

Too Much to Do



Have you ever had the feeling that you have too much on your plate? You've agreed to be part of one or two too many things? That projects you want to work alone on are taking a back seat to other commitments?

Well, it's May of 2018 and as of this week, I have started a new job with a 'sort of' old company. The section of it I worked for five years ago was cut out and sold. Now it has a new name and they're calling me back. It's a long story of "Mining is great" when I started in 2011 to "Mining isn't core to our business" when I was let go in 2013 to "Mining should be core to our business" as I return in 2018. The job has me returning to doing road trips to mines. So now I have to figure out what to do with everything else I've worked for in the last five years.

What have I been doing? Writing novel #3 for starters. I've been promised a small laptop that I can use on planes, so I think most of my writing for the next few months will be done while in the air or in airports. Singing in my church choir could be difficult if I can't make practices. I should be home most Sundays. Now I sight read pretty good, but not all the pieces are simple choral works, especially around Christmas and Easter. My bagpipes are in demand for Freemasonry events. I've recently taken on two Masonic positions before this new job came up. The big one is Grand Piper (playing for the Grand Master), while the second one is to play for the District Deputy Grand Master. That could be a lot of playing during evenings in the middle of a week, not to mention the several Remembrance Day ceremonies and Burns dinners I do every year.

In recent years, Freemasonry has become a big part of my life. I made a commitment four years ago of going through the ranks to become the Master of my Lodge next year. I don't want to pass that up after all the work I've put in. Our Lodge is also reaching its 100th anniversary soon and I'm part of the planning committee. Our Lodge's building society has a seniors' residence it owns and runs and we're starting a project to build a new one. Lots of research to do there.

Other commitments include my writer's group where I run the website and been planning for a book sale for local authors. There's all the work I put in for marketing my books, including keeping up with Facebook and Twitter, accounting, book launches, and the When Words Collide conference this coming August. I've also started video projects, writing scripts and recording videos for a mining training course, writing scripts for videos for my Church's stewardship campaign this fall, and a twenty minute video for my Lodge's 100th anniversary.

By fitting in walking my dog twice a day, I get to decompress during the walks.

I guess I only have myself to blame. I love everything I do. Curiosity and climbing learning curves is great fun for me and not having a permanent job has allowed me to handle all I've put on my plate. Now, things will change. My wife is happy for a regular paycheck again (as opposed to the intermittent consulting gigs I've been getting), I'll be able to afford editing and cover design expenses for my books and the new job is something I love doing. I will try to keep all the balls in the air, but a few will be dropped. Priorities will be set (paying job first), and hopefully I'll be able to put the balls down instead of dropping them. And I will NOT be taking on any more personal projects, assuming I can learn how to say "NO".

Gee, writing all these down shows me how many pies I have my fingers in. I'm suddenly feeling a bit scared and overwhelmed.