

District 'C'ronicle



October 2019

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.134

In this Issue

<u>A Message from Our District Deputy Grand Master.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Grand Master Communique.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Dates to Remember.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Around the District.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Mystic Order Series Part 3 and District Charity.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Passport Philadelphia Masonic Temple.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Masonic Perspectives, In Memoriam and Editor's Note.....</u>	<u>8</u>

From our District Deputy Grand Master

My congratulations to the Master, Officers and Brethren of Ionic Lodge No. 549 for reaching this landmark and creating such a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for all who attended.



I was invited to attend Ancient Landmarks/Doric "654 Award of Merit," to Bro. Les Jarrett for above and beyond service to the Lodge.

The evening was made exceptional by the inclusion of Brother Jarrett's family; his wife, son and daughter in law. A monetary award was presented to Bro. Jarrett and was then ceremoniously presented to the Charity of his choice.

The District C Fall meeting was held at the Scottish Rite. I would like to thank all the Masters and Sr. Wardens who attended. Tracey Robertson, Co creator and Terri Wilson, Executive assistant to the Home Hospice Association began the meeting with a brief overview of the services and aims the Home Hospice Association provided to the community. Two other items of the meeting arose one dealing with Regalia, the other piece of business dealt with Long Range planning and the future of the three districts.

I was at Rosslyn Chapel on my family vacation earlier in the year. It was on the same trip I visited The Mother Lodge of Scotland, Lodge Kilwinning No. 0.

At Rosslyn Chapel I was in awe spellbound by the ancient knowledge carved into enduring Stone. The foundation was laid in 1446 by Sir William St Clair. The girl who took my



money noticed my masonic ring and said, "look for the Tyler. He is hard to recognize as he's weathered now." I wondered and set my mind to work. We were there for a couple of hours listening to the tour guides, looking into the crypt. I looked for the Apprentice pillar and found it. I looked for Darius's trial of wisdom and found it. There was no way I could absorb the power of Rosslyn in one visit. I found the "Tyler," almost unrecognizable, he was exactly where he ought to have been, at the door of the lodge.



At the time that Sir William St Clair was inspired to build Rosslyn Chapel, he knew the knowledge had to be carved into the enduring medium of Stone. Probably as a result of the need to proliferate the knowledge or as a mechanism of memory that we should never forget the truths that had been so hard to find through the history of time. Either way Rosslyn, as well as being a Chapel is a monument to Truth and the truth about the Human condition. Whatever Mason's need to do to project the truth, keep the Truth or say the Truth is a pillar of our institution, and is clearly supported by the pillar of wisdom.

I am reminded of the discussion that was had at the District C fall meeting and the foundation that must always be considered when thinking about the future. To that end I look forward to the analysis of District C's long-range planning Committee.

Brethren, I invite you to travel with me this month on my Official Visits to Ionic Lodge No. 549 and Hugh Murray No. 602 and the Installation of Officers at Dufferin Lodge No. 291.

May T.G.A.O.T.U keep you well!
R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'ronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

From the Grand Master



Brethren,

Thank you for electing me as your Grand Master. It is a great honour and I feel a great responsibility to deliver on what I have been preaching for the last few years.

My motto for my term is going to be “Freemasonry: the once and future thing”, or in Latin, as all good mottos should be “Res quondam resque futurus”. I have adapted this from Sir Thomas Mallory’s book about King Arthur, published in 1485. I just changed a couple letters, in each language.

I thought about using “Back to the Future” but that is copyrighted and evokes visions of DeLoreans and flying skateboards. And it is not what I mean. While we should, indeed must, embrace it, technology alone will not save us. We must look back to what our forefathers did when Freemasonry was smaller but growing.

In 1905 we had 35,000 Masons in 386 lodges. We had 22 districts, a Board of 20, and nine Grand Lodge Committees. We now have less than 33,000 Masons but we still have a superstructure built for over 100,000.

During this cold winter of disillusionment, we must prune before we can grow strong again. We need to prune Grand Lodge, Districts, Lodges, even our individual activities. We cannot continue to burn ourselves out trying to be all things to all people. We must concentrate on the quintessence of Freemasonry.

We have a template for achieving this. It’s called the Strategic Plan. It surprises me that it is so relevant because it was first written almost a decade ago, or maybe I shouldn’t be surprised. The four themes still apply: we want to ensure the timeless

vitality of Freemasonry; we need to reaffirm the Lodge room as the dynamic centre of Masonry; we will rebuild our Craft one man at a time; and we must align Freemasonry’s timeless value to today’s modern culture.

