

District 'C' Chronicle



August 2010

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 24

IN THIS ISSUE

Support for McDonald House	Pg. 1
Cornerstone Winners.....	Pg. 2
Award Winning Newsletter.....	Pg. 3
From the Grand Master	Pg. 3
July 9 th Blood Donor Clinic	Pg. 5
Inaugural Hoyle Blood Drive.....	Pg. 6
MasoniCh.I.P. Update	Pg. 6
Horizons for the 1980s.....	Pg. 6
Trip to Philadelphia and Washington.....	Pg. 7
Hugh Murray River Cruise.....	Pg. 7
On The Mend	Pg. 7
Trying the Square.....	Pg. 8
Star and Garter	Pg. 8
Freemasonry and Women	Pg. 8
Masonic Ring	Pg. 9
Sand Castle Champions.....	Pg. 9
Masonic Education That Works.....	Pg. 10
Commemorative Stone for M.W. Bro. John A. Irvine .	Pg. 10
In Memoriam.....	Pg. 11
Upcoming Events.....	Pg. 11
Interesting Websites.....	Pg. 11



DISTRICT 'C' MASONS SHOW OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Hamilton District 'C' DDGM **Bill MacPherson** presented a cheque to **Debbie Logel-Butler**, Director of Development at Ronald McDonald House on July 16, 2010. He was accompanied by **W.Bro. Ed Mallard** and **V.W. Bro. John Lyness** (who took this picture).

W. Bro. Ed Mallard is a member of Ancient Landmarks/Doric No. 654 who has worked with RMH for over 20 years and is a past chairman of its Board of Directors. He was the DDGM's contact person and supplied some of the promotional material and made several presentations on behalf of RMH at the District and some Lodge meetings.

The cheque was for **\$5000**, arising from donations from lodges within the district, individuals (masons and non-masons), special events (dinner dance), and the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.



THE GRAND MASTER WELCOMES OUR NEW DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER R.W. BRO. IAN CRAIG of WARDROPE LODGE No. 555

The **DISTRICT CHRONICLE** is published monthly and will be available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.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.

HAMILTON DISTRICT 'C', CORNERSTONE WINNERS!!!

Congratulations to Valley Lodge No. 100, Wardrope Lodge No. 555, and Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 on being the first lodges in Hamilton District 'C' to be designated Cornerstone Lodges!

At the July 2010 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, the Lodge Resources Committee of Grand Lodge awarded the designation of **Cornerstone Lodge 2009 - 2010** to 3 Hamilton District 'C' lodges: Valley Lodge No. 100, Wardrope Lodge No. 555, and Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602. On behalf of the editorial staff of the Hamilton District 'C' hronicle, we would like to congratulate these Hamilton 'C' lodges for their outstanding success in this Grand Lodge initiative.

The purpose of establishing the Cornerstone Lodge program was to increase lodge vitality, enhance teamwork, increase the sense of pride in one's lodge, and have a sense of accomplishment on the part of the lodge.

To achieve the designation there were several steps and several events which had to occur over the course of the past year in order for the lodges to receive their award.

The Cornerstone Project Manual points out that it is not a stand-alone initiative, but rather a program that should be used in conjunction with other Grand Lodge Resources programs, as each is designed to build upon one another to achieve the overall success and a sustainable future for the lodge.

In order to qualify for the **Cornerstone** designation the individual lodge must fulfill 1 of 2 mandatory standards, complete 5 of 10 major standards, and complete 6 of 10 basic standards.

Mandatory Standards (1 of 2): a lodge must implement one of either the Friend to Friend or Mentor Program.

Major Standards (5 of 10):

1. A minimum of three lodge delegates must participate in the current year Grand Lodge Communication. Two of either the Worshipful Maser, Senior Warden, Junior Warden or proxy carrier must be present to qualify.
2. Establish a yearly operating budget and have it presented to the membership, prior to or shortly following the beginning of the lodge fiscal year.
3. Establish a Lodge Officers Mentorship Program that involves Past Masters regularly mentoring an assigned Officer(s).
4. Conduct at least three Masonic Education programs during the year.
5. Ensure that at least two of the three degrees of Masonry are conducted during the year.

