District 'C'hronicle

*C'hronicle
SILVER AWARD
2016, 2017

April 2019 Hamilton Masonic District C Edition No.128

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren

How quickly March has come and gone providing vacation break for many families and students, the opportunity to celebrate with the Irish on St. Patrick's Day, and welcoming the birth of my nephew's first born son! Possibly another Mason in the making!

My month started with a fraternal visit to the Buchanan Lodge No. 550 on March 7th where Bro. Karim Bustami took the



first steps of his Masonic journey and joined the ranks of an entered apprentice Mason. The brethren present were also treated to some Masonic Education featuring an interesting presentation from W. Bro Lorne Evans. Congratulations are also in order for W. Bro. Ken Wallace, W. Bro. Scott Poole, and W. Bro. Glenn Molnar on being presented with their Past Master Certificate from Grand Lodge!

I was able to participate in the Bi-Monthly Blood Donor Clinic held at the Hamilton Convention Centre on March 11, and there was an impressive number of new first-time donors. It is indeed rewarding to volunteer at these clinics to support the blood donors giving the gift of life. Many of the donors come regularly and we get to know each other by talking during the snack break after their donation is completed. Since I had no official visits scheduled in March, I took the opportunity to make a few fraternal visits to other

Districts. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit Beach Lodge on the occasion of the Official Visit of R W Bro Ian Anderson – DDGM Hamilton District A. I also enjoyed a fraternal visit to Copestone Lodge in Fonthill on the Official Visit of R.W. Bro Michael Ferguson – DDGM Niagara District B.

My work also took me to several destinations in the USA during March for business purposes, which I was able to schedule while there were no other conflicting official Masonic duties to attend to.

April looks to be extremely busy featuring my final four official visits as well as the Scottish Rite Spring Reunion. Please plan to join me at Seymour Lodge on April 9th, Meridian Lodge on April 10th, Dufferin Lodge on April 18th for their infamous pie night, and Westmount Lodge on April 23rd. These are my last official opportunities to present a short talk, which I hope most will find interesting and thought provoking.

"MASONIC TALKS – The Craft on Tour" has an evening scheduled for April 27th at the Masonic Center of Elgin – St. Thomas District. Robert Lund is the keynote speaker and will give a presentation on "the need for esoteric education in Masonry". Cost to attend is \$20 including lunch and the registration deadline is April 13th..

Plans are coming together for an Entered Apprentice Evening, to be held at the Hillcrest Masonic Hall on Tuesday May 21st. An evening of Masonic education and fellowship with a focus on our newest members, and I hope many of you will plan to attend and bring one of our new members with you!

I wish you all a very happy Easter, and hope you can spend it with family and friends. Please remember the true purpose of the celebration and be thankful for our many blessings. Remember those in much less fortunate circumstances, be reminded of their wants and needs and embrace the opportunity to relieve their necessities within the length of your cable tow.

Fraternally

R.W. Bro Robin John Colville

District 'C' Spring Meeting Saturday May 4th, 2019, 9:00 am Hillcrest Masonic Temple

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.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

The Masons of Ontario await the month contrasts, March often which produces weather which one moment it is spring like and then suddenly the weather returns to winter and here in Eastern Ontario we have a saying "if the March weather comes in like a lion it will go out as a lamb". If only it was true!!



As Masons we should continue

our efforts to try and establish the reason or reasons for the decline in membership of this great fraternity we call Masonry.

A component of membership which we as Masons often forget is the need to retain members, perhaps it is how we treat Brethren in Lodge, whether a new Mason or a stranger that adds to our decline in membership.

We have all experienced being a stranger in a Lodge room for several different reasons.

The obvious one is that you are travelling through the area and want to visit a Lodge, there are of course other ways you can be a stranger.

How about the member who has decided to return to lodge after several years of absence. He likely will feel like a stranger, or the new member who comes out to Lodge and is ignored. He feels like a stranger in his own Lodge.

