

District 'C'ronicle



November 2014

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 75

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren;

November presents a time for reflection on what we owe to others for our current state. But November also provides an opportunity to consider how each of us can give back for the favours we have already received. A chance to pause and consider the veterans of many wars, and the people who stayed home, making sacrifices to preserve our traditions and way of life. In November we participate in Lodge memorials of those who have served and passed along to the Grand Lodge above.



Every one of us belongs to an organization that predates Canada; our current and past members shape and define what matters within our borders, and ultimately contribute to what matters in our hearts.

Hamilton District C celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year. In the trestle board, I included a list of those DDGMs who have come before. To take my place amongst such leaders is an honour that is not taken lightly and I strive to be a worthy representative of the role. Also, each member of every Lodge needs to consider those who have preceded them. Is it your time to take a turn at the wheel, leading, supporting or mentoring within your Lodge? A great line from Flanders Fields that has always resonated with me....*“To you, from failing hands, we throw, the torch: be yours to hold it high.”* The founders of our Lodges have passed that torch to the current generation. And it is good to see the brethren in each District Lodge working

together to smoothly carry on our tradition and keep the torch light alive.

I encourage every Brother to consider the challenge and take up a role, no matter how small, in the management and progression of your Lodge. Attend the meetings, be part of the planning and add your voice to the chorus of members working in harmony to create something unique and personal. It has been said and I firmly believe that the more you put into the Lodge, the more you get out of it.

Looking at the trestle board and events posted on our website, there were many happenings in the month of October. So much activity leads me to conclude that the heart of Masonry beats strong in Hamilton. We had a great turnout at the Fall Divine Service at St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Caledonia. An event that filled the church to overflowing. The Grand Lodge of Instruction was well attended, with members from all three districts taking in the words of wisdom, proper methods and mechanics of the floor work. Also, congratulations and thanks: to Hugh Murray Lodge in receiving its Cornerstone Lodge Certificate from Grand Lodge, to Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge for hosting the **first in a series of five Brother to Brother** seminars, and to Temple Lodge for sponsoring the MasoniChip on December 6th .at the Breakfast with Santa event. I am certain that more is going on, and would love to see every masonic event featured on our District Website.

We live in a fast paced world and, to paraphrase the Grand Master, Technology gives us a wonderful opportunity to connect with our members which I suggest, improves customer service (i.e. membership) satisfaction. Let’s use our Website <http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org> and online trestle board to get all the updates, upcoming degrees, Lodge events, education and fellowship out there, so we can all come together and move the District forward. – But – Let us not forget the need for face to face and personal connections.

As Brothers we need to show up and be present in our Lodges. To greet each other, especially the newer brethren. To take a part, volunteer for a committee, and make the personal commitment to raise the torch high; and help light the way for current and future generations.

R.W. Bro. Glen James Notman

From the Grand Master

M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell

Why has membership attendance declined among fraternal organizations? At best we can only speculate about why anyone joins an organization such as Masonry.

The reasons most frequently mentioned were: work schedules, moving away from their lodge, unsafe meeting venues, inconvenient meeting times, uninteresting meetings, and transportation issues.



Some suggestions as to what would bring better attendance were; more Masonic Education, regular attendees being more sensitive to members returning from a prolonged absence with their infamiliarity and embarrassments.

I can say with confidence, an active lodge is a healthy lodge. I believe a lodge with good ritual work, retain membership and attract new members. It is good work which makes a

good mason. First impressions will influence the new members.

I support and believe social groups and associations which unite membership as a whole. This is accomplished by working for a common goal, such as voluntary or charitable activities. I congratulate these groups for their zeal and accomplishments for us all.

Proper dress is under the direction of the Worshipful Master. His choices are; 1) Business Dress, 2) Semi-formal Dress, 3) Morning Suite, and finally Formal Dress. He may permit Hyland Dress and/or Mess Kit Dress.

M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

The full communique is found on the G.L. web site > Log in Communications > Grand Lodge committees > communique folder > Sept 2014 download

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well, Brethren, we have enjoyed a wonderful summer with cooperating weather for the most part.

The Grand Master and I, with a good number of Brethren have attended a number of events during the summer such as the International Plowing Match around Barrie, where we had a meet-and-greet nearby.

On September 27th I joined a number of attendees at the, Masonic Education Conference at Humber College. It was a very well organized event with presentations on; Leadership, Prostate Cancer, Dementia, and many Masonic topics. R.W. Bro. Charles Woods and his team are commended for their successful day.

We are on the road this year with workshops and seminars to promote valuable Masonic Education Programs to more of the Fraternity with uninformative appearance for all. Our first will be in the new Masonic Centre in St. Thomas in November. It is our hope that our members will be more informed by attending these seminars, four in all, to better teach our younger membership.

R.W. Bro. John C. Green

From the Grand Secretary

Please be advised that we are addressing all issues involving reservations at the Fairmount Royal York Hotel, and concerns with Pan American Games being the same time as our Annual Communication for 2015. I have arranged for online reservations immediately for 2015.

Every lodge should make their membership aware of a wonderful opportunity. The "Past Masters Certificate Course" will assist you in forming a more successful lodge, which we should all want to achieve.