6. At least four lodge members, including at least two of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon and Tyler, must visit a tyled meeting of another lodge (DDGM Official visit does not apply).
7. The Lodge must distribute at least three written communications (such as newsletters and flyers) to its entire membership and/or provide at least three written communications on the lodge website, reporting on Lodge activities and upcoming Lodge events.
8. At least five lodge members, including at least two of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon, must participate in a District Masonic Workshop.
9. Conduct a Lodge Survey for the purpose of determining the views of the membership on the operation and activities of the lodge. This survey will provide a look at the strengths and weaknesses of the lodge.
10. At least seven lodge members, including at least two of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon, must participate in a District Traveling Gavel or other such similar type of District Visitation Incentive Program.

Basic Standards (6 of 10):

1. Invite and host a meeting with another lodge/lodges, that is not part of a regular Visitation Program or Friend to Friend event. This could include workshops, seminars, Masonic discussions groups, etc. that are not a district sponsored event.
2. Hold a social event to which the members' ladies and deceased members' widows are invited with or without families, such as ladies nights, dinners, picnics, ice cream socials, dances, etc.
3. Recognize Masons, such as Past Masters, Fifty Year members, etc. at a Lodge meeting or a special event such as a dinner. The event must be much more than simply handing out pins.
4. At least four lodge members including at least two of the Senior Officers visit a Jobs Daughters, Rainbow Girls or DeMolay meeting OR hold a meeting with them in which they may present a program about their activities and ritual presentation. If no Masonic related groups are available in the community, other youth groups may be substituted.
5. Assist five shut-ins or widows during the Masonic year with such things as lawn mowing, house painting, shopping, obtaining medical needs (May be Masonic or non-Masonic)
6. Conduct a "Rusty Masons Event" or any other like event that encourages non-attending members to join their brethren in a comfortable atmosphere to reacquaint themselves with our Ritual.
7. Conduct a dinner to honour new lodge members who have been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason within the last year or to recognize new brethren who are working on their proficiency at this time.

8. At least four Lodge members, including children if available, attend as a group a religious service of their choice.
9. Implement a Lodge Banquet program that is held on regular meeting nights/days where proper Protocol and Etiquette is observed and Fellowship abounds.
10. Hold a "Lodge of Discussion" at a regular meeting of the lodge, choosing a topic that will assure interaction between the lodge members. This must be a stand-alone event, not in conjunction with any other event used to qualify for another Cornerstone Project.



AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER!!!

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

This is a paper presented by our Grand Master at Maple Leaf Lodge No.119 in conjunction with a meeting of Heritage Lodge No. 730, on Saturday June 26, 2010.

DILIGENCE & DISCRIMINATION

The knowledge of the past is desired only for the service of the future and the present.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) – The Use and Abuse of History

It seems appropriate when we are gathered this afternoon to mark the concluding events for the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the institution of Maple Leaf Lodge No. 119, in conjunction with a meeting of The Heritage Lodge, our research lodge, that I should share a few thoughts on Masonic history in general and the role of the Masonic historian in particular. The masthead for the Heritage Lodge website puts it simply and clearly: *To ensure the preservation of our Masonic Heritage.* To that end, I will pose several questions as the best means of focusing our attention and hopefully, to inspire you to reconsider the purpose of preserving and reporting our history. As a theme for these observations, I have taken a phrase from the investiture of the lodge historian: ***Diligence and Discrimination.*** As with many of the phrases in our ritual, these words are both precise and comprehensive. Two international conferences, the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America and the World Conference of Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, which I was privileged to attend this past year, both chose as their theme what is succinctly expressed in the community entrance sign for the town of Huntsville: *Touch the Past – Embrace the Future.* In the vocabulary of Freemasonry, we would express it in those familiar questions: *Whence Come You?* and *Whither are You Directing your Course?*



Congratulations to the Editorial Staff of the Hamilton District 'C'hronicle on winning the Best District Newsletter Award of Excellence 2010 from the Grand Lodge Communications Committee. Special congratulations are extended to the Editor R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie and Web Master Bro. Devin Tuinstra for their outstanding work, including that of Assistant Editor Wor. Bro. Harley Auty.

Each year the Grand Lodge Communications Committee awards plaques to those Lodges and Districts that produce the best Lodge Summons, the best Lodge or District Newsletter, Lodge and the best District Website. Winners are selected on the basis of accuracy, content and style as well as being informative, interesting and concise.

This is the first time that the Hamilton District 'C'hronicle has been honoured with this award. Well done, team! Keep up the great work!

R.W. Bro. William Macpherson PDDGM

When the world leaders of our fraternity take the injunction seriously to celebrate the past in order to chart the future, recognizing the value of accumulated knowledge as the best preparation for strategic action in the present to ensure progress into the future, perhaps we too might sit up and pay attention in our own small sphere of influence.

