

District 'C' Chronicle

March 2009

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.7

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last couple of months I have had the opportunity to visit lodges in the other Hamilton Districts and lodges outside of the Hamilton area. The bond that binds the Masonic fraternity together is special. I encourage you to visit other lodges and districts and enjoy the same warm welcome and camaraderie that is common in our Masonic family.

In closing, I had the distinct pleasure of being involved in the presentation of two special pins. On February 24, at Ancient Landmarks/Doric No. 654, W. Bro. Ernie Long received his 50 year Past Master's pin and R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie received his 50 year a Mason pin and jewel. It was a wonderful evening with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, many Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers, and other brethren in attendance. I congratulate both of these men on the milestones they have reached.

2008-2009 DISTRICT 'C' TEAM



Above is District Deputy R.W. Bro. Thomas Marshall, and nearly all his District 'C' team members, who cooperatively operate the District using the new 2008 Guide for the Operation and Management of our District to the best of their ability.

FROM OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Brethren, we often hear the statement "how time flies". Well isn't it true? It seems like it was just yesterday that it was the first of February and I was wondering if the ground hog would see his shadow and there would be six more weeks of winter or if he wouldn't and we would see an early spring. We know that he saw his shadow, but February has flown by and with most of the snow melted, spring appears to be within sight.

Recently we celebrated Family Day in February and although some may have had to work, the day does reinforce with us what is important. All the money in the world or expensive material possessions have little value if we do not have our family and friends to share and enjoy it.

We also have our Masonic family to share time with. What a wonderful thing visitation can be. It gives us a chance to acquaint ourselves with old friends and make new ones. The

SOME THINGS WE LEARNED AT THE MID TERM DISTRICT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 7, 2009.

- 13 lodges were represented at the mid term meeting, with a total of 37 members in attendance.
- The Treasurer reported a most healthy balance in the District account.
- 150 from 31 Districts' lodges attended the Districts Divine Service.
- On invite, the District Organist will assist any lodge on its Official Visit or Installation.
- The new Guide is working well for the first 6 months.
- 12 lodges have Masonic Education Representatives. Attendance at Masonic Education meetings is lower than expected.
- The next CHIP (Child Identification Program) clinic will be held at the Ancaster Fair on September 25, 26, and 27, 2009. Volunteers requested, and funding cost donations gratuitously received. Visit the MasoniCHIP website www.masonichip.ca. 139 Clinics from 27 Districts in the jurisdiction have identified 12,012 clients. Contact person, David Wilkinson, dsw593@gmail.com
- 5 lodges have sponsored Blood Clinics. 369 donations to date, down from previous 2 years. Needs more lodge representative involvement. Can get more clinics if Lodges will sponsor. Lodge Blood Donation reports should be forwarded to Chairman.
- 5 lodges are participating on the Website. Need total lodge participation, so new feature of upcoming degrees can show total District response. Each lodge secretary or his designate can post lodge information. Just 50 % of lodge reps came to the District Computer Training Workshop. Secretaries or reps can come to Chairman's office for training if needed.
- DDGM's District Charity Project, "Hamilton Partners in Nutrition (PIN), has realized over \$3000 by midterm meeting. Make donations payable to the Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief c/o Bob Kerr. Mark memo space as Hamilton District 'C' Charity Fund.
- 4 or more lodges in the Binbrook, Caledonia, Cayuga, and Hagersville area have been victims of spray painted "hateful words and phrases", which is under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police and the Hamilton Wentworth Police.

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

The DVD "MOZART DECODED", celebrating the birthday of Mozart (born in 1756), The Man, the Music, the Masonic Mystery, is now available from Sullivan Entertainment of Toronto, www.sullivanmovies.com. The musical world celebrated his 253rd birthday on January 27th. A copy has been placed in the Grand Lodge Library. R.W. Brother Raymond Daniels, Deputy Grand Master is the principal person interviewed about Mozart's Masonic connections which forms a large part of this documentary on Mozart's life. Our Deputy Grand Master represented Masonry masterfully.

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

It takes but an hour to bring a man into Masonry ritualistically (when he takes the Obligation) and legally (when he signs the By-laws). Then the life-long work of making a Mason philosophically begins. The responsibility of sponsors is clear. As the Junior Deacon acted as 'a friend and guide' to the candidate during the ceremony of initiation, every Master Mason is charged to 'afford assistance and instruction' to the brethren in 'the inferior Degrees.' The Past Masters of the lodge have a particular role to play as mentors. The experience, knowledge, and wisdom they possess provide a sound basis to mentor and instruct a neophyte Mason in the 'usages and customs' of the Craft. Who better to answer his questions and stimulate his interest and curiosity?

