

District 'C' Chronicle



December 2023

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.184

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Hello Brethren:

Another year will soon be coming to an end. We have reached December. The daylight hours are getting less each day. With the return to standard time, nightfall comes sooner and we travel to lodge meetings in darkness hoping we find "light" in our degree work.

December means that preparations are being made for the upcoming holiday season. Houses and lawns are being decorated with lights and holiday symbols. Baking and meals are being prepared for the various festivities. Seasonal songs and music are heard in malls and stores. We also prepare for the closing of the year, putting its memories in store for future reference. A new year will soon be upon us with new adventures to be travelled.

Our thanks to Faith United Church, in Hamilton, for serving as host for the Hamilton Districts Fall Divine Service in late October. We appreciate the efforts of all involved in the service and for the social time that followed.

This past month was very busy. Meetings regarding District Re-alignment were held with plenty of discussion. Also, two Official Visits took place at Temple Lodge No. 324 and The Electric Lodge No. 495.



Both of these lodges are to be thanked for their hospitality and warm reception on these visits.

We regret the loss, during November, of W.B. John Lyness. John served our district for many years as the District Photographer. Upon giving up that post, the district recognized John as Photographer Emeritus and he was listed, annually, on the District Officers list. I'm sure we all miss John and the contributions he gave to Masonry.

Please remember our sick and shut-in brethren. A phone call, a visit, even a card can go a long way to make them feel remembered and that they are missed.

December closes another year but leads to the beginning of a new one, a new year for our lodges and our district.

I wish you and your families the best for the coming Holiday Season and hope you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Happy Holidays!!

Fraternally,

Raymond Wilson, DDGM

R.W. Bro. Raymond Wilson

District 'C' Charity Hamilton - Wentworth 4-H



<https://4-h.org/>

**Cheques for donations may be written out to:
Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project # 2456**

The **DISTRICT 'C' CHRONICLE** 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 'C' 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

Grand Master's November Communiqué

My Brethren:

One of my favourite motivational stories comes from retired baseball coach John Scolinos in 1996 when speaking to a convention of four thousand baseball coaches. If you are a career professional, business owner, government official, corporate supervisor or a Mason, you will find this story of interest and learn something from his powerful message. Coach Scolinos was seventy-eight years old at the time and was in the Hall of Fame for College Baseball Coaches. He helped coach the 1984 Olympic Baseball team to a Gold Medal.



When the old coach walked out on stage he had an "Official Baseball White Home Plate" hanging around his neck. The audience began to roar with laughter as they thought this old man was some kind of comedy act their meeting planner had scheduled. However, the Coach immediately asked, "Do we have any Little League coaches out there?" Several hands went up. "Do any of you know how wide home plate is in Little League?" Someone yelled out "Seventeen inches?" "That's right," the old coach said.

"Now, are there any High School baseball coaches in the room today?" Over a hundred hands shot up. "How wide is home plate in high school baseball?" "Seventeen inches," someone said. "You're right!" the coach said.

"How about college baseball coaches are you out there?" Half the room raised their hands. "Well how wide is home plate in college baseball?" "Seventeen inches!" everyone yelled out in unison. You are right the coach responded.

Here's a hard question the coach asked - "Back in Babe Ruth's day how wide was home plate?" Silence fell over the room, then someone sheepishly yelled out "Seventeen inches?" "That's right," said the coach.

Now the coach changed his focus and asked, "What do you suppose a Major League's team's management would do if a Big League pitcher couldn't throw a ball over a seventeen inch plate?" He paused; the room fell silent again. Finally he said "They would send him to Pocatello! They would send him down to the minors or fire him! Get him some help or bench him!"

"But let me tell you what they would never ever do. They would never say, 'Ah, that's alright buddy, if you can't throw a baseball over a seventeen-inch target we'll make it bigger for you - maybe we will widen it to nineteen or twenty inches so it will be easier for you;

and if that's not enough we will make it twenty-five inches wide.'"

