

District 'C'ronicle



December 2016

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.100

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From Our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren, I'm pleased to say it's been another productive and pleasurable month around District C.

This month saw two Official Visits, Temple and The Electric Lodges, both of which were well attended, as well as an Installation at Westmount Lodge.

Congratulations to W. Bro. Douglas Bennie and his new slate of Officers as they look forward to a new year as well as the Installing Master, R.W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson and his Installation Team.

We also enjoyed some fine instruction at The Deacons' Workshop which was presented by the Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts.

Finally, with respect to this month's work, I want to comment on the beautiful Remembrance Day ceremonies conducted by the District Lodges, some of which were unique and captured the attention of all in attendance. There has been an abundance of great work around the District this month.



Out in the community, hats off to all making contributions, many of which I'm sure we never hear of. Many of the Lodges and individual Brethren have been making donations to, and participating in, various Holiday Season related initiatives for children and those less fortunate. It's the Masonic way.

Staying with community, the District Blood Donor Committee has been hard at work including a clinic at McMaster this month. I would encourage you, Brethren, to consider giving blood if you don't already, especially during this upcoming busy time of year.

Looking forward, December will, of course, be a busy month for us with both Masonic activities and at home. When marking your calendars, please consider, we have Buchanan's Official Visit on the 1st, as well as two Installations, Ionic on the 7th, and Hugh Murray on the 20th.

It's always a surprise how quickly the Festive Season comes upon us. As we welcome in the Season, many of us have already attended at least one special event outside of Masonry and at one of our District Lodges. Valley has already held its annual Christmas Dinner/Dance, which was a great evening. As they say, "A good time was had by all!"

I want to remind the Brethren that not only is the Christmas Season a special time for us to share time together but it is, of course, a special time to include Family and friends in Masonry outside the Lodge room. Partners and friends are able to join us at some of our celebrations and children are able to join us at others such as "Breakfast with Santa" at the Scottish Rite on December 3rd.

In the true Masonic way, I know I'm preaching to the converted when I take a moment to mention The Christmas Season is also a great time for us to be ever mindful of others.

I want to wish all of You and your Families my very best wishes for a most Joyous Christmas, Hanukkah or Festive Season through the GAOTU.

As our purpose in Masonry is to make good men better our continued focus this year is to bring out the best in ourselves, thereby bringing out the best in each other.

Kindest Regards and Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Craig L. Knapman

From the Grand Master

Well Brethren,
As I start to put together this month's Communication it is nice to be inside as temperature outside is -7 and that does not excite me greatly, although it is a clear sky and hopefully warmer as day goes on. I have been told this winter is going to be very cold and lots of snow but I suppose anyone could predict that.



I know this a busy time in Lodges for Official Visits and the Installations will be starting in the near future. I hope that Lodge members are supporting the other Lodges in your respective Districts. This is one aspect of Freemasonry that dropped off significantly in recent times. There are two reasons for visiting. One, is to gain knowledge and show support for the fellow Lodges in the District, as we should, and the other is to share fellowship with other members of your District. This fellowship is one of the great benefits we Masons experience in our Masonic life. Gaining friendships and enjoying one another's company is an opportunity many people outside of Masonry may never experience. We should take advantage of these memorable situations.

Brethren, it is with great disappointment I must announce the Brock Symposium scheduled for June 2-4, 2017 has been cancelled due to some challenges that Brock University staff is experiencing. I thought that having such an event with Masonic visitors and presenters from many parts of the world would emphasize the interest the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario has in Masonic knowledge and education. However, we must journey forward and continue our labours and see what the future has in store with some alternative direction we might consider. I also want to remind you the Sankey Lecture will still be a valued part of our Masonic Education which will increase the historic and intellectual information shared with us at this annual event. I would encourage Masons who have not attended these lectures in the past to sincerely consider participating. You will find it enjoyable and enlightening. So mark your calendar for March 26th at Brock University.

