

District 'C' Chronicle



March 2017

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.103

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From Our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren

February proved to be the highlight of my year with the Valley Lodge No.100 homecoming.

It was also a very exciting month here in Hamilton District 'C' as well as in our neighboring Districts.

It was a great month for visiting, including a trip down to St. Catharines where I was accompanied by The Assistant Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. Art Moore, for a Niagara Inter-District Official Visit with Niagara Districts 'A' and 'B' at St. Andrews Lodge No. 661. This was a heartwarming visit for me as my Uncle was a Past Master of St. Andrews and this was my first time sitting in that Lodge since his passing to the Grand Lodge above.

While on the topic of Districts sharing activities, we were treated to a presentation by M.W. Bro. Gary Dowling, Custodian of The Work, by The Craft Association which is, as you know, a joint association of Hamilton Districts 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

Before we leave the theme of inter-district activities I would like to remind our Past Masters of the upcoming Past Master



Association, a joint association of the three Hamilton Districts, breakfast on March 11th. R.W. Bro. Charlie Woods, member of the Board of General Purposes, will be speaking on "Men and Freemasonry in Today's Society".

Another shared District event will be Saturday April 1st. There will be a free Family skate at Ridley College followed by one of the legendary hockey games between Hamilton 'C' and Niagara 'A' where, I am certain, we will prevail. All are welcome.

In February we also had two official visits. It was a most enjoyable visit with W. Bro. George Post and the Brethren of Meridian, including the Valentine's theme in the Festive Board which Meridian is well known for.

The highlight of my Masonic year, and quite possibly my entire Masonic journey, was at my homecoming at Valley. After being brought into Lodge, when it came time for Grand Honours, my Son, W. Bro. Brendan Knapman, a Past Master of Valley Lodge who now lives near Calgary with his wife and 2 little future Masons, completely unexpected to me, came out of nowhere to lead the Brethren in Grand Honours. I was in shock and I want to thank the Worshipful Master of Valley, W. Bro. Colin Pfeiffer, The District Secretary, W. Bro. Lance Mullett and my two advisors, R.W. Bro. Bill Millar and R.W. Geoff Allan for their parts in keeping this a secret and making this incredible surprise happen. I also want to thank all the Valley Brethren for making this such a special evening to always remember.

While we are talking about Sons in Lodge, another proud Dad this month is W. Bro. Doug Bennie, Worshipful Master of Westmount Lodge, having the distinct pleasure of being in the Chair of King Solomon for the initiation of his Son, now Bro. Kevin Bennie.

Masonry in general and Hamilton District 'C' in particular, has a strong background of Sons, Fathers, Grandfathers and so on up, all sharing a rich Family history of Masonry.

It is an amazing feeling to be a member of Hamilton District 'C'.

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

R.W. Bro. Craig L. Knapman

The **DISTRICT 'C' CHRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C' Chronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

From the Grand Master

Here it is February and our winter is progressing in a rather unorthodox manner. We first get record amount of snow fall before the Holiday Season. Then we have more than a thaw with a very mild January that sees a great amount of our snow disappear, even on the North Shore or so an informant tells me.



Now that the large number of January Installations are completed and most of the Robbie Burns dinners are over we can look forward to the continuance of Official Visits through to May. These next months are usually filled with many opportunities to visit other Lodges and enjoy the hospitality of your fellow Masons in other locations. These occasions afford us to better know and understand fellow Masons. Those Brethren will demonstrate their abilities to perform ritual and in doing so they will display self-assurance and pride as they progress in their respective path in Freemasonry. Please consider visiting as a way to strengthen our Fraternity. Brethren, we are entering the busy season of Official Visits and of course the L Forms that go along with, what was once known as, the annual inspection. We recently held our annual Mid-Term meeting with the District Deputy Grand Masters and we were very pleased with the efficiency these Brethren are performing their duties. I personally want to thank them for the effort they are demonstrating on behalf of their respective Districts. On behalf of Grand Lodge I want to take a moment to remind you the L Forms offer a great amount of beneficial information that provide indicators of Lodge operations.

We, at Grand Lodge, sometimes hear how bold we are for requiring the information requested on the L forms and what Grand Lodge will do with this information. There are some who discuss with others we are attempting to get as much information as possible to better control the Lodges. Let me tell you that is far from the truth. The reports are gathered by a Committee who compile the information provided. That information is then returned to the Lodge with an opinion and rating. The real value of those reports are to indicate areas where Lodges might improve. In other words, the L forms should be used as a tool for Lodges to recognize areas that may require attention.

