

District 'C'ronicle



June 2022

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.166

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, your District Spring Meeting took place last Saturday. Thank you to those who attended and to those who presented. A particular thank you to R.W. Bro. James O. Wark, Lodge Buildings Advisory Committee Chairman, Member of the Board of General Purposes for his helpful presentation. As always, the minutes for this meeting will become available. In the meantime however, here is an excerpt of my closing comments:



"...after a long, desolate winter, here we are, back in the sunlight, above ground and ready to resume our labours. It will take us all to accomplish our comeback, it won't happen on its own and it certainly won't happen by the hands of a few. It will take all of us playing our part.

Three thoughts:

1. In my February Chronicle message, I presented the idea of 'agency' which can be defined as, "the thoughts and actions taken by people that express their individual power, to have them think for themselves and shape their experiences."

2. I would like to build on that by highlighting the concept of personal accountability. During my career, there was one question I continuously asked myself, 'What else can I do to achieve the desired result?' Without fail, when properly reflected upon, this question would yield additional actions I could undertake. I also asked this question of my teams, 'What else can you do to achieve the result you desire?' Again, when thoughtfulness was applied, they would invariably come up with additional strategies to help them achieve their goals. This oftentimes was partnered with creative thinking and brainstorming exercises. It all comes down to the concept of personal accountability - what else can I do - and understanding what is both within and without your power to influence or change.

3. The vision statement used in our Grand Lodge's Strategic Planning tool kit, 'The Next Step', reads:

'Our vision is that our Lodges are vibrant, the ritual conferred with excellence, and our members, being happy, all contribute to our legacy from one generation to the next. Membership is explored by men who have witnessed our character and actions and that our communities regard Freemasonry for its ideals, dedication to family, and aid to those less fortunate.'

It is a well thought out vision - one that paints a picture of an aspirational future. It covers it all, doesn't it? Excellence in ritual, ironclad legacy due to quality mentorship, learning how to and then standing uprightly and being an example for our families and communities - and charity. We are not there, and frankly the last 2 years has, in some respects, seen us move further away from this vision. But it is a vision worth collectively mustering around. For the sake of the Craft, our forebearers, ourselves and those yet to come.

So, as we approach the end of a peculiar Masonic year, as we approach summer call off and as we approach a new Masonic year; please find some time to reflect on these 3 thoughts: Agency - the thoughts and action of individual power; Personal Accountability - "What else can I do to achieve the result I desire?"; and our Vision Statement. Perhaps then bear in mind the useful thought from Canada's pre-eminent clinical psychologist, Dr. Jordan Peterson, "That which we need most will be found where we least want to look."

Come up with your plans on how you can 'plug in' and aid the Craft. Then, burnish them through conversation with both like-minded and not-so-like-minded Brethren to make them their best. Then think about how to share your idea in a meaningful way – your Craft needs this of you at this time.

As a consequence, you will feel that quiet pride in knowing you made a positive impact on our beautiful fraternity and this will inspire you to even greater heights!

Brethren, thank you for your attendance, your engagement – now, please, go do what must be done.”

Fraternally,

Bill

R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul

From the Grand Master May Communique

Brethren,

You will no doubt have already heard about the passing of our Past Grand Master M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby. He was my ideal of a Grand Master and I was honoured to have him as a trusted friend and advisor. He often sent me a note after receiving the Communiqué saying how much he enjoyed reading my message. I dedicate this one to him.

There is a story which I wanted to get down in print before the sands of time erased it. I heard this many years ago and confirmed it with two senior brethren, but if you remember actually doing this, please let me know.

At one time, Grand Lodge did not publish a Book of the Work. The Ritual was expected to be transmitted from mouth to ear. There were many advantages to this, namely that the learner and the mentor had to spend a lot of time together. A candidate had time to ask questions, to learn about our philosophy, our charities, our way in the world. An officer being mentored had time to learn the intricacies of the ritual, the plans of the officer line, and to deepen his friendship with his brothers.

There were disadvantages as well. It was hard to be sure that you were teaching your charge the right words as memory sometimes fails us. An aide-mémoire was a useful thing. Many of the “exposés” were in fact used for that purpose. I even wonder if that is why some of them were written!

