

District 'C'hronicle



June 2021

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.154

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

It is my sincerest hope that you are all well.

Our traditions would have followed a predictable course... We would break up for Summer recess but happily and eagerly return to Grand Lodge at the Royal York for the various processes of renewal. In the same month we celebrate that most ancient of days the Summer solstice and St John The Baptist day (a patron saint of Freemasonry) on June 24th.



From the V. O. T. S. L.:

27And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. 29For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8: 27, 28 & 29)

Walter Wilmshurst wrote” Both Freemasonry and religion deal with the same subject and lead to the same goal. But in the approach to it there is a marked difference.”

A commentator of Walter Wilmshurst’s last book “The book of the Perfect Lodge,” published in 1928, wrote of it:” It was the culmination of his ideas that the spirit is a divine spark which can communicate directly with the Great Architect, and the job of a Mason is to train his soul to communicate with his divine spark.”

“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (Mathew 13: 11)

As we near 2028, almost a hundred years from Bro. Wilmshurst’s final treatise on Freemasonry, (which included a lifetime of research and writing on Freemasonry) and represents a great and accurate articulation of Freemasonry and what we are. Have we made enough of “a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge...?” That by necessity requires a sustained and deliberate effort to attain the gnosis that not only proves the truth but compels us to action in the knowledge that the truth is true!

Brethren I speak of this now and in these terms because as we pass from one moment to the next there is opportunity and challenge ahead. These greater challenges speak directly to an advancement in Masonic knowledge and that inspiration the G. A. O. T. U. moves through us. The inspiration of Spirit, the inspiration of the Saints, the inspiration of St John the Baptist.

Brethren be inspired!

There can be no more meaningful time for inspiration than now!!!

I would like to thank all the Brethren that took part in the Hamilton District C spring meeting: great efforts equal great success!

To all the sick and shut in Brethren please seek the G. A. O. T. U. to alleviate your suffering!

God Bless you all!

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



Brethren,

M.W. Bro. W.B. Simpson, Grand Master, wrote in the Proceedings of 1865:

“In November last, I received a letter from the Secretary of Beaver Lodge, No. 83, requesting to be informed whether it would be improper to initiate a person into our mysteries who was lame from an injury he had received in the hip, and in May last, I also received a communication from the Past Master of Trent Lodge, No. 38, desiring to know whether he would be justified in reporting favorably of a candidate who had lost his right arm.

In both cases I decided that the candidate could not be received, for, in my opinion, no person should be initiated into the mysteries of Free Masonry who is either maimed, halt, or blind, or who might not, in fact be termed a perfect stone for our Masonic edifice.”

Bro. Rudyard Kipling wrote a short story called In the Interests of the Brethren which describes a lodge meeting frequented by WWI soldiers on leave, many with quite debilitating war wounds:

“He used to talk to the men who dropped into his shop when the war began. He told us sleepy old chaps in Lodge that what men wanted more than anything else was Lodges where they could sit - just sit and be happy like we are now. He was right too. We’re learning things in the war. A man’s Lodge means more to him than people imagine.”

In 1918 the Grand Master ruled that a man who had been “physically perfect at initiation” but had subsequently developed stiffness which prevented him from assuming proper position in the ceremonies was allowed to be advanced, although he denied initiation to six others who had various disabilities.

By 1923 attitudes had changed such that M.W. Bro. Ponton gave dispensation to 16 men, most of whom were former servicemen, to be initiated despite their disabilities.

We now have no such restrictions, but surprisingly it was not until 2004 that a requirement for the DDGM to

seek special permission from the Grand Master was finally removed from the Constitution.

This past year the Management Committee approved a policy to implement the provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. It reads:

“The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and its staff and volunteers throughout Ontario are committed to treating all individuals in a way that enables them to maintain their dignity and independence. Masonry stresses the principles of kindness, consideration, courtesy, dependability, and compassion. Our commitment to accessibility extends these principles to include those of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. We are committed to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for everyone and to providing equal opportunity, access and integration for people with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring compliance with all applicable federal and provincial accessibility laws and to identifying, removing, and preventing barriers to accessibility.” The full text is available through a link on the front page of our website.

We have commenced training for Grand Lodge officers and staff, but I would highly recommend all leaders in the Craft avail themselves of this. In fact all Freemasons should consider it.

