

District 'C'ronicle



March 2025

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.199

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

Spring is almost upon us and good riddance to the extreme cold and winter storms that we have experienced in February. The weather was so extreme during the month of February that my Official Visit to Meridian Lodge No. 513 had to be rescheduled.

On February 10th I made my way to Electric Valley Lodge No. 100 for their Official Visit. I would say that their meeting was as near to perfection as a lodge could get. Junior Warden, Brother David Gabriel, gave the best JW's lecture that I have witnessed in my 21 years in Masonry. Kudos to you, my Brother. To the members of Electric Valley, I say well done and keep up the good work.

It was also very encouraging to see such a large turnout of support for Electric Valley. All of the Worshipful Masters in the District were in attendance and even the balcony had to be used for the visiting brethren. Buchanan Lodge No. 550 barely retained their hold on the Travelling Gavel because of the good turnout by all the lodges in the District. Well done my brethren, please keep supporting the remaining lodges with their OV's.

The Official Visit for Meridian Lodge No. 550 has been rescheduled for Wednesday March 12th at the



Ancaster Temple. I hope that the same support will be shown to them as was given to Electric Valley.

Please mark on you calendar the following dates: **Tuesday March 25th** Official Visit to Westmount Lodge, **Tuesday April 8th** Official Visit to Seymour Lodge No. 272, **Sunday April 27th** Spring Divine Service (MCH), **Thursday May 1st** Installation of Buchanan Lodge No. 550, **Tuesday May 13th** Installation of Landmarks Temple Lodge No. 324, **Saturday May 31st** A Day of Masonry (MCH) and **Monday June 9th** Installation of Electric Valley Lodge No. 100.

The plans for the Day of Masonry are coming into form for Saturday May 31st. The day will kick off at 12:30 pm at the Masonic Centre of Hamilton. There will be 4 sessions provided, followed by a town hall meeting with the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland. The Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro Art Di Cecco, will also be in attendance for the day. After the town hall meeting an informal banquet will be held. A flyer for the event will be available in the very near future.

Lastly, I think we can agree that the Book of Work should only be opened in lodge by the official prompter? The Grand Master has sent out a communique to reinforce this fact, yet I am still seeing Books of the Work open in lodge. Ask yourself, if you have your book open, have you provided yourself with enough preparation for the ritual you are about to deliver? What would the Grand Master say or do if he were in attendance? Once that door closes and the WM knocks his gavel, no books should be present. Take the required steps to properly prepare yourself for the work of the evening my brethren.

Fraternally,

R. W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF

District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton C District

<p>Save the Date A Day of Masonry Saturday May 31st Masonic Center Hamilton</p>

Grand Master's February Communique

Brethren,

It's almost spring, February is a short month and the days in March are getting longer and warmer. Sure, we might still feel the clutches of winter trying to hold on but we're on the right side of the season and I can't wait for the weather to turn.

January was such a great month, I attended the DDGM Midterm meeting in Whitby where almost all of the Districts in this Grand Jurisdiction were represented. Positivity is the key word of this Masonic year. The DD's are reporting that the Lodges are busy, they're doing lots of degree work and they are following our Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M. In the meetings that I have been attending, I agree, the Ritual, Education and Mentoring is alive and well and carrying the Lodges forward.

I do want to comment on having only one Ritual book open for the "named official prompter" to use, as this also came up at the Midterm meeting. Sometimes when the other books are removed there is some bad feelings but by the time the meeting is complete, the negative vibes have turned to positive Thank you's. Once the crutch is removed, the member realizes that they didn't need the book at all. I've known all along that Lodge practices are needed, and the books are not. I am so proud of everyone that has strived to do better, which in turn translates into well done lectures and floorwork, better and more meaningful degrees and more importantly, impressed candidates. After all, we can all agree that it's all about the candidates and their experiences.

As R.E.M. is our focus to re-energizing our membership, which in turn allows our Lodges to better succeed, I want to introduce everyone to our new Grand Lodge Mentoring Booklets that were authored by W. Bro. Eyal Edelman. The Deputy Grand Master and I are very excited to bring these Booklets forward for your use. We showed the 6 Book set to the DDGM's at the Midterm meeting and we received very positive comments.

