

# District 'C'hronicle



May 2021

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.153

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## From our District Deputy Grand Master

### CHARITY

Brethren, as you know I have written often on Faith, Hope and Charity. As this is almost the last of my submissions to the Chronicle, I would like to close with one more thought on Charity!

The ancient Hermes Trismegistus whose writings include "The Emerald Tablet," wrote in "The Lament of Hermes to Asclepius."

"Do you know, Asclepius, that Egypt is an image of Heaven, or to speak more exactly, in Egypt all the operations of the powers which rule and work in Heaven are present in the Earth below? In fact it should be said that the whole Cosmos dwells in this our land as in a sanctuary."

These magnificent and ancient words were meant to describe the land of Egypt at its peak and also convey the ancient Hermetic dictum "as above so below."

Hermes continues;

"...this incomparable work of God, this glorious structure which he has built, this sum of good made up of many diverse forms, this instrument whereby the will of God operates in that which he has made, ungrudging favoring

man's welfare; this combination and accumulation of all the manifold things that call forth the veneration, praise, and love of the beholder."

These words define Freemasonry!

**"...this instrument whereby the will of God operates in that which he has made,"**

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. " (Luke 17:20-21)

And from Mark 1:15 John the Baptist a patron of Freemasonry wrote" the kingdom of God is at hand." Is it possible that as Michael Baigent in" The Jesus Papers," wrote "rather, it is already available to those who know the way."

Charity, is" ungrudging favouring man's welfare." What is man's well fare or well being? To each person it is different but to most people it would be a life without fear. Freemasonry when unequivocally sought and persevered with must show the way. There in lies the greatest benevolence, a navigable path to a life with grace or a life with courage that steers away from fear. And can be symbolically represented by our great exemplars path to the cross.

The principles of Freemasonry live within all people and perhaps the greatest charitable act of all is that its all in there for our own discovery!

To all sick and shut in Brethren, reach out to the G. A. O. T. U. to ease and soothe your burdens!

God Bless you all!

Cum Luce Salutem

**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'hronicle 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



*Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.*

- Margaret Mead

Brethren,  
Included in this Communiqué is a letter from the Grand Treasurer about the effect of a shrinking demographic on the finances of Grand Lodge. I would like to deal with the effect of membership numbers on individual lodges.

Of course, a shrinking membership will impinge on lodge finances in the same way as it does for Grand Lodge. And that effect can be generalized to buildings housing multiple lodges as well. The pandemic has shown us that we cannot depend on hosting events to raise funds to meet our basic needs. A few lucky lodges will have commercial tenants; great as long as they stay! But the bottom line for most of us is that we need to fund our organization from our own pockets. And if we want a classy organization we will have to pay for it.

When we return to meeting, at least at first, we will have smaller numbers coming out to lodge. Due to the isolation we have endured, we may swell our numbers (and coffers) with new initiates, but we must be cautious because taking in more men than we can adequately mentor will just result in a revolving door.

But small is not necessarily bad. In fact it has many advantages.

We now realize what we miss the most – ritual, fellowship, doing things with our brethren.

In a small lodge we know every one of our brethren. In a large lodge, there may be many whom we do not know. In my visits I have noticed that no matter how many members a lodge has on its books, there tend to be twenty to forty who come to a

meeting. Why is that? Some postulate that it is because that is how many jobs there are. If one is neither an officer nor has a part in the evening's activities, one is tempted not to come.

They recognize this in England. There the usual size of a lodge is thirty to forty members. If a lodge gets to sixty, it splits into two lodges. Most of the new observant lodges here limit their membership to a small number on purpose.

Other advantages of this size are that people notice if someone is missing, and they contact him to see if he is alright; they notice the new Master Mason who is sitting in the corner by himself, and go talk to him; and they all feel the obligation to attend every meeting they possibly can.

In 1973 E.F. Schumacher published a book called *Small Is Beautiful: A Study of Economics As If People Mattered* and while it was mostly about large scale industry (and predicted the ecological crisis we are now experiencing), I especially love the last phrase "As If People Mattered".

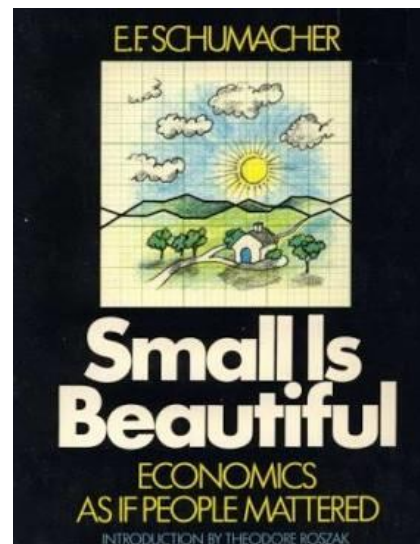
Let us look at lodges "As If People Mattered", not at the economics of running a building, a fund-raising machine, or a political hierarchy.