Lodges will be receiving information about dates and locations of various seminars and workshops across the

province. I would ask you to genuinely think about attending these events that are scheduled in your area. I am sure you find them informative as well as helpful in Lodge works and operations. Many Brethren have worked very diligently to deliver items of interest that educate and stimulate Masons. These topics introduce opportunities that help fulfill their duties in both the Lodge and the District. For those who attended past seminars this can serve as refresher and those who have not attended, it is an area of enlightenment you can carry forward to benefit you in your Masonic knowledge.

The support Grand Lodge offers to assist Lodges in their respective challenges can be passed along to your membership.

We are also moving closer to 2017 when we will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Grand Lodge. We are planning a number of initiatives to recognize this important time in Masonic history. R.W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns has written a number of articles of interest that can be used for various communication venues of Masonry. They are suitable for newspaper releases as well. Very shortly the Celebration Committee will be announcing the display of an Anniversary coin to be sold. One side is dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Canada and the other side displays the 300th birthday of Freemasonry as we know it. We will tell you shortly there will be a special event at our Grand Lodge Communication next July of which everyone will get notice. I propose that June 3rd 2017 every Lodge building endeavor to have an Open House and with support from our concordant bodies, on display collectively across Ontario, Freemasonry's history which shows the honour and dignity that Masonry demonstrates. As Grand Master I am committed to visit several events in Northern Ontario which include Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Kenora. There will be other events which we will inform you of on an ongoing basis.

Brethren, we have a lot to be proud of as Masons. Take time from celebration to show the general population of Ontario residents that we play an important role in Masonry in their respective communities. I ask every Masonic member to consider participating in what could be a great weekend where you can work together and hold a Masonic event in your community. Such events as Open Houses, Friend to Friend and Masonichip events, breakfasts, lunches and dinners that remind and inform our communities that Masonry is alive, well and active in their village, town or city.

We should demonstrate that we are proud of Masonry. We are a fraternity, standing for THE CAUSE OF GOOD with a valuable and positive influence in their community.

TELL THOSE AROUND YOU.

YOU ARE PROUD TO BE A MASON!

John C. Green



From the Deputy Grand Master

The fall season is a busy time of year for many of our local Lodges, depending where you are in Ontario, the Election of Officers are or have taken place with Installations following at the next regular meeting.

In other parts of the Province Election of Officers and the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture will take place in the spring. This month, in rural Ontario, many Lodges will have a difficult time doing their work as Brethren are either in the woods or soon heading towards the woods for the “hunting season”. Masonic Education will take the lead in these Lodges while degree work is set aside till next month. Of course many Brethren will take advantage of the “hunt” when venison and other delicacies appear at the banquet hour at the annual Wild Game nights.

This month the **Training & Education Committee**, led by R.W. Bro. John Hay jhay@nexicom.net as Chairman, will be the focus of the Communiqué. This Committee is comprised of five Teams:

Education: Team Leader R.W. Bro. Iain Wates
idwates@sympatico.ca

- This Team will stimulate, supplement and support Lodge and District Programs on matters relating to History, Philosophy and Symbolism of Masonry
- The Education Monthly Newsletter is being launched with an exciting new format – the Reflections publication is in an electronic format and will be distributed on a quarterly basis. It will utilize a different distribution cycle than the Ontario Mason so the one publication will not take away from the other
- The Team is continuing the practice of distributing a letter of congratulations from the Grand Master to each Brother entering the office of Immediate Past Master

Library, Museum & Archives: Team Leader R.W. Bro. Charlie Reid charlie.reid@sympatico.ca

- The Library at Grand Lodge will be open till 10:00am – 2:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in November 2016 then will reopen again in February until May 2017. Accommodations can be made for those who unable to manage arriving with the regular hours
- The Team is working on cataloguing and scanning all books and materials for our Lending and Research Libraries onto the Library Website
- A new section in the “Museum and Archives” component, of the Library Website, is being developed called ‘Continuing the Search for Past Grand Masters Grave Locations’.
- Assistance to Lodges in support of Masonic Heritage projects

Brock University Partnership: Team Leader R.W. Bro. Gareth Taylor garethtaylor@rogers.com

- Working on this year’s Sankey Lecture with Dr. Aimee E. Newell as presenter. Topic to be determined
- The Team continues to work with the University to identify potential speakers for 2018 & 2019

