

Grand First Principal's Biography



Richard David Laronde was born June 1st, 1957 in Brandon, Manitoba. He is the oldest of three children to Wilbert and Elsie Laronde. Other than four years spent in Vancouver, B.C. in his early years due to his father's military posting, he grew up in Brandon.

After graduating from Crocus Plains High School in 1975, he started working at the Brandon Mental Health Centre as a nursing assistant. Enjoying Psychiatry, he soon enrolled in the Brandon Mental Health Centre Psychiatric School of Nursing. He graduated from the two year program in September 1978 with his Registered Psychiatric Nursing Degree.

On July 28, 1979 Richard married his childhood sweetheart since Grade three, Brenda Lee Fraser and together they raised their two children. Jason was born in 1981 and Janelle was born in 1983.

While at the Brandon Mental Health Centre he worked in a number of areas and was promoted to Charge Nurse. He was involved in establishing a 100 bed Personal

Care Home called Rideau Park in Brandon where he worked as a Charge Nurse for six and one-half years. Expanding his education, he completed a two year certificate in Health Care Administration: Long Term Care from the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon in 1989.

A love of working with the elderly was responsible for Richard accepting a Community Mental Health Worker position in Psychogeriatrics in the Parkland Region of Manitoba and the family moved to Dauphin in 1995. Rural Dauphin remains home for Richard and Brenda to this day. All are welcome to stop by for a visit.

Their son Jason works for Apple. He and his wife Nadine live with their sons Taylor and Oakley in Vernon, B.C.

Their daughter Janelle is a Licensed Practical Nurse. She and her husband Jay McIvor live with their sons Owen and Landon in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba.

Over the years, Scouting has been a large part of the Laronde Family. Richard and Brenda, also known as Akela and Raksha, were Cub leaders even after their children were grown and away from home.

Richard continues to work full time as a Community Mental Health Worker in Geriatrics. In his spare time he enjoys hunting and fishing with friends and family in addition to his love of Masonry.

When time permits and vacation time approaches you can bet that Richard and Brenda will be found cruising the highways of North America on their Yamaha 1100 V-Star motorcycles. Richard is often heard saying "It's the only way to see the country".

Masonic History

Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Brandon June 8, 1994

Wheat City Lodge # 168 A.F.& A.M.

Master Vermillion Lodge #68 A.F.& A.M. May 1998 - 1999

Master Wheat City Lodge #168 A. F .& A. M. December 1999, 2006, and 2007

Union Historical Lodge #108 2005

Senior Grand Steward: Grand Lodge of Manitoba 2008-2009

Vermillion Lodge #68 Secretary 2009 to present

Wheat City Lodge #168 Chaplain 2012

International Peace Garden Lodge of Freemasons 2011

York Rite

Chapter

Holy Royal Arch: Rabboni #7 Dauphin May 1997

First Principal: Rabboni #7 Dauphin 2005-2006

Order of High Priesthood Manitoba April 2006

Numerous appointed positions in Grand Chapter of Manitoba

Elected Positions: Grand Principal Sojourner: 2007-2008

Grand J: 2010-2011

Grand H: 2011-2012

Grand Z: 2012-2013

Red Cross of Constantine: Grand Valley Conclave #36 2004

Council

Initiated Brandon Council #10 Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada October. 2000

Thrice Illustrious Master Brandon Council #10 2005-2006

Royal Ark Mariner Lake Wahtapanah Lodge #13 Brandon initiated May 2001

Past Commander Noah

Grand Steward of Manitoba Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada 2009-2010

Preceptory

Initiated Sovereign Great Priory of Canada: Brandon Preceptory #74 June 2002

Presiding Preceptor: Brandon Preceptory #74 2006-2007

College

Manitoba Crocus York Rite College #89 February 2004

Presently Eminent Chancellor

KYCH

Knights of the York Cross of Honor; Manitoba Priory #69 April 2008