What is it that lodges provide for their members?

A sense of belonging, a moral compass, a group of like-minded men to support us in that quest? You may think of many more. Are these at risk?

We have been given an incredible gift – the ability to remake ourselves. When we return to meeting we can blithely initiate a huge number of men and go back to doing the same things that haven't been working for the past thirty years, or we can thoughtfully chart a course that will ensure the success of our time honoured craft.

David J. Cameron



## From the Deputy

My Brethren:

The final proposed amendment for this year that your Deputy was charged with communicating is to approve the new Ontario Masons Brand that would be added as a new Section 3.2 of the Constitution. The Branding Team of the Community Outreach Pillar has put together a Brand Standards Manual with guidelines for the use of our name and symbols for which we stand, and we are excited to introduce them to you here.

The Brand Standards govern the intended use of the Name, Logo, Symbol, Wordmark and styles of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, its Districts and Lodges, their Officers and members as well as the Square and Compasses within our Grand Jurisdiction.

The Standard Logo remains the official logo of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario and is defined in the Book of Constitution under section 3.1, that being the ornate Square and Compasses. This Logo is a registered trademark of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario and shall not be modified or embellished in any manner whatsoever.

The new Ontario Masons Brand that would be added as a new Section 3.2 of the Constitution, is not replacing the current 3.1 standard formal logo of Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The new Ontario Masons Brand consists of two distinct elements – the Symbol and the Wordmark as below and will be communicated in the revised Communications Strategy Policy and Standards publication.



The Symbol consists of an adapted version of the trademarked 3.1 Square and Compasses from the Book of Constitution. The Square and Compasses has now been optimized and simplified with a Canadian maple leaf as its background. The Wordmark quickly identifies who we are without the burdensome moniker of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Branding with Symbol and Wordmark (maple leaf and Ontario Masons) would be used for any public facing documents, whereas the Logo should be used where the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario is being mentioned.

The idea behind this amendment is to have a bold, forward-looking image in materials that non-Masons will see and over time we will build consistent messaging.

We are continuing to take this opportunity to socialize the proposed Constitutional amendments now before voting day when you have them all in front of you at once for your decision. We want to ease this stress and make sure everyone has every question answered long before the vote. Your responsibility is to be a well-informed voter.

If you have any questions related to these proposed amendments, please send me an e-mail at [office@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto:office@grandlodge.on.ca) and I will endeavour to make you more comfortable with the amendments and the process going forward.

**Thomas W. Hogeboom**

## From the Grand Treasurer

### THE PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT AND OUR DECLINING MEMBERSHIP.

Our active membership on December 31, 2020 was at the 33,000 level. Status of our membership:

Over age 70 - 52% or 17,000 members including 2,000 over the age of 90.

The average annual change in our membership for the last 9 years approximates:

Initiations	1,100 per year
Deaths	1,200 per year
Demits	1,100 per year
Suspensions	900 per year

The deaths are beyond our control and are offset by the number of initiations. The present rate of decline is about 2,000 annually. This is a cause for concern when we look at the age of our members and the projection for membership to a level of about 23,000 by the year 2025.

New and or expanded programs for mentorship, lodge speakers and other areas of interest to encourage participation in our virtual meetings during the pandemic has improved attendance at these meetings by about 50% or more over the number we were experiencing before COVID-19.

Keeping our members interested and participating leads to retention. This begs the question about the post pandemic period when we return to lodge. Despite the best forecasts, we cannot accurately gauge the impact on retention at this time.

While virtual meetings are interesting and could possibly be continued, they are not a substitute for the personal and social aspect of our lodge meetings. If we could hold our membership at the 30,000 level, the proposed increase of \$20.00 per year would balance our budget, pay for the upgrades in technology and the improvements to our building.

I trust that this message will awaken each of us to the need to revisit or prepare our long-range plans and financial forecasts for the continuing longevity of our lodges. We can succeed if we all work together with success as our common goal.

