

District 'C'hronicle



December 2019

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.136

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

The season of Remembrance honours the selfless,
- the heroes!

The red of the poppy invites the evergreen,
and the season of giving can begin!

Greetings Brethren!

November has been an inspiring Month. The District team and I were warmly welcomed on the Official visits to Temple Lodge and The Electric Lodge. It was particularly noteworthy that V. W. Bro William Gordon received his fifty-year pin in a sincerely affectionate ceremony.



Westmount Lodge revelled in their customary Installation. Congratulations go to the new Worshipful Master of Westmount, W. Bro. Nick Sullivan and the Officers for their continued dedication to the Craft, and their commitment to the Brethren of Westmount Lodge.

As you may know by now, I was able to take my family to Scotland this Summer. I was returning to the country I was born in. Scotland has an established Masonic history. Growing up there I knew nothing of Freemasonry. I became a Freemason in Canada. I was able to visit The Grand Lodge of Scotland on George Street in Edinburgh. It would have been a place I would have walked past on many occasions, as I went to school there. On visiting The Grand Lodge of Scotland, I was invited to take a tour of their museum. Of interest was the Apron display from Lodges around Scotland. What struck me most was that at the time of these Aprons creation they would have all been hand crafted; embroidered and painted. The Love of the Craft is evident. Individuality prized; unity acclaimed. The Faith celebrated. Freemasons have changed the world more than once; in Scotland, Canada and elsewhere. Indeed, it is the corresponding love and devotion of the Craft exhibited in craftsmanship of these Aprons that saw Freemasonry proliferate throughout the world. Our Aprons are a Standard of Truth, of Love and of Faith.



It is with sadness that I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Bro. Richard Chiarot a member of Meridian Lodge who lost his battle with cancer. Richard is the brother of W. Bro. Gary Chiarot. We shall cherish his memory in our hearts.

Brethren, I wish you and your families the very best this Christmas, may the season bring you happiness and laughter. Be safe, be well and treasure our brotherhood.

To the sick and shut-in may the G.A.O.T.U. enrich you and strengthen you. May you enjoy this season of love and celebration this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch

Cum Luce Salutem!

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'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

Brethren,



You may have heard me say that I believe we need to stop trying to be everything to everyone. Focus on what is quintessential about Masonry and drop the rest.

I think that means we concentrate on:

- the Ritual
- explaining and discussing the meaning of the Ritual –that’s education
- and mentoring our brethren

and that’s it, really.

All the rest falls out from that naturally

- charity
- community involvement
- fellowship

If you live the teachings in the Ritual you will do those things.

First is our Ritual. It is our Ritual that separates us from all the Service Clubs and other community organizations out there. It is what makes us different; what makes us, us. It is what has been passed down from generation to generation. It is what our ancient brethren guarded steadfastly.

Since the Ritual teaches everything we need to know to be a Mason, we need to impart it in a way a candidate will absorb it. It needs to be done well. First and foremost, is to present the words in an impressive way.

Clear, flowing and with expression.

What about Memorization? Many complain about having to memorize things – and not just the candidates. Why can’t we just read the Ritual? Wouldn’t it be smoother if we did? Well, maybe, but maybe not. To read something well, one must familiarize oneself with the passage in advance. Would most people do that? And how do you do the floor work with a book in your hand?

But more importantly, memorization has to do with understanding. Not so much for the candidate as for the brother giving the work. In every guide to memorizing Ritual one of the first things they say to do is look up the words you don’t understand in a dictionary. Once you understand the words and what the sentence is trying to say, you can then phrase it properly and put the emphasis in the right place. If one is just reading it, most will just gloss over the words they don’t understand and forget to go back and look them up. To memorize something, you must repeat it many times. You must get to know it. That helps you absorb it personally.

Next is the floor work. Most of that is explained in the rubrics in new version of the Book of the Work, but the “red book” is also valuable. And attending a Lodge of Instruction trumps all. The Masonic experience is a group effort. While the words may be able to be learned on one’s own (and that is open to debate!), co-ordinating the movements and actions on the floor of the Lodge involves knowing what each other is doing. Practices are essential.