One of my favourite quotations is from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the aviator, philosopher, and yes, children’s author: “When you want to build a boat, don’t start by collecting wood, cutting planks and assigning tasks, but instead awaken in the hearts of men a desire for the great and vast sea.”

In my speeches, including this one, I hope to achieve this. But we also have to continue the actions started by my predecessors.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous organist who became a physician and then went to Africa as a medical missionary, once said: “Example is not the best way to influence others; it’s the only way.”

So we’re setting an example by restoring Grand Lodge to the right size.

This year we will further reduce the number of Committees. The core pillar committees will be chaired by members of the Management Committee and made up predominantly of the members of the Board of General Purposes. They will, using the Strategic Plan, decide what activities and programs we will use, share them with Management, and only then start to recruit the Brethren with the skills needed to implement them. We are going to put the horse in front of the cart.

Those are my goals for Grand Lodge – the practical and the inspirational - to lead by example, and to awaken in your hearts a desire for the great thing that Freemasonry was, and can be again – the once and future thing.

Let’s make it happen.

David J. Cameron

Lodge of Instruction Long Range/Strategic Planning

Monday, October 7th, 2019, 7:30 pm
Round Room, Masonic Centre, Hamilton
4 Queen Street South, Hamilton

No Regalia

A good kick start for District and Lodges’ “Long Range/Strategic Planning Committees”.

Four of the Five members of the Grand Lodge Strategic Planning Team will be present - they will present the Grand Lodge Strategic Planning + Tool Kit available to assist lodges.

They will be available for Q & A.

Please let V.W. Bro. Thomas Peddle, Hamilton B District Long Range Planning, know your approximate numbers ASAP, so that we can ensure we have sufficient refreshments for those attending.

Thomasfpeddle@gmail.com

From the Deputy

My Brethren:

It is with the greatest of pleasure and pride that I greet you for the first time as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in the Province of Ontario! My sincere thanks to each one of you who attended our last Annual Communication to confirm this election. It is a great responsibility that I humbly except and, with your continued support and encouragement, feel confident that we can continue to make Freemasonry the greatest experience that men can share. I want to thank every Brother who has mentored me over the last thirty-nine plus years of my Masonic career and especially those who were there for Cheryl and I over the last year.

As President of the Board of General Purposes and with the support of our Grand Master, the first task we have as a Management Team and, in cooperation with the Management Committee of your Board General Purposes, is to put a Committee structure in place to deliver the programs of our Grand Lodge with the proper manning as needed.

For the coming year, all Committees have been grouped under the five pillars of our Strategic Plan, each headed by a member of the Management Committee: Craft Stewardship and Masonic Education by R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland; Membership by R.W. Bro. John Hay; Communication by R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik; Operations by R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman and Community Outreach by R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco. It is an excellent collection of very dedicated Masons and a good mix of veterans plus the latter two new Management Committee members. The Strategic Plan is on the Grand Lodge web site and I would highly recommend it for your review.

The Grand Lodge Committees are divided into two groups – the Standing Committees are the nine which are detailed in the Constitution under Section 135 and their powers and duties under Section 136. The second are the Special Committees that have been created over time to facilitate special programs for the support of Masonry in Ontario. This number has mushroomed over the years to the extent that at one Board meeting we heard thirty-eight different reports from a dedicated line-up of Chairman and Team Leaders.

This year will continue the recent trend in downsizing with the Grand Lodge Committees too.

We have asked the Pillar Chairman to review all of the Grand Lodge programs with the exception of the Standing Committees listed in the Constitution and decide if they should continue as is, be revised or dropped if their time has passed and to continue them would not assist us in achieving our strategic goals and objectives.

The renewal process started at our first short Board meeting on Wednesday night after the Grand Master's Banquet at the last Annual Communication when the Board of General Purposes was asked to look at the 'big picture' of Grand Lodge Committee structure with a direction to think about downsizing. A week later, the Management Committee received Pillar responsibilities for program execution and reporting. At the same time, they were told which other

members of the Board would be on their Committees to assist with the brainstorming and then delivery of the same. Shortly after, all of the Board members were informed as to which Pillar they would be serving under this year, including the Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

Then the Committees all met with the same renewal objective to make a case for each of the Committees staying as such or shutting them down as unnecessary to meet our strategic goals and objectives at this time. Just because we have run a program for years, does not necessarily mean we should continue. If it has not been productive, perhaps it should be stopped. And we are sure there are some new ideas we should try. Each pillar has been charged with working out a plan and a budget to complete that plan of which the Management Committee will be meeting to decide how to move forward.