If every Past Master attached himself to one new Mason, bonded with him as Master and Apprentice, to provide guidance and encouragement, to introduce him to the world of Masonry beyond the limits of his own lodge by visiting other lodges in the District, we would ensure that the new Mason would quickly become an integral part of the lodge. "*He who teaches often learns much.*" The Past Master stands to gain as much as, if not more than, the candidate from this close fraternal relationship.

The Grand Lodge website contains many programmes to assist Worshipful Masters, District and Lodge Chairmen. www.grandlodge.on.ca Yours to discover – and it's all there for the taking!

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

With the ever increasing use of record keeping and storage by means of the computer, it is important, for historical purposes, that the lodge secretary ensure the provisions of Section 298 (a) B. of C. and related Form 4 are complied with.

Even if the computer generates and stores the minutes they **must also be printed and kept in a bound minute book (glue or stitch backed)** and produced as per Form 4. I am advised that any Staples store can provide glue backing of paper materials up ½ inch and a few of them up to 1 inch. A number of printing houses can provide affordable binding also.

Please ensure the provisions of this section are adhered to, "in order that the brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past."

OUR GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVE TO TURKEY



Very Worshipful Brother Charlie Houghton of Meridian Lodge No. 687, has been our Grand Lodge's Representative for Turkey since 1992. Here he is with R.W. Brother Remzi Sanver, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Turkey who was in Temple Lodge No. 690 Waterloo in January, to assist R.W. Brother Ayhan Inal, Deputy Grand Master of Turkey initiate his second son into Ontario Freemasonry. Charlie maintains a very close corresponding relationship with the Grand Lodge of Turkey.

A WARM MASONIC TALE

It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up:

"I can tell you more bout Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books.

Everybody Stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire." They did that.

"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him." they did that, too. "Now, what do you see looking ahead?" "The face of a brother through the flames."

"What do you feel in front of you?" "The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night."

"What do you feel at your side?" "The warm hand of a brother."

"OK. Now drop the hands, and turn around." They do so.

"Now what do you see, looking ahead?" "Complete darkness."

"What do you feel, looking ahead?" "A sense of loneliness, of being alienated."

"What do you feel at your side?" "Nothing at all."

"What do you feel on your backside?" "The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man.

"In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother.

When you turn away from masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother.

But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you."

Author Unknown

FIFTY YEAR RECOGNITIONS



Ancient Landmarks/Doric brethren, Wor. Bro Ernie Long received his 50 year Past Master pin (W.M.Oxford Lodge No.76, Woodstock in 1957) and R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie received his Veteran Jubilee Medal, for 50 years a Mason.



Worshipful Master Ian MacLean welcomed several Grand Lodge Officers to Landmarks/Doric No .654 on February 24th, including Grand Master Allan Petrisor, Deputy Grand Master Raymond Daniels, Grand Secretary Terry Shand, and Past Grand Masters Gary Atkinson, Charles Downes P.H. and Clive Barnes P.H.

Wisdom is the reward for listening over a lifetime

RESTORATION BEGINS ON ROSSLYN CHAPEL

Millions of pounds will be spent on the restoration of Rosslyn Chapel, Scotland, which has seen a surge in visitors in recent years following the interest generated by the Da Vinci Code novel and film, in which it is featured. Rosslyn is well known for its intricate and symbolic carvings, from Christianity and Freemasonry, as well as mythology.

Work will begin shortly on building a temporary visitor centre, as one of the first phases of the £13 million project. Expert stonemasons are expected to take approximately one year to conserve the ornate stonework of the 15th century medieval structure. It is anticipated that all work will be complete by 2011. The main phase of the work will commence during the summer, and will involve the repair of leaded and stained glass and the restoration of the baptistery. New additions and upgrades are planned as well, including visitor facilities such as educational areas and a café, and a new roof will be installed. Visitors will be welcomed throughout the refurbishment work, as it has been planned to create a minimum of disturbance.

For more information visit: www.rosslynchapel.org.uk

by Peter Headley, January, 2009

MASONIC THOUGHTS

Going 'through the chairs' is not unlike going 'through the degrees' for a candidate. Becoming a Master Mason is not the end, but the beginning of Masonic service. When the Past Master moves one chair to the right, it should be considered the beginning of a new role. The experience and knowledge accumulated in the years leading to that point should now be shared with all the members. If the WM is the Pillar of

Wisdom, the SW the Pillar of Strength, the JW the Pillar of Beauty, then perhaps the PM is the Pillar of Understanding.

