

District 'C'ronicle



January 2011

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 29

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1. Attend lodge more regularly; have a goal of two more meetings this year.
2. Learn and present a new piece of Ritual work.
3. Volunteer for a lodge committee.
4. Provide a ride to a lodge member who is unable to do so himself.
5. Visit a lodge in your district that you haven't been to before.
6. Place a Masonic Decal on your vehicle to identify yourself.
7. Sponsor an Applicant.
8. Volunteer at a MasoniChIP event.
9. Attend the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge this year.
10. Resolve to be a better Man, Father, Husband and Friend.

R.W.Bro. Ian A. Craig

FROM OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



I hope all have had an enjoyable Christmas season and survived the New Year's celebrations. We now have a couple of weeks to recuperate before the Robbie Burns events coming up later this month. I would like to thank all the district officers and committee members for their efforts in the first half of this Masonic year and to thank the Brethren for their support. I wish you all a successful 2011 Masonically and in your personal lives.

As we are making our New Year's resolutions, here are some suggestions with a Masonic twist.



Enjoying the Christmas Levee

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'ronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



At this mid-point in our Masonic year, I hope that you have come to realize the truth expressed by Jack Smith: “*God created time so everything wouldn’t happen at once.*” If your experience parallels mine, you may have had good reason to doubt that some days. Early in the New Year, on Saturday, 9 January, I look forward to meeting with all our D.D.G.M.s to share their experiences with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Custodian of the Work and the Chairman of the Committee on

the Condition of Masonry, and to receive their mid-term reports.

During the last month it has been a privilege to visit several Districts for a Reception – Western District in Fort Frances, St. Thomas District in Shedden, and Erie District in Essex. These District receptions for the Grand Master provide an opportunity to meet with the Brethren of the Lodges in the District. It is always an enjoyable and rewarding experience. I look forward to further such occasions in the early spring and summer months.

It has been my pleasure and honour, accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, on behalf of the Awards Committee to present the prestigious William Mercer Wilson Medal to five distinguished and esteemed Brethren: Bro. Robert Gordon Bryson, Sudbury Lodge No. 658, Sudbury; Bro. Alexander Caird, Trinity Lodge No. 521, Windsor; Bro. William George Dodds, Richmond Lodge No. 23, Richmond Hill; **Bro. William James Lewis, Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602, Hamilton;** and Bro. Gerald Siddall, Shuniah Lodge No. 287, Thunder Bay. Since the medal was instituted in 1945, there have been only 234 recipients. Lodges wishing to nominate a worthy and deserving Brother for this unique honour recognizing service to his Lodge and community, and who has never been or ever expects to be a Worshipful Master, should obtain the guidelines for making application from the Grand Secretary’s office.

Once again, I return to what I consider the most important aspect of our Masonic activities at this time: the mentoring of the candidates we are initiating. Many Lodges are experiencing an increasing number of petitions. Most meetings are given over to the conferring of degrees, and many Lodges are again holding emergent meetings and conferring degrees on multiple candidates. For this renaissance we must be grateful. However, bringing a man into Masonry and making him a member through initiation is only the first and easiest step. How do we make him a Mason for life? The challenge facing every Worshipful Master is how to attract and engage each and every candidate by fulfilling his expectations and satisfying his quest. It is often proposed that ‘education’ is the key to maintaining interest.

There is a difference between ‘education’ and ‘learning’ – one is passive, the other active. There should be a ‘learning opportunity’ provided as a regular agenda item at every meeting.

The Worshipful Master must ‘make time’ for it – whether 3 minutes or 30 minutes. Encourage questions, analyse the meaning of the ritual in each degree, have informal discussion, provide a resource library of current titles, form an out-of-lodge study group for the eager students. It takes serious time and effort, but every Past Master has a responsibility to support, encourage and nurture the young Mason in his journey of discovery.

