District 'C'hronicle

December 2022

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.172

C'hronicle SILVER AWARD 2016, 2017

In this Issue

| m uno nobae |
|--|
| A Message from Our District Deputy Grand Master1 |
| From the Grand Master, November Communique2 |
| From the Deputy, Nov Comm College of Freemasonry3 |
| Hamilton C District Dates to Remember4 |
| Around the District, Lodge Events are Happening!5 |
| Christmas Poem and Greetings from District C |
| Santa: The Saint and the Season from W.Bro. Evans7 |
| Events, and Editor's Note8 |

Our District Deputy Grand Master

Where did the fall go? The summer? Before we knew it, we have found ourselves in the last month of 2022!

As we become busier making arrangements to celebrate the holidays with family and friends and as we also begin turning out sights to 2023 I would like to take this opportunity to pause – even if just for a brief quiet moment reflect and upon, Masonically speaking, the moment in time at which we currently reside.



We seem to have arrived at a point in time where the district lodges are settling in to three distinct categories: first, lodges that are back at labour in a manner befitting our beautiful Craft – conducting degrees, delivering Masonic Education, performing Installations, etc.; second, lodges that continue to work with purpose towards Masonry as Intended – ramping up degree work in a somewhat slower yet still progressive way, holding enjoyable festive boards and fortifying fraternal bonds; and third, lodges that, simply put, will likely not recover to the point where Masonry is being properly executed – degree work not occurring, Candidates in a difficult waiting posture, meetings being cancelled, etc.

In this quiet moment, please reflect on your lodge's circumstance and please consider moving forward in

a manner that celebrates the Mason and the Craft. More than celebrates though – proceeds in a manner that respects and protects the Mason and the Craft. Should amalgamation or surrender of a warrant be in your lodge's plans, this can still be done in a manner that respects and protects!

While we rest in this moment thinking about the condition of our lodges, let us also think about those in need – after all, charitable activity is one component when assessing the condition of our lodges.

"Tis not enough to help the feeble up, but to support them after" Shakespeare, Timon of Athens, Act I, scene i.

As everyone is aware, this year's district charity is Mission Services of Hamilton (project #2406). The last few years have taken an entire segment of our population, those who were *already* marginalised before the pandemic, and pushed them further away from the possibility of happiness and a secure life. Pushed them coldly and relentlessly to the very edges of our society. Mission Services of Hamilton helps our brothers and sisters under several programmes and you can learn more about those programmes here:

www.mission-services.com

At this time of year, many of us open up our hearts and our wallets to help our distressed neighbours. This is to be celebrated! Elsewhere in this edition, you will find a short article by W. Bro. Manmohan highlighting an effort he and others are spearheading at Mission Services which takes charity beyond the dollars and cents and into action. If you can support this effort, please get in contact with Ed.

Brethren, as we come out from this contemplative moment and return to busy thoughts and lives I share with you my and my family's best to you and yours this holiday season and the best of wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2023.

R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul



The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton. Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <u>http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org</u>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website. Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'hronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions



Hamilton District C Charity #2406

As Freemasons, we all have

a special reason the fraternity appealed to us, and personal reasons for getting involved. For me, it's been supporting the community. For many years, I've supported Mission Services of Hamilton's mission to end poverty and create safe places to learn, heal, and grow. Even before I took my EA Obligation!

I belong to Westmount Lodge No. 671. In the old world, teams of Westmount Brethren and our families would regularly volunteer to serve hot meals and help organize the Good Food Centre. Mission Services of Hamilton was our Lodge charity for many years. I know, firsthand, the good that's served from our District Charity's kitchens, and how many people visit their Good Food Centre.

In a post-pandemic world, food bank visits are skyrocketing! High inflation, rising food and fuel costs, unaffordable housing, etc., are causing Hamiltonians to visit food banks for the first time, at an alarming rate! Many of our neighbours need to choose: pay bills or eat? Many are forced to skip meals because they can't afford three meals a day. Mission Services of Hamilton needs our help!

If you can volunteer a few hours a week to help our community, please email me at <u>emanmohan@hotmail.com</u>. They need volunteers to help pack food hampers, organize shelves, and other activities in the Good Food Centre.

