# Mistrict 'C'hronicle

HAMILTON DISTRICT 'C'

'C'hronicle

SILVER AWARD

2016, 2017

February 2020 Hamilton Masonic District C Edition No.138

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### From our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

Beneath the icy cold inhospitable and January lies a rich Masonic "Warm-reekin rich." And so it is in Hamilton District C. Robbie Burns must be smiling down at poetry charity that has been shared in his name. The Electric Lodge No. 495 hosted their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Robert Burns Night. evening had so many fine moments, too



many to mention. The highlight for me though was when Tracey Robertson from the Home Hospice Association was presented a cheque by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful David J. Cameron in the amount of \$3500.

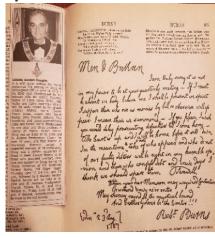
I was able to attend the installation of the new Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Johan Krebs and the officers of Seymour Lodge No 272. To the oldest Master in Hamilton District C I wish for him and his officers every success.

Other events of note were St Andrews Lodge No. 593 Burns night and The Scottish 3<sup>rd</sup> degree exemplified on Burns birthday by Battlefield Lodge No.61. The Hamilton Districts passion for Robbie Burns and Scotland speaks to the unrelenting power of the Brothers of Scotland who from their homes in Canada, revive that memory!

To Masonry and Scotia dear! A last request permit me here, -When yearly ye assemble a', One round, I ask it with a tear, To him, the Bard that's far awa.

I have a little story to tell about the Spirit of Freemasonry. While writing this article I reached for my Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry. I can't recall exactly why I reached for the A-LEC of the two books; but happened to open the book to the Burns section. To be honest it was news to me that Mackey wrote as extensively as he did on Burns, as I had never read that section. If any Brother has a copy of these two books, he will understand they are thick with Masonic knowledge. Beneath the above quoted verse of "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton" was a cut out from the Hamilton Spectator. It was the Death Notice from the obituary. These copies of Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry were given to me by my mentor W. Bro. Douglas Logan, Past Master of Wardrope Lodge No. 555 in July 2010. I was amazed to find W. Bro. Doug Logan's Death Notice here.. What stands out is the way W. Bro. Logan 10 years later has a voice in the words of Robbie Burns.

"Men & Brethren, I am truly sorry it is not in my power to be at your quarterly meeting - If I must be absent in body. Believe me I shall present spirit..." This quotation is extract taken from a letter and reprinted Mackey's in



Encyclopedia by Robbie Burns, written to his Brethren before his death to be read after his death. I believe that was the final sentiment the W. Bro. Doug Logan wanted to convey to his Brethren. "Adieu! a heart-warm fond adieu;"

Brethren, God bless you all in this New Year. To the sick and shut in Brethren, may the G.A.O.T.U. ease your burdens and relieve your distresses.

### 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 <a href="http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org">http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org</a>. 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,

January is named after Janus, the Roman god who had two faces. one looking back and one looking forward. And so, it is a time that we look back at the year that has passed and make plans for the year to come.

There is a movement all over North America, and in Australia as well, where Lodges are looking to the past for ideas on how to run in the future. Of



course, we've always heard about "how we used to do things" but typically, that is just how we did things in living memory - "in my day" as it were. But that is not far enough back. Our peak membership was in 1960, so 1961 was actually the start of declining membership. We must look back before that time period, for our models.

I have attended a handful of 70 year pin presentations. This honour happens only rarely. The first two I went to were about 2005. The two brethren had therefore been initiated in the 1930s. Now I had been to several 50 and 60 year pin presentations as well. At those, the honorees, when asked if they would like to speak, would thank the brethren, talk about the many friends they had made, the charitable projects they had worked on, and told some stories of long-gone brethren who had been their mentors.

However, neither of these 70 year Masons did that. Instead, when asked to speak, they gave pieces of Masonic Education which they had prepared. They gave Masonic Education! I wonder what Lodge was like in the thirties that would prompt them to do this. Was there a greater emphasis on education at every meeting then?

In 2018, I attended a Conference in Indiana called "Looking Back for our Future". I wrote about it in my blog on the Grand Lodge website. The keynote speaker laid the blame for decreasing membership squarely on the shoulders of past periods of rapid expansion: the great Western migration in the

United States, and the booms after each of the World Wars. We expanded so rapidly we were not able to adequately mentor our new members, and the original guideposts of Masonry were lost.

The other presentations highlighted the recuperative effects of re-introducing education and mentoring to your Lodge. You can read more about this at

https://grandLodge.on.ca/index.php/blogs/deputy-grand-masters-blog/444-dgm-blog-april-2018.