Earlier this year, I asked that Lodges keep in mind any Brethren serving in the Canadian Armed Forces on active duty abroad, especially in Afghanistan. I ask that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, and if possible, communicate with them and their families.

We have recently approached the Winter Solstice, which Freemasons traditionally observe as the Festival of St. John in Winter on December 27; the symbolism of Light is the basis of the all the celebrations of the December holiday season: Pagan Yule, Jewish Hanukah, Christian Christmas. As Freemasons, initiation takes us from darkness to light, and henceforth, our lives and actions are directed and guided by the three Great Lights.

The General Charge reminds us that ‘*the chief point in Masonry*’ is attained when we ‘*endeavour to be happy ourselves and communicate that happiness to others.*’ May you and your family experience true happiness and good health throughout the coming New Year. Brenda joins me in sending these best wishes.

Raymond S. J. Daniels
Edited from the December Communiqué

While visiting a newly initiated brother at home one day, the new brother’s wife took me to one side and said her husband had started behaving very strange since joining. I asked in what way.

She said that he locks himself in the bathroom for hours on end mumbling to himself with his little blue book. Later that evening I turned the talk to lodge, and asked him how he was getting on.

Oh fine was his reply.

I asked him about his behavior and if there was anything wrong.

No, was his reply. So why read the book in the bathroom. “Well,” he said, “It’s the only tyled room in the house.”

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The festive season has come and gone. Many of our Brethren celebrated this season in a variety of ways, at different times during December and January. Our fraternity sets a leading example in recognizing a host of faiths and encouraging our Brethren to celebrate according to their own particular custom.

Hopefully the festive season was one that brought you fellowship and good times in the company of family and friends.

D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course: Enrolment statistics presented to me, for the D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course show that some Districts are still struggling with getting their 'next in line' aspirants to sign up. No one likes being constantly reminded, but the impact of the constitutional change on these Districts is significant. Come next July, a District with a candidate who has not completed the course will put the Grand Master and the District in a very tough position. The Grand Master **will not confirm** any of the new D.D.G.M.s (or Grand Registrar) next July unless they have been issued a certificate of course completion by the Masonic Education, College of Freemasonry Committee. Please help us avoid embarrassment to all. If you have any questions about enrolment, course content or effort required, please contact either:

V.W. Bro. Iain Wates: idwates@sympatico.ca

R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik: tom.siemiernik@sympatico.ca

Grand Lodge Technology: Our Grand Lodge Technology team has started work on plans for the development of several applications to benefit the jurisdiction. One of these is to initiate a pilot project related to the address database used for the mailing of the Ontario Mason magazine. We will build a new 'address' database based on the acquisition of member mailing addresses directly from the lodges. The key to the success of the project will be the participation of the Lodges themselves. The Lodges selected for the initial pilot will be contacted shortly by the team under the direction of R.W. Bro. Bill Thompson.

Tidbits: Canada Lodge U.D., at last count had six applications for initiation. The fall issue of Reflections has been delivered to all subscribers. The Ontario Mason magazine was in the mail in December. All Certificates for successful completion of the Cornerstone Project last year have been presented to the Lodges. The Grand Lodge Publishing Policy has been successfully applied to a number of new or revised Lodge and District websites. Heritage Lodge has generously supported our project to digitize all our Grand Lodge Proceedings. The incorporation process for MasoniChIP is well underway.

Reminder: For Installations and other Special Occasions, D.D.G.M.s and Lodge Masters are encouraged to help arrange for photo opportunities to be available after Lodge is closed. As we should be declaring every Lodge a 'cell free' environment, the Brethren are reminded to turn them off

before Lodge begins. That special moment in a degree or installation, spoiled by 'a jolly little phone ditty' cannot be recreated.

'Tis the Season: Our Masonic year approaches the half way mark. As stated by Hugh Prather in Notes on Love and Courage, "There is a time to let things happen and a time to make things happen". **If you want to make it happen, now would be a good time to start!**

Wendy and I would like to extend the very best of the New Year to you and your families. Hopefully, you can find a quiet moment to reflect upon what a great fraternity we are privileged to serve, what a great country we live in and how thankful we are for the sacrifices made by our men and women serving overseas.

