

Goodridge, Roy

Goodridge won't be hard to pick out whenever he attends public functions dressed as a Grand Knight. He will be wearing his traditional fourth degree regalia consisting of a black tuxedo, white shirt and tie, black chapeau with ostrich feather, cape and sword.

"I'm proud to wear this regalia because it reflects patriotism for our church and our country," he said.

As grand knight, he will be responsible carrying out its regularly-scheduled community programs, including the popular basketball free throws for teenagers held every January and the sale of raffle tickets for a new car held between March and early May and with all proceeds going to the Arthritis Society.

The Belleville council holds two general meetings a month in addition to several fund-raising events as well as social events for members and their families.

Born in Britain, Goodridge emigrated to Canada with his family in 1957. He grew up in Halton Hills and moved to Orangeville after graduating from high school.

Goodridge spent 19 years as a construction surveyor for the Peel Region municipality before deciding to become self-employed as a general contractor for interior and exterior home renovations and additions.

"I'm one of the few who can say they enjoy their work," he said without hesitation.

Goodridge was self-employed in Orangeville for seven years before moving to Marmora in 1990 to be closer to his family and to enjoy the rural life.

He and his wife, Gail, a teacher at Holy Rosary School, and their three children moved to Belleville in 1996.

He said there's one advantage to being self-employed.

"I'm better able to co-ordinate my work with customers with my volunteer work and being Grand Knight is a voluntary position."

Goodridge believes the success to any organization is participation.

"I plan on keeping our members and their families involved and participating in activities....I'm going to tell my members to participate, participate and participate."