

District 'C'ronicle



February 2023

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.174

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, as we say good bye to January and hello to February we do so from the half-mile post of this Masonic year. That seems to me like a good place to pause and appreciate the moment in time at which we stand.

Let's look back - this Masonic year has started with very progressive steps for us all, we continue to see a steady influx of inquiries and applications, we have seen initiations by the score along with passings and raisings.

Several Ceremonies of Installation and Investiture have been conducted with the result being new Worshipful Masters and their Officers taking charge with enthusiasm and leadership. We've all enjoyed celebrating the past with a few Robbie Burns dinners and looking to the future though going digital with our administration and communication. There have been 6 Official Visits as well as visiting other lodges and districts. We've all seen pins of service being awarded and, sadly, more Masonic Memorial Services than we would prefer. We have had 2 well-attended district meetings with all lodges present at both and 10 of 12 Worshipful Masters at the most recent. We also have lodges entering amalgamation and charter surrender discussions - difficult but nevertheless proper choices.

Brethren, that all took place in just one half of one Masonic year! We are all doing the right things, in the right moments - we are doing great and our bounce back continues in a noteworthy and impressive manner. It hasn't been easy. Keep up the good work!

The **DISTRICT 'C'RONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.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 'Chronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions



Let's look ahead - we all have our work cut out for us. Most lodges have trestleboards which are healthy and, in some cases, bursting at the seams. Part of the focus must be on the gentlemen waiting to join our Craft. While it is not a race to join (nor to proceed) it is nevertheless incumbent on membership to keep those waiting at our door engaged through regular communication and involvement. As members, we already understand the 'rewards of membership' and can see why waiting patiently should be easy - likely, our applicants do not have the benefit of that perspective so, please, keep them close!

Half of our lodges still have an Official Visit ahead of them - as do half of our lodges have the responsibility of playing the role of an accompanying lodge. In these instances, let's ensure we make the choice to get out to lodge and to swell our ranks by phoning and bringing a brother who we may not have seen in recent months. Perhaps getting back into the swing of things hasn't been so easy for him. Be aware of this and make that choice to reach out. One small action of this nature can have compounding benefits!

We've got many Installations in the district in this 2nd half of the year. Let's all work towards ensuring the new Masters and Officers are well-positioned to take the reigns of leadership as the transition approaches. Their time is approaching, and their success will be all of our success!

Finally, we have 2 major events upcoming - A Day of Masonry on Saturday, April 29th and the Golf Tournament & Charity Auction on Saturday, June 24th. You have 2 teams working hard to present you with these events so please consider joining in on both for fraternity, fellowship and fun!

So here we are at that half-mile post. After reflecting on where we are, I have a tremendous sense of pride in our mutual accomplishments. We have all come so far together. I also see our path stretched out before us, full of promise, activity and opportunity. The second half of the year will be precisely what we all make of it - no more, no less. Let's all dive in headfirst, and do the good and fun and rewarding work that comes with being a member of this fine Craft.

Brethren, I hope to see you around the district!

Fraternally, Bill,

R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul

From the Grand Master January Communique

My Brethren:

Getting off the normal track and veering from the game plan can be dangerous sometimes but I feel I must take the chance.... (Spoiler alert – this may not be a Communique for sharing with friends and family.)

I will start by repeating a paragraph from last month's Communique in case you skimmed over it:

Hanukkah for Jews celebrates the freedom and justice without which there can be no genuine peace; Jesus for Christians is the Prince of Peace; and Muhammad for Muslims is the Messenger of Peace. May we all enter the coming year in a spirit of peace and nonviolence, with hearts open to all—including those with whom we disagree. In all we do, in all the uncertainties ahead, may we embody the spirit of Rabbi Hillel, who taught "Do not judge your fellow until you are in his place" (Pirkei Avot 2:5); of Jesus who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9); and of Muhammad to whom God said, "We have sent you, O Prophet, as none other than a mercy to all the people of the world (Qur'an 21:107)."

I used to hear Grand Masters of yore and past Chairmen of Discipline regret in their year end reports that the worse part of their job that year had been dealing with all the Masonic charges, complaints and 'private piques and quarrels' over the past year. And I would think, 'we're all Masons, surely these Masonic leaders must be exaggerating?'