I have always thought practices were the most fun part of Masonry. The performance pressure is not there. The social benefits are. You can joke around during rehearsal. If another officer is unavoidably absent you can try out his part. A great learning experience. Even if you have only one line, going to the rehearsal lets you see your brethren at work, hear their interpretation of the cadence of the Ritual. Often questions come up about why certain things are done in a certain way and you learn more about the Craft.

The role of Past Masters is to mentor and guide the more junior Brethren. Past Masters at a practice is paramount to success. How can the new officers perform their work in a time honoured tradition if those that know the tradition aren’t there to guide them?

Many Lodges regularly have a time of fellowship after rehearsal, getting some of the benefits of a festive board without the regimentation. Informal discussion of ideas for future projects comes up, problems get solved, and we learn more about our Brethren, their lives, and their families.

With rehearsal experience under your belt you can confidently work like a well-oiled machine on Lodge night, giving the candidate an experience that he will remember with awe.

And that is the main point, isn’t it? Giving an impressive experience to the candidate. We get three chances to do that, and so we must put our all into it.

David J. Cameron



From the Deputy

My Brethren:

Thank-you for tuning back in for an update of the third chapter on the renewal of your Board of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs.

We left off last month with a narrative prior to Saturday, September 7, when our team of Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen and the working Board of General Purposes members all met in Ajax to detail how the work of their respective Committees supported the Strategic Plan of our Grand Lodge and present their objectives.

To be frank, this meeting didn't go quite as well as expected. Rather than all of the attendees focusing in on the Grand Lodge mission to promote Masonic education through our ritual and history and the mentoring of our members, whether they be Grand Lodge Officers all the way to the newest Entered Apprentice Mason, many of the reports we heard were completely unrelated but rather about special projects of their own design to promote Freemasonry in general.

Now, don't get me wrong, the latter is a laudable pursuit – to coin a phrase – but as our Grand Master says, 'not every Grand Lodge Officer needs to make their own special mark through their own special project.' We have limited resources and we need to focus our attention on the immediate and most pressing Masonic needs – to educate and prepare Masons at every step of their development to keep our membership excited about our Craft and able to perform their allotted task with excellence whether it be as a Grand Lodge Committee Chairman, a new Lodge Deacon, a new Entered Apprentice Mason or a prospective member attending your festive board.

I love the old adage – 'how do you eat an elephant?' I agree that we have a lot to do, but success is built on small victories. We need to get some wins and built momentum to go forward!

As President of the Board of General Purpose, I take full responsibilities for not having communicated successfully to the Pillar Chairman of where our Grand Master, and Deputy, want to take our Grand Lodge over the next four years. But our September Board meeting was the first time that the whole Board was able to hear it for themselves. At the conclusion of this meeting, all were sent back to their Committees to develop the action plans necessary to implement the objectives that were communicated and approved at this meeting.

There was an Action Plan Register created from this meeting to track the twenty-five action items for the various Pillars and Committees which we will be using to follow our progress over the year and upon which we will be able to measure our success at the end of the Masonic year. I will be expanding and communicating, over the next several Communiques, these action plans and the progress we are making.

A few weeks after this meeting of the Pillar and Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen, we had a meeting of the Management Committee to get a progress report on the Committee activity and verify that we were now all in the same canoe and paddling in the same direction. We still have some opportunities to synergize our efforts, but we are making progress every day.

We are now in the planning stages of organizing the next Board of General Purposes to be held on Saturday, November 2 at the Scottish Rite Club in Hamilton, where we will be getting a progress report on each of the Grand Lodge initiatives for this year from the respective Committee Chairmen.

The week after, the Management Committee will be meeting via video conferencing to measure our successes to date, revise directives where needed and execute the next steps to meet our goals.

Although this last contribution to the Communique was not so informative, I know you will want to tune in next month, when your Deputy and President of the Board of General Purposes will begin to communicate the details of where your Grand Lodge Committees are directing their efforts to improve the services provided to our membership.

Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master

From the Grand Secretary ... Sending Email to Grand Lodge Brethren,

Your Grand Lodge office uses two email addresses which are: office@grandlodge.on.ca and grandsecretary@grandlodge.on.ca.

