

District 'C' Chronicle



July 2024

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.191

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

DISTRICT "C" YEAR IN REVIEW

I write this as the close of the District Deputy's term is soon coming.

Most of you know that I was not the one to take Seymour Lodge's turn as District Deputy Grand Master. Our plan, at Seymour, was to have W. Bro. Stanley Satchell take the post and we, at Seymour, were grooming him for that position. Unfortunately, Stan passed away following a Board of General Purposes Meeting just ten months prior to him receiving the "cuffs". Seymour members convinced me to replace Stan and represent Seymour in the District Deputy line.

I was not prepared to do it but with help from the Seymour brethren and previous District Deputies, they got me to Grand Lodge last year where I assumed the post as District Deputy for Hamilton "C" District.

Stan, I hope I've done justice to the DDGM post. I thought of you at every Official Visit and District Meeting and always questioned if I was doing the job to your satisfaction.

My sincere thanks to W. Bro. Robert Gordon who stepped in to serve as District Secretary. He has been invaluable to me and the district and we owe him our gratitude. Thanks again, Bob, for helping out as well as serving as a chauffeur for me to go to many of the meetings.



This year saw my secretary and I make Official Visits to ten lodges. Thanks to all Committee Chairmen for attending my visits whenever they could. Thanks to all the lodges for their hospitality when I made my visits.

When I wrote my talks this year I wanted to make sure of two things. First, keep them short. Second, try to include some aspect of Agriculture if at all possible. I had many positive comments on my talks for being short and being a source of Agricultural Education. Agriculture and Masonry can work together.

As many of you know my District Charity this year has been our local 4-H association in Hamilton-Wentworth. Funds will be used to assist members attending conferences and opportunities and helping with the purchase of supplies for operating future 4-H clubs in our municipality.

This year saw talks on the realignment of the three Hamilton districts. The current district structure will remain for one more year. At Grand Lodge Convocation in July of 2025 these three districts will be cut to two and bear the names Hamilton North and Hamilton South.

Some amalgamation of lodges will also take place in future months which will reduce the number of lodges in our district for next year. It is hoped that these amalgamated lodges will become stronger and serve the members and communities to the best advantage.

This will be the final year for Districts A, B, and C as we have known them since the 1970's. For over fifty years these three districts have worked together and helped each other when needed. Thanks to all for making this possible.

I wish my successor as DDGM all the best for the coming Masonic year.

Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. H. Raymond Wilson, DDGM



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 June Communique

My Brethren:

I am told this will be my last Communique as your Grand Master as the Ontario Masons Magazine production team is taking a month of rest in July to prepare themselves for the next exciting year of Masonry that lays ahead of us.

So where do I start? How do I begin to thank all of the Masons, both past and present, that have had an impact on my life?

It is a huge list that stretches from my dear old Dad to each of the Masons that will be attending our Annual Communication in Toronto this July. Thank you very much!

Now let me get back in the pulpit one last time...

As many of you have heard me say over the last few years, I believe we take our Masonry for granted. How so you say. There are a number of ways. We do this by not taking responsibility for our members, our Lodges and our Lodge buildings.

Does your Lodge have a program to truly keep in touch with all of your members?

Do you have a Visitation Committee that regularly visits members of your Lodge in hospital and longterm care facilities who can no longer get out to Lodge?

Does your Committee reach out to members who unexpectedly miss a meeting for a safety check?

Do you have a regularly supported Benevolence Fund?

Do you have a Benevolence Committee to assist your members and their families in need?

If you have Life Members, was their membership purchased using the actuarial table in the Regulations Governing Life Membership Funds in the Constitution? Or were they sold so cheap that the burden of 'carrying' these members falls on the current and future dues paying members?

Are Life Membership Funds kept in a separate fund?

Are they evaluated every year and when possible, are these Life Member's annual dues or Fund surpluses transferred into the Lodge Operating Account to assist with the expenses of the Lodge?

