District 'C'hronicle

HAMILTON DISTRICT 'C'
'C'hronicle
SILVER AWARD
2016, 2017

May 2025

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.201

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren.

I hope you all had a festive Easter celebration and gearing up for your May Regular Meetings. My Official Visits, as District Deputy Grand Master, have all been completed and I have 3 Installations remaining, Buchanan No. 550 Thursday May 1st, Landmarks Temple No. 324 Tuesday May 27th and Electric Valley No. 100 Monday June 9th. I hope that all of you will continue to support one another as Hamilton C District's time comes to a conclusion.



Thank you to all those members who supported the 3 Hamilton Districts Board of Relief Spring Divine Service. We must continue to impress upon our

younger/newer members of the importance of this event.

My deepest gratitude goes out to all the of the Lodges of Hamilton C District in their continued support of my charity, during my term as DDGM, The Equestrian Association for the Disabled. Recently the Masonic Foundation of Ontario announced that they were increasing their top up of district charity contributions, from 25% to 33%. The end date for contributions to TEAD is May 31st, by that time I believe the district will have raised over \$15,000. It costs \$10,000 per year to board a horse at the charity. The members there are extremely grateful for the districts' support and contributions.

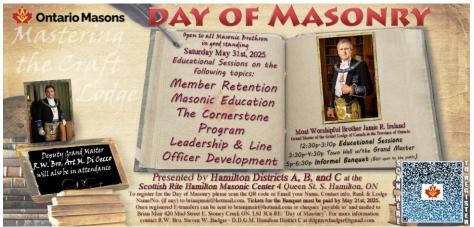
In early June Grand Lodge should be emailing out the information regarding voter registration for this July's elections at the Annual Communication. This will be the first time in a long time that members will be required to vote for a DDGM, for the new Hamilton South District. There are 2 candidates for you to consider – W. Bro. Cory McCarthy of Landmarks Temple No. 324 and W. Bro. Blaine Stafford of The Barton Lodge No. 6. Make sure to register and cast your vote accordingly.

Lastly, the 3 Hamilton Districts Day of Masonry is quickly approaching. Mark Saturday May 31st on your calendars. Registration opens at 11:30 and the day kicks off at 12:30, there will be 4 educational sessions to cycle through. Following the sessions there will be a Town Hall Meeting in the cathedral with our 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 there will be an informal dinner held in the banquet room from

5:00 to 6:30 PM. Cost for the day and dinner is \$60. All proceeds raised will be given to the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. Please pre-register using the Q-R code on the flyer. All the details for the day can be found in the flyer in this publication.

Fraternally,

R. W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton C District



The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** 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'hronicle 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 April Communique

Brethren,

April is upon us and the Jurisdiction is finally into Spring mode. The cold has given way to warmer temperatures hopefully, in your area, the snow is melting. I realize that the Northern parts of the Province are still frozen and have snowbanks but no matter how you look at it, Spring is here. To everyone that lives in the South, yeah, we made it through another winter, everyone that lives in the North, hang on Brethren, the snow will be gone



Speaking about the Northern parts of the Jurisdiction, R.W. Bro. Broomhead has finalized the schedule of the Grand Masters Northern Tour, which is in the first week of May again. We will be starting our trip in Parry Sound at Goodfellows Lodge No.748 on April 29th and then making our way to 15 other Lodges in Sudbury, Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Elk Lake, Timmins, South Porcupine, Chapleau, Sault Ste Marie, Thessalon, Elliot Lake, Espanola, Little Current, Sundridge and finishing in Burk's Falls on May 7th. This will be my third official trip to our Northern parts of the Jurisdiction in as many years and I loving doing what makes me happy. I have made many trips there in my several years as a Mason, and now I am bringing my Grand Lodge Office experiences with me. It's great to be your Grand Master and it's even better to be able to travel to the Lodges that don't often see the current Grand Master or Grand Lodge. We're doing the Northeastern tour this year and then next Spring, I'll be back in the Northwest of the Province again.

I want to extend an invitation to every member of Ontario, please feel free to join me on this entire trip or even on just parts of it. Come with me and experience the great hospitality that the Lodge members provide for us, it's incredible. We will be doing everything from Meet and Greets to Degree work, we're doing a Masonic Foundation of Ontario cheque presentation to Northern College in Timmins and I can't wait to see the Lesser Lights that were dedicated in my name in Elliot Lake Lodge No.698 two years ago. Also, my family and I used to vacation on Manitoulin Island years ago and I never thought back then that I would be visiting the Lodge in Little Current or Espanola as your Grand Master.

