

District 'C'hronicle



January 2024

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.185

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Hello Brethren:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! 2023 is in the past and we now look forward to our meetings and events of 2024.

January represents the beginning of the new year when calendars of the old year are discarded and those of the new and upcoming year are displayed. When resolutions are set, only to be discarded a short time later. When the words "lodge meeting" are written on particular days.

January usually represents cold weather. But this year is different. There are mild temperatures and rain falls when normally it would be snow. The lane has never had to be cleared saving time and fuel. My fear is that we will pay for it later with a cold, wet, and dismal spring.

January means the time for renewal. A time when lodges renew their work after the holiday season. Some lodges have had installation ceremonies and others will be holding them this month to begin the new year with a new slate of officers eager to learn lectures and present them to candidates.

January will be the beginning of social events for the year. Some lodges are already planning to hold a



"Robbie Burns Night" later in the month. Let's support these special events if we are able.

In December the Official Visit was made to Buchanan Lodge No. 550 where a well done first degree on a new candidate was witnessed. Installation ceremonies were held at Westmount Lodge No. 671 in late November and Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 in December. Congratulations to the officers of both lodges and best wishes for success for the year ahead.

Our Midterm District Meeting is planned for January 20, 2024. It will be held at Hillcrest Temple beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Long Range Planning Committee will bring us more information regarding District realignment at this meeting.

As always, brethren, remember our sick and shut-in brothers. A visit of call can go a long way to brightening their day.

January is for beginnings. Let our lodges begin this new year with HOPE in our future, FAITH in our work, and never forget to provide CHARITY to others.

Fraternally,

Raymond Wilson, DDGM

R.W. Bro. Raymond Wilson

RETURNING



August 28th

**Ancaster Fair Grounds
Beef and Corn Roast**

Grand Master's December Communique

My Brethren:

Have you ever driven by an unfamiliar Lodge building, and based on outward appearances, find yourself questioning whether the Lodge is still active? I thought I had been to every Lodge in this Province at least once in the last fortythree years, but it still happens to your Grand Master. Do you know a Lodge that consistently struggles with poor attendance or has not performed any Degree Work for years? And we all know a Lodge who hasn't had a family social event in years.



Why would a Lodge neglect its building appearance and safety requirements? Why does a Lodge struggle to fill its chairs on meeting night? Why are we not fulfilling our obligations to our Lodge and fellow members?

In a word, the answer is 'apathy.'

Regardless of the perceived problem (finances, membership numbers, participation, culture, etc.) apathy is the cause and it can be a Lodge killer if the source is not identified and addressed.

The first step in addressing apathy is to fully commit to making a change and believing that change is possible. Regardless of how we got there, our perception is our reality. Events in the past got us to this point but it is our current mindset that keeps us mired.

Knowing this, we must change our attitude and understand that this will require a significant amount of work. If we are fully committed, there is no room for indifference, and we begin to see involvement.

The next step is to perform a Lodge self-assessment to discover the origin of the problem. We cannot ignore the past; the source of the problem must be identified and addressed. If ignored, the source can resurface and hinder progress.

A good starting point is to reflect back to better days and make note of the things that were taking place that created excitement and motivated the membership. You will also want to determine when things started to go wrong, and you will likely find the source of the problem – the reason why the membership became apathetic.

As mentioned, this process will require commitment and willpower to make the necessary changes. There will be days when you just don't feel motivated to do what it takes – on those days, you will have to force yourself to show up with the right attitude to get things done. Convince yourself that you can beat apathy and overcome it. Apathy can lock a Lodge into a tailspin, but

the good news is, that once you become motivated to pull your Lodge out of a tailspin, it becomes easier to do so.

The next step is to form an action plan – detailing positive changes to pull the Lodge up. Pick an easy task to start with. It doesn't have to be exceptional; it just has to get done. The key is to find something that you can easily accomplish and motivate your membership. The first step will not be the last, but it will take you one step away from where you don't want to be!

As you work through the items on your action plan, don't be afraid to mix in new ideas with input from all the membership, young and old. Subtle changes to your meetings can have a profound impact, whether it be condensing business, inviting in guest speakers, adding music, candlelight, etc.

