

# District 'C' Chronicle

December 2008

Hamilton Masonic District C

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## FROM OUR DDGM

Brethren, as I write this message, November, the Month of Remembrance is in the past and December, the Month of Hope is here. I'm sure that by the time you read this message, the majority, if not all of our lodge work for December will be complete and we will be caught up in the excitement of the Christmas festivities. Our schedules are busy with various activities; such as, shopping, work parties, open houses, Christmas Dinner, etc. We are so fortunate to be able to partake in so many of these when many cannot. Brethren, we speak about what we wish and hope for, but in reality these are two distinct things. We wish for things like a big new car, expensive clothes, a fancy house, and so forth; whereas, we can have hope even when the evidence may say something else. We can hope for peace, both at home and world wide, health, friendships, and love. As this festive season quickly approaches, let us never forget that there are people in need, and as true masons, we should endeavor to help in any way we can. And finally, Bev and I wish you a very Merry Christmas. May the joy of the Christmas spirit fill your home and may the new year bring health, happiness, and prosperity to you and your families.

*Fraternally, Tom Marshall*

## THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER

Each year the Christmas Season is brightened by the poinsettia, which has become the traditional Christmas flower. It is named for the American statesman who introduced it to the USA from its native Mexico. The story behind Joel Roberts Poinsett, who gave a lifetime of service to his country and Freemasonry, is worth knowing.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina on March 2, 1779, his formal education began in England where his family lived for six years, but when they returned he attended a succession of private schools, distinguishing himself in languages, where he became fluent in French, Spanish, Italian, German and Russian. After one year in medical school, he enrolled in the Royal American Academy, and was convinced to become a professional soldier. From 1801 he travelled the world, where he served in a variety of military venues, which led to his appointment as Secretary of War in 1837.

Masonically, he was a PM of a South Carolina lodge and PM of a lodge in Charleston. In 1821 he was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, but was unable to serve as Grand Master due to his military responsibilities. He also served as Deputy Grand High Priest of the General High Priest of the Grand Chapter from 1829-1839. He also introduced Royal Arch Masonry into Mexico. Poinsett maintained great interest in science and the arts. His efforts in the field of botany were justly recognized when the lovely Christmas flower, which he brought from Mexico, was named *Poinsettia pulcherrima*. But his greatest contribution to the progress of learning in the United States, was his work in connection with the founding of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, known today as the Smithsonian Institute, for which he was the first president.

On December 12, 1851, shortly after leading the Union party to victory over the secessionists in his native state, Joel Roberts Poinsett died of tuberculosis.

## COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, MCH

Today we had the District Communications Workshop in the Round Room of the Masonic Centre, to instruct lodge secretaries and those who are computer savvy, how to operate the District Website. Since all content on the Website is the responsibility of the Lodge Secretary or his designate, under the supervision of the Webmaster, Bro. Devin Tuinstra, from Landmarks/Doric No. 654 and Dufferin No. 291, it was essential that all lodges had representation. 8/14 of the District lodges were represented. Was your lodge represented or absent?

Devin walked us through all the different screens that are on the Website. The variety of topics was fantastic. As we grow this site together, its capabilities are phenomenal. Go explore it at [www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org](http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org) and have your secretary get your lodge profile in the 'BIG BRIGHT LIGHTS'. Your lodge history should be uploaded now.

### VISITATION

Members cherish the moments they share at Lodge meetings, enjoying the fellowship of Masonry, while benefiting from the informative and entertaining programs. Visiting is important to the Lodge because individuals who take the time to visit other Lodges have a better opportunity to enjoy the Masonic fellowship, to relax from the busy business schedule and make it possible to grow through self-expression and self-involvement. Visiting builds stronger Lodges. Visiting makes one proud to say that he is a Mason, a member of the world's greatest fraternal organization that is recognized throughout the world.

### A SUCCESSFUL MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.

A Mason is a member of the world's largest fraternal organization. He enjoys the friendship and brotherhood of other Masons, not only in the community, but is welcomed as a brother by Masons anywhere in the world. A Mason is a man who professes faith in God. A Mason binds himself in likeminded men in a brotherhood that transcends all religions, ethic, social, cultural and educational differences.

A Mason is dedicated; he recognizes his responsibility for justice, truth and charity.

Don't expect perfection in a man because he is a Freemason. If you do, you will be disappointed. Masonry makes a man better, but no human agency can make him perfect. If he is a Mason, you have a right to presume he is a good man, but do not condemn Masonry even if a few Masons turn out bad. Even the Great Teacher Himself had a Judas. The aim and

purpose of Masonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good and make them better. Judge the institution not by a few failures, but by the average of its successes. That average is high and it consequently gives standing to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide.