D. Garry Dowling

Edited from the December Communiqué

THE HISTORY OF TEMPLE LODGE No. 324

By 1874 there were four well-established Craft Lodges in Hamilton. They were The Barton Lodge No. 6, est. 1795; The Lodge of Strict Observance No. 27, est. 1847; St. Johns Lodge No. 40, est. 1852 and Acacia Lodge No. 61, est. 1855. The population of Hamilton had grown to 32,000 and there were new opportunities for commerce, industry and education.

The Brethren of the four City Lodges, were possibly persuaded to build a new Masonic Hall on James Street North by Strict Observance and Barton, with about 700 members on their rolls. With Masonry rapidly increasing it was decided that a new Lodge was needed. W. Bro. John M. Gibson just out of the chairs of Strict Observance probably conceived the idea of the new Temple Lodge. He won support of the Past Masters and brethren of the other Lodges and in November 1874 a Warrant was applied for and granted on July 15th 1875. In January 1875 the new Masonic Hall was officially opened. Temple Lodge No. 324 held its first warranted meeting at the new Masonic Hall.

The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite also came into being in the same year as Temple Lodge.

Sir John M. Gibson was the first Master of the Lodge serving from 1874 to 1876.

He served as Grand Master 1892/93 and passed away in 1929 leaving many important achievements. He was a major force behind bringing electric power to Hamilton. Known then around the world as "The Electric City", Hamilton was transformed into a modern and successful commercial and industrial centre.

After the devastating fire of the James Street Lodge Hall in 1968, Temple Lodge met at the Valley Lodge Hall in Dundas.

In 1974 the Lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary with W. Bro. Norm Webb as Master. The speaker was the Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Eric W. Nancekivell.

In 1976 Temple moved to the newly built Central Masonic Temple at 918 Main St. East.

In 2003 the Central Masonic Temple was sold and Temple Lodge moved to the Scottish Rite building at King Street West and Queen Street, now called the Masonic Centre, Hamilton, where it continues to meet on the second Tuesday each month.

The Lodge has always had a strong connection with the Scottish Rite and York Rite as well as their connecting bodies.

In 1956/57 three members of Temple Lodge, W. Bro. John Bell, W. Bro. Kenneth Robinson and W. Bro. Herbert Jackson were the Thrice Puissant Grand Master of Murton Lodge of Perfection, the Most Wise Sovereign Of the Hamilton Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix and Commander-In-Chief of the Moore Sovereign Consistory respectively. This was repeated again in 2006/07 with V. W. Bro. Rory Jones, V.W. Bro. Peter Maley and Temple honorary member R.W. Bro. Jim Sutherland.

M.W. Bro. John Gibson as well as other Temple Lodge brethren have filled these positions.

Temple Lodge is a strong and active Lodge. It continues to serve Masonry with dedication and unity.

W. Bro. David Beland

Next month, Electric Lodge No. 495

BLOOD DONORS

A group of Brethren from Electric Lodge No. 495 met at Queen and King at 9:30 am on Dec. 18th, 2010. From the Masonic Centre, the Brethren travelled to the C.B.S. clinic at Meadowlands. Several of the Brethren donated blood at a clinic sponsored by Hamilton District "B".



From left to right: R. W. Bro. Eduardo J. Cordero, R. W. Bro. Robert Kerr, Bro. Kyle J. Tuck, Bro. John Hammersley, W. Bro. Geoffrey S. Allan, Nurse Teresa Bowen, Nurse Christina Prang, W. Bro. Kenneth E. Brisbois, Bro. Edward Mackay and Nurse Nisreen Markho-Rayes.