- Developing communication and marketing for the Sankey Lecture via the Grand Lodge Website.
- Using the Internal Communication Committee and the Public Awareness Committee to promote these lecture series and seek support outside our Grand Jurisdiction eg. New York and Quebec

College of Freemasonry: Team Leader, R.W. Bro. David Armstrong davidarmstrong@armstrongmanufacturing.com

- Offers a modular course of study covering the following subject matters:
- Masonic Arts and Sciences for Masons
- An Aspiring Worshipful Masters Course
- Past Masters Course (formerly DDGM & Grand Registrar Course)
- The study course will enable the Mason to establish a deeper meaning through the conscious examination of Masonic teachings that should shape the daily actions and responses of a Mason
- The outcomes of the courses in terms of learning are to produce knowledgeable, well-read and articulate Masons and to provide opportunities for discussion

Book Sales - Team Leader R.W. Bro. George Warner
pallmall@sympatico.ca

- Ensures availability of Grand Lodge Publications in particular
- Establishes a list of all publications which are available for the District Deputy Grand Master to disseminate
- Establishes a minimum non-Grand Lodge Publications for the interest of the Brethren
- Will display at events, if practical and when requested, by the District Deputy Grand Master
- Maintains a display table at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication

As one can see the Training & Education Committee and its Teams continue to answer the Educational requirements of the Brethren of our Grand Jurisdiction

Monthly Quote

M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels commented on Masonic Education and what a Mason can achieve when he said the following: **“I cannot tell you how to think nor can I tell you what to think but hopefully I can give you something to think about.”**

R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd



Dates to Remember

December 2016

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Buchanan Lodge No.550
Thursday December 1, 2016.
6:30 pm Dinner, 7:30 Tyle
Hillcrest

Breakfast with Santa

Scottish Rite
Saturday December 3, 2016
8:30 am to 10:30 am
MCH
Great fun for all, bring your friends and family everyone is welcome!!!!



Enjoy a freshly prepared breakfast, live Christmas Music, balloon art with our Shriner Clowns and meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Children \$5.00 / Adults \$10.00

For Tickets call 519-751-1965 or Email
kwall45@hotmail.com

Installation of Officers

Ionic Lodge No. 549
Wednesday Dec 7, 2016,
7:30 pm Tyle, Refreshment to follow
MCH

Hamilton District C Hockey Game



Submitted by W.Bro Bill Paul

December 16th, 8:30 p.m., at First Ontario Centre (Copp) versus Niagara District A. After the game we will all likely head over to the Anchor Bar for some additional fellowship.

It would be great if our Hamilton team could have some support by seeing a few bums in the stands! If interested, fans can enter through the man door located between the ticket office and the underground parking entrance on Bay St.

Installation of Officers

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602
Tuesday December 20, 2016,
Dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:00 p.m.
MCH

January 2017

Installation of Officers

Seymour Lodge No. 272
Tuesday January 10, 2017,
7:30 pm Tyle
Ancaster

District 'C' Mid Term Meeting

Saturday January 14, 2017, 9:00 am
Hillcrest Masonic Temple
Plan Your Lodge Attendees Now!

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Corinthian Lodge No.513
Thursday January 26, 2017.
7:30 Tyle
MCH

The Masonic Past Master's Association of the Hamilton Districts

Breakfast Meeting
Saturday January 28, 2017 8:30 am
Masonic Centre Hamilton

**Speaker Dr. Jen Hoogenes, MS,
MSc, PhD(c),**

Clinical Research Coordinator III
McMaster University, Department of Surgery

Topic: Prostate Cancer Research



Craft Association of Hamilton Masonic Districts Seminars & Workshops Committee

"Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario"

Future of Masonry

Hamilton A B & C Districts
Monday January 30 2017 , 7:00 pm
Hosted by Hillcrest Lodge No. 594
Hillcrest Masonic Temple

Topic: Condition of Masonry



D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Temple Lodge No. 324

Around The District “A challenge to fit items”



R.W. Bro. David Cameron speaking to the breakfast Past Masters Association meeting. *“What will the Lodges in the future look like.”*