Financial contributions are also VERY WELCOME! You can help from your warm home by either visiting the <u>Mission Services of Hamilton</u> website to help, or through the Masonic Foundation, citing District C charity number #2406 <u>https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-</u>masonic-foundation-of-ontario/

You can sponsor a Christmas meal for a family, organize a food and hygiene drive, or make a financial donation.

Let's share some real cheer this Christmas!

W.B. Ed Manmohan Benevolence Chairman, Hamilton Masonic District 'C'

From the Grand Lodge Website

<u>These items have a direct link</u> for your convenience

<u>November 24, 2022</u> <u>Benevolence Application –</u> <u>November 24, 2022</u>

<u>November 5, 2022</u> Grand Master's Itinerary 2022-2023 –



From the Grand Master November Communique

This Fall seems to be jammed with opportunities to celebrate anniversary milestones of so many Lodges within our Grand Jurisdiction – and to play catch-up for those we missed over the last two and a half years. And November seems the same with five anniversary celebrations queued up this month. These anniversaries provide us with the opportunity to again renew, as it were, our vows of ardent devotion to the Craft and its cherished ideals which have animated us, and for the purpose of repolishing the precious and treasured jewels of our faith, so that the added lustre may be a gleaming beacon to all those yet in darkness; for at no other time of the year are such favourable opportunities afforded, and never are minds so receptive and well prepared.

As we celebrate these anniversaries, we pass another milestone along life's toilsome journey, and one more ink has been added to the long unbroken chain of the history of our beloved institution.

In many respects the past few years have been troublesome, and the profane world is still teeming with perplexing and seemingly insoluble problems; moreover the peace we all crave continues to escape it. Fortunately, on the other side of the account, there has been great rejoicing throughout many of our communities as reflected in these anniversary celebrations.

Anyone who has lived in the last 150 years has seen the development of all the modern gadgets for office and home, as well as such things as the typesetting machine, automobile, airplane, radio, television, and a thousand socalled modern necessities that were not so much as dreamed of in the days of our forefathers. During the years many things have been invented, have been useful for a time, and have disappeared from the scene.

Freemasonry, however, was here long before the invention of these modern conveniences and machines that have revolutionized the home, society and industry. It will continue, regardless of to what undreamed of extent, such inventions may take us. No ancient or modern invention has wrought any noticeable effect upon it. It has remained unchangeable while everything around it has changed. Life has been streamlined; but Freemasonry's rituals teach the same things that were taught by the rituals of 1717 and earlier. Even the manner of teaching Freemasonry's lessons has hardly changed except as greater understanding has given us opportunity to make more modern applications, such as Zoom calls, or has given us new interpretations of unchanging Symbols.

We need more things in life as fundamental and as unchangeable as the eternal Truths which have attended and preserved Freemasonry through the centuries.

'Be careful how you live your life. You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet

Thomas W. Hogeboom

November Communique From the Deputy

My Brethren:

Fall is upon us and we've had some great weather with lots of sun and warm temperatures but we have also had some unmistakable wet, rainy and cool weather. The Masonic Education Chairman, R.W. Bro. James Broomhead, who lives in Chapleau Ontario has already had some wet, heavy snow and hopefully the majority of us can defer that until a much later date. The end of the bountiful farm harvest season is closing in fast so let's all enjoy the fall colours around us, stay safe in everything that we do and invest heavily in time with family and friends.

November is also the time of year that we remember our Veterans. Brethren it is due to the dedication to our country and the sacrifices made by our enlisted forces personal that makes us proud and makes us a free nation. To everyone that has served, both Masons and non-Masons, we truly thank you for your service.

