

District 'C'ronicle



September 2019

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.133

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

Our District is strong. We demonstrate year to year our collective commitment to Freemasonry. I have been interested to know whether our collective interest, at Lodge, District and Grand Lodge or even internationally was of a similar situation and vision.

I have just returned from a family vacation to Scotland where in my family and I have been able to take in as many historical sights as time would allow. On my last night in Scotland I was able to make a fraternal visit to Mother Kilwinning Lodge No.0 in the Ayrshire town of Kilwinning. I was warmly brought into lodge accompanying Bro. Thomas Wood, R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning.



During their business a notice from the GL of Scotland was read out; it stated a study was being conducted on the enduring nature of the Freemasonic institution. The study was being conducted by Napier University of Edinburgh and asked all Mason's across Scotland their views on why Freemasonry had stood the test of time while other institutions fell by the way. On returning home to Canada I asked myself the very same question. "What keeps the vital essence of Freemasonry alive in Hamilton District 'C'?"

Each Lodge in our District retains the time-honoured independence, power and authority over itself, within which

each member can and does take on a role of their own choosing. This self-selecting process allows for those wishing to advance along the winding path of investitures and knowledge toward the most respected of Offices, the Chair of King Solomon, and the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

This mechanism is repeated in many other appendant bodies and distinguishes our institution from all others in the world. It says that we hold as truth that there is an intrinsic equality in the view of ability. Each member coming to Freemasonry can therefore work to reach his full potential. Through trials of a very personal nature we are all mentored to overcome and then deliver. In doing so we transcend ourselves. As a friend once said; "how does the seed know what to become?"

It is my view that while there are other reasons for the enduring nature of Freemasonry, one particular strength is the energy of wanting to Master oneself and is one underlying power within our institution and the reason that we as Freemason's keep going while all others fall by the wayside.

To that end we have talented District 'C' Chairmen this year who are all passionately looking forward to stoking the collective interest of the District Brethren. I thank them for their support and commitment to their duty.

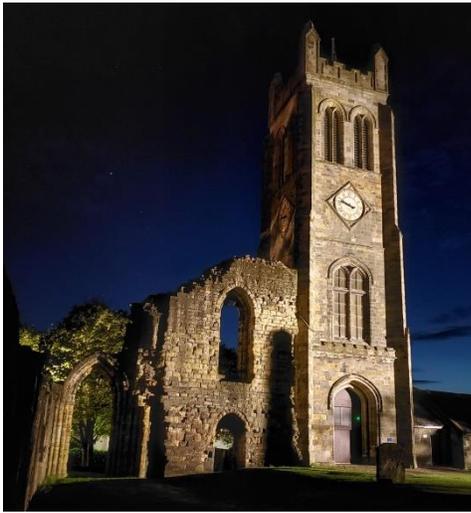
We are planning some great events throughout the year. One particular event that I am personally proud to inform you of is the Lodge of Instruction on the fifth Wednesday in April 2020. The guest speaker is Rev. Stephen Deak. There will be further news to follow. Our District has been instrumental in coordinating the Fall Masonic Divine service and I am very pleased to announce that we will be holding that service at my own Church, Ryerson United, 842 Main Street East, Hamilton. Assembly at 7:00 pm, Service at 7:30. Hosted by Harodim Lodge No. 513. Lastly, we are very pleased to report that Home Hospice Association will be reporting and appraising the District of their charitable goals at this coming Fall District C meeting at the Masonic Centre Hamilton.

Brethren, I thank of all the DDGM's who have gone before, and there can be no doubt that their leadership and unflinching support of Freemasonry has led to our strength today. I salute the past and respect the future!

R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** 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'ronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions



P.S. from R.W. Bro. McCulloch, a picture of Kilwinning Abbey. Built by Tironian Benedictine Italian Monks /Masons, before 1140.

Grand Master in Hamilton



Our Grand Master M.W. Bro. David Cameron will be in the Hamilton area three times during the month of September for the following events at the Masonic Centre Hamilton:

Wed, Sept 4 Ionic Lodge No. 549
100th Anniversary Celebration 7.30 pm

Thurs, Sept 5 Tuscan Lodge No. 551
100th Anniversary Celebration 7:30 pm

Sun, Sept 29 Scottish Rite 150th Play 1:30 pm

This month, Hamilton hosts the **150th Anniversary Performance and Celebration of Scottish Rite in Canada**. **Remaining tickets are in short supply, act now to secure your tickets.**

By popular request the committee has also adjusted the dress code for this event to **Business Casual** to make things easier for families and loved ones attending.