Remember – YOU are someone's impression of Freemasonry

Anonymous

### DISTRICT MASONS LAY WREATH AT CENOTAPH, NOV.11, 2008



Second World War veteran Bro. Russ Irvine, 88, and Wor. Bro. Dan Devison our District Secretary, who served with the Canadian Armed Forces in post-war Germany, lay a wreath at the Ancaster Remembrance Day Ceremony representing Seymour Masonic Lodge No. 272 in Ancaster.

### WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday (or Saturday). "I've gone for thirty years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. For the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting their time by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

"I've been married for thirty years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. For the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single of those meals, but I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work.

If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Is there a lesson from this that could also be applied to Freemasonry?

W. Bro. Gary T. Ballard, Peterborough District Masonic Association.

### VALLEY LODGE NO.100, 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Valley Lodge A.F.&A.M. No. 100 hosted a dinner and dance at the Dundas Golf and Country Club, Nov. 1 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the lodge.

Bro. Aaron T. Smith began the evening with an invocation, thanking the GAOTU for the continued success of Valley Lodge, and asking Him to grant us strength in all of our endeavours, so that many future generations may experience that beautiful harmony, which we have enjoyed for many years.

A toast to the Queen and the Craft was then proposed by V.W.Bro. William D. Bown, followed by the Royal Anthem, sung by all of the Brethren and Visitors.

Following Dinner, the head table was introduced (including M.W.Bro. Petrisor Grand Master and M.W. Bro. Shand Grand Secretary) and a warm welcome was given to all in attendance by W. Bro Errol Mackenzie. Several Grand Lodge officers and distinguished visitors in attendance were also recognized at this point.

A toast to Grand Lodge was then proposed by Bro. William W. Paul, in which he eloquently described the fact that 150 years was not only a very long time in which to develop and improve our organization, but also affords a great many opportunities in which we could lose our way. He thoroughly commended Grand Lodge for their diligence over the years, in assuring that the latter did not occur, and pointed out a bright future on the horizon.



Grand Master M.W. Bro. Allan J. Petrisor responded to the toast with an illuminating talk on his youth, spent locally in the town, pointing out that although the face of Dundas has changed a great deal over the years, Freemasonry, and Valley Lodge in particular have remained the same, always upholding the Masonic Landmarks we hold so dear. He reminded all in attendance of the great benefits of Masonry to all its members, pointing out how it is able to improve one's enjoyment of life, in almost every way.

R.W. Bro. W.R. Millar then proposed a toast to the Ladies, reminding us of that initial conversation with our wives, when we asked them permission to attend Lodge "once a month." All of our wives quickly discovered that "once a month" could sometimes eat away an enormous amount of our time, and thanked them dearly for their patience and their blessing towards all of our Masonic activities.



Mrs. Mary Petrisor responded, acknowledging that although Masonry does often keep husbands away from their wives, they soon realize that the time apart is spent towards a

highly honourable end, and that they would always stand by their good men, the Masons.



A toast to the visitors was then proposed by W. Bro. Wolfgang H. Schneiders, and responded to by M.W. Bro. Terrance Shand, Grand Secretary.

Bro. Brad Craig gave a brief history of the Lodge, and the night was capped off by W. Bro Errol Mackenzie, and the Grand Master, together cutting a custom-made cake.

The Junior Wardens toast was then explained for the benefit of the non-masons by V.W. Bro. William D. Bown.

O Canada was sung by all in attendance followed by the Dance, which was greatly enjoyed by all!

– *Bro. Aaron Smith*

## FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

I was moved by the editorial message in the summons of Grand River Lodge No. 151 (Waterloo District), by W. Bro. Derek Wildfong, Worshipful Master, and wish to share it with you. It reads: “With Remembrance Day fast upon us brethren, I urge each of you to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices made by many Canadians who do not grow old. Not just those of World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam (Canadians in U.S. Forces served there as well), and on many Peace-keeping Missions, but also, the men and women who have, and are currently serving in Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. Thanks to our Military, whether you agree with the war or not, over 100,000 Afghani females are now enrolled in schools.

Thanks to our troops, women and young girls are able to receive medical treatment for the first time in generations. I could go on brethren, but I just want to remind you that the fundamentals of democracy are ever corresponding to those of Freemasonry.”