Scolinos then asked the audience "Here is a question for each of you. What would you do if your best player consistently showed up late for practice? Or if your team rules forbid facial hair and some of your players started showing up on game day unshaven? What if one of your players got caught drinking after hours the night before a game? Would you hold those players accountable, or would you widen home plate for them to fit their special needs?" The four thousand coaches now sat quiet as the old coach's message began to mesmerize them.

Coach Scolinos then turned the plate on his chest towards himself and took out a black magic marker to draw something on it. When he finished he turned the plate around for the crowd to see. He had drawn a simple house complete with a front door and two windows.

He then said "The problem with most homes today - and with many organizations and associations - is there are no standards for people to follow or people willing to enforce them. We no longer teach our children, our players or our employees or members accountability. It's so much easier for parents, managers and executive directors to just simply widen the plate! The result is there are no consequences when people today fail to meet standards. This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don't teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We just widen the plate!"

"Let's face it; we have lowered standards in education. Has widening the plate helped out our schools? We've changed the standards in some religions - has widening the plate helped our Churches? We have lowered the standards all across government - has widened home plate made our governments better?"

"If I am lucky," Coach Scolinos concluded, "you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: If we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards, if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools and churches and our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to We have dark days ahead!"



Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91. His message however was clear: If you're a parent, business owner, lead an organization, hold a public office, manage a department, supervise a unit of people or are the Lodge Master - "Don't ever widen the plate" ... maintain and enforce the standards you have set. Coaches, keep your players—no matter how good they are—your own children, your churches, your government, and most of all, keep yourself at "seventeen inches."

The hardest part about being a parent, a business manager, a government leader or a Lodge Master is maintaining the standards you have set for your home or your organization. Its so much easier to cave in and relax your standards - and the minute you do ... you have no standards.

Thank you, Brethren.

Thomas W. Hogeboom

Deputy Grand Master's November Communique

Brethren,

Welcome to the November edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine and to my own Communique for this month. I appreciate the time that everyone spends reading the information that is contained within. This Committee is doing a great job publishing such an informative communication vehicle for the Jurisdiction to enjoy and learn from. V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard and your entire OMM committee, keep up the great work.

The Fall months are an opportunity to be very thankful for a bountiful harvest and to be able to look back on the past growing season. Whether it is from our flower beds, our vegetable gardens or the farmers fields, The Fall allows us to reflect on the challenges of the past growing season, figure out and talk about how to do better next year and to be able seize any opportunities that may arise or are presented to us. Every farmer will tell you that "there's always next year".

We can also apply of these Fall season thoughts to Freemasonry. We can use this time in our Masonic journey to reflect on the health of the Lodge and possibly the activity in the District. In many parts of the Jurisdiction, Lodges return to labour in the Fall and that allows time for us to realize how we are doing in engaging the membership. It gives us the time to look back on our successes, see our challenges and hopefully teach us what we have to change or carry on with. In the other parts of the Jurisdiction where we are at rest at different months of the year, this can still be a time to evaluate how well the Lodges are doing. If a Lodge is active and the members are engaged that's awesome but if a Lodge is not excelling or maybe even struggling, please turn to your Grand Lodge for help. There are so

many programs, there is information and education available and at your disposal, in order to help every lodge to do better. The Cornerstone program has everything to energize every Lodge and help those that want to be more active. The Membership Pillar is doing a great job bringing both in person and virtual instructional presentations to our membership. There are Committee presentations available for any Lodge or District meeting that can teach or mentor any officer or Lodge. Please feel free to contact our Grand Lodge Committees for help when some help is wanted and/or needed.

At our Board of General Purposes meetings that are held every couple of months, I ask the Grand Lodge Committees to report on the progress on the work that is assigned to them. The backbone of our Committees are the hard working members of our Jurisdiction that continue to impress me. They perform as a well-run team, working towards the common goal of energizing our entire Grand Lodge. The dedication that they have demonstrated and the time that they have invested in helping the Lodges to succeed has been incredible. We owe them a lot for their time and knowledge and for the positive direction that we are moving in. Thank you all for everything that you're producing in order to keep our Grand Lodge running smoothly.