Lodge improvement projects are another opportunity to generate enthusiasm and improve your curb appeal. Creating an esoteric study group is another great idea that has the potential to shift the paradigm.

You will undoubtedly find some hurdles along the way, but as Bro. Henry Ford used to say – "Obstacles are those frightful things that you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

Commit to making positive changes in your Lodge. Assess your needs, set your goals and work together to accomplish them. In doing so, you will bring your Lodge closer to its full potential and enrich your community and the lives of your members.

Together, you will experience the success that has carried us forward for centuries.

If you would like some help with getting this process started and are interested in some tried and true tools to work through the process, please contact R.W. Bro. Adam Thompson. As Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Strategic Planning, he would be most willing to assist you and your Lodge in this process. He can be reached at – adamt16@gmail.com

We wish you and your families a safe festive season of peace and happiness surrounded by family and friends!

Thank you, Brethren.

Thomas W. Hogeboom



Deputy Grand Master's December Communique

Welcome to the December edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine, I hope that you are enjoying our Grand Lodge information publication so far. Please refer to the OMM for your source of Masonic Education for every meeting. The Grand Lodge committee chairmen are working hard to bring you up to date information that you can use to keep your Lodge meetings active and engaging. If you would like to see something that you think is missing or would be of interest to the Jurisdiction, please send your suggestions to the OMM Committee for their consideration.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that took the time out of their busy schedules and supported the Remembrance Day Ceremony in their community. I believe it is important for our membership to take the time to reflect on the past and to remember the sacrifices that were made and are continuing to be made to keep us all safe and free. The world is a place of many conflicts and we need to work at keeping peace and harmony in all of our lives. Remembering the world's history is hard sometimes but we need to find a way to all live together with equality and understanding. Past conflicts have to teach us to exist under one roof so to speak. We must remember the past in order to proceed to a better future. And to the men and women who serve and protect us, Thank you for your service.

Brethren, as November is behind us and we are now entering December, this Masonic year is almost half over. Maybe it's time for a healthy Lodge check list; are the members doing everything that they can to keep the Lodge vibrant and engaged, is Masonic Education being given at every meeting, are the Lodge finances in order and is the building safe and compliant. Is Mentoring high on the priority list and is the Lodge following your strategic plan. Hopefully social events are being planned and the community knows that the local Lodge is full of activity. With the use of the Ontario Masons branding comes inquiries and potential members, are like-minded men being approached and offered a glimpse into our Fraternity in hopes that they find in us what they are looking for. Is your Lodge healthy and active, are you content with the status quo or do you have the vision and desire to want more for your continued success. There is still lots of time in this Masonic year to plan, organize and execute a way to succeed. Lay down the ground work now so that the next Masonic year can continue to build on the initiatives that have been started and are flourishing. The momentum in our Lodges is building, let's keep trying to do better.

One example of thinking outside of the box and wanting to spread the word of Freemasonry is an open application process to display some of our history in the Ontario Parliament Building in Toronto. There are display cases there where our past can be showcased to raise awareness of Ontario Masons. What a great opportunity for people to see who we are. The Grand Lodge Library and Archives Committee is looking into this and I thank them very much for searching out this

incredible initiative, I believe that it will be a stepping stone to even greater avenues of public awareness for our gentle Craft. I'm excited to see where this will take us, stay tuned for further updates.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you, your families and your friends a very happy holiday season. Rejoice Brethren, spend time with each other and cherish every second with your family and friends. Give back to your community if you're fortunate enough to do so, volunteer your time or donate to a charitable cause. It's a season for sharing and giving, We can all do our part to make someone happy and thankful.

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, safe travels this holiday season and God Bless.

Jamie R. Ireland Deputy Grand Master

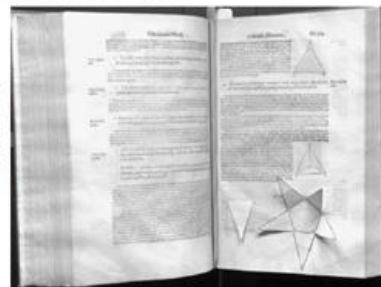
THE HAMILTON VALLEY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 30th, 2024
Time: 7:30 p.m. EST

Presentation:

- The word "parallelepipedon"
Presented by V.W. Bro. Marshall J. Kerns, Grand Historian

V.W. Bro. Marshall J. Kern had researched the origin and meaning of the word "parallelepipedon". His research was accepted and published in "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum" in 2020 on the 550th anniversary of the first publication of the word "parallelepipedon" in English.



