

District 'C' Chronicle

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Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.1

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Lodge No.272 in 1982, Tom was Worshipful Master in 1997 the 125th anniversary year of Seymour, and was Secretary for 9 years before becoming District Deputy Grand Master. He served on several District Committees including a year as District Chairman of Masonic Education. Having joined the Scottish Rite in 1993, and currently a line officer in Murton Lodge of Perfection, Tom is also a member of the Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix and Moore Sovereign Consistory, 32°. He has served as a director of the Hamilton Past Masters' Association, the Scottish Rite Club, and is most actively involved in the Hamilton Masonic Beef and Corn Roast, along with Bev and Jennifer. Tom enjoys membership in Edgemount Chapter No.127, Order of the Easter Star with his wife and daughter. Thus our District Deputy Grand Master brings a plethora of Masonic experience, and the support of his family, to guide our District this year.

Our DGGM's Charity Project 2008 - 2009 "Hamilton Partners in Nutrition (PIN)"

We know that approximately 1 in 4 children in Hamilton live in poverty and many come to school hungry. The fact that breakfast is the most important meal of the day is so true in general, and more especially for kids, providing them with the energy needed to get their bodies and brains moving. Studies show that students who maintain a healthy diet have improved problem-solving skills, creative abilities, and perform better in school.

PIN is a partnership of community agencies and community members that supports and facilitates local student nutrition programs for children and youth in the Hamilton area. Their vision is that all children and youth in Hamilton have access to adequate nutrition now and in the future in order to support healthy growth, development, and lifelong learning.

This District Charity Project is specific to the Hamilton area and I know that the Masons in District 'C' will make a difference in the life of the children and youth in our area. We will be hearing more about this District Project as the year unfolds. Remember the charge of the N.E. angle.

Biography of Our District Deputy Grand Master for Hamilton District C Right Worshipful Thomas (Tom) Marshall

Tom moved from Windsor to Hamilton at a young age. After graduating from the Hamilton Public School System, he attended the University of Waterloo graduating with a Bachelor of Mathematics degree. This led to employment with Dofasco, now called ArcelorMittal Dofasco, from where retirement is slated for this fall. Married to Beverly, and residing in Stoney Creek, this happy marriage is blessed with two lovely daughters: Nicole living in the Chicago area, and Jennifer living in Hamilton where she teaches the citizens of tomorrow. The family attends Barton Stone United Church on Upper James. Initiated into Seymour



TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE

Past Grand Master Durward I. Greenwood, (1995 & 1996), died in Brampton Civic Hospital on July 25th. His Masonic Memorial Service was on Sunday July 27th and Church Service at St. Alban's Anglican Church Grand Valley, on Monday, July 28th.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Over 2500 masons attended the 153rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. in the Province of Ontario held at Freemont Royal York in Toronto on Wednesday July 16th and 17th. Our Grand Master's theme this year is "Masonry, Making a Difference" and all his programmes are dedicated to that cause, and his charity is for Prostate Cancer Research (MFO 2244) continues. Some may not realize that our Grand Master's formative days were spent growing up in Orkney, just west of Dundas, so when he returns to the Hamilton Masonic area, he is returning home.

On Wednesday, Grand Master Allan J. Petrisor confirmed the election of our DDGM and appointed the following brethren from our District to the title of Very Worshipful Grand Stewards: Jamie Bennett from Electric Lodge, and Brad Carr from Corinthian Lodge.

Several members received appointments to the working Committees of Grand Lodge:

R.W. Bro. Norman McCarthy to Audit and Finance; R.W. Bro. Donald Jagger to Library, Museum and Archives and to the Masonic Foundation; W. Bro. Donald Falconer to the Library, Museum and Archives; R.W. Bro. Peter Mouropoulos to Long Range Planning; R.W. Bro. Michael Kingsley and V.W. Bro. William Brimer to Lodge Resources; and R.W. Bro. Robert Wands to Lodge Finances (Advisory). We congratulate all on their preferment and especially our Past DDGM. R.W. Bro. Jim Stewart for his great leadership and a most successful year.

All five amendments to the Constitution were accepted, the most significant being the recognition of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge F.&A.M., Province of Ontario (and Jurisdiction) and this was accepted with standing ovation and applause. The Committee on Credentials reported the following:

Lodges represented by Officers- 358
Lodges represented by Proxies – 128
Lodges represented by Past Masters – 52
Number of delegates registered – 2374
Carrying a total vote of - 3,189
Number of lodges registered – 538
Number of lodges not registered – 40

Our Grand Master leaves us with the following questions. Ask yourself: "Have I taken an introspective look at myself

recently? Am I helpful in my lodge? Am I active? Are my wife and family happy to see me? Have I been charitable both in my givings and in my forgivings? Do I carry a positive attitude and one of tolerance? Have I made a difference this year? In short, do my actions show that I believe in the fundamental principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth? I hope you are able to say yes on all counts."

