

District 'C'ronicle



April 2020

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.140

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Brethren, I was looking for something to write for April's Chronicle article that was appropriate and relevant to the situation we find ourselves in. Then it struck me as most of my ideas do; the Masonic theme for my year as your District Deputy Grand Master is/was "Faith, Hope and Charity."

Please allow me this moment to summarize:

William Shakespeare wrote this of Faith: "There are no tricks in plain and simple faith." Shakespeare wrote this of Hope: "God shall be my hope. My stay, my guide and lantern to my feet." Lastly, Shakespeare wrote this of Charity: "Charity itself fills the law. And who can sever love from charity."

I have realised that the great meditation of Freemasonry is 1 + 2 = 3, that is; faith of the first degree added to the hope inspired by the 2nd degree leads to the transformation of the charitable heart of the third degree. These indisputable themes lie at the ancient alchemical centre of Freemasonry.

From "The Collected Works of M. W. Bro Raymond S. Daniels,"- "The word charity has many shades of meaning; being kind to others, assisting those in need, benevolent, etc. Simply stated it is an act of goodwill or affection – "honest. Heartfelt, disinterested, inexpressible affection." This is



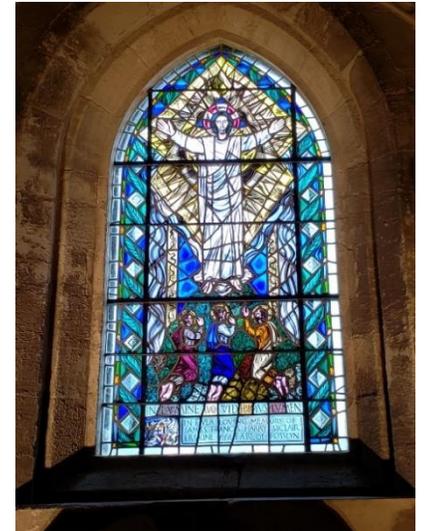
often stated as "The Mystic Tie that binds us in bonds of friendship as Brothers."

It struck me that Brotherly Love is Charity. Or more precisely Charity is the purpose and pleasure of Love. "Charity comprehends the whole." The whole must be God, of which each of us is a part.

Charity improves the circumstances of humankind. Like those who offer their lives in service or duty. A more apt demonstration of duty, service and sacrifice are those examples of greatest human sacrifice; those working tirelessly in the health care professions. Charity is sacrifice. The greatest sacrifice. And at this time of year, our Easter celebrations, charity is reflected in the great exemplars sacrifice, the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. It is The Mystic Tie, the love, the glue that holds our world together.

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est; means where Charity and love are, God is there!

Brethren, I sincerely hope that you are all well and in good spirits. Please be assured that your welfare is my greatest concern. If any of you need any help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is my privilege to serve you!



To the family and friends of R. W. Bro. Allard Loopstra and V. W. Bro. Don Falconer and on behalf of all the Masons of Hamilton District C, I offer my deepest and sincerest condolences for two noble men, both dedicated to this great institution of Freemasonry.

We shall cherish their memories in our hearts!

To all the sick and shut in Brethren and all Masons I extend to you my warmest prayers in these troubled times; may the G.A.O.T.U. comfort you. Wishing God's grace to all this Easter season."

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,

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 teaching the Ritual - 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 naturally do those things.

I discussed Ritual and Education in previous communiques. The third thing is Mentoring - not just the short time spent getting candidates ready for their degrees, but real mentoring – and for a lifetime.

Back in the day, the proficiencies that a candidate had to learn were not written down. They had to be learned mouth-to-ear. Doubtless during all those hours spent learning the ritual one-on-one, there was time for questions on our philosophy, our practice, our charities, our way in the world. Time to get to know the man, and his family, his hopes, his ambitions. Time to build a lasting relationship.

Like the character named Mentor in Homer's Odyssey, a mentor is with you for the length of your travels. And all would agree that our Masonic journey does not end with being raised.

Sadly, this element of our Craft became neglected. Often, the lodge mentor would teach the candidate the questions and answers required for the next degree, as well as the steps, grips and tokens, and that was it. A mentor's job was considered finished after just a handful of sessions over a few months.