So far I've talked about the Condition of Masonry, the L Forms and the importance of the Lodge Report Card which is derived from the Official visits of the District Deputy Grand Masters. I've also talked about the DDGM Preparation Committee going back out on the road in and around our jurisdiction with their fall schedule of presentations. If you are aspiring to hold a higher office in your District, please attend one of these sessions and get prepared. I would always recommend attending these DDGM Preparation presentations more than once as you will learn the ins and outs of leading your fellow Brethren more every time. The other way to better prepare yourself for higher office would be to complete the Past Masters Course as presented by the College of Freemasonry. The College is lead by R.W. Bro. Michael Kirk who is here to help you succeed. This course is divided up into six modules and contains much information on; Leadership, Communication, Protocol and Etiquette, The District, Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge Leadership. Please search out the College of Freemasonry on the Grand Lodge Website and enroll as soon as you are able. There is a cost involved, although a nominal fee, to take the Past Masters Course but it is well worth the effort that you will put into it. Both of these paths to becoming a successful DDGM or Grand Registrar are full of information and training. They will prepare you for the journey ahead. The Book of Constitution of Grand Lodge states, 50 (b), A candidate for the office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession of a qualifying certificate, as offered by our Grand Lodge, on or before the closing date for nominations, as determined by the Board of General Purposes, of the year seeking office. In short Brethren, this means that either the DDGM Preparation Course or the Past Masters Course is required in order to become a District Deputy Grand Master or a Grand Registrar. Either path will take you some time to complete so plan ahead and adjust your schedule as necessary. When I'm asked which course or which path is better to prepare you for the future, I

always would prefer and recommend that you would take both. Some members would suggest one is better over the other but please consider both. The DDGMP is a hands on, one day session which is taught by past District Deputy's based on their experience serving our Grand Lodge while the Past Masters Course from the College is a written curriculum which takes time to read, understand and answer questions. Both are in depth, knowledge based and proven to enable you to have a successful year leading your District into the future. Hopefully when you finish the six modules of the Past Masters Course, you would consider going back to the College of Freemasonry to gain the Fellow of the College of Freemasonry designation which is the completion of modules 1 to 16b. The four courses offered from the College are listed as; Masonic Arts and Sciences Course (FCF Designation), Aspiring Worshipful Masters Course, District Secretary's Course and the Past Masters Qualifying Course.

Brethren, make a daily advancement in your Masonic Education, take your knowledge in our Craft to the next level and find out more about the College of Freemasonry and/or the DDGM Preparation Committee. Go to the Grand Lodge Website, click on Education and then on College of Freemasonry and/or DDGM Preparation.

Thank you again Brethren for another great month of being a Freemason in our vast Jurisdiction. Please stay safe and healthy, be kind to others and be the reason that someone smiles today.

Jamie R. Ireland Deputy Grand Master

| 1 | College of Freemasonry |
|-----|---|
| | Masonry in Public – Buildings, MASONICH, LP., Social Media, Community, Ontario Mason Magazine, Regalia in Public |
| 2 | Benevolence – Benevolence and the Masonic Foundation |
| 3 | Faith – Our Ritual, Religion, V.O.S.L., Three Questions to the Applicant, and Memoria Services |
| 4 | Masonic Lodge - Meetings, By-Laws, Committees, Visiting, Finance, Voting, Ballotin & Elections, Applications, Committee of Inquiry, Degree Work |
| 5 | Justice in Masonry – Ritual, Book of Constitution, Charges of a Freemason |
| 6 | Leadership - Leadership Traits, Masonic Leadership, Motivation, Leadership Strategies Delegating versus Assigning |
| 7 | Communication - Effective Communication, Correspondence, Listening versus Hearing |
| 8 | Officer Training – Elections & Appointments, Lodge Officers, Planning, Balloting, |
| 9 | Protocol and Etiquette – Lodge room, Festive Board, Tributes, GLO's |
| 10 | Worshipful Master – His Collar, Constitution & By-laws, Summons, Committees, Planning, more P & E. |
| 11 | The District – Communication, D.D.G.M., Official Visits, District Committees, Dispensation |
| 12 | Dawn of Freemasonry – Ancient Times, Guilds, Operative to Speculative Masonry, First Grand Lodge, Organization in England |
| 13 | Masonry in North America - Early Masonry North America, The Provincial Grand Lodges |
| 14 | History of Our Grand Lodge – First Grand Master and the early years of our Grand Lodge |
| 15 | Grand Lodge – Elections and Appointments, Annual Communication, Proceedings, Recognition of Grand Lodges, P & E of Grand Lodge |
| 16a | Philosophy & Symbolism –Initiation through Raising (Part 1) |
| 16b | Philosophy & Symbolism –Initiation through Raising (Part 2) |
| 17 | Grand Lodge Leadership – District Administration & Management, Reports, Observation of a Lodge, Board of General Purposes, Management Committee, and Grand Lodge Committees |
| 18 | Esoteric Studies - A study of the deeper meanings and origins of Freemasonry |
| | Ethics & Morals - Designed to give you some tools that will aid with conflict resolution |