Do you support your Lodge Officers by attending every meeting?

Offering your assistance to them at each special event held by your Lodge to make it a success?



Or do you just take it for granted that the Officers will do all of the work? Do all the visiting? Handle all of the bills?

Does your Lodge have a dues structure that takes responsibility for all of the expenses incurred by the Lodge?

Do you have a Capital Fund for those unexpected Lodge expenses?

Or are you using the funds of your forefathers to cover your expenses?

Does your Lodge have an annual budget so the membership knows where their dues are going, and the members can in turn personally budget for expectant Lodge dues increases?

I want to spend more time on Lodge dues because, as many of you know,

I believe we 'sell' our Masonry too cheaply.

With the support of our L-form reporting and the Condition of Masonry Committee, I would safely say that the average amount of Lodge dues in our Jurisdiction today is about \$100. We have been invited to a lot of centennial anniversaries this past year so let's stick with the one hundred year theme.

The average Lodges dues 100 years ago was \$30 and \$100 in 1924 is worth \$1,826.50 today. I know we aren't paying \$0.11 for a gallon of gas anymore – new cars are more than \$265 today – you can't find a house for \$7,720 these days – guess when you could last buy a drink of Pepsi for \$0.08? Who works for \$2,196 a year now?

So why aren't the average Lodge dues today set at \$547.95 to keep up with inflation like everything else has?

Some of our Brethren around the world must have a higher appreciation for their Masonry than we do. But if you paid 4,000 Euros (\$5,880 CDN) for your annual dues like our Brothers in Romania and Singapore or the more moderate Italian annual dues of \$735 CDN, I'll bet you wouldn't miss a meeting.

Five years ago, I would have been a lot harder on the next one – taking our Lodge Temples for granted – but thanks to some Constitutional amendments, we have been seeing a great deal of progress with the attention focused on our Lodge Temples. And for this attention that we have been paying to the safety and protection of our members, I dearly thank each of you who have made our Lodges a safer place to visit over the last few years. Please keep it up!

But where we are still taking our Lodge Temples for granted is in the management and oversight of the running of our buildings and the corporations entrusted with this responsibility. I know this because I have been guilty of it too.

For more years than they would like to remember, the care of my dear old Masonic Temple in Bath was entrusted to the care of the Simpkins family. An unfair assumption for me to make that all is well and an unfair

burden that one or a small group should have thrust on them.

Lucky for the Brethren of that Temple all is well. This cavalier attitude could have gone bad, and we have seen the worst of what can happen.

This July at our Annual Communication, we have a most interesting presentation on the responsibilities of corporate directors during the Tuesday afternoon of seminars and workshops as presented by R.W. Bro. Chris Handley.

The presentation is not only directed at Directors of our Lodge building corporations, but at every member so that every member assumes some responsibility for the management of their corporation and don't take for granted that someone else in the Lodge is doing that. We need all assume responsibility for our Lodge Temples.

Brethren, my thoughts about us taking our Masonry for granted Brethren have been rolling around in my head for the last twenty-five years or so when I first met the Bros. Nezam and Shahab Soltanzadeh and heard their stories of Freemasonry in the state of Iran.

And I am sure most of you have heard the horror stories of practicing Masonry in Germany during the rule of the Third Reich.

Then again earlier this year in Windsor I met Bro. Sam Persis who reminded me to not take my Masonry for granted.

He recalled the history of Persian Freemasonry where the Masonic light and wisdom got the attention of the brightest minds and souls of the Persians prior to the Islamic revolution of 1979.

Prior to that date, Masonic Lodges were flourishing among the Iranians where most of the Prime Ministers, Senators, military leaders and academics were Masons and contributed vastly to every aspect of the modernization of the country.

The Ayatollahs that overthrew the Shah soon realized that the light and wisdom of Freemasonry was going to be their greatest obstacle to their dictatorship, so Freemasonry was banned and most of the Freemasons got arrested and executed, some got the chance to get out of the country in time, but most didn't want to leave their motherland. The Masonic order has been under the heaviest prosecution since that time in Iran.