Family, ladies, friends and loved ones are all welcome to join us on Sunday September 29 for this special celebration.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the preservation of our beautiful building.

Tickets are available for purchase online for just **\$20/ticket** by visiting:

<https://150yearsofscottishrite.eventbrite.com>

Physical tickets for those unable to purchase online are also available by special request by contacting Ken Adamson at the Towers office.

Email: adminsec-towers@asr-hamiltonvalley.ca

Phone: (905) 522-1622 x22

Devin L. Tuinstra

Chairman – 150th Anniversary Committee

Towers Inc. and The Scottish Rite Centre of Hamilton

Dates to Remember

September 2019

Ionic Lodge No. 549 100th Anniversary

Wednesday, September 4th, 2019
3rd floor lodge room, MCH (Scottish Rite)
Dinner will be held in the round room at 6:30 pm
Tyle promptly at 7:30 pm

The Grand Master,
M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron, will be in attendance.

R.S.V.P. W. Bro. Bill Paul at:
bill.paul@dartcanada.ca

Hamilton Masonic District 'C' Fall Meeting

Date: Saturday September 7th, 2019 at 9 am

Masonic Centre of Hamilton,
Scottish Rite Banquet Room

Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts

Wednesday September 25, 2019 7:30 pm
Campbellville Masonic Hall
30 Campbell Ave E, Campbellville, ON

Ever wonder how the "L Forms" are evaluated?
R.W. Bro. Michael Locke of the Board of General Purposes
speaking on the "L Forms", reporting and evaluating.
Open to all Masons. Hosted by Campbell Lodge No. 603.

The Masonic Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts Saturday, September 28, 2019

Breakfast Meeting – 9:00 am
Masonic Centre, Hamilton
\$15.00 cost for breakfast

**Presentation by Bruno Ugenti, Lawyer
Topic: Wills & Estates. *Ladies Welcome***

Meal Reservations are a MUST! Please be fair to those who
have booked their meal in advance.
Please contact R.W. Bro. Thomas R. Young at
thomas.young@rogers.com

October 2019

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Ionic Lodge No.549
Wednesday October 2, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Hugh Murray No.602
Tuesday October 15, 2019
Dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

Installation of Officers

Dufferin Lodge No. 291
Thursday October 17, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
Flamborough

Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief

Fall Divine Service

Sunday October 27, 2019
Assembly at 7:00 pm,
Service at 7:30 pm
Ryerson United Church
842 Main Street East
Hamilton, ON

All Masons and families invited, regalia to be worn.



Stories in the Stones:

The Masonic Tour Part 2

A Da Vinci Code Tour? Learn about the Masons in
Hamilton and their influence on the City. Secrets will
be revealed. A society of secrets, not a secret society
told in the stories in the stones.

Hamilton Cemetery, 777 York Boulevard
Across from Dundurn Castle
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM,

hamilton.ca/attractions/events-calendar/stories-in-stones



23rd Annual
MASONIC
BEEF AND CORN ROAST

In support of St. Peter's Hospital Foundation and Learning Centre for Hamilton

From L to R - a few candid pictures of the "Corn Huskers" and some of the 600 guests



R.W. Bro. M. Martin & District Secretary -- District B



R.W. Bro. S. Laing, with his Lady & District Secretary -- District A



Door Prizes



R.W. Bro. Bob Wands



R.W. Bro. Roger Parliament and lady



This was the 23rd Annual Corn Roast, a great opportunity for food, fellowship, and fraternal goodwill.

As of 2018 the Cornhuskers have donated \$66,100 to St Peter's Hospital. and \$8,100 to the Learning Center for Hamilton.

They are looking forward to adding to these totals with this year's proceeds. Thanks to everyone who comes out and see you next year!

THE RISE OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Part 1 Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm or The GROTTO



The Grotto is a non-profit social organization dedicated to promoting Good fellowship, Friendship and Fun among Master Masons which encourages a renewed interest in Craft Masonry, and makes no claim to be part of Freemasonry. Members are distinguished by a black fez with a red tassel and a Mokanna head in the middle.