There are two booklets designated to each of the three degrees, a six-book set in total, and they are for the member to read and better understand the information of the degree that he just received. W. Bro. Edelman, a member of the Mentoring Committee, also put together a brief description of these booklets that I want to share with the Jurisdiction. This set of Booklets is \$30.00 from Grand Lodge, \$5.00 each and will be a welcome addition to every Lodge Mentoring Chairman.

Freemasonry 101 Mentoring Booklet Series

"Grand Lodge has identified Ritual, Education and Mentoring (REM) as the strategic activities to help revitalize and strengthen Freemasonry in Ontario. Mentoring has been recognized for many years as a vital tool in educating and engaging our newest members. Well educated and engaged members are more likely to be active members of their Lodge, obtain the rank of Master Mason and retain their membership.

Although mentoring may differ to meet the needs and interests of each unique candidate, certain general guidelines has been identified as contributors to delivering a great mentoring experience to the candidates:

- Timely engagement soon after completing each degree
- Personal connection between the new candidate and his mentor, with continued engagement
- Going beyond routine memorization, exposing and explaining the meaning of our ritual
- Educating candidates about the broader aspect of Freemasonry beyond the ritual (e.g. protocol & etiquette, our history, visitation, exposure to the operations of Lodges and Grand Lodge)

In order to support our newest members and our mentors, Grand Lodge has published a new series of booklets. These booklets are now available for purchase from Grand Lodge.

The "Freemasonry 101" mentoring booklet series is composed of 6 booklets, 2 per each degree, and forms the basis of a well-rounded mentoring program. The Freemasonry 101 booklet series include:



As its name suggests, the Freemasonry 101 series is intended as a first introductory course and is not meant as a comprehensive training. Interested parties may find more extensive training through the courses offered by the College of Freemasonry."

Thank you very much Eyal for your work on this important initiative, I appreciate your dedication to Freemasonry. These Mentoring Booklets add to the success of our vision of R.E.M.

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's February Communique

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, three words we are presented with from the outset of our Masonic journey. Couched as the fundamental principles of our Order, we are reminded regularly in our ritual, our writings and our charges, that we are to conduct ourselves in concert with these three basic, yet fundamental principles in all we do, within or without our Lodges. As every new initiate enters our Craft, he is presented with a copy of our Constitution. The importance of this document is that it not only delineates our regulations, our roles, and our responsibilities, moreover Parts VI of the Constitution provide a concise summary and explanation of our Ancient Charges, which specify the key elements required of our conduct.

From the very beginning, we are taught that these principles are not merely concepts but are essential guidelines designed to refine our character and our conduct, both within our Lodges and in our everyday lives. They serve as a constant reminder to align our actions with the ideals we profess to uphold, and by embodying these principles, the intent is to create a harmonious environment in which to conduct our endeavors and resolve our issues.

In fact, this direction is emphasized in the very first charge we are given, immediately after we are invested with our very first badge of the Order. The lesson implied in this first charge is that in order to benefit from the principles of our Craft, one of the very first challenges we must learn to recognize and overcome is adversity.

Brethren, this charge is not to be interpreted as a pass to avoid the common resolution of an issue, nor does it promote the attitude to not attend Lodge because of a potential or ongoing issue or dispute with another Brother. In fact, the underlying message is that to fully appreciate the values of our Craft, one of the very first things we must learn to master is our approach to adversity. Yet somewhere along the line, the essence of this message continues to be lost or misinterpreted, as piques and quarrels continue to prevail within our organization.