I have also heard, from time to time, another reason is so Grand Lodge can find out the financial status of Lodges in

order they may find a manner to take over Lodge funds to the benefit of Grand Lodge. Brethren, I find that falsehood an irritant to Masonry in Ontario. First of all, it is far from the truth. Secondly, if you take a moment and recognize that Grand Lodge operations are handled by some of the brightest Masons we have, serving on Committees to see that finances are managed in a proper manner. You should also know when we, at Grand Lodge, produce long range financial planning very conservatively thus we have been able to delay any future dues increase for three years. This is after considering the continued loss of membership that we are experiencing in recent years. So, I ask you to look more positively upon the financial situation of Grand Lodge and understand those L form reports will benefit the Lodges a lot more than our Grand Jurisdiction.

My Brethren, as we progress into the second half of our Masonic term, I want you to thank the District Deputy Grand Master in your respective District for his effort and the efficient manner he is performing his duties. The DDGM is the official representative of the Grand Master but he also offers assistance and instruction to Lodges because of his respected position. So we have a situation where the DDGM is, in many circumstances, answering to more than one entity which can be somewhat uncomfortable. Don't challenge an individual who is serving our Grand Lodge with dedication and dignity. Brethren, as I have said many times we are all fortunate to have Masonry in our lives. We practice in life to be better Masons and citizens and by the teachings and experiences we can be proud of our status in the community that gains respect from those around you.

Have a happy Groundhog Day

John C. Green



Open to all Masons of the jurisdiction, who are members in good standing
Those ineligible include: Current Grand Lodge Officers and Members of GL Committees & Teams

Essay Contest Theme:

"After enduring 300 years of time, has Freemasonry evolved enough to still be relevant to young men in 2017? Explain."

- Essays to be submitted to The College of Freemasonry at masonic.college@gmail.com
- Only essays submitted in **doc** or **docx** formats will be accepted.
- The essay length is a maximum of 1200 words.
- All quoted sources must be identified in an included bibliography.
- The bibliography will not count towards the word count.
- Submissions will be accepted from March 1, 2017 until midnight on March 31, 2017.

Top 3 essays will be published in The Ontario Mason Magazine & posted on Grand Lodge website.

For more information, contact Masonic.college@gmail.com

From the Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, as I write this month's Communique, the sun has finally come out after almost three weeks of clouds. Unfortunately, the temperature has gone below normal. We all smile with the knowledge that the sun has begun its trip north, days grow longer and soon the sun will cross the Celestial equator in March for the start of Spring.

Information & Communication

Any Brother who has a two-year-old child or grandchild has heard the following word many times; the question which begins with the word "Why"? You know – "Why do I have to have a bath?" "Why do I have to go to bed now?" And of course, when told not to do something, "Why are you so mean?"

I, also, have a few questions which begin with the word "Why?" which never seem to get answered ...

The Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master write a Communiqué each month. The Grand Master giving his thoughts and direction as it relates to Masonry in Ontario and the Deputy updating the Brethren on the work of the Committees and Teams of Grand Lodge. However, the lines of communication are sometimes broken when a District Deputy does not send it out to the Lodges in his District and in turn some Lodge Secretaries do not send it out to all their members. **Why is that?**

The Condition of Masonry Team reviews all the District Deputy Grand Masters' reports regarding each Lodge. If warranted, they send a Green coloured report card to the Lodge with Congratulations on a Job Well Done but they also take the time to report Areas of Concern which, if not addressed, may later become an issue. Some Lodges takes offense! **Why is that?**

A Lodge that receives a Yellow coloured report card indicating several major areas of concern in a Lodge. The CoM Team **suggests** names of Team Leaders of Grand Lodge who have the expertise to help. Some Lodges take offense. Why is that?

A Lodge that receives a Red coloured report card strongly **recommends** the Lodge seek immediate help from Team Leaders of Grand who have the expertise to assist. Instead of seeking help, some Lodges proclaim Grand Lodge just wants to close the Lodge. **Why is that?**

Lodges with major money issues defined in a CoM report card often will not ask for free assistance from Lodge Finance Committee which is made up of Brethren with experience and background in professional financial management. **Why is that?**

Brethren who have a desire to write educational papers appear reluctant to share them with the Education Committee, Reflections, or the Ontario Mason Magazine. **Why is that?**

Lodges with decreasing membership may have Brethren who have not been to a meeting in years or new members who join and then never return. These Lodges appear reluctant to use proven Grand Lodge Programs like Friend to Friend/Mentor,

Brother to Brother and Mentorship or hold an Open House. **Why is that?**

Perhaps all these "Why" questions sound like a Rick Mercer Rant. The facts remain, my Brethren, your Grand Lodge has some twenty-eight Committees and Teams, with over two hundred Masons using Programs that have a proven record of success. **Why** are they not being used by some Lodges or Districts?