It was formed by members of Hamilton Lodge No.120, at Hamilton New York in 1889 when a group of masons really connected and regularly continued to meet playing friendly pranks on each other, which only heightened their fellowship. Nearby brethren wished to join, the group exploded in numbers, and the members decided that it was time to formalize the group and schedule meetings. The membership was limited to Master Masons.

The Grotto took shape during the first “Golden Age of Fraternalism”, when there were hundreds of fraternal groups in United States and Canada, and a significant portion of the population belonged to at least one of them. The members knew that they had to create a ritual and ceremony like no other, that encompassed the ideals and values that the group believed in, that could be used in their version of the ceremony of initiation. This ritual would bring a sense of showmanship including classical mythology, not to mention the devilish motif that remains intact to this day. This spectacular ceremonial requires a cast of more than 30 and offers unlimited opportunities in stage activities and stunt performance.

By 1890, with widening membership, a Supreme Council was adopted with a Constitution and a set of Statues. The 129th Annual Supreme Council Session was held in Branson MO on Sunday, June 16th, 2019. Likewise in 1919 the Daughters of Mokanna became their female auxiliary. Today the supreme leader is the elected Grand Monarch. Members are called Prophets, and the Grotto leader is named Monarch. Grottoes are granted dispensation, to wear the official headgear, the black Fez with the Mokanna Head in the centre with the name of the Grotto .

In 1949 at the meeting of the Grottoes of North America a national charitable program was established “Aid for the Cerebral Palsy Child”, which has contributed over \$1,000,000 to CPU Research. In 1969 this was expanded by adopting a Dental Care for Children with Special Needs in partnership with qualified dentists throughout United States and Canada.



Locally, Hamilton became the home of the first Grotto in Eastern Canada in 1890, growing exponentially to 1,200 members by 1915, when the total 21 Craft lodge membership was 5,002. That year the Hindoo Koosh Grotto purchased its first permanent home at 393 King Street West, just a few houses west of the future site chosen by Grand Lodge for its Memorial Office at 363 King Street West in 1960. This was formerly occupied by Cotterell's Funeral Home as a chapel. Until this purchase the Grotto had met in various places around Hamilton. Almost every time they met, it was in a different location.



Site at 393 King Street West currently.

Annually, the Hindoo Koosh held a colourful, spectacular and historical Grotto Pageant. The ceremonial was held in the Capitol Theatre on Feb. 25th, 1924; at the H.A.A. Grounds on July 27th 1925; and the Capitol Theatre on July 17th, 1926. Copies of these day long activities are archived in our Public Library, the only records of such now available. With the Ladies' Matinee commencing at 2:15 pm through to the Ceremonial Degree at 8:10pm, and the Revelry Session at 10:30pm, with the Finale at 11:00pm.



The audience at the opening performance at the H.A.A.A. witnessed the greatest spectacle which was presented each night for the balance of the week. Divided into various scenes: The arrival of Miss Hamilton; the dawning of creation; camp life and primitive occupations among the natives of Southern Ontario; the coming of the settlers; the struggle of the settlers against the spirits of the forests; the birth of Hamilton and the arrival of the Robert Land family; the Masque of the Nations,

symbolizing the spirit of brotherhood among all nations, with about 700 performers taking part. The background showing the city of Quebec was one of the finest ever witnessed. The name of each participant is noted in the 2 page Spectator article. The Honorable T.H. Ross was the honorary chairman, with J.P. MacKay as chairman of the grounds. The Circus Acts received honorable mention as did the pyrotechnic display, with some of the most brilliant and gorgeous displays that had ever been seen. A display of the Prince of Wales, drew rounds of applause, and a reluctant audience left the stands at the conclusion of the firework display.



Currently in the Archives section of the Hamilton Public Library atop a card filing case is displayed this 3 foot picture of the Grotto Stag Picnic held at Will Lord's farm on Mt. Hamilton, August 17, 1927. The number of members, their dress and the well positioned Model T's are noteworthy.