Online “self-serve” training videos for general AODA content are available for all to access at <https://accessforward.ca> and training on the Ontario Human Rights Code content as it relates to AODA compliance and awareness about discrimination related to disability is available at <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/learning/working-together-code-and-aoda>.

David J. Cameron

AccessForward
Vers l'accessibilité
Training for an accessible Ontario

Home | Training Modules | Additional Training Resources | FAQs

WELCOME TO ACCESSFORWARD
This website provides free training modules to meet the training requirements under Ontario's accessibility laws (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act).
Developed in partnership with the Government of Ontario.

GETTING STARTED

01 STEP Take the Customer Service training module.
Everyone in your organization must be trained on providing accessible customer service and how to interact with people with disabilities.

02 STEP Take the other training modules that are relevant to your work responsibilities
to get an understanding of the requirements that relate to your duties and your organization. Click on the training module to see a summary of topics to help you determine what to complete, and to see the module formats available.

03 STEP Take the training module on the Ontario Human Rights Code
as it relates to people with disabilities, and how the Code and Ontario's accessibility laws work together and how they are different.

<https://accessforward.ca>

From the Deputy

My Brethren:

After spending the last three months reviewing some of the proposed Constitutional amendments that have been submitted for us to vote on as part of the next Annual Communication and having spent several nights explaining some of the finer details of these proposals and with the able assistance of our Grand Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Ed Standish, answering questions that have arisen from Districts and Lodges throughout our Grand Jurisdiction, I would like to spend this month talking about the importance of keeping our Brethren engaged and informed.

It has been about a year now since your Grand Lodge created a GoToMeeting account for each District to assist the Lodges in keeping in contact with their membership. The access information was sent to each District Deputy Grand Master who was charged with providing this to each of the Lodges in their respective Districts. It was suggested that a District schedule be created such that every Lodge could host a monthly meeting on their regular meeting night to communicate with their membership, cover any business that is permissible, provide some Masonic Education and generally to take an account of the health of their membership and Lodge.

Another great advantage of this tool being used by several Lodges and Districts is to keep in touch with the many interested men who have inquired about Freemasonry either via our Grand Lodge web site, the BeAFreemason.org or the old-fashioned appeal to a current member. Many of our Masonic education videoconferences have been of such a nature that these interested men have been invited to get a feeling of the events and fellowship that is being shared during these events and get to know some of the Brethren they may potentially share membership with.

Some of those Lodges who have been making use of these monthly videoconferences on a regular basis have been reporting better attendance than when they were meeting in Lodge. Some members who may not be able to physically get to their Lodge building due to their health condition or where they are now living, have been once again enjoying the benefits of membership. And equally important, they have been

able to stay in touch with potential members by keeping their interest stoked until such time as they can be formally introduced to the Lodge room.

A few months ago, the Grand Master was checking in with some of the District Deputy Grand Masters and when the question of Lodges participating in monthly videoconference Masonic education/fellowship meetings was asked, there was a variety of answers ranging from 'none' to 'not much' to 'a few' to 'half' to 'nearly all Lodges on a regular basis.' I don't want to embarrass any District or Lodge with this but I will offer the generalization that those Districts that answered 'nearly all Lodges on a regular basis,' are the Districts that are flattening the curve over the last few years with respect to decreasing membership. A coincidence perhaps? Not likely. It stands to reason that those Lodges that keep their members

(and prospective members) engaged in the process – whether that is to pre-Lodge banquets and socials, or currently to videoconference meetings – have a better chance of keeping these men as dues paying members, active Officers and future Grand Lodge leaders.

When this COVID-19 crisis forced the closing of all Masonic activity on Friday, March 13, 2020, we all thought it was a temporary thing and that we would all be back at Lodge within weeks. As I write this today, further restrictions are being added to our current stringent Provincial guidelines with no clear end in sight. To those Lodges that thought a year ago that it was just temporary and there was no need to change things, I would urge them to start now to change things – it is never too late to reach out to the members of your Lodges and interested men of your community and keep them engaged in Freemasonry. So many of the lessons we learn from the Ritual of our Craft are even more important in times of crisis. To those Lodges who are currently keeping their members and prospects engaged – your payoff will come when the restrictions are lifted and your Lodge is re-opened for business as it used to be!