But as Masons, isn't any time spent in this area too much? How can we profess to be Masons, follow what we are taught and vow to uphold the principles we do, yet ignore them when it is convenient, or we feel slighted?

When we look outside our Masonic Temples, it is true, we are living in a world that is spiraling out of control. From natural disasters to violence against the innocent it is hard to imagine a time or a place when this wasn't the case. The rise of hatred in the world continues to overshadow all positives. In parts of our world, there are people huddled in darkness, fearing for their lives and those of their families. But we as Freemasons have a light. One of compassion and integrity. A path to bring out the best in those around us. When asked what do Masons do, often the response is we make good men better. We also need to lift others up regardless of their

affiliation with our Fraternity, but especially within the membership of our Fraternity.

As Masons we need to remember it is okay to disagree, but it is not okay to be disagreeable. We have an obligation in Masonry to extend the idea of Brotherly love among our members and outside into our communities as a whole. Agreeing with another person on every point, political or otherwise, is unlikely. Accepting them in the love which Jesus and Muhammad taught is very possible. This does not mean acquiescing, it means choosing our words carefully to not further enflame the disagreement, it means providing a civil discourse in all matters. We as Masons and as human beings need to strive to achieve this lofty goal. We as Masons hold an advantage, in better times we attend a space where we can practice this high virtue in a microcosm of society, so we can take the skill into the world and set an example by showing tolerance for the beliefs and opinions of others, making the world safer and brighter, but it all begins at home. If we can't live in peace in our own Temples, our teachings will end there.

In this season of peace, regardless of your religion or affiliation, I implore you to find a way to set aside the hate which comes with stereotypes or preconceived notions. Make room in your heart for kindness and forgiveness. More than ever the world needs our efforts in this endeavour. More than ever our Fraternity needs our efforts in this endeavour.

I hope everyone who reads this can start the New Year off anew and celebrate the idea of peace on Earth and goodwill toward ALL mankind starting with ALL your Brothers in Masonry.

We wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year and may 2023 be your favourite thus far

Thomas W. Hogeboom

Grand Master's Itinerary

February

13 – Stratford – Tecumseh and Stratford Lodge Amalgamation

18 – Bobcaygeon – A Day of Masonry

25 – Markham – The Heritage Lodge Black Tie Banquet

March

26 – St. Catharines – Sankey Lecture

27 – Thornhill – Quinte St. Alban's Lodge 100th Anniversary

29 – Bath – Maple Leaf Lodge – Frontenac District Senior Warden's Degree Team

April

12 – Hamilton – Barton and The Lodge of Strict Observance Lodge Amalgamation

13 – St. Catharines – 165th Grand Chapter Convocation

15 – Napanee – Victoria Lodge 150th Anniversary

20 – Frankford – Quinte and Trent Lodge Amalgamation

21 – Winnipeg – All Canada Conference of Grand Masters

29 – Hamilton – A Day of Masonry

January Communique From the Deputy

My Brethren,

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year, may God Bless you and your entire family for the year to come. May this year be better than the last. Please Brethren, spend every possible moment that you can with your family and friends, may your health and happiness be plenty and may your Masonic principals guide you.

The month of January brings us to the halfway mark in the current Masonic year. The Grand Lodge Committees are diligently working towards their goals and are making such progress. I am very pleased with everything that the Committees are doing while helping the Lodges and the membership to emerge from the pandemic as well as can be expected. The District Deputy Grand Master's regional meeting is this month and as I have been putting all of the District Reports into one big report, I have noticed many commonalities across the entire Jurisdiction. Emerging from the pandemic has been a challenge for every District. Some Lodges are coming along stronger than ever. They have great attendance, they are doing Masonic Education at every meeting, they are doing degree work and the Ritual has been really good due to having practices. Those same Lodges are bringing in new members at almost prepandemic levels. On the other end of the scale are many Lodges that are struggling. These Lodges may or may not have a quorum to open and do business, they are not getting any requests for membership and some are in a financially tough spot. I was talking to one Brother and he stated that his Lodge was close to not being viable so a letter was sent out to its members stating the honest facts that if something didn't change, they were in jeopardy of going dark. He said that the letter worked and the members started to return to Lodge, activity was going well and it looks like the Lodge will be going for many years to come. That sounds like a great outcome for them but it takes work, commitment and dedication. I realize that small rural Lodges have a harder time drawing in new members due to their geographical area but they must still try to retain the members that they have. Let's face it, if the Lodge has open and honest discussions and seeks out help, its chances of survival increase tenfold. There are many Committees at our Grand Lodge that can help and engage the membership and even help to bring in new members. From having Masonic Education at every meeting, exemplifying degrees, and implementing the Cornerstone Program to looking into a long-range plan, budgeting and taking a hard look at the finances. All of these aspects of a successful meeting are well worth the effort needed.