We in the Grand Lodge are very concerned in this age of electronic storage of records with the long term preservation of information. In the vault of the Memorial Building in Hamilton, under the care and keeping of the Grand Secretary, we have hand written records going back more than two hundred years. Recently, for example, the Grand Secretary was able to search the records and document the Masonic history of a Past Master in Niagara No. 2, a decorated veteran of the Fenian Raids of 1866. Earlier this week, I accompanied the Grand Secretary to the St. John's Day observance in Niagara Lodge No. 2, when W. Bro. John Knox, the Mason in question, was honoured with several of his descendants present, and both his Military Medal and Past Master's Jewel, suitably mounted and displayed, were presented to the Colin Duquemin Museum of the Lodge. This event gave tangible evidence of yet another important link between the history of Canada and Freemasonry. 'We were there!'

Today, our records are stored electronically. We have all experienced the technological evolution of the several forms of floppy disc, CD and DVD, each of which has become antiquated and obsolete in a very short time. Will the Brethren of the future be able to trace the biographical, statistical, and historical data now being recorded?

The preservation of primary documents should be of the utmost concern. Too often, lodge records fall prey to carelessness, fire and flood because they are not properly protected. I heartily commend the proposal now before the Heritage Lodge to place the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the archives of Ontario where they will be accessible for all interested students of Masonic history.

Let me cite another example of preservation. Last week, following the Installation Ceremonies in Kerr Lodge No. 230 in Barrie, a framed display containing the Collar and Jewel of M.W. Bro. James Kirkpatrick Kerr, the sixth Grand Master of our Grand Lodge, 1875-1876, after whom the lodge is named, were presented to the lodge. This historic regalia was discovered, buried in a dusty storage locker in the attic of the Morrow Road Masonic Centre by three of the keen young officers. What other priceless artefacts lie hidden and forgotten in dusty closets awaiting discovery?

Before proceeding further, let me pose two questions that every lodge historian should ask himself: *What are we trying to preserve? Why are we trying to preserve it?* I contend that if we answer those two questions satisfactorily, then we will know *How to go about preserving it!* Then we should be able

to identify the significant from the mundane, the important from the trivial.

Many of us are of an age when we studied history in school as cause and effect. Perhaps that is what I am trying to propose in Masonic history. The 'cause and effect' is explained in a story that is told of Gore Vidal, when asked what would have happened in 1963, had Khrushchev and not Kennedy been assassinated, he replied, "*With history one can never be certain, but I think I can safely say that Aristotle Onassis would not have married Mrs. Khrushchev.*"

Every one of us who undertakes the recording and reporting of history for his lodge should take seriously this admonition given by Barbara Tuchman, the widely read author (1912-1989): "*Selection [in writing history] is the task of distinguishing the significant from the insignificant. It must be honest, that is, true to the circumstances, and fair, that is, truly representative of the whole, never loaded. It can be used to reveal large meaning in a small sample.*"

Generally speaking, we as Masons have done a reasonable job in recording local history. I have in my collection a large number of booklets published on the occasion of significant lodge anniversaries. These small booklets, usually compiled by a willing volunteer, often the lodge historian, give invaluable insight into the life and times of the lodge through good years and bad. I say, invaluable, because we must ever remember that Freemasonry lives and has its being in the constituent lodges. It has been truly said that the history of Freemasonry is men, what Freemasons do and how Freemasons act. Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) wrote: "*History is the essence of innumerable biographies.*" Whatever our station in life, we must ever be conscious, as Dorothy West observed, "*There is no life that does not contribute to history.*" And we might add, '*for better or for worse.*' Some years ago, a friend of mine after joining a lodge often said, "*If you're a Mason, you're a somebody!*" At the time we used to laugh at him, but in hindsight, he was absolutely correct. A Mason is indeed '*a somebody!*' Our high calling as men and as Masons is "*to live respected and die regretted.*"

When we celebrated the sesquicentennial of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada in 2005, the theme was, "We Were There." What many Masons neglect to recognize and celebrate is the fact that a every pivotal point in the history of this country, Masons, indeed, were there: in the French and Indian Wars, in 1759 at Quebec on the Plains of Abraham, what historians rank as the most decisive battle in Canadian history, in the War of 1812, at Vimy Ridge in the Great War, and today in Afghanistan! The great names that are writ large on the pages of Canadian history contain those of Freemasons: Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Sandford Fleming, and in the present day, the Honourable John Ross Matheson, to whom we owe the Maple Leaf Flag and the Order of Canada.