As we consider where our Lodge, and Grand Lodge, will go in the future, let us recall the words of M.W. Bro. Frank A. Copus in his address to the Annual Communication of 1935:

"I suggest that we may well look with confident expectation to a future that should hold every promise for the fraternity. But I suggest also the thought that we may well pause to take stock, to ask ourselves quo vadis?, whither goest thou, and whither the Craft we love so well, to seek if perchance we may find wherein we have failed to measure up to the noblest and the best that Freemasonry has to offer. Perhaps in such a quest, we shall make some surprising, some disconcerting discoveries. And if we do so, shall we not mark this important occasion by a new, a real rededication to Freemasonry and to the promulgation in public and private life of those principles of belief and conduct for which it stands? I would that you and I might here and now seek if haply we might recapture that white flame, that first fine rapture of devotion that characterized our entry to the Craft."

Res quondam resque futurus

Freemasonry: the once and future thing.

### David J. Cameron



# **Support Home Hospice** (our District Charity)

Win a Numbered and Framed Print of the Rosslyn Chapel

See the picture on display in the Scottish Rite Club

For ticket information contact Mike Oddi at: 905-929-5545

### From the Deputy

My Brethren: Happy New Year and all of our best wishes for joy, health and happiness to each of you, my Brethren and your families, in 2020!

So back to our renewal of your Board of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs:

We left off at our November 2nd Committee meeting of the Board of General Purposes which was followed the next week by a Management Committee meeting at the Grand Lodge office to have a smaller discussion on where we were headed and how the Pillar Teams and Committees were working towards their goals and objectives.

In addition to all of the duties and responsibilities of the Committees that make up the five Pillars supporting our Grand Lodge operations, as laid out in our Constitution, these five Pillars have been given special assignments to accomplish our push for excellence in Ritual, Education and Mentoring as we discussed in the last Communique.

The Craft Stewardship Pillar has been given the following special assignments:

- Develop a communication proposal to encourage the presentation of Masonic Education, on the floor of the Lodge, at every meeting.
- Create a library of Masonic education articles and have them posted on the Grand Lodge web site and Digest e-mail distribution for the use by the Brethren and Lodge Leaders.
- 3) Develop a mediation handbook for use of Lodges to de-escalate differences of opinions that are disturbing the harmony of the Lodge.
- 4) College of Freemasonry is to submit a conference format plan for review and approval. (Spoiler alert save Saturday, February 22, 2020)
- 5) Create a plan for the Grand Lodge web site On-Line Books sales for review and approval.
- 6) Leadership Development to work with the Mentoring Committee to re-introduce a training plan for new members to the Board of General Purposes.

**The Membership Pillar** has been given the following special assignments:

- 1) Update the Brother-to-Brother, Friend-to-Friend and Cornerstone manuals for web site posting and Grand Lodge office distribution when requested.
- 2) Notice of all presentations, seminars or workshops must be sent to Seminars and Workshops Committee to ensure there is no overlap and to have them recorded on a central calendar on the web site.
- 3) Seminars and Workshops Committee shall place their presentation focus on training of the following: Strategic Planning, Mentoring, Lodge Finances, Masonic Education and Condition of Masonry.
- 4) The Mentoring Committee shall submit and implement a plan that will be focused on training Mentors, Lodge Officers and to have a Ritual Leader in every Lodge.

The Communications Pillar has been given the following special assignments:

- 1) All Grand Lodge Committee communications need to be reviewed by Publishing Review Committee to assure consistency and professionalism before being released to the Email Distribution Chairman for Event or Digest distribution.
- 2) The Library Committee needs to get the catalogue search working on their web site and revise their brochure for distribution.
- 3) The Grand Archivist and Librarian were charged to explore the publication to assist Lodges in the preservation of their antiquated possessions a la "Caring for Your Masonic Treasures" from the Massachusetts Scottish Rite. (In fact, all the Committees have been encouraged to steal shamelessly from our Sister Grand Lodges if they find something that will support our objectives.)

The Operations Pillar has been given the following special assignments:

- 1) Prepare the next generation of the Strategic Planning presentation for the Seminar and Workshop circuit.
- 2) Move the Strategic Planning material from the outside web site to the Grand Lodge web site.
- 3) To make a Lodge Finance Advisory Committee Power Point Presentation for the Seminar and Workshop circuit and regionalize the Committee to have experts all around the Jurisdiction. This Committee has been a great resource to a lot of Lodges, Temple Boards and Corporations and they need to get their message out to a wider audience.
- 4) Prepare report and recommendations on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.
- 5) Develop a new building safety compliance policy proposal.