**H. Edward Standish**

Grand Treasurer ([hesmes@rogers.com](mailto:hesmes@rogers.com))

**James C. Sutherland**

Chairman of Audit & Finance ([jim@sutherlandelliot.ca](mailto:jim@sutherlandelliot.ca))

**Sidney T. Schatzker**

Chairman of Lodge Finance Advisory  
([schatzker@rogers.com](mailto:schatzker@rogers.com))



# From the Grand Secretary

Brethren,

## Annual Communication of Grand Lodge:

The virtual Annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario will be held on Wednesday July 21, 2021. Details of the timing and the process for logging in will be communicated as they become known. A limited number of brethren will be able to join the meeting on a first registered basis and the remainder will be able to listen in to a live streamed version of the meeting.

Brethren who join the meeting will be able to cast a vote on any business brought to the floor during the meeting. You are therefore encouraged to register as early as possible since brethren watching and listening to the live stream will be unable to vote. Registration details will be communicated when available.

## Installation of Grand Lodge Officers July 2021:

As our Grand Lodge is not permitting the use of any ritual in an online (virtual) environment the Installation and Investiture of Grand Lodge officers, including the District Deputy Grand Masters, normally conducted as part of the Annual Communication of Grand lodge will not take place at that meeting this year.

A number of options are being considered, but the constant evolution of the health regulations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic make it impossible to announce a solution at this time. As soon as we are in a position to make a decision we will communicate when and how the Installations and Investitures will take place.

We appreciate your patience in this matter.

## Annual Meeting of the Board of General Purposes:

The annual meeting of the Board of General Purposes normally held the two days prior to the Annual meeting will be held in virtual format on **Tuesday June 22, 2021 from 09:00AM EDT – 14:00PM EDT.**

This meeting is a must for all Members of the Board of General Purposes including the current District Deputy Grand Masters. Log in details and timings will be communicated as soon as they are available. NonBoard members used to attending as part of the Gallery, will be permitted to attend the virtual meeting as observers only.

## Election of District Deputy Grand Masters:

A reminder that the election of all District Deputy Grand Masters will take place on June 18 and June 19 2021. A document titled “Electronic Voting Grand Lodge 2021 Member Letter Mar 01 2021.PDF” was distributed in the last Resources Digest indicating the procedures to be followed for an eligible individual member to cast his ballot. Advance registration is a MUST.

## Nominations for District Deputy Grand Master:

All current DDGMs are reminded that candidates in your District must complete and sign the **2021 Nomination Form** as provided to you earlier and return it to their current DDGM. All current DDGMs must complete the **2021 Eligible Candidates Form** and submit to Grand Lodge as a **fillable PDF form** (NOT printed and scanned), together with the copies of the 2021 Nomination Forms.

## Virtual Meeting Protocol - Introductions:

The brethren organizing virtual meetings should be aware that even though the meetings may be considered informal, some Masonic protocol need still apply. Please ensure that if our Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master or your own District Deputy Grand Master are in attendance that they are recognized given the last word.

## Scheduling and Rescheduling of Masonic Events: Lodge Anniversaries and Grand Master's

### Receptions:

As our Grand Master has indicated, once we are able to resume in-person Masonic gatherings, either in the lodge or at social events, there are going to be many requests to reschedule cancelled or postponed events as well as requests for new events. Regrettably we are unable to commit to any future events (especially large social gatherings) definitively until we can resume labours in a safe and healthy manner. That time appears to be a ways off yet.

While we appreciate the dilemma of having to book in advance, we cannot ask lodges and Districts to commit to rental and catering contracts for events that may not be able to be complete as planned. Cancellation clauses can be expensive.

Therefore, we are asking brethren of lodges that have had a major anniversary last year or will be celebrating one this year to think about joining together with other lodges in your District as well as with the District itself to schedule one single event to which the Grand Master would be invited.

As soon as we can re-open for business we will notify you when to submit requests for dates.

Stay safe. Keep vigilant.

*D. Garry Dowling, Grand Secretary*

## From the Grand Lodge Website ...

### Added April 2, 2021

[The Communique April 2021\)](#)

[Covid 19 Update from the Grand Master](#)

[Masonic Education April Newsletter](#)

[Electronic Voting at Grand Lodge - Member Letter](#)

### Added March 31, 2021

[GM Blog March 2021](#)

### Added March 29, 2021

[Mentoring Matters Bulletin Volume 12](#)

[Mentoring Matters Bulletin Volume 13](#)

<https://grandlodge.on.ca/>

## Around the District (Virtually) Hamilton C District - Masonic Forum

R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch, District Deputy Grand Master, Hamilton Masonic District 'C', along with his Forum team are pleased to announce the May forum. As we remain apart at this time, this monthly Forum provides an interim opportunity to fortify our fraternal bonds, stimulate our Masonic spirit and assist in our daily advancement of Masonic education.