Brethren of the Jurisdiction, please put these Committees to work for you, they are here to help you and your Lodge to do better. They can help your Lodge/District with financial decisions, with budgets, with strategic planning and proper branding. There is so much Masonic Education available, please check it out. Together, we can succeed, we can do better and we can strengthen our Grand Lodge. Together we can turn the Lodge experience into a positive, always learning and fun time.

In conclusion, as always my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look ahead to this upcoming Masonic year with hope and determination and let us all inspire someone to do better !!! Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun isn't there.....let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren,

Jamie R. Ireland Deputy Grand Master



Dates to Remember

December 2023

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Thursday December 7, 2023

Dinner 6.30 pm

Tyle 7:30 pm

Accompanying:

Ancient Landmarks / Doric No. 654

Hillcrest Temple

Installation

Hugh Murray No. 602

Tuesday December 19, 2023

Tyle 7:30 pm

Hamilton Masonic Centre

January 2023

Hamilton Masonic District 'C'

Mid Term Meeting

Saturday January 20 ,

9:00 a.m. at Hillcrest Temple

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Ancient Landmarks / Doric No. 654

Thursday January 23, 2024

Dinner 6.30pm

Tyle 7:30 pm

Accompanying:

Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Hamilton Masonic Centre

Installation

Seymour No. 272

Tuesday January 9, 2024

Tyle 7:30 pm

Ancaster

The Masonic Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

January Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Breakfast Meeting

9.00 a.m. breakfast, 10 a.m. meeting

The Electric Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 495
Presents...
**26TH ANNUAL
ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT**
FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH 2024
@ MICHELANGELO BANQUET CENTRE 1555 UPPER OTTAWA STREET
COCKTAILS : 600PM DINNER : 630PM
SURPRISE AUCTION
PROCEEDS TO
HAMILTON-WENTWORTH 4-H CLUB
\$55
DOOR PRIZES
Performance by
Pipes & Drums Corps
Performance in
Highland Dancing
FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:
SEBASTIAN MOURIOPOULOS 905-818-2453
OR NICK GABRIEL 905-321-0324



Around the District



Temple Lodge No. 324 Official Visit



Temple Lodge's Newest M.M.
Bro. Mircea Drancea
with R.W. Bro. Ray Wilson and
W.M. John Lumsden



The Electric Lodge No. 495 Official Visit



Hugh Murray No.602 Chili Cookoff

We enjoyed our gathering at Bro. Scott Ballinson's home where we met our latest candidate (Mr. George Wilcox), his wife and son.

There were 10 competitors vying for the "Order of the Spoon". After many rounds of voting by noise (applause & cheers), the winner was Worshipful Bro. Gary McLean.

The day eventually brought in some showers, but that didn't take away from the experience.

The "Forget-Me-Not" Flower, Newfoundland/Labrador and Masonry

An article by V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom,
St. Clair lodge, # 577 - GL of Canada in the Prov. of ON

Folklore and Legend

In a German legend, God named all the plants. When a tiny unnamed one cried out, "Forget-me-not, O Lord!" God replied, "Thou shalt be your name."



During exile in 1398, Henry IV adopted this flower as his symbol and retained it upon his return to England the following year.

In 15th-century Germany, it was supposed that the wearers of the flower would not be forgotten by their lovers. Legend has it that in medieval times, a knight and his lady were walking along the side of a river. The knight picked a bunch of flowers, but because of the weight of his armour he fell into the river. As he was drowning he threw the flowers to his loved one and shouted "Forget-me-not". (I rather doubt that when not on horseback or in combat, a knight would not be wearing his armour) Ladies often wore it as a sign of faithfulness and enduring love.

Remembrance WW I

On July 1st, 1916, the battle of Beaumont Hamel, in France, took place. It is recorded that 801 men of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment left their trenches only to be slaughtered by entrenched German machine gunfire. 324 were killed, 386 were wounded (many died later from their wounds). Only 68 were left standing to answer the roll call on the next day. These Newfoundlanders lost their lives within a period of 30-40 minutes. It was a devastating blow to their families back home and caused severe hardship for many years to come. Remember there was no social system in place at that time and families were much larger.