In closing I leave you with the following quotation from American Journalist Sydney J. Harris:

"The two words Information and Communication are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; Communication is getting through"

R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd

Communication Bulletins

Some new information distributed from Grand Lodge to D.D.G.M.s and your Lodge Secretary. Ask for details

Education Monthly

"Get Knowledge – Get Wisdom – Get Understanding"
Selected Essays on Masonry, including:

Building Upon a Foundation that is 300 Years Old

A Conversation With The United Grand Lodge of England Improvement Delivery Group: Their goal is supporting Lodges as they build a strong & sustainable future for Freemasonry

<http://www.freemasonrytoday.com/magazine>

Book Sales

R.W. Bro. George Warner recommends what books to buy.

THE SEVEN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Official Visit presentation by **R.W. Bro. Charles A. Sankey** at St. George's Lodge No. 15 on December 12th, 1967

REFLECTIONS

(Vol 30 No 3)

Masonic Education Articles For Ontario Masons -
By Ontario Masons

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Duality – The Masonic Sword as a Ritual Object

W. Bro. Ian Troyer

The Secret Knowledge of Masonry

W. Bro. Dennis H. Wilson F.C.F.

Three Legged Stool

R.W. Bro. Glen Notman

Get Knowledge – Get Wisdom – Get Understanding

Dates to Remember

March 2017

Craft Association of Hamilton Masonic Districts ANNUAL DISTRICT DEPUTYS' RECEPTION & DANCE

Saturday, March 4th, 2017
Michelangelo's Banquet Center
1555 Upper Ottawa St. Hamilton, Ontario
Social hour 6:00 p.m.,
Dinner & program 7:00 p.m.
Dance with "Klassy FM" Disc Jockey Service
Tickets available from Lodge Secretary's
\$40.00 per person

The Masonic Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

Breakfast Meeting
Saturday, March 11, 2017. 8:30 am
Masonic Centre Hamilton (MCH)
Topic: Men and Freemasonry in Today's Society
Speaker: R. W. Bro. Charles Woods

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Seymour Lodge No. 272
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Tyle 7:30 pm
Ancaster Temple

Dufferin Lodge No. 291

Wellington District 18th Century Degree Team

Thursday, March 16, 7:30 pm
Dufferin Lodge invites you a wonderful night watching a degree team portray a degree from the 18th Century. Followed by great festivities in the banquet room.
W. Flamborough Temple

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Landmarks / Doric Lodge No. 654
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH



Irish Craic and Humour

**I don't like to think
before I speak...**

**I like to be just as
surprised as everyone else
about what I say.**

irishcraicandhumour.com

April 2017

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Past Master's Night

Tuesday, 18th of April 2017.
Dinner will be held at 6.15pm at the Scottish Rite.
Cost will be \$20.00.

Following dinner Hugh Murray Lodge will Tyle at 7:30 pm

The Past Masters will be conducting a 2nd Degree in fine fashion. Come out and watch this crisp ceremony. If there is ever a night to attend Lodge, this is it, where our very best is our minimum acceptable standard. Brethren from all Lodges are welcome to attend.

Subscription and reservations for dinner may be made by contacting the Junior Warden, Bro. Ryan Coombs, prior to Tuesday, 11th of April at ryan.d.coombs@gmail.com. There will be a repast of coffee, tea and sandwiches following the closing of Lodge.

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Dufferin Lodge No. 291
Thursday, April 20, 2017
Tyle 7:30 pm
Pie Night in the banquet room after Lodge
W. Flamborough Temple

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Westmount Lodge No. 671
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:00 pm
Hillcrest Temple

**HOCKEY NIGHT IN
NIAGARA**

Hamilton District 'C' vs Niagara 'A' District Maroons
Family & Friends Skate: 5:00PM – 5:45PM
Hockey Match: 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Fresco's Bar & Restaurant: 9:15PM
Ridley College Arena, 2 Ridley Road, St. Catharines, Ontario

Family Skate generously donate by:
**Scottish Craftsmen's Association
of St. Catharines and District.**

Saturday April 1, 2017

Around The District

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Meridian Lodge No. 687




R.W. Bro. Craig Knapman, and V.W. Bro Art Moore with the officers and members of Meridian Lodge

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Valley Lodge No.100




R.W. Bro. Craig Knapman on his homecoming visit to Valley Lodge with W. Master Colin Pfeiffer and a surprise visitor from Calgary, W. Bro. Brendan Knapman



Charles A. Sankey Lecture in Masonic Studies


Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 3 p.m.
Sean O'Sullivan Theatre,
Brock University




Lecturer:
Aimee E. Newell
Executive Director
Luzerne County Historical Society
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

"The Badge of a Freemason: New Stories from Old Aprons"

This event is free, but tickets are required. To reserve your tickets online, please go to sankeylectures.ca and click the TICKETS link.