Thomas W. Hogeboom

From the Grand Lodge Website ...

May 10, 2021

[Candidate Information Forms](#)

[Covid 19 Update Temporary Policies - May 10, 2021](#)
[Form 5-S re:Bylaw changes for change in dues ONLY](#)

May 4, 2021

[The Communique May 2021](#)

[Mentoring Minute Volume 1](#)

[Masonic Education Newsletter Volume 1 Issue 9](#)

May 1, 2021

[GM Blog April 2021](#)

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

From the Grand Secretary

Brethren,

Several reminders related to upcoming elections and the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge.

Elections for District Deputy Grand Masters:

See details of Feb 12 2021 letter sent to all DDGMs.

ALL Districts will elect their DDGM via an electronic election with voting on June 18 and June 19 2021.

Every current DDGM must submit ALL signed nominations to the Grand Lodge office by May 30 2021. There will be NO acclamations. Even if only one candidate is running a signed nomination form and the DDGM Eligible Candidates form (fillable PDF) must be submitted.

Electronic Registration will be June 12-June 17; registration details will be distributed in early June 2021.

Voting details for brethren without computer access are detailed in the March 01 document.

Elections for Grand Lodge Officers:

See details of March 01 2021 letter sent to all lodges.

Electronic Registration will be July 12-July 18; registration details will be distributed in early July 2021.

Registrations from the DDGM election will be automatically carried over to the Grand Lodge elections. If you did not register for the DDGM election you must register for the Grand Lodge election.

Voting will take place July 19 and July 20 2021.

Voting details for brethren without computer access are detailed in the March 01 document.

Voting on proposed 2021 Constitutional Amendments:

Voting for the proposed amendments will take place at the same time as voting for the Grand Lodge officers on July 19 – July 20 2021.

Proposed amendments have been distributed to every lodge (April 19 2021).

Amendments will be on the same ballot as the Grand Lodge officer elections.

Voting for members without Computer access:

The document emailed to all lodges on March 01, 2021 outlines the procedure for enabling an eligible member without computer access to vote.

Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge:

The Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge will be a virtual meeting held on Wednesday July 21, 2021 beginning at 9:00AM EDT. Registration information will follow closer to the date.

Installation of Grand Lodge Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters:

The Installation of Grand lodge Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters will NOT take place during the virtual Annual Meeting. Elected officers will be authorized to perform their duties effective July 21, 2021, but Installation details will be announced later.

Amending Lodge By-Laws for Dues ONLY changes:

There are number of factors pointing to the need for many lodges to amend their by-laws to increase the amount of lodge dues ONLY. This situation has been brought to a head by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent Masonic lockdown.

Therefore, Grand Lodge has adopted a temporary COVID-19 business policy and new procedure that will allow such amendments for dues only to be processed effectively and efficiently during the Masonic lockdown. That new policy will be distributed to all lodges as a COVID-19 update shortly.

Fraternally, Garry

D. Garry Dowling, Grand Secretary

From the Grand Treasurer

Brethren:

There have been a number of meetings with several Districts, Lodges and individuals related the proposed per capita increase. I will address the most frequently asked questions and concerns.

“Does such a large increase have to be approved in one amount now?”

Several options were requested.

“Delay the increase by one year to give the lodges an opportunity to meet after the pandemic shut down is over and we can meet again. This will allow them time to review their finances and adjust their dues to accommodate this increase is the basis for this request.” Some are saying the reason for the delay is they are not able to hold fund raisers during the lock down so their lodge is already having difficulty with paying its expenses. For a lodge to be financially sound our longstanding recommendation is that the dues should cover the operating expenses. We are using the same principle for Grand Lodge finances. If the lodge is using fund raisers to cover its operating expenses, it already has financial stability concerns. Thus, the question: “What will be the impact with further delay next year?” The delay results in a permanent loss of \$600,000 in revenue.

“Spread the increase over four years at a rate of \$5.00 per year for the next 4 years”. This option with several other levels of assessment was considered all resulting in accumulated losses of \$1.9 million to \$2.7 million.

“Reserve funds could be used to provide the cash to pay the capital improvements and to cover the losses.”

NOTE: ALL LOSSES HAVE TO BE REPAID FOR THE LONGEVITY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF OUR GRAND LODGE.