Dr. Marina Picciotto of the New York Academy of Sciences suggests that mentoring is like adoption.¹ The commitment is

like that of taking on a new family member. I may add, like getting a new "brother"!

She also points out that there is no "one-size fits all" style of mentoring. The style must fit the personalities and situations of both the mentor and the mentored.

We have developed numerous Mentor Programs through the years, but no "program" can replace that age-old one-on-one process that is true mentoring. It is a relationship that is built up over time. It must therefore be something that each of us does. Like so much in Freemasonry, it cannot be imposed. It can, however, be facilitated.

The United Grand Lodge of England has developed an excellent vision on mentoring² and the first point that stuck out to me was that the job of a Lodge Mentor Chair is not to mentor candidates; it is to make sure that every candidate is paired with a member of the lodge who is suitable to mentor him. The second point was that part of the mentor's job is to run interference and prevent the new Mason from being rushed too quickly into office, or other bodies!

With a tradition in place of giving true mentorship to new members, a lodge may ensure that they develop fully as Masons, learn our precepts and philosophies, and go out into the world to provide leadership in their communities and in their lodge. They will be seen to be good men, contribute to society and be someone others will want to emulate. They will be Freemasons: the Once and Future Thing.

David J. Cameron

1. <https://www.nyas.org/news-articles/academy-news/five-quick-tips-for-effective-mentoring/> accessed 2020.01.14

2. <https://www.freemasonrytoday.com/more-news/initiatives/masonic-mentoring-a-vision-2010.10.01>, accessed 2020.01.14



GRAND LODGE OF
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND MASTER

363 KING STREET WEST
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
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Brethren,

Due to the rapidly evolving Public Health advice concerning the novel coronavirus (now named COVID-19) it has been decided to cancel all Masonic events for an indefinite period. This includes lodge meetings, memorial services and social events. We will continue to monitor the situation and will inform you when it is safe to re-open.

Depending on the length of time this situation lasts, there will be several other administrative adjustments which we will have to make. We will inform you of these in good time. Please remember your vulnerable brethren and check in on them by phone or e-mail regularly. Continue to follow the advice of the health authorities and be safe.

David J. Cameron Grand Master

From the Deputy

My Brethren:

Welcome back to where we left off on our renewal of your Board of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs.

This month I would like to report on the progress the Membership Pillar, under R.W. Bro. John Hay, with an update on the progress of their special assignments given to them this year:

1) Update the Brother-to-Brother and Friend-to-Friend manuals for web site posting and Grand Lodge office distribution when requested.

After several years of these two successful programs being promoted by two separate Grand Lodge committees, it was decided that the limited Grand Lodge resources could be directed to more pressing concerns and with so many successes in these areas, these two programs should be accessible on the Grand Lodge web site for Lodges and Districts to have readily available for continued use. After the first few months of looking at the current Brother-to-Brother and Friend-to-Friend programs to determine what would need to be updated and made suitable for posting on the website, a plan of action was developed. Further edits based on feedback are being applied for the final submission to Management.

2) Submit a proposal on how the Cornerstone Program can be moved from being a committee responsibility, to being administered on the Grand Lodge website and office.

Based on the same plan as above, it was decided to do the same with the Cornerstone Program. This program has only been successful because of the District participation in assuring compliance so what better place to run the program than at the District level. The major difficulty that R.W. Bro. David Armstrong and his Committee have been struggling with is the transition of the program to the Districts when so many Lodges are in the process of working towards being so designated. Following the same steps as above, the draft plan for this transition is expected at the next Management meeting.

3) Notice of all presentations, seminars or workshops must be sent to Seminars and Workshops Chairman to ensure there is no overlap and to have them recorded in a central Seminars & Workshop Calendar on the Grand Lodge web site.

In the hopes of not over-loading a region or double booking our resources, a Grand Lodge Seminars and Workshops calendar now exists on the Grand Lodge web site thanks to the efforts of the Web Site Committee and Chairman Michael Locke who keeps it updated as changes are submitted to him. We still have some opportunities to improve on this item with some of the Grand Lodge Committees and District endeavours, but we are getting better with these efforts.