Later this afternoon, W. Bro. Edward Thomas, the Historian of Maple Leaf Lodge will present a paper in lodge summarizing the history of Maple Leaf No. 119 – “150 Years of Freemasonry in Bath.” We all look forward to enjoying that presentation. What impact have the members of this lodge had on this community over the last 150 years? To put it another way, what would this community be like today had a Freemason’s Lodge never been established here? In my opinion, that is the most important contribution a Masonic historian could make: to research, study, and document the impact that Freemasonry has had on the shaping of this country and society over the last three hundred years.

What history? Which history? Whose history? Philosophers and historians agree that is important because through a study of history, we learn who we are, where we came from, and why we find ourselves in present circumstances, to know ourselves, and to draw strength from it to meet the challenges of our future. Of supreme importance to an institution bound in tradition, history teaches us a sense of what I call cultural evolution; an understanding of Freemasonry that was, but now is what is. It is a rich inheritance that we as Freemasons enjoy; the legacy is ours to perpetuate for a season. From this moment on, it is the future.

You are aware that the Grand Master’s project to establish a Centre for Masonic Studies at Brock University was initiated with that object in view. If we can gain recognition, credibility and respect in the academic community as being worthy of research and study by scholars and students, for the impact Freemasonry has had on society we would do much to regain the place of respect that we once had. We have allowed ourselves, perhaps unwittingly, to be marginalized and mythologized in novels and films. As a fraternity we have become inward-looking – an old boys club. Just go into any small town in Ontario and ask someone on the street where the Masonic hall is located, if you doubt my statement.

What, I am bold to ask, do the citizens of Bath know of the great work done by the members of this lodge, and the great work you are still doing? The splendid restoration, refit, and renovation of this building are a credit to the lodge. Will the history written for this paper by the historian be buried in the Proceedings of the Heritage Lodge rather than shared with the community? I recently expressed my disappointment to W. Bro. Fralick that this and similar papers of local interest are given in closed lodge. I am delighted that a decision was made to have Bro. Thomas read his paper here at the banquet table and that the local media have been invited to audit the historian’s lecture. (Oh, I beg your pardon. I forgot, we’ve never done it that way before.) We protest that we are not a ‘secret society,’ yet sometimes we act like one. We must seize every opportunity to explain Freemasonry to the public.

Masonic leaders around the world are in agreement that we are on the threshold of a renaissance of interest among young men in Freemasonry. If we are smart, we will capitalize on this

opportunity. But we must first get our own house in order. We are more than a social club, although sociability is an integral part of fraternity. We have more to offer than simple trust, although fidelity and integrity are hallmarks of the Craft. Our history proves that we offer stability through all the changing scenes of life and continuity whatever vicissitudes assail us. These qualities are what draw men to seek to become Masons today.

These are exciting times for Freemasonry. The Heritage Lodge is ideally placed to capitalize on this heightened interest. The Officers and Members can play a significant role in showing the way to the bright tomorrow that is ours for the taking by opening the windows to the world.

The following statement by Edward Hallett Carr (1914-1997) in his monograph, What is History? is worth careful scrutiny and serious reflection: “*The main work of the historian is not to record, but to evaluate; for if he does not evaluate, how can he know what is worth recording? What the historian is called on to investigate is what lies behind the act, and to this the conscious thought or motive of the individual actor may be quite irrelevant.*” We should always try to see the big picture. Masonic history is not merely the minutes of the last meeting, but ought to be the effect or impact that is the natural by-product of Masonic practice and applied philosophy in our service to humanity in the cause of good.

Henry Kissinger wrote: “*History is not a cookbook of pretested recipes. It teaches by analogy, not by maxims. It can illuminate the consequences of actions in comparable situations, yet each generation must discover for itself what situations are in fact comparable.*”

That my Brethren is the challenge I present to you this day. I have frequently reminded my Brethren that I cannot tell you how to think, nor can I tell you what to think, but I sincerely hope that I have given you something to think about.

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

JULY 9th BLOOD DONOR CLINIC



The following brethren volunteered at the Paramount Church Clinic sponsored by Corinthian Lodge No. 513: Eduardo Cordero, Ken Carr, Scott Horlacher, Kevin Guzzo, R. Jim Stewart, Stan Satchell, Andrew Walsh, Gary Chiarot and John MacPherson. The total number of units received was 51. Keep up the good work, Brethren!