The Community Outreach Pillar has been given the following special assignments:

- 1) Update the Open House manual for web site posting and Grand Lodge office distribution when requested.
- 2) Develop a business card size elevator speech for each Mason in Ontario to carry in their pocket to become familiar, comfortable and succinct in communicating with interested people as to what Masonry is, what we do, who we are, etc. in order to provide a cohesive and uniform message without verbally stumbling.
- 3) Develop a Grand Lodge brand for general focus of all members and use in the next Strategic Plan.

Knowing all of that, I'm sure you will want to return back in next month to hear how your Grand Lodge team is doing with these new assignments. See you then!

### Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master

### **Dates to Remember**

### February 2020

### D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Valley Lodge No.100 Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm Dundas

### D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Meridian Lodge No.687 Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Tyle 7:30 pm Ancaster



# Hamilton Districts Gala Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 Michelangelo's Banquet Centre 1555 Upper Ottawa St. Hamilton Symposium — 5 30pm Dinner — 7pm DJ and Dancing Prize Table \$50.00 per person Hosted By The Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts

# Hamilton Masonic Districts Annual Board of Relief Meeting

Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 2:00 pm Ancaster

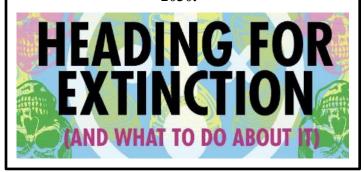
# Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts

Thursday Feb. 20, 2020 257 Mohawk Rd W. @ 7:30 p.m. Hillcrest Temple

Speaker: **R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher** Assistant to the Custodian of the Work & Past member of the Board of G.P.

### **Topic:**

"A frank examination of the current state of Freemasonry in Ontario and what could possibly be done to save us from extinction by 2030."



### March 2020

### D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge No.654 Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm MCH



### **Around the District**





A full house at the Hamilton District C Mid Term Meeting

# Installation of Officers at Seymour Lodge No. 272



Halton Regional Police Service Pipes and Drums

### **New Stoney Creek Temple** I King Street West, Stoney Creek



Bell Tower Place









Sandra Bald Jones Highland Dancers Addressing the Haggis



Presenting the Home Hospice Association with the proceeds





**Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project #2670** https://www.homehospiceassociation.com

### **Perspectives**

An address To R.W. Sirs Association of the Hamilton Districts Waterdown Masonic Hall Sept 14, 2019 (Part 1)

### R.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master

My Brethren.

First and foremost, I would like to thank R.W. Bro. Lou Domjan for inviting me here today and affording me the privilege to share with this august group of Hamilton Masonic leaders some thoughts related to our Gentle Craft and where our leadership needs to be focused going forward.

Although change has never been a regular term in the vernacular of any Mason, I think this will have to be altered given the variety of generational, religious and ethnic groups that make up the membership of our Lodges and communities and the importance of accommodating all of these variations into our Lodges if we are to thrive and grow, or failing that, continue to wither away.

Starting with the Traditionalists, and moving through the Baby Boomers, the Gen-Xers to the Millennials, the obvious conclusion is that our Lodges have to be able to accommodate these diverse groups themselves, and even within themselves in the case of the Millennials, into our membership in order to survive and more importantly, to continue to share our Masonic teachings.

In addition to diversity being one of our cornerstones going forward, we can target our focus group down even more by process of elimination – provided I don't offend anyone. The youngest member of the first generational group of Traditionals would be about seventy-five years old today. If they are not already a member, it's unlikely they will join us at this stage of their life.

The same can probably be said about the second group of Baby Boomers as the youngest of them is about fifty-five. History shows us that the huge majority of men have already used all of their life choices by this age as we don't have many fifty-five-year-old Entered Apprentices joining us. That was harder to say then it was to write...being a member of this group and all

So that leaves the Gen-Xers and the Millennials as our target audience – those men born after 1965, roughly one hundred and twenty-four million men in North America. Should be easy with a number that huge right?

Let's look closer at these two groups then.

While Gen-Xers grew up, they discovered AIDS, crack, child molesters, pedophiles and drunk drivers. They were told to be ever on guard; don't go with strangers; run if approached; they weren't safe in their own back yard. As a result, X'ers are extremely resourceful, independent and untrusting. This generation does not believe in the Chain of Command or the Change in Command; this group wants Self-Command. X'ers are a very misunderstood group because many of them have a very hard time relating and understanding who they are themselves. This generation grew up alone and now longs for something they cannot identify. I know this group well due to

my years of studying them at work and as friends. They are isolationists which makes it very hard to recruit them or even introduce them to anything new. Their favourite position in life is in their homes, in front of their televisions. They belong to nothing. This is obviously a very general statement, but so very true of the majority of men of this generation.

