

# District 'C'ronicle



June 2020

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.142

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## **From our District Deputy Grand Master**

Brethren,

It is my sincerest hope and prayer that all Brethren and their families are doing well in these troubling times.

As was announced by our Grand Master M. W. Bro. David J. Cameron in a recent Grand Lodge communique; the District Deputy Grand Master's across Ontario have been asked to maintain their roles as DDGM in their respective District's.

There can be no greater responsibility and honor than to lead through troubling times.

We are planning a Zoom meeting for Brethren of District C, please be aware of information in this regard from the District Secretary, W. Bro. Craig McPhail.

As the Masonic year comes to a very gentle close, I offer to each of you who may be missing the reverence and solemnity of Lodge life a prayer. This prayer was given by Bro. W. L. Wilmshurst at the close of Lodge. W. L. Wilmshurst wrote the book, "The Meaning of Masonry," some of you may have read it. I very strongly recommend that if you have the time and inclination get this book and give it a read. It may change your perceptions!



*Oh Sovereign and Most Worshipful of all Masters, who, in thy infinite love and wisdom, hast devised our Order as a means to draw Thy children nearer Thee, and hast so ordained its Officers that they are emblems of Thy seven-fold power,*

*Be Thou unto us an Outer Guard, and defend us from the perils that beset us when we turn from that which is without to that which is within;*

*Be Thou unto us an Inner Guard, and preserve in our souls that desire to pass within the portal of Thy holy mysteries;*

*Be unto us the Younger Deacon, and teach our wayward feet the true and certain steps upon the path that leads to Thee;*

*Be Thou also the Elder Deacon, and guide us up the steep and winding stairway to Thy throne;*

*Be unto us the Lesser Warden, and in the meridian sunlight of our understanding speak to us in sacraments that shall declare the splendours of Thy manifested light;*

*Be Thou also unto us the Greater Warden, and in the awful hour of disappearing light, when vision fails and thought has no more strength, be with us still, revealing to us, as we may bear them, the hidden mysteries of Thy shadow;*

*And so through light and darkness, raise us, Great Master, till we are made one with Thee, in the unspeakable glory of Thy presence in the East.*

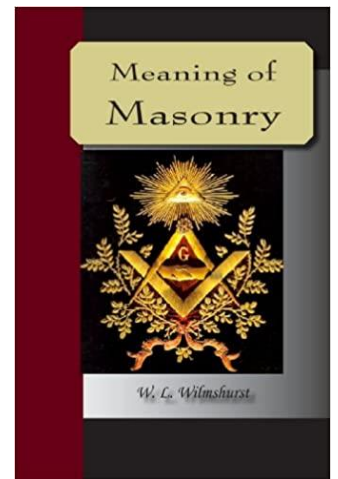
*So mote it be.*

On behalf of the Officers and Brethren of Hamilton District C I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends at the passing of V. W. Bro. Wolfgang Schneiders. We shall cherish his memory in our hearts

To the sick and shut in Brethren, may the G. A. O. T. U. ease your burdens and soothe your sufferings!

Cum Luce Salutem!

**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



*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in -  
Leonard Cohen, Anthem*

Brethren,

During this time of isolation, I have been rereading a book by Wayne Muller entitled *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives*. He writes:

*Our culture invariably supposes that action and accomplishment are better than rest, that doing something – anything – is better than doing nothing. Because of our desire to succeed, to meet these ever-growing expectations, we do not rest. Because we do not rest, we lose our way. We miss the compass points that would show us where to go, we bypass the nourishment that would give us succor. We miss the quiet that would give us wisdom. We miss the joy and love born of effortless delight.*

Most spiritual traditions celebrate some form of Sabbath practice. Before the Hebrews, the Babylonians celebrated a lunar Sabbath, also a day of rest. Buddhists use a lunar Sabbath – on the new, full, and quarter moon – as a day for monks and lay people to feast together, meditate, reflect on the dharma, and recite the fundamental precepts of spiritual practice.

Muslims, Jews and Christians hold Sabbath on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

But Sabbath, he says, is not necessarily a day. It could be an hour of meditation. It could be a short break to pause and take three silent breaths as when the Buddhist Mindfulness Bell is rung. It could be a Sabbatical, lasting months, as university professors often get to take in order to work on their books or research. It is a time to rest, and a time to think.