Of course we say this could never happen in Canada – but I'm sure the Masons that have to hide their Masonic membership or wore the forget-me-not said the same thing.

If I can leave you with one request – don't ever take your Freemasonry – its members, its Lodges and Lodge Temples for granted.

Thank you, Brethren – it's been a gas! You should all take the opportunity to be Grand Master. It's the greatest job ever and you get to meet and serve the best collection of men in the world!

Thank you, Brethren. **Thomas W. Hogeboom**

Deputy Grand Master's June Communique

Brethren,

In parts of this Jurisdiction, June is both an ending and a beginning to the Masonic year. I'm referring to elections and installations of officers at many Lodges, outgoing DD's and incoming DD's and elections to a Grand Lodge Office taking place.

While some Lodge bylaws mandate that they do this at the end of the calendar year, others do it in June. For this point in time and for this Communique, let's discuss the June happenings. Lodge officers typically progress up through the chairs with excitement, reservation and plans for a successful year ahead. This can be a huge debate whether a member can jump ahead, out of order, to a much senior position or should he follow the traditional path on his way to being the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

A Past Master can help out anywhere that the Lodge needs the position filled but a newer member should really experience every office as he progresses towards the east. Let's face it, do you think that a new MM should become Senior Warden in his first few years of membership, I don't think that is a healthy progression. That isn't a commonsense approach for the Lodge to put into place and it certainly doesn't help the MM to progress and understand the Ritual. We shouldn't be doing this, only to fill the chair with a warm body just because, doesn't usually make a Long Range Plan successful.

As far as electing and installing a WM into the Chair of King Solomon, hopefully the Lodge is putting forward a qualified candidate who has a working knowledge of the Lodge and a vision of where he wants to take the membership in the upcoming Masonic year. Anything less could be a costly mistake and the Lodge could suffer. I would hope that you, as a member of your Lodge, would want to succeed and add to the longevity of your Lodge for the cause of good, not just to get by for another year. Brethren, use the Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee for help and recommendations on how to do better, how to energize the membership and how to focus on the future. Put some benchmarks down on paper, Key Point Indicators, and try to follow the planned path forward. If the KPI's need changing in the future to stay aligned with the Lodge activities, that's alright. You can revisit the LRP and tweak it as required, this proven technique will propel you into the future



with confidence and conviction and longevity for years to come. R.W. Bro. Adam Thompson can assist you with your Lodge's Long Range Plan if you require assistance, please feel free to contact him at any time.

To the outgoing District Deputy Grand Masters in the month of June, thank you very much for your service, thank you for your work and dedication in making your District a better place and thank you for continuing to make your Grand Lodge better. Hopefully, your year has been full of great activities, many banquets, milestone pin presentations and lots of Masonic Education. As your year winds down, please make sure that you have a debriefing meeting with your successor. Please make sure that you let the incoming DDGM in on all of the events that you have encountered, both good experiences and bad encounters. Please leave no hidden surprises for him to uncover and deal with unannounced if in your power to prevent it. This advice will be welcomed by your successor, I guarantee it. To the membership of each and every District, elect the best candidate for the best success of your District moving forward. Putting a weak member into the office of DDGM only weakens the future and does not contribute to a positive environment. Use a PDDGM if you aren't able to put a qualified candidate forward, you need to look ahead to have the greatest Masonic year possible.

To the incoming District Deputy Grand Master, or DDGM elect, Congratulations on your election to this high office. I commend you for your work and dedication to come, you have been nominated by your peers and elected to carry the good name of your District forward, what a great honour for you. I sincerely hope that this is your best year ever. Again, have a debriefing meeting with the outgoing DD, that will help to ensure that you have the necessary tools to be informed and make positive decisions. If you need more information about your upcoming term, we will be continuing to hold monthly virtual meetings where you will be able to not only ask questions but the Grand Master and Deputy can give you the help that you may need. We want to reinforce and commit to your success. We are going to have a great Masonic year together.