If every active PM in the lodge would take responsibility for one new initiate, follow him through, acting as mentor, friend, and guide to encourage and support him, work with him, travel with him, bond with him, there would be a good reason to stay active.

As many of the young men joining our ranks are seriously seeking and searching for something that they have not found anywhere else in society - profound spiritual meaning in life - a keen interest in our ancient mysteries - the esoteric, the symbolic, the philosophical, the mystical – every PM should relish the opportunity of sharing his thoughts and ideas in this fraternal relationship. When Age and Youth Unite - combining enthusiasm and experience - Freemasonry will flourish in the hearts and minds of both.

by John Molnar, P.M., Maple Leaf Lodge No. 600

*Reach for the sun and should you miss
you will end up among the stars*

FREEMASONRY IN RUSSIA

After more than a 70-years' recess, or “sleeping period” that was due to the laws of the long closed society, prohibiting the very existence of any group, the aims of which were not precisely the same as the aims of governing party, Russian Freemasonry has been revived.

The Grand Lodge of Russia was constituted by the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise on June, 24, 1995, and is now recognized by at least 70 Grand Lodges, including:

- The United Grand Lodge of England
- The Grand Mother Lodge of Scotland
- The Grand Lodge of Ireland
- The United Grand Lodge of Germany
- The Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary
- The National Grand Lodge of France
- The Grand Lodge of New York
- The Grand Lodge of Alaska
- The Grand Lodge of Austria
- The Grand East of the Netherlands
- The Grand Lodge of New York State

Perhaps nothing in Russia can whip up public hysteria like the notion of a Masonic conspiracy to take over the country. The word “democrat” has also become a widely pejorative term, and long hair on men is certainly a no-no for much of the Russian public.

Now meet Andrei Bogdanov, a presidential candidate with long, curly hair who heads up the country's largest Masonic lodge as well as the Democratic Party of Russia. At 38, Bogdanov was Russia's youngest-ever presidential candidate, and he ran a long-shot campaign for election as First Deputy Prime Minister. Dmitry Medvedev, President Vladimir Putin's preferred candidate, was Successful. Bogdanov's Democratic

party was also widely seen as a Kremlin-controlled project to draw votes away from actual opposition candidates and give voters a tame liberal option. Bogdanov was truly optimistic that he could draw widespread support among young voters, despite his Masonic background and cascading locks. "We were working for the future," Bogdanov said in an interview at his party's headquarters in central Moscow. "A new generation of voters will emerge with a better knowledge of Freemasonry and with fewer prejudices about it, and about the long hair."

Asked about his Freemasonry, Bogdanov said he keeps it away from politics. "For me, it's more about being a member of a spiritual brotherhood than anything else."

Excerpted from Hiram's Lighthouse

As you know, Masonry in Russia used to be very strongly oppressed during the Soviet period, and due to this and the fact that public oppression still goes on, their web certainly lacks objective and publicly available information. However, things are improving.

I checked with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Russia, R.W. Bro. Vladimir Nikitin PGSW to learn that at the present time they have 23 lodges in their jurisdiction and that Andrey Bogdanov continues as Grand Master.

WELL INFORMED BRETHREN

(Continued from the February Chronicle)

Here are the answers to fifteen more common questions in regard to their Masonic meanings.

Freeborn. Masonically used in reference to the old Roman sense of being born without slave ancestry. In the Masonic sense, *Freeborn* means without *traceable slave* ancestry, and able to make decisions of ones own ability and judgment.

Golden Fleece. The *Order of the Golden Fleece* referred to in the Apron Lecture of the E. A. Degree was a celebrated order of knighthood in Austria, Spain and Flanders, founded in 1429 for the glory of the Saints and the protection of the Church. The *fleece* may also refer to the Golden Fleece of Greek mythology.

Hele. A word that has caused a considerable amount of enquiry and some controversy. It is old Saxon and is pronounced *hail* or *hale*. It means to conceal.

Holden. Ancient form of the word "held." It is good Masonic language to speak of a Lodge as "holden" under its Grand Lodge, or of the Feast of St. John the Evangelist as "holden" on December 27th.