The modules necessary for this course are; 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 18.

**"To live the Life of a Mason is
an Honourable Way of Life."**

M.W. Bro. Terence Shand
Grand Secretary

Around the Hamilton Districts

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Venue: "Lost Monument"
Hamilton Cemetery
777 York Blvd.



Date: November 8, 2014,
Time: 11:00 A.M.

- Laying of Wreath
- Singing of anthems
- Moment of silence
(Wreaths supplied)

The Hamilton Veterans Tour to follow the ceremony.
Contact: Robin McKee
905-544-9559
robinmckee3@gmail.com

WILL THE FUTURE REMEMBER?

By S. Kenneth Baril – 2005
Education Committee of the G.L. of MN

Will the future remember?
What we did here today?
Will the future remember?
If it does, what will it say?

Will it say we were humble?
Will it say we lost sight?
Will it agree with our reasoning?
Whether wrong or right?

Will the future remember?
Of the subjects we spoke?
Will it defend our actions?
Or condemn promises we broke?

Will the future remember?
Will it forget our face?
Will it understand our methods?
To make your world a better place?

Will the future remember?
These men of the past?
Will the future acknowledge?
The shadows they cast?

Will the future remember our relief
To brothers in pain?
Will the future remember?
We did it without thought of gain?

WESTMOUNT LODGE No. 671 INSTALLATION

DATE: November 24, 2014
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Hillcrest Temple – 257-261 Mohawk Rd. W.
Hamilton.

Installing Board will consist of many P.D.D.G.M.s from
Hamilton District C and we expect to have a P.G.M. and the
D.G.M. in attendance.

No Dinner
Refreshments to follow meeting.



*District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Glen James
Notman on his Official Visit to Ionic lodge No. 549.*

**Masonic District "C" Calendar
NOVEMBER 2014**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 IONIC No. 549 | 6 BUCHANAN No. 550 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 VALLEY No.100 | 11 TEMPLE No. 324 OFFICIAL VISIT 6:30 p.m. Dinner (WARDROPE No.555) SEYMOUR No. 272 | 12 MERIDIAN No.687 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 HUGH MURRAY No.602 | 19 THE ELECTRIC No. 495 OFFICIAL VISIT (CORINTHIAN No.513) 6:00 p.m. Dinner | 20 DUFFERIN No.291 | 21 | 22 Landmarks/Doric No. 654 58th Annual Bonspiel See page 5 |
| 23 | 24 WARDROPE No.555 | 25 LANDMARKS / DORIC No.654 WESTMOUNT No.671 INSTALLATION Refreshments to follow. | 26 | 27 CORINTHIAN No.513 INSTALLATION (Meal after) | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | BLOOD SERVICES 35 Stone Church Rd. from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Every Saturday |

Next month's Official Visits

Thursday, December 4th Buchanan No. 550 Hillcrest 7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Next month's Installations

Wednesday, December 3rd Ionic No. 549 MCH 7:30 p.m. After meeting Dinner.
Tuesday, December 16th Hugh Murray No. 602 MCH 7:30 p.m. After meeting Dinner.

Chaplain's Corner

My Brethren:

Please reflect for a moment:

The inability of some brethren, to join us in lodge. A visit or phone call from you, may well make their day.

An offer of a ride to lodge provide inclusiveness.

May the G.A.O.T.U. grant brethren everywhere, every necessity and consider every dream.

W. Bro. Jason McCulloch

These presentations are open to all Masons and it is hoped they will help to energize lodge members and get them more involved in their lodge activities.

Subsequent presentations in the Round Room will be:

January 27, 2015

Officer Progression R. W. Bro. Kevin Smith

February 24, 2015

Mentors R.W. Bro. Leonard Feldt

March 24, 2015

Friend to Friend R.W. Bro. William Atkinson

Events

Landmarks/Doric No. 654 58th Annual Bonspiel



November 22, 2014.
Dundas Granite Curling Club
Lodges may enter teams or individual entries welcome.

Cost: \$40.00 per person.
Contact: W. Bro. Dennis Monteith.
djmonteith@rogers.com

Masonic Education

Resource Committee Presentations

Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654 is pleased to make available to all members in the Hamilton Districts a series of presentations which will focus on the Grand Lodge Resource Committee's programs.

Tues. November 25, 2014

R. W. Bro. Jamie Ireland will be making the second Resource Committee presentation on the **Cornerstone Project**, and it will be held in the Round Room of M.C.H on Tuesday November 25, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. For those wishing to partake in the 6:30 p.m. dinner (\$25 p.p.) reservations must be made a week in advance with the Lodge Secretary, Wm. MacPherson wjmac654@gmail.com
We plan to open the foyer doors at 7:00 p.m. to welcome all.

A CIVIL WAR STORY by John Hohenstein

Zerubbabel Lodge #15, Savannah, Georgia

It was a time not long after Fort Sumter and The War of Northern Aggression was well under way. The Yankees, as they are still wont to do, had promptly flocked to Hilton Head and Tybee Islands, the barrier islands on opposite sides of the mouth of the Savannah River. The Savannah Folks didn't mind much that the Yankees had stolen the good beaches, for the water was still a bit cool for Southern preferences and, besides, they knew the gnats and mosquitoes would teach the Yankees a lesson they'd never forget. So, the Southerners, as Southerners are wont to do sometimes, just waited.