The entire schedule of this incredible trip is in this April Edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine, please look it up, put it on your calendar and come with us if you can.

I am so excited to visit all of these Lodge's and I hope you will be too.

Brethren, for months now I have been promoting the Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M., Ritual, Education and Mentoring as well as Ontario Masons Branding, along with other Committee activities and messages. Our R.E.M. vision is very important to me, as are the Grand Lodge initiatives of explaining Improper Solicitation, District Realignment, Technology and Branding, to name only some of what I'm working on.

I want to take a second to congratulate Prince Arthur Lodge No.333 in Flesherton, Ontario in Grey District for their work on promoting the Grand Lodge Branding and helping to get "Ontario Masons" recognition into the surrounding communities. The members of this Lodge and of Grey District have decided to have Ontario Masons signs made with our Symbol and Wordmark and have then given them to other Lodges in their District. Congratulations Prince Arthur Lodge No.333 for helping me and Grand Lodge in my vision and for promoting Ontario Masons in and around Grey District, you have all made me proud. Let's continue on this positive path forward, let us all do what we can to not only succeed but to thrive. We need to let everyone around us and our Lodges know that we are proud Ontario Masons and that we not only bring good things to the community but we are great and respectful members of the community.

I also want to remind everyone that as Spring approaches, so to does the deadlines for Committee Reports, Nomination Forms for Appointments and Elections and the information that is available for the Grand Lodge Annual Communications. If you are attending Grand Lodge in July, get your room booked asap. It's important for all of our members to come to the Annual Communication, you can get some Masonic Education at the Seminars, have a great meal at the Grand Masters Banquet and have a chance to vote on the Constitutional Amendments. Brethren, I can't wait to greet you in Toronto this July.

I was hoping to bring you all up to date on our technology woes and a possible solution that we have discovered but at the time of writing this Communique, I don't have the information that I need yet. The Grand Secretary has provided me with the dollar amounts needed to bring our current technology up to a useable and reliable state but the Management Committee hasn't met yet to go over the information. Brethren, our current technology is not working, it was oversold and under delivered, incredibly under delivered. It

has been extremely expensive to implement and if we don't stop it, that trend will continue. I can't express my disappointment enough with where we currently are but, fingers crossed, I will bring great news to the next Grand Masters Communique, and I think that you all will agree with me. Hang on Brethren, hopefully a solution is just around the corner, I hope to promote this issue/solution next month.

Brethren, let us embrace the opportunities that lay before us with enthusiasm and dedication. Let us nurture the vibrancy of our Lodges, spread a blanket of positivity and inspiration wherever we travel, and work together as a team to build a bright future for Freemasonry in Ontario. Remember, even on a cloudy day, the sun is still shining. Let us all be that shining light for our families, our Lodges, and ourselves. Carry and rub your shiny penny and hopefully you are as proud to be an Ontario Mason as I am.

Thank you, Brethren. May you have safe travels and God Bless.

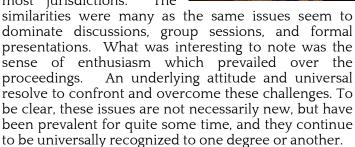
Jamie R. Ireland

Deputy Grand Master's April Message

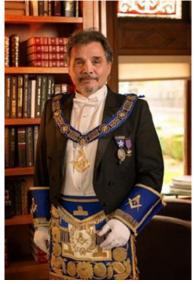
Greetings Brethren,

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity of attending the North American Conference of Masonic leaders, where many of the Masonic leaders representing Canada, the U.S., Mexico and other jurisdictions, came together discuss and share successes, best practices, and as well as challenges confronting our Craft.

It became very clear that the issues we hear about are not isolated but appear to be very comparable among most jurisdictions. The



In an earlier edition, I referred to the 'Path Forward' marketing initiative introduced by the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. It's research and survey



findings showed that the values and tenets of our Craft resonate strongly with men of today's society, and that the foundation of our Craft is as strong as it has been at any time in our history. The result of these findings led the Northern Jurisdiction to introduce their 'Not Just a Man a Mason' campaign.

Our Grand Lodge has subscribed to this campaign in support of this initiative, An important feature of this program is the website 'BeaFreemason.org' launched by the combined efforts of The Scottish Rite Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, and Shriners International. This interactive website is open to all Grand Lodges of North America and its' purpose allows for any local interest in our Craft to be directed to the appropriate jurisdiction.