We hope that you can join us for a relaxing evening of education.

Host: The Valley of Hamilton Education Committee

Protocol:

1. This lecture is for all Freemasons
2. **Advance Registration is required:**

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/1Zwpd-2tp2ouGNECqJ7CI8bUKdXqz_m142oX

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the virtual presentation on the date of the event.
For the convenience of the members of the "Hamilton Valley Education" Facebook group, we will be live streaming the presentation.

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Scheduled speakers may choose to wear a jacket and collared shirt

It is appreciated if you could **sign in between 7:00 – 7:20 pm** since we start promptly at 7:30 pm. If you are joining us later – PLEASE – remember to mute your device. Thank you for your co-operation.

Use this link to Pre – Register!

Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: The word "parallelepipedon". After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

Dates to Remember

January 2023

Hamilton Masonic District 'C'
Mid Term Meeting
Saturday January 20,
9:00 a.m. at Hillcrest Temple

Installation
Seymour No. 272
Tuesday January 9, 2024
Tyle 7:30 pm
Ancaster

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

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
Shrine Club

Battlefield Lodge No. 61
Presents An Exemplification
The Third Degree, Scottish Ritual

Saturday January 20, 2024
Refreshments 2.00pm
4 Queen St S, Hamilton
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Degree: 4.30pm "prompt"
Burns' Supper 6.30pm
Tickets: \$40
Address to Haggis by Bro Steven Dall
Piping by W Bro Peter McKenzie
Highland Dancing by Aspects of Dance

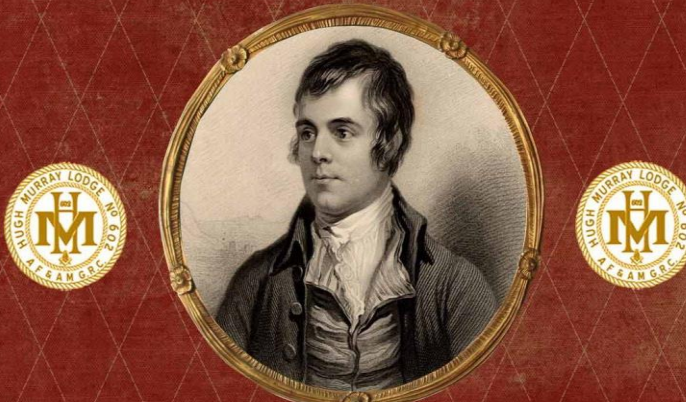
Contact for tickets: Graham Tait @ 905-512-8150 / ddgm201516@gmail.com

HUGH MURRAY LODGE
No 602 AF&AM GRC
Invites you to our
ROBBIE BURNS DINNER
Friday January 26th, 2024
6:30p.m. Cocktails - 7:00p.m. Dinner

At:
MICHLANGELO'S EVENTS AND CONFERENCE CENTER
1555 Upper Ottawa Street Hamilton, ON L8W3E2

Tickets: \$75 per person \$145 per couple \$570 per table of eight (8).
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.



For more information, tickets or table reservations please contact:
W. Bro. Gary Mclean 905-745-9207 - gm40210@gmail.com
W. Bro Edward Patterson 905-517-6728 - HMLsecretary602@outlook.com
W. Bro. Tribu Persaud 519-239-7940 - tribuwan@gmail.com

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

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Buchanan Lodge No. 550



Official visit of R.W. Bro. Ray Wilson to Buchanan Lodge No.550



W. Master Robin Colville, Bro. Joseph Kuta, R.W. Bro. Ray Wilson



Father and Son receive their service awards



W.Master Robin Colville, Bro. William Smith Jr.(25 Yr Mason), W. Bro. William Smith Sr.(25 Yr Past Master), D.D.G.M. Ray Wilson



W.M. Matthew Mandula and J.W. Bro. Marco Soares visit with Santa at Meridian Lodge No. 513 Family Christmas dinner.