We must always remember that a Mason in good standing in his own Lodge should be welcome wherever he goes and not only in his hour of distress but also in his hour of pleasure.

He should always know that the language of Masonry is the same the world over, it is the language of the heart centered on the divine principals.

It speaks in the eye that beholds the sign, in the tongue that speaks the Word, and the hand that feels the grip. In other words there should be no strangers in a Lodge room.

Who among us has not entered a Lodge for the first time and noticed that Brethren walk by without speaking to you, so you then slowly and awkwardly find a place to sit but no one makes an effort welcome you. Perhaps the Lodge is cold not only in temperature but also in the feelings because we feel no grip of a Masons hand, we hear no words of friendship and we see no signs of a Fraternity.

Whose fault is it? The Master, the Officers perhaps, however I believe it is every Mason's fault when we would allow a new Mason, a returning Mason or a visitor to feel like a stranger in Lodge. In Lodge we should never let a new Member, a Visitor or in fact any Mason sit alone, it is after all a Brotherhood.

The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and the Deputy Grand Master and our Ladies have just returned from the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America which was held in the Black Hills of South Dakota and which for several of us created unique travel experiences.

The highest number of registrations in many years attended this Conference. It was suggested that this was created by the revamping of the Conference from comments taken from a survey after last year's Conference. The membership of this gathering came from a vast majority of American Grand Lodges, seven Canadian Grand Lodges, and Lodges from Mexico. Several European Grand Lodges sent representatives as observers.

The agenda of the Conference included several presentations along with several speakers mixed with breakout groups designed to support Grand Lodge officers in the roles and responsibilities of their offices.

A "closed" session of only Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Wardens provided much discussion on key issues facing our Fraternity. This event was intended to review, reflect and discuss such issues as: moving our Fraternity forward by improving communication with all members, raising the bar on Masonic Education and improving the stability of our Lodges and this was accomplished by Brethren standing up and speaking up.

We came with a desire and expectation of Fellowship and came away with shared time, and great discussion which may improve ourselves and our Craft in Freemasonry.

This month's third step in my Blue Print for our Grand Lodge is the regionalization of our Grand Lodge for the purpose of electing members to the Board of General Purposes. This proposal has been discussed for several years however with quality Brethren not running because of long travel commitments it is time to incorporate this into our Board elections.

Each region would be developed taking into consideration geographical area and membership. In each region there would be two members of the Board of General Purposes, one elected in the region by that region's membership and the other member appointed by the Grand Master and these two members would have a two year mandate however they would be elected/appointed in opposite years thereby ensuring there was always an experienced member in the region. The benefit is that the elected member would only run in his region and it would not be necessary to travel all over the Grand Jurisdiction for election and the Grand Master of the day would appoint a Brother from the Region, thereby ensuring 2 "local" Board Members for each region

Paul E. Todd Grand Master

From the Deputy

Why go to Masonic Events? Can't you learn the core lessons of Freemasonry from just attending your own lodge? Well, of course you can, but visiting and special events provide an opportunity to expand your horizons – meet new people, look at things from a different perspective.

The first major special event, in Masonic history, was a meeting at the Goose and Gridiron Alehouse, located in a section of London known as St. Paul's Churchyard, on June 24, 1717. It was not a Lodge meeting. It was a revival of the quarterly meetings, which the Masons apparently used to have. It seems they had an election and a banquet. I'm sure there was also much time for the Brethren to chat and get to know one another.

The Grand Master and I recently had the opportunity to attend the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, and the Grand Secretary went to the Conference of Grand Secretaries, which was conveniently held at the same time and in the same place. It took place in South Dakota in February, but the warmth of the fellowship made up for the cold weather. There were speakers who inspired us and seminars where we could share our challenges and successes. And, of course, a banquet.



President Andrew Jackson welcoming attendees to Rapid City, South Dakota for the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

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You, too, have several opportunities coming up to participate in a special event.