4) Seminars and Workshops shall place their presentation focus on training of the following: Strategic Planning, Mentoring, Lodge Finances, Masonic Education and Condition of Masonry.

The push for an emphasis in these five areas comes the basic needs of survival of our Lodges throughout the Province. Without a strategic plan and the financial resources to get there, we are lost. As you have hopefully all heard by now, the focus on mentoring for our young members and officers is essential in restoring our lodges to what they were originally intended to be – a place where like-minded men can enjoy each other's company, provide a forum where they may openly discuss and freely debate the basic questions of life. And with new District Deputies each year, it is essential that we train them on the Condition of Masonry materials needed to measure our successes.

5) Draft a proposal for the Annual Communications Tuesday afternoon Seminars and Workshops schedule for approval by the Management Committee.

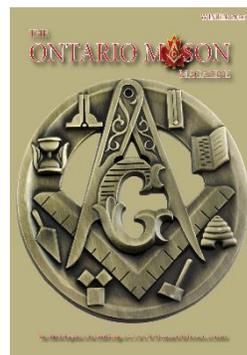
Given the above direction to R.W. Bro. Muss and his Committee, I probably don't have to tell you about the afternoon Seminars and Workshops that are being scheduled for your education and enjoyment at the next Annual Communication on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

6) The committee shall submit a document and plan that will be focused on training Mentors, Lodge Officers and to have a Ritual coach in each Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Robbie Manz and his Mentoring Committee have been given one of the most important tasks of our Grand Lodge, indeed of Freemasonry in general. This Committee has been charged with the true task of making each Mason better; each Lodge Officer better; and each Grand Lodge Officer better. At the end of the day, if we haven't supplied our new Brethren, Officers or Grand Lodge leaders with the tools to do their jobs, improve their skills as a man, a husband, a father and to leave each Degree, Chair or Office in a better state when they arrived – we won't succeed and we have failed our members and our ancestors. A big task for this Committee and they will very soon be reaching out to every District and every Lodge for their assistance and support to find the Mentors that will be trained to make this happen in every Lodge.

Please tune back in next month to hear how your Grand Lodge Communications Pillar is supporting these efforts. See you then!

Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master

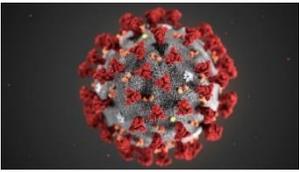


The Ontario Mason Magazine OMM is published 4 times a year with Winter, Spring, Summer, & Fall issues.

The Winter 2020 edition is now available and can now be found on the public side (not signed in) of the Grand Lodge Website.

Please share it with your Masonic & non-Masonic friends.

<https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/official-website/ontario-mason-magazine>



Dates to Remember Covid Cancellations

GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Hamilton District "C"

Brethren, I hope you are all well.

I am writing to you now to advise you of my position on the events currently confronting us and our Order. The Grand Master and The Grand Lodge have done an excellent job of monitoring the situation and providing use with timely updates.

I have always believed in our Order's responsibility to ourselves, our lodges and our communities. And it's to our community's health and welfare that our attentiveness as mason's should be more keenly aware. There are places around the world where this virus is causing havoc. The health care resources in those areas are being stretched to their limits and the consequences of that are too terrible to mention.

In the unlikely event, one of us should get sick by way of a meeting and a handshake or a doorknob or light switch and be contaminated by this virus there's a good chance we could cause a cluster of infections. Our local health care resources are only able to care for a certain number of illnesses at any given time; we should therefore not draw on those services and take them away from a public that will most likely need them. I feel very strongly that we need to be seen as leaders in our communities by taking on the difficult changes in our practices and customs; which in my opinion should include the elimination of all Lodge meetings and events that could pass on or spread this virus to brethren.

We are being confronted with an unprecedented situation, we need to balance the unforeseeable future with caution and intelligence. And at the very least not be responsible for taking up what may be crucially needed health care resources.