We have been given a rare gift.

*Better is one hand full of quietness  
than two hands full of toil  
and a striving after wind. - Ecclesiastes 4:6*

In 1606 when the theatres in London closed due to the Bubonic Plague, William Shakespeare went into isolation and wrote King Lear and Macbeth.

In 1665 Isaac Newton retreated to the countryside as Cambridge University closed due to The Great Plague of London. It was during this time that he invented calculus, investigated light dispersed by a prism and started to think about gravity.

*Who is it that can make muddy water clear?  
But if allowed to remain still,  
it will gradually become clear of itself.  
- Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching 15*

This time of self-isolation has given us a chance to reflect upon what is most important in life. We may also want to reflect on what is most important about Masonry.

*In the rush to return to normal, use this time  
to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to. -  
Dave Hollis*

Be safe; be still; be blessed.

**David J. Cameron**



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IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

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### COVID-19 Update May 29 2020 Urgent Update

May 29, 2020

Brethren,

**Cancellation of the Annual Communication:**

It is with a great deal of regret that we announce the **formal cancellation of the Annual Communication** of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to be held July 13-16 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

**Cancellation of Rooms at the FRYH:**

The Hotel has advised that all reservations booked under the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada hotel block (**GRAN0720001**) will be automatically cancelled.

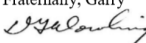
If your room booking was NOT made under the group reservation code, then you will have to contact the Hotel directly.

Further communication regarding plans for dealing with the fallout of the cancellation will be communicated as soon as they are known.

**Cancellation of Masonic Gatherings:**

The cancellation of all masonic meetings and events in the Province has now been extended until AT LEAST August 31 2020. Please follow any local governmental ordinance that extends this further.

Based on the above it will not be necessary to send out any cancellation notices via the Grand Lodge Events Digest for specific events occurring prior to August 31.

Fraternally, Garry  
  
D. Garry Dowling,  
Grand Secretary

## 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. Not much of a change from last month except my dear wife is tired of cooking seven nights a week – a big change from seven nights a month! But rest assured that your Grand Lodge Committees are using this time well in our homes via video and teleconferencing.

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

- 1) Strategic Planning Committee to prepare the next generation of presentation for the Seminar and Workshop circuit.

In addition to the continual work of R.W. Bro. Jim Sercombe and his Committee in reacting to the responding Lodges after reading their red-alert Condition of Masonry report for the lack of long range planning; the team has evolved into a Strategic Action Committee by arming their facilitators with new presentation detailing the tools for Lodges to develop their own Strategic Plan. We are excited that this presentation is scheduled for a wider audience to review as part of the Tuesday afternoon workshops at the next Annual Communication.

- 2) Move the Strategic Planning material from an outside website to the Grand Lodge web site.

As of the last Committee report, Committee member R.W. Bro. Kelly Feldcamp has offered to support and assist this activity and is awaiting direction from the Web Team who need to provide direction and access to make this happen.

- 3) The Lodge Finance Advisory Committee needs to prepare a presentation for the Seminar and Workshop circuit of successes and how-to's for Lodges, Temples and Corporations to get the wealth of great information and knowledge of this team into the field with seminars in the Districts and at the Annual Communication.

To assist with the communications, Chairman R.W. Bro. Syd Schatzker has recruited additional financial professionals to the Committee from throughout the jurisdiction and has plans to continue the same. Two prospective newsletters have been sent to the Publishing Review team for their review and the Committee is working on a PPP for use at District seminars and the Tuesday afternoon at the Annual Communication.

- 4) Prepare a report and make recommendations on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act for the Management Committee as it affects Lodge Buildings.

Chairman R.W. Bro. Darren Byrne has completed an extensive review of the Act and has made recommendations to the Management Committee based on his interpretation for the Grand Lodge building and

Lodges in general. The Committee was then requested to get a legal opinion on their interpretation of the Act to assure we were headed down the right direction with the proposed course of action.

- 5) Prepare an alternative building compliance policy.