We are planning on fewer Committees than in years past but exactly how it will look will be determined after the Pillar Chairman have met with their respective teams and the Management Committee meets in mid-August.

Now I know you will want to tune in next month to follow the renewal of your Committee of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs so be sure to look for the next edition!

Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master

From the Grand Secretary

Congratulations!

Brethren, I offer you sincere congratulations on helping to create a successful Annual Communication this past July.

Because of past incidents, we needed to establish several new policies related to Hospitality Suites this year. I am extremely pleased to report that those Brethren in attendance at the Annual Communication took those new policy guidelines seriously and wholeheartedly supported them.

The number of incidents reported to hotel security was significantly reduced from prior years and the Fairmont Royal York was very pleased with our efforts. This year, the Fairmont Royal York Hotel was glad to have welcomed the Masons of Ontario to downtown Toronto. We turned things around this year. Let's make those efforts permanent.

The Group Booking Code for the FRYH for July 2020 is GRAN0720_001.

D. Garry Dowling, PGM Grand Secretary

DDGM Preparation Workshop November 9, 2019

98 Scott Avenue, Paris, Ontario
Session 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Coffee/Refreshments @ 8:00 am
Lunch at 12:30

Any district is welcome at the DDGM preparation sessions. You will need to bring a copy of the book of constitution with you to the session.

Dates to Remember

October 2019

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Ionic Lodge No.549
Wednesday October 2, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Hugh Murray No.602
Tuesday October 15, 2019
Dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

Installation of Officers

Dufferin Lodge No. 291
Thursday October 17, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
Flamborough

November 2019

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Temple Lodge No.324
Tuesday November 12, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

The Electric Lodge No.495
Wednesday November 20, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
Hillcrest Temple

Installation of Officers

Westmount Lodge No. 671
Tuesday November 26, 2019
dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:00 pm
Hillcrest Temple

Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts

Thursday November 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Masonic Trivia and Chili Cook-Off
25 Thomas Street, Oakville, On
Open to all Masons in Hamilton A, B, or C District
Chili Entrance Fee is \$5 per Crock

The Masonic Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday November 30, 2019, 9:00 am
Masonic Centre Hamilton

Speaker: M.W. Bro. Ronald Groshaws
(\$15 Breakfast)

District Wide Food Drive

W. Bro. Gary Chiarot District Benevolence Chairman and W. Bro. Mike Oddi District Events Chairman would like to pursue a District Wide Food Drive. This initiative would benefit the Neighbour to Neighbour Centre with each lodge collecting food until the Christmas season.

If you have someone in your lodge that would be a contact for W. Bro. Chiarot could you please have them contact W. Bro.'s Chiarot or Oddi so that they can provide more detailed information. Their contact information is as follows:

W. Bro. Chiarot gpchiarot@cogeco.ca (905) 971-8882

W. Bro. Oddi mykeeoddi@yahoo.ca (905) 575-1568



Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 AF&AM GRC
Invites you, your entire family and your friends to an

ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER

On Friday October 25th, 2019 6-9p.m. to be held at the

Hillcrest Masonic Temple
257 Mohawk Road W. Hamilton, ON

\$15.00 per person ticket subscription
Includes unlimited spaghetti/pasta dinner, with tea, coffee, salad and dessert.

All proceeds from this event will support the Hugh Murray Lodge 100th Anniversary fund

*For more information or to reserve tickets please contact:
W. Bro. Edward Patterson at 905-517-6728 or tardis_01@hotmail.com*

Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief

Fall Divine Service

Sunday October 27, 2019
Assembly at 7:00 pm, Service at 7:30 pm
Ryerson United Church
842 Main Street East

All Masons and families invited, regalia to be worn.



Around the District

Ionic Lodge No. 549 100th Anniversary



The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron, Grand Lodge Officers, Visitors and the Members of Ionic Lodge on their 100th Anniversary Celebration

Fraternal Visit to Anc. Landmarks/Doric No. 654
on Sept. 24th by R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch DDGM Hamilton
Masonic District C-

Initiation of Mr. Mark Melnyk.



MM certificate
presented to Bro.
Austin Holden with the
DDGM and W. Bro.
Jeremy Goar (W.M. of
Anc. Landmarks/Doric
No. 654) 2019 09 24



The Grand Master, with Ionic Lodge Officers and Members.