Our subscription to 'BeaFreemason.org' has given our own jurisdiction a further venue for potential interest directed our way as the website continues to generate regular leads to our own Jurisdiction. We are pleased to note that our committee on New Member Distribution and Tracking, mandated with receiving, processing and directing these leads to the appropriate districts and lodges, continues to be maintain a steady stream of inquiries.

I am pleased to note that although our placement and our follow up rates are among the highest within the program, we continue to review methods to improve and streamline our processes, as we are with many of our other programs and initiatives. My reference to these internal activities is to illustrate the strides of our own Grand Lodge in moving our organization forward.

My earlier reference to the 'Path Forward' program continues to evolve, and the awareness and the benefits of this initiative have not been lost or overlooked by our own Grand Lodge. The marketing team, originally hired to spearhead this campaign back in 2016, now works exclusively with the Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction to continue their research and data driven strategy towards this program. According to their latest 2023 publication of 'The Path Forward: Empowering the Future of Freemasonry', the "tremendous response evoked by the 'Not Just a Man. A Mason' campaign and the website 'beafreemason. org' year after year provides solid proof that men want to join the organization, and it is our job to help them find their way.

Brethren, we must acknowledge that Freemasonry is an advancing organization that is on a perpetual path forward, all the while safeguarding a legacy rich in learning and tradition. We are the guardians of a system of values, principles and standards specifically designed as milestones to mark our achievements and progress towards our own betterment. We must also realize that the only way to effectively benefit from progress and advancement, is by rolling up the sleeves and taking on the challenge, always aware that there will always be work to be done.

With my best fraternal regards,

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

Dates to Remember

May 2025

Installations

Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Dinner 6:30 pm. (Please RSVP in advance) Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m. Hillcrest Temple, Mohawk West.

Landmarks Temple Lodge No. 324

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m. MCH 4 Queen St. South Refreshments to follow



All Masons in good standing invited to attend

Hamilton 'C' District – Spring Meeting

Saturday May 24, 2025, 10:00 am Ancaster Masonic Temple 419 Wilson Street East, Ancaster

Day of Masonry

Saturday, May 31st, 2025 Activities commence 12::30 p.m. MCH 4 Queen St. South



Scan the QR Code to register, or email yourName, Contact Info, Rank & Lodge Name/No. to brianjmuir@hotmail.com
Tickets for Banquet must be paid by May 21, 2025

June 2025

Installations Electric Valley Lodge No. 100

Monday Jne 9th, 2025 Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m. Diner 6:00 pm MCH 4 Queen St. South

D.D.G.M. Homecoming Tuesday June 17, 2025 7:30 pm, MCH



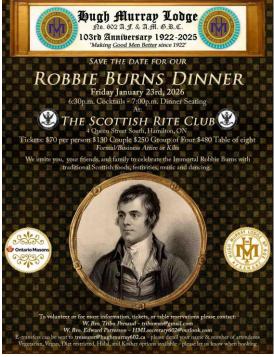


Around the District

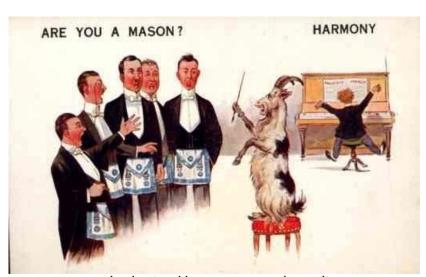




Buchanan Lodge No.550 Receiving the Travelling Gavel at Seymour'



Save the Date! Friday January 23, 2026



Postcard submitted by R.W. Bro. Robert Kliaman

Masonic Education Riding the Goat

An article edited by V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom, with additions in BLUE Source: The GL of British Columbia & Yukon



Popular belief has often identified Masonic Craft lodges with the riding of a goat. But where, or when did expression originate? Masonic historians have been at a loss as to the source of this myth, speculating as far afield as the horns on the four corners of the altar (of burnt sacrifices, the horns kept the animal from sliding off of and

located just outside of the temple) used by Old Testament Hebrews and echoed in modern Scottish Rite ritual, or the myth of the goat-headed Baphomet.

