

# District 'C' Chronicle

October 2008

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.2

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## WHAT I LEARNED AT THE DISTRICT MEETING



41 members attended the District Meeting held in the Ancaster Masonic Temple on Sept. 20.

- Under the leadership of our DDGM, there have been great efforts put forth to implement the new GUIDE for the operations and management of District C. It is working.

- Our new District Auditors are R.W. Bro. Roger Parliament from Meridian No. 687 and W. Bro. Bob Doherty from Landmarks/Doric No. 654.
- Our DDGM and his wife accompanied Buchanan Lodge No. 550 to Youngstown Ohio and brought words from our Grand Master and Grand Lodge.
- A new focus from the District Masonic Education Committee will be Masonic Education at every lodge meeting, highlighted in the lodge summons, and the lodge secretary will forward such to the District Website.
- District lodge instruction programs will be presented by the Masters and Wardens Association this year.
- Under Lodge Resources Committee: **Mentorship Committee meets on Oct. 18 at 10:00 am. Brother to Brother Committee meets at 9:00 am on Saturday, Oct. 25**, at the home of W. Bro. Edward Patterson, 45 Moxley Drive, Hamilton. (one block east of Upper Ottawa, 2.5 blocks south of Mohawk Rd.)
- Blood Donors have held two Clinics since Grand Lodge. First Clinic sponsored by Temple collected 53 units; Second Clinic at Alliance Church collected 49 units; and if a unit of blood can assist three people, then 306 people received help. There is a need for more District participation.
- The Communications Committee hopes to increase communications within the District via the website and Newsletter, and to identify gaps and develop solutions. Newsletter named the *District Chronicle* was distributed to all in attendance and to all lodges. There will be a new edition each month with lodges asked to provide their news for publication by first of the month. The website will be up and running by mid October. **A hands-on Training and Information Session** for lodge secretaries and tech-savvy delegates from each lodge will be held **on Sunday, Nov. 16 at the Masonic Centre starting at 1:00 p.m.** Enter via the Club Entrance, 4 Queen Street, and bring your Lodge History for the Website.
- The Grand Lodge Custodian of the Work asks that no Books of the Work be visible in lodge. Questions of the

Work are to be sent to the DDGM, not the Custodian of the Work or the Grand Secretary.

- DDGM encouraged all lodges to support his District Charity Project, PIN.
- Our Grand Master and his wife will be present at the **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Valley No. 100 Dinner/Dance, at the Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club on Saturday Nov. 1 2008. \$60.00 per person**
- A "History of Valley Lodge No. 100" compiled by Bro. Brad Craig, Bro. Aaron Smith and Bro. Scott Lehane will be distributed at this special event.

## OFFICIAL VISITS OF OUR DDGM

Oct. 14	Temple No.324
Oct. 21	Hugh Murray No. 602
Oct. 27	Wardrope No.555
Nov. 19	The Electric No.495

## FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

"No one cares how much we know until they know how much we care." Let us all exemplify the examples of caring and loving creatures of a great and mighty Supreme Being as we welcome and mentor our newest brethren.

## FROM OUR DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

V.W. Bro. Bruce Miller, Editor, and his publishing team have produced a 'new look' for the *Ontario Mason* magazine bearing in mind that it is our means of communicating with every member of the Craft in the Grand Jurisdiction. Therein lays our greatest challenge.

Accurate mailing lists are difficult to establish and even more difficult to maintain. The accuracy and currency of the Grand Lodge database depends on the information originally submitted and subsequently updated by the Lodge Secretary.

We continually receive information that long time Masons still do not receive the magazine, while a significant number are returned as undeliverable because the intended recipient has moved or died. R.W. Bro. Brian Bond, Chairman of the Computer Resources Committee, is working diligently to revise the mailing list, and has to date completed a review of 21,660 records. To our embarrassment, he discovered that 5,193 were deceased.

Perhaps you could assist us in this major undertaking by asking the lodges in your District to survey the members to be certain that all are receiving the magazine, and for the lodges to let your DDGM know of any discrepancies so that he can report them to the appropriate person working on this project. Thanks in advance for your help.

Just a closing thought.