To that end I am withdrawing my participation from all meetings and events until further notice. I cannot in good conscience be responsible for any part my presence may have in furthering the effects of this disease in any manner, especially as there is an implied ruthlessness in this disease that's marked by the world's response to it.

Brethren, we have a duty to ourselves, our lodges and our community lets stand together against this disease, with careful and conscientious action. In order to stay up to date with accurate information please visit the following site that is run by the Ontario government that is updated twice daily.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

God bless you and God bless our Order.

**District Deputy Grand Master,
R.W. Bro. Jason D.S. McCulloch**



As you are aware, the ongoing Covid 19 crisis has necessitated some drastic changes in Scottish Rite Masonry right across Canada. Our Sovereign Grand Commander has ordered that there will be no Scottish Rite meetings of any kind until we are notified otherwise.

You received a copy of his letter outlining this policy several days ago. In the context of the Valley of Hamilton, this means that all activities related to the Spring Assemblies in **ALL THREE BODIES** are now cancelled.

This includes the assemblies themselves as well as related Balloting Assemblies and Executive Meetings etc. As this situation continues to develop, you will be receiving updates from time to time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this most difficult period of time.

Ken Adamson
Administrative Secretary



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Companions,

Due to the rapidly evolving Public Health advice concerning the novel coronavirus (now named COVID-19) it has been decided to extend the cancellation of all Chapter events until further notice. This includes, as previously stated, Chapter meetings, memorial services and social events.

Those Chapters who have requested dispensations to cancel or postpone their meetings, will be covered by this blanket dispensation. We will continue to monitor the situation and will inform you when this decision is changed.

In addition, the Grand Convocation scheduled for April 23, 2020 to April 25, 2020 has been cancelled.

*Hamilton Districts Reception and Dinner in honour of the
Grand Master, M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron.*

Cancelled until Further Notice



**Past Masters'
Association of
the Hamilton
Districts**

Brethren, it is with regret, but due to Covid-19 concerns, the Grand Master's Reception scheduled for May 1st, 2020 at the Scottish Rite in Hamilton has been cancelled. Rescheduling will be at the discretion of the Grand Master.

Around the District

March 2020



D.D.G.M.'s and District Secretaries at the District Gala
L to R, R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch, W. Bro. Craig McPhail,
R.W. Bro. Michael Martin, W. Bro. Douglas Bennie
R.W. Bro. Scott G. Laing, W. Bro. Robert Elliot



R. W. Bro. John MacPherson receiving his 50yr pin
at the Barton Lodge No. 6 with I.P.M W. Bro Jeff Boyle,
W. Bro Colin Cooper, Grand Master M.W Bro David J. Cameron,
& Bro. Jason D Drosky



Hamilton C District Leadership Team
R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch and his right hand man,
our District Secretary W.Bro. Craig McPhail



Temple Lodge No. 324 after a first degree
with four Entered Apprentices, and the twins from
the Electric Lodge No. 495

Humour

STOCK MARKET UPDATE:

Helium was up, feathers were down.

Paper was stationary.

Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading

. Knives were up sharply.

Pencils lost a few points.

Hiking equipment was trailing.

Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.

Weights were up in heavy trading.

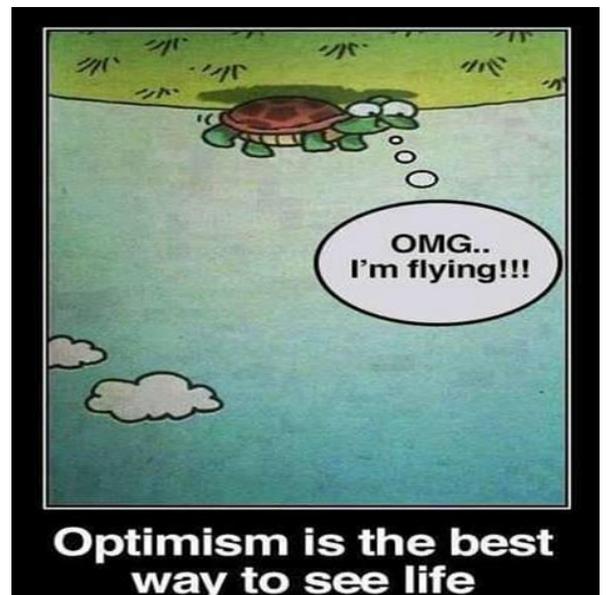
Mining equipment hit rock bottom.