Brethren, we are regularly confronted with issues, and our lives are laden with adversity in our vocation, our families and among our Brethren. We do not all think and feel the same in regard to our surrounding matters and concerns. Yet the dilemma is not necessarily with the conflict itself, or the diverse positions and views surrounding the issue, but more so with how we choose to deal with it. As noted earlier, our Craft outlines from the initial steps in our Masonic journey that one of the very first things we must learn to do as Masons to is to deal with adversity, by putting into practice the virtues and fundamental principles of our Order. These building blocks of our organization are built into our core values and serve as tools to deal with conflict and opposing positions. These tools are easily acknowledged as they are regularly present within the experience and lessons of our ritual and charges.

To further assist in the resolution of any differences in peace and harmony, our Conflict Resolution Handbook is also available for use by our Brethren. The handbook can be downloaded from our Grand Lodge website Members area, in the Masonic Education Pillar under Masonic Education. A special note of gratitude to the brethren of our Grand Lodge Masonic Education Pillar for all your efforts in making this handbook available.

In summary, conflict resolution in our context is the determination of a way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to any disagreement. When a dispute arises, often the best course of action is to resolve the issue in a state of harmony and peaceful negotiation. The events and trials we regularly experience may not always yield a favourable outcome, and our own resolve may be put to the test. Our reaction and approach to a resolution will be the true measure of whether we are becoming the better man.

In closing Brethren, I leave you with an excerpt from Most Worshipful Brother Norman E. Byrne's report in the Grand Lodge 1995 Proceedings. As a Past Grand Master and Chairman of the Discipline Committee he penned; "Surely charity, toleration, a little common sense and a big helping of brotherly love would produce a much better result for all concerned. Your committee knows it is easy to say, but the exercise of the aforementioned Masonic virtues will produce much better results for an aggrieved brother, the lodge and even Grand Lodge, than the laying of Masonic charges in the heat of passion for a 'personal' affront or wrongdoing. The test may well be 'has this brother clearly and unequivocally offended Freemasonry generally? - or is it just me?'. A serious question, which deserves a serious answer."

With my best fraternal regards,

R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master

Dates to Remember

March 2025

Official Visit

Meridian Lodge No. 513

Wednesday March 12, 2025

Tyle 7:30 pm

Refreshments to follow
Ancaster Temple



Hugh Murray Lodge
310, 602 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C.
103rd Anniversary 1922-2025
'Making Good Men Better since 1922'

**All you can eat
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**
Saturday March 15th, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the
**HILLCREST
MASONIC TEMPLE**
257 Mohawk Rd. Hamilton, ON
Sausages, pancakes, juice,
coffee, tea and more all included
Tickets \$20 per adult 18+
\$15 Seniors 65+/Teens 13-18
\$10 Kids 12 and under
This event is a fund raiser for our
Lodge's events and charity work throughout the year.
To book a table for your family, tickets or information
Contact the Lodge Secretary at HMLSecretary602@outlook.com or 905-517-6728

Ontario Masons

Official Visit

Westmount Lodge No. 513

Tuesday March 25, 2025

Dinner 6:15 Tyle 7:30 pm

Hillcrest Temple

RSVP for dinner by March 14
to: Westmount671@gmail.com

Senior's Comedy Show

Hillcrest Lodge No. 594

March 31, 2025.

Doors will open at 6:30 pm

Entertainment starts at 7:30 pm.

The cost of the show is \$10/person
with the net proceeds going to the MASONIC.h.I.P.

Hillcrest Lodge Temple

257 Mohawk Road West, Hamilton

Our Comedian for the evening is Duncan Young,

The show will also include a segment called
"Mindbuster" which incorporates exercises to stimulate
the brain and keep it sharp and resilient.

Tickets can be ordered by etransfer to
Hillcrestsec@gmail.com or by contacting the Hillcrest
Secretary, Dave Haslip, at 905-317-9719.

Following the show there will be light refreshments.