Bro. Sheridan is a member of Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654, Hamilton

Ill. Bro. Ken Brisbois 33° - TPGM and Ill. Bro. Tom Wills 33° - Lieutenant Grand Commander present Bro. Michael E. Sheridan who joined Murton Lodge of Perfection and received his 14° on May 5th, 1953. with his 70 Year Member pin and certificate.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario



[Masonic Foundation of Ontario Seasonal Greetings \(youtube.com\)](#)

Click the link to hear all the good work being done!

What We Support



Feed Ontario

Feed Ontario is a network serving 130 Food Banks in every corner of Ontario from securing fresh and healthy food sources, to driving change through policy research and innovative programming. Feed Ontario unites Food Banks, industry partners and local communities in their work to end hunger and poverty.



Endowed bursary funds - Ontario Community Colleges

Beginning in 2013, The Masonic Foundation of Ontario began a 10-year program to establish endowed bursaries in each of the 26 Community Colleges in Ontario. Each year, a total of \$100,000 is invested to establish permanent bursaries at 4 Community Colleges.



Masonichip Foundation of Ontario

A child identification program sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, uses modern, police-approved techniques to create child identification kits for children.



Medical Research

Prostate Cancer Research – Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Canadian men and is the third leading cause of death from cancer of men in Canada. The funding of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario is directed to the funding of research which will contribute to expanding the knowledge base associated with this disease and to advancements in diagnosis and treatment.

Autism Services – Enhancing the quality of life of persons with Autism. Over one in sixty Canadian children now live with autism, a complex, life long, neurological disorder characterized by a wide range of communication, social, learning and behavioural challenges. Giant Steps, a unique school and therapy centre for children is focused on the specialized and individualized programming needed by children today to positively impact their futures as adults tomorrow.



Youth Organizations

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario demonstrates interest in the well being of young people by supporting youth groups and programs who, by their interest in mankind, will be at the forefront in making the world better for future generations. We support Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, DeMolay Canada, The International Order of Rainbow Girls Canada and 4-H Ontario.

Special Projects undertaken by Masonic Districts and Lodges

District Projects were initiated by the Foundation in 1973. These more local projects are identified by lodges and districts and must be in support of qualified charitable organizations and must be approved by the Foundation.

District charitable projects raise in excess of \$200,000 annually across Ontario.

From the Editor

<https://www.masonicfoundation.on.ca/what-s-going-on>

Masonic Education: Also Known as Lodge Talks.

One of the few bonuses of Covid Lockdowns was it provided time for surfing the web and finding interesting content for Masons. Our esteemed Associate Editor recommended a site for people to for providing Masonic Education in Lodges.

From our website people can use the many Masonic Minutes we have for education. But the Lodge Talks website has some quick articles you can use to enliven your Lodge meetings.

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson



Lodge Talks are an expedient method of providing Masonic education for the brethren. You may simply read, print and give a presentation in lodge about any of the following subjects as part of your Masonic education program.

Many Masonic referenced symbols which you might investigate as a component of Masonic Education talks

- 47th Problem of Euclid
- Coffin
- The Beehive
- Masonic Shoe
- Cable Tow
- Masonic Altar
- Ark of the Covenant
- The Acacia Tree
- Masonic Sheaf of Corn
- Masonic Gavel
- Masonic Blazing Star
- The Anchor and the Ark
- Square and Compasses
- The Letter G
- The All Seeing Eye

See more options for Lodge Talks here:

<http://www.mastermason.com> 5 Minute Talks

https://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org/raymond-daniels.Masonic_Minutes

The History of the Masonic Blue Slipper A Lodge Talk Example:

Have you ever noticed a Masonic lady or perhaps a widow wearing a blue slipper pin? A woman wearing this symbol is under the protection of all Masons. Here's the story...