Link to the college-of-freemasonry enrolment-form

Hamilton District 'C' – Dates to Remember

January 2023

D.D.G.M. Official Visits

Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Thurs January 5, 2023 Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm Accompanying: Landmarks / Doric Lodge No. 654 Hillcrest

Landmarks / Doric Lodge No.654

Tues January 24, 2023 Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm Accompanying: Seymour Lodge No.272 Masonic Centre of Hamilton

Harodim Lodge No. 513

Thurs January 26, 2023 Dinner TBA, Tyle 7:30 pm Accompanying: Ionic Lodge No. 549 Masonic Centre of Hamilton

Installation of Officers

Seymour Lodge No. 272 Tuesday January 10th Tyle 7:30 pm Ancaster Temple

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Tuesday January 17th inner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm Masonic Centre of Hamilton

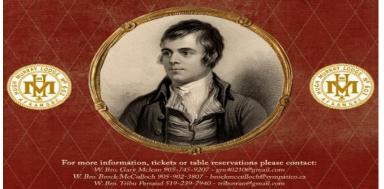
HUGH MURRAY LODGE No 602 AF&AM GRC Invites you to our

ROBBIE BURNS DINNER Friday January 20th, 2023 6:30p.m. Cocktails - 7:00p.m. Dinner

MICHELANGELO'S EVENTS & CONVENTION CENTER 1555 Upper Ottawa St. Hamilton, ON L8W3E2

> Tickets: \$65 per person \$120 per couple \$450 per table Formal/Business Attire or Kilts

We invite you, your friends, and family to celebrate the Immortal Robbie Burns with traditional Scottish foods, festivities, music and a DJ to dance the night away.



District 'C' Mid Term Meeting Saturday January 21, 2023, 9:00 am - Noon Flamborough Masonic Temple

December 1

Memorial Service

Memorial Service

V.W. Bro. Don Falconer

Buchanan Lodge No.550

Hugh Murray Lodge No, 602

Initiated - Sept 6, 1979 Passed - Oct , 1979 Raised - Nov 1, 1979

Passed to the GLA - March 25, 2020

Buchanan and Hugh Murray Lodges are cooperating to have a memorial service for V.W. Bro Don Falconer. He was a past master in both lodges and his memorial service is long overdue because of pandemic restrictions.

Memorial Service for V. W. Bro Don Falconer Thursday Dec 1 at 7:30 PM Hillcrest Masonic Temple. (257 Mohawk Road W., Hamilton) Arrive at approx 7:00 PM Service instructions to be given at 7:20PM Service to begin at 7:30PM. Attire - Dark Business Suit.

Light refreshments to be served afterwards.

A Day of Masonry – Saturday, April 29, 2023

Think. Share. Action.

The Day will include several activities:

A Town Hall with our special guest speaker -

M.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

A variety of seminars presented by our Grand Lodge Pillars with Q&A to follow A buffet-style dinner

An Open House for the general public to learn about who we are and what we do Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief Spring Divine Service (Regalia)

Information booths

When – Saturday, April 29th, 2023 – noon to 7:00 p.m.

Where - Masonic Centre of Hamilton, 4 Queen Street South, Hamilton

Spaces are limited - requests will be handled on a first come basis. Business Casual attire.

Dinner cost of \$35 per person may be e-transferred to <u>adayofmasonry@gmail.com</u>

Around the District

Add your dates and events to the Website Trestle board page to encourage visitors! and send us your pictures!