Diapers remained unchanged.

The market for raisins dried up.

Balloon prices were inflated.

And toilet paper touched a new bottom.



Protocol and Etiquette

Continuing onward from the previous submissions on Head Table protocols This article discusses seat assignments



QUESTION:

How are seats assigned at the Head Table for banquets?

ANSWER:

“Please be seated – just not there.”

Not all seats at a Head Table are considered equal. Freemasonry (as well as many other organizations) recognizes a hierarchy of importance among its members and guests. Your knowledge of how we are to integrate this protocol within our Head Table seating plans will be evaluated and noted by the brethren every time you preside at a banquet.

Let’s begin with the **key seat**... i.e. the most important seat at the Head Table. That is **where the Presiding Officer sits**, (who is typically the Worshipful Master of the host lodge).

The Presiding Officer is seated in the centre of a rectangular table(s) with the longest side facing the room. The centre of that table functions as our starting point when we are organizing the seating plan. All the other Head Table guests radiate outward from the Presiding Officer, successively to his right and his left, in alternating and decreasing importance to the Craft.

In this Jurisdiction, we are following a protocol established centuries ago in Western society. The **key seat** is the most visible seat to everyone in the room. It also affords the occupant a direct view of both everyone at the Head Table and also those seated throughout the room, making it an ideal position from which to conduct the banquet proceedings.

Being usually located on that side of the table which is furthest from the door – and facing the door –everyone entering or leaving the room is also easily noticed from the key seat. This is useful information to have while working your way through the evening’s agenda.

The communication factor at any event is critical. Effective communicators want to be visible and to be heard. They want to be able to make eye contact with their audience and evaluate their reaction to what they are saying. That is why such great emphasis is placed on ideal seat selection.

Incidentally, the protocol of **seating the Presiding Officer in the centre** is observed by such heads as our Chief Justice when the Supreme Court of Canada is in session; by Her Majesty The

Queen at State Banquets; by our Grand Lodge at the Grand Master’s Banquet every July at our Annual Communication; and even by Leonardo da Vinci over 500 years ago when he painted his masterpiece – *The Last Supper*.

We obviously will not be able to conclude our discussion of this very important topic this month. There is much more to come over the next two months. My goal is not to overwhelm you with too much information at once but to present you with successive, easily-understood segments pertaining to developing a Head Table seating plan.

Next month our discussion will focus on the **second most significant seat** at the Head Table, that being the one on the Presiding Officer’s immediate right. This is where the **Guest of Honour** must be seated. As you will see in next month’s segment, the selection of your Guest of Honour is not always obvious. Specific criteria applies. The main purpose of the banquet is usually paramount in making your decision. Indeed, identifying your Guest of Honour could turn out to be your most important decision of the evening.

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

Masonic Education

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

Ejaculation. A phrase in an early lecture is ‘the many pious prayers and ejaculations offered up by King David’. Some of the uninitiated who hear this will recall their sex education classes and be confused. The educated man knows this use of the word ‘ejaculation’ properly means to speak a quick and short prayer or religious exclamation such as “St. John the Evangelist, pray for us”. An initiated and educated Mason will acknowledge an example of an ejaculation is “so mote it be”.

Ongoing Masonic Education

There are many resources to help you make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. Perhaps your Lodge has a website with a collection of articles (my Lodge does). Or maybe your District has some information (Sarnia District does). Our Grand Lodge has digitized some important items for Masonic Education. First, sign-in. Then start exploring. Start with “Documents”, then “Books”, to get to digital copies of these books:

- For the Cause of Good
- History of Grand Lodge 1855 1955
- Lodge Resources material symbolism
- Symbolism Discussions
- Towards the Square

Also in “Documents” is the complete set of the “Protocol & Etiquette” newsletters. And in “Education” is the complete history of “Reflections Newsletter”. And there is more on the Grand Lodge website.