“Educate a boy and you educate a man. Educate a girl and you educate a family”. by Adelaide Hoodless, wife of

R.W. Bro. John Hoodless (1891), The Barton Lodge No. 6

## FROM OUR DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

You will have received by post the fall edition of *THE ONTARIO MASON* magazine. I trust that you found the new and improved production format attractive, and the content informative and interesting. We commend the Editor, V.W. Bro. W. Bruce Miller and the production staff for an excellent issue. At this season of Remembrance, the striking cover art and several articles direct our attention to our Masonic Brethren serving under fire in Afghanistan and Iraq. While 1918 is for most of us ancient history, Remembrance in 2008 is a present day reality, touching those we know. Look carefully at the photograph on the cover. At first glance, there is a disturbing contradiction of symbolism: a Masonic apron – the emblem of peace, harmony, and brotherly love – juxtaposed with the implements of war – emblems of death and destruction. On the surface, this may seem a disturbing contradiction, even a denial of the essence of Freemasonry. Look again and think beyond the obvious. As speculative Masons, we think in symbols and learn through allegories. There is always more than one interpretation of a symbol. Our Brethren are not engaged in aggression, but are serving to protect and defend us against the very real threat of terrorism. Those weapons are also emblems of defence and protection.

The words of M.W. Bro. Otto Klotz, portraying ‘The Ideal of a Freemason’ now enshrined in the General Charge given at Installation, “the man to whom property, nay, even life is not too dear for the protection of innocence and virtue, and for the defence of truth” are, to my mind, vividly illustrated in that photograph. In the front line of battle, Freemasonry may be a source of courage and strength. We honour these Brethren, and we pray for their safe return home.

The greatest challenge for *The Ontario Mason* magazine is efficient distribution by Canada Post. We are entirely dependent on the accuracy and currency of the data base of members’ addresses maintained in the Grand Secretary’s Office. During your fraternal visits throughout your District, please encourage all lodge secretaries to report immediately new members, changes of address, and deaths in the lodge. The cost of undelivered magazines is a waste of the limited funds available for this important medium of communication with every Mason in Ontario. Enquire if there are members not receiving the magazine, or if any are receiving multiple copies. With your help, we may be able to improve our delivery and save several thousand dollars that could be better used for production. You

might also suggest that Brethren patronizing our advertisers, mention *The Ontario Mason* magazine as the source of their interest when dealing with the company.

It will take determination and concerted effort to ensure the publication of *The Ontario Mason* magazine is continued. Thanks in advance for any assistance you may be able to afford.

*"When you lose, don't lose the lesson"*

## THE HOLY BIBLE AND THE VOLUME OF THE SACRED LAW

The Bible itself has a multiplicity of uses and meanings; it is the Bible and at the same time is the Volume of The Sacred Law; it is the Book of the Old and New Testaments and at the same time represents each of the world Bibles, and may be replaced by the Koran, the Zen Avesta, the Vedas etc.; it lies on the Altar and yet does not have possession of it because the square and the compasses lie on the Altar with it; it is the text-book of the Christian and Jewish religions yet the Lodge does not use it as a text-book because the

Lodge is not a church and has no theology – the Lodge uses it as the literature of religion; and yet though it is a book of religion it is at the same time for Masonry a legal book also, because it gives sanction to the obligations; a good half of the rites and symbols of the Work refer to it, yet almost nothing in the Work is directly taken from it; Masons did not write it and yet they use it as though they had because they employ it for purposes of their own and apply to it definitions peculiar to themselves; as it lies on the Altar it is many things at once, is inwardly multiordinal, is filled with mysteries, and owns many meanings, therefore the Craft has no dogmas about it, does not use it as a theological test, and leaves each Mason to read and interpret it according to such light as he has, which is symbolized by the fact that as it lies on the Altar it lies open.

W. Bro. Tom Fiddes

Chaplain, District "C"

## DISTRICT B "INSIGHT INTO MASONRY"

*Good Morning Wayne, I'm very pleased to inform you that Harmony Lodge No 57 in Binbrook has 3 applications coming in from their "Insight Into Masonry" Thirty applications went out over the seven District locations and twenty are now on their way in. " Alleluia "*

The 'Insight Into Masonry' has been a very successful venture. The program had us looking at ourselves and reminded us of

what a great fraternity we share. Grand Lodge is very aware of our endeavour, and as our Grand Master said in the Communiqué, he wishes he had thought of it and made it Province-Wide. Perhaps it will happen in the not too distant future, Tom Young

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Q. Why are newer masons not receiving the Ontario Mason?