On March 24, Brock University, in partnership with our Grand Lodge, will be putting on the tenth Annual Sankey Lecture. Dr. Chernoh Sesay, Jr., Associate Professor of Religious Studies at DePaul University, Chicago, will present a talk on the origins of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the early American Republic, together with some reflections on the problems and possibilities of democracy in America. The Sankey Lectures are actually put on for the students, but the public is invited to attend, and our enthusiastic support has meant that the Sankey Lectures are the best attended lectures on the Brock campus. This year, we hope our numbers will be bolstered by a number of our Prince Hall

Brethren. Admission is free but tickets are required and can be obtained at: http://sankeylectures.ca/tickets.



Prof. Chernoh Sesay Jr begins his Sankey lecture 2019 with a note about the concept of "liberation historiography", as well as the work of other scholars.

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On April 6, we will be holding an Especial Communication of Grand Lodge in North Bay. In a hearkening back to the days of the quarterly communications revived in 1717, we occasionally call a meeting of Grand Lodge in addition to our Annual Communication. These have been in different locations around the province. In recent years, we have held them in Ottawa, Sudbury and Thunder Bay. A great chance for Brethren from around the province to get a glimpse of what goes on at the Fairmont Royal York. We will have seminars and reports from a few Committees and special talks by the Grand Archivist and the Grand Historian. Much pomp and circumstance will be taking place in North Bay! True to form, we'll also have a banquet and opportunities for the Brethren and their partners to socialize.

And lastly, of course, the big festival, the Annual Communication is coming up soon. This is such an event, that most of us call it "Grand Lodge" even if that is a misnomer. Preceded by the annual meetings of the Board of General Purposes, the Masonic Foundation and the MASONICh.I.P. Foundation, all of which are open to all Masons by the way. The Annual Communication is several days of meeting and working with our Brethren. Committees report on their activities, educational seminars are held, elections take place, and the new officers are installed. Oh, and did I say there is a banquet? R.W. Bro. Allan Casalou, the Grand Secretary of California and a great speaker, whom I have often quoted, will be giving a talk at the banquet. And Bro. Sam Friedman, author of Millennial Apprentices: The Next Revolution In Freemasonry, whom I also often quote, will be holding a seminar. The booking information will be coming out soon, so make sure to watch for it.

David J. Cameron Deputy Grand Master

Editor's note: Photos are added by the Chronicle team, and courtesy of Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario Facebook page

Dates to Remember

April 2019

Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts Lodge of Instruction: Master and Wardens Workshop

Thursday April 4th, 2019, 7:15 p.m. Hillcrest Temple All are welcome.

Hosted by Buchanan Lodge No.550

The Masonic Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts Breakfast Meeting

Saturday April 6, 2019, 8:30 am Masonic Centre Hamilton

Speaker: Chris McLaughlin Bringing Back the Bay

RSVP to R.W. Bro. Thomas Young at: thomas.young@rogers.com

by Friday March 29th to reserve your breakfast. PLEASE NOTE...We are obligated to pay the Rite for all breakfasts reserved. (\$15 Breakfast)

DDGM Official Visit

Seymour Lodge No. 272 Tuesday. April 9th,, 2019 Tyle 7:30 pm Ancaster

DDGM Official Visit

Meridian Lodge No. 687 Wednesday April 10th, 2019 Tyle 7:30 pm Ancaster



DDGM Official Visit

Dufferin Lodge No. 291 Thursday. April 18, 2019 Tyle 7:30 pm, Pie Night Flamborough

DDGM Official Visit

Westmount No. 671 Tuesday. April 23, 2019 Dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:00 pm Hillcrest

Lunch, Fundraising and Fellowship!

Family style all you can eat,

Friday April 12th Doors open 12:00, lunch is served 12:30 pm

\$15.00 per person.