654 AWARD OF MERIT
Presented to
BRO. LESLIE P. JARRETT
In recognition of your
Outstanding Service to your
Lodge and to your
Community

Buchanan Lodge Fraternal Visit



Congratulations to V.W. Bro. Bill Fulton on receiving
his Grand Steward Regalia at Buchanan Lodge.



THE RISE OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Part 2: John P. MacKay of the Hamilton Hindoo Koosh, the first Canadian Grand Monarch for Supreme Council.



In 1936, John P. MacKay of the Hamilton Hindoo Koosh, who had been the Worshipful Master of The Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks No. 654 in 1933, became the first Canadian Grand Monarch for Supreme Council. It is also interesting to note that Landmarks continues the tradition of the Hindoo Koosh Stag Picnic to the this day.

Although a mason for over 60 years I never overheard any information about the operation of the Hindoo Koosh Grotto, but observed its sign at 121 Hughson Street where it had relocated from King Street West. Previously Britannia Lodge No. 8 of the Sons of England had occupied that building.

Unfortunately the building took fire on February 1st, 1960, which seems to have lead to the ending of the Hindoo Koosh in Hamilton. Since then, the building has been refurbished and several companies have made use of the facilities.



121 Hughson Street

As noted earlier there appear no records or data on the closing of the Hindoo Koosh Grotto in Hamilton, save one newspaper article noting that the end of an era is just the beginning for the Chedoke-McMaster Children's Hospital. In 1965 the Hindoo Koosh Patrol, established in Hamilton 75 years ago is calling it quits. It once boasted a membership of 2,000. Today the number is down to 44 and the group has decided to dissolve. In one of its final acts it donated \$136,000 to the children's hospital to create a research fund for children's medicine. The first grant will be made next year.

Having contacted the Executive Secretary for Grottoes of North America, in Gahanna, OH, we learned that their records only go back to 1920 but suggest that the Hindoo Koosh Grotto never went dark until 1996. At which time there were 6 Grottoes in Canada: Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Windsor and London. Today London still remains open, but its future is in doubt.

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie

District "C" Charity
Home Hospice Association
www.homehospiceassociation.com



Hope in Life, Hope in Death

To have hope means to have faith. To have faith we must have an absence of fear. When we alleviate fear for someone who is facing the end of their life, we allow them to completely commune with their faith.

Could anything be more important? Well certainly there is no single thing that will affect the most number of people in this life than death when you consider that 100% of us are going to die. How we treat each other along the journey of life is directly related to how we treat each other in the face of death.

It in the spirit of faith that the foundation has decided to provide meaningful funding to Home Hospice Association to advance their work on three specific programs.

Family Fun Days for terminally ill children, their parents and siblings. Family themed events offer an opportunity for new experiences in a safe environment. Such experiences may not have been possible in the past as a sick child can put extreme pressure on family dynamics and finances.

Care and compassion for the pets of terminally ill pet owners. Imagine the doctor has told you it is time to put your affairs in order. Now imagine your family feels that surrendering or euthanizing your beloved pet is their only option so they can focus their care on you. By caring for the pet, trained volunteers journey with the owner and pet along the path of the owner's life-limiting illness. Dying owners may have their pet by their side until death, comforted in knowing the pet's needs during the illness and after death will be met.

Vigil sitting for those in their last hours of life regardless of where home is; including in a long-term care facility. They embrace the home and all who are under its roof, ensuring no one goes alone or in distress. A peaceful space for dying, is created, with Death Doulos and volunteers to sit vigil or comfort family as they sit vigil in the last days and hours.

Your support provides hope to each client they serve. Hope for a good death, secure in faith that comfort, compassion and dignity will blanket the dying and those who love them. Faith that a good death is the best way to help those remaining to continue along their grief journey in the healthiest way possible.

Cheques for donations may be written out to:
Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project #2670

Masonic Passport: Philadelphia Masonic Temple



I recently had the opportunity to visit the Philadelphia Masonic Temple, with some friends and Brethren from Erie, PA. Dedicated in 1873, the Temple was constructed, beautified, and adorned to express, through architecture, art, and "masterly workmanship," the origins of Freemasonry. Seven Lodge rooms faithfully represent seven historical periods in the development of the Craft.



The Egyptian Hall, said to be the most perfect representation of Egyptian art in America, is based on months of first hand study of Egyptian temples. So authentic are the hieroglyphics, sculptures, and art, that archaeology students study them, as if in Egypt. Mankind has always regarded Egypt as the birthplace of the Eastern mysteries, of truth "veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols," that beautiful system preserved by Masonry, to this day.



