

# District 'C'hronicle



March 2023

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.175

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## Our District Deputy Grand Master

"My Destiny is Entwined With Yours".

Brethren, Sue and I recently spent a Sunday afternoon at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg. The McMichael is most famous for its extensive collection of Group of Seven artwork however, beyond that, they have a serious commitment to Canadian art at large.

During our visit, we enjoyed an installation by Canadian photographer/artist Meryl McMaster who is based in Chelsea, Quebec. McMaster is Nêhiyaw from Red Pheasant Cree Nation, a member of the Siksika Nation as well as of British and Dutch heritage. Her work is predominantly photography based, incorporating the production of props, sculptural garments and performance, forming a relationship that transports the viewer out of the mundane and into a space of contemplation and introspection.

While walking through the exhibit, we came upon this photo and I did not find it too difficult to begin thinking about and exploring the connection between cultural throughlines, mentorship, the title of and the subject matter of this photograph itself.

There stands the artist in traditional dress, staff in hand, her back to us. Through these instruments I suspect we are meant to think about the long path, more than a nod to history, travelled to arrive at this moment. The artist has arrived on the backs, the efforts, of her forebearers. After resting our eyes on the subject of the photo, the viewer's eyes may then move beyond the solitary figure and begin to take in

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the expanse of the landscape before the artist, before us all – the colours, the shapes and contours of both above and below. A future stretching beyond more than what the eye can see but not so far as to not be able to feel in one's bones the possibilities.

The relationship between past and future, cemented in the present.

McMaster then brings our perspective back to the in between, in one respect frozen in the moment of 'now' but in another, ready to embark – armed with her experience, her past, her traditions and her dreams. This moment in time at which she stands is also, it bears pointing out, at some sort of cliff or ledge or precipice. There is the rub – the tension – of the photo. Nothing about the future is a given or is guaranteed.

Brethren, I have delivered six papers during the months of January and February at your Official Visits – the two most recent focusing on Mentorship. The first was focused on what it takes to be a successful mentor and the companion paper on what it takes to be a willing mentee. The companion paper also celebrates the magic which occurs when both take place.

Mentorship, built upon the past, empathy, work ethic, enthusiasm and brotherly love will get us from here to 'there'. I hope we enjoy the path as our destinies are truly entwined with those who have come before as well as those yet to join us.

See you around the district!

Bill,

**R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul**



[Meryl McMaster, My Destiny is Entwined With Yours.](#)

## From the Grand Master February Communique

My Brethren:

I submit to you that never in the history of mankind has there been a greater need for leadership. Never in the history of our churches, schools, service clubs and government has there been a greater need for leadership. Freemasonry is by no means exempt in this need as well.



A few years ago the University of Michigan did a study in terms of the greatest fears and problems in society. They came up with a top ten list, but for our purposes, I need only share the top three.

The first one was the fear of a nuclear war. Now granted, with the reduction in world tensions over the years, the nuclear war fear is somewhat subsided, but surely not gone if you are watching the nightly news. The second problem or fear was that of a worldwide famine and as we see the problems in the third world countries, that fear is still present. But the third fear or problem that was recognized by this research was the lack of leadership today.

If I was to ask each you to list the greatest leaders of our time what names would you come up with? If we surveyed the literature on leadership we would probably identify a few quickly – George Washington, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Winston Churchill; Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Mahatma Gandhi; Albert Schweitzer; Albert Einstein; and Dr. Martin Luther King, may have all made your list by leaving their mark on leadership over the years. But isn't it a sad commentary in this world that we can only identify a very few great leaders from the past generation and before.

I further submit to you, that never in the history of Freemasonry has there been a greater need for effective, dynamic, prestigious leadership; particularly at a time when our members are staying away in droves from our Lodge meetings. I have mentioned before that we do not have a membership problem but rather we have an engagement problem. We have enough members to make Masonry in Ontario a great experience. Never in the history of Freemasonry has there been a greater need for leadership, particularly when we have so many inquiring men standing outside the West gate waiting for their chance to be admitted to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Yes

Brethren, leadership, is desperately needed for the survival of Freemasonry at this time. That is why I return to this topic so often: Leadership, and the survival of Freemasonry.

Let me pose a few more questions to you. Can Freemasonry, as we know it, survive well into the twenty-first century and beyond? I believe it can! In sales terms, we have a good product. I want to quote our Brother, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, in his philosophy of positive thinking – "As long as there are God fearing, moral men, Freemasonry will exist well into the twenty-first century." Can Freemasonry under its present form and structure exist well into the twenty-first century? Freemasonry will survive – and thrive – well into the twenty first century and beyond with God fearing and moral man, --- and leadership! An aside here – I have no doubt that Bro. Peale's Masonic training, though a Protestant Clergyman, would have him, as do I, use the term God as a universal term of reference to our own Supreme Being.