Hoodwink. Commonly used to denote deception, to delude. Masonically it denotes covering, concealing. Supposedly it comes from the days of falconry, when the birds were hooded to keep them quiet until let loose after prey. On being brought

into the daylight, the birds winked, as indeed a man does after taking off a bandage long over his eyes. From this, the expression came to mean a covering for the eyes. Indicating deception is an obvious analogy to the ease with which a blind person may be fooled.

Jurisdiction. The territory and the Craft within it over which a Grand Lodge is sovereign. The word also means the territorial boundaries of the Grand Lodge.

Just and legally or lawfully. *Just*, complete in all its parts, refers to a Lodge having the necessary furniture and the required number of brethren to open and transact business. *Legally or lawfully constituted* is a Lodge opened and at work under the laws of its Grand Lodge and its own by-laws. A Master who assembled the constitutional number of brethren, and opened a Lodge without notifying all local members of a special meeting would not have a "legally or lawfully constituted Lodge."

Parallelepipedon. A dictionary definition is a prism or solid with six faces, each of which is a parallelogram. A parallelogram is so named because it has two pairs of opposite sides that are parallel.

Profane. Masonically does not refer to blasphemy, but to non-membership. A profane is one without the Temple, not initiated; from the Latin *pro*, without, and *fanum* a sacred place or temple. For Masons, the "profane world" then, is the non-Masonic world.

Rite. A solemn ceremony performed in a prescribed manner. Masonically it means not only the form of degrees, but in a larger sense, the whole system; as the York, Rite, or the Scottish Rite. The word also refers to small parts of larger ceremonies, as the Entered Apprentice rite, the Fellow Craft rite, the Cryptic rite, a Chivalric rite. etc.

Strict trial. Refers to the matter, not the manner of an examination. A trial is *strict* when it satisfies a committee that the one being examined is what he purports to be.

Summons. An order to attend lodge, issued by the authority of the Worshipful Master, or for his members to appear at a special meeting or as a witness to a Masonic trial; commands issued by the Grand Master to appear before him or Grand Lodge.

Tenet. a principle, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true; especially, one held in common by members of an organization, movement, or profession. *circa 1600*

Vouching. The process of informing another that a third is a Master Mason. Cannot legally be done except in the presence of three; the avoucher, the one vouched to, the person vouched for. Properly to vouch for any one, the avoucher must have legal Masonic knowledge, i.e., either have sat in Lodge with the person vouched for, have had him vouched for by one who has, or be present at a properly appointed Masonic committee for examination.

AN OBITUARY PRINTED IN THE LONDON TIMES

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights; I Want It Now; Someone Else Is To Blame; I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WORRY

We all remember the question, "In all cases of difficulty and danger, in whom do you place your trust?" In these times of economic crisis, many families are worried and concerned about the ever-decreasing shortage of money supply needed to run their households. Jobs are disappearing and the economic outlook for many is depressing.

Worry seems to be a natural reaction to all such concerns. Yet, did we not unhesitatingly give our response to the question above? Did we not understand the full implication of the question? Then why do we resort to worry?

In a paraphrase of Philippians 4, we are reminded to let our petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns. Before we know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle us down. It's a wonderful thing when God displaces worry at the centre of our lives.

A paraphrase of Philippians 4: verses 6 and 7
submitted by W. Bro. Tom Fiddes, Chaplain, District "C"

The cheapest facelift is a smile

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why do certain Past Masters criticize Junior Officers in such a condescending manner, so as to humiliate them to the point where they consider leaving the office and maybe even the lodge?

A. It is so unfortunate that some Past Masters should consider themselves such an authority, as to upset a new officer or member. Much of this disharmony arises from Past Masters attempting to modify members actions in a manner which is more directive based on their past experiences rather than being consultative towards the ideas or actions of Junior Officers or Junior Past Masters. A lodge requires a strong framework of Past Masters for much of its operation but on occasions a new super-structure might arise. This is best done without a major crisis. It requires a working together of good men and communicating ideas among equals. Change is a difficult process from either side. Tim Horton's provides a quiet retreat for personal reflections.

Q. What is meant by "in the body of a lodge, just, perfect and regular?"

- A. a) A lodge is just because the V.O.T.S.L., the unerring standard of justice, in on the A.
b) A lodge is perfect when it has the necessary quorum of seven members.
c) A lodge is regular when duly entered on the register of our Grand Lodge or a Grand Lodge with which we are in amity. (see *Beyond the Pillars*, p.99).