INAUGURAL HOYLE BLOOD DRIVE



On Saturday, July 24, Brethren of The Electric Lodge #495 visited the Canadian Blood Services Ancaster location. Nicknamed "The Brothers 56" (as blood donors are eligible to donate every 56 days) by their Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Geoffrey S. Allan, the group made numerous donations to Canadian Blood Services. The event was dedicated to V. W. Bro. William Hoyle, Past District Blood Donor Chairman, whose efforts in 1941 had blood donors on standby in case emergency transfusions were needed. In May 1944 those donors were called into action, responding to the tragic fire at the Moose Hall. Grand Lodge adopted that model as a Special Committee.

As Partners for Life, the Brethren witnessed the importance of donating first hand, meeting Keswick Blake who had organized a donor drive at the Ancaster location. Mr. Blake was raising awareness in the hopes of finding a cure for a rare form of anemia, inflicting a family member. Also volunteering and assisting in the Saturday clinic were R. W. Bro. Bob Kerr, V. W. Bro. Arthur Inch and W. Bro. Tom Young of Hamilton District B.

The "Brothers 56" are hoping their group will grow and encourage all Brethren to circle Saturday, September 25 on their calendars, as the "Brothers 56" intend to donate again in Ancaster for this worthy cause.

Please contact Bro. John Hammersley for more information on reserving a bed to donate: mrhammersley@hotmail.com.



Worshipful Master Geoff Allan leads by example!

MASONICH.I.P. DOING THEIR DUTY!

The June 12, 2010 event at Supply Chain Management in Mississauga was another successful clinic. W. Bro. Paul Nagy from Westmount Lodge arranged for the MasoniCh.I.P. clinic to coincide with the company's summer picnic. Over the 3 hour time period that the 7 volunteers had to work, we were able to create kits for 41 children. The volunteers would like to thank SCM for the coffee, soft drinks and hamburgers that kept us going and I would like to thank the volunteers for their dedication to this fine program.

W. Bro. David Wilkinson

ON THE MEND

We are so pleased to learn that V.W. Bro. William (Bill) Stanfield of Ionic Lodge No. 549 is recuperating well in St. Joseph's Hospital where he underwent an operation to have his leg removed. We wish for Bill a speedy recovery as he looks forward to the return to his many Masonic activities. Thumbs up Bill!

HORIZONS FOR THE 1980s

(some 30 years ago)

Under the above title, Hamilton District 'C' developed an education night based on "Meeting the Challenge". Four topics were on the agenda: Making Effective use of Committees; Communications; Making use of Masonic and Community Resources. The novel aspect of the evening was that the topics were under the control of the junior officers from the various lodges in the District: Bro. Ray Wilson, S.S. of Seymour Lodge; Bro. David Rae, I.G. of Dufferin Lodge; Bro. Douglas Downey, S.S. of Corinthian Lodge and Bro. Tom Irwin, J.D. of Hamilton Lodge. All these members are to be commended for their efforts.

Frank Fordham DDGM

This article was found in the 2nd Issue of the Masonic Newsletter 1981, now named Reflections and available through the Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee.

"He welcomed debate, but would not tolerate division."

- from the Oval Office

HAMILTON MASONIC DISTRICT C MASONS PRESENT...

Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.
October 14 - 17, 2010
4 Days, 3 Nights

THE HUGH MURRAY LODGE GRAND RIVER DINNER CRUISE & LADIES SOCIAL Saturday August 14, 2010

Everyone welcome – family, friends, children



Tour Highlights

- 2 Nights Stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Philadelphia
- 1 Night Stay at the Staybridge Suites in McLean, Virginia
- Deluxe Continental Breakfasts Included at Hotels
- Walking Tour of the Old City of Philadelphia
- Step-on Guided tour of Philadelphia
- Guided Tour of the Philadelphia Masonic Temple
- Guided Tour of Washington, D.C.
- Tour of the George Washington Masonic Memorial in D.C.
- Tour of the House of the Temple
- Opportunities for shopping and exploring
- Services of Maxima Tours Escort and Brother
- Duty Free Stops There and Back
- All Applicable Taxes
- This is an event for **Masons Only** (No Regalia required)

\$ 495.00 Double Occupancy (2 to a room)

Deposit of \$100 at Booking

Full payment due August 30, 2010

Coach departure time from Hamilton, 7:00 am Thurs., Oct. 14.