And so it was that at one time, an unofficial Book of the Work was in circulation. And here is how you would get it. You would go to the flagship Eaton's store in downtown Toronto. (Bro. John David Eaton was president from 1942 to 1973. It is said that if you were a Mason who had recently immigrated to Canada, and

you approached Eaton's for a job, you would be immediately be hired.)

Back to the story of the book. You would go to the Men's Department and walk up to the counter where they sold gloves. (Note: gloves.) You would tap three times on the counter with a silver dollar and the man there would reach under the counter and silently give you a small book wrapped in plain brown paper.

Can you imagine some of the problems here? Anyone could get a copy of the book. That method, although cute, was about as effective a control as asking someone how old their mother is. For those men whose mothers were, say, actually 68 years old, their answer would put them in Ingersoll!

Another issue was that this system excluded those brethren who did not live near Toronto.

But the biggest problem, however, was that the bootleg copy had many errors in it. The new official Book of the Work can be ordered from the Grand Lodge Office. Make sure you are brushing up on your ritual using the current resource!

Another thing I wanted to bring up before time slips by is recognizing the Grand Lodge Officers from the past two years. Some lodges have not had meetings yet, some are not hosting visitors, few are having large events this spring. All reasonable. But it means that we have not had a chance to properly honour these brethren, especially the Very Worshipful Brethren. They've gotten their regalia in a small ceremony or sometimes just delivered to their door. In the fall when everything has hopefully settled down, consider devoting a meeting to honouring these brethren. Invite their friends. Make a big deal of them. Have them go to the altar and give them Grand Honours. Make them the guest of honour at a Festive Board. It's what they deserve.

David J. Cameron

From the Grand Lodge Website

[These items have a direct link for your convenience](#)

[May 31, 2022](#)

[GM Blog May 2022](#)

[May 27, 2022](#)

[Letter from Grand Secretary re: Electronic Voting for DDGM](#)

[April 29, 2022](#)

[GM Blog April 2022](#)

[Mentoring Matters Bulletin Vol. 30](#)

[Mentoring Matters Bulletin Vol. 31](#)

[Mentoring Minute Bulletin Vol. 6](#)

**Use this link to purchase tickets to the
Grand Masters Banquet on July 20, at 6:30 PM**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grand-masters-banquet-2022-tickets-314720897677>

May Communique From the Deputy

My Brethren:

Although I am copied on only a small selection of correspondence between the Grand Secretary and the membership, I can sense that there is a lot of anxiety over the decision to return to Lodge, District and Grand Lodge business in person. And that is okay! It is okay to have difference of opinions and Brotherly debates over the pros and cons of such decisions. As we have stated, at the end of the day it is up to each Lodge when they will open for visitors once again, and in turn, to each Mason when they feel comfortable in returning to their Lodge – and in fact, whether they want to continue the protocol of wearing a mask while they attend Lodge or not.

What I find very startling though, is the number of Lodges that have decided to open with a bang! As I mentioned, it is the decision of the membership of each Lodge whether they open or not, but considerations must be given when they do open. The Grand Secretary has been receiving requests for dispensation to conduct five Degrees on one meeting night. Is that anyway to make a life-time commitment to a new Mason? Is he going to remember his Degree evening as a special event for him?

At the risk of repeating myself, my number one suggestion for opening our Lodge doors after two years is to go slowly and deliberately. Take the first few months to go over all the old business and get it confirmed in open Lodge. Take the first few months to get your members comfortable with their surroundings again and reach out to those not attending to find out how they are and how we can get them back into Lodge.

Take the time to practice everything – in the Lodge room and in the banquet hall. Take the time to mentor and train your Officers so they are prepared and can enjoy the experience and not be embarrassed from the lack of comfort with their Ritual and floorwork. Their number one objective must be to impress the

Candidate so he can't wait for his next Degree. We have over 1,000 interested men standing outside our Lodge doors, many of whom will make application. Please don't rush them. They all know the reason why they haven't been processed.