Picture supplied by R.W. Bro. Robert J. Brooks

Landmarks / Doric No. 654 50 Year Pin

W. Bro. C. McCarthy presents Bro. Wm. Branch with his 50 yr. service pin on Nov. 22, 2016



Hugh Murray Lodge No. 652 Visitation



Front Bro. Glen Howie, Bro. Rod Brown, W. Bro. Brock McCulloch, V.W. Bro. Martin Tees, Bro. David Monnette (FC candidate), W. Bro. Gary McLean, Bro. William Lewis (WMW medal recipient), W. Bro. Kevin Ricketts Behind W. Bro. Edward Patterson, W. Bro. John Harrop, W. Bro. Steven Thiede, W. Bro. Craig Angyal, W. Bro. Steven Badger, Bro. James Healey, Bro. Tribuwan Persaud, Bro. Cory Sturk.



W. Bros. Brock McCulloch, Gary McLean, Kevin Ricketts

Gary and Kevin have gone through all of their degrees together. From EA to MM inclusive, when Brock was our W.M. Now both Gary and Kevin are masters of their respective lodges.

Gary Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 GRC
Kevin Royal Sussex Lodge No. 6 GLNS



Masonic Milestone

Bro. Robert H. Dickson, Valley Lodge No. 100, is presented with his 70-year pin and Certificate by our D.D.G.M and W. Bro. Colin Pfeiffer, Worshipful Master of Valley Lodge.



Fraternal Visit to Hugh Murray Lodge

Bro. Bruce Hannah (EA) being congratulated by R.W. Bro. Craig Knapman on his Initiation

Landmarks/Doric No. 654 60th Annual Adam Zimmerman Memorial Bonselpiel

Nov. 19, 2016

Winning Team:
David Simpson (skip),
Pat Ottolino,
Gord MacRae,
Brian McBurney



A Masonic Christmas Story

By W. Bro. C.S.L. (Laurie) Lund &
V.W.Bro. R.G. (Ron) Dixon

(With Apologies to Clement C. Moore)

**This poem first appeared in The Bluelight Bulletin, in 1994 -
Civil Service Lodge #148 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

'Twas nigh afore Christmas at the Freemason's Hall
(Civil Services' regular), the order was tall;
Reams from Grand Lodge, a notice of motion,
A ballot or two and a pause for devotion
To brethren departed of the year '94,
Plus a candidate who would soon walk the floor.

Our own Junior Warden, when faced with the crunch
Said, "Let's all call off and go upstairs for lunch."
The Master replied, as Masters all do,
Intoned in a voice reserved for the few,
"Before we partake of the fellowship there
Is the summons to read and a ballot to clear.
Not to mention the candidate, he's quaking with dread
At the stories of whether the goat has been fed."

The Master, exhorting the brethren to work,
A firm grip on the gavel, he turned with a jerk
To the Secretary, putting a shine to each lens,
Polished both to a lustre and reached for his pens.

"It's half past the hour," the Master then winced
At the stuff left to do and remained unconvinced
That the evening would go as smooth as he'd hoped
Since he'd gone to the trouble of feeding the goat.
"Though the ballot's behind us, the notice is gone,
Grand Lodge is finished, the work still goes on."

The Inner Guard knew as the Tyler did too
That knock, knock and knock was the right thing to do
Sidebenchers slept soundly and were only stirred
When the crack of the candidate's knuckles was heard
The slight groan that penetrated lips that were pursed
Appeared to the Deacon as just a light curse.

Onward they travel, the guide and the man
Seeking truth and enlightenment wherever they can
The secrets were given, the grip and the token,
Obligation was offered, the words then were spoken.
Though never, not once, was one heard to gloat
As the Entered Apprentice never did meet the goat.

The evening now ended, the candidate clear
Junior Warden entreats from the South us to hear
The oath we look forward to right from the start,
"Happy to meet and sorry to part."

Christmas had come to Civil Service that night
As men came together under the light
Giving freely of time as a labour of love
As we bent to the task of the Most High above.

To Stewards, to Deacons, the Tyler, the 'Guard
The Wardens, the Master, who all work so hard,
To Past Masters steady, Sidebenchers too
To Treasurer, Chaplain, the D. of C. who
Help carry the Lodge, year in and year out
To your family extended, a warm Christmas time.
Thank the G.A.O.T.U. we've run out of rhyme!