Contact Person: Damon Allan @ 905-561-5444

or damon@maxima.net

Schedule

- 11:30 Complimentary coffee & muffin, Craft shop open
- 11:45 A/V presentation about the Grand River
- 12:00 LIVE music show
- 12:45 3 hour luncheon cruise with strolling musician
- 1:00 3-course Roast Beef lunch
- 3:00 Refreshments served on round trip
- 3:45 Return to dock, baked goods available

Menu

home baked bread

garden salad

roast beef

carrots

mashed potatoes

home-baked apple pie

tea/coffee

Registration and subscription to be paid to:

W. Bro. Ed Patterson by Monday, August 2, 2010.

Cash, or cheque is accepted.

Call 905-388-6728 or Email edwardp@mountaincable.net

with the number in your party attending.

Rate per person

Groups of 1-34 people, \$43.00 (taxes incl.)

Groups of 35 or more, \$38.50 (taxes incl.)

The equilibrium of the Global Ecosystem is under serious threat owing to unsustainable patterns of resource consumption in both industrialized nations and rapidly developing economies. – David Naylor, President of the University of Toronto.

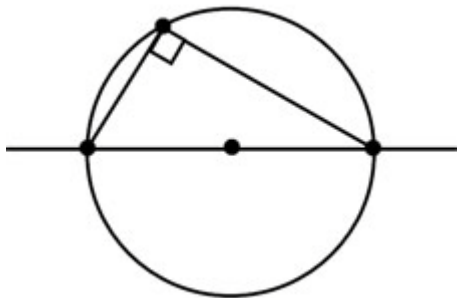
TRYING THE SQUARE

Draw a circle – any size – on a piece of paper. With a straight edge, draw a line through its centre. Put a dot on the circle anywhere. Connect that dot with the line where it crosses the circle. The result is a perfect right angle. Draw the circle of what size you will; place the dot on the circle where you will; if the lines from the dot meet the horizontal line crossing the circle through the centre they will always form a right angle.

This was the operative mason's great secret – knowing how to “try the square”. From this also comes the ritual used in our lodges where we “open on the centre”.

But through these operative and speculative meanings – point in a circle on the ground by which the operative Mason secretly tested the squares of his fellows – point in a circle as a symbol of his virtue by which he erects an Inner Temple of the Most High – both are Masonic, both are beautiful.

Pass it not lightly. Regard it with the reverence it deserves, for surely it is one of the greatest teachings of Masonry, concealed within a symbol which is plain for any man to read so be it he has Masonry in his heart.



STAR AND GARTER

Our ritual goes on to describe the apron as being “more honourable than the Star and Garter or any other order that can be conferred”. King Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in 1348 as a noble fraternity consisting of the King, the Prince of Wales and 24 Knights Companion. One picturesque version of its founding tells of King Edward at a ball where a lady lost one of her garters. Bending down to pick it up, the lady blushing and those present laughing, the King remarked, “Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense” meaning “dishonour to him who thinks evil of it.” He tied it around his own leg and vowed to turn it into the most honoured garter ever worn. Since its inception, it remains to this day as the highest Order of English Chivalry. The Order of the Star, created by King John II of France in 1351, was an imitation of the English Order. The apron as professed by our fraternity confers a greater honour than the very highest orders of chivalry. But, it also requires an extremely high standard of conduct for he who would dare to wear this emblem.

These Orders do not have much meaning to our present day society, however, during those time periods; non-masons considered these orders to be the ultimate honour that could be bestowed upon individuals. High honours that we can all identify with today, range from the Medal of Honour to the Nobel Peace Prize. Either way, our Masonic Fraternity wants each Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason to know that from the very beginning of their Masonic journey, that the ultimate honour that can ever be bestowed upon them is their white leather apron.

In Europe, the practice is that upon initiation you are given an unblemished white leather apron (as we do), and as you progress in the Lodge you are allowed to sew Masonic emblems and symbols of offices you held upon it. Also each lodge has chosen specific colors for the border of the apron to identify their lodge from others. Essentially it becomes your own personal visual Masonic record.

By Bro. Steve Case, Shelby Lodge No. 662, Waddy, KY.

FREEMASONRY AND WOMEN

In Freemasonry, as in all other areas of life, women play an important role. The opportunities for women to participate in Freemasonry are widespread and meet a variety of needs, from social interaction in the Orders for both men and women, to the unique needs met in the “women only” Masonic-related organizations. The moral and ethical values that Freemasonry encourages are universal and not gender-based.

Masonic Lodges maintain today a long-standing tradition of restricting membership in Freemasonry to men. This tradition is based on the historical all male membership of stonemasons guilds. During the Middle Ages, men traveled far from home and lived in lodges while constructing great cathedrals throughout Europe.