Generously sponsored by
 Grand Lodge A.F.



Saturday, April 1st, 2017

flamboro downs

Top of the Turn Dining Room
Dinner: 5:30 pm/ Post Time 6:00pm





The event may be taking place April 1st but there is no fooling around with Prostate Cancer. Join us for a night of good food, fun and friendship, with all net proceeds supporting our district benevolence project, **Prostate Hope**.

The evening will include:

- ✓ Prime Rib buffet dinner, served in the Top of the Turn Dining Room
- ✓ Opportunity to DRIVE A RACEHORSE around the track between races
- ✓ First bet on us: \$5 betting voucher for each ticket
- ✓ Take your chances: \$5 slot voucher for Casino
- ✓ Winner's Circle presentation photos for each lodge in the district

Details:

Tickets: \$50/person
Race Sponsorship: \$100/race

The event is open to everyone, Friends and Family are always welcome.

Saturday, April 1st, 2017
Top of the Turn Dining Room
Dinner: 5:30 pm/ Post Time 6:00pm
 Ed Note we are invited to join Our Brethren from District 'B'
 For tickets contact W. Bro. Chris Mills at [Camills1@gmail](mailto:Camills1@gmail.com)

Cornerstone Project Ideas



Retaining Our New Members

“This principle, within the Brother to Brother program, provides guidance to Lodge leaders in the development of the new Mason who has been a member for less than one year”

Retention of Active Members Less Than One Year

First impressions are extremely important and are created very early in our new member's Masonic life. We have planted the seed. Brother 2 Brother discusses existing available programs, defines the role played by the Sponsor and Mentor, and emphasizes the importance of early visitation and social programs involving family and friends. Your Lodge can discuss and apply these programs where applicable. The benefits will lead to the retention of new members making them life long active Masons.

Emphasize these points regarding a candidate:

- The candidate is the most important person in our organization.
- The candidate is not an interruption in our work - he is the very purpose of it.
- The candidate is part of our organization - not an outsider.
- The candidate is not a cold statistic - he is an individual human being with feelings and emotions.
- The candidate is a person who needs something from Masonry - it is our job to fill those needs.
- The candidate is the lifeblood of this organization

Progressing Through the Degrees

The coaching and preparation of the Candidate for his subsequent degrees is imperative. It is a duty of the Sponsors, or a personal mentor, assigned by the W.M. (The sponsors should be the personal mentor always. Sometimes this is impossible) He should work in close co-operation with the Lodge Mentor Chairman, to ensure the necessary co-ordination. A candidate sponsor and the Lodge Mentor play different, but complementary roles. The sponsors assist the Candidate in advance for what is upcoming, to apply for membership and to prepare for each Degree.

The Lodge Mentor enters the picture after each step to explain and consolidate what the Candidate has just experienced, to assist him in understanding its historical background, its symbolism's and its activities.

When properly applied, this segregation of responsibilities between Sponsors and the Mentor becomes integrated. What emerges is a team of Lodge members working together to make the new member feel appreciated and comfortable in his new surroundings.

Maintaining an active interest in the Candidate's progress and keeping in touch is an essential aspect of being a sponsor, even after the Candidate has received all his degrees. The young Master Mason continues to need advice and support

and the sponsor should take new members to a variety of Masonic events.

Early Visitation

Masonic membership and the privilege of visitation are ours. The Mason who travels often is richer for it. Many, over time, establish lasting friendships with those Lodges he has visited. One of the most obvious ways to immediately involve new Masons is to encourage Lodge visitation. Expertise is not required and there is a fabulous opportunity for the Brother to gain valuable experience. Every Lodge reflects a range of ages and Masonic experiences among its members. Ages range from twenty-one in most jurisdictions, to more than one hundred.

Any Mason in good standing may visit any recognized Lodge in the district, province, and country or abroad, subject always to regulations of his own and the visited jurisdiction. To the visitor, the Masonic world has made available the facilities of Lodges, the assistance, companionship, and hospitality of its members from the moment he presents himself at the Lodge portal. The cold and indifferent manner of a strange community and its citizens disappears with a friendly and fraternal handshake.

Social Programs

Our Lodges' challenge is the creation of a friendly, gregarious atmosphere, the establishing of an interesting environment conducive to fellowship.