**Editor: I found this on <http://www.phoenixmasonry.org>
Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings to all.**



W. BRO. NEIL DOLSON, WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF TEMPLUM LUCIS LODGE U.D.

EXTENDS AN INVITATION
TO ATTEND OUR 2ND REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2016. COMMENCING AT 6 P.M.
AT THE STRATFORD MASONIC HALL
15 CHURCH STREET, STRATFORD, ON N5A 2P9

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING WILL BE



W. BRO. ANDREW HAMMER

AUTHOR OF

OBSERVING THE CRAFT:

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN MASONIC LABOUR AND OBSERVANCE
W. BRO. HAMMER IS A PAST MASTER ALEXANDRIA-WASHINGTON LODGE No. 22, A. F. & A.M
AND GRAND CHANCELLOR OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BRO. HAMMER WILL SPEAK DURING THE FESTIVE BOARD
AND CONTINUE HIS ADDRESS IN LODGE.

FESTIVE BOARD 6:00 PM SHARP
LODGE TYLES AT 7:30 PM SHARP

ALL VISITORS WILL BE RECEIVED AND ESCORTED INTO LODGE
COST TO ATTEND \$35 PAID IN ADVANCE (INCLUDES FESTIVE BOARD)
TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AND MAKE YOUR PAYMENT, PLEASE CONTACT BROTHER TREASURER,
R. W. BRO. CHAD MORE AT DDGM716@GMAIL.COM

FESTIVE BOARD MENU

GREEN PEA SOUP
STRAWBERRY ROMAINE SALAD
TOURTIERE PIE
APPLE CRANBERRY CRISP

Eight Steps to Excellence: The Observant Lodge

W. B: Andrew Hammer, PM
Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

The growing popularity of the idea of ‘observant’ Masonry has found brethren in all corners of the Craft asking the question of what exactly an observant Lodge is, and how they might go about increasing Masonic observance in their own Lodges. This document offers eight basic measures which, if observed, should result in the development of an observant Lodge. Each of these steps is either entirely consistent with Anderson’s *Constitutions of the Free-Masons* [the foundational document of the Premier Grand Lodge, published in 1723 and hereafter simply referred to as the *Book of Constitutions*], or historical Masonic practice in North America, or both. Nothing proposed in them is alien to our Grand Lodges or their respective histories. The success or failure of these steps is entirely up to the brethren of each Lodge.

First, however, it might be helpful to offer an answer to the primary question: what exactly does one mean by ‘observant’?

Simply put, observant Masonry means observing the *intent* of the founders of speculative Masonry. That intent was not to build a mere social club or service organisation. While the Craft—like any other human organisation—has always been burdened by men in its ranks who subverted the purposes of the fraternity to a more mundane or profane enterprise, that was never the *intent* of the institution.

That intent was to build an institution that calls men to their highest level of social being, in a state of dignity and decorum, which could serve as a place for serious, mindful discourse on the lessons and meaning of life, and search for the better development of oneself. That intent means building a space where such an experience can be created, and carrying ourselves in a manner that is consistent with our highest ideals and noblest behaviours.

Observant Masons believe that by observing what the history of our Craft tells us in regard to that intent, we will find the optimal Masonic experience. We say *observant*, and speak of *observance*, because we seek to observe the blueprints of that intent to the best of our knowledge and ability. Even more simply, we want to do things right, and we don’t want to settle for less. We want to pursue excellence in all aspects of our Masonic labour.

The eight steps offered here have proven to be successful in greatly increasing the experience of Freemasonry for brethren new and old alike. They serve as a quality control system for the operation of any Lodge, and when followed, result in a group of men who, regardless of the number of members in their Lodge, or the external nature of their temple, can find a sense of accomplishment and pride in what they have done, and who they have become. That too, is consistent with the intent of our founders.