Looking forward to May, your Forum team has assembled a "2 for 1" evening with W. Bro. Lorne Evans providing a presentation entitled, "Requiem for a Royal Brother: Prince Philip (1921 - 2021)" and with R.W. Bro. Ken Adamson delivering a piece called, "Observations on Life Now and Freemasonry". Both presentations will provide time for follow up questions and comments.

**Guest Speaker(s)**  
**W. Bro. Lorne Evans**

**TOPIC – Requiem For a Royal Brother**

**R. W. Bro. Ken Adamson**  
**TOPIC – "Observations on Life Now and Freemasonry"**

**DATE – Wednesday, May 5th, 7:30 p.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88959006414?pwd=VUVDWE9FaNjMeExLTktGdXA2Zjdadz09>

Meeting ID: 889 5900 6414  
Passcode: 827364

SOURCE: <https://blog.gotomeeting.com/>

### ONLINE MEETING ETIQUETTE

To have meetings wherever you are does not mean there aren't basic guidelines you should follow. Here are some meeting etiquettes everyone should observe

<b>JOIN EARLY</b>  Make sure your microphone and camera are working properly.	<b>DRESS APPROPRIATELY</b>  You'll also put yourself in the right headspace to be productive.	<b>BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS</b>  Make sure your background is tidy, professional and work appropriate.
<b>MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE WHEN YOU'RE NOT TALKING</b>  Avoid noisy distractions while others are speaking.	<b>STAY SEATED AND STAY PRESENT</b>  Sit up straight, don't make big extraneous movements and always give your attention.	<b>MINIMISE DISTRACTIONS</b>  Avoid rustling papers, eating or making other distracting noises in the background.
<b>GIVE GRACE</b>  Be patient with participants and allow some grace to any miscommunications.	<b>PLAN FOR AN EFFECTIVE WRAP-UP</b>  End with a quick recap providing decisions made and actions agreed on.	

**May 2021**

**District 'C' Spring Meeting**  
**Saturday May 8, 2020, 9:00 am**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89273274276?pwd=SjRyR1BUVDk4aTR1S28rbTc5c3Fjd09>

Meeting ID: 892 7327 4276  
Passcode: 723726

## April Forum -Recap!

Brethren,

Your April Forum was very interesting and very well attended as we received an informative presentation from our Brethren at Heritage Lodge No. 730 led by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.W. Bro. Daniel Graham, the Assistant Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. Bill Willis and W. Bro. Ian Casey - all members of Heritage Lodge. We learned of their unique characteristic of being this Grand Jurisdiction's only warranted traveling lodge and, as a result of this, they belong to no district in particular. We heard of their efforts to archive as much of their history and corresponding documents with the majority of it being available on their website at: [www.http://heritagelodge730.ca](http://heritagelodge730.ca)

Our guest presenters also let the forum attendees know of their willingness to assist other lodges throughout the jurisdiction in creating their own history documents.



Finally, we learned that any brother who may be interested in joining this unique lodge should make contact with W. Bro. Casey who is the Hamilton and Niagara districts' liaison for Heritage Lodge. Ian's e-mail address is: [IanCasey@McCaslan.com](mailto:IanCasey@McCaslan.com)

We thank the brethren of Heritage Lodge for their presentation!

Fraternally,  
**W. Bro. Bill Paul**, Education Chair'

## Vaccination Transportation

Brethren, volunteers are available if you need a ride to get to a vaccination appointment.

Just call one of our District Coordinators to arrange a ride:

- R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch at: 905-638-4229
- W. Bro. Bill Paul at: 905-719-6464



## More District Pictures

Images from the past few years, reminding us  
of our shared fellowship



THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



The Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton  
Districts **Annual General Meeting**  
Saturday, May 15th, 2021 at 10:00 am.

### Agenda Includes the Presentation of Candidates for Grand Lodge Office

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lceytrTMrEtVyoo9e07bZdLujNqeQrx6K>

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email  
containing information about joining the meeting.

Any questions please contact our

Secretary, Tom Peddle at

[thomasfpeddle@gmail.com](mailto:thomasfpeddle@gmail.com) or (905) 741-0357.



Dufferin Lodge Pie Night, an "annual April event!"