So what do we mean by the term leadership in Masonic terms?

Given my monthly limitation of 700 words in this forum, you will have to tune in next month for this explanation on the importance of Masonic leadership.

**Thomas W. Hogeboom**

### Grand Master's Itinerary

#### March

26 – St. Catharines – Sankey Lecture  
27 – Thornhill – Quinte St. Alban's Lodge  
100<sup>th</sup> 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 – Burlington – 165<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Convocation  
15 – Napanee – Victoria Lodge 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
20 – Frankford – Quinte and Trent Lodge  
Amalgamation  
21 – Winnipeg – All Canada Conference of Grand  
Masters  
29 – Hamilton – A Day of Masonry

#### May

6 – Jerusalem – XVIII Session of the World Conference  
15 – Kingston – Masonic Association of Frontenac  
District Annual General Meeting  
24 – Kingston – Queen's Lodge 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silver  
to Gold Ceremony and Installation and Investiture  
26 – Toronto – Royal and Select Master of Ontario  
Annual Communication  
30 – Etobicoke – Mimico and Sunnylea Lodge  
Amalgamation



## February Communiqué From the Deputy

Brethren;

With January behind us we are getting that much closer to spring, at least in the Southwestern part of the Jurisdiction. The winter months can be long and cold but this year, so far, it hasn't been too terrible. Anyway Brethren, the days are getting longer, the sun is getting warmer and life is good. Life is very good !

As many of you know, January is the month for the District Deputy Grand Master's midterm meeting. This year was no exception and thirty eight of the forty one DD's converged on Whitby Ontario for this very important meeting. The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and myself all gathered in the hotel restaurant/lobby on Friday night for a time of fellowship and reminiscing about how the year is progressing in the Districts. It was a social time that was very relaxing, very informative and well worthwhile. Saturday morning brought us all together at the Whitby Masonic Centre for the business of the day. The midterm meeting started out with the remarks of the Grand Master followed by the Grand Secretary and then by me. Once that was out of the way and everyone had settled in for the day, the District Deputy's started to give their reports on the Condition of Masonry in their Districts. It didn't take long to realize that all the Districts in the entire Jurisdiction share pretty much the same challenges as well as the same success stories. There were some minor differences due to the vastness of the size of our Province but everything in every District was virtually the same. I'll just go through some of the summary of the reports from the forty one Districts.

We'll start at the beginning. There have been many Lodge anniversary visits along with some Silver to Gold Ceremonies. Many milestone pin presentations, many dinners and banquets and sadly the Masonic Memorial Ceremonies. We also talked about District Charities and the role of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. The District Deputy's were asked to report on what is working in their respective Districts and here is what was in most reports;

The Lodges that continued to communicate and engage their members emerged from the covid pandemic in pretty good condition. Successful Lodges have provided full evenings of activity in the lodge room followed by fellowship afterwards. The Education Chairmen have been quite busy visiting and giving their talks which are enjoyed very much. These Lodges are embracing the wishes of our Grand Master and are following the teachings of Ritual. Education and Mentoring. A great addition to the social activities would be to involve the spouses and families and like-minded men that are wishing to submit an application to join our Craft. Printing the entire collection of Mentoring Matters and putting them into a binder to be used as a Lodge Resource is a great suggestion for successful Lodges. Mentoring will help all Lodges to be



successful. Also, a long range plan should be implemented along with updated bylaws to improve the viability of the Lodges and Districts. Having the newer members learn the various pieces of the Ritual can help with attendance and retention issues. Becoming a Cornerstone Lodge might possibly be one of the best decisions that can energize and revitalize the meetings and help to add membership numbers as well as retain the current members. And finally performing great Ritual means practice, practice, practice.

The next part of the midterm reports are for the things that are not working in the Lodges and Districts and I believe that we will maybe talk about that at a later time. The reason is that we all know of a Lodge that is struggling and is having real issues with conducting meaningful meetings. Many Lodges are even failing to open due to not having a quorum. I believe that if those Lodges try to do better and follow the example of the more engaged membership, that hopefully they can lift themselves up and begin to turn the corner from frustration to gain a sense of pride and revitalization.

We have to want to do better in order to succeed Brethren, we have to work on retaining our current membership as well as attracting new prospective members. It's not easy to turn the ship around but if we stay together, it's not impossible either.


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 and tomorrow.