19 Dawson Ave Stoney Creek. Parking is on street.

Anyone wishing to attend must contact W. Bro. Gary Chiarot at: **gpchiarot@cogeco.ca** or cell/ text 905-971-8882

Hamilton Masonic Districts Board of Relief Spring Divine Service:

Sunday, April 28, 2019 At Knox Presbyterian Church 23 Melville St., Dundas Assembly 7:00 pm, service 7:30 pm



Sponsored by Barton Lodge No. 6

International Celebration of Masonic Fellowship

Ancient Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654 and Acacia Lodge No. 61 will celebrate a century of International Masonic Friendship with Ancient Landmarks Buffalo. A unique set of Masonic prints will be repatriated to our Buffalo Brethren.

Masonic Education and no degree work Tues. April 30 - 5th Tues with dispensation 6:00 pm, dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm Masonic Centre of Hamilton

For dinner reservations, please contact our Junior Warden at: <u>JW.LD654@hotmail.com</u> or W Bro. Lorne Evans (289 244-7795)

Buchanan Lodge No. 550 Centennial Gala

R. W. Bro. David J, Cameron DGM will present the Lodge with their Centennial Regalia.

Saturday, June 22nd, 2019 at the M.C.H.

Tickets Now Available \$50 per person Contact W. Bro. Bill Fulton-

Email: sec.ham.c1@gmail.com Tel:905-627-9718

Around the District

Fraternal Visits



Dufferin Lodge No.291 Raising Bro. Paul Szostak to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason!



Temple Lodge No.324 carrying on a 100+ year tradition by returning a Travelling Gavel to Niagara Lasalle No.132 in New York State.

Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge No.654 Bro. William Wallace 60 year Service award



W. Bro. George Jones (W.M.) Bro. William Wallace, Bro. Jeremy Goar (Sr. Warden)

Entered Apprentice Degree in the MCH Cathedral



Fraternal Visit to The Barton Lodge No. 6 A picture of 35 of the 100 masons in attendance

On Wednesday March 13, 2019 The Barton Lodge No. 6 welcomed both St. John's Lodge No. 35 (Cayuga) and Temple Lodge No. 324 (Hamilton District C) to a fraternal visit.

This was the first time that these three lodges have met together but we anticipate that this will not be the last!

The lodge meeting was held on The Barton's regular meeting night and was moved from the lodge room to the Scottish Rite Cathedral, to accommodate a larger number of brethren.

The work of the evening saw Bro. Wesley Corlis initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order by a joint degree team of the 3 lodges. The work was very well done and well received by the approximately 100 brethren in attendance.



L to R: W. Bro. C. Welsh Temple Lodge No.324, W. Bro. D. Tansley, St. John's Lodge No. 35, and from the Barton Lodge No. 6 W. Bro. C. Cooper (SW and Sponsor, Bro. W. Corlis ,(Candidate), W. Bro. J. Boyle, Bro. K. Logan (SD and Sponsor), R. W. Bro. I. Anderson DDGM Hamilton A (and member of The Barton).



Freemasonry in Hamilton Series PART 8 WEST FLAMBORO

DUFFERIN LODGE NO.291







The "Township of Flamborough West" was in 1873 a truly agricultural community. As an agreement had been reached in 1872 with Dundas Valley Lodge No. 100 to permit a new lodge in West Flamborough, five brethren avowing intent, together with three supportive visitors, met January 9th, 1873 in a room over the blacksmith shop owned by one of the brethren, Bro. Alfred Jones. At that first meeting in 1873, applications for membership were received from Mr. John Dodd and Mr. Robert Peebles. Their admittance into the Craft made seven, and Dufferin Lodge was now perfect.

Other Dufferin Lodge brethren family names, still well known, included Weir, Betzner, Dyment, Neff, Crooks, and so many others. Adam Crooks, for whom Crooks Hollow Road is named, appears to have then owned the land on which Dufferin Lodge, at 200 Hwy 8, is now located.

In 1888 a motion of the lodge was recorded that steps be taken to dissolve the lodge and surrender the charter within six months. A later motion, in 1889 that amalgamation with Valley Lodge be investigated, was passed and negotiations were started. Valley Lodge passed the necessary motion approving the amalgamation and darkness for Dufferin Lodge appeared imminent. Dufferin Lodge, however, was unable to muster a quorum to ratify the agreement and so by its inability to darken light was preserved.