DISTRICT C MEMBERSHIP STATS

When formed in 1974, our District had 14 lodges with a membership of 3,549. Since then, one lodge went into darkness, one new lodge was instituted, and one lodge received another lodge by amalgamation. Thus, by December 2006, with 14 lodges, we had a membership of 1,249. In 1974 the total membership for the 3 Hamilton Districts was 10,225, while today it is less than 3,912. At our District Meeting held during Grand Lodge we had 45 members register, representing 13 lodges from our district.

11th ANNUAL MASONIC BEEF DINNER AND CORN ROAST at MERRITT HALL, ANCASTER, 27TH AUGUST 2008

Over 510 hungry adults and children started eating the best corn in the country at 5:15 p.m. A buffet roast beef dinner, all the trimmings and dessert followed this, for just \$10. There was also a cash bar, and lots of draw prizes, all for the charitable cause of Dr. Willie Malloy's research in dementia and Alzheimer's disease at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton. Chairman Roy Binns believes that when the books are tallied, some \$3,500 will be given to Dr. Malloy, who was in attendance to tell us how much he appreciated the support of the Masons, and Scottish Rite Masons, when research funds were running low. The best ears of corn in the country weighed in at 1 lb each, without the butter and if you do not believe so, ask Roy. This great fundraiser will happen again next year but at a different location, as the Fair Grounds are moving west to 630 Trinity Road. The planning committee would welcome some strong volunteers. Just talk to Roy.

PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY

Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels represented our Grand Master and our Grand Lodge at the 153rd Annual Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F.& A.M., Ontario and Jurisdictions at the personal invitation of M.W. Bro. Hon. James G. Jessop, Grand Master, held in Mississauga, on 08/08/08.

The rank of Honourary Past Grand Master was conferred on M.W. Bro. Donald Mumby, for his foresight and wisdom in extending fraternal visitations between the two Grand Lodges during his term as Grand Master, which was an intermediate step toward the full recognition now achieved.

DISTRICT NEWS

The first **MasoniCh.I.P. Clinic** to be held in District C will take place at the Ancaster Fair on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 19-21st, under the auspices of Landmarks/Doric No.654 and St. Andrew's No. 593, with strong support from District A.

The **MasoniCh.I.P.** Program is the most comprehensive child identification service currently available, which is designed to give families a measure of protection against the ever-increasing problem of missing children. It is brought exclusively to Ontario families by Masons, **free of charge** and has worked successfully in more than 20 States in the U.S. for many years.

The MasoniCh.I.P. Child ID Program consists of five major components – vital child information, digital fingerprints, digital photographs, a digital video and a dental bite impression. All of this data is burned onto a CD, and given to the parents or guardian. Security and privacy are of the utmost importance. Therefore, it is significant to note that the Ontario Masons keep nothing on file, with the exception of the permission form signed by the parent, prior to participation in any event.

All Masons are encouraged to support their District, and their Lodges. To assist you in that regard, The **Masonic Foundation** has granted MasoniCh.I.P. Ontario a **project number: 2552**. Anyone wishing to support this program and receive a Tax Receipt can make a cheque payable to the Masonic Foundation and quote this project number and the Foundation will send a receipt.

It is the sincerest hope that no family will need to use this resource, but if the need should arise, information that is provided from this program will be instrumental to law enforcement agencies in the recovery of a missing child. It only takes **42 seconds** from the time the CD-Rom is loaded into the Police computer for **the AMBER ALERT** broadcast to be sent through out their system.

Program Director, R.W.Bro. Raymond Dobbs of Woodstock has reported an active summer of events with over 8,000 children having been ID processed, with many more clinics scheduled this fall. Such an excellent community service. Talk it up. Get involved.

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE CHRONICLE

Hello Brethren, one of the objectives of the District Chronicle is to have meaningful content. We want the newsletter and website to be something that our District Brethren (and beyond) see value in. So, in discussing the best way to keep the content topical and meaningful, we decided to let the readers have a say.

Have you ever wanted to ask a question, about ritual or symbolism in lodge? (See below for a great discussion on symbolism) but were afraid to ask. Then submit your questions here. Do you have a hobby, or subject that you are passionate about and want to share with like minded people. Then feel free to submit a draft to us for (potential) publication.