Our new branding can also be used in a positive light to let both us as Masons and the public in general know and realize the good that we do. I believe that our new Branding will help out in making us feel good about ourselves and also let our friends and families know of the extreme good that we do for the community around

us. The Public Awareness Committee has many ideas to help us promote ourselves in the community.

In conclusion for this month Brethren, I would like to talk about the Lodge Building Advisory Committee. R.W. Bro. Peter Sialtsis and his Committee are working diligently to bring the Lodge buildings and Temples into compliance. A fire inspection and plan must be completed or the Warrant of the Lodge is in jeopardy of being removed by Grand Lodge. Make no mistake, Grand Lodge is taking this initiative very seriously. We want every member to be safe in the buildings that the Lodges are housed in. Every member deserves to be able to go home to their family after every meeting. In my Lodge, the fire inspection requirement was one of the greatest things that happened to the building. There was only one way out, other than exiting through the windows, and that was a tragedy just waiting to happen. It costs some money but another exit door was put in along with proper exit lighting and a current fire plan in case of emergency. A ramp was added for wheelchair accessibility and now we have a Lodge that is ready for future use as the membership ages.

Brethren, please make your Lodges and Temples as safe as they can be for our members to enjoy.

As always Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today.

Jamie R. Ireland



2023 Sankey Lecture

The University Partnership Committee is pleased to announce that the date for the 2023 Sankey Lecture has now been confirmed.

The presentation this year will again be live streamed.

Sunday, March 26, 2023

This year's guest speaker is

Professor Heather Calloway, Indiana University

Watch for further details in the Grand Lodge
February Digest.

<https://sankeylectures.ca/>

Hamilton District 'C' – Dates to Remember

February 2023

Craft Association of the Hamilton Masonic Districts Chili Cook off

Thursday February 23, 2023, Time TBD
Oakville Masonic Temple
125 Thomas Street, Oakville, ON
Hosted by Trafalgar Lodge No. 712

D.D.G.M. Official Visits

Meridian Lodge No. 687

Wed February 8, 2023
Tyle 7:30 pm
Accompanying: Valley Lodge No. 100
Ancaster

Valley Lodge No.100

Monday February 13, 2023
Dinner 6:30 pm, Tyle 7:30 pm
Accompanying: Temple Lodge No.324
Hamilton Masonic Centre

If you will be attending dinner, please email Valley
Lodge Secretary or Junior Warden

Secretary – W. Bro. Colin Pfeiffer
- valleylodgesecretary@gmail.com

Junior Warden – Bro. Chris Boivin
- christopherjboivin@gmail.com

Westmount Lodge No. 513

Tuesday February 28, 2023
Dinner 6:00 pm, Tyle 7:00 pm
Accompanying: The Electric Lodge No. 495
Hillcrest



Hamilton Masonic Districts Board of Relief

AGM & Elections

Sunday February 26, 2022 2:00pm
Shriners Club of Hamilton
82 Melvin Ave. Hamilton

March 2023

D.D.G.M. Official Visits

Temple Lodge No. 324

Tues March 14, 2023
Dinner 6:30 pm
Tyle 7:30 pm
Accompanying: Dufferin Lodge No. 291
Hamilton Masonic Centre