**Jamie R. Ireland Deputy Grand Master**

**Ontario Masons**

# Charles A. Sankey

## Lecture in Masonic Studies





**Lecturer:**  
Prof. Heather K. Calloway  
Executive Director of  
University Collections  
Indiana University

**Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 3 p.m.**  
Sean O'Sullivan Theatre,  
Brock University

**"Skeletons in the Lodge Hall:  
Hidden Collections and  
Fraternal Curiosities"**

To attend in person at BrockU, please reserve your ticket(s) online by going to [sankeylectures.ca](https://sankeylectures.ca) and clicking on the TICKETS link. Tickets are free. There will also be a livestream for those who cannot attend. No tickets are required for the livestream. The livestream link is [live.sankeylectures.ca](https://live.sankeylectures.ca).



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Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M.  
of Canada in the  
Province of Ontario

Independent Order of Odd Fellows regalia in storage at Alma Lodge Hall  
in Johnston, Pennsylvania, USA.

<https://sankeylectures.ca/>

## Hamilton District 'C' – Dates to Remember

*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

*April 2023*

#### Seymour Lodge No. 272

Tues April 11, 2023

Tyle 7:30 pm

Accompanying: Harodim Lodge No. 513

Ancaster Temple

*Only 115 days to  
the Golf  
Tournament*

*Book your  
FourSome!*



 <i>Masonic District C</i> HAMILTON, ONTARIO			
<i>Upcoming Degrees</i>			
Degree Type	Date	Time	Lodge
2nd Degree(s)	<u>Feb-28-2023</u>		Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654
1st Degree(s)	<u>Mar-14-2023</u>	6:30 pm	Temple Lodge No.324
3rd Degree(s)	<u>Mar-21-2023</u>	7:30 PM	Hugh Murray Lodge No.602
3rd Degree(s)	<u>Mar-28-2023</u>		Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654
2nd Degree(s)	<u>Apr-11-2023</u>	7:30 pm	Temple Lodge No.324
2nd Degree(s)	<u>Apr-18-2023</u>	7:30 PM	Hugh Murray Lodge No.602
1st Degree(s)	<u>Apr-25-2023</u>		Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654

## A Day of Masonry – Saturday, April 29, 2023

*Think. Share. Action.*

*UPDATE 02.01.23*

We are excited to announce the members only seminars are now confirmed:

- Masonic Education – Where to Find the 'Good Stuff' and Delivery Techniques
- Community Outreach – Retention – Engaging the New Mason
- Operations – Strategic Planning & The Next Regular Step
- Membership – Cornerstone – Moving in the Right Direction with Purpose

We are also pleased to share that the Grand Master has decided to make the Town Hall open to all so please consider bringing those in your life who might enjoy participating in such an event! The Divine Service and dinner remain open to all.

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 attire.

Dinner cost of \$35 per person may be e-transferred\*\* to [adayofmasonry@gmail.com](mailto:adayofmasonry@gmail.com)

\*\*No access to electronic payments? No problem, simply email us with your name and the names of your guests and we will accept cash at the door.





## Around the District

### D.D.G.M. Official Visits



**Meridian Lodge No. 687**



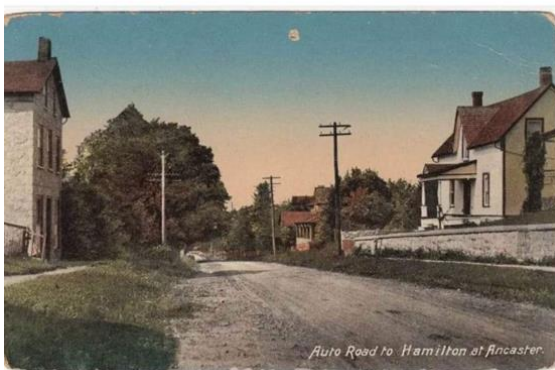
**Valley Lodge No. 100**



**Westmount Lodge No. 671**



vintage\_hamilton



**Looking Back at the  
Ancaster Temple circa 1920**



**Buchanan Lodge No. 550 Wing Night**

Buchanan Lodge Wing Night social event which took place on Feb 21. We were joined by friends from St Andrews Lodge o. 593 and 2 new applicants who we look forward to initiating in the near future,

## The Shriners Club of Hamilton

82 Melvin Avenue  
Hamilton

Supporting 21 Children's Hospitals at no cost to families  
Meets 4th Monday every month except July and August  
Dinner at 7:00 PM \$25.00

Masons who wish to attend as a guest just need to call the Club and commit to pay for dinner