However, in the middle 1800s the fraternity took the progressive step, for that time, of creating organizations that included women, so that men and women could share Masonic fraternalism. The Order of the Eastern Star (the largest of these Masonic-related groups) was established in 1855, the Order of the Amaranth in 1873, and the White Shrine of Jerusalem in 1894.

Two national Masonic-related youth organizations are for young women: the International Order of Job's Daughters, founded in 1920, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, founded in 1922. Rainbow and Job's Daughters are involved with local charities, community services, and educational programs. The Hamilton Chapter meets in the Burlington Masonic Lodge Hall, and will be hosting their Grand Assembly at the Holiday Inn, Burlington, on Saturday, August 14th, when our Grand Lodge's Youth Award will be presented.

There are other Masonic-related organizations that limit their membership to women only, such as the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Daughters of the Nile, the Daughters of Mokanna, the Social Order of Beauceant, the Order of Women Freemasons, and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasonry.

These Masonic-related organizations, like many organizations in North America, both social and professional, base their membership on gender. Junior League, P.E.O., National Association of Female Executives, and Girl Scouts, for instance, are organizations created exclusively for women, established to fulfill their unique interests and specific needs.

The status of women in society has changed comprehensively in recent times. Because of tradition barring women from being a Mason doesn't necessarily mean that they should be prevented from doing so forever, especially when we realize their participation in so many streams of modern society. Will tradition continue to prevail over their existence and endeavours? At the moment, it may be sacrilege, too radical and unacceptable to suggest for mainstream Grand Lodges to accept women as members.

Masonic teachings promote personal growth of character, and encourage Freemasons to become better citizens in the community. Freemasonry teaches concern for others, care for the less fortunate, and help for those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity. Regardless of whether the members are men or women, they are charitable in thought, word, and deed. Freemasons have a proud record of caring for people in need, irrespective of class or creed, discharging what they consider to be their responsibility to humanity.

Excerpted from the Masonic Service Association and an E-Zine article by Andy King.

THE MASONIC RING

I met a man the other day and noticed the ring on his finger was that with a square and compass emblazoned in the crest. I stopped immediately and pondered this singular circumstance.

Here was a gentleman that I could tell a lot about on the spot. I knew, for instance, that this person was a man of honour, of good character and well recommended by his Brethren. I knew if he was married, he was a good and loving husband. If he had children, he was an attentive and caring father. I knew for sure that he was a law abiding person with a healthy respect for the jurisprudence of his city, province and nation. A patriotic soul who would defend this great country with his life if need be.

I was rather certain that he had that reverential awe for the Creator and held the belief that there is a gift to man yielded to us from above by the power of prayer, a church-going type

with the opinion that there is a Brotherhood of Man through the Fatherhood of God and the soul will continue into eternity. Here was a man that I could trust to protect my wife, sister, mother or daughter without question, from any harm that might beset them.

I thought of him as a confidant that would give good advice when asked and keep my deepest secrets when told to him as such.

All this came to me as I pondered the square and compass on his ring, then it dawned on me ... I didn't even know his name.

From the Lamp and Book, Nova Scotia, 2010.

"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Henry Ford

SAND CASTLE CHAMPIONSHIP DAY!



This is a picture of Jay, working on the Beaches Lodge No. 473 castle, which won the Grand Championship, while Team Ellis won People's Choice for their entry. This 4th annual Sand

Castle Day, attracted 10 entries, to the east Toronto beach, sponsored by Beaches Lodge. We have so many sandy beaches here in the Hamilton area, that possibly a Hamilton Lodge or Lodges would like to sponsor a Championship Sand Castle Day. The spin offs into the community are endless. Help your lodge to be known in the Community! Showcase it for younger masons! Have a Lodge family picnic! Who knows what might be the spin-offs if it became a Provincial happening?

"Nothing is either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."
Shakespeare

LATEST IN MASONIC EDUCATION, AND IT WORKS!

Dallas Lodge No. 760 will host a Masonic Round Table discussion group, the first in an on-going series held every month. Its purpose is to go beyond the explanations of the degree lectures, dig deeper into the symbolism of Masonry, and occasionally to provide lectures on Freemasonry which will be open to the public. We welcome suggestions for future topics and any brethren who have talks they wish to give or discussions they wish to lead.

The July 20 meeting is open to EAs, FCs, and MMs. The topic of discussion will be "Chalk, Charcoal and Clay," led by our own Robert G. Umphress, PM. We've all heard the Entered Apprentice Lecture, but what do these substances mean to you? Why the reference to metallurgy? If you wish to join the discussion study up on your Mackey and Pike, do a Google search, and/or read what contemporary Masonic authors have to say on the subject. If you would rather sit back and listen, you are more than welcome. Let's dig together and discover new treasures.