*The Official*  
Meet the Grand Lodge  
Candidates Night  
One event, Two nights

May  
6th, 7  
PM ET:  
Board  
of General  
Purposes  
& Grand  
Treasurer

May 13th,  
7 PM  
ET: Grand  
Senior  
and Junior  
Warden  
& Grand  
Registrar

Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario presents

The Official *Meet the Grand Lodge Candidates Night*

[REGISTER HERE](#)



District Picnic Summer 2015

# Meet the Candidates!

## Grand Senior Warden

- **WALTER SCOTT DOEL** – General Manager, Bradford ON. Tuscan Lodge No. 99, York District. W.M. 2017.
- **JAMES GARDNER** – Retired Occupational Health & Safety Officer, Napanee ON. Union Lodge No. 9, Frontenac District. W.M. 2016.
- **ALLISON FREDERICK GOWLING** – Semi-Retired Author, Woodstock ON. Hillcrest Lodge No. 594, Ham B District. P.M. 2010.
- **DEREK FRANCIS MCNULTY** – Retired Military, Grimsby ON. Kroy Lodge No. 676, Toronto Don Valley District. W.M. 2018.
- **STEPHEN L. SPENCE** – Probation and Parole Officer, Courtice ON. Orono Lodge No. 325, Ontario District. W.M. 2019.
- **WILLIAM GRANT THOMPSON** – Retired Major Canadian Forces, Barrie ON. Seven Star Lodge No. 285, Georgian South District. W.M. 2008.
- **STEPHEN DAVID THOMSON** – Retired Businessman, Nepean ON. Liberty Lodge No. 419, Sarnia District. P.M. 2010.

## Grand Junior Warden

- **GEORGE AJRAM** – Law Office Manager, Markham ON. Wellington Lodge No. 635, York District. W.M. 1992.
- **MICHAEL CIPOLLONE** – TELUS Cyber Security Channel Manager, Toronto ON. Markham Union Lodge No. 87, Toronto East District. W.M. 2018.
- **THEOPHILUS HALL** – Foreman of Air Canada, Mississauga ON. Victory Lodge No. 547, Toronto Humber Valley District. W.M. 2007

## GRAND TREASURER

- **NEIL ALLAN DOLSON** – Retired Business Executive, Norwich ON. Templum Lucis Lodge No. 747, South Huron District. Appointed W.M. U.D. 2016. DDGM 2006.
- **SYDNEY SCHATZKER** – Chartered Accountant, Thornhill ON. Mount Sinai-Pillars Lodge No. 522, Toronto Don Valley District. W.M. 2007. Grand Steward 2011. DDGM 2014. B of GP 2018-2021.
- **JAMES CRAWFORD SUTHERLAND** – Insurance Broker, London ON. Mount Olivet Lodge No. 300, London East District. W.M. 1980. DDGM 1998. B of GP 2004-2021.

## Grand Secretary

- **DAVID GARRY DOWLING** – Grand Secretary, Retired I.T. Analyst, London ON. Kilwinning Lodge No. 64, London East District. W.M. 1986. DDGM 1994. B of GP 1997-2021

## Grand Registrar

- **TIM CORRIN** – Retired Steelworker, Hamilton ON. St. Andrew's Lodge No. 593, Hamilton B District. W.M. 1994, 2003, 2009. Grand Steward 2010.
- **ALEXANDER RUDOLPH HAAG** – Marketing Executive, Waterloo ON. Ayr Lodge No. 172, Waterloo District. W.M. 2016.
- **LEROY PERCY HARRISON** – Account Rep, Stratford ON. Maitland Lodge No. 33, South Huron District. W.M. 1979.
- **BRADLEY DONALD KEMPSTON** – Retired Teacher, Niagara Falls ON. St. John's Lodge No. 68, Wilson District. W.M. 1988, 2000.
- **RONALD LESLIE PFANDER** – Retired Registered Medical Laboratory Technologist, Katrine ON. Corona Lodge No. 454, Nipissing Muskoka District. W.M. 2012.
- **EBRAHIM WASHINGTON** – Financial Advisor, Scarborough ON. Wexford Lodge No. 683, Toronto East District. W.M. 1996.