The Bar is open to anyone Wednesday to Saturday -  
Bar opens at 1:00 PM

The Club Number is 905-547-0832  
Leave a message if not answered

" NO MAN STANDS SO TALL AS WHEN HE STOOPS TO  
HELP A CHILD"

**S&F, Ken Brisbois**



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



# Behind The Masonic Symbols: The Cornerstone

*We explore in this blog the history behind the cornerstone, a symbol initiates first learn about in the Entered Apprentice Degree and central to one of the fraternity's best-known public ceremonies.*



Traditional Masonic Cornerstone; The Educator

In contrast to the sacrifices and superstitions of ancient times, Freemasons in their ceremonies have made the cornerstone a symbol of the individual Mason and the sacrifices of labor and time necessary to build a moral and Masonic edifice. Today we hollow out the cornerstones, placing small objects inside, like coins, photographs, newspapers, or a list of those who erected the building; it's wholly up to the committee in charge's imagination. This tradition includes a subtle nod to its origin; in Freemasonry, he who hunts for the symbol behind the symbol will find from the cornerstone the need of sacrifice in time, effort, and thought at the beginning of every effort and of one's Masonic journey. Every Mason must make these sacrifices if they choose to play an integral part in bettering themselves and the lives of those in their communities.

The cornerstone also symbolizes sturdiness, morality, and truth. At his first initiation, the [Mason](#) is tasked with erecting a spiritual temple in his heart, drawing symbolic parallels to the strong, trusty cornerstone; without which, a building (symbolically, the Mason's mind and heart) cannot stand. In ceremony, the [Entered Apprentice](#) is typically placed in the northeast corner of the Lodge as a figurative cornerstone; this signifies the unity of the North (darkness), and the East (light). The [initiate](#) learns and understands the necessity of integrity, stability of conduct, of truthfulness and uprightness of character, and of purity and holiness of life. He is also charged with maintaining all these virtues. These characteristics are all associated with the strength and durability of the physical cornerstone. It is customary for Masons to lay the cornerstones of public buildings through ceremony – traditionally with the stone placed in the northeast corner of the foundation.

Physical cornerstones used in ceremonies in which Masons are erecting buildings traditionally show the date, the name of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, and the Masonic emblem. Cornerstones have been part of the construction or dedication of many federal

buildings and seats of state government since the beginnings of our country. Bro. [Benjamin](#) Franklin, while Grand Master of Pennsylvania, established the tradition beginning with the cornerstone laying of the state house in Philadelphia, and Bro. George Washington laid the cornerstone of our nation's Capitol building. Today, Freemasons around the country are proud to carry on the tradition that our forefathers began centuries ago. We are also proud to uphold truth and the moral characteristics associated with the cornerstone, and understand the necessary sacrifices we must make to better our lives and communities. Such sacrifices in pursuit of character and truth are necessary to live into the promise of its symbolism in our degrees.



Masonic Cornerstone Laying Ceremony;  
The Burning Taper

Source: [www.freemason.com/behind-masonic-symbols-cornerstone](http://www.freemason.com/behind-masonic-symbols-cornerstone)

## Heritage Lodge No. 730 GRC Cornerstone Rededication

In October 1983, Freemasons gathered at Black Creek Pioneer Village to dedicate the cornerstone at the lodge. Here is a recently discovered video of that day.



[Facebook: Black Creek Dedication](#)

On Saturday May 13, 2023, Heritage Lodge will enjoy the company of R.W. Bro Jamie Ireland who will attend our rededication of the cornerstone at Black Creek Pioneer Village and, on this 40th Anniversary, we hope you will proudly join us as well.

# Lodge Resources: The Cornerstone Program

Brethren,

As the District's Lodge Resources Chairman, I have recently been tasked with looking at the participation of the District Lodges in the Cornerstone Certification Program. Our District does not have a rich history of participation in the program to date, which may be due to the once "laborious" application process of the program in the past. It involved collecting a lot of data, in a hard copy format, filling out all the forms for each of the criteria and then handing those into the chairman, all at one time. I have done this for my lodge, and yes it was a lot of work, so I know the issues that some may have experienced.

The process now is so much more streamlined, and all documents can be submitted electronically as they are completed during the process. They also get sent to the District's DDGM, no matter in which year your Lodge may be submitting its evidence in the application cycle. They are then signed off on and logged as complete.

In my inquiry with the District Lodges, to see where we are in regard to the Cornerstone program, some Lodges replied that they were focusing on just getting their members back into Lodge and didn't have time for the project. All the criteria that are listed in the Cornerstone Program illustrate what all our Lodges should be accomplishing on a yearly basis to begin with, which are the hallmarks of a healthy Lodge.