*It is not what we eat, but what we digest that makes us strong;  
Not what we gain, but what we save that makes us rich;  
Not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned;  
And not what we profess, but what we practice that gives us integrity.*

## DUFFERIN LODGE NO. 291 135<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Sunday, Sept. 28 marked the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Dufferin Lodge No. 291 GRC and a wonderful day that will not soon be forgotten.

Our Grand Master and his wife, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton Masonic District C, the councilor of Flamborough and other politicians were all in attendance to take part in this joyous event. Also in attendance were representatives of each of the companies that helped with recent renovations to their historic 1873 building.



Over the last year Dufferin Lodge has undergone a great deal of renovations and improvements to the West Flamborough Masonic Temple including re-pointing the brickwork, a new roof, new furnace, re-painting of the lodge room, parging of the foundation, landscaping of the grounds, and many more aesthetic improvements.



The ceremony included introductions of the people involved in the building renovations, greetings from our Grand Master, and a presentation of a congratulatory certificate from the local Member of Parliament, and finally the official ribbon cutting around the recently restored charter.



The event then moved downstairs to the banquet room for the official cake cutting by our Grand Master, followed by champagne and fellowship.

This event marked a significant milestone in the history of this country lodge, and from the energy and collaboration of its members and the general public at the event it was clear that

freemasonry is alive and thriving in this district and in this lodge in particular.



### **DDGM's Charity Project "Hamilton Partners In Nutrition (PIN)"**

Last month, we introduced this most praiseworthy project. Now some more interesting stats released in late September by the Hamilton Food Share in regard to the use of Food Banks.

- in March 2008, 9,284 adults and 6,227 children used services at their local food bank
- more than 95,000 residents in Hamilton live below the poverty line
- 36% of families accessing food banks are single parent
- more than 6,300 households in Hamilton will reach out to a food bank for help every month
- children make up 40 % of the total people who access a food bank
- 81% of parents who visit a food bank sacrifice their own food so their children can eat
- \$4.10 per day is the amount a single parent with one child on Ontario Works has for food

It breaks one's heart to think that children go to school each day without breakfast. One cannot imagine how the parent(s) of these children must feel, knowing they cannot provide the most basic necessity to their families. This situation is a shame not only for these parents, but also for our community as a whole.

We hear of poverty in faraway lands however the poverty within our own community is deep and painful.

Food banks in our community were never intended to become a social safety net for such a large population of people, but economic conditions, the loss of good jobs and the cycle of

poverty have made their role so very important in meeting the basic needs of the poor.

The District Project 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.

Did you know that the first Student Breakfast Program in Hamilton started in 1984 at Robert Land School, Hamilton and was supported by the Masons of Hamilton District C, under the leadership of our District Deputy of that time, R.W. Bro. Jack Knight of Electric Lodge?

Now the District is being asked again to help such a worthy endeavour.

*Please have donations to the District 'C' Partners In Nutrition program issued in favour of the:*

*Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief and mailed  
c/o R. E. Kerr, Secretary-Treasurer  
16 Margaret Avenue, Grimsby, Ontario  
L3M 4S1*

*On the memo section of the cheque insert District 'C' PIN program and Lodge Name/No. Tax receipts will be forwarded for all donations.*

-----The heart that gives, gathers-----

## The MasoniCh.I.P. Program



In keeping with our Grand Master's theme this year "**Masonry, Making a Difference**", I would like to report that the recent identification clinics held at the Ancaster Fall Fair **did** make a difference to 210 Hamilton children and families. With the assistance of 31 volunteers from the lodges in the Hamilton Districts we processed identification kits for children of all ages from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

A special thanks should be extended to the many ladies who came along to help out and to make this program a Masonic family event for the community. To the Lodge of the Ancient

Landmarks/Doric No. 654 we express our thanks for your donation for expenses to run this program. If another Lodge would like to sponsor their own Ch.I.P. event, the chairmen – W. Bro. Bill MacPherson, and W. Bro. Dave Wilkinson would be willing to assist.