MASONIC HIP PROGRAM



On Saturday December 4, 2010 at the Breakfast With Santa, we processed 54 children through the MasoniCHIP Clinic. Along with the Ancaster Fair and a Mississauga event, we had a total of 200 children this year. With 209 identified in 2009, and 214 in 2008, our District C has registered 619 children. Provincially, 37,336 children have been processed through this program.

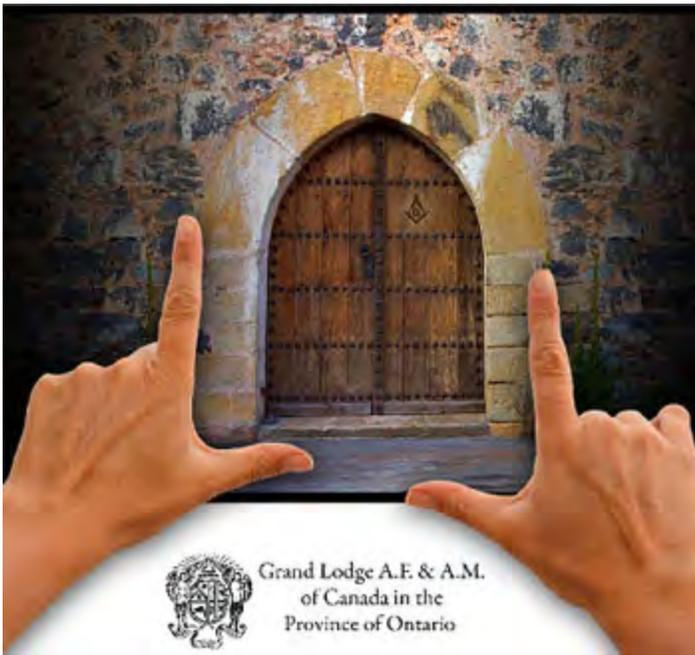
V.W. Bro. John Lyness

R.W. BRO. JAMES (JIM) HAMILTON



Front l-r: V.W. Bro. John Thombs, R.W. Bro. Jim Hamilton, W.Bro.Art Moore, and V.W. Bro. John Lyness.
Back l-r: V.W. Bro. Jamie Bennett, R.W. Bro.Peter Mouriopulos, V.W. Bro. Mike Sheridan, R.W. Bro.Frank Fordham, and R.W.Bro. Bev. Alexander.

P.D.D.G.M. R.W. Bro. Jim Hamilton celebrated his 90th birthday with friends on December 19th, in the Round Room at the Masonic Centre. Jim is now Treasurer Emeritus (2003) of the Central Masonic Centre Corporation, having served as Treasurer for over 20 years.



REBUILDING THE WEST GATE

THE INDIVIDUAL CRAFTSMAN: *Building the future of Freemasonry in Ontario one man at a time.*

In medieval times, the practical secrets of the mason's art were communicated with great care and diligence from master to apprentice. The education of a chosen apprentice was a significant commitment for a master mason to undertake and took no less than seven years to complete. Meticulous training was conveyed by the master mason in the ancient methods of proving uprights and horizontals, the use and care of various tools and the essential ability to create an angle of ninety degrees in order to prove a stone square.

To convey these secrets to an apprentice took time, commitment and patience.

Following a lengthy apprenticeship, a man worked as a fellow of the craft for a number of years while honing his skills under the supervision of a Master of the art. For a man to eventually be raised to the degree of Master Mason was the culmination of *years of dedication not only by his Master but by each member of the local lodge*, who took the time to guide, instruct and mentor the apprentices and fellows of the Craft in the ancient ways of masonry.

Thus, to be a true Master Mason was not just to attain the knowledge for oneself, but to convey the knowledge to those that would follow.

The physical integrity and stability of the great Gothic cathedrals was directly related to the quality of training and mentorship that occurred in the local lodges.