Prior to that event, on July 1st, 1867 the Dominion of Canada was formed but it wasn't until 1949 that Newfoundland and Labrador entered into Confederation. Today, July 1st is a day of mixed emotions, as it is Canada Day as well. July 1st in Newfoundland and Labrador is still held as Memorial Day, not only for those lives lost in the First World War but all wars and conflicts, as well as those Canadians lost in Peacekeeping missions.

After WW I the "Forget-me-not" flower was used as the symbol of Remembrance, in Newfoundland and Labrador but the Poppy slowly displaced it on July 1st as well as November 11th.

In 2012 members of Bay Robert's Legion Branch # 32 made the decision that the Forget-me-not flower should return to its rightful place on Memorial Day. A member of that Branch was approached and asked to design a lapel pin. Using silk Forget-Me-Not flowers and a 'tie tac' to attach it with, this was achieved and approved by NL Provincial Command.

In a time when many things are mass-produced in developing countries, it is comforting to know that this pin was designed and handcrafted in Port de Grave, NL, by Florence Morgan-Thom. Florence was born here when this country was still under the British flag.

Freemasonry

In the years between World War I and World War II the blue Forget Me Not flower was a standard symbol used by many charitable organizations in Germany, with a very clear meaning: "Do not forget the poor and the destitute".

It was first introduced into German Masonry in 1926. In early 1934, it became evident that Freemasonry was in danger under the Nazi regime. In that same year, the Grand Lodge of the Sun realising the grave situation, adopted the Forget Me Not flower, as a substitute for the traditional Square and Compasses.

In 1936, the Nazis started the 'Winterhilfswerk', which consisted of children collecting money on the streets during certain weeks in winter. All youngsters were requested to participate, and they each were given about one hundred pins to sell. However, the money collected did not reach those in need but rather it was used for the rearmament of the Nazi war machine.

Each winter a different symbol was chosen, and that pin was the only one allowed to be worn during the time of the collection drive. This was mainly only to identify those who had already contributed. By coincidence, the pin used by the Nazis for the collection, made in 1938, happened to be the "Forget-me-not" flower, chosen by the Freemasons in 1926 and it was made by the same factory in Selb! There is no doubt that the Freemasons who attended the meeting of 1926 were glad to wear it again twelve years later.



Whether the pin was worn after the 1938 collection is hard to determine because the wearing of any badge that did not originate from the Nazi Party was a criminal offense under the Nazi regime. It is estimated that Hitler killed over one hundred thousand Freemasons, confiscated their property, and destroyed their records. Freemasonry went underground but still, this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry, surviving throughout the reign of terror.

Then in 1947, the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened and the little blue flower, the Forget-me-not, was proposed and adopted as an official emblem to remember those who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again into the Lodges. Today, in Germany, the Forget-me-not is an interchangeable Masonic symbol with the Square and Compasses. So, let us keep and wear the "Forget-Me-Not", at all of our lodge meetings. Do this to remember all those who have died because of their membership in our Masonic Brotherhood, and also those who today live in countries where those governments persecute them.

Masonic Education: The Worshipful Master's Collar

All Past Masters are reminded that the Worshipful Master's collar is to be worn only by the WM, he is the only one entitled to wear it. If the W.M. is absent, the I.P.M. or P.M. or Warden, who presides in his stead, does not wear the collar and jewel of the W.M. (This would also apply to the apron of the WM, if it contains the jewel of his office on the front)

Also, a W.M. only wears his collar:

- 1) Within his own lodge.
- 2) When conducting a Divine Service.
- 3) When conducting a Memorial Service.
- 4) When attending a Grand Lodge Communication.
- 5) When attending an Official Visit with the DDGM in the district to which each belongs.
- 6) When attending a Divine Service conducted by the DDGM.

The collar is not worn in the banquet room, or when visiting another lodge for any purpose not listed above, (e.g. Installations, Degree Teams, etc.).

(Protocol & Etiquette Essentials Issue No. 32)

If a Past Grand Lodge Officer is elected to the Office of WM - he is invested with the collar of office, having divested himself of the Grand Lodge collar. Collars should never be "stacked" and there is no "symbolic investiture."

(Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers of a Lodge 2019, p.120)

As the WM of your Lodge, there are only a few instances in which you can wear the WM's collar outside of your lodge. Take advantage of those situations and wear your collar to those events, this visibly shows your support of the DDGM and/or the occasion, to the brethren in the room.

W Bro Steven William Badger FCF

Hamilton Masonic District "C"
- *Masonic Education Chairman*



Freemasonry at a Crossroads

In today's fast-paced digital world, the ancient and revered institution of Freemasonry faces a unique challenge.



Our ancient Craft, steeped in tradition and wisdom, now starkly contrasts the rapidly evolving society around it.

Young people, immersed in a digital age, form instant online communities, navigating a world where information flows freely, and connections

are made in seconds.

Against this backdrop, Freemasonry's traditional, ritual-filled meetings seem like relics from a bygone era.

Freemasonry's once intriguing secrecy and exclusivity now clash with modern values of transparency.

Today's youth, deeply engaged with societal and environmental issues, question how this age-old organization fits into the narrative of their urgent concerns.

Moreover, the values and priorities of these young individuals are evolving, sometimes diverging from Freemasonry's paths.

The relevance of its teachings to a modern, high-speed lifestyle is not always apparent.

There's also a gap in awareness;

Many young people simply don't know much about Freemasonry's rich history and its focus on personal growth and community.

As the world transforms, Freemasonry stands at a crossroads, contemplating its future.

The challenge is not just staying relevant but showing that its timeless values of brotherhood, integrity, and wisdom still have a significant role in today's busy world.

Thus, the story of Freemasonry continues.

A narrative striving to bridge the old with the new, seeking relevance in an ever-changing modern landscape.

As we stand at this critical moment, recognizing the unique challenges Freemasonry faces in the digital era,

Where tradition and transformation coexist.

Where the values of brotherhood, integrity, and wisdom are woven into the fabric of our digital interactions be a part of our journey. where ancient wisdom meets modern dynamics.

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Masonic Find - Teaching the world about Freemasonry
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Remembering John Lyness



John was Initiated into Wardrobe Lodge No. 555 on March 1, 1960, Passed April 5, 1960, Raised May 3, 1960 and upon amalgamations became a member of Harodim Lodge No. 513 and Meridian Lodge No. 513. Passed to the Grand Lodge above on November 7, 2023

John was a pioneer of our District newsletter and pictorial records of District events and a life member of Meridian Lodge No. 513..



Editor's Note

Brethren,

The Forget Me Not article was a letter to the editor. It is so nice to get feedback, neutral, negative or in this case positive. It lets us know what people are reading and thinking. We lost a few brethren this month that made a difference in Hamilton C District. My first 18 years of Masonry John Lyness was the photographer. He was everywhere taking his pictures and keeping a record of all our events. Photographer Emeritus, I will miss him. Also, Mike Dragovich, for Temple Lodge he was a Mentor, Coach and Friend. Big shoes to fill!

Happy ho ho ho to all.

Glen gnotman@hotmail.com



IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Reginald Lewington
Meridian Lodge No. 513

Initiated into Westmount Lodge No. 671

Initiated: June 23, 1953
Passed: October 27, 1953
Raised: December 8, 1953

Affiliated with Meridian Lodge No. 687
October 9, 2002

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Nov 30, 2023

W. Bro. Mihailo (Michael) Dragovich
Temple Lodge No.324
Mike passed in his 90th year.

Initiated: May 28, 1965
Passed: June 25, 1965
Raised : Sept 24, 1965

Past Master of Temple Lodge No.324 1991-92
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Nov 17, 2023

Bro. Derek Montgomery Mercer
Valley Lodge No. 100

Initiated: November 8, 1979
Passed: March 20, 1980
Raised: May 15, 1980

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Nov 17, 2023

Bro. Carl Bruce MacLeod
Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Initiated: September 20, 1977
Passed: October 18, 1977
Raised: December 7, 1978
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Oct 26, 2023



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



Ontario Masons

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