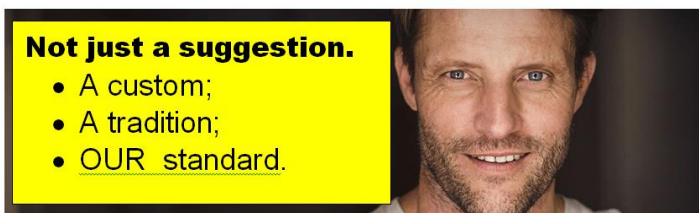
## Board of General Purposes

- **PHILIP RAYMOND BORLAND** – Teaching Assistant, Thorold ON. Niagara Lodge No. 2, Niagara A District. W.M. 2006. Grand Registrar 1994. B of GP 2019.
- **RICHARD HENRI CADOTTE** – Automotive Production Team Leader, London ON. St. Mark's Lodge No. 94, St. Thomas District. W.M. 2013. Grand Junior Warden 2014. B of GP 2020.
- **EDWARD CHARLES DENBEIGH** – Retired Military Officer and Public Servant, Ottawa ON. Hazeldean Lodge No. 517, Ottawa 1 District. W.M. 2000. Grand Steward 2014. Grand Director of Ceremonies 2017/2019.
- **EDWARD FRANKLIN DUNSMORE** – Ground Transportation Specialist, Smithville ON. Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745, Niagara A District. W.M. 2012. DDGM 2018.
- **LEONARD ELLIOT FELDT** – Electrical Contractor, Richmond Hill ON. Templum Lucis Lodge No. 747, South Huron District. W.M. 2019. DDGM 2008. B of GP 2012-2016.
- **JOHN L. RICHARD HAY** – Retired Teacher, Cavan ON. J. B. Hall Lodge No. 145, Peterborough District. W.M. 1985. Grand Steward 1993. DDGM 2004. B of GP 2008-2021.
- **RICHARD KAUFMAN** – Manager, Cambridge ON. Wilmot Lodge No. 318, Waterloo District. W.M. 2008. DDGM 2010. B of GP 2012-2021.
- **THOMAS ANDREW SIEMIERNIK** – Retired Fleet Manager, Innerkip ON. Oak Branch Lodge No. 261, Wilson District. W.M. 1982, 1997. DDGM 2001. B of GP 2006-2021.
- **TERRANCE VAN HORNE** – Security Services, Toronto ON. Simcoe Lodge No. 644, Toronto Humber Valley District. W.M. 2010-2012. GSW 2014. B of GP 2016-2021.

# Protocol and Etiquette

This P&E article is the eighth in a series intended to enhance the brethren's understanding of the common protocols associated with almost every lodge meeting.

This article discusses some of the **protocols pertaining to DRESS CODES** when attending a Masonic meeting.



## Not just a suggestion.

- A custom;
- A tradition;
- OUR standard.

Our Grand Jurisdiction has its own dress codes. They are OUR dress codes. They are OUR traditions, OUR customs. From the beginning of Speculative Freemasonry, we have observed formality of dress. *We make no attempt to adopt or condone YOUR dress codes.* All brethren are expected to follow OUR dress codes when you attend a Masonic event.

## WHY DO WE HAVE DRESS CODES?

1. To show our respect for the Great Light and for the G.A.O.T.U.
2. When you dress differently, you act differently, you think differently.
3. You elevate your game.
4. For the sake of UNIFORMITY and EQUALITY.

## EQUALITY ???

Yes, equality. Our precepts clearly state that we are all considered equal. (Recall what the level teaches us.) Masonry endeavours to reduce and/or eliminate matters of dissention (religious and political topics being the most obvious).

What else could make you uncomfortable in lodge? Another brother's behaviour? His attitude? His choice of dress?

Clothing is a social and an economic indicator. It can project either a good or a bad image. Consider what your clothes say TO you, not ABOUT YOU. And how they make you feel.

If we eliminate variations and differing personal interpretations in dress, then surely this helps to promote equality in age groups, in avocations, and in wealth. It helps us to learn from each other and to be comfortable interacting with each other..

## ELEVATE ???

Never underestimate the impact a higher dress code can have both on others – and on yourself. For example, in our ceremonies, we hope to convince others to make some important changes in their life and behavior. Reflect for a moment on how our teachings are communicated.

Our teachings are communicated directly by word and their delivery – but also in a subtle manner by our gestures and even our dress. Would the exhortations of a Mason wearing a T-

shirt, or a sports jacket, really have the same impact on a candidate as those of a brother wearing a dark, conservative suit, or a tuxedo?

When you're trying to convince someone to change their life – to become a better person – isn't that an appropriate time to use every factor at your disposal? To make your case in the most convincing and impressive way possible? To "elevate your game"?

We dress to impress upon our new members that the organization they are joining is very different from what they've known before.

## OUR MASONIC DRESS CODES

Our dress codes basically encompass three levels, each increasingly more formal than the one before it. In simplistic terms, those levels are:

- A conservative, dark suit. (Business Dress)
- A traditional tuxedo. (Semi-formal Dress)
- White tie and tails. (Formal Dress)

That's it. That's our basic repertoire of dress. While lodges are permitted to modify these dress codes for a justifiable and approved reason (e.g. for members of a lodge in the more remote, northern areas of the Province), the rest of us should strive to observe our basic traditional standards of dress.