As I said the Xers are generally distrusting of others, but they have a great respect for their Grandparents generation. I'm sure we all know a member or two whose Grandfather was a Mason while his Boomer Dad is still sitting on the couch at home in his comfort zone. This I believe, can be a huge opportunity for our fraternity – yet, our greatest challenge. We need to bring the Xer to our door and show him there can be a better life for him with men of quality then he will experience alone. If he can find men his own age with similar experiences, and if he can find men that he can trust, then he will be a member who will find what he is looking for in our fraternity. Without those things, they will never come to us in significant numbers.

So I believe the best way to recruit this generation is for each of us to act as a good Mason should at home, at work and at play. To **talk** about what Masonry means to us at home, at work and at play. To **convince** Gen-Xer men that Masonry has made a difference in our lives at home, at work and at play. The best recruitment tool that our Craft has is you **\_you**, living your life as our ancient charges and regulations have taught us to do. Billboards and fancy internet commercials aren't going to capture this audience. Only **you**, and the way you behave at home, at work and at play will impact this generation. The only way that Masonry can be judged is by its product. The prestige of Freemasonry lies squarely on the shoulders of each of us. I came across a great quote the other day that I am going to steal as my mantra — "Be careful how you live.

You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet."

Moving on to the Millennials...

In the last ten years, 13,229 men have been initiated in Ontario lodges, 887 of these in the last year. In many lodges, Trestleboards are overflowing, emergent meetings and multiple degrees have become commonplace. However, these are merely statistics, and while a positive indication of revival, we must look closely at the quality and characteristics of the men we are initiating. One thing is certain; they are not the Freemasons of our Fathers' days, and they are not joining simply because their Father or Grandfather was a Mason. The only demographic group that is applying for membership in significant numbers today is composed of young men who are passionately interested in the **esoteric** mysteries of the Craft. Now, words like 'esoteric' sometimes frighten an older generation of Masons. The word simply means 'within' and is defined as something 'profound, taught to, or understood by, only a select circle.' That, to me my Brethren, appears to be a fairly accurate description of Freemasonry itself. But, is that an accurate definition of the Freemasonry we experience and practice in many of our lodges today?

The young men seeking admission and being accepted into our lodges in increasing numbers are not joining the Craft simply to discover the quaint and curious stuff – passwords, odd gestures, or peculiar handshakes. They seek, expect, and

deserve more – much more. They are seeking knowledge of the spiritual value of the rites of Initiation. Millennials are looking for older mentors to guide them through life. They may not go to church, but they are believers. They are looking to fulfill their spiritual needs. They are looking for an institution they can trust that will empower them to go out and change the world.

Freemasonry can do this and if we don't supply them with what they want, they will leave so fast, that you won't even remember their names.

(Ed Note: Watch for the conclusion to this address in our March Chronicle.)

### **Protocol and Etiquette**

These P&E articles over the next few weeks will focus on various key aspects of Head Table protocols



### **OUESTION:**

How many persons can be seated at a Head Table for a Masonic banquet?

### **ANSWER:**

The short answer is there is no specific minimum or maximum number. It all depends upon what is reasonable and appropriate, taking into consideration the occasion, any special circumstances and any physical limitations of the banquet room.

In future articles we will review **WHO** must and/or should be seated at the Head Table, **WHERE** they should sit, and **HOW** to introduce them. In preparation for those scenarios, let us consider why we even have a Head Table in the first place.

A generally accepted definition and reason is that a Head Table is considered as the PRINCIPAL TABLE at a banquet or conference, where the presiding officer, chief speaker, guests of honour and other dignitaries are seated. Thus the number of such easily identifiable individuals present is the first issue to be resolved when determining how many seats will be needed at a Head Table.

Although an ODD number of brethren/guests is often thought to be mandatory when planning the seating at the Head Table, (to enable the Worshipful Master to be seated in the exact centre), there is no such requirement. The Worshipful Master can be seated slightly "off-centre" if circumstances so dictate.

It is the Worshipful Master's role to help identify those persons who should be seated at the Head Table. While other knowledgeable brethren can provide advice to him, it is up to the W.M. to make the final decision.

### TIP:

Everyone knows how many adults can (legally) be seated in his or her car. (*Hint: Just count the number of seatbelts.*) Similarly, every W.M. should know the maximum number of persons who can be seated at his lodge's Head Table. It can be embarrassing to invite more guests to join you than there are seats.