You may ask, what is the difference? If you need to communicate with the Office on a purely administrative matter, it is better that you use the office@grandlodge.on.ca address. This will allow your request to be managed effectively and efficiently by the Grand Lodge staff.

This would include things like dispensation requests, response to instructions for Grand Master's receptions, etc.

If you need to direct a matter to the Grand Secretary, you would use the grandsecretary@grandlodge.on.ca address. This would include questions regarding the Constitution, questions regarding Masonic complaints, questions regarding Amalgamations or Voluntary Surrender of Warrants, requests for the attendance of the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master.

Most importantly – in any communication with Grand Lodge, please use the Subject line of the email to your advantage. In the subject line it will expedite matters significantly if you specify the nature of the subject matter, the Lodge or District you hail from and a date if appropriate.

For example:

- Lodge 888: Dispensation request for Nov 01 2019
- ABC District: Grand Master's Reception:
- Lodge 999: Constitutional question
- Lodge 123: Application for Initiation for Mr. Xxxx
Xxxxxxxx
- Lodge 123: Book order
- Lodge 123: Pin request for Bro. Xxxx Xxxxxxxx
- Lodge 123: Suspension notice
- Lodge 123: Change in Secretary contact information
- Lodge 123: Deceased brother report

D. Garry Dowling, PGM, Grand Secretary

Dates to Remember

December 2019

Installation of Officers

Ionic Lodge No. 549
Wednesday December 4, 2019
Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Buchanan Lodge No.550
Thursday December 5, 2019
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
Hillcrest

Installation of Officers

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602
Tuesday December 17, 2019
dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:00 pm
MCH



Santa and Mrs. Clause are coming to the Scottish Rite.

Breakfast with Santa

Masonic Centre of Hamilton
Saturday December 7, 2019
8:30 am to 10:30 am

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in the ballroom.
Everyone is welcome.

Bring your family, friends and neighbours.

Enjoy a freshly prepared breakfast,
Christmas music, balloon art with the Shriner Clowns and a
photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Clause.

The cost is \$5.00 for children ages 3 to 12
and \$10.00 for adults.

For tickets call 519 751-1965
or . email: kwall45@hotmail.com

HUGH MURRAY LODGE NO. 602 AF&AM GRC

*W. Bro Edward Patterson; Installing Master,
the Line Officers, and Brethren of Hugh Murray Lodge
cordially invite you to*

The INSTALLATION of W. Bro. Steven Badger F.C.F. as Worshipful Master

*On Tuesday the 17th of December 2019 7:30p.m.
With a 'Christmas style' Dinner before lodge at 6:00p.m.*

At The Scottish Rite Club
4 Queen Street South Hamilton, ON

*For more information or to RSVP please contact
W. Bro. Edward Patterson at HMLsecretary602@outlook.com*

Dinner Subscription \$25.00
Please R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, 10th of December 2019 or sooner



January 2020

Hamilton Masonic District 'C' Mid Term Meeting

Date: Saturday January 11th, 2020 at 9 am
Ancaster

Installation of Officers

Seymour Lodge No. 272
Tuesday January 14, 2020
dinner NA Tyle 7:30 pm
Ancaster

The Masonic Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

**Invites all Past Masters to our
Breakfast Meeting**

Saturday January 18th, 2020, 9:00 am
Masonic Centre Hamilton



Speaker: Author Ted Barris
"Rush to Danger, Medics in the Line of Fire"
(\$15 Breakfast)

Around the District

November 2019



D.D.G.M. Official Visit to Temple Lodge No. 324



D.D.G.M. Official Visit to The Electric Lodge No. 495



Congratulations to The Electric's newest F.C. Bro. Robert Paling



V.W. Bro. Bill Gordon received his 50 years in Masonry pin



Installation of Officers Westmount Lodge No. 671

ONTARIO MASONIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

LIMITED SEATING
REGISTER EARLY !!!