Examine the demographics. Is the Lodge top-heavy with older brethren or bloated with twenty or thirty somethings? Are they identified with watch fobs or multiple earrings? Having established this, determine the perils of a program that would exclude or alienate either extreme. The social program must be one of inclusion.

Have a meeting to discuss and plan. In a think tank what you want to do no question is improper. No suggestion is silly.

Some Ideas from Other Lodges

- Festive board for newly immigrated Candidate included delicacies from his homeland
- Private and professional colleagues of Candidates can be invited to participate inside and outside lodge depending if they are also in the Craft
- Invite family and spouses to Installation night festivities
- Public speakers from all walks of life: Festival organiser, Public safety, National Defence, Musicians, Health worker or Doctor, Mortician, Finance, Law and so on...
- Make a lodge outing to include Remembrance Day services
- Have a night at the Theater or Opera
- Monthly family outings to restaurant, movies, bowling, etc.

From B2B Nuggets Feb 2017 - Brother to Brother Program Lodge Resources Committee. Extract of Lodge Resource Manual Section 4 "Brother 2 Brother: 4.4.1, 4.9.9, 4.9.10" Rev. Jan. 2012



DUFFERIN LODGE NO. 291

A.F. & A. M ~ G.R.C.

will be hosting

The Wellington District 18th Century Degree Team

The Worshipful Master, Officers & Brethren invite all Freemasons to join us, at Dufferin Lodge in West Flamborough, Ontario on the evening of 16th March 2017 to be part of this wonderful and memorable event.

The Wellington District Degree Team will present a play depicting a Lodge meeting in London, England in the year 1774. The ritual of the play is a blending of the work of both the "Grant Lodge According to the Ancient Constitution" and that of the Modern". This was before the amalgamation of the above mentioned Grand Lodges, which formed the "United Grand Lodge of England" in 1813. Information for this ritual was drawn from Masonic Exposures, Pocket companions, Preston's Illustrations, articles and lectures of the time and from the 1774 minute book & financial accounts of a Lodge, which met in Devils Tavern, Bartholomeu Lane, London England. The cast will be in costumes of the period and will take us back to the very beginning of Freemasonry.

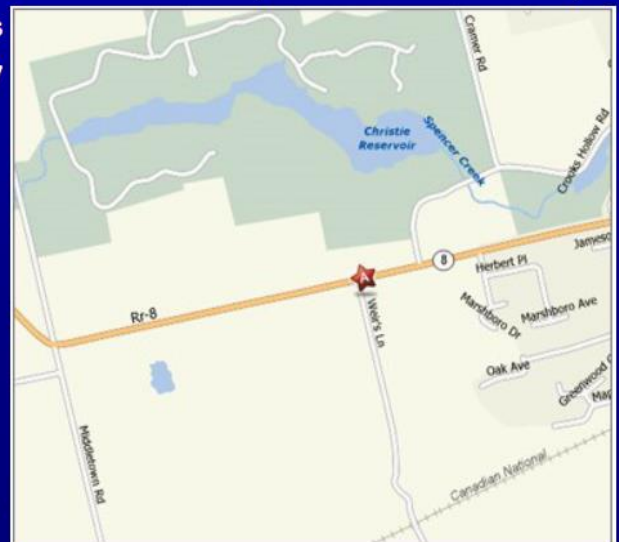
We Hope to see you!

Time: Starting at promptly at 7:30pm—16 March

Address: *Dufferin Lodge is located at :*
200 Highway #8, West Flambrough ON
(Hamilton Regional Road 8, L9H 5E1)

Website: www.dufferinlodge.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/Dufferin.Lodge/



IN MEMORIAM

W. Bro. Peter J. Butler

Corinthian Lodge No. 513

Initiated –January 28, 1988

Served as Worshipful Master 1998

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above February 2, 2017

Bro. Len Richard

Dufferin Lodge No. 291

Initiated –October 16, 1952

Passed – January 21, 1953

Raised – March 24, 1953

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above February 22, 2017

We will remember their families in prayer

**Canadian Masonic Commemorative Coins
1858- 2017**



ROBERTSON J. Ross *History of Freemasonry in Canada from its introduction in 1749* Vol. II (page 917-18)
Toronto The Hunter, Rose Co. Limited, Publishers 1899



**Editor's Note
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!**

This is a call out to any and all budding Masonic writers in Hamilton District 'C'. Are you proud to be a Mason? We would love to have some submissions, emails, one- liners from you!

To celebrate 150 years, simply finish the following sentence:


I am proud to be a Mason because...

(Remember this is an open tyled publication)

We would love to hear, and publish, why people care about the Craft.

S&F,
Glen Notman, email submissions to gnotman@hotmail.com





Editorial Team

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