Seymour Lodge No. 272



The Electric Lodge No.495



Dufferin Lodge No. 291



Congratulations to V.W. Bro. Tom McCrae on being presented with his regalia









Hugh Murray Lodge No.602 *Ladies Night*

Christmas Greetings from District C



It is the time of year when the brethren rejoice, and sing carols of praise in resounding voice.

Days of merriment and long nights of cheer, as we all await the "Happy New Year!".

It is a time of family and life long friends, a time of happiness and to make amends.

Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite, we each have our own way to make Christmas complete.

As we stroll through this happy month of December find time to pause and take time to remember that distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart – those acts of Charity.

How great they are. As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree, and the children play with giggles of glee, spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes, whose daily meal is less than your dues.

Remember also the Grand Lodge above, and the Supreme Great Architect's act of love. And practise those virtues we hold so true. Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you. And during this season of peace and joy look well to our future — the girl and boy. Then wonder what lessons you may them teach, and with your guidance what heights they may reach.

So, to all of my brethren from far and wide, whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry, may the Architect grant his celestial boon and keep your good health 'til we meet again soon. Take care of yourself and those you find dear. Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year. Look toward your next date with our happy band.

'Til our next merry meeting. Apron, heart, and hand.

District C Team 2022

R.W. Bro. William W. Paul W. Bro. Andrew Simpson R.W. Bro. John MacPherson R.W. Bro. Robin Colville R.W. Bro. Glen Notman R. W. Bro. Roger Parliament V.W. Bro. Ray Wilson

V.W. Bro. Bob Doherty R.W. Bro. Tom Marshall W. Bro. Steve Badger V.W. Bro. Roy Metcalfe W. Bro. Scott Simpson Bro. Scott Balinson R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson W. Bro. Cory McCarthy Bro. Ed Alexander W. Bro. Ed Manmohan Bro. James Robinson Bro. Matthew Mandula W. Bro. Chris Jordison R.W. Bro. Devin Tuinstra W. Bro. Barry McDougall Bro. Chris Makarewicz V.W. Bro. Craig McPhail



Santa: the Saint and the Season

(Respectfully submitted, W. Bro. Lorne G. Evans)

Saint Nicholas was a wealthy fourth century Greek Christian priest in the city of Myra, Turkey. When the Bishop of Myra died, the local priests decided that the next person who darkened the door would be named Bishop. St. Nicholas "entered the Temple whither he had retired to offer up his prayers to the Most High, as was his wonted custom, at the hour of high twelve." He was accosted by a group of enthusiastic who priests, immediately proclaimed him Bishop. Eventually, he became the patron saint of children. students, brewers, and the Through Greek navy. Nicholas's legendary habit of secret gift-giving, he gained immense popularity. In one



famous incident, he rescued three young girls from prostitution by surreptitiously dropping a bag of gold coins through their window, so their father could pay off debts, and offer a dowry for his daughters.

During the millennia after his death, much lore grew up around Saint Nicholas. From Holland, where Saint Nicholas morphed into Sinter Klaas, the tradition of coming down the chimney, and putting toys in childrens' stockings was carried to the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, present day New York. In the late eighteenth century, Dutch families like the Roosevelts, and the Rockefellers, celebrated Saint Nicholas's feast day. By early 1800, Saint Nicholas was portrayed hanging toy-filled stockings over the fireplace, but his image, stature and costume varied greatly, whether as an elf, a rascal, or a jolly, chubby, senior citizen. In 1822, Dr. Clement Moore, a New Yorker, wrote The Night Before Christmas. He made St. Nick fly from house to house in a sleigh drawn by eight reindeer, leaving gifts for wellbehaved kids. In 1881, an editorial cartoonist illustrated the Santa Claus we recognize today: chubby, jolly, white beard, red suit, a sack full of toys, elves, a workshop, and a merry wife.