The room in which the eight brethren met in 1873 remained as the lodge meeting room for 38 years until 1911 when larger quarters were needed. Wor. Bro. Alfred Jones, one of the founders, and the owners of the lodge building, offered the use of a frame carriage house on the same property, solving the immediate problem. After Wor. Bro. Jones' passing in late 1917 an agreement with his widow could not be reached.

Negotiations began to purchase the present temple building from the Methodist Church Trustee Board. In 1918 the purchase was completed for the sum of \$550.00. In June of that year the new lodge room with its new furnishings was completed and the first meeting was held there.

R.W. Bro. George Jones, was in July, 1918 the first candidate initiated in the new lodge room. He was in 1931 elected to be the Worshipful Master and in 1954 to be the D.D.G.M., Hamilton District "A". In 1968, after 50 years in our present building, we were treated to reminiscences by R.W. Bro. Jones that brought the lodge and those years alive to us. His sudden death in 1969 left an unfilled void in our fraternity.

There has been a building committee on the scene in our present building, from the start – repairing, remodeling, refurbishing and redecorating. It all started just two years after purchase when the building committee had electrical power and lighting installed. The work still goes on as the present building committee is now converting of the balcony into more usable space.

In 1948, our 75th anniversary celebration was attended by The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. T. Hamilton Simpson and many other distinguished Grand Lodge officers. The extremely large gathering was too much for the banquet room floor which collapsed due to dry rot. Both spectators and participants will vividly remember this event. Fortunately no one was injured and the good humour of those dumped into the crawl space sustained the occasion. The banquet room floor is now on firm concrete.

Likewise, as Dufferin Lodge approaches its 150th anniversary we are supported by renewal through newly initiated and affiliated members.



The 145th Installation and Investiture of the Worshipful Master and his Officers October 18, 2018

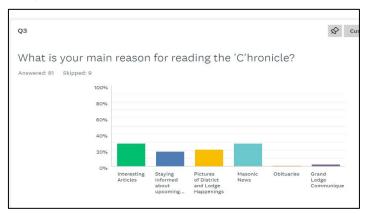
Survey Says!

At the January District meeting, we announced that the Chronicle would be doing a readers survey to get an idea of what people think. So we did our homework, created some questions and cleaned up our subscribers list.

Then in February, with fingers crossed, the editors sent every reader of the Chronicle a link to respond to a readers survey. We were prepared for the worst, but received some really good news. The readers who responded really like what we are publishing every month.

Some key statistics, we have 586 listed subscribers, and received responses from 91 readers. Anything over 10% is considered good response, we had just under 16% response.

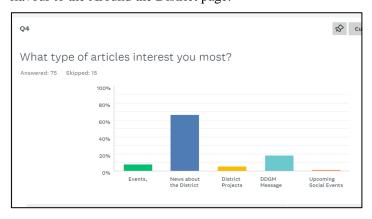
Of the feedback provided there was an overwhelming approval rating.



Some things to consider:

The GM and DGM Communique had interesting feedback, many said that with Grand Lodge emails, featuring the Communique was a waste of space. Others suggested abridging the content... An aside, I am not brave enough to alter the Grand Masters thoughts and words. Yet almost everyone said they read it. So as editors we need to think over what to do.

Readers want more local content. So I need to ask you for submissions, lets get bragging about what is happening in District C. check our page 5, we are trying to bring that local flavour to the Around the District page.



The Passport Feature is a hidden mystery. We get travel submissions so infrequently it appears our poor little passport is a lost art. The good news is we have one hidden in this month's edition. Shouldn't be too hard to find!.