Technology: “What is the upgrade and what is the benefit?”

There is a need to be able to communicate directly with all our brethren. Only some of our brethren are members of Grand Lodge but all our members including the newest Entered Apprenticed Mason will be supporting the per capita through their lodge dues. Our present system for the distribution of information is the Resource Digest which has a mailing list of 682 made up of members of the Board and lodge secretaries. The lodge secretaries are then to forward the Digest to their members. We have not experienced a satisfactory success rate – about 14% from our analysis.

Establish a data base of all our members and have a single source for all membership data with different levels of access and security for the various levels i.e. by each member, lodge, District and Grand Lodge. There are 33,000 members, 500 lodges, 41 Districts and one Grand Lodge that will be sharing this single source membership data base with all the related access and security issues in place.

There are systems available off the shelf, or we have had offers to write programs by of our technical savvy members, but they do not easily, if at all, without major programming

modifications meet our overall needs. A system written by an individual, leaves us exposed to being able to manage the technology going forward. We do not have an IT person on staff.

Workflow and Administration.

The administrative time involved with bylaw changes, dispensations, awards, and a number of regular office duties can be automated resulting with improved efficiency and savings for administration costs.

The upgrade to our technology will allow Grand Lodge, the District, and the Lodge to become more proactive compared to our present system supporting reactive activity.

Building: Our building is the head office for Masonry in Ontario.

"If the costs are so high, we should sell it." This option was explored, and the decision is to continue to maintain and use our current building. There is no benefit from selling the property requiring us to find another home which does not seem to result in any savings.

There are two major issues with the building. The roof is estimated to reach the end of its useful life in three years. Waiting until it leaks with the associated increase in repair cost is not a good decision. The other building issue is accessibility under the AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) which will require us to comply with the law when it comes into effect. The minimum will be a ramp to the first floor and an elevator to the second floor. This will also raise the issue of our washroom accessibility. Once you start modifications to this extent, you open the door to local building code requirements which may lead to even more than obvious modifications to meet the local code and AODA requirements.

Communication of financial information from Grand Lodge to our members.

"We are being asked to vote on a budget, having never seen any details of the budget or our present financial results." "We receive this information annually buried in the proceedings when they are published long after these matters have been approved."

The request is for more financial information to be available to the members that they may be better informed of before they vote. We plan to comply with your request by including the financial and budget information in the Preliminary Reports to be made available in early July.

I trust we have provided sufficient information to help you understand the reasons and the need for the increase in the per capita assessment for your approval in July.

H. Edward Standish

Grand Treasurer (hesmes@rogers.com)

James C. Sutherland

Chairman of Audit & Finance (jim@sutherlandelliott.ca)

Sidney T. Schatzker

Chairman of Lodge Finance Advisory

(schatzker@rogers.com)



Virtual Events

There are 9 virtual gatherings listed on our website!

Jun. 2: Hamilton Masonic District 'C' Forum

Date/Time Details: Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

Jun. 5: What Will The Lodges Of The Future Look Like?

PRESENTED BY M. W. Bro. David J. Cameron, G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

Date/Time Details: Saturday, June 5th, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Jun. 7: PGM James N. Allan (1965-1967)

Date/Time Details: Monday, June 7th, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

Jun. 14: Lodge Visitation

Date/Time Details: Monday, June 14th, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

Jun. 21: Plato's Cave Allegory and its relation to the First Degree

Date/Time Details: Monday, June 21st, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.



<https://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/cave.htm>

Jul. 7: Hamilton Masonic District 'C' Forum

Date/Time Details: Wednesday, July 7th, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

Jul. 27: How to Grow the Membership of Your Lodge

Date/Time Details: Tuesday, July 27th, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 24: Is Belief in a Supreme Being Really Essential?

Date/Time Details: Tuesday, August 24th, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

Click this link for details to each event!

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

Around the District

Hamilton C District - Masonic Forum

Looking forward to June, your Forum team has asked R.W. Bro. Ken Adamson to return and deliver a presentation entitled "The Three Masters" which, in addition to being an interesting historical story, may provide food for thought once again into charting a course for our collective Masonic future.

Brethren, it feels like we are much closer to the end than to the beginning regarding this pandemic however, while we are still in the posture of remaining apart, we encourage you to come on out to the June Forum for some fellowship, some education, some question and answer and with the added benefit of simply 'seeing' one another.