Take the time to do a thorough investigation to protect our West gate. A very big part of our reformation will be an increased scrutiny of applicants to our Gentle Craft and generally, making it harder to become a member. I am not afraid of our numbers decreasing further. I am not afraid of more of our Lodges and Buildings closing. I will take quality over quantity any day. I am a firm believer that we are selling our product too cheaply. This is of course the subject of another Communique but let me just say that one of the most important jobs we can be assigned by our Worshipful Master is to be a member of an Investigating

Committee. We need to conduct serious investigations. Investigations should take longer, and they should be more thorough. We need to meet our candidates more than once, and at least one of these times, meeting him in his home with his family. We should require a more complete statement from petitioners as to what they expect from membership in a Masonic Lodge. The petitioner should appear before the Lodge at refreshment prior to his election and at social events for our families. Lodges are also encouraged to request the prospect to learn and recite a poem from memory before being given an application – a good test for the petitioner and of course for the Masons to know if he is capable of memory work. We need to know that our candidates will indeed “reflect honour on our choice.”

Take the time to treat each one of these potential Candidates as a special event – please don't think we have to get them in and conduct mass Degree Work.

We have told Lodges and District Deputy Grand Masters that there will be no mandatory Official Visits or L-form completions for the rest of this year. Our Worshipful Master's shouldn't feel rushed in this regard either.

Take your time Brethren – it's not a race. Your time investment at the front end will payoff huge at the back end! We are making Masons for life, and no one should ever leave because of disinterest, theirs or ours!

Thomas W. Hogeboom Deputy Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario Grand Master's Banquet July 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Grand York Ballroom
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites

Guest Speaker:
Bro. Robert L. D. Cooper
Curator for Museum and Library
Grand Lodge of Scotland

Ticket Sales:

This year tickets are only available for purchase online using Eventbrite

Individual Tickets **\$75** and Tables of Eight (8) **\$580**

Cutoff Date is Friday July 8, 2022

Use this link to purchase tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grand-masters-banquet-2022-tickets-31472089767>

There will be no tickets for sale at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge

Menu:

This year at the Sheraton, we are able to offer you the following Menu:

4-COURSE DUO STEAK & SALMON DINNER

SOUP

Cremini and oyster mushroom soup with truffle cream essence

SALAD

Leaf salad with baby arugula, grape tomato, roasted cauliflower, fried [chick peas](#) and honey Dijon mustard dressing

ENTRÉE

California cut steak with Niagara red wine and natural jus
Roasted salmon with smoky BBQ glaze, braised onions and citrus butter sauce
Roasted red and white new potatoes with rosemary
Seasonal medley of vegetables

DESSERT TASTING TRIO WITH LOGO

Warm chocolate lava cake, strawberry cheesecake, and crème brûlée.



**167th Annual
Communication of Grand
Lodge July 2022**

**Wednesday July 20th and Thursday July 21st
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites
600 Highway 7 (Highway 404 and Highway 7)
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1B2**

Grand Lodge Nominees

Deputy Grand Master

- Jamie Robert Ireland
- Thomas Andrew Siemiernik
- Terrance H.R. Van Horne

Grand Senior Warden

- Walter Scott Doel
- Derek Francis McNulty
- Chris Phillips
- Stephen L. Spence

Grand Junior Warden - Acclamation

- Thomas Fredrick Peddle

Grand Registrar

- Tim Corrin
- Jerry Tsubouchi
- Ebrahim Washington

Board Of General Purposes

- David James Bradley Broomhead –
- Edward Charles Denbeigh –
- Arthur Michael Di Cecco
- Jeffrey Michael Gatcke
- Thomas W.M. Haight
- Paul Grahame Isaac
- James Robert Sercombe
- Peter John Sialtsis
- Gabriele Spoletini
- James Orville Wark
- Iain Donovan Wates

Candidate Bios are available on the Grand Lodge Website, login and go to:
<https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/operations/annual-communication/candidate-bios-2022>

Registration and Balloting

You must pre register electronically to be recorded as an attendee and to be eligible to vote at the Annual Communication. Use this link for details:
<https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/operations/annual-communication/3293-electronic-voting-grand-lodge-2022/file>

**Discussion / Participation
Seminars**

Four seminars will be held on Wednesday afternoon July 20th, 2022 from 1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. on the lower Convention level.