Upcoming Degrees

Degree Type	Date	Time	Lodge	Description
1st Degree(s)	Feb-02-2023	7:30p.m.	Buchanan Lodge No.550	
1st Degree(s)	Feb-13-2023	7:30 p.m.	Valley Lodge No. 100	The Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master to Valley Lodge No. 100. The accompanying lodge is Temple Lodge No. 324.
1st Degree(s)	Feb-14-2023	7:30 pm	Temple Lodge No.324	First degree and an after meeting reception.
1st Degree(s)	Feb-16-2023	7:30pm	Dufferin Lodge No.291	Join us to support initiation of a new member to the craft. Visitors welcome. Light refreshments to follow.
1st Degree(s)	Feb-21-2023	7:30 PM	Hugh Murray Lodge No.602	There will be dinner before lodge, cost is \$25. Contact Bro John Raso to reserve your spot. It will be a double initiation for Mr Gary Medeiros & Mr Demitry Savic.
2nd Degree(s)	Feb-28-2023		Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654	
1st Degree(s)	Mar-14-2023	6:30 pm	Temple Lodge No.324	Join us for our DDGM's official visit and a first degree.
2nd Degree(s)	Mar-21-2023	7:30 PM	Hugh Murray Lodge No.602	There will be dinner before Lodge, cost is \$25. Contact Bro John Raso to book your spot.
3rd Degree(s)	Mar-28-2023		Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654	

Around the District

D.D.G.M. Official Visits



Buchanan Lodge No. 550



Landmarks / Doric Lodge No.654



Harodim Lodge No. 513

50 Year Pin



W. Bro. Bill Veitch with his 50-year pin

Benevolence & District Project

Brethren, we are now getting into the coldest time of the winter season. Around my house, the New Year means to purge some clutter. I thought it was the perfect time to remind you to please do the same and share your gently used clothing appropriately.

We all see record high food prices and bills and interest rates, so I know this isn't new. This means that we all have less to spend elsewhere. And many people need to lower their heating bills by dressing in layers at home too.

I ask that you please go through your closets and donate unwanted items to a shelter in your area. Thrift stores serve a purpose but they are there for profit as well. Shelters will hand over your warm clothing to someone in need without payment. Mission Services, Salvation Army, your local church, they all sponsor shelters. Please share some warmth in your neighbourhood.

Fraternally,

W.B. Ed Manmohan District Benevolence Chairman
Westmount Lodge No 671



Make your Donation to Mission Services

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-masonic-foundation-of-ontario/>

Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project # 2406

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

Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Official visit of R.W. Bro. Wm Paul, DDGM

Jan. 5th, 2023

Where's the Haggis??



The Knife And Fork Degree

The Knife and Fork Degree is of ancient origin and honorable history.



Records of this degree are found in the most Ancient Manuscripts. It already was ancient when the first Grand Lodge was constituted in 1717.

The three principal tenets of this degree are Faith, Hope and Charity.

We have Faith in the Stewards, we Hope that faith is well founded.

And sometimes have to exercise Charity towards what is set before us.

Some of the secrets of this degree, found in the written portion of our unwritten work, are communicated from hand to mouth; but the more important secrets are not to be found in the refreshments.

You can't make me believe that any Brother will sit through three or four hours of a Lodge meeting merely for what is served at the Refreshment board.

The real secrets of the degree are to be found in the companionship around the festal board; the banter between Brethren, the opportunity for the development of friendships; the word from one Brother to make the gathering think; the word from another Brother to make the gathering smile, the good fellowship, the wholesome, enjoyable, profitable rubbing of shoulders with those with whom we wish to associate, with whom we wish to become better acquainted.

Published in Masonic Bulletin-BCY-September 1952 and found at Freemason's Corner

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 adayofmasonry@gmail.com

Click the link to hear our DDGM describe the Day of Masonry

Q & A from the Windsor
Wednesday Info Video

[A Day of Masonry" Think. Share. Action"](#)

