will build into this Altar this scarlet stone."**

GRAND ESQUIRE: *(Carrying a scarlet stone.)* **"In the name of Fidelity which joins and glorifies Charity, Justice and Love, I place this stone."** *(Places stone.)*

GRAND EXALTED RULER: *(-O-O-)* *(Giving two raps with his/her gavel to call up the Officers.)* **"The Grand Knights will approach the Altar and place upon it the Emblems of our Order."**

These Officers will approach the Altar in the same manner as in the Opening of Lodge and place upon it the Emblems of the Order.

GRAND LECTURING KNIGHT:

Places the Bible upon the Altar.

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "May this treasured Book be our path to the Grand Exalted Ruler of the universe, and may his/her example inspire in us a true faith to carry on our unfinished task, the Brotherhood of Man."

GRAND LOYAL KNIGHT:

Places the Canadian Flag upon the Altar.

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "May the virtues born of the Flag be enshrined in this building, and may its presence radiate peace and hope into the hearts of all who stand before it."

GRAND LEADING KNIGHT:

Places the Elk upon the Altar.

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "The Stately Elk is naturally docile and lives in peace with all mankind. May its presence strengthen our labours towards the Brotherhood of Man."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "Brother/Sister Grand Esquire, you will place upon the Altar a current copy of the Book of Constitution, so that all Elks will know that we yield authority and jurisdiction to the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada."

Grand Esquire places a Book of Constitution and By-Laws upon the Altar.

When the Grand Officers have returned to their stations 'Auld Lang Syne' will be played softly. The Brothers and Sisters will unite in singing these words to the tune:

**"Great Exalted Ruler of the universe; all seeing and benign;
Look down upon and bless our work and be all glory Thine;
May Charity, as taught us here, be ever borne in mind;**

The Golden Ruler, our motto true, for the days of 'Auld Lang Syne'."

MAKE SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF COPIES OF SONG FOR THE PUBLIC.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE: "Worthy Grand Exalted Ruler, I present to you as the representative of Grand Lodge, the keys of this completed building (room) that you may declare it to be dedicated to the uses of our great fraternity."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "Brother/Sister Chairman and members of your Committee, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, I congratulate you upon the completion of your labours and the success you have attained. Your Brothers and Sisters are truly thankful for your efforts on their behalf. This community is grateful that through your efforts and the labours of this Lodge, there has been set up a vital, useful centre. You, the members of your Committee and members of this Lodge, should be very proud of your accomplishments and of the fact that you have laboured wisely and well. Brother/Sister Grand Esquire, you will deliver these keys to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of this Lodge."

GRAND ESQUIRE: "As Chairman of the Trustees, it is your responsibility to maintain and protect this building. By order of the Grand Exalted Ruler, I place in your hands for safe-keeping, the keys to this newly dedicated Home."

Music - vocal or instrumental – "Bless This House" by Taylor & Brake

The Grand Exalted Ruler will introduce the Orator.

ORATION

Thank you to the Orator by the Grand Exalted Ruler or Lodge Exalted Ruler.

Additional addresses by visiting dignitaries and musical numbers, etc., can be added here.

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "At this time, I would like to introduce to you the Officers taking part in this Dedication Ceremony."

Introduction includes names and Lodge and town.

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "My Brothers and Sisters, the duty that brought us together has been performed. Now, therefore, by and under the authority of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, I declare this to be an Elks Home (or Lodge room) in which shall be taught in perpetuity the objects of our Order."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "Brother/Sister Grand Esquire, I will ask you now to attend the Altar."

The Grand Esquire will approach the Altar in the same manner as the Opening of a Lodge, close the Bible without signs, and return to his/her station.

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "The Grand Chaplain will offer a prayer."

Call up Assembly. (-O-O-O-)

GRAND CHAPLAIN: "And now, to the Beneficent Author and Giver of Life, we offer our humble tribute of mortal praise. Impress us with the solemnity of these ceremonies. Bless the labours and objects of this Convocation and direct all our efforts aright. Amen."

GRAND EXALTED RULER: "I now declare this Lodge of Dedication closed in due form and will ask all to join me in singing 'God Save the Queen'."