Given that some municipalities have suddenly increased the cost of a Fire Safety Inspection, a constitutional amendment is being proposed by the Lodge Building Advisory Committee for a Fire/Life Safety Policy that will monitor building compliance via a self-administered checklist. The timeline aligns with the requirements of the Ontario Fire Code, which requires every building Fire Safety Plan be reviewed and updated at least annually. The Grand Lodge Fire/Life Safety checklist will be required to be completed annually and within twelve months of the Official Visit of the Lodge. The completion of a self-administered checklist will be less onerous to the lodges. It can be completed in less the thirty minutes and ensures that the lodge has identified any fire or life safety issues in their facilities. The checklist supports the provisions of the Fire Code and has been prepared in consultation with several fire and building professionals and has been reviewed from a legal perspective. The new policy will require the Lodge to have had completed a Fire Inspection conducted by the local municipal fire service and have satisfactorily addressed any deficiencies to transition to the Annual Checklist policy thereby establishing a baseline of lodge building compliance prior to transitioning to the new approach. Monitoring of compliance with the Fire/Life Safety Policy and Lodge Insurance requirements will be through the "L" Forms administered by the DDGM and the Committee on the Condition of Masonry. When missing documents are identified, there will be an established administrative procedure to advise and work with the lodge to achieve compliance and avoid the temporary suspension of their warrant.

- 6) Conducting a comprehensive review of the financial numbers and Grand Lodge objectives and prepare the rationale for increasing the Grand Lodge per capita in cooperation with the Grand Treasurer.

The Audit and Finance Committee and Chairman, R.W. Bro. Jim Sutherland, have been working closely with our Grand Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Ed Standish, to crunch all of the numbers past and present to make the necessary predictions of where our costs and membership numbers are headed in the next five years. From this they can determine what the necessary assessment increase needs to be as part of our sound financial planning process going forward. Further details will be communicated in this regard.

Please tune back in next month to hear how your Grand Lodge Community Outreach Pillar is supporting these efforts. Stay well until then!

**Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master**



# Around the District

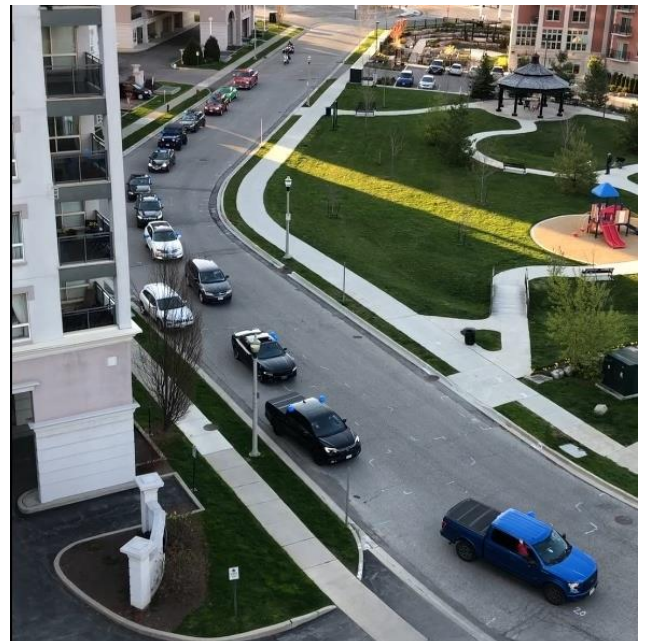
## *Some Feel Good News*

### **Buchanan Lodge No. 550**

Buchanan Lodge No. 550 has just moved to give an annual donation of \$1000.00 annually to the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton for Post-Basic Education Bursary.

Fraternally

V.W. Bro. Bill Fulton



Mason Parade one half of the cars.  
The remainder got held up at the lights around the corner

### **Valley Lodge No. 100**

Wow!!! Thanks for the great support on short notice!!!!!!!!!!

As with all Lodges, Valley Lodge has a few members whose situation has been complicated by the isolation requirements from Covid-19. Roger Parliament who is 96, Wolfgang Schnieders who is fighting cancer, Steve Bateman who is fighting cancer and Bill Brown whose wife Chris lost her mother in New Brunswick that day.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Valley Lodge along with 4 members from Dufferin and 1 from Waterdown Lodges created a parade of 25 vehicles (adorned with blue balloons) containing 26 Masons, along with many family members and well-wishers. It was a long procession, but we hooted, tooted, hollered and cheered to our Brethren and their families. There were also many other Brethren who wanted to be there but unfortunately were unable to attend.