1

Guarding the West Gate

This point is first among these, because we are nothing more or less than who we let in to our fraternity. Not every man should be a Mason, and not every man who should be a Mason belongs in just any Lodge. The brethren have a right and responsibility to determine the standards for their own Lodge, and to ask incisive questions of those men who knock on their door. Lodges should take time to first get to know the men who knock at their doors, and not simply sign any petition just because a man has an interest. Brothers who sign a petition for a man need to know who they are signing for, and more important, need to be willing to serve as his mentor. This is a fundamental point of responsibility for all brethren. Do not ask a brother in your Lodge to do the job of mentoring for you. If you are not willing to give that petitioner your time, how can you ask your Lodge to give theirs?

2

Being Proficient in Masonic Ritual and Law

Proficiency is an essential function of any observant Lodge, because we must know both what we are doing, and why, if we seek to uphold the highest standards of our respective Grand Lodges. It does no good to claim the mantle of excellence if your Lodge is not well-versed in the ritual and the Masonic law of your jurisdiction. Masonry is a thing of order, not anarchy. If you wish to keep that order, as well as harmony between your Lodge and the Grand Lodge, you must learn and follow the rules that each brother has obligated himself to observe. An observant Lodge is not a renegade Lodge. It seeks to be an exemplary one.

3

A Commitment to Advance Brethren Through the Degrees by Mutual and Genuine Effort

Progress in the degrees requires a mutual commitment of time and effort from candidate and mentor alike. Some form of proficiency, be it the catechisms, or papers delivered before the Lodge, should be required before allowing any brother to advance. Otherwise the brother learns that his advancement has no measurable value, other than his mere presence. Certainly not every man can do memory work, and not every man is a writer. But if he is not willing to even *attempt* to do either, then perhaps he should simply not be a Mason to begin with. The same goes for the mentor, who, though he may be experienced, must not take the easy way out when it comes to the knowledge he has pledged to impart to his apprentice.

4

The Selection and Advancement of Officers Should be by Merit Alone

This step, while admittedly difficult for some, is firmly grounded in the *Book of Constitutions*, without question. Masonry has never intended the adoption of a progressive line. A progressive line should only function when the next man down has the full faith and trust of his fellows that he will rule and govern his Lodge properly, because he has properly learned the requirements of his office. Of course, human nature is what it is, and mistakes can always happen, but they can be mitigated if such a standard is put in place, because no one advances until and unless they are ready to do so. The only way to justify a progressive line is if every

officer is carrying his weight to the extent of his office, while at the same time preparing himself diligently to advance to the next one. Lodges ignore this step at their own risk.

5

Dressing Your Best for Lodge

How one appears before the Lodge is a sign of how much you value both the brethren and the Craft. In most lodges in the world, a dark suit and tie is the minimum required to gain admittance. It's what the brethren expect from each other in an observant Lodge, and it certainly adds to the notion that a Masonic meeting is not just another night out, but a special event, worthy of being considered as special as each of us should believe Masonry to be. Additionally, dignity expressed outwardly through dress, serves as a superstructure, helping to enhance that dignity that can only be created from within.

6

A Lodge Must Offer Quality Assemblies and Be Willing to Pay For Them

The dues of a Lodge should be set at a level which allows the Lodge to not only support and sustain itself, but enjoy a quality of experience which tells the brethren that their assemblies are opportunities to rise above the ordinary. Good meals, served at proper festive boards, are essential. The festive board conveys the sense of conviviality that helps build true brotherhood, and it is historically established in the Craft as not merely a simple dinner, but quite honestly the second half of a Lodge meeting. An observant Lodge cannot forego it. A Lodge must decide that Masonry is a thing of value, and properly determine that value in such a way that it allows the Lodge to work and assemble in a manner that clearly establishes that value. Our dining and social events should reflect the worth we place on ourselves. Excess is not the objective; quality is. The problem is that so many of us have forgotten what quality is to the extent that we consider any expenditure on ourselves to be pretentious. But, if Masons are to be men of inner distinction, then we are fully justified in treating ourselves to the best we can afford in life. We cannot expect less from the Craft or ourselves.