And finally to the Brethren that are running for a Grand Lodge office, Congratulations on putting your name forward, this step is a huge but rewarding leap to yet another higher office. It takes great nerve and commitment but if successful, it can be very rewarding. You may be asked to dedicate your time as a Grand Lodge Officer to a whole range of Committees where you can add your talents to make a difference. I, as Deputy Grand Master and President of the Board of General Purposes am looking forward to working with you. Brethren, I only ask that you are an informed voter in July. Please attend a "Meet the Candidates" meeting and judge the candidates for yourself. Don't go on the word of an uninformed Brother who tells you who you should vote for, do your homework and decide who you feel comfortable voting for. Being an informed voter means for a successful year of committee chairmen and

workers which will move our Grand Lodge forward in a positive direction. It's the uninformed voters that do a disservice to the Fraternity. Please do your best to elect the best. Read over the nominees biographies and previous experience ahead of time, Elect the best to the Board of General Purposes.

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 and God Bless.

Jamie R. Ireland Deputy Grand Master

2024 District Deputy Grand Masters - Elect

District	Name
Algoma	Timothy Glenndale King
Algoma East	Robert David Craig
Brant	Paul Graham Isaac
Bruce	John Donald Jans
Chatham	Kenneth Michael Smith
Eastern	Daniel Garry Roddick
Essex County	Ross Rodney Taylor
Frontenac	Dale Edmond Oliver LaFreniere
Georgian North	Michael Dean Lougheed
Georgian South	Nathan Publow
Grey	Paul Keith Nancekivell
Hamilton A	Brampton A. Gushway
Hamilton B	Brian James Muir
Hamilton C	Steven William Badger
Huron	William Franklin King
London East	Romulo Fernando Villavecer
London West	David Richard Clifford Humphrey
Niagara A	Steven Arthur Edward
Niagara B	Charles Roy James Watson
Nipissing Muskoka	James Edward Brien
Ontario	John Anthony Reine
Ottawa 1	Eustace Roberts
Ottawa 2	Neil Blain
Peterborough	Bharat Maini
Prince Edward	Kevin Scott Fudge
Sarnia	Wilbur Shand
St. Lawrence	Robert S. Miller
St. Thomas	Robert Lee Temple
Sudbury-Manitoulin	John Mark Miszczak
Temiskaming	Gerald Patrick Liley
Toronto Don Valley	Reddy Sampath
Toronto East	Daniel David Thomas Fallows
Toronto Humber Valley	Carl Ignatius
Toronto West	Matwinder Singh Phull
Victoria	James Edward Jones
Waterloo	Richard Jackson
Wellington	William Theodore Oliver
Western	Reginald Peter Jones
Wilson	David Palmer
York	Herbert Koch

Around The District



Seymour Lodge No. 272 – 150 yrs.



V.W. Bro. Mike Sheridan receives his 70 yr. Pin. with W.M. George Jones.