Is there a favorite joke, quote or anecdote that you like to tell at functions? Send it in; we will try to use it. From a Masonic point of view, are there discussions that occur in your lodge, or historical topics about Masonry that you would like to share? Have you read a Masonic article elsewhere that is something you would like to share with others? For the literary minded, have you read anything about Masonry that is worth summarizing in a book review?

The intent and focus of the District Chronicle is to keep people informed. Definitely let us know about your lodge events both Masonic and social that you wish other brethren to know about. We look forward to hearing from you; this is the chance to have your say. Let us know what you would like to see in terms of content. When you have an urge or passion to share, do so. In the end, the Chronicle will be shaped by the participation and events that the brethren of District C want to share, read about and discuss. This original copy of the Chronicle is of flexible format that can be modified. Let us know your assessment of it.

One last thought, they say a picture is worth a thousand words, so if you can't or won't write about it, send in your photos. We can't let John Lyness have all the fun. Send your submissions to devin@floatpoint.com.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MANDATE AND MEMBERS

With the new District Guidelines provided to us by our long range planning committee and accepted by the district at our May meeting, came the creation of the district Communications Committee. Our mandate is defined as: 'To consolidate communication across Hamilton Masonic District C lodges, identify gaps, and develop solutions with a focus on meaningful, long term, growth-oriented, and self-sustainable initiatives.'

The committee as a result will not only be producing this newsletter on a monthly basis, but will also be rebuilding the district website. The new website will be designed as a current information resource for all district members, which is updated by the district lodges themselves. There is more to come on this initiative in future issues of this newsletter, but you can expect a new district website to be posted within the next 2 months at

<http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org>.

The committee consists of Bro. D. Tuinstra (chair), R.W. Bro. W. Elgie, W.M. Glen Notman, and Bro. S. Lehane. For more information or to reach the committee email: devin@floatpoint.com.

LODGE NEWS

DUFFERIN LODGE NO. 291 will be holding its 135th Anniversary with an Open House on Sunday September 28th, 2008, 2-4 p.m. Come and see the all the alterations that make this a first class facility. Refreshments. RSVP to Rick Jones (905) 627-4635.

LANDMARKS/DORIC LODGE NO.654 - R.W. Bro. Charles Crow PGSW from St.John's Lodge No.209a London, will be the dinner speaker on Tuesday September 23rd following the 6:30 p.m. banquet. His topic "Why the use of the Irish Ritual in 3 lodges in Ontario". Bob Wands and Gerry Williams will be receiving their 60 year pins.

MERIDIAN LODGE NO.687 - The Deputy Grand Master will present R.W. Bro. Roger Parliament with his 50 year pin on Wednesday, October 8th. Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m. in Ancaster. On Sunday September 21st at the Scottish Rite, Roger and his dear wife Mary are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary, from 2 - 5 p.m.

IONIC LODGE NO. 549 - On Monday October 1st, our DDGM will make his first Official Visit to Ionic, with Corinthian No.513 being the accompanying lodge.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Does the Worshipful Master return all salutes?

A. The Worshipful Master returns all salutes even when seated.

(Masonic Manual p.64, No.13)

Q. What is the proper wording for the toast to Grand Lodge?

A. The toast is always "The Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario". (Meeting the Challenge p.91, No.2)

Q. Is the Sign of Fidelity used at the banquet hour during grace?

A. The Sign of Fidelity is not used during grace.

(Masonic Manual p.63, No.5)

If you have questions, please forward them to the editor.

SYMBOLISM

One of the first things a candidate learns about Freemasonry is that it is "a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." He learns that this is the answer to the question "What is Freemasonry?" But this is not a good

answer for him to give to his friends when they ask him what Freemasonry is. How many of you have given this answer only to be greeted with blank stares? No, he is not told this in order to be able to answer the questions of those around him; he learns this answer in order that he may know to interpret what he has experienced, and what is to come, as allegory, and to look for the symbolism in Masonry.

What is symbolism? The Concise Oxford Dictionary says it is "the use of symbols to represent ideas" Well, that's helpful!

So what is a symbol? The same dictionary says it is "a thing conventionally regarded as typifying, representing, or recalling something, especially an idea or quality."

The word comes from the Greek "ballo" meaning "throw" and "syn", meaning "together". And so Bernard Jones says "A symbol, literally, is two things thrown together; one of them stands for or calls to mind a moral or spiritual truth."

