

LAYING OF A CORNER STONE FOR AN ELKS HOME

(The Lodge shall march to the place of Dedication and at the appointed time and place, the Esquire shall assemble parade as follows:)

Escort

The Canadian Flag

Escort

(Carried by Tyler)

Esquire

(With Baton)

Members of the Lodge and Visiting Brothers/Sisters

Grand Lodge Officers

Past Exalted Rulers

Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Organist

Lecturing Knight

Orator

Loyal Knight

Leading Knight

Exalted Ruler of Lodge

If the building is the property of the Lodge, the ceremony shall be performed by such body and the parade shall be directed by the Esquire. The Officiating Officer shall be addressed by the title of the office he/she represents and the language of the ceremony shall be in accordance with the occasion. In case where the ceremony be performed by the Grand Exalted Ruler or District Deputy, the title of that officer shall be substituted for that of the Exalted Ruler. An officer duly commissioned or officiating as a Grand Lodge Officer shall be addressed by the title of the office he/she represents.

Should it be found that the Grand Lodge is conducting the ceremony, the Grand Secretary shall carry the documents. In the event of it being a Lodge that is conducting the ceremony, then the Secretary of the Lodge shall carry the documents for depositing in the box. The Grand Treasurer or the Treasurer shall carry the box to be deposited in the corner stone. The Grand Chaplain, or Chaplain, shall carry the Bible which may be open. The Grand Leading Knight, or Leading Knight, shall carry a silver vessel containing water. The Grand Exalted Ruler, or Exalted Ruler, shall bear a gavel.

The procession will march to the strain of Mendelssohn's "March from Athalie." When a point convenient to the destination is reached the lines shall separate to left and right permitting the officers to pass through, together with the Orator and invited guests. The remainder of the Members will close up in reverse order and follow on until the platform, or other place set aside for the ceremony is reached. They will then form a hollow square, the officers in the appropriate positions.

SONG: "O CANADA"

EXALTED RULER: "Here will be erected a temple dedicated to the noble principles by which the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is inspired and guided. We come to lay with fitting ceremonies the corner stone of this structure, a structure which will be an eloquent expression of those principles and of the pride we take in them."

"If the hope and effort put into this work be realized, this temple will serve as a radiating centre of goodwill. Its windows will beam forth upon the world like kindly eyes ever expressive of Love and good fellowship. Its doors shall swing wide with cheery welcome to all who come, whether in the spirit of fraternity or in the grip of dire need."

"Before entering upon the ceremony that will mark the laying of the corner-stone of this temple, it is becoming that we invoke the aid of the Great Exalted Ruler of the Universe, without whose help and guidance nothing can succeed. Brother/Sister Chaplain."

(o - o - o -)

CHAPLAIN: "Almighty God, we come into Thy presence at this hour asking Thy Blessing upon these exercises. Guide us in our thoughts, our words, our deeds. Grant that the new building to be erected upon this corner-stone and dedicated to the purposes of Elkdom, may be worthy of the Great Order it represents in the life of this community. May it always be the centre of true fraternal spirit. May it reflect the best interests of the people of this community. Grant that in the building of this temple all who labour in its construction may be spared from accident or injury, and may they regard with pride and satisfaction the product of their toil, and may our Order as it grows in strength and influence exemplify the splendid purpose for which it has been founded and may it always stand as a directing force of fraternal life in our country, and to Thy name, we ascribe all Honour and Glory. Amen."

MEMBERS: "Amen."

(Here the Secretary will read the list of documents and the record to be deposited in the stone and will hand them to the Treasurer. The Exalted Ruler, accompanied by the Chaplain, will descend to the stone. The Treasurer having deposited the records, etc., in the box at the time they were handed to him/her by the Secretary, will now hand the box to the Exalted Ruler, who will place it in the recess prepared for it, and adjust the cover. The stone will then be fitted in its place. The Exalted Ruler receives the vessel containing water from the Tyler.)

EXALTED RULER: (Sprinkling the stone) "In the name of Charity which we should feel and practice; in the name of Justice which should control our opinions and our dealings; in the name of Love which should be all embracing; and in the name of Fidelity through which we proclaim the principles of this Order to all mankind, I lay this corner-stone."

(The architect delivers to the Grand Exalted Ruler or Exalted Ruler, a trowel filled with mortar which is spread upon the stone and another stone placed thereon.)

EXALTED RULER: "As we build this stone into the walls of our temple, so may we build into our lives the strength and beauty of the eternal principles taught at the Altar."

EXALTED RULER: "I declare this corner-stone well and truly laid as a constituent part of the Temple that here shall arise and embody in architectural grace and material permanence the principles and purposes of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks."

ORATION

(Music: Vocal or Instrumental: "The Spacious Firmament" or "How Firm a Foundation.")

MUSIC: All rising and singing to the tune: "Auld Lang Syne."

"Great 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 mine,
The Golden Rule, our motto true
For days of "Auld Lang Syne."

WE THE UNDERSIGNED Officers and Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada _____ Lodge No. _____ this day pledge ourselves by laying this corner-stone to erect this building for the purposes of Elkdom and as a memorial to all those from this District who valiantly and with unselfish devotion gave their lives for the Cause of Freedom and Right. (Where it is not a memorial, the words reading from "and as a Memorial" can be omitted.)

WE SIGNIFY our faith in the Order by subscribing our names hereto, declaring our desire to impress upon us the noble principles of Charity, Justice, Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of men towards a pure and noble citizenship; to cultivate good fellowship; to establish all to be quick to hear and strong in responding to the calls of fraternal service such as the circumstances of life may bring us, we being bound together by the ties of a great fraternity which seeks ever to make life sweeter, people better and world happier; the faults of our Members we write upon the sands of the sea where they may be quickly effaced and forgotten, while their virtues we write upon the tablets of our hearts so that we may realize in a greater degree the living meaning of the Brotherhood of Man."

(Here follows the signatures of the officers and members of the Lodge, Exalted Ruler and other Officers leading off in order of rank.)

EXALTED RULER: "By and under the authority of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, I declare this Corner-stone in position and proclaim this service closed by the singing of 'God Saves the Queen'."

(Lodge, in same formation as its arrival, will form and march back to the assembly point and there disperse. It is well to have the band play MARCH RELIGIEUSE for the reason that this music is peculiarly well adapted to the occasion.)

Note: Here follows a copy of the record to be deposited in the stone.

IN THE NAME OF AND BY FAVOUR OF THE GREAT EXALTED RULER OF THE UNIVERSE:

On the ____ day of _____, A.D., 19 ____, in the _____ year of the reign of our Gracious Sovereign _____, Queen of Canada and head of the Commonwealth; his/her Excellency _____ being Governor-General of Canada; the Right Honourable _____ being Prime Minister of Canada; the Right Honourable _____ being Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of _____, the Honourable _____ being Premier of the Province of _____, and _____ being Mayor of the City (Town) of _____, in the Province of _____.

THIS CORNER-STONE OF THE ELKS' MEMORIAL HOME, city of _____, Province of _____ was laid by Brother/Sister _____ of _____ Lodge, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, No. _____ and in the presence of a large concourse of Brothers and Sisters and citizens of the City of _____ by authority granted by the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of Canada.

Dated at _____ in the Province of _____
_____ day of _____ A.D. 19 _____.