April 2025

Official Visit

Seymour Lodge Lodge No. 272

Tuesday April 8th, 2025

Tyle 7:30 pm

Ancaster Temple



EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST
Saturday April 19th, 2025
9:00a.m. to 12:30p.m.
4 Queen Street South, Hamilton, ON
*Adults 18+ \$30 Youth/Kids 5-17/Seniors 65+ \$25 Children 4 and under \$20
*Family/Group of 4 \$105 Table of 8 \$185
(*Plus HST - Registration Required - Every 2 Children/Kids 12 and under must be accompanied by at least 1 adult)

Featuring:

- > A delicious buffet breakfast
- > Easter themed crafts table
- > Easter Egg Hunt (Children 12 & Under)
- > Bring your own easter basket (or make your own paper plate basket at the craft table)
- > Meet the Easter Bunny & take pictures
- > Join a Tour of the Scottish Rite Club & Cathedral
- > Tickets online at <http://www.hughmurraylodge.com/> or Scan the QR Code above

Hosted by the Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C. Hamilton "C" District with proceeds benefitting the Hugh Murray Lodge's Benevolence Fund. For sponsorship details, to volunteer, or for more information please contact W. Bro. Tribu Persaud at 519-239-7940 tribuwan@gmail.com

Ontario Masons

Brethren. In coordination with the Scottish Rite Club, the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast for kids and families will be held **Saturday, 19th of April 2025.**

Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief

Spring Divine Service

Sunday April 27th 7:00 pm

Masonic Centre of Hamilton,

Hosted by: Wellington Square Lodge No. 725



You're cordially invited to attend the

**225th Anniversary Celebration of
Union Lodge No. 7**

With special guest:
M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland, Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario

Friday, April 11th, 2025
The Casablanca Hotel, Grimsby
6pm - 1am

Join us as we celebrate 225 years (and counting) of fraternal
friendships, history and community. The evening will include a
cocktail reception, dinner and dance, with a few surprises mixed in.

Cost: \$75 per person
(Spouses are most welcome)

To reserve your seat or for more information, please contact:
W. Bro. Andrew Furry, Secretary
unionsecretary07@gmail.com

Ontario Masons

Around the District



The Electric Valley Lodge No. 100 Official Visit



R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger
Bro. Matthew Brian Mikulin
W.Master Christopher Boivin

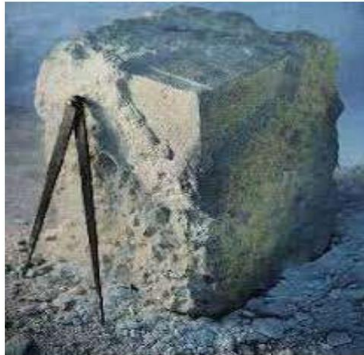


The very rare photo of ALL the current sitting Masters of District C with the District Deputy Grand Master.



Landmarks Temple Lodge No. 324 with their newest M.M. Bro. Johnathan Lazier

Cornerstone Program



Is your lodge a Cornerstone Lodge ????

A Grand Lodge program could be used to evaluate your lodge from within and its role in the community. The following is a summary of the program as published in the G.L. web site in order to be designated as Cornerstone Lodges in the new Hamilton South District.

Current Cornerstone Lodges

Hamilton C District
Hugh Murray No. 602

Hamilton B District
Battlefield Lodge No. 61
Wentworth Lodge No. 166
Union Lodge No. 7

Program details can be found using the G.L. Website guidelines and reporting
There are five key components

[1. CORNERSTONE STANDARDS and GUIDANCE \(Revised April 2023\).pdf](#)

[2. Cornerstone Report Card Package \(Lodge and DDGM Use\) 2023-03-16.pdf](#)

[3. Mandatory Workbook \(Lodge Use\) 2023-03-16.pdf](#) 1

[4. Major Workbook \(Lodge Use\) 2023-03-16.pdf](#)

[5. Basic Workbook \(Lodge Use\) 2023-03-16.pdf](#)



Cornerstone at a Glance

MANDATORY STANDARD SELECTIONS

(Must choose 1 of 4 mandatory standards).