## INTERPRETATION

Words can be interpreted differently. For example, "**business dress**" can mean one thing to you but something entirely different to me. That's why our dress codes appear as clearly and as thoroughly as possible in our reference material. (Please refer to pp. 40-44 in The Masonic Manual and also to Issues #12 and 32 of P&E Essentials.)

## FUTURE P&E ARTICLES IN THIS SERIES

Next month we will elaborate further on our three levels of dress. Most of us have a fairly common understanding and interpretation of what "**white tie and tails**" means. There is nowhere near the same level of comprehension and opinion when it comes to "**business dress**".

So that is where we will begin next month. What are our Grand Lodge's standards and traditions pertaining to "**business dress**"?



**R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher**, Assistant to The Custodian



# Labour in Masonry:

## Discussion

*The Chronicle completes our series revealing the various aspects of labour. This final article discusses the journey related to the different types of labour we practice. This series is about exoteric Masonry as applied to the concept of labour/work.*

Throughout this series, I have used the framework of exoteric Masonry to explore the role of labour in Freemasonry, drawing attention to self-improvement, healthy relationships, and duty to society. In this closing article, I explore the implications of the exoteric approach to Masonry and how employing the concept of 'labour' can infuse our lives with a greater sense of purpose.

The exoteric approach to Freemasonry highlights the importance of what is written within our ritual and set out in the observable, or empirical, lived experiences of members within our fraternity. Instead of bringing in our own subjective interpretations (or that of others), we privilege core competence in a thorough understanding of the expressions employed in Freemasonry and its logical consequences. This foundational approach ensures that members have an established 'beachhead' on which to begin further exploration into the hidden mysteries of nature and science and solidifies the Work as the most important source of information on our system. To further illustrate the importance of the exoteric approach, we will conclude the series with a discussion of labour with purpose.

Freemasonry, as an institution, has a directed purpose – to make good men better. It accomplishes this in several ways – our fraternity safeguards admission to worthy men alone, it promotes individuals based on merit, and is designed to make our membership reflect on the bigger questions in life. As members of this institution, we are called to labour in the quarries of Freemasonry to continue this work, not as individuals, but based on the roles that we are called to fulfill. From the W.M. to the D.D.G.M. to the newly initiated E.A., each member has a part to play to ensure the continued success of the work of the institution in its broader context. In this sense, the institution can be pictured as a changing whole, akin to the Lodge itself.

At the same time, Freemasonry labours on us. If we are sincere practitioners of Freemasonry, we have to deliberately engage in undertaking the work of application of the teachings to our own lives – that is, chiseling off the rude matter of our prejudices, and employing indefatigable exertion to become who we ought to be. As individuals, we are pulled in many directions, with different duties and blind spots, and challenges to reconcile, but it is always 'you' that makes the decision on how to act. This is why Master Masons are instructed to labour from the centre, because it is only from this point that we can make informed decisions about how to act and develop ourselves correctly.

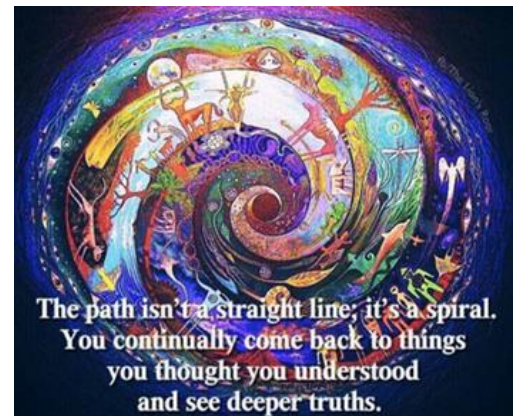
This merging of the 'poles' of Freemasonry – that of the macro-goal of institution and the micro-goal of individuation is our

fundamental crux. The crossing of our collective path with our individual branches forms an inseparable fractal image. If we are genuine craftsmen, the whole labours within us while we labour within the whole. Again, this is why we have landmarks to ensure that the goal of Freemasonry does not veer off course and become unrecognizable to our fallen brethren. Our principles are indivisible from our goals and our members, and if we, or one of our brethren is failing, we collectively need to infuse truth, relief, and brotherly love to lift ourselves up again.

This rising and falling is a key part of our collective and individual labour and journey. Our suffering is built into the perilous path that we walk. However, we must not succumb to nihilism or other extremes. This expedition is ours, and we must own every triumph and failure that we face. Living in this way imbues our lives with a sense of meaning and inspires us to meet the challenges at hand, on a moment-by-moment basis. We must come 'properly prepared' to life.