It was a simple yet great event!! It provided support to our Brethren and families during times of difficulty, but just as important it allowed us to provide support with a brief isolation friendly visit.

All those we visited have expressed their absolute thanks and appreciation to all that attended the parade!!! They advised it was very encouraging, special and uplifting.

Chris Brown (Bill's wife) who lost her mother that day in New Brunswick had her father on the phone on Facetime watching the parade. You never know how far a good gesture can reach!!

One simple email and a few phone calls resulted in a great response. It was amazing to see the positive support from all concerned.

Thanks again for showing what it means to be a Mason.

Bro. Jim Brown, Senior Warden  
Valley Lodge No. 100



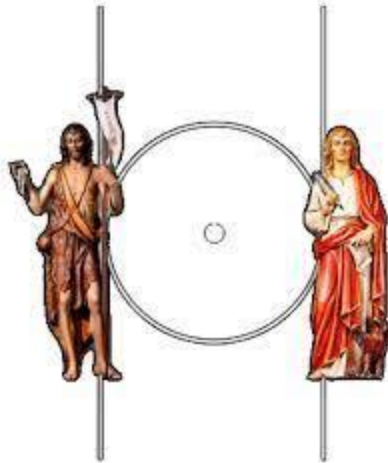
Wolfgang Schnieders and his family on the balcony.



Mason Parade second half of the cars.  
Passing by the residence of Roger Parliament

## History of the Festivals of St. John's in Ontario

When I received my first copy of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario Proceedings 1995 my attention was drawn to the RETURN OF LODGES AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1994. Lodges marked (a) hold their Installation and Investiture of Officers on or near the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, in the months from October to March inclusive, all others on or near that of St. John the Baptist, in the months from April to September inclusive. Several questions came to mind that needed to be answered. 1- Who were the St. John's?, 2- What was a Festival of St. John?, 3- What importance was the St. John's to Freemasonry in general and to the present Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario?, I intend to answer these questions to the best of my ability.



1-Who were the St. John's? In the Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry by Albert Mackey, M.D., 33<sup>o</sup>, later revised by William J. Hughan, 32<sup>o</sup>, and Edward L. Hawkins, M.A, 30<sup>o</sup> states that St. John the Baptist "One of the patron saints of Freemasonry, and at one time, indeed, the only one, the name of St. John the Evangelist having been introduced subsequent to the sixteenth century. His festival occurs on the 24th of June, and is very generally celebrated by the Masonic Fraternity. Dalcho (Ahim. Rez., p.150) says that the stern integrity of St. John the Baptist, which induced him to forego every minor consideration in discharging the obligations he owed to God; the unshaken firmness with which he met martyrdom rather than betray his duty to his Master; his steady reproof of vice, and continued preaching of repentance and virtue, make him a fit patron of the Masonic Institution." Mackey Encyclopaedia pg 659.

Saint John the Evangelist is considered the other patron Saint of Freemasonry. The Festival of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated on December 27th. Tradition as well as documentation points out that St. John the Evangelist became a Patron Saint of Freemasonry long after the Baptist. St. John the Evangelist was probably chosen for his constant admonition in his writings to the cultivation of brotherly love and to his apocalyptic visions that were traits and principals admired by the Craft. In the Ancient York or the Webb System of Masonic ritual has the symbol of the Circle, with the dot in the centre and two parallel lines are displayed on every open Volume of the Sacred Law.

The point represents an individual brother; the circle representing the boundary line of his duty to God and man, beyond which he is never to suffer his passions, prejudices or

interest to betray him on any occasion. This circle is bordered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, who were perfect parallels in Christianity as well as Masonry. In this ritual we are given balance from St. John the Baptist on one side and St. John the Evangelist on the other. On one hand the Saint with passionate zeal on one side and the other with learned knowledge of faith on the other forming that balance of which a Mason can reflect on. That is to channel our passion as well as our education and knowledge that will lead to a well-balanced path towards enlightenment.