- 3.1 Friend to Friend Program
- 3.2 Mentor Program
- 3.3 Officer Mentorship
- 3.4 Strategic Planning & Action

MAJOR STANDARD SELECTIONS

(Choose 5 of 15 major standards)

- 4.1 Attend a Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- 4.2 Establish Annual Lodge Operating Budget
- 4.3 Conduct Four (4) Masonic Education Presentations
- 4.4 Confer All Three (3) Degrees & Prove MM Degree
- 4.5 Distribute Three (3) Written Communications
- 4.6 Participate in Masonic Workshop
- 4.7 Visit a Tyled "Regular" Meeting of Another Lodge
- 4.8 Conduct a Lodge Survey
- 4.9 Participate in District Initiated Visitation Program
- 4.10 Participate in MASONICH.I.P. Event
- 4.11 Participate in at Least Three Blood Donor Clinics
- 4.12 Increase Lodge Attendance
- 4.13 "NEW" 80% of Entered Apprentices Progress to Master Masons Within Two Years
- 4.14 "NEW" 70% of Initiates Retain Membership for Minimum Five Years
- 4.15 Three (3) Members Each Complete College Module Within Two Year Cycle Brother

BASIC STANDARD SELECTIONS

(Choose 6 of 16 basic standards)

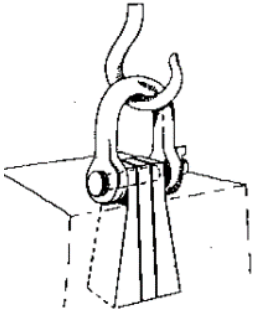
- Invite/Host Another Lodge (must be a Lodge initiative)
- Host a Social Event for Ladies and Widows
- Recognizing Masons
- Support Local Youth Groups
- Assist Shut-Ins & Widows
- Conduct a Rusty Mason Event
- Honour New Lodge Members or New Master Masons
- Attend Religious Service Program with Proper Protocol & Etiquette -
- Hold Lodge of Discussion
- Participate in Community Event
- Hold an Open House
- Attend District Past Masters & Wardens Meeting or Equivalent
- Attend the Sankey Lecture
- Create and Maintain a Lodge Website
- Maintain a Lodge Social Media Group

How to Apply

Complete the PDF fillable Cornerstone Report Card section and forward to the DDGM and to the G.L committee.- membership pillar.

Masonic Education

So What is a Lewis?



A Lewis is an operative tool, a Masonic symbol, and the name given to the son of a Freemason. In building parlance, a lewis is an instrument used operative masonry. It consists of a cramp iron which is inserted into a cavity specifically prepared for that purpose in any large stone, so as to give attachment to a pulley and hook whereby the stone may be easily raised to any height and located in its proper position.

This form of 'heavy lifting' was known to the Romans, and several taken from old ruins are now in the Vatican. In addition, in the ruins of Whitby Abbey in England, which was founded by Oswy, King of Northumberland, in 685, large stones were discovered with the necessary work undertaken for the insertion of a lewis. The word is likely derived from the old French levis, any tool for lifting. The modern French call the instrument a louve.

In the English Constitution, the lewis is found on the tracing board of the Entered Apprentice, where it is used as a symbol of strength. Because, by its assistance, the operative mason is enabled to lift the heaviest stones with comparatively little physical effort due to the mechanical benefits of the cramp, block and tackle.

The son of an English Freemason is referred to as a **Lewis**, seemingly because as part of his familial duty he is "to support the sinking powers and aid the failing strength of his father." In the rituals of the middle of the last century he was called a louffton. From this the French derived their word louveteau, and call the daughter of a Freemason a **louvetine**. Louveteau is probably derived directly from louve, the French name of the implement.

In Browne's Master Key, which is supposed to represent the Prestonian lecture, we have, in part, the following dialogue:

Q. What do we call the son of a Freemason?

A. A Lewis

Q. What does that denote?

A. Strength

Q. How is a Lewis depicted in a Freemason's Lodge?

A. As a cramp of metal, by which, when fixed into a stone, great and ponderous weights are raised to a certain height and fixed upon their proper bases, without which Operative Masons could not so conveniently do.

Q. What is the duty of a Lewis, the son of a Mason, to his aged parents?

A. To bear the heavy burden in the heat of the day and help them in time of need, which, by reason of their great age, they ought to be exempted from, so as to render the close of their days happy and comfortable.