Having contacted the Executive Secretary for Grottoes of North America, in Gahanna, OH, we learned that their records only go back to 1920 but suggest that the Hindoo Koosh Grotto never went dark until 1996. At which time there were 5 Grottoes in Canada: Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Windsor and London. Today, Xella Grotto in London is the ONLY Grotto in Canada, but its future is in question.

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie

Part 2 of the Fraternal Organization Series will appear next month and is focused on John P. MacKay of the Hamilton Hindoo Koosh, the first Canadian Grand Monarch for Supreme Council.

Masonic Membership Card

HERE IS
Your
NEW
MASONIC
CARD



BE SURE TO SIGN
YOUR CARD

We Thank You...

Your remittance has been received, and it is a pleasure to enclose your new Membership Card. Sign your card and always carry it with you. It is your record of good standing in this lodge, and upon proper examination will entitle you to admission to lodges in other cities. With best wishes and kindest regards from the officers and members of your lodge.

Fraternally yours,

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper 2 ½ x 3 ½ inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt for valuables, yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my membership in a Masonic Lodge.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual kinship with my fellow Masons to practice charity in word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry, and the sick and to be fair and just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones; my home and my household are under the protection of every member of this great Fraternity, who have sworn to protect and defend theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune through no fault of my own, the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally it tells me that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered around my lifeless body friends and brothers who will recall to mind my virtues, though they be but few, and will forget my faults, though they may be many.

It tells me that and a great deal more, this little card, and makes me proud yet humble, that I can possess this passport into a society of friends and brothers that are numbered in the millions.

Author unknown
Knight Templar Magazine.
Published Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London

Barry Laws (reposted)
Member of Canadian Freemasons - Facebook Group

Black Wood Lodge at Black Creek Pioneer Village

Editor's note: An idea for a day trip to expand your Masonic knowledge. From a compilation of various Facebook postings and <https://blackcreek.ca/buildings/>



This is a photo of our Tinsmith Shop circa 1890. Original Location: Woodbridge, Ontario (north side of Woodbridge Avenue) Originally, our Tinsmith Shop in the village was a hardware store on the main floor, while the second storey was the first home of the Masonic Lodge known as the Blackwood Lodge. Named for Thomas Blackwood, a highly respected Freemason in the community at that time, the Lodge was used regularly throughout the 1870s. In 1983 it was dismantled and brought to Black Creek Pioneer Village for restoration. Through a joint effort between the Freemasons of Ontario and The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the restored building was opened to the public in 1984. <https://www.facebook.com/BlackCreekPioneerVillage/photos/a.10150109008211449/10153579243161449/?type=3&theater>

Based on postings and comments in Facebook, lodges have contributed to furnishing the lodge with appropriate historical content. Markham Union Lodge No.87 donated the carpet and Mountain Lodge No. 221 donated a significant amount of the furniture when they sold their building in the 1980's



The Volume of The Sacred Law is from 1858, it is not opened, and the ravages of time with highly acidic paper are making it crumble.

The apron comes from 1869, the silver is real and has tarnished to black; the edging is silk and is crumbling. However, the white lambskin is still soft.

Black Creek Masonic Heritage:

The purpose of the Masonic Lodge at Black Creek Pioneer Village is to present Masonry in a favourable light to the many visitors who tour the village each year and to give them a better understanding of the place of Freemasonry in the social fabric of an 1867 crossroads rural community. The Lodge Room is furnished with pre-Confederation furnishings and is staffed by volunteer Masonic Interpreters. The Black Creek Masonic Heritage Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary, five Weekly Captains, the Supervisor of Education and Interpretation at Black Creek Pioneer Village and several Interpreters who are interested in serving on the Committee. Source: <http://heritagelodge730.ca/black-creek-pioneer-village/>

A visit to Black Creek Pioneer Village is a step back in time to 19th-century Ontario. More than 35 authentically restored homes, workshops, public buildings and farms recreate the atmosphere of life in a rural Victorian community of the 1860s. Craftspeople and workers wearing period costumes demonstrate skills such as open-hearth cooking, bread-making, looming, milling, blacksmithing, sewing, printing and more. Walk through the village and into the homes and buildings, visit the inn, and stroll through farms and forests.