-----Joy is a light that fills you with hope, faith and love-----



R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs, Chairman of the CHIP programme for our Grand Lodge spoke to the Past Masters' Association breakfast meeting in regard to the most successful happenings of this Grand Master's initiative. Past President, R.W. Bro. Michael Kingsley of Buchanan Lodge No. 550 presented him with a cheque for \$3,000 for the purchase of another customized computer for this programme.

## North Carolina Grand Lodge votes to recognize Prince Hall

*Richard Stradling, Staff Writer, News & Observer, Raleigh N.C. gave his permission to share the following article of Sept. 21 2008.*

In a historic move, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina voted to recognize Prince Hall Masonry. Many high-placed Masons in the South and North have been fighting for years to make this happen. This decision could encourage other southern Grand Lodges to start moving in this direction. We understand that several of them have been waiting to see the N.C. outcome. It is inevitable that in this 21st century, all Grand Lodges will ultimately accept Prince Hall, but some of the GL's will be slow because of entrenched opinions and with resistance to social change. This leaves 10 Grand Lodges in the US that do not recognize Prince Hall. Members of the State's predominantly white Masonic organization struck down a vestige of the segregation era Friday when they voted to recognize members of the black organization as brother Masons. The vote – at the annual convention of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina in Winston-Salem – follows years of frustration among the group's leadership, which each year had introduced a resolution to recognize the black group. "Old ways, old cultures and old traditions die hard," said the group's Grand Master, David Cash, a Methodist minister from Kannapolis. "And that's why this is so monumental." Friday's vote does not merge the groups in any way. But it should lead to cooperation between the two Masonic organizations, which have about 60,000 members between them.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. What should be included at all Masonic functions at which food is served?*

A. The following four items should always be included on the agenda, without exception, no matter how small or informal.

- a) Invocation or Grace
- b) One stanza of the Loyal Anthem
- c) Toast to the Queen and the Craft
- d) Toast to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge

*(Meeting the Challenge p.89; The Masonic Manual p.55)*

*Q. If the I. P. M holds another office, is he still listed on the summons as PM?*

A. No member shall hold two offices in the same lodge at the same time, nor shall he hold office in more than one lodge at the same time without dispensation from Grand Lodge. (*Sec. 221, Book of Constitution*)

*Q. When addressing a Brother who has a title, i.e. Reverend, Doctor, Colonel, Professor, etc., is it proper to include this together with the Masonic title?*

A. Masonic titles stand alone and should not be mixed with the ecclesiastical, medical, military or academic titles. The highest title that we can receive is that of Brother. Freemasonry connotes equality, and "he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel is justly entitled to our regard".

*(No. 83, Questions and Answers Vol. 2)*

*Q. Should the title or rank of a brother be shown on an envelope?*

A. The title or rank of a brother in NOT shown on an envelope. His professional designation should, however, be indicated such as "Rev. John J. Doe" otherwise it is "Mr. John J. Doe". An example of the salutation is "Dear Bro. Doe". The "inside address" that precedes the salutation should be the same as the address on the envelope.

*(p.65 The Masonic Manual)*

## LODGE NEWS

SEYMOUR LODGE NO. 272 will be hosting the FALL DIVINE SERVICE for the Masonic Board of Relief at Barton Stone Church, 21 Stone Church Road W., Hamilton, on Sunday, Oct. 26. Assembly at 7:00 p.m., Church 7:30 p.m.

MASTERS' AND WARDENS' ASSOCIATION MEETING will be on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Centre. Topic: Deacons' Floor Work. All Brethren welcomed.

CORINTHIAN LODGE NO. 513 Our Grand Master will be attending the Installation Ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 27, Banquet at 6:00 p.m., Lodge at 7:00 p.m..

V. Wor. Bro. John Scarr from Parry Sound, father of Bro. Peter Scarr will be the Installing Master.

LANDMARKS/DORIC LODGE NO. 654

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bonspiel will be held at Glendale Golf and Country Club, on Saturday, Nov. 29, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you have always wanted to try this sport, here is your chance. Curling experience not necessary. Teams are balanced according to experience. \$38 includes two games, a lunch and prizes. Contact Bob Gilbank at 905 383-1596

## A SEYMOUR TRADITION

“Flap Jacks anyone?”