Buchanan Lodge No. 550 Annual Barbecue



District C Leadership Team

Year At a Glance! – Our District



Dufferin Lodge No. 291



Valley Lodge No. 100



Temple Lodge No. 324



Seymour Lodge No. 272



Meridian Lodge No. 513



The Electric Lodge No. 495



Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602



Buchanan Lodge No. 550

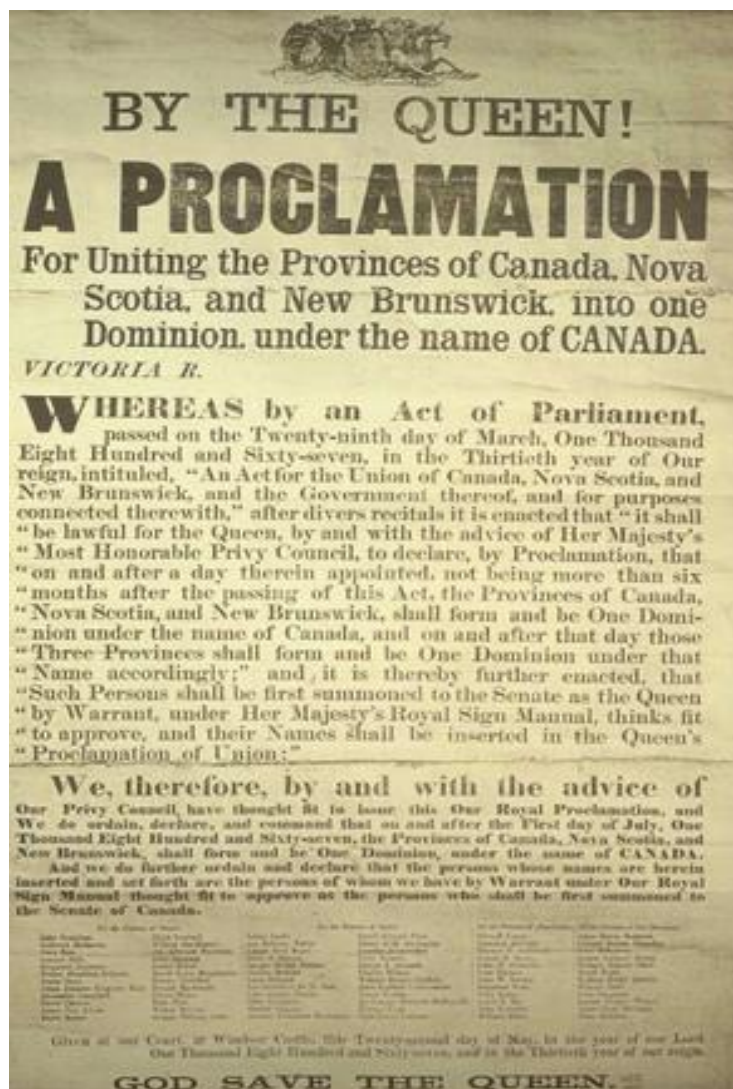


Westmount Lodge No. 671



Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge No. 654

Masonic Education Canada Day!



Proclamation announcing the formation of one Dominion, under the name of CANADA, 1867

Source: <https://www.historicalsocietyottawa.ca>

July 1, 1867: First Dominion Day celebrated in Hamilton

The following appeared in the Hamilton Spectator's 170th anniversary special edition.

Hamilton only began to look at how to celebrate Canada's birthday less than two weeks before the occasion. The Spectator published the following on Monday, July 1, 1867: "Never since the first settlement of Canada has there dawned upon the land so auspicious a day as that which we are now about to celebrate. The consolidation of the various British American provinces into one Dominion is an event not only in the history of Canada but in the history of the Human race."

City council determined that the day would be observed as a public holiday, although later debate questioned whether this would involve the closing of the city's many bars and taverns and who would pay for the events.

Significance

The culmination of the passage of the British North America Act had begun with Lord Durham's report in 1839. This report advocated the union of the two Canadas into a single colony. It also paved the way for responsible government — a critical step in the evolution of Canadian democracy. The Act of Union was passed by the British Parliament in July 1840 and proclaimed on Feb. 10, 1841. It united the colonies of Upper Canada and Lower Canada under one government, creating the Province of Canada. Twenty-six years later, on July 1, 1867, the British Parliament passed the British North America Act, creating the new self-governing federation of Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald became the first Prime Minister of the new country.

Dominion Day 1867

Dominion Day 1867 began with a general ringing of all church bells, first at midnight and then at 4 a.m., with the salvo of artillery being postponed until 6 a.m. to mark the official start of celebrations.

The city's professional societies, trades and public bodies, along with other dignitaries joined a march from the Gore through to the Common beyond the Crystal Palace. They were greeted by Mayor Benjamin Ernest Charlton, who read an official address from Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

The procession was then concluded with a feu de joie, or a firing of guns, in celebration.