The June Forum will be held on **Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** and can be accessed via the following link:

R. W. Bro. Ken Adamson

TOPIC – "The Three Masters"

DATE – Wednesday, June 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421386038?pwd=S0Jza3JweEZqZkV3ZWRYZnE1N2Zidz09>

Meeting ID: 864 2138 6038

Passcode: 218220

Your Forum team looks forward to 'seeing' you soon.

May Forum -Recap!

Brethren,

Your May Forum was a virtual "2 for 1" bonanza of historical information and forward looking discussion.

W. Bro. Lorne Evans provided us with a requiem for a prince by delivering a detailed account of Prince Philip's life and times. Lorne was also generous enough to offer a copy of his recent book, "You Wouldn't Like Our Relatives: The Kings and Queens of England, and the Incredible Royal Family", for raffle. **The winner of the contest will be announced at our June Forum.**

R.W. Bro. Ken Adamson offered up a presentation based on the numbers and trends regarding membership within the Craft which led into a vigorous and creative discussion on what we all may consider doing about addressing the challenges and statistics in the near future.

The Forum team thanks both Lorne and Ken for their presentations!

Fraternally,

W. Bro. Bill Paul, Masonic Education Chair
Hamilton District 'C'

THE MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

A REPRISÉ OF THE GRAND MASTER'S 2015 SPEECH
TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE:

What will the lodges of the future look like?

Featuring:

**M. W. Bro. David
J. Cameron**

Sat. June 5th

7:00 pm EST

To Register:

<http://bit.ly/GLMasonicSpeakers>

Sp Adobe Spark

[Click Here to Register!](http://bit.ly/GLMasonicSpeakers)



***Life moves on, new growth from old roots!
From Facebook.***

Protocol and Etiquette

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

This article discusses our protocols pertaining to **BUSINESS DRESS** when attending a Masonic meeting or function . .



The interpretation of the term “Business Dress” varies considerably throughout the adult male population. However, as mentioned in last month’s article, the description “Business Dress” has a unique meaning for Masons in our Grand Jurisdiction. The purpose of this month’s article is to expound on that special meaning.

Many “special purpose” orders and organizations have their own distinctive and readily identifiable dress code. Consider these examples:

- Supreme Court Judges;
- Bank Presidents;
- Political Leaders;
- Police and Fire;
- Clergy;
- Beekeepers;
- Race Car Drivers;
- Medical Personnel;
- Ontario Masons.

When our Masonic “Business Dress” code was first established, a range of choices was considered. In keeping with the true purpose of our Order, and to show our respect for those principles and for the G.A.O.T.U., it was decided to “take the high road”, to set our dress code stands high. To strive for a “timeless” look, that would always be in fashion.

A dress code equal to that of an exclusive private club would put it above the ebbs and tides of the annual changes and influence of fashion. The intent was that a single “Masonic” suit would always be appropriate and, in the long run, not impose undue financial strain upon any particular member. It would “always” be appropriate; “always” be impressive;

and “always” reflect well upon the wearer and the Order. With the proper care, this special occasion suit could very well last you for many years. And best of all, it will always be in fashion at the highest level if you have selected one in accordance with our guidelines.

While exceptions could happen, our Masonic dress code was intended to apply primarily to what you would wear to lodge. It was meant to be immune to the influence of fleeting changes in fashion, or personal interpretation of what looked “cool”. This professional look would be in keeping with the type of attire a “gentleman” would wear.

It is suggested you single out a special suit in your wardrobe as your Masonic Business Dress Suit, or if need be, make the effort to equip yourself with a special suit that you only/mainly wear to Masonic functions. A dark, classic suit should be a staple of every Freemason’s wardrobe.

Perhaps you already have one or two suits that would be ideal for this purpose. All you may have to do to complete your Masonic wardrobe is to buy a couple of suitable shirts, ties, shoes, socks and a belt.