W. Bro. Marshall Kern, FCF, PM, Librarian & Historian
www.sarniadistrictmasons.ca

Ed Note there is now a Blog for W. Bro Kern’s submissions. Find it here at: <https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/>

College of Freemasonry

The College of Freemasonry, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario offers modular courses of study. The modules cover studies in:

- Masonic Arts and Sciences for Master Masons (FCF)
- An Aspiring Worshipful Masters Course
- Past Master's Course for DDGM (B. of C. sec. 50(b))
- Past Master's Course for BOGP (B. of C. sec. 38(b))
- District Secretary's Course
- Individual module on Esoteric Studies

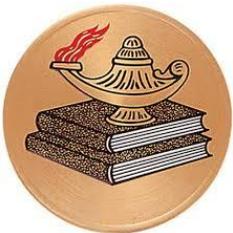
You can take individual modules, (\$10 each) or enroll in a whole course depending on your needs. Get your certificate upon the **satisfactory** completion of a course.

The charge to the newly initiated candidate instructs the candidate and all Masons alike on the need for studying the "liberal arts and sciences ...and without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station, to consider yourself called upon to make a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge".

Each of the courses of study enables you as a Mason to become aware of the richness of your Masonic experience though the study of history, philosophy and symbolism, and our Constitution as they are related to Freemasonry. Courses enable the Mason to establish a deeper meaning through conscious examination of Masonic teachings that should shape the daily actions and responses of the Mason; give us an appreciation of the past, understand the present, and help us shape the future.

Our Masonic Art guides and directs each Mason to know himself by providing a carefully constructed course of Self-Improvement. The College of Freemasonry courses are designed to be an aid to that end – **"Get Knowledge – get Wisdom, but with all thy getting, get Understanding"**. It is about learning and understanding the Craft.

Instructional material made available by our Grand Lodge, puts forth the idea that Masonry and Education are synonymous terms. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education emphasizes the crucial role learning plays in the life of the lodge and the individual. The courses develop a greater awareness of the moral lessons contained in our lectures and how they should be used to build character and understanding.



The objective is to produce knowledgeable, well-read, and articulate Masons and to provide opportunities for discussion. Learning is always a work in progress. The goal is to light the lamp of learning for each individual Mason and for each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

The study courses do not tell you what to think, nor tell you how to think, but they do give you something to think about. Brother Manly Palmer Hall had this to say, "Masonry is a University teaching the liberal arts and sciences to the soul to all who will attend to its words." The course of study in the Masonic Arts and Sciences is built around the idea that *"Education is not received – it is achieved"*. *If you don't work at it, it won't work for you.*

The College uses a modular approach to courses that provides an opportunity to learn the Craft at the basic level through to serving as a Master or as a Grand Lodge Officer. Specific Modules are aligned to the qualifications for that position. Earn course credits as you take modules individually, take only those modules that you are particularly interested in or until you have completed the whole course. A course certificate is awarded once ALL of the modules for the course have been completed.

Masonic Arts and Sciences Course

(Open to all Master Masons) - \$135 for the complete Course
The Masonic Arts and Sciences Course, requires Modules 1 through 16b. They can be taken in any order; however, the preferred order is in numerical order. This course provides you a fuller educational experience to assist in your masonic journey from becoming a Master Mason until the time you lay down your working tools. Regardless of your masonic endeavors or your experience as a mason, there is something of value to offer every mason who takes educational journey.

Upon successful completion of this this course you will be received as a "Fellow of the College of Freemasonry" and awarded the appellation "FCF".

Past Masters Course - (\$50.00 for the complete Course)

To be eligible to enroll in either of the Past Master's Courses, you must be an Installed Master of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. Please check the eligibility requirements as set out in the Book of Constitution, Sections 38(b) for BOGP and 50(b) for DDGM and GR.

To complete the Past Master's Course (DDGM, BOGP or GR), the applicant must complete Modules 6, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 17.