It should also be noted that St John the Baptist, whose festive day is June 24, St John the Evangelist, whose festival occurs on December 27, six months later. According to McCoy's Masonic Dictionary, participation in the Festival of St. John at midsummer is a duty of every Mason. It functions as a connection between the past and the future. The two saints stand at either end of the spectrum marked by the solstices, the doorways of light and dark, of zeal and of learning. These two festivals bear the names of Christian saints, but in ages past they bore other names, yet standing to this day as markers for the solstices. In the words of Masonic Orator, Phillip Elam; "Masonry adopted these festivals and the Christian names, but has taken away the Christian dogma, and made their observance universal for all men of all beliefs.

St. John's Day, June 24, symbolically marks the summer solstice, when nature attains the zenith of light and life and joy. St. John's day in winter, December 27, symbolizes the turn of the sun's farthest journey – the attainment of wisdom, the rewards of a well-spent life, and love toward one's fellow man." In ancient times, midsummer's day was an occasion to pay homage to water, fire and plants. It was also a time to cleanse one's soul as well as to celebrate the summer solstice. However, over time, this holiday has lost most of its sacral meaning and only its various festive elements remain.

In England, people used to celebrate St. John's Eve by setting great bonfires after sunset. This was known as 'setting the watch' and men, women and children would jump through these bonfires for luck. The streets were lined with lanterns, and people carried cresset lamps set on poles as they went from one bonfire to the next. These wandering, garlanded bands were called a 'marching watch'. Often they were attended by morris dancers (an English Folk Dance), and traditional players dressed as a unicorn, a dragon, and six hobby-horse riders.

In Europe and England, the setting of the fires and feasting starting the evening before on what became the Midsummer's Night. This festival was celebrated by the Ancient Druids, as seen in Stonehenge centuries before being named St. John's Day. The name St. John was added as Christianity applied names to these ancient annual pagan ceremonies. St. Eligius in the 7th Century made record of these changes in ceremonies. The 13th century Monk of Winchcombe of Gloucestershire also made several sermons of the day on how to celebrate St. John's Day.

Moving forward to the formation of the Grand Lodge in England in 1717 took place on the 24th of June and celebrated with the Festival of St. John. My personal opinion is that the



Grand Lodge formed on this Festival for a couple of reasons. St. John's Day was a nationally celebrated day. Time would be allotted for any member to attend the festivities while under the guise of the celebration going on around them. The real reason has never been put into writing. The formation of the Grand Lodge took place was perhaps to celebrate on the Patron Saint John Day or to take part in the celebration of the whole country.

In Ontario, the first recorded St. John's Festival was held by Lodge No.6 in Kingston. The members agreed to pay 5 shillings for the festival meal, the local Minister Reverend Mr. John Stuart was sent a letter asking to provide a sermon. The Lodge held the Installation of Officers and then formed into procession and marched to the church. After the service took place marched back to the Tavern, the Minister was asked to partake in the Festival meal. A letter was sent on behalf of the Master and Officers to Reverend Stuart Thanking him for his service and paid him 8 dollars and 2 dollars to the church clerk.

The first St. John Baptist Day on June the 24th that was celebrated in Toronto in 1797 and December 27th St. John the Evangelist Day was celebrated by the Toronto brethren at Miles Tavern at the southwest corner of Sherbourne and King Streets.

In Canada, in 1759 the 48th Regiment No, 218 I.R, in what is now Quebec held a St. John the Evangelist Festival on December 27th which was held with other military units. This was the first celebration on Canadian soil. Pg, 159. The History of Freemasonry in Canada, , John Ross Robertson.

In 1815, Harmony Lodge No.24 Edwardsburgh, Ontario had a St. John's Day Festival under dispensation which would be the first under dispensation. After the service, the Lodge was regularly warranted and the Officers Installed and Invested.

The last known dispensation for a St. John's Day Festival including a Procession to the church, Installation and dinner was given to Georgina Lodge No.343 GRC.,in 1914, while still in Sutton. The reasons were poor attendance given to the new push of the Temperance League, definitely a changing time.

In 1880 ,The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario held Grand Lodge in July and has been held in July ever since. No mention of the St. John's is given in the Canadian Emulation Ritual, Constitution, Whence Come We or Towards the Challenge. I understand that Freemasonry made major changes in 1730, 1813, 1855, from de-Christianizing, adoption of new Constitutions and the formations of new Grand Lodges. However, to keep as a Landmark date in the Proceedings I believe an education of our past is necessary to protect the future.