So here we are, given this wondrous and beautiful chance at life, each and every day. Some of us may fall before others, and some of us may choose to act, or believe, in ways that contradict what our institution stands for. As members of this wonderful fraternity, as men of an increasingly fragmented world, and as leaders of our community, we shoulder this collective burden together. We are sons, fathers, husbands, brothers, uncles, grandfathers, friends, and beyond. The day is ours to claim, and our labours will change this world in unforeseen ways.

Submitted by  
**Bro. James  
Lannigan**  
Temple Lodge  
No. 324



## Masonic Education

*Here is a definition of a word found within Masonic ritual that is not common outside of our Lodge rooms.*

**Hele:** When spoken this word sounds the same as 'heal' or 'heel'. In the ritual it rhymes with words around it such as 'conceal', and 'reveal'. Indeed, the initiate hearing the word hele for the first time will begin to understand that it probably has a meaning connected to secrecy. The educated man has learnt that 'hele' is a proper word of the Scots language, and that this word means to keep a secret. Thus the initiated Mason learns that he is being instructed three times over to respect secrecy. And the sources of our Masonic ritual are better appreciated

Provided for your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge from the Sarnia District Masonic Library.  
**W. Bro. Marshall Kern**, F.C.F., Librarian & Historian.  
Blog: <https://masterseblem.com/masonic-definitions/>



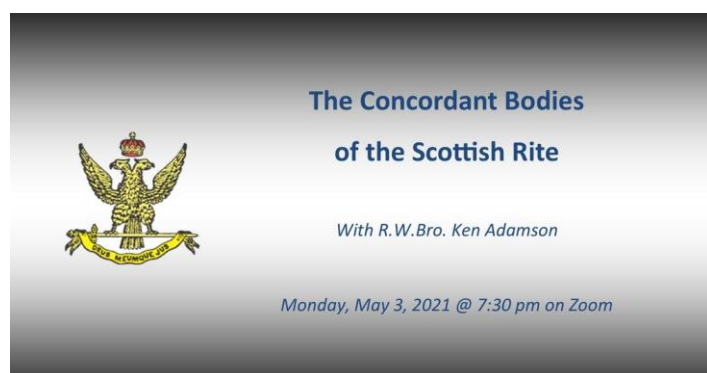
## Virtual Events

*Your district team, under the guidance of our D.D.G.M. have created this resource during this time of inability to meet in person. This listing of virtual gatherings is provided in the hope of sustaining communication and interaction and fortifying our Masonic spirit until such time as we are able to meet again.*

***There are 7 virtual gatherings taking place in May!***

Click this link for details to each event!

<https://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org/virtualevents.php>



**Date/Time Details: Monday, May 3rd, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.**

R.W. Bro. Ken Adamson will speak on the concordant bodies of the Scottish Rite. Learn what they are, how they are organized, when they meet and how you can become a member. Contact Dundurn Lodge at: [DundurnLodge475@gmail.com](mailto:DundurnLodge475@gmail.com)

### First professional soccer player vaccinated



## IN MEMORIAM

*No one reported to have passed to the Grand Lodge Above.*

**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.  
We will cherish then in our hearts forever.**

## THE MASONS' TOAST

UNDER THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC

Our lodges are closed, our labors are dark.  
No Tyler by the entrance door we hark.  
The brethren are absent, some absent forever.  
Sorry to part and to meet them again never.

Tis Nine O'Clock here or Nine O'Clock there.  
We Toast to absent brethren here and there.  
Whether them who aid, the poor and distressed  
We wish them the best in these times recessed.

Until then, my brethren, your safety we entreat.  
Until then, my brethren, again hoping to meet.

To the absent brethren!

R.A.V.

## From the Editor

Brethren,  
May is here, and we have an upcoming virtual Grand Lodge Communion. Check out our website for some exciting events this month.

Hoping to have a good turnout at our May District Meeting. Its time to nominate our next DDGM and find out what is going on in the District.

This month includes the final discussion item from Bro. James Lannigan on labour in Freemasonry. I enjoyed reading about his perspective, it made me think about my own journey.

Don't forget about Mothers Day!

Be well, and be Safe

S&F, Glen

P.S. I got my Vaccination, it went better than the pic at left!



### Editorial Team

<b>Editor:</b>	<b>R.W. Bro. Glen Notman</b>
<b>Associate Editor:</b>	<b>R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson</b>
<b>District / Chronicle Photographer:</b>	<b>R.W. Bro. John Hlohinec</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>V.W. Bro. Bill Fulton</b>

[www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org](http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org)