Dominion Days in Hamilton

1868

For the 1868 celebrations, The Spectator asked readers how the day should be celebrated to differentiate it from Victoria Day, which had been celebrated since 1845. The most popular idea was to use it as a time for homecoming and family gatherings, with outdoor activities to show civic pride. This version was a Hamilton-born tradition that continued well into the early 1900s.

While most of the early years that followed 1868 saw relatively small, one-day homecoming celebrations, some, such as when Hamilton celebrated the 5th, 10th and 25th anniversaries, saw the city get into full gear to put on a series of larger special events. For the 25th Dominion Day in 1892, The Spectator wrote of thousands of former Hamiltonians planning to come from as far away as Detroit, Buffalo, Muskoka and Toronto to join the special long weekend. Events listed in the paper included special lake cruises, horse racing nights, parades and military tattoos, a tennis tournament, various lacrosse, baseball and cricket matches, as well as picnics and afternoon teas, with music and dance to celebrate the first quarter-century.

Hamilton's celebrations for Canada's 50th anniversary should have been an even bigger spectacle but it was very different. Thousands of former Hamiltonians flocked to the city for the Dominion Day celebrations of

1917, and the military theme was plainly obvious. The city's regiments were out in full force as officers and soldiers paraded through downtown to Victoria Park for the formal ceremony. Six Nations marathon runner Tom Longboat, a war veteran himself, was one of the day's star attractions and went on to win the Hamilton road race.

The home coming celebrations for Canada's 60th birthday in 1927 were planned as a full-week extravaganza by the mayor and city council. Visitors were asked to register at Central School upon their arrival in the city and, in order to handle the thousands expected, a special billeting registry was set up by the Hamilton Herald. In preparation for the visit of the Governor General, Lord Willingdon, and his wife to begin the celebrations, streets were decorated, flags were raised and a massive homecoming parade was organized. A major music festival was held at the arena featuring local men's, women's and children's choirs. Free concerts and street dances were arranged as well as an air show and daily performances of native dance and culture by representatives of the Six Nations community. It was at this celebration that the Governor General officially dedicated the fountain in Gage Park.

Source: <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/july-1-1867>



Happy Canada Day!

Editor's Note

Call for Submissions! / Responses

With all the changes in our District and the upcoming realignment, Bill and I were thinking to ask for some personal reactions to this question? A type of mini essay competition; no prizes, but we can feature your replies.

WHAT IS A MASONIC LODGE?

The term "lodge" itself comes from the structures which the stonemasons built against the sides of the cathedrals during construction. In winter, when building had to stop, they lived in these lodges and worked at carving stone.

But a Masonic lodge is more than a building; it is a living, breathing organization made up of and sustained by the members themselves. It is a tight-knit group of men who make solemn vows to one another and become comrades in Masonry and life.

Above all, a Masonic lodge represents open arms, a helping hand, and brotherly love to every Mason, anywhere, at any time.

How do you feel about Lodge, about the above and about Masonry in general?

Glen gnotman@hotmail.com



Ontario Masons

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ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 40
NUMBER 40
A.E. & A.M. CA EST. 1852

HAMILTON DISTRICT MASONS
ANNUAL CORN ROAST

Hosted by St. John's Lodge No. 40 and
Binbrook Chapter No. 117 OES

Saturday August 17, 2024
4pm-9pm

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 163
435 Limeridge Rd. E, Hamilton

Symposium 4pm, Corn served at 4:30
Dinner 6:30. ALL WELCOME

\$35 ADULT/\$20 CHILD

TICKET INCLUDES: 2 COBS OF CORN
PULLED PORK ON A BUN, 2 SIDES AND DESSERT

For tickets contact any St. John's member
E-transfer to scottjameshume@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING FOR ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL HAMILTON

Ontario Masons

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