Using symbols to teach ideas has been used since the earliest of times. The pictures wrought in stained glass in the great cathedrals was a way to teach religious lessons to the illiterate, likewise the carvings on the ancient Hindu temples. Indeed hieroglyphs were originally pictures meant to record meaning. Only later did they come to represent certain sounds. The Hebrew alphabet had a similar origin. The Hebrew letter "beth" looks like a house, and that is what "beth" means. Only later did it come to represent the sound "b".

But even a letter can come to have a meaning that is not a sound. What does it mean to see an "B" on the top of your paper? Does it mean your teacher was thinking of his house? What about an "X" beside an answer? By convention, certain letters have certain meanings.

Specialized groups develop symbols that mean something only to them. Mathematicians use certain Greek letters to mean certain things. They understand them, but the non-Mathematician does not.

So too with Masonry. We have developed certain symbols which mean something more to the Mason than to the non-Mason.

The ancient mystery cults used symbols to hide their secrets in the plain view of others. If you did not know the code, you would not get the message. But Masons do not use symbols to exclude knowledge from others. We do it to make it more accessible to ourselves. How can this be?

As Albert Pike says in *Morals and Dogma*, "The method of indirect suggestion, by allegory or symbol, is a more efficacious instrument of instruction than plain didactic language; since we are habitually indifferent to that which is acquired without effort." If you have to work to find the meaning, you are more likely to remember it than if it is

handed to you. And so we must work to figure out what the Masonic symbols mean.

But don't work too hard.

M. W. Bro. David C. Bradley writes in *Penetrating The Veil*: "The words of the ceremonies often adequately reveal the symbolism and these explanations should be accepted as the correct definition. In many instances, however, the member is left to wrestle with his own interpretation. A word of caution is necessary. A member must not indulge in flights of fancy or travel to mystical extremes when interpreting symbolism. The simplest and most direct explanation is usually the best. The wise member does not permit his imagination to carry him into unreasonable fantasy nor into wild aberrations. It is this freedom of individual thought that provides the ritual with its vitality, because everyone has an opportunity to draw the conclusions that suit his individual needs. And this freedom to understand transcends barriers of language and allows members of any country to interpret a symbol. The ritual has a fascination for the member, who is sincerely trying to increase his knowledge of masonic philosophy by concentrating less on things that can be seen and touched and more on higher values and the quality of life."

"Symbols are a means to an end. It is not the purpose of Freemasonry to teach the meaning of symbols; **the sole purpose of symbolism is to teach Freemasonry**. The importance of Masonic symbols is **what these symbols teach**. The symbolism of Freemasonry is inseparable from the philosophy of Freemasonry." - R.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels

Sources:

Bradley, David C., *Penetrating The Veil*, Masonic Holdings, Hamilton, Ont., 1997.

Daniels, Raymond. S. J., "Let's Talk Symbolism", Com. on Masonic Education, GLCPOO, 2004.

Dyer, Colin, *Symbolism in Craft Freemasonry*, Lewis Masonic, Surrey, U.K., 2003.

Jones, Bernard, *Freemasons' Guide and Compendium*, Harrap, London, U.K., 1986.

Pike, Albert, *Morals and Dogma*, Jenkins, Richmond, VA., 1962.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary, Oxford University Press, Oxford, U.K., 1990.

By R.W. Bro. David Cameron, for the Curriculum Group of The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education. September 2008

For more Masonic Education try:

<http://newsletter.masoniceducation.ca>

<http://home.golden.net/~djjcameron/LofDiscussion.htm>

www.grandlodge.on.ca/Masonic_Education/college.htm

www.grandlodge.on.ca/DDGM/ddgm.htm

www.grandlodge.on.ca/library.htm

www.grandlodge.on.ca/framesgleducation.htm

The Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief

As early as 1855, Barton, St.John's and Strict Observance lodges developed a combined plan to dispense Masonic charity in a systematic manner. Each lodge pledged to contribute 15 cents per capita of membership annually in order to provide a fund for the relief of worthy brethren in distress, their widows or families, in a manner to be decided by the committee in charge. For some undisclosed reason, the plan failed to materialize. Four years later, a similar co-operative plan named "The United Masonic Benevolent Fund" supported by an initial donation of \$10 from each lodge and an assessment of 10 percent of the annual receipts of each lodge plus the collections from the divine services in connection with the Festivals of the St.Johns' became operational.