So what is our “Business Dress” code? The Ontario Freemason’s etiquette when it comes to business dress code is simple yet smart, and consists of the following:

- A dark suit – while it is not a stipulation, most Freemasons opt for a dark blue or a black suit. If not of a solid colour, then select one with a very subtle pattern. This is a versatile option that most members will already own and can be worn for a number of events.
- A long-sleeved, plain white shirt.
- A dark tie – again there are no hard and fast rules but a tie that is predominantly dark blue or black appears to be a popular choice. Choose one that doesn’t draw undue attention because of its colour or design.
- A leather belt that matches your suit, (not one that contrasts with your suit).
- Dark shoes and dark socks that compliment your suit.

The reason behind this dress code is to show that every man is equal as a Freemason, no matter their background. Freemasons come from all walks of life. A dark suit helps to unite the solidarity of the organization in an understated manner. To dress without effort is to dress without respect for your other members.

Perhaps a general note of caution. If you’re ever considering purchasing any apparel of a fashion, colour, or style that has been recently introduced, featured, or is trending in the world of fashion over the last few years, chances are very high that it will not be appropriate for you to wear it at a Masonic function.

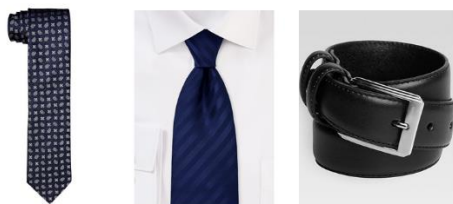
Hopefully the following pictures will provide a better understanding of our very own Business Dress code.



WEAR DARK SOCKS AND RECENTLY-SHINED DARK SHOES



WEAR A DARK, FAIRLY PLAIN TIE AND A DARK BELT



CAN YOU IDENTIFY WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING APPAREL ITEMS ARE **NOT** APPROPRIATE TO WEAR AT A MASONIC MEETING?



ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES

1. The Masonic Manual, (2014), pp. 40-44.
2. P&E Essentials, Issue No. 32.
3. The Well-Dressed Mason, by M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels;
<https://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org/masonic-moments/The%20Well-Dressed%20Mason.pdf>
4. The History of Formal Dress in Freemasonry and Its Appeal For Younger Masons, by John Hamill;
<https://www.freemasonrytoday.com/features/john-hamill-the-history-of-formal-dress-in-freemasonry-and-its-appeal-for-younger-masons>

District Guidelines

The complete guidelines for our District are on our website.

Click here to access: [District Guidelines](#)

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario in July 1974 the following lodges of the Hamilton Districts "A" and "B" were designated to form Hamilton District "C".

Several meetings were held to organize and set procedures prior to and after the creation of District "C", to assure the smooth operation of the new District in the Masonic life of the Hamilton area. Such are recorded in the minutes kept by the various District "C" Secretaries as well as the Committee struck to recommend means of strengthening the District in 1986. Subsequent amendments have occurred over the years.

This revised Guide is a continuation of efforts to ensure harmonious management of the District.

The Officers of the District shall be:

- 4.1 District Deputy Grand Master
- 4.2 District Secretary
- 4.3 District Treasurer
- 4.4 District Chaplain
- 4.5 District Historian
- 4.6 District Auditors
- 4.7 District Advisors

The District Committees shall be:

- 4.7.2 Long Range Planning
- 4.8 Benevolence
- 4.9 Finance
- 4.10 Blood Donors
- 4.11 Masonic Education
- 4.12 Masonic Foundation of Ontario
- 4.13 Lodge Resources
- 4.14 Regalia
- 4.15 Communications
- 4.16 District Photographer and Field Correspondent f

Agreeing to run Hamilton C District's District Deputy Grand Master is not a small undertaking. In addition to taking the prescribed courses from Grand Lodge an individual is making a 6 year commitment.

Two years out the candidate serves as Chairman for Lodge Resources. One year out he takes on the Masonic Education Chair.

Finally the Long Range Planning committee is made up by the IPDDGM as chairman, supported by the two DDGMs who proceeded him.

In total the District has been well served by our current DDGM and the 45 men who preceded him.

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

Five Lesser-Known Masonic Symbols Explained

[Blog, Freemasonry Explained](#)

Within Freemasonry, symbolism is critical to the allegorical teachings of the Craft. Within every lodge, various symbols are used to represent particular teachings, and serve as a reminder to Masons about the evolution of the fraternity throughout the past three centuries.

From the apron to the gavel, many of the [Masonic symbols](#) are easily recognized the world over. But what about some of the lesser-known symbols of the Craft? Below, we introduce you to five such symbols, and explain their significance within Freemasonry.