The W.M. should also know whether the Head Table could easily be expanded at the last minute and – if so – how many extra seats will be the result.

Sometimes it is not physically possible to seat every special guest at the Head Table who COULD be there, according to our rules of protocol. When that occurs, bear in mind that a Secondary Head Table could well be utilized.

Occasionally, even exceptional advance planning can be tested. An anticipated Head Table guest may not be able to attend at the last minute, or a high-ranking Grand Lodge Officer unexpectedly shows up. Hopefully you have considered such a scenario as part of your advance planning and know what you will have to do to resolve the situation – perhaps by adding an additional chair, or removing one. Stay committed to your decisions but retain a little flexibility for events beyond your control.

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

### **Masonic Education: Ashlar**

Here is a definition of a word found within Masonic ritual that is not common outside of our Lodge rooms. **Ashlar.** 

To the uninitiated it is a stone selected by a mason and worked with tools to be made square for building purposes, or for pavement. Speculative Masons see the immovable jewels of rough ashlar and perfect ashlar and apply the lessons of our progressive science.



Students of Masonry may find more information in the collection of 'The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education' (Reflections newsletter): Vol 2, No. 2; Vol. 4, No. 1; Vol. 6, No. 2; Vol. 6, No. 4, Vol. 9, No. 3.

https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/masonic-education/reflections-magazine

Provided for your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge from the Sarnia District Masonic Library.

Wor. Bro. Marshall Kern, Librarian & Historian



### Be Inspired • Get Knowledge • Get Wisdom

Grand Lodge has several publications which are earnestly recommended for your perusal and contemplation in order to assist you in making a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge - in particular "Whence Come We?" is recommended to you.

- Masonic Manual
- Beyond the Pillars
- Meeting the Challenge
- Penetrating the Veil
- Whence Come We? Volume II (1980-2010)
- Whence Come We? 125 Year History
- M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels Masonic Minutes
- A Mosaic Palace:
- Freemasonry and the Art of Memory
- For the Good of the Order
- Foundations: The Prestonian Lecture
- Freemasons Guide Compendium
- Further Light
- I Greet You Well: 12 Masonic Lectures
- Know Thyself: Using Symbols Freemasonry
- Masonic Recruitment
- Measured Expectations: Challenges of Today's Freemasonry
- Secret Handshakes and Rolled up Trousers
- Taken by Surprise
- The Masonic Initiate: A Guide to Light

All books listed are available from the <u>office of the Grand</u> Secretary.

## <u>Library, Museum and Archives of the Grand Lodge</u> A.F. & A. M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

The Library's collection of over 9,000 items includes books, pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, videos, DVDs, etc., will enrich the reader's knowledge of Freemasonry, its origins and its place in society. The material contained in the Library reflects the views and opinions of the various authors and thus may not always be in harmony with those of your Grand Lodge. As one's knowledge is enriched, one must also recognize the autonomy of each Masonic Jurisdiction.

The Museum is very fortunate to have on display a very large collection of historical regalia, jewels and artifacts. In addition, the Archives also has a large collection of historical Masonic documents and records.

The Library, Museum and Archives is available to all Masons in good standing and also for non-Masons in our jurisdiction.



### IN MEMORIAM

### Bro. William George Carter Seymour Lodge No. 272

Initiated March 13, 1951
Passed May 22, 1951
Raised June 26, 1951
Life Member
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above July 23, 2018
May the G.A.O.T.U. Grant Him Peace



In Life Respected, In Death Regretted..

### From the Editor

Brethren,

2020 is turning into a fruitful year at the Chronicle. R.W. Bro. Crutcher is planning a series of blurbs for Protocol and Etiquette, submissions from Sarnia for Daily Masonic Education, and my Co-Editor Bill MacPherson found this publication on issuu.com which has some very good articles from UGLE. They accept email subscriptions .pg 74

Freemasonry Today - Winter 2019 - Issue 48:

https://issuu.com/freemasonrytoday/docs/fmt issue 48 winter 2019 It is worth checking out.

The Chronicle is continuing our Perspectives Series, with the text from an address given by our Deputy Grand Master. The speech provides some interesting points to ponder and consider as we move into the next decade. While itprovides a nice summary of the different perspectives we need to consider. We still want to hear your perspective, contact me at <a href="mailto:gnotman@hotmail.com">gnotman@hotmail.com</a> with **Masonic Response** in the subject line.

- Why are you a Mason?
- What makes Lodge work for you?
- What makes Masonry work for you?
- What would you change if we could?
- What would you leave untouched?
- How do you describe the benefits of Masonry?

S&F Glen



**Editorial Team** 

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