R.W. Bro. Seymour's report to Grand Lodge in 1867 made note of the "Hamilton Benevolent Fund" supported by 10 percent of all receipts from the four city lodges, Barton No.6, Strict Observance No.27, St. John's No.40, and Acacia No.61. The 1869 Grand Lodge Report on Benevolence refers to \$50 being appropriated to the "Hamilton Relief Committee", while the 1871 report includes a \$100 grant to the "Hamilton Board of Relief" and the minutes of Barton Lodge of January 1874 note the election of V.W. Bro. Richard Brierly to the Board of Directors of the "Masonic Benevolent Association of the Hamilton District". Subsequent minutes of May 8, 1876 and April 11, 1877 record proceedings from the collections of District Church Services amounting to \$36.40 and \$44.40 were in aid of the "United Benevolent Fund Board". Whatever the name be, the Hamilton area lodges were organized under a centralized body, for the purpose of distributing Masonic benevolence. Located in an active industrialized port city and also the seat of Masonry in Ontario, the Hamilton Masonic Board of Relief assumed its name about the same time Grand Lodge started subsidizing grants to transient brethren, and the Masonic Relief Association for North America was beginning. Membership to the Hamilton Board consisted of one elected representative from each city lodge and those lodges holding concurrent jurisdiction. Funds were received from subscribing lodges at 5 cents per capita, and from the semi-annual church services. Its object was the extension of aid and financial assistance to transient brethren, their wives, widows and orphans. Unworthy applicants were to be, and still are reported to the Masonic Service Association. In 1908, \$1000 was sent by the Hamilton masons to distressed members of the fraternity in Fernie B.C. which was destroyed by a forest fire.

In 1931 a burial plot was purchased in Woodland Cemetery overlooking Hamilton Bay. It currently contains 40 bodies of indigent masons and their wives, the last interment being made in 1990. It could hold 145 more. In 1963, a registered

charitable number was acquired which allowed for donations to the Board to be Income Tax deductible. Because per capita payments and collections from the twice-yearly church services far exceeded the expenditures for transient relief and administration, in 1972 the lodge assessments ceased. Hospital visitations to sojourning mason became a regular function, while transient needs decreased.

In 1972 the Board of Relief Church Services were combined with the Districts' Church Services, to become the Districts' Divine Services in support of the Board of Relief. With concurrent jurisdiction, all lodges of the Hamilton Masonic Districts became eligible for membership and all lodges assumed such.

In 1978, the phrase "and such other charitable purposes as the Board shall determine" was added to its objects, with a view of addressing a much wider field of human needs beyond the purview of transient Masonic relief. This has had a two-fold multiplier effect in that donations have annually increased as have the grants to a variety of needs, both Masonic and non-Masonic. Twice a year invitations to the Divine Services are extended via the lodges, and on the reverse side is noted the amounts extended for benevolence by the Board. The Board has made grants to a maximum of \$10,000 for local children requiring bone marrow transplants in American cities and for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at McMaster University. Without neglecting its Masonic responsibilities, the Board also considers requests brought by any one of the elected lodge representatives to the twice-yearly meetings. All requests are investigated by a committee appointed by the executive, prior to presentation for an open vote.

The Hamilton Board of Relief hosted the 49th Biennial Conference of the Masonic Research Association for North America on September 25-27, 1991, when Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Eric Nancekivell was elected President. He was the 4th President to be elected from our Grand Lodge.

In recent years, large sums have been donated to city and rural agencies, food banks, and church social outreach programmes. The current Secretary-Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Bob Kerr, issues many tax-deductible receipts as he assists in the directions of a very active Board. Thanks, Bob.

* From a presentation paper to Heritage Lodge in Oshawa, March 20th 1991, entitled Masonic Board of Relief, by R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie

THE FALL MEETING of the Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief will be held in the Stoney Creek Masonic Temple, on Sunday, September 21st, at 2:00 p.m. All lodge representatives and visitors are encouraged to attend.

THE FALL DIVINE SERVICE of the Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief will be hosted by Seymour Lodge No. 272, at Barton Stone United Church, 21 Stone church Road West, Hamilton, on Sunday October 26, 2008. Assembly at 7:00 p.m., Service at 7:30 pm, with the 3 Hamilton District Deputy Grand Masters taking part.

WHAT KIND OF A FREEMASON ARE YOU?

A lot of Masons are like wheelbarrows - - no good unless pushed.

Some are like trailers - they have to be pulled

Some are like kites – if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away.

Some are like balloons - full of wind and ready to blow up

Some are like footballs - you can't tell which way they will bounce.

And then some are like a good watch - open face, pure gold, and quietly busy, and full of good works.

Grand Lodge of Kansas Magazine

"Good Friends are like stars. You don't see them, but you know they're always there"