The goat has been both a positive and negative symbol throughout history. In depictions of Pan, the goat carried the favourable connotations of youth, merriment, freedom and love. As the attributes of these Greek deities became identified with the Christian Satan, the goat became a symbol for excess, drunkenness, gluttony and licentiousness. Goats represent the souls of the wicked, according to Matthew 25:32

Pan was the god of fertility, ruler of the wilds, protector of shepherds, forests, pasturelands, and flocks. For the Greeks, a civilization reliant on agriculture for sustenance, Pan was a known favorite. Pan appears in numerous myths and legends, often as a mischievous and playful figure. One famous myth recounts his pursuit of the nymph Syrinx, who,



fleeing from his advances, was transformed into a clump of reeds by her river nymph sisters. Undeterred, the lovelorn Pan fashioned the first pan flute from the reeds and continued to play haunting melodies on his new instrument.

During the early Christian era, Christian leaders sought to discredit and invalidate the worship of pagan gods, including Pan, to promote their own faith.

The Christian churches have reduced Pan to the purest form of evil, an entity to be feared and scorned, not honoured and revered. What has been left in his wake is the face of fallen evil, of destruction and deceit. So Pan has fallen and Satan has risen, an image that has now persisted for over a thousand years.

Odd Fellows (a fraternity formed by Masons)

Rather than anti-Masonic, it was in attacks on the Odd fellows that riding the goat was first claimed to be an aspect of Initiation. The anonymous' Odd Fellowship Exposed' - 1845, is the earliest attack. By the time the goat came to be associated with all secret societies it was no longer perceived as a malicious slander, perpetrated in an anti-Masonic attack, but was merely a jocular euphemism, embraced by many Freemasons.

Freemasonry

None of the early exposures of Masonic ritual, such as 'A Mason's Examination' (1723) or 'Masonry Dissected' by Samuel Prichard, (London 1730), or the much later 'Manual of Freemasonry' by Richard Carlisle (1825), does it make any mention of a goat. Nor is the goat found in Harry Carr's book, 'The Early French Exposures'.

First applied to Masonic initiation in the 1840s, by the centuries end the expression was a popular addition to Masonic humour and a real aspect of other fraternal societies.

Albert Mackey, in his Encyclopedia of Freemasonry (1873) cites the Rev. Dr. George Oliver, in recording a common belief of the early nineteenth century that Freemasons practiced some form of witchcraft. Doctor Oliver says, "It was in England a common belief that the Freemasons were accustomed in their Lodges to raise the Devil". So the riding of the goat, which was believed to be practised by the witches, was transferred to the Freemasons and the saying remains to this day, although that belief has long since died out.

North American fraternities

It is also a curious fact that another North American fraternal society, the 'Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks', claims to have actually used a goat in its initiation ritual. Prior to 1952, when the blindfolding of candidates was done away with, a range of pranks were played upon incoming members. Reports have it that a widespread practice was for each candidate to ride a live goat around the lodge room.

The 'Modern Woodmen of the World', created in Iowa in 1883, made use of a mechanical goat. A major promoter of the Modern Woodmen was Ed DeMoulin who started DeMoulin Bros. in 1890 to cater to, and promote, the use of an ever-expanding list of initiation devices. The growth of the Modern Woodmen may have encouraged other North American fraternities to adopt similar practices. A 1915 published ritual of the Modern Woodmen has a list of all of the articles used in the ceremony, including a mechanical goat.

There was certainly no secret about the Woodmen goat. A special correspondence to the 'Le Mars Sentinel' newspaper on 12 September 1898 wrote: "Elam Chapman got so excited over riding the goat at the Woodman Lodge last Saturday night that he forgot his wife and left her here in town, drove



home alone and forced his way into the house through a cellar window even though he had the house key in his pocket".

A music school fraternity founded in Boston in 1898, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, held regular fortnightly meetings, one of the main features of which was the initiation of new members by a mysterious process called 'riding the goat'. In a similar vein, the 'New Westminster British Columbian' dated December 30, 1863, noted: "Masonic Festival -The Brethren of Union Lodge, No. 1201, in this City sat down to a sumptuous dinner on Monday evening. Not having yet taken a ride upon the mystical goat, we cannot say more than that the affair passed off well. Messrs. Smith and Bridgman were the caterer".

When one contemplates the image of a 50 kilo goat carrying an 80 kilo mature man, or considers the logistics of keeping a live goat in an urban environment, one is left with the suspicion that anecdotes of goat-riding refer to one of Ed DeMoulin's contraptions and not to a live farm animal.

The expression is also known outside of English-speaking Freemasonry. In the Afrikaans of South Africa, up to the present time, Freemasons are called 'bok ryers' or 'goat riders'.