Of course, Ionic Hall features massive Ionic columns, and conjures up the age of Socrates, Plato, and Pythagoras. Plato taught the liberal arts and cardinal virtues; Pythagoras solved the 47th Problem of Euclid, still part of a Past Master's jewel.



The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania meets in Corinthian Hall, which is decorated with copious allusions to



Greek mythology. Painted friezes illustrate Helios, God of the Sun, in his fiery chariot, Jason and the Golden Fleece, Pallas Athene, goddess of wisdom and war, Odysseus and the Sirens,



and Theseus fighting the Amazons. Above the Master's chair are statues of the Porch Maidens of the Acropolis.



Norman Hall, decorated in the Romanesque style, harks back to William the Conqueror, and before him, to King Athelstan, who summoned a general assembly of operative masons at York (926 AD) to form a Grand Lodge which adopted the Ancient Charges.

Gothic Hall, which alludes to the 11th and 12th Centuries, the era of the Crusades, is the Asylum of the Knights Templar. It features pointed Gothic arches. The hand carved furniture dates back to 1855.

Oriental Hall, decorated in the Saracen and Moorish architectural style, is a faithful reproduction of the 13th Century Palace of the Alhambra, in Grenada, Spain. The ceiling consists of 7000 panels bordered with lotus flowers. The walls represent the lacy screens which protected from the sun, while providing privacy and ventilation.



The 5-storey high Renaissance



Hall, represents a 15th Century Renaissance cathedral. Oil portraits of Moses, Joshua, St. John the Evangelist, and the three Grand Masters who bore sway at the building of the Temple in Jerusalem adorn the walls. The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of PA meets here.

Stained glass, sculpture, and portraits abound in the building. There are sphinxes and secret



passages. An ornate dining hall seats 600. There is a museum, a library, and a gift shop. Incredibly, air circulation ducts were installed during construction 150 years ago, and still serve as part of the modern air conditioning system. The



Brethren who devised and executed this brilliant and artistic Temple have truly left us a cunningly beautiful edifice, one which delights the eye, stimulates the mind, and makes one proud of his Masonic heritage.

Submitted by W. Bro. Lorne Evans

Perspectives

A series of responses from different Masons across the District.

This month's response is from a first generation Mason who has been in the Craft for less than 5 years. He is active and enjoys the fellowship and personal development.

Why are you a mason?

At first I didn't know what to expect. The mystery was very appealing. I was fortunate to have my 3 degrees done very well, which made me want to learn the work and get involved.

By doing this, it allowed me to work on fears of speaking in front of audiences, develop new leadership skills, and meet with like minded people.

What I found out was, that no matter what color a persons skin is, there religious believes, age or background there is a mutual bond and respect for one another. Which I found and still find outstanding.

What makes Lodge work for you?

- Like minded people
- Positive atmosphere
- Team environment
- Can get involved
- No pressure to take on parts.

What makes Masonry work for you?

I like how there is structure. No matter whats going on at work, at home or in the world, I know I can go to lodge and be part of something bigger than us all, being done all over the globe.

Freemasonry has a deep rooted history in Hamilton,ON being able to be a small part of it is humbling and an honor.

What would you change if we could?

- no egos, selfish people or drama
- would like to see more people attend lodge
- have more people think outside the box

What would you leave untouched?

- principles of the craft
- lessons in the work
- fellowship

How do you describe the benefits of Masonry to others?

You get out of it, what you put into it.



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IN MEMORIAM

Robert Bruce Cruickshanks

Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654

Initiated; February 17, 1958

Passed: May 23, 1958

Raised: November 1, 1958

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above September 25, 2019



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted. We Shall
Cherish Their Memories in Our Hearts.**

From the Editor

Brethren,

Happy Thanksgiving to all. I hope everyone of the readers gets something out of the Chronicle. Thanks to W. Bro. Lorne Evans for his Passport article to Philadelphia. We always appreciate input.

This month marks the beginning of a Perspectives Series. I have been getting some responses to the questions in the September issue. If you feel like responding, to the perspective questions, please reply directly to me at gnotman@hotmail.com with **Masonic Response** in the subject line.

Next month watch for more Perspectives, and in support of the Divine Service some interesting submission and content related to District Benevolence.

Also, a Happy Halloween to everyone as well!. Careful of any children on the 31st!

S&F, Glen

From the speaker at the PM Breakfast Meeting on Saturday. "Did you hear that the Masons and the Knights of Columbus are amalgamating and they will name themselves, MASONITES?"



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