They didn't have to wait very long before the Yankees on Hilton Head sent out a messenger under a white flag. It seemed that the Yankees had among them a young fellow who had passed through the Fellow Craft Degree before shipping out. The Yanks were just sitting around slapping gnats when it occurred to one of them that, just maybe, there was a nearby lodge that could test him in the Fellow Craft Degree and raise him to that of a Master Mason. As luck would have it, there was indeed a lodge in Savannah that would soon be having a Masters Degree.

One morning, not too many days later, a detail of Confederate Cavalry slipped across the Savannah River into South Carolina and traveled through Bluffton to the shore opposite Hilton Head Island.

From there they escorted one Fellow Craft Mason and, I believe, a number of Master Masons of the Northern Persuasion, safely through the Confederate Lines and back through about 35 miles of Confederate defenses to Savannah where the candidate and his witnesses were delivered into the lodge.

The records note that this Brother was indeed proficient in the Fellow Craft Degree and he was raised to the Degree of a Master Mason.

That night another detail of Confederate Cavalry, no doubt Brothers to a man, slipped back across the Savannah River and safely escorted their Brothers back to Hilton Head.

Bits and Pieces for Reflection!

A MASONIC MINUTE

Where Charity and Love are, God is there.

When a man petitions a Lodge to become a Freemason, he is asked three questions, the first of which is, “Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being?” All too often this conjures up an image of a white-bearded, paternalistic figure in flowing robes such as that painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican by Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564). While this image is undoubtedly great art, it is not helpful to the modern, rational thinking man in framing an answer to the essential question.

Why, if Freemasonry is not a religion, as we are quick to affirm, is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being a prerequisite? This is often the most searching question raised by a serious inquirer during Friend to Friend or Masonic Open House presentations. We are not in the business of teaching Theology. However, as mortals in this universe, we must readily admit that there are many things beyond our control: the most obvious forces of nature being the weather, floods, earthquakes, tornados, volcanoes. The question really asks that we acknowledge the existence of a greater power. Indeed, science is still searching for the answer which would explain the origin of the universe.

Man is a meaning-seeking creature. Curiosity is an innate quality of the human intellect. *Where did I come from? What am I doing here? Where am I going from here?* These are questions that everyman in times of serious, intimate personal reflection asks himself. Freemasonic Ritual paraphrases them: “*Whence come you? Whither are you directing your course?*”

The Sun to rule the Day – the Moon to rule the Night.

Little wonder that ancient peoples worshipped the Sun as the giver of Light and Life, governing the Seasons, the cycle of seed time and harvest, providing food and sustenance, upon which existence depended – all controlled by an external force over which they had no control – a higher power. Thus the concept of a ‘Supreme Being’ found expression in the gods of antiquity. As Bro. Pike observed, “*The conceptions of God formed by individuals varied according to their intellectual and spiritual capacities.*”¹

We must remember that Speculative Freemasonry emerged during the Enlightenment of the 18th century which was defined by rationalism and characterized by scepticism based in scholarship and learning. The Age of Faith was succeeded and replaced by the Age of Reason, which in turn gave birth to such institutions as the Royal Society, modern science, and Freemasonry. Even today Freemasons are encouraged to explore “*the hidden mysteries of nature and science.*”

It is often stated that ‘*the fundamental tenets or principles of Freemasonry*’ are **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**. With this in mind, let us look back at the quotation cited at the beginning of this note: ***Ubi caritas et amor, Dei ibi est.***

Amor – Love; Brotherly Love is defined as “fraternal affection” extended to all mankind, regardless of race, religion, social class or educational status. Freemasons consider that there is only one race – the human race, and all men are ‘Brothers.’ This is what is meant by the oft quoted definitive statement: *The Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.*

Caritas – Charity; The word ‘charity’ has many shades of meaning: being kind to others, assisting those in need, benevolent, etc. Simply stated it is an act of goodwill or affection – “*honest, heartfelt, disinterested, inexpressible affection.*”² This is often stated as *The Mystic Tie* that binds us in bonds of friendship as Brothers. Freemasons apply the Golden Rule in a variety of ways, giving of themselves, both within and without the confines of the Order.

Dei ibi est – God, The Supreme Being; It may be instructive to note that ‘supreme’ (from the Latin ‘*supremus - superus*’ – higher) is defined as being ‘*highest in rank, power, authority.*’ Based upon *Love and Charity*, this ancient text implies that *God* is to be found in ‘*the divinity of service.*’ It is this concept that is fundamental to the universal nature of Freemasonry, and helps to explain why Freemasonry demands a belief in a Supreme Being.

M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels
P.G.M.

From the Editor

Our team feels communication is key to a successful fraternal future. With your help we shall open the door together. Send your lodge dates for events, functions, anniversaries and obituaries, also jpeg pictures, to djack4649@gmail.com

Editorial Team



| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
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¹ Pike. p. 208