7

The Return of a Sense of Awe to Our Ceremonies

We should bring back those things that once were found in our lodges, and which helped create a very unique, contemplative atmosphere for both the candidate and the Lodge. Among these are the use of music, the manipulation of light and darkness, the Chamber of Reflection, and the closing charge which forms what is known as the Chain of Union. Consider that the candidate preparation room is not and was never meant to be a mere dressing room. Consider that the notion of a 'sacred band of brothers' might allude to a physical manifestation of that sacredness. Consider that music has always been a part of our ceremonies, and that the *Book of Constitutions* ends with a collection of songs. All these things are part of who *we* are; they are not innovations from later jurisdictions or borrowings from European Masonry. Even the use of incense is ritually alluded to in early exposures of the Craft. The idea is to stimulate and manage the sensory experience of the brethren, in the endeavour to create the sense of uniqueness one expects from a Masonic experience. Here again, there is nothing strange about employing the

senses in a Masonic meeting. Our rituals teach the importance of each of those senses extensively; to *not* employ them in our meetings is the greater neglect and error. To refuse the restoration of awe to our rituals is to refuse to acknowledge our own heritage and history, and to deny the proper place and application of the pillar of Beauty to the Lodge.

8

Masonic Education at Every Meeting

The very origin of Freemasonry itself is in education. Whether it be the practical education in stone-cutting found in the operative craft of masonry, or the search for inner knowledge and science presented to us by the speculative Craft, the foundation of the art is inexorably based in teaching and learning. Without it, there is simply no Freemasonry taking place in a Lodge. Therefore, every meeting of the Lodge should offer some amount of Masonic education, be it through the degrees, or through presentations on the various lessons of the Craft. Even a ten-minute talk focused on the symbolic meaning of a single working tool is far better than a meeting where nothing but donations, dinners, and dues are on the agenda. An observant Lodge values the educational function of Freemasonry in its full bloom; the observant Mason holds the fraternity accountable to its promise to him to bestow light, and he means to receive it from the Craft in every sense: spiritual, literal, and intellectual. Numerous monitors and manuals from our Grand Lodges, spanning over at least the last two centuries, make plain the injunction to all Masons to seek knowledge. That same injunction extends by natural progression to each Lodge, and as a result, a Lodge without Masonic education cannot be an observant Lodge, and is arguably not any kind of Lodge at all. The search for more light is at the heart of Masonry. Observance is impossible without it.

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Widows Sons Riding Association, Hamilton Chapter, \$250 donation to LeBlanc Family from Niagara Street in Hamilton, who were burned out and left with nothing. We believe in Masons first and Widow Sons second. W. Bro. David Jack and W. Bro. Brock McCulloch presenting to Mr. Owen Deng for family

Mentors and Postings, Just for YOU

Open to all Masons regardless of District, Lodge, Rank, or Masonic Position; Entered Apprentice to Grand Master.

Brethren, for as many years as I can remember, and dare I say much much longer, The Brethren of Beach Lodge No. 639 have gathered at our Sunday Morning Mentors and Postings Programme as equals to Hone Our Skills and Improve our Ritual. Our door has always been open to visitors.

It is our objective to assist YOU in your Masonic journey; aid you in your Masonic Studies and help you think Masonically, thereby ensuring our work and ceremonies are identical in all lodges.

Instruction is only through the Book of the Work and Guidelines of the Officers in the Mechanics of the Work.(Red Book), and Adhering to the recognized P. & E. as prescribed by Grand Lodge, with NO Lodge Idiosyncrasies.

You are welcome to sit comfortably and watch or, participate by taking a chair or doing a part; W. Tools, lecture etc. We work in a Casual Atmosphere, With a Casual Attitude, In Casual Dress. **But with a Very Serious Intent**, in a “Start and Stop” manner to take all questions, at the time you want to ask it.. We may do degree work, or Practice the Masonic Memorial Service , we may talk Masonic Philosophy, History or Literature, or how to speak, so that you can be heard and Understood by all the Brethren in the room. We may concentrate on a new Mason getting ready to advance. We may discuss the meaning of so many of the “ Masonic” words in the ritual, not in common use today.

We will do our best to cover your needs.

Please come out to Beach Lodge and join in the Fellowship and learn with men of like minds, in an atmosphere of Friendship. Breakfast will follow. A \$5.00 donation will help offset the cost. (The breakfast table is where you will hear all the Masonic gossip, which we have no control over !) but it too can be very interesting..