A. Because the Ontario Mason is sent only to those names submitted by the Secretary of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge Office to be added to the subscription list for the Ontario Mason via the Semi Annual Returns.

Likewise, names of lodge members who have deceased, demitted or been suspended should also be forwarded to the Grand Lodge Office so they can be removed from the subscription list. New masons are officially entered into the database only twice a year, on the receipt of the Semi Annual Return. However, it is the responsibility of the lodge secretary to inform the Grand Lodge Office of any changes in address, so the list can be kept up-to-date between those dates.

### Q. What name do I write on the cheque for a Blood Donors' Clinic?

A. To the Canadian Blood Services, and give the cheque to the District Deputy Grand Master. In the memo section, write 'Hamilton District C'.

### Q. In the S.W.'s lecture in the F.C. degree, which pillar is on the left?

A. The lecture being given from the inside of the temple, we are standing on the inside looking out. *From Beyond the Pillars p.116, we read 'It was a usual Hebrew convention to take the cardinal orientation from the rising of the sun. Thus the east was called the "front", the west was the "rear", the north the "left", and the south the "right" (so, for example, Ezekiel 16:46). If this convention is followed, the pillar B. was to the north of the porch, that is, to the left as one looked out from the Temple. Also in the Guidelines for Officers, p.16, item No.3 for the S.W.)*

## THE LATEST NEWS

### NEW WEBSITE FOR THE MASONIC CHIP

PROGRAMME: Great news. Our web site went on line today. Please check it out. [www.masonicchip.ca](http://www.masonicchip.ca)  
Ray Dobbs, Program Director, email: [raydobbs@sympatico.ca](mailto:raydobbs@sympatico.ca)

BREAKFAST AT THE RITE: Mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast will be served at the Scottish Rite from 8:30 to 10:30. Bring your family and

friends, all are welcome. No RSVP needed. More details are available on the district website.

CONGRATULATIONS to R.W. Bro. Allard Loopstra of Temple Lodge No. 324 who was elected President of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Canada at the Supreme Council held in Vancouver in September.

NEXT BLOOD DONORS CLINIC: will be at Paramount Church, in Upper Stoney Creek, on Friday January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, sponsored by Electric Lodge No.495. Volunteers welcomed.

DISTRICT 'C' MID TERM MEETING, will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Ancaster Masonic Temple, 419 Wilson Street, Ancaster starting at 10:00 a.m. All District Masons are welcomed, especially the Worshipful Master and the Secretary of your lodge.

MOTORIZED SCOOTER AVAILABLE: My nephew, who was a Mason, passed away a few years ago and my sister-in-law wishes to dispose of his scooter that has been sitting dormant for the past few years. It was purchased new for about \$3,000.00, used for approximately 2 years and right now the batteries are flat so I am in the process of determining whether they can be re-charged or need to be replaced after I pick it up to clean, check the tires and batteries etc. If you know of anyone IN NEED who could utilize this scooter my sister-in-law is willing to let it go for \$1,000 as is, or \$1,500 with new batteries. Please contact me as soon as possible as we will be advertising it or selling on eBay in December.

Contact:

Thomas Norris at: [tom.norris@sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.norris@sympatico.ca) 905-852-5448.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the lodge  
Not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodgepodge  
Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West  
You could savour the silence, most gladly divest

All metal and mineral, it mattered not,  
Since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot  
In the hearth of your home place, all Masons abed,  
As visions of trestle boards danced in their head;

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter  
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!  
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,  
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered 'What for?'

He answered the knocking with raps of his own,  
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan  
Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red  
Except for one notable feature instead!

Upon his large finger he wore what we knew

was compass and square on a background of blue!  
'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade,  
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tyler relayed.

He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair  
And said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful there  
is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!'  
The Master replied, 'Let's allow him - but wait!

You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see  
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be  
our visitor hasn't been properly raised?  
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?

'I do beg your pardon,' ol' Santa said quick  
as he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick  
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear  
and oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!

Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign  
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!  
"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,  
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,

For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen  
For many a century - there in between  
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar  
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone line a dollar!

"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess,  
"Are actually images brought from the West  
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"  
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled

An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,  
"My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast  
on all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"  
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,

As presents and promises flew from his sack!  
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack  
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,  
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen

On this very night only happiness reigned!  
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained  
That only a Mason could be so inclined  
To make all kids happy, make all people find

A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

W.Bro. Ron Cameron,  
Maple Leaf Lodge No.119, Frontenac District

*Have you updated your lodge information on the Website?*