The scheduled topic for August 3rd is the Regius document. (Which can be read in past Chronicles)
Hope to see you there.

Fraternal regards,
W. Bro. Richard Schlaudroff

When the French Lodge of Perfection was established in Montreal in the mid 90s, they had the concept of conferring a degree one month and the following month hold a discussion meeting to further explain the degree. Apparently it was successful and is still being done.

I know that this is Scottish Rite, but the concept might be worth while trying for Craft degrees.

Thanks to R.W. Bro. Bob Wands,
Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654

COMMEMORATIVE STONE FOR M. W. BRO. JOHN A. IRVINE



On Saturday July 31, 2010, St. John's Lodge No.209a of London dedicated a commemorative marker at the gravesite of P.G.M. and P.G.S. M.W. Bro. John (Jack) Irvine in Woodland Cemetery, London. R.W. Bros. Norman McCarthy and Wayne Elgie attended with R.W. Bro. Charles Crow P.G.S.W. of St. John's Lodge No. 209a.



IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM: HAROLD EVANS LAZIER, member of Valley Lodge No. 100 passed to the Grand Lodge Above on July 2, 2010 in his 76th year. A celebration of Harold's life was held at the Scottish Rite Club on Monday, July 5, 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 10:30 am DINNER CRUISE
(See page 7 for more details)



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25th, 2010,
MASONIC BEEF AND CORN ROAST: Opens at 5:00 p.m., Corn at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Adult \$15, Children under 13 \$5.00. At the **NEW ANCASTER FAIR GROUNDS, 630 Trinity Rd, at Hwy 2. (Wilson Street)**
See Lodge Secretary for tickets. No Tickets sold at the door. Sponsored by Seymour Lodge No. 272.

DISTRICT 'C' FALL MEETING: SATURDAY, SEPT. 11th, 2010, at 10:00 am, Hillcrest Masonic Temple, 257 Mohawk Rd. W. Hamilton. All District Brethren welcomed, especially Lodge Officers. Meet your new District Officers, receive the District Trestle board, and learn the directions for the Masonic year!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 2010 at 10:00 am, The Saturday Morning Java Club of the Grand Lodge Library Committee will be hosting author **Bro. William Mann**, whose topic will be **Knights Templar in the New World**, in the 2nd Floor Grand Lodge Library of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, 361 King Street West, Hamilton. Enter via the East Door. Refreshments provided.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 2010, noon to dusk, on the Shores of Lake Erie, Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602, **ANNUAL CORN ROAST, and BAR-B-QUE,**
For Brethren, spouses, children and parents. Bring your bathing suits. At 3 Anchor Lane, Fisherville. Contact: Brian Kiernan, 905-387-0468 for details.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 2010, GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION EVENING. Hosted by Landmarks/Doric No. 654 at the Masonic Centre Hamilton. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Lodge Programme in Norman E. Byrne Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.. Opportunity for all lodges of the 3 Districts to have their newly appointed Grand Lodge Officers presented to the Grand Master and receive their regalia from their lodge or District. Introduction of Grand Lodge award winners. Only advance reserved banquet tickets, \$20.00.
R.S.V.P. with cheque prior to September 2nd 2010 to: Mr. R. F. Doherty, 547 Sunnyvale Cres. Milton, ON L9T4N1.



MASONIC CHIPS CLINIC, at the ANCASTER FALL FAIR on Sept. 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2010. Volunteers will be on

hand to further the safety of area children. Chairman David Wilkinson needs volunteers.

Contact him at 905-549-0656 or dsw593@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 14 – 17, 2010 BUS TRIP to PHILADELPHIA and WASHINGTON D.C. See summary **notice on Page 10.** Contact person: W. Bro. Damon Allan, 905-561-5444 or damon@maxima.net.

FALL DIVINE SERVICE at NEW WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1025 King Street East, Hamilton, (beside Scott Park) Sun., Oct. 24, 2010, 7:00 pm. Families and friends. Aprons for Masons.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

<http://www.scottishrite.org/visitors/vtour.html>

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/3756419/The-trivial-truths-about-Freemasons>

<http://www.gwmemorial.org/>

<http://www.pagrandlodge.org/tour/mtemple.html>

<http://www.mqmagazine.co.uk/issue-23/index.php>

<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/video/23697135/index.html>

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Share a hard copy with a member who does not have a computer.