1:00 to 1:50pm	Brand Identity R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco Markham A
1:00 to 1:50pm	Financial Advisory R.W. Bro. David Armstrong King City
1:00 to 1:50pm	GL Technology R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman Vaughan East
1:00 to 1:50pm	College of Freemasonry R.W. Bro. Michael Kirk Vaughan West
2:00 to 2:50pm	Strategic Planning R.W. Bro. Jim Sercombe Markham A
2:00 to 2:50pm	Financial Advisory R.W. Bro. David Armstrong King City
2:00 to 2:50pm	Masonic Foundations R.W. Bros. Brian Koivu & Rob Fleming Vaughan East
2:00 to 2:50pm	Mentoring V.W. Bro. Stephen Maizels Vaughan West

If there are multiple workshops that interest your lodge, consider sending members from your lodge to each one then gather afterwards to compare notes on what is important to your lodge

A G E N D A

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th, 2022

The Annual Communication / annual meeting of Grand Lodge will be held on Wednesday July 20th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Grand York Ballroom, Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron, Grand Master / President presiding.

THURSDAY, JULY 21st, 2022

Grand Lodge will reassemble at 8:45 a.m. in the Grand York Ballroom, Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. The installation and investiture of Grand Lodge officers and the newly elected D.D.G.M.s.

Around the District

Hugh Murray No. 602 Silver to Gold Ceremony and Banquet



M.W. David Cameron, R.W. Bill Paul and W. Bro. Steve Badger with other Grand Lodge Officers at the Silver to Gold Ceremony



W. Bro. Steve Badger introducing the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. David Cameron at the Silver to Gold Banquet



M.W. David Cameron, addressing the audience comparing life in 1922 to today

Recognizing Ray Wilson

Our District Treasurer, V.W. Bro. Raymond Wilson was awarded the 4-H Arbor Award this past month . He was honoured for more than 50 years of service to 4-H Ontario.

In a May 18 ceremony at the Ancaster Fairgrounds, Ray was formally recognized by 4-H Ontario and the 4-H Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter, for more than 50 years of service to the provincial agricultural organization.

Ray said the 4-H honour represents the second time he has reached a pinnacle in his life, with the first coming when he received the 33rd degree granted to Scottish Rite Freemasons.

A crowd of about 80 people, including representatives of the two chapters, were on hand to congratulate him

Christine Oldfield, executive director of 4-H Ontario, said the Arbor Award is the highest honour a 4-H volunteer can receive. The award honours volunteers who have made a significant lifelong impact on the 4-H program at various levels.



V. W. Bro. Ray Wilson being honoured by 4H Ontario with the Arbor Award.

Photo submitted by W. Bro. Stan Satchell

Full article available here:

<https://www.thespec.com/local-ancaster/news/2022/05/25/ancaster-volunteer-honoured-for-more-than-50-years-of-service-to-4-h-ontario.html>



Masonic Passport

Masonic Island Lake Metigoshe



Owned by the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, Masonic Island on Lake Metigoshe, North Dakota, has been the site of summertime masonic meetings since 1905.

Masonic features of the island include a set of three, five and seven steps leading up from the dock, mortared stone chairs and altar, and a large carved square and compasses.

Masonic Island is a seven acre site on Lake Metigoshe in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota. It was originally named Park Island. Lake Metigoshe lies across the U.S.-Canadian line. About 1.5 miles south of the Canadian boundary is a 7.2-acre spot of land, Masonic Island. Its interesting history has been chronicled by James Savaloja, Past Grand Master and Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota.

In 1904, the island was owned by Bro. V.J. Noble, who was a member of Tuscan Lodge #44 of North Dakota. With a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, and the permission of Bro. Noble, the island was cleared in 1906 for the purpose of holding outdoor Masonic conferrals of degrees. Tuscan Lodge was joined by Westhope Lodge #74 for conferrals of three Master Mason Degrees that year. The events were such a success that rituals were held annually for six consecutive years. When Bro. Noble died, Masons became interested in reviving the conferral of rituals on the island.

On November 28, 1933, the Probate Court authorized the sale of the island with a deed to the North Dakota Masonic Foundation for the sum of \$277.25. At the landing dock is a flight of winding concrete stairs consisting of three, five, and seven steps that rise to the representation of a Lodge Room. Over the years, the island was frequently used for Masonic meetings, with attendance sometimes reaching 500 or more.



The Grand Lodge dedicated the property in 1934, and built an outdoor lodge and a Fellowcraft stairwell on the island in 1935. The stairwell, reached by passing two pillars, and consisting of three, five, and seven steps,

carries travelling men from the boat dock toward the outdoor lodge room and is decorated in beautiful Masonic blue with gold accents. The outdoor lodge features the three officer stations, pedestals, and a Masonic altar in the center constructed with mortar and beach stones and trimmed in blue.