The Patron Saints John exemplify traits that should be found in every mason, the history of the celebration of Festivals twice yearly to Install our Masters and invest our Officers have changed into today's society of once a year. The licensed pleasure and meals have now again attracted a new breed of member and also has called out the member that has been absent to rededicate him self. The importance of a twice yearly celebration will only help the Craft moving forward.

I know the stories of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist also leads to an explanation of astronomy. John the Baptist

having his day on the longest day of the Northern Hemisphere, and John the Evangelist on the shortest day in the Northern hemisphere. I know that each cuts the 365 day calendar in half and the 2 quarter equinoxes cut the year into 4 quarters. In the Southern hemisphere this would be the same in reverse. Thus Masonry is always at its meridian. In the most primal sense man would recognize these astronomical events as insurmountable events in his life and pay homage with all of his soul to the Supreme Being that gave it.

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Dedicated to My Fellow Freemasons that Exhibit the Traits and or Examples of one or both Saint John's

**Submitted by: Kevin Fudge**

*(Editors Note: This article is a follow up to our December Article on the Feast of Saint John the Evangelist.)*



# Protocol and Etiquette

Continuing onward from the previous submissions on Head Table protocols this article discusses where the GUEST OF HONOUR sits at the Head Table



Dr. Theresa Tam  
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada



M.W. Bro. David Cameron  
Grand Master

## QUESTION:

Where does the Guest of Honour sit at the Head Table for a Masonic banquet?

## ANSWER:

In keeping with well-established Masonic traditions throughout the world, our Grand Lodge has adopted a very clear and unwavering protocol regarding where a Guest of Honour is to be seated at any of our Masonic Banquets.

**RULE #1:** The Guest of Honour is seated on the right side of the Presiding Officer, i.e. on his right, not yours.

Please note then that the Guest of Honour always sits on the Worshipful Master's right side and not on the right of the W.M. as viewed by the audience. (All seating at the Head Table takes place in reference to the W.M.'s right and to the W.M.'s left side.)

This is not just a protocol followed by Freemasons. It has been followed for centuries by Royalty, by the international diplomatic community, and by the Military. The seat of honour is always to the right of the host.

It should be fairly easy for you to remember where the Guest of Honour is to sit. It can be more difficult at times, however, to determine WHO is your Guest of Honour. The nature of the occasion should offer indications as to the relative significance of those present.

Usually – but not always – the Guest of Honour is the highest ranking Mason present. The Order of Introduction List (updated every July or August) is a good reference to follow in making this determination. Do not always take this for granted, however. Think about the purpose of the evening and if any special guests have been invited.

If it is your lodge's good fortune to be visited by the Grand Master, or a Past Grand Master, it would be unusual if he was not your guest of honour. However, circumstances are sometimes not so straight-forward. For example, back in 2010, my own lodge was honoured by a visit from that year's Prestonian Lecturer of the United Grand Lodge of England. W. Bro. Wayne Warlow became our guest of honour that evening, even though a Past Grand Master was also present.

Similarly, at the occasion of the evening in which he is honoured and presented with his award, it is our protocol for a William Mercer Wilson Medal recipient to be asked to sit in the

Guest of Honour's chair – even though the Grand Master and several Past Grand Masters are usually present.

Finally, consider this scenario. Suppose that in 2021, after a vaccine had been developed for COVID-19 and our lodges resumed their monthly meetings, that a lodge invited Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, to be their guest speaker. The lodge wanted to show Dr. Tam its appreciation for her efforts during the crisis we endured and to hear about some of the challenges she faced. Now suppose that our Grand Master, (who is himself a physician), wanted to be present on this special occasion.

Even though she is not a Mason, who do you suppose would be the official Guest of Honour of the lodge that evening? Hopefully, the answer is readily apparent.

Next month we will examine where other Head Table guests should be seated.

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

P.S. Some Worshipful Masters invite that evening's Candidate to join him at the Head Table, for the banquet. Is that an acceptable gesture? If so, where should the Candidate sit?