My wife and I lived and worked in South Africa for one year. While there I was among Afrikaaners. I visited lodges under the Dist. GL's of England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as lodges under the GL of South Africa. I never once encountered the words, 'bok ryers' or 'goat riders'. But that doesn't mean that it didn't exist.

Outside the literary world, there is also a report from Te Hana, New Zealand, of a simple stonemasons' device, used to move heavy stone blocks, called a goat. That there was ever a popular belief in Masonic goat-riding, it has not been demonstrated. The story of the goat, although perhaps inspired by mediaeval superstition and promoted by anti-Masonic attacks, it may have only represented a literary burlesque intended to poke fun at fraternal initiation and was never a widespread belief. In its humorous form it is clear that the story has been kept alive by Freemasons and not by anti-masons.

When I was 'raised' in 1963, the term was commonly used, for no other reason than to poke fun with the candidate? I am sure that while most candidates would just smile, others may have been somewhat unsettled. I have not heard this expression for over 30 years or more, and that is the way it should be. Here in Nfld. when I talked to veteran Masons about this subject, it was called 'riding the buck'. A buck being a male goat.

Submitted by: V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom



Fourteenth Annual MRF Symposium

The Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium is the largest gathering of Masons in North America who are expressly committed to observing the highest standards of excellence in the Craft. This year, for only the second time, we are returning to Canada, to one of the most majestic Masonic locations in Canada: the Hamilton Scottish Rite Temple, in Hamilton, Ontario.

The Symposium will take place from **August 15-17, 2025**, and will **be hosted by Templum Lucis Lodge No. 747**.



The event will begin with a Harmony [Festive Board] Friday evening, Keynote Speaker, WB Ric Berman, Past Master of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 in London, England.

Along with our usual lineup of interesting speakers, brothers will have the opportunity to witness a Fellow Craft Degree conferred by Heredom Lodge No. 749 on Saturday afternoon.

Registration for the Symposium is \$125.00 USD/\$175.00 CAD, and \$75.00 USD/\$100 CAD for the Saturday session only.

We are hoping that this year's Symposium will be an opportunity for an exchange of different perspectives and methods of Masonic practice in North America, and one that will especially bring in brothers from across Canada.

All the information you need to participate is found at https://www.masonicrestorationfoundation.org/sym posium2025/index.html .

We look forward to seeing you at the Symposium!

Editor's Page In Memoriam



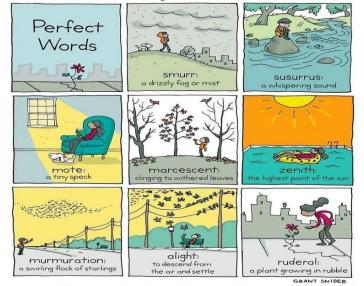
R.W.Bro. Roger G. Parliament

A friend and mentor to so many of the members of Hamilton C District.

Roger was Initiated into Meridian Lodge No. 687 on October 15, , 1958, Passed on November 19, 1958, and Raised on December 17, 1957.

- Murton Lodge of Perfection November 6, 1962
- Hamilton Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix
- Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge 1969
- Moore Sovereign Consistory on May 8, 1976
- District Deputy Grand Master, Hamilton District C in July, 1977
- Past Thrice Puissant Grand Master of Murton Lodge of Perfection 1984 - 1985
- Received 33 Degree at Supreme Council in Windsor on September 10, 1987
- Grand Secretary Emeritus Moore Sovereign Consistory
- Member of the Royal Order of Scotland

Passed to the Grand Lodge above on March 31, 2025



IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Arthur Charles Harris

Landmarks Temple Lodge No.324 Initiated: 1956-05-08 Passed: 1956-10-26 Raised: 1957-01-25

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above Passed April 4,2025



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

Dear Readers,

Ask and ye shall receive. Many thanks to V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom for his research and follow up article on an explanation of the significance of the Goat in our past history. Would love to hear other peoples thoughts.

Also thank you to Hugh Murray Lodge for all the events they have shared this past year. Some months our events page should be renamed. I would be happy to have other lodges events on the page as well.

Mother's Day, Victoria Day, our Last District Meeting and a Day in Masonry, hthis month is full of events.

With the district changes, the Editorial Team is wondering what the readers would like to see going forward. We would be happy to hear your thoughts and opinions. Look for our annual Grand Lodge edition nect month and an Omnibus edition in July.

I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys the ride!

Glen, gnotman@hotmail.com



Ontario Masons

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