

PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY

(The following is offered as a guide and may be enlarged or deleted to suit the circumstances of the occasion. The plaque may be installed either inside or outside of the building and care should be taken to use appropriate wording in this regard. The Lodge members, in regalia, will assemble at the appointed time, under the direction of the Esquire, or someone appointed by the Exalted Ruler to act as Esquire. The Ceremony will be conducted by the Exalted Ruler, or his/her appointee, unless the Grand Exalted Ruler, or someone appointed by him/her, is present for the purpose of officiating at the unveiling. In all such cases the title of the officiating officers will be substituted for those as set out in this Ritual. It is desirable that musical accompaniment be made available for the singing of the National Anthem, etc..)

"O CANADA"

(Immediately following the singing of "O CANADA", the Exalted Ruler or the Esquire, if the Exalted Ruler is the officiation officer, will introduce visiting dignitaries who may be present. The last to be introduced is the officer who will officiate at the unveiling who, from his/her position before the plaque, rises and says:)

EXALTED RULER: "Here has been erected a Temple dedicated to the noble principles by which the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is inspired and guided. This happy occasion will go down in the history of our Order as a memorable one, for today we witness the culmination of years of planning and effort. Today, we here put into practical application the motto of our Organization – "To make life sweeter, people better and the world happier". Before we proceed with the Ceremony that will mark the unveiling of this plaque, it is becoming that we invoke the aid of the Great Exalted Ruler of the Universe, without whose help nothing can succeed. Brother/Sister Chaplain." **(Calls up audience, if seated.)**

CHAPLAIN: "Almighty God, we come into Thy presence at this hour asking Thy blessing upon these exercises. Guide us in our thoughts, our words and our deeds. Grant that this building, erected and dedicated to the purposes of Elkdom, may be worthy of the great Order it represents in the life of this community, 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."

(A hymn, instrumental or vocal solo may be used here (optional).)

EXALTED RULER: "As we stand within (or without) this modern Elks Home we cannot but be impressed with the care, thought and skill that has brought it into being. We are impressed by its efficiency and beauty. Truly it is a modern building, a triumph of the construction art and a testimony to architectural skill."

"It is much more than a structure of stone and steel. It is an emblem of man's thoughtfulness for man - of man's humanity to man. It is a symbol of progress, of scientific advancement and a wise provision against future eventualities. It is a Temple that will service as a radiating centre of goodwill and community life. 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 the grip of dire need."

"And so, by the authority of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, and 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 their Order to all mankind, I unveil this plaque and proclaim this building a Temple erected to the Spirit of Elkdom."

(The hymn "How firm a foundation", may be sung if considered practical. Additional orations from distinguished guests may be delivered, if desired and arranged for. At the conclusion of these, or nay other announcements deemed necessary, the Exalted Ruler will rise in this place and say:)

EXALTED RULER: "By and under the authority of the Grand Lodge and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, I proclaim this service closed by the singing of 'God Save the Queen'."

(The Members will disperse under the direction of the Esquire.)