The Acacia Tree



Wood taken from an acacia tree is said to have crafted the ark of the covenant, and as such, the tree has become a symbol of everlasting life. In Hebrew, the sacred wood of the acacia tree is known as “shittah” and Hebrew graves are marked with a sprig of acacia to depict immortality. Within Freemasonry, the acacia tree represents the immortal souls of Masons, aligning with the Masonic belief in the existence of the afterlife.

The Blazing Star

Regarded as the peak of a Mason’s journey, the blazing star represents God as the creator and the star of Bethlehem. According to the Bible, the star of Bethlehem guided the three wise men across the desert to the birth of Jesus Christ. To Masons, the star shines bright as a guide on their path to spiritual progress, and is regarded as a beacon of hope throughout their Masonic journey.



The Sheaf of Corn



In Freemasonry, the sheaf of corn is intertwined with the allegory of King Solomon. It’s a representation of the wages that Masons once received for their labor, and today is used to represent the charitable acts carried out by Masons to those less fortunate. When seen within

Masonic lodges and literature, the sheaf serves as a reminder to Masons about the importance of giving to his fellow man, particularly those in need.



The Cable Tow

The cable tow represents the importance of brotherhood within Freemasonry. It is attached to a brother’s robe and is a reminder of his promise to help his fellow brothers as much as he can, regardless of the situation in which a brother needs his assistance. The length of the cable tow signifies how capable a brother is of helping a fellow Mason and is an important consideration when utilizing this core Masonic symbol.

The Beehive

To the operative Masons, the beehive represented how well brothers worked together to achieve difficult outcomes, much like bees work together in their colonies.

However, in modern-day Freemasonry, the beehive is more commonly regarded as a symbol of the diversity of Freemasonry, as brothers come from different backgrounds to achieve a combined purpose.



Closing thoughts.

To brothers, the symbols used within Freemasonry are vital to understanding the complex teachings and allegories of the Craft. Upon joining a lodge, brothers are introduced to many of the key Masonic symbols, while others are only revealed as they progress on their journey. Although the five we’ve introduced here might not be as commonly known as others, they still serve as a critical component of modern day Freemasonry.

Masonic Education

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

Hoodwink To the uninitiated man, a hoodwink is an object. It is that cloth device used to cover the eyes. Perhaps he recalls a scarf tied around his head for the children’s game of ‘blind man’s buff’. A well-read man may recall stories of a person being deceived, or hoodwinked, into believing a falsehood. The educated man, and an initiated Mason, will appreciate an older meaning of the word ‘hoodwink’. In the years before speculative Freemasonry as we understand it came to be, a hoodwink was understood as the act of concealing knowledge from a man; and it was aligned with the word ‘hele’. In our ritual then, the hoodwink is an object applied to the Candidate to conceal from his view the knowledge that is revealed when he sees Masonic light.

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/>

Humour



From the Editor

Brethren,
June and we have three important dates to remember, **DDGM elections with voting on June 18 and June 19**; Electronic Registration June 12-June 17; and Father's Day, June 20th!

There are 9 virtual events on our website, an interesting summer for all. We are linking to parts of our website so you can see the guidelines, and the events right from our pages.

The Three Masters Lecture sounds really intriguing for our District Forum presentation. Hoping to have a good turnout.

This month we included some Masonic Symbolism from the US ritual perspective, the full May Communique and a new installment of Protocol and Etiquette. I will be happy to include humour, history and any other submissions you want to send.

S&F, Glen



IN MEMORIAM

V.W. Bro. John Terence
Hugh Murray Lodge No.602

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above May 26, 2021

W. Bro. William (Bill) Lyall
Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654

Initiated Oct 27, 1964
Passed Nov 24, 1964
Raised April 14, 1965
Worshipful Master 1975

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on May 20, 2021

W. Bro. Eric Clark
Dufferin Lodge No.291

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above May 6, 2021

Bro. Daniel Orescanin
Temple Lodge No.324

Initiated 10/12/1971
Passed 05/9/1972
Raised 10/10/1972

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above May 02, 2021



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



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District / Chronicle Photographer: R.W. Bro. John Hlohinec
Webmaster: V.W. Bro. Bill Fulton

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