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020

Registration 8 AM | Start 9 AM | Wrap-up 2:30 PM
Catered Lunch at 12:00 PM

TOPICS
"Leadership and Ethics" – R. W. Bro. Howard Adams
"Meditation in Freemasonry" – W. Bro. Kip Coggins
"Astronomical Symbolism in Freemasonry" – Bro. Terry Fox

SCHEDULE
8:00 a.m. – Registration
9:00 a.m. – Welcome
9:15 a.m. – First speaker – R. W. Bro. Howard Adams
10:30 a.m. – Break
10:45 a.m. – Second speaker – W. Bro. Kip Coggins
12:00 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 p.m. – Assembly of guests
1:15 p.m. – Third speaker – Bro. Terry Fox
2:30 p.m. – Wrap-up comments
Limited seating – register early

Scottish Rite Building, Hamilton
4 Queen St S.
Hamilton, Ontario

The Regional Properties Contact R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte at masonic.college@gmail.com

Registration Deadline is February 8, 2020 -
LIMITED SEATING - REGISTER EARLY
\$40 per ticket, free parking, catered lunch
and refreshment breaks.

There will be no ticket sales at the door.
See the District Secretary for registration form



D.D.G.M. Fraternal Visit to Meridian Lodge No. 687



Order of Entry Into The Lodge Room On Installation Night

It is the custom in some Districts, on the occasion of Lodge Installations, to admit both visiting current Grand Lodge Officers and visiting Members of the Installing Board as one combined group. (This method does save a little time.)

Under these circumstances, the question has been asked as to the appropriate order of entry for each of these important assemblies into the lodge room.

The current Grand Lodge Officers should be the first to enter, (in the order in which they will either be presented or introduced in lodge). The Lodge D of C should escort these GLOs into lodge and cause them to line up west of the altar.

The Members of the Installing Board should follow immediately behind the last Grand Lodge Officer and commence to line up in equal-length columns along the north and south sides of the lodge room.

Why should the current GLOs enter first? It is because of our **“Wand Protocol”**.

Typically at least one of the current GLOs is entitled, by his rank, to assume the gavel (e.g. the DDGM). The Deacons would then have been requested to “attend” with their wands, so they would be standing just inside the entrance into the lodge, awaiting the entry of these visitors.



Our protocol is that only the appropriate GLO(s) should ever be under the wands (whether they are crossed or not). That is why the Lodge D of C never walks between the Deacons. (He always walks around the JD, so as to remain outside of the wands.) And neither should Members of the Installing Board walk under the wands.

The easiest and most appropriate way to open a clear path for the Members of the Installing Board to enter the lodge room, then, is to first have the Deacons carry out their intended function before the Board enters, namely to escort the highest-ranking GLO(s) west of the altar.

That is why the current GLOs should be the first to enter.

R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher, Assistant to The Custodian

The Festival of St. John The Evangelist

Dear Readers, last December in Edition No. 124 we published a list of important dates and religious ceremonies that are observed in November and December. The Feast of St. John the Evangelist, one of the most important dates for Freemasons was omitted. What follows is an extract from

[The Saints John The Evangelist and The Baptist and Masonry](#)
By R.W. Bro. Bill Graham, P.D.D.G.M., Sarnia District
Victoria Lodge No.56 AF&AM, GRC

Freemasonry historically celebrates two feasts of St. John, the feast of John the Baptist which falls on 24 June, mid-summer, and the feast of John the Evangelist which falls on 27 December, mid-winter. In the 18th Century, the premier Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Ireland favoured the day of John the Baptist. The Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Antient Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of All England at York installed their Grand Masters on the feast day of John the Evangelist. The United Grand Lodge of England was formed on 27 December 1813.

The Evangelist is particularly associated with Scottish lodges. The Lodge of Edinburgh was associated with the isle of St. John the Evangelist in St. Giles Cathedral from the 15th Century. The Grand Lodge of All England and its predecessor, the Ancient society of freemasons in the city of York, elected and installed their President, then, from 1725, their Grand Master on the day of the Evangelist. In London, the Antient Grand Lodge of England elected their new Grand Master on the same day. When the Antients and the Moderns (the Premier Grand Lodge) eventually came together in the United Grand Lodge of England, it was on the Feast of the Evangelist in 1813.