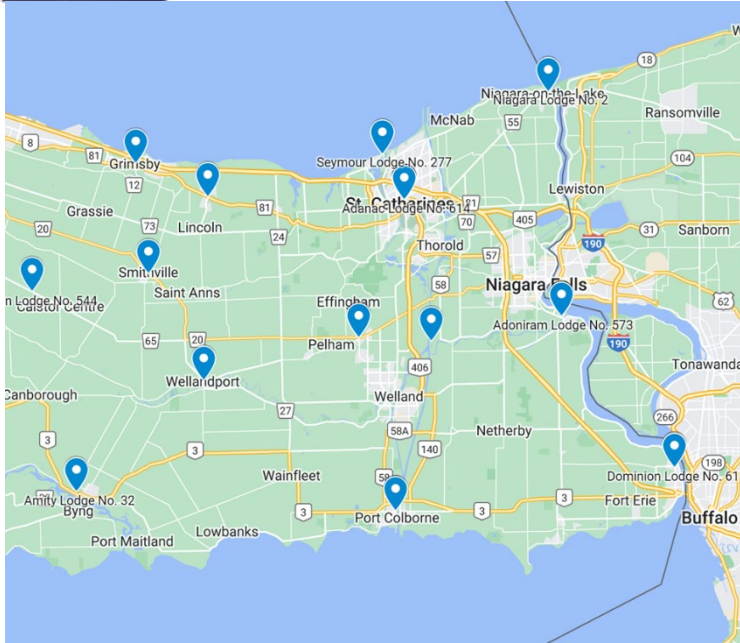
*Open House!
Seminars!
Grand Master Townhall!
Divine Service!
Casual Dinner*

Make your plans, book your dinner. Send the \$35 payment to:
adayofmasonry@gmail.com



Masonic Passport Niagara B Lodge Halls

<https://niagarabmasons.ca/>
Take the time to visit a local Lodge!



8020 Portage Rd,
Niagara Falls

Niagara B Lodges that meet here:

St. Marks Lodge No. 105

King Edward VII No. 471

and the Scottish Rite in the Niagara Valley



Macnab Lodge No.169

Merritt Lodge No.168

422 King St

Port Colborne

Also, home of the Port
Colborne/Welland &
District Shrine Club and the
Preceptory

REGULAR MEETING NIGHTS

NIAGARA B DISTRICT

1 st Tuesday	Palmer	372
1 st Wednesday	King Edward VII	471
1 st Thursday	Dominion	615
2 nd Monday	Merritt	168
2 nd Tuesday	St. Mark's	105
2 nd Tuesday	MacNab	169
2 nd Thursday	Copestone	373
3 rd Monday	Phoenix	535
4 th Tuesday	Myrtle	337

All meetings commence at 7:30pm except
Myrtle No. 337 which commences at 8:00pm



**Myrtle Lodge No.
337**

10 River St

Port Robinson,
Also, home of the
Willson Chapter
Number 64 of the
Royal Arch Masons



**Phoenix Lodge No.
535**

**Copestone Lodge
No.373**

1394 Haist Street
Fonthil



Palmer Lodge No. 372

Dominion Lodge 615

203 Jarvis St.

Fort Erie

Also, home of the
Hugh Murray Chapter.

Events and Editor's Note



MASONIC OPEN
2023



GOLF
TOURNAMENT

Register Now @
Masonicopen22@gmail.com

Registration – 12:00 p.m.
Shotgun Start – 1:00 p.m.
Social Hour – 5:30 p.m.
Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
Charity Event – 7:30 p.m.



Saturday
June 24th, 2023

\$180 per player
incl. cart, dinner &
charity event

\$70 per person
dinner & charity event



rain or shine

A lighter moment



IN MEMORIAM

V.W. Bro. Robert Todd



Brethren it is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of V. W. Brother Robert Todd
A Friend to All Hamilton Districts !

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above January 20. 2023



In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We will cherish him in our hearts forever.

From the Editor

Brethren,
February, like the groundhog,
Masons are slowly emerging
from our burrows; and we have
the submissions and pictures to
prove it.

3 Official Visits, A 50 Year Pin
presentation, an independent
submission from attendees and
the Buchanan Official Visit, and
a Knife and Fork Degree from
our Associate Editor.

This month marks the completion of the local districts
Masonic Passport updates. We would be happy to add
more upon request. Please feel free to forward any
anecdotes, pictures or feedback on our content.

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



Ontario Masons

Editorial Team

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