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## Masonic Education

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

**Parallelepipedon.** The EA hears this word as a description of 'the form of the lodge'. Every EA I've spoken with after their Initiation admits that they have never before heard the word parallelepipedon. And they have no idea what it means. I try to help with the explanation that it is a shape defined in the first English translation of the works of the geometer Euclid: that of having six sides of which the opposite sides are parallel. And I can add that in this year of 2020, the word is now 550 years old! A detailed explanation of my research is accepted for publication in *Ars Quatuor Coronati* 133, November 2020. Subscribe at <http://www.quatuorcoronati.com>

Provided for your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

**W. Bro. Marshall Kern, FCF, PM, Librarian & Historian**  
[www.sarniadistrictmasons.ca](http://www.sarniadistrictmasons.ca)

My blog is at: <https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/>





## The Rise of Fraternal Organizations Part 6: Benevolent Irish Society

The **Benevolent Irish Society** (BIS) is a philanthropic organization founded on 17 February 1806, a month before the Feast of St. Patrick, in St. John's, Newfoundland. It is the oldest philanthropic organization in North America. Membership is open to adult residents of Newfoundland who are of Irish birth or ancestry, regardless of religious persuasion. The BIS is a charitable, fraternal, middle-class social organization founded on the principles of "benevolence and philanthropy"



*BIS Building, St. Patrick's Hall, St. John's, Newfoundland*

Headquarters now on Harvey Rd. was before the year 2000 situated in St. Patrick's Hall – Queens Rd.

The BIS had as its original objective to provide the necessary skills which would enable the poor to better themselves. Today the society is still active in Newfoundland and is the oldest philanthropic organization in North America

In 1877, a breakthrough in Irish Canadian Protestant-Catholic relations occurred in **London, Ontario**. This was the founding of the **Irish Benevolent Society**, a brotherhood of Irishmen and women of both Catholic and Protestant faiths. The society promoted Irish Canadian culture, but it was forbidden for members to speak of Irish politics when meeting. This companionship of Irish people of all faiths quickly tore down the walls of sectarianism in Ontario. Today, the Society is still operating.

*The Irish Benevolent Society, since 1877, has provided an opportunity in the London area for the Irish and their descendants of all faiths, and their friends, to work together in harmony for the purpose of preserving their Irish heritage and performing works of benevolence.*



Many organizations and individuals have benefited from the Society's benevolence during its long history. Recent awards include an annual bursary to the most proficient student at St. Mary Choir School, a bursary to three graduates of Huron University College, London (Anglican), and similar awards to graduates of St. Peter's Seminary, London (Catholic). Also awards are presented at the Forest City Feis which is an international Irish dance competition held annually in London.

**Source:** Wikipedia and Google

## In Memoriam



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

## From the Editor

Brethren,

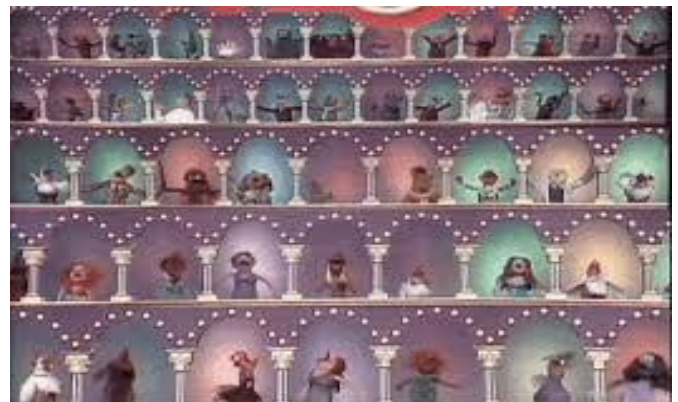
As the Groundhog day of the the last 11 weeks continues, we see signs of fellowship within the District. Plans are being made to continue our fraternity into 2021 and we all eagerly await the soundnign of an all clear.

The Rise of Fraternal Organizations part 6 ran this month and we have a few more submissions to run through the summer.

With the Grand Lodge communication being cancelled in July, the editorial team is hoping for some submissions from the readership. Thanks to Buchanan and Valley for some great feel good news this month.

Please feel free to drop me a line, or send in an article, picture, some humour or just whatever captures your fancy...And don't forget Father's day, its on the Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>.

S&F Glen



Looking forward to the District Meeting in Zoom!



### Editorial Team

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