Here, the second section of the third degree is conferred and, as you might expect, is a meeting only open to Master Masons. An altar and officers' chairs were constructed of "beach stones" and mortared cement.



Other amenities were added over the years to accommodate the island's use by Royal Arch Masons, Eastern Star, and other appendant and concordant bodies.

According to MW Brother Savaloja, "It is known fact that Masonic Island was probably the first place where visas to enter the United States were lifted for Masons of Canada during WWII by an agreement between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who were both members of the Fraternity.

"This agreement stated that the Canadian Masons could enter the United States by boat from the north shore of Lake Metigoshe, which is in Canada. As long as their feet never touched the shoreline of the lake in the U.S., and they landed only at Masonic Island when a meeting would be held, they would not be in violation of our wartime rules of entry."

Today, Masonic Island is being restored as a special historic location in the Turtle Mountains. The island lays claim to being the only spot in the area untouched by the fires and other disasters of nature which decimated old growths of oak trees and other flora and fauna.

Because of the island's location in the center of the lake, it has some of the oldest trees and most unusual plants in the state.

Every Mason should visit at least one of these treasures in his lifetime.

Submitted by V.W. Bro. Bill Brimer,

with files from the following:
<https://ndmasons.com/masonic-island>

https://www.scottishritejournalonline.org/scottishritejournal/september-october_2017?pg=22#pg22

Masonic Education

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

Column vs. Pillar

The common man considers these words to mean the same thing. Indeed, this common understanding is so prevalent that some dictionaries provide the same definition for both words. And a glance at a popular thesaurus will also cite the words as synonyms. As he looks at an edifice that is honourable to the builder, the common man does not distinguish whether it is a pillar or column supporting the roof, nor whether it is a column or a pillar decorated with signs pointing the way to significant features.

Yet the more astute student of architecture will appreciate that columns always bear the weight of the structure above. And while some pillars might bear weight, most are decorative and demarcate the areas of the building such as the entrance or porchway.

A Mason learns that the Wardens have columns which are used to demonstrate who supports the Lodge at refreshment and who supports the Lodge at work. A Mason learns that there are great pillars with decorations to inform him of three Divine attributes. These three great pillars have further allusion to three notable Grand Masters, and three celebrated orders of architecture.

The Mason who comprehends the lessons imparted in the Ritual will appreciate the difference of being supported by a column and guided by a pillar.

Provided for your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge from the Sarnia District Masonic Library. V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern, F.C.F., Librarian & Historian. Blog: [Blog: https://masteremblem.wordpress.com/](https://masteremblem.wordpress.com/)

Golf Humour

Golfer: "Think I'm going to drown myself in the lake."
Caddie: "Think you can keep your head down that long?"

Golfer: "Do you think my game is improving?"
Caddie: "Yes sir, you miss the ball much closer now."

Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"
Caddie: "Eventually."

Golfer: "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world."
Caddie: "I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."

Golfer: "Please stop checking your watch all the time. It's too much of A distraction."
Caddie: "It's not a watch - it's a compass."

Golfer: "How do you like my game?"
Caddie: "Very good sir, but personally, I prefer golf."

Golfer: "That can't be my ball, it's too old."
Caddie: "It's been a long time since we teed off, sir."

From the Editor

Brethren,

Calling all Writers, Secretaries, Officers, and Members!

Please feel free to submit your pictures, give us promo material for lodge events, special meetings and any other function you would like us to include in our pages.

Thank you to Stan Satchell for the pictures of Ray Wilson, and the many other Masons who mentioned the article to me. It was good to see the recognition shining on such a humble person.

Also thank you to Bill Brimer, he pinged me an article about Masonic Island from Facebook that sent me down the internet rabbit hole gathering more details.

Finally, congratulations to Hugh Murray No. 602. They put on an amazing celebration in difficult times. Really impressed with what the Gala Committee put together.

So much happening as Lodges reawaken, feel free to drop us a line, updating everyone on your events, visits and fraternal gatherings.

The Chronicle would be pleased to receive any work you would like to share with other Masons.

S&F, Glen

Email Glen Notman – Editor at: gnotman@hotmail.com



Ontario Masons

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www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org

**Don't Miss Out! Golf Tournament
Registration Reminder!**
MasonicOpen22@gmail.com