The ancient Romans celebrated 'Saturnalia,' the uproarious festival of Saturn, in mid-December. They decorated trees, feasted, drank to excess, and partied tumultuously. Decorations included wreaths, candles, and clay figurines, which replaced ancient human sacrifices. Gifts were exchanged at the New Year. These winter solstice festivities continued after the Roman Empire converted to Christianity. The Bishop of Constantinople attempted to ban the immoderate drinking, feasting, and dancing associated with Christmas, but to no avail. In ancient Germany, fir trees were decorated as part of solstice celebrations. They were known as 'Paradise Trees', as in the Garden of Eden, and were decorated with those naughty red apples. The Church tried to ban such celebrations of the Original Sin, but people simply cut the fir trees down, and surreptitiously moved the suggestive frivolity indoors. In Scotland, when John Knox's Presbyterian church tried to ban the festive celebrations, the parishioners simply skipped church, and went to the pub instead.

Many venerable Christmas traditions have survived from earlier times. We cherish the Biblical images of the rustic manger, guarded by angels, with cattle lowing, shepherds and their sheep, and the Wise Men and their camels. Pagan traditions which featured wreaths, holly, ivy, and mistletoe have also persisted. In Canada, cedar and pine boughs were plentiful. Traditional Christmas carols like "Silent Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Away in a Manger," and "The First Noel" became popular in Victorian times. So did Scrooge's Christmas goose. In Canada, there was the traditional turkey.

In the early 19th century, a member of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, in South Carolina, popularized an attractive shrub called the 'Mexican fire plant'. Eventually, it was renamed after its discoverer, Dr. J. R. Poinsett. Queen Victoria's German consort, Prince Albert, imported the Tannenbaum Christmas tree tradition to England in 1841, to celebrate the arrival of their first-born son, (Edward VII), by decorating a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. Candles and gas jets soon came into use as decorations, along with tinsel, popcorn, and hand-blown glass decorations in the shape of fruits and nuts. By the late 19th century, Thomas Edison had invented the incandescent, or white hot, light-emitting, electric light bulb. His hand-made red, white, and blue electric light bulbs were much safer than candles. The spread of urban and rural electrification made Christmas lights universally possible.

Gradually, the rowdy, excessive adult festivities which focused on food and drink gave way to more moderate children's celebrations. The Industrial Age made cheap gifts commercially available for the masses to put under the tree, for kids and adults alike.

And ugly Christmas sweaters are a thing.

Image Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas



Grinch Sweater www.lightinthbox.com

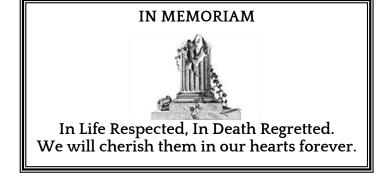
Events and Editor's Note



December 2022 Holidays

- Dec. 05: <u>St.</u> <u>Nicholas Eve</u>
- Dec. 08: Bodhi Day
- Dec. 13: Santa Lucia Day
- Dec 18: <u>Hanukkah</u>
- Dec. 21: <u>Yule</u>
- Dec. 25: <u>Christmas</u>
- Dec. 26: <u>Kwanzaa</u>

https://web-holidays.com/holidaycalendar/december-holidays-celebrations/



From the Editor

Brethren,

First off, a note in case you missed it, Buchanan and Hugh Murray Lodges are conducting a long delayed Memorial Service for V.W. Bro. Don Falconer on December 1st.

Second, on page 2, there is an update on our Masonic Charity. Please reach out to Ed Manmohan if you have time to assist, or consider donating via the link to the Masonic Foundation (project #2406)

Third, we have had some challenges with distribution of the Chronicle. R.W. Bro. Devin Tuinstra has been working to clear up bad records, but he mentioned that google sees our one a month distribution of over 500 emails as potential spam. So please, take a look in your Junk or Spam folders in email and mark The Chronicle as "not Junk". They gather those entries to make sure the mail gets through.

Events are happening, we received pictures from Official and Fraternal Visits,, the Investment of V,W, Bro. Tom McCrae and Hugh Murray's Ladies Night at the

Armories.

December seems light for official events, please feel free to share your events with us for inclusion.

S&F, Glen– Editor at: gnotman@hotmail.com



🐓 Ontario Masons

Editorial Team

Editor:R.W. Bro. Glen NotmanAssociate Editor:R.W. Bro. Bill MacPhersonDistrict/ Chronicle Photographer: W. Bro. Chris JordisonWebmaster:R.W. Bro. Devin Tuinstra

www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org