Aspiring Worshipful Masters Course (\$50.00 for the Course)

(Open to all Master Masons) Complete course of study one must complete Modules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson stated in 1858 that it should be the ambition of every brother to become a model Master of a Lodge and to discharge with efficiency and zeal the duties of that important office. Those duties are not confined to the mere repetition of a few phrases, learned by rote, but he should be enabled to instruct the Craft, not only as to the meaning and origin of our ceremonies, but also to explain to them the philosophy which is veiled in its allegories and illustrated by symbols. The Master of the Lodge should also, in his life and in his conversation, be a model for his brethren to admire and imitate, and should practice, out of the Lodge, those great moral doctrines and virtues which he inculcates within its walls.

It is clear from reading the above statement by M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson that it was his view that that the strength of Freemasonry lies with those who aspire to the leadership role. The opportunities are many to become a leader in Freemasonry. One can become an effective leader and not be elected or appointed to a position in a Lodge.

Registrations for the College Courses can be found on the Grand Lodge Website by clicking on "Education" then "College of Freemasonry", the file you need is listed there, or you may request an application from the **College of Freemasonry** at: masonic.college@gmail.com

Masonic Foundation of Ontario

Humble beginnings to modern times

Charity has been a long standing tradition amongst Masonic Brethren. Dating back to the early beginnings of Masonry.



The lodge at Aberdeen, Scotland in 1670 pledged itself to make contributions to the Mason Box, for support of distressed brethren and the education of their children.

The Upper Canada Gazette of June 28, 1797 carried a notice about the Lodge of Philanthropy at Newark (today's Niagara-on-the-Lake), No. 4 (Upper Canada) that "... At a meeting of the Lodge in their room, Newark, it was resolved that a fund should be established for the benefit of Free Masons' widows, the education of orphans, and indigent brethren's children."

As early as 1799 the surviving written bylaws of the lodge at Grimsby, No. 15 (Upper Canada), required that masons attending lodge meetings would make a donation "... to be put to the fund for indigent brethren."

The Grand Lodge of Canada was founded in 1855. Its first Constitution, approved in 1856, provided for the formation of a standing committee on charity. Originally Grand Lodge's own general funds were used to create a Charity Fund, the interest earned to be used for charitable purposes. By 1872, \$3,575 had been contributed through 98 grants. Beginnings in 1871 monies were regularly spent on disaster relief (such as hurricane Hazel in 1955) and in supporting a special war service committee when homes were opened to British children bombed out and evacuated. In 1964, Grand Lodge created a charitable foundation under a private act of the Provincial Legislature.

The objects of the Foundation are to receive, maintain, manage, control and use donations exclusively for charitable purposes within Ontario. Thus was the Masonic Foundation of Ontario established (www.masonicfoundation.on.ca). As social programmes developed and expanded through social assistance, health care, pensions, employee benefits, etc. the focus of charitable giving's shifted. Today the interest earned from the foundation's capital fund (\$14.6 million on March 31, 2016) is used exclusively in Ontario for the relief of poverty, advancement of education and the advancement of other purposes beneficial to the community. The foundation is committed to funding bursaries, hearing research, drug and substance abuse education in the school systems and other specific and community projects which fall within its guidelines.

Masonic charity and benevolence has grown over the years to include, research in health care, drug awareness programs, as well as youth activities.

Some of the funding is going towards:

1) Prostate Hope – Medic research for improvements for the treatment of Prostate Cancer.

2) Autism Services:

a) Kerry's Place – Group homes for children and young adults with this disorder can grow and develop with help from trained staff.

b) Giant Steps – Providing SMART boards and iPads helping these individuals to communicate and learn through the latest technology.

3) VOICE for hearing impaired children – providing needed support to families, to let deaf children know that they can communicate and live with the hearing world. Approximately \$265,000 has been contributed since 1981 directed towards expanding Auditory-Verbal Therapy outreach program for children ranging in ages from 12 months to 2 years. Recently, funds have also been directed towards Project HELP – Hearing for Every Living Person, and Help-2-Hear for the advancement into medical research for hearing impaired infants.

4) Help Nip Drugs in the Bud. Over \$1,000,000 has been giving towards trained students to teach preventative alcohol and drug education.