The Seymour Pancake Breakfast was initiated in 1994 by W. Bro. Murray Roberts. It consists of eight Saturday mornings in which the lodge banquet hall is transformed into a pancake house -- (the last Saturday of each month excepting December, June, July and August).

Today, the Marshall family and their Masonic friends manage this event. Through their hard work and dedication, the Seymour Pancake Breakfast has become well known throughout the Hamilton region and what's more, it has blossomed into a community social event. It's a place where new and old friends meet. Patrons come from retirement homes, apartments and local residences to enjoy juice, coffee, hot pancakes smothered in butter and syrup and of course delicious sausage – for just \$5.00 (all you can eat).

In the beginning, the main concern was meeting the cost of ingredients. Now, because of its success, we are not only able to meet our costs but also are able to contribute generously to the Ancaster Community Services which helps families in need.

This breakfast at the lodge has aroused the curiosity of many people. Through lodge tours offered during and after the breakfast, a number of non-masons have expressed an interest in learning more about the Craft.

Anyone interested in starting up such a fundraiser may feel free to call any of the Seymour Lodge officers.

## UNIVERSITY PRESENTS RARE INSIGHT INTO FREEMASONRY

The University of Sheffield's Centre for Research into Freemasonry, together with the Showroom Cinema, will screen two radical films this autumn, documenting the mysterious world of the fraternal organisation.

*Forces Occultes*, a Nazi propaganda film made during the 1940's, will be shown for the first time with English subtitles on Monday 13 October 2008.

The film opposes the Freemasons and the Jews and depicts them attempting to push France into a war against German Forces.

*The Scottish Key*, the first documentary film to look at the different theories about freemasonry and its origins, will have its UK premiere on Monday, Nov. 10, 2008. Spread across the globe, the Freemason's discrete and mysterious association has been a source of curiosity, fascination and suspicion for over 300 years.

The Centre for Research into Freemasonry was established in 2000 as the first centre in a British university devoted to

scholarly research into the freemasons, the fraternal organisation. The Centre studies the historical, social and cultural impact of freemasonry, particularly in Britain.

Doctor Andreas Önnersfors, Director of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry, said: "The origins of freemasonry have triggered the fantasy and imagination of many people. Freemasonry invented a history of its own dating back to the creation of the world and involving many of the most important figures in world history.

"For many historians it is a big challenge to establish the truth. These two films represent two entirely different approaches towards this question, the one building entirely on prejudices and assumptions and the other on a scientific investigation."

## WHEN WAS GRAND LODGE LAST HELD IN HAMILTON?

Bro. H.E. Wilton, Mayor of the City of Hamilton, gave his address of welcome to the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grand Lodge, in the auditorium of the new Westdale Collegiate Institute on July 17, 1935. He referred to one of the reasons for the City's greatness, due to its rapid development, its splendid reputation, and its citizens being Christian God-fearing people whose lives are guided and built upon the same foundation basis which has always been so much in evidence in connection with the structural development of Masonry – that of Brotherly Love, and loyalty to God, King and Country. He spoke of Hamilton being a better city because of Masonry, with the knowledge that within its borders there are 18 Masonic lodges representing a total membership of 7,000 or more of our best and most loyal citizens.

In his reply of thanks, M.W. Bro. Frank Copus from Stratford noted that Grand Lodge had developed the excellent habit of meeting at fairly regular intervals here in Hamilton, and on each occasion of so doing, evidenced further civic progress and prosperity, in this the second city of our province.

W. Bro. George McQueen, President of the Master's Association in his Address of Welcome, noted that the Masons of this district have been and are proud of their connections with Grand Lodge. In 1855 the Grand Lodge of Canada was instituted in the Masonic Hall at the corner of John and Main Streets in this fair city. Its first, thirtieth, fiftieth, sixtieth, and seventieth anniversaries were celebrated here, and today we observe the eightieth anniversary.

The Committee of Credentials reported that 503 of the 568 Warranted Lodges were represented through the 2,629 delegates registered. Chas. M. Flatt from Waterdown No. 357 and Thomas J. Hicks from St. Andrew's No. 62 were elected as District Deputy Grand Masters, succeeding Joseph Crocker of Corinthian No. 513 and James Baird of St. Andrew's No. 593.