Is there a better way to get your brethren back into Lodge than to try fulfilling these criteria? Try something new in order to fulfill these requirements, organize a group of brethren to go visit another lodge. One criterion down, now move onto another. Over the span of the year, you might find that the process is not that difficult at all and will help grow your membership.

The Cornerstone Program may be a way to re-invigorate your Lodge and motivate your members to come back to Lodge after the long Covid lay off.

Fraternally,

Lodge Resources Chairman

**W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF**

 <b>Ontario Masons</b> <b>CORNERSTONE STANDARDS REPORT CARD</b> <b>Membership Pillar</b> <small>Revised Jan 31-23</small>				
Lodge:	Insert Lodge Name		Lodge No.:	Insert Lodge No.
District:	Insert District name		Two Year Collection Period:	Insert Two Year Period
<b>MANDATORY STANDARDS - Must Complete 1 of 4</b>				
STANDARD	DESCRIPTION	X	DATE COMPLETED	DDGM/DESIGNATE SIGNOFF
1	Friend to Friend Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert Date	Insert Signature
2	Mentoring Candidates Program	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3	Officer Mentorship	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4	Strategic Planning & Action	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>MAJOR STANDARDS - Must Complete 5 of 15</b>				
STANDARD	DESCRIPTION	X	DATE COMPLETED	DDGM/DESIGNATE SIGNOFF
1	Attend Grand Lodge Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert Date	Insert Signature
2	Yearly Operating Budget	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3	4 Masonic Education Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4	All 3 Degrees & Proving	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5	Distribute 3 Written Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6	4 Members Participate in a Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7	4 Members Visit Another Lodge	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8	Conduct a Lodge Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9	Participate in the District Visitation Program	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10	Participate in Mason/Ch.L.P. Event	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11	3 Members Participate in 3 Blood Donor Events	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12	Increased Membership Attendance	<input type="checkbox"/>		
13	80% EAs progress to MM's within two years	<input type="checkbox"/>		
14	70% Initiates retain membership for min 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>		
15	3 members each complete College module	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>BASIC STANDARDS - Must Complete 6 of 16</b>				
STANDARD	DESCRIPTION	X	DATE COMPLETED	DDGM/DESIGNATE SIGNOFF
1	Invite & Host Another Lodge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert Date	Insert Signature
2	Hold Social Event Which Includes Ladies/Widows	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3	Recognize Masons	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4	Involvement With Youth Group	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5	Assist 5 Shut-ins or Widows	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6	Conduct a Rusty Mason Event	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7	Dinner to Honour New Masons or Master Masons	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8	4 Members Attend a Religious Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9	Proper Protocol - Toast or Tributes	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10	Hold a Lodge of Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11	5 Members Involved in a Community Event	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12	Hold an Open House	<input type="checkbox"/>		
13	Attend a District Association Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>		
14	Attend Sankey Lecture (in-person or live stream)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
15	Create & maintain Lodge website	<input type="checkbox"/>		
16	Create & maintain Lodge social media group	<input type="checkbox"/>		
DDGM Yr #1	Insert Name	DDGM Yr #2	Insert Name	Final Signature

## Events and Editor's Note



**MASONIC OPEN**  
2023



**GOLF**  
TOURNAMENT

Register Now @  
[Masonicopen22@gmail.com](mailto: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\*

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### IN MEMORIAM

W Bro. John McKinlay

Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654

initiated in Doric Lodge No. 382  
1958 05 03

Passed and then Raised 1958 11 01  
Worshipful Master 1970

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Feb 13,2023



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

### From the Editor

Brethren,

March,

Spring will be here soon!

Coming up will be all the Installations, the April 29 Day of Masonry (and Spring Divine Service) and the Masonic Open.

Per our Deputy Grand Master, "The Lodges that continued to communicate and engage their members emerged from the covid pandemic in pretty good condition." Fellowship and the events around the district are like the Cornerstone that guides and unites all of us.

It is good to see so many out at the Official Visits. Submissions are coming in and ideas are springing up. Please feel free to forward any anecdotes, pictures or feedback on our Chronicle content.

S&F, Glen- Editor at  
[gnotman@hotmail.com](mailto:gnotman@hotmail.com)

### How to dress for Spring



**Ontario Masons**

#### Editorial Team

**Editor:** R. W. Bro. Glen Notman  
**Associate Editor:** R. W. Bro. Bill MacPherson  
**District Chronicle Photographer:** W. Bro. Chris Jordison  
**Webmaster:** R. W. Bro. Devin Tuinstra

[www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org](http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org)