If you would like to receive our weekly emails please feel free to contact me by email at: larry@hinkley.ca and I'd be happy to put you the list.

MENTORS and POSTINGS PROGRAMME
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9 A.M. SHARP
(Long weekends and holidays excluded)
STONEY CREEK TEMPLE
19 DAWSON AVE.,, STONEY CREEK
9 to approximately 10:30 a.m.

(Ed Note, Thanks to Bro. Jason Drosky for the Submission and to R.W. Bro Larry Hinkley for the invitation!)

Communication Bulletins

Some new information distributed from Grand Lodge to D.D.G.M.s and your Lodge Secretary. [Ask for details](#)

“B2B Nuggets”

Brother to Brother Program
Lodge Resources Committee
Volume 2, Issue 4 November 2016
Coping with Change

REFLECTIONS

Masonic Education Articles
Vol. 30 No. 2 November 2016
New Masonic Education Article Goal – Start A Conversation
For Ontario Masons – By Ontario Masons
Fiat Lux “Let there be Light” by R.W. Bro. Rob Lund
“Adjusting To The Light” by Bro. John Mooney -
Some Thoughts On Charity by R.W. Bro. Garnet E. Schenk

Ontario Mason Magazine Team

Call for submissions and support of the OMM
W. Bro. Dan Dignard - Team Leader

The Charles A. Sankey Lecture Series

Presents Dr. Aimee E. Newell

The Badge of a Freemason: New Stories from Old Aprons
Sunday, March 26, 2017 3 p.m.

Enniskillen Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 185 G.R.C.
150th Anniversary - Sesquicentennial Celebration
Saturday January 21, 2017

The Charles A. Sankey Lecture Series Presents

Dr. Aimee E. Newell

The Badge of a Freemason: New Stories from Old Aprons

Sunday, March 26, 2017

3 p.m.

Sean O'Sullivan Theatre

Brock University



Dr. Aimee E. Newell is the Director of Collections, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, (Lexington Massachusetts) with curatorial responsibility for a collection of 17,000 artifacts, including Masonic and fraternal artifacts and American decorative arts. Dr. Newell has published a number of books including: *Curiosities of the Craft: Treasures from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Collection* (2013). Dr. Newell's most recent book is entitled *The Badge of a Freemason: Masonic Aprons from the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library* (2015).

This annual lecture series is named in honour of R.W. Bro. Charles A. Sankey (1905-2009) and is part of the partnership between the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and Brock University. Dr. Sankey served as Chancellor of Brock University from 1969 to 1974. A renowned Masonic scholar, he was active in all the concordant bodies of Masonry including the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, the Royal Order of Scotland, and Royal Arch Masons. His extensive collection of rare Masonic books and papers is in the Special Collections of the James Gibson Library at Brock, providing a rich resource for research scholars and students.

Tickets are required, but to enable university students to be exposed to this exemplary speaker and program, they will be free.

Tickets will be available in early 2017. There will be a limit of 5 tickets per request.

More information about the Sankey Lecture Series can be found at sankeylectures.ca



District 'C'hronicle 100th Edition



2016 Silver Award
Newsletter Winner



2010 Grand Lodge
Newsletter Winner

September, 2008 Hamilton Masonic District C Edition No.1

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MANDATE AND MEMBERS

With the new District Guidelines provided to us by our long range planning committee and accepted by the district at our May meeting, came the creation of the district Communications Committee. Our mandate is defined as: *'To consolidate communication across Hamilton Masonic District C lodges, identify gaps, and develop solutions with a focus on meaningful, long term, growth-oriented, and self-sustainable initiatives.'* The committee as a result will not only be producing this newsletter on a monthly basis, but will also be rebuilding the district website. The new website will be designed as a current information resource for all district members, which is updated by the district lodges themselves. There is more to come on this initiative in future issues of this newsletter, but you can expect a new district website to be posted within the next 2 months at <http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org>

The committee consists of Bro. D. Tuinstra (chair), R.W. Bro. W. Elgie, W.M. Glen Notman, and Bro. S. Lehane.

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