5) Bursary Program. To provide non-repayable financial support to students to complete their post secondary education. There are many endowments throughout Ontario schools including Mohawk College here in Hamilton.



Online: www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

Cheque: Send directly to: The Masonic Foundation of Ontario. 361 King St West. Hamilton, On. L8P 1B4

Phone: Contact us at 905-257-1905. Deductions can be made from your Visa or MasterCard.

Fax: Fill out the donation form found online and fax it to 905-257-8859

Donations can also be made through many work place charitable campaigns drive. Through the United Way campaign, donations can be marked as other and directed towards the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

Submitted by

W. Bro. Erwin Burggraf - Hamilton Dist C chairman



**Hamilton C District Masonic Foundation of Ontario
Project #2670**

<https://www.homehospiceassociation.com>

In Memoriam

R.W. Bro. Allard Loopstra

Temple Lodge No. 324

Initiated: March 8 1977

Passed: April 28, 1977

Raised: May 27, 1977

May Masonry continue to flourish till time shall be no more.

Allard passed away on Friday, March 13, 2020 in his 74th year. Born in Den Haag, Netherlands and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1951. He was a proud Canadian, but his Dutch heritage was very important to him. Allard was an accomplished business executive; his passions in life were being with family and friends enjoying the farm, sailing, boating, cottaging, skiing, golfing, travelling and cheering on his grandkids.

Allard was a proud 33rd degree Mason, a past master of Temple Lodge and an active member of the Scottish Rite. Allard was president of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada which supports many areas of brain research. A proud moment for Allard was when the Hamilton Learning Centre was opened which assists children with Dyslexia.

Great Architect of the Universe, we thank You for Your presence with us at this hour. We ask Your special comforting presence for the surviving family members of Illustrious Brother Allard B. Loopstra. In pain may they find comfort; may their sorrow give way to hope. Be their strength, shield, and stay, O God. Deliver them from their distresses. Be with us as we seek to carry on with the task of leadership in the midst of the loss of our friend and Brother. Remind us Father, that You who have never abandoned us in life, will not abandon us in death. Keep us mindful of ways we can be of service to Allard's family members. Help us to rejoice in the life he lived among us even as we entrust his immortal soul into Your keeping. In Your Name and for Your sake, we pray. So Mote it Be

From the Editor

Brethren, we lost two strong pillars of Masonry this month. Allard Loopstra was a personal Mentor and Don Falconer was a gift to the Masons he touched. We will miss them both.

May you live in interesting times is a Chinese blessing and curse. It looks like every Masonic event is cancelled through to June. If anything changes, we will send a special notice to the readers. So, this month we focused on building an edition that gives everyone something to read and reflect on as we enter our "Stay at Home and be Safe" mode.

April marks religious ceremonies for Easter, Passover and Ramadan this year. Here is hoping we can all stay well, take care and see each other you soon. Our D.D.G.M. asked me to emphasize that we are here to assist if anyone needs a helping hand, empathetic ear or supportive word. Feel free to reach out if you need a boost.

S&F Glen

In Memoriam

V.W. Bro. Donald Falconer

**Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602
and Buchanan Lodge No. 550**

Initiated on September 6, 1979

Passed on October 4, 1979

Raised November 1, 1979

Master Hugh Murray December 17, 1985

Master Buchanan, 2007 and 2012

Don was recognized as a core member who could execute ritual work flawlessly and step in at the last minute to take on almost any part if needed. He served as the W. Master in both lodges and in recent years as Chaplain of Buchanan Lodge and Chairman of the Mentorship committee. He had a gift for teaching and passing on his knowledge of Masonry to the officers and Brethren.

In recognition of his commitment and contributions to the Craft, Don was appointed as Grand Steward in 2011 and took great pleasure visiting other lodges as a Grand Lodge Officer. Don was known throughout the District as a great ritualist and was called upon by many lodges to perform parts in all degrees, and installations. Don's passing leaves a large void at Hugh Murray and Buchanan Lodges and he will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above March 25, 2020



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We Will cherish them in our hearts forever.**

*An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with His image blest:
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

Brother Robert Burns



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