In early Masonry, the feast day of St. John the Baptist was always celebrated by the Craft. The Grand Lodge of England sponsored great annual celebrations of this day for many years. Eventually the feast of St. John the Evangelist became important as well and many Lodges and Grand Lodges moved the beginning of their Masonic year from June 24 to Dec 27.

St. John the Evangelist is important to us as Masons...There are many reasons why Freemasons would choose the Evangelist as Patron. His writings read almost like Masonic Ritual. In him was life, and the life was the true light of men. That light shineth in darkness, and darkness comprehended it not. Nowhere else in the Bible, since the beginning of genesis, familiar to all freemasons, is the concept of light so inextricably entwined with the ideas of the Devine spirit.

In his Epistles John continues to work from the theme that the Word and the Light are inevitably linked and goes on to bring Truth and Love as links of the same chain. The idea and practice of Brotherly Love and Fellowship is explored more thoroughly by the Evangelist than any other New Testament Writer. John the Evangelist is described as among the most loyal of the Disciples of Christ and the one closest to Jesus.

(Ed.Note many Lodges in Ontario still perform their installations in December and Early January and on December 27th 1989, the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary was restored after 39 years of darkness)

Christmas Lodge



*Twas the Night before Christmas, And down at the lodge
Not a gavel was stirring, nd in the hodge podge
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 trestleboards 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!*

Author: Clayton L. Wright



Santa sitting in the East at North Pole lodge No.1
getting ready for the big day.

Ed Note. Can you name this Santa?

Perspectives

A series of responses from different Masons across the District

*We still need submission for the Perspectives Series. Please feel free to send me an email with your answers to the "perspective questions", at gnotman@hotmail.com with **Masonic Response** in the subject line.*

This month's response is from a Past Master who is a member, and leader, in multiple lodges.

Why are you a mason?

It all began with a wish for self-improvement, a connection to my godfather and a desire for fraternity.

What makes Lodge work for you?

When the purpose of our participation is clear – fraternity, charity and excellence of Work. Put another way, when these attributes/purposes are not present, I enjoy my in-lodge experience much less.

What makes Masonry work for you?

When I am able to connect my thinking/behaviour/actions to what I have learned. As is noted in the 2nd degree tools, "so as to make all his passions and prejudices coincide with the exact lines of his duty".

Moreover, when I can quietly smile that we have made an impact in our charitable endeavours.

What would you change if we could?

That we could appropriate solicit new members. I fear not making this adjustment, along with a few other concepts, will be the end of us.

What would you leave untouched?

All other landmarks aside from what is noted immediately above. Understanding that 'landmarks' are impossible to completely define.

How do you describe the benefits of Masonry to others?

The wonderful feeling I enjoy as a result of (hopefully) self-improvement, comradery and charitable activity.



IN MEMORIAM

W. Bro. Doug Waterman
Temple Lodge No. 324

Initiated: April 12, 1994

Passed: October 11, 1994

Raised: February 14, 1995

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above October 20, 2019

Bro. Richard Chiarot
Meridian Lodge No. 687

Richard joined Meridian Lodge No. 687
on November 11, 2015 and was appointed

Honorary Historian of Meridian Lodge.

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above November 15, 2019.



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

From the Editor

Brethren,

December looks like a busy month for many of the lodges in Hamilton C. Please feel free to send along any articles, pictures or Lodge events. We are happy to include them in our pages.

In 2020 we will be continuing our Fraternal Organizations articles, but Bill and I wanted to celebrate the season; so consider the Christmas Lodge poem North Pole No. 1's submission. The Santa picture is of a distinguished member of our District. I wonder if anyone can recognize him!

One of the regular features our editorial team discussed adding to our pages was a Protocol and Etiquette column. Ask and ye shall receive, because we have had 2 timely submissions from R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher.

All I want for Christmas is Passport articles about Masonic travels and more responses to our Perspectives feature.

S&F, Glen



Editorial Team

Editor:	R.W. Bro. Glen Notman
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District / Chronicle Photographer:	R.W. Bro. John Hlohinec
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www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org