How Can We Improve? Feedback:

- Nothing to suggest -- it's good as it is. 25 similar comments
- What's a passport article? 12 mentions.
- Open and read and forward to Lodge Membership
- Articles that are relevant to new younger members to keep them interested in the craft.
- Always room for improvement however I enjoy the format as it is
- Articles from new members about how they see the Craft. Items regarding what very young members are looking for and what they don't want to see..
- More Protocols & Etiquette
- Include a column that is either a quick "daily advance in Masonic education" which is either a protocol and etiquette style blurb, a history bit, or something to get people thinking or asking questions.
- Encourage others Masons to contribute, masonic education, out of country lodge visits
- More articles on the history of masonry in our district, lodges etc keep up the good work
- By omitting articles that are available on the Grand Lodge web page, e.g. The Communique.
- Precis the submissions from GL
- I would like to see some articles on Masonic Travel. ie Friend to Friend Monument The first ever in a National Park (Gettysburg) M.W. Bro. Mercer's plaque in front of the cemetery where he is buried.
- Keep articles current and interesting. Short and informative

Editor's Favorite Comment:

 You guys do a very good job. I'm not sure what you could do to improve. Be wary that some changes "for the better" could have the opposite effect. Thank you for your efforts.

Summary:

The good news, those that responded like our newsletter, comments were constructive and appreciated.

The thing to bear in mind, 80% of the readers did not comment. So, we are hoping they agree, but are willing to listen if you want to discuss!

We need your help! Local content requires local submissions, Send your pictures, articles and ideas, we try to use them all.

As an editorial rule, we limit our content to 8 pages. We try to support articles with images and graphics to make them more interesting. Sometimes it is a squeeze to get everything in, but we are up for the challenge,

Thank you to everyone who took some time to respond. It is nice to get honest feedback, and know the Chronicle is meeting your needs and expectations.

S&F Glen Notman Bill Macpherson

From the Editor

Brethren.

Most of what I want to say to you is in the *Survey Says!*, but here are my front of mind comments. In this edition we continued our history of freemasonry in Hamilton. We again plumbed the depths of our webpage and used the history there to add in Dufferin Lodge's amazing story.

Note on the GM and DGM pages, we add images to support the message. As a policy, we do not edit the content provided..

Things are busy in April. So many things going on, we filled the whole page with this months events. Spring has sprung etc.. Masons are getting busy! Would love to see the photographic evidence.

As always, we invite your feedback and comments; If you have, or want to see, some content; drop Bill or I a note or email. All submissions are welcome.

S&FGlen



Valley Lodge No.100





Great Golf Good Friends Laughter Annual Golf Tournament * 2019 *

Prizes Saturday, June 15, 2019

18 Holes of Golf Electric Golf Cart with electronic score card Awesome Buffet Dinner Surprise Auction



Proceeds of Surprise Auction in support of Autism research through the Masonic Foundation of Ontario

\$150 per Golfer, or \$65 for Dinner & Surprise Auction Only

Contact Geoffrey Allan 905-339-7724 or geoff@comnect.com

IN MEMORIAM

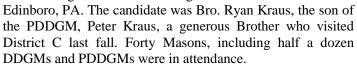
In Life Respected, In Death Regretted. We Shall Cherish their Memory in Our Hearts.

Passport

A Unique Experience Oasis Lodge #416

F&AM Masonic Lodge in Edinboro, PA

I recently had the pleasure of attending a Master Mason Degree at Oasis Lodge No. 416, in



The Antient Ritual in PA is most interesting. Words and phrases are, of course, familiar, but they are presented in a different order, with various additions and omissions. The Degree was conducted and delivered almost entirely by the candidate's father. Both knelt at the Altar, for the Obligation, surrounded by seven Officers. The candidate was clothed in neither shirt nor shoes, and the ancient Fraternal Circle, arms crossed as in Aulde Lang Syne, was part of the Ceremony.

Afterwards, a delicious lunch was provided by the candidate's mother, an active supporter of the DeMolay movement.

The Fraternity and generosity evident, spoke to the universality of the Craft, and its unbounded Brotherly Love.

W. Bro. Lorne Evans





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