Q. His privilege for so doing?

A. To be made a Mason before any other person, however dignified by birth, rank, or riches, unless he, through complaisance, waives this privilege.

Written by

W Bro Des Morgan, PAGDC, Provincial Grand Orator
Lodge of Rectitude No.335, February 2019



Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire



Website Under Development!

<https://johnraso.com/HamDistrictC/>

Use this link to check out the progress to date

W. Bro. John Raso is hard at work building out a new website for the future. *Volunteers are needed to assist with the landing page and the overall look and feel.*

You can register using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iX7SPxLHzc>

John will communicate with those who register directly. He will also update the web site with a link to the meeting as well as a calendar link that they can import to their personal calendar.

Submitted by W.Bro. John Raso, Webmaster

Editor's Page

Dear Readers,

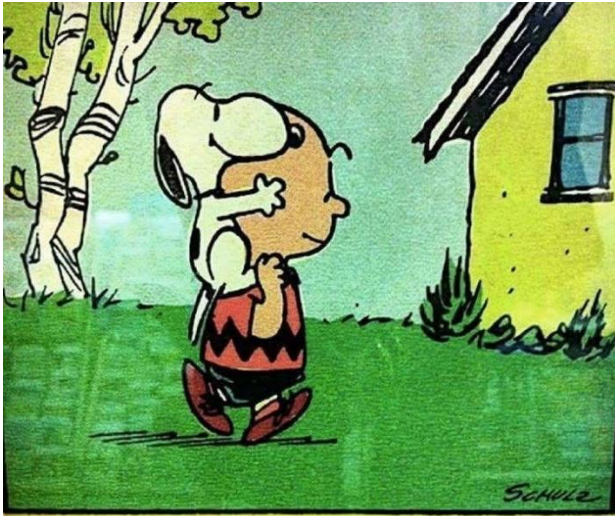
Shovelling to melting, it has been a month.

Editon 199. Chock full of events, great pictures from our District Photographer Bro. Jeff Currey and Masonic Education sourced by our Associate Editor: R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson. Two obits from our District members, and on some lighter items for a grin. A typical .issue for our readers.

With the changes coming to our district, we are planning a farewell edition to Hamilton C. Looking for submissions from our readers to celebrate the almost 50 years of our District. As mentioned until the end of this masonic year we will focus on and continue to catalogue the goings on of our lodges.

Three more weeks to Spring! Stay warm everyone..

Glen, gnotman@hotmail.com



IN LIFE, IT'S NOT WHERE YOU GO—
IT'S WHO YOU TRAVEL WITH.



The Shriners Club of Hamilton is hosting our Hamilton Oriental Band's Mandarin Degree at their club. Friday March 28th, 2025. 82 Melvin Ave, Hamilton, L8H 2J5 They are accepting applications for the Degree which is open to all Shriners and Master Masons. Contact their Oriental Soothsayer Noble John Lumsden At 905-528-0326 or JHLumsden7@hotmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

V.W. Bro. Arthur Wesley Moore
Landmarks Temple Lodge No.324

Initiated: 1965-03-23
Passed: 1965-10-13
Raised: 1966-03-09

W.Master Ancient Landmarks Lodge No.654
1994-95

Assistant Grand Secretary 2016-2017
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above February 15, 2025

R.W. Bro. Thomas William Irwin
Landmarks Temple Lodge No.324

Initiated 1977-06-13
Passed 1977-11-01
Raised 1978-02-07

W. Master of Hamilton Lodge No. 562 Twice
District Deputy Grand Master
Hamilton C District 1995- 96
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above February 7, 2025



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

ATTEMPTED MURDER



If you get this joke.
I automatically have more
respect for you. 😊



Ontario Masons

Editorial Team

Editor: R.W. Bro. Glen Notman
Associate Editor: R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson
District/ Chronicle Photographer: Bro. Jeffrey L. Currey
Webmaster: W. Bro. John Raso

www.hamiltondistrictcmasons