All of the buildings at the Village are staffed by Costumed Interpreters who operate and explain the lovely selection of buildings. The only exception to this is the Masonic Lodge Room which since the building was opened has been staffed by our own volunteer brethren who in pairs take on one day a month to explain the Lodge Room and answer questions about Freemasonry. The schedule is under the control of the Heritage Lodge Black Creek Chairman and in the early years we had as many volunteers as we could use. But things have changed. Many of our originals are no longer with us and there has been a solid ongoing campaign to replace them in this very interesting and rewarding work on behalf of the Craft. The Brethren get to meet so many interesting people and families from Canada and all over the world.

In order to keep the Lodge Room open every day during the Black Creek Village season we need a good number of volunteers who individually, or better still in pairs, can serve for one day per month. Full training is provided and all volunteers will be guests of the Heritage Lodge at an annual Volunteers Banquet provided for them.

If you are interested in helping to perpetuate the work of this wonderful Masonic facility please contact R.W. Bro. Maher Eide who is the Toronto Chairman for the Black Creek Lodge Room at cici20101998@yahoo.com



From the Editor

Brethren,

September begins the new masonic year as we scrape off the rust and reconvene in our Lodge halls. Here at the Chronicle we would love to publish any pictures from your lodge events, degrees and significant moments. If you have any submissions, please send them along, content is always welcome.

In alignment with the readers survey feedback, we are trying to gather information from our members related to what attracts and retains members in 2019.

The readership represents a cross section on Masons that I feel are interested and engaged. So I am asking you for some candid responses to the following questions.

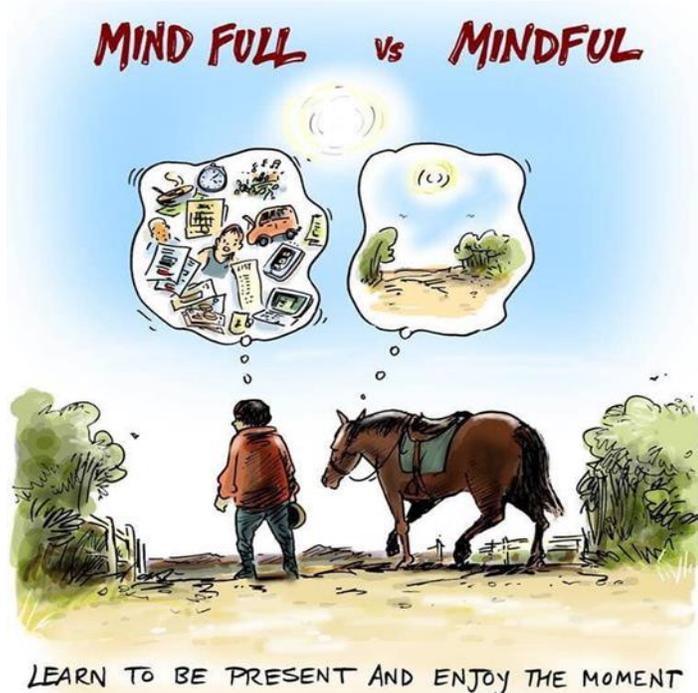
- Why are you a Mason?
- What makes Lodge work for you?
- What makes Masonry work for you?
- What would you change if we could?
- What would you leave untouched?
- How do you describe the benefits of Masonry to others?

If you feel like responding, please reply directly to me at gnotman@hotmail.com with **Masonic Response** in the subject line. All answers will be kept in confidence. I have already solicited some feedback and will publish the replies over the next few months.

In keeping with the list above, one of the reasons I like Masonry and stay engaged is how it allows me to stay mindful.

S&F

Glen



IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Richard Thomas Hearn

Meridian Lodge No.687

Initiated - December 20, 1961

Passed - February 14, 1962

Raised - May 9, 1962

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above August 20, 2019 (Age 95)

Bro. Alexander Roy MacRae

Valley Lodge No. 100

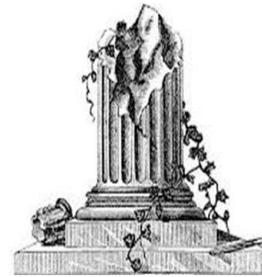
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above August 18, 2019

Bro. Anthony Alfred Tomkins

Valley Lodge No. 100

28 years a Mason

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above July 4, 2019



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted. We Shall
Cherish Their Memories in Our Hearts.**



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www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org