The symbolism comes from the Bible, specifically the Book of Ruth. In the story, a man named Elimelech took his wife Naomi and their two sons out of Bethlehem to the land of Moab. Then, after the two sons were married, Elimelech and both of Naomi's sons died. Naomi returned to Bethlehem with her widowed daughter-in-law Ruth. They were able to stay with a relative of Elimelech's named Boaz, who had a farm outside of town. Boaz fell in love with Ruth, but due to the laws at the time, this was a little bit complicated.

Boaz set up court at the city gate (as was the custom) and asked the closest kinsman of Elimelech to settle all of his accounts (in essence, settle the debts of his death). When the kinsman could not take care of everything in the estate, Boaz stepped forward and said he would take care of the entire estate. As was the custom – the kinsman removed his shoe and offered it to Boaz to seal the deal. Boaz accepted the shoe and held it up for the crowd to symbolize that the deal had been made. Boaz was then able to take Ruth as his wife, and their son Obed became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of King David.

The shoe is the symbol of a promise, and the Masonic blue color is a symbol of perfection. The blue of the sky does not fade and is everlasting. The Masonic Blue Slipper represents that this woman is the relative of a Mason, and is thereby under the protection of all Masons and the unfading oath of all Masons to protect widows and orphans.

LAFAYETTE LODGE 199 – LOCK HAVEN, PA

Masonic Minutes

"Masonic Minutes are intended to supply a short instructional note that may be used to provide a Learning Opportunity at every meeting of the Lodge, thereby fulfilling his stated duty: "to employ and instruct the Brethren in Masonry". Ideally, they could be used to initiate a discussion among the Brethren present. The ideas expressed and the interpretations suggested are strictly personal, and are not sanctioned or authorized by the Grand Lodge or any of its Committees.

If you find them interesting or informative, please feel free to share them with your Brethren. As free-thinking or Speculative Masons, I cannot tell you how to think, nor can I tell you what to think, but hopefully I can give you something to think about"

M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels

Editor's Note



Brethren,

Reading the Grand Masters note about dealing with apathy got me wondering about what happens in our District. It would be interesting to hear from our Lodges (and Readers further afield) about what their Lodges are doing for fraternity and family.

I came across a link to the Masonic Foundation Youtube video for Christmas / end of year greetings. It became page 6 this month. I encourage all to take the time to see what we as Masons are doing throughout the Province.

Also, I encourage any Shriners out there who want to share how they help the children. (and more)

The Scottish Rite Hamilton Valley Education team have a zoom session set for Tuesday Jan 30th of the Parallelepipedon. Open to all freemasons, be sure to pre-register if you want to attend.

Register here: ["parallelepipedon" Zoom registration](#)

Tied to Masonic Education, there is a piece on Lodge Talks with links to our website for Masonic Minutes, and BridgePort Lodge No. 181. Both have some really interesting talks that you are welcome to use and share (with proper attributes) with your members. To all, please feel free to share your own interesting sites and I will run a page in a future edition.

Looking forward to an interesting 2024. We seem to be starting off well with at least 3 Robbie Burns dinners. I have been told that the Scottish Third Degree is well worth attending. Hoping to make it.

As always, please feel free to comment, contribute and let us know what is working for you.

Happy New Years to all.

Glen gnotman@hotmail.com



IN MEMORIAM

W. Bro. William Smith
Landmarks / Doric Lodge No.654

Initiated: November 19, 1962

Passed: March 02, 1963

Raised: May 4, 1963

W. Master 1988

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Dec 22, 2023



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

The Lodge Where I Belong

Though my lodge may lack the splendor
Of a Temple or a Shrine,
Or possess the gaudy fixtures
that are classed as superfine,

Yet the fellowship it offers
is in a price beyond compare.
And I wouldn't trade it ever
for life's treasures rich or bare!

The handclasp firm, the word of cheer,
Oh, such meanings they impart,
The mystic ties of brotherhood
that links us heart to heart!

You'd really have to travel far,
For the friendships quite so strong,
As those one always find right here
In the Lodge where I belong.

When all my earthly travels end,
And at last I'm borne to rest
Where mortal hands no longer toil
and I cease life's endless quest

Why there's nothing I'd like better,
should I join the heavenly throng,
than to meet with all the Brothers
of the Lodge Where I Belong.

From Syd Shatzker via the Ontario Masons Facebook



Ontario Masons

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www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org