LATEST NEWS

IN MEMORIAM: WOR. BRO. ANTONIO R. JANSZ

passed to the Grand Lodge Above on February 3, 2009. Was Worshipful Master of Electric Lodge No. 495 in 1990 and 1996. Many would have remembered Tony as one of the Custodians at the Masonic Centre, Hamilton. Visitation was at Crestmount Funeral Home, and Funeral Services at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 406 Mohawk Rd. E. on Friday February 6, 2009 at 10 a.m. No Masonic Service.



IN MEMORIAM: BRO. MICHAEL ROSS McLAREN,

member of Electric Lodge No.495, who passed to the Grand Lodge Above on February 11, 2009. Initiated into The Electric Lodge 21st March 1990, Michael was a Past President of Hamilton East Wentworth Rotary Club and an avid community service worker.

IN MEMORIAM: V.W.BRO. WILLIAM (BILL) BIRNIE,

Past Grand Steward, a member of Electric Lodge No. 495, who passed to the Grand Lodge Above on February 15, 2009. Initiated into the Electric Lodge 17th May 1950. Was a Life Member of the Lodge. He was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in the 50th Anniversary year of 1950. Served as the Secretary from 1984 to 1989. Appointed Grand Steward in 1971. Bill was presented with his 50 years Service Pin in the May of 2000. He was a member of all of the York Rite Bodies of Masonry and was a Right Excellent Companion, Scribe Nehemiah in Royal Arch Masonry. No Masonic Service.

We Mourn their Passing and We Cherish their Memories.

DDGM'S MARCH OFFICIAL VISITS:

March 17, Centennial Daylight Lodge No.679, 10:00 am.
Lunch to follow.

March 24, Ancient Landmarks/Doric No.654, Dinner at 6:30 pm; Lodge 7:30 pm

HAMILTON DDGMS' RECEPTION AND DANCE, Saturday March 7, at Masonic Centre Hamilton. 6:00 pm Reception. 7:00 pm Dinner.

MASTERS' AND WARDENS ASSOCIATION: Tuesday March 31, at Ancaster Masonic Temple 7:30 pm. Topic: Protocol and Etiquette.

FIRST ANNUAL DUFFERIN WARPLANE GALA, will be held **Saturday April 18th** at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. The evening will include: Dinner, Dancing, a Live Orchestra, Tour amongst the War Planes, and a chance to win a flight for 2 in a DC-3 Transport War Plane. See: http://www.floatpoint.com/warplane_gala.pdf for details. For tickets (\$65) call: Devin Tuinstra at (905) 526-0386.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF TORONTO

WEST is pleased to present a special "Education Event". An 18th Century Degree performed in costume, by the Wellington District 18th Century Degree Team.

Friday, April 24 - 8:00 P.M. - West Toronto Masonic Temple (151 Annette Street). A 1st Degree as performed by the "Ancients" and "Moderns". (Circa 1774) Hosted by Prince of Wales Lodge No. 630 MASONs, NON-MASONs AND LADIES WELCOME, Minimum Age - 21 Years. REGALIA NOT REQUIRED, PICTURES MAY BE TAKEN Admission is \$5.00. For further information – Contact: Ed Grinko @ (416)749-0101 or email: edgrinko@hotmail.com

HAMILTON MASONIC DISTRICTS' DIVINE

SERVICE, Sunday April 26, at East Plains United Church, 375 Plains Road East, Burlington, arranged by Burlington Lodge No. 165. Assembly 7:00 pm, Service 7:30 pm.

WILLIAM MERCER WILSON MEDAL: King Solomon's Lodge No 378 London, will be presenting Bro.James Hunter the William Mercer Wilson Medal, **Wednesday April 29th** at an Emergent Meeting 7:30pm. in the London Temple, 453 Dufferin Ave. London, N6B 1Z7. The Grand Master will be in attendance. Ladies welcome. Reception to follow in lower banquet room. Contact person Leroy Behrns leebehrns@sympatico.ca .

DISTRICT 'C', SPRING MEETING, Saturday, May 9 at Ancaster Masonic Temple 419 Wilson Street, Ancaster starting at 10:00 am. All District Masons are welcomed, especially the Worshipful Master, Secretary and Officers of your lodge.

PAST MASTER'S ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS, Friday May 29, at Masonic Centre Hamilton. Presentation of candidates for Grand Lodge Offices. Joint meeting with Masters' and Wardens' Association. 6:30 pm Dinner @ \$13.00; 7:30 pm Meeting. Contact person Tom Young, tyoung@mountaincable.net

NEW GRANDFATHER!

Thursday Feb. 26th, Our District Secretary, Dan Devison