These great and unequalled works of art, most of which still stand today, are a testament to the commitment the operative Master Masons made to the personal development and growth

of individual craftsmen entrusted to their care. A timeless proverb states: "It takes a whole village to raise a child". In Freemasonry, it takes a whole Lodge to raise a single Master Mason.

What role do you satisfy in the ongoing development of the craftsmen in your Lodge?

This Strategic Plan aims to stress the *vital importance of mentoring individual craftsmen* who have chosen to take upon themselves the obligations and commitments of a Freemason. To the extent that we take the time to prove square each and every ashlar prior to placing it in the superstructure, we ensure that the temple we erect will be perfect in all its parts and will stand as an honour to its builders.

Stay tuned as we continue **REBUILDING THE WEST GATE.**

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."

Alvin Toffler, American writer and futurist

A SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

On every petitioner for Freemasonry rests a responsibility for the proper conditioning to our principles. The two Masons who sign the petition have a responsibility that does not end with their signature on the petition. If you invite a guest to a gathering at your home, you make sure that he meets all your guests and is made welcome and comfortable. Isn't the man whom you recommended entitled to the same courtesy?

It is your duty to assist him with his work and take an interest in his progress. It seems that you should see to it that he fully understands the fine lessons of the degrees. If you recommend a man to the Craft, satisfy yourself that he is receiving that for which you recommended him.

To do so is but a Masonic courtesy and it is also your duty as a Mason.

"Future planning is not about present decisions but about the future of decisions you make today."

Peter Drucker

ADMONITION

To the Brethren in open Lodge convened, for the election of the Master.

"From time immemorial it has been an established customs among Free and Accepted Masons, for each lodge, once in every year, at a stated period, to select from among those brethren who have served the office of Warden, an expert Craftsman to *preside* over them in the capacity of Master." From this we deduce that the task of the W. Master is that of *President*.

In another portion of our rituals he is tasked "to *instruct and employ* the brethren in Masonry", thus making him an *Instructor or Teacher*, and an *Employer*.

Yet in another portion of our rituals the Master is called "*a Ruler in the Craft*", that is: a person who *rules or commands*. Some have even suggested that the gavel gives him the powers of a *Despot*, though in another place he is obliged "*to submit to the awards and resolutions of his brethren in general lodge convened...*" reducing his exalted status to that of a *Servant* – and not just a "run-of-the-mill servant, but one has promised at his installation: "not to be insensible to his duties, nor to his responsibilities for the faithful discharge of the same."

In another place he is prompted to *administer* the duties of that high office to the best of his skill and ability and, in another, is obliged *not to permit* or suffer any deviations from the established usages, customs and landmarks. That makes him an *Administrator* and a *Policeman* as well. That's a rare breed of a servant. And I could say more.

I am giving you this perspective on the role of the Master you are now about to elect for the ensuing 12 months (or until a new master is elected and installed in his stead) in order for you to *reflect and be cautious* on your choice of the Master – and to remind you that at installation you will be required to promise him *Obedience*, in addition to your obligation to "*answer and obey* all lawful signs and summonses you receive from him or your lodge", and the *regular attendance* you have agreed to observe.

I had in the past the opportunity to remind you that a Lodge is not someone else's enterprise or recreational facility, accessible with a membership card whenever one feels like it. It is not. The lodge is a living organism, a *family of brothers*, where every member participates and pulls his weight, to the extent of the length of his cable tow, and according to his skills and abilities.

You now know with *clarity* what you are entitled to expect from the Master you are about to elect – and what that Master is entitled to expect from you.

You will now cast your ballot for the election of the Master!

By W. Bro. Vincent Lombardo
Quinte St.Alban's Lodge No. 620.

JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE: Freemason, Soldier, Statesman



The life story of John Graves Simcoe is the history of a man of ordinary ability who achieved great distinction by reason of strength of character rather than the accident of genius. Born in 1752, Simcoe joined the military in 1771, at the age of nineteen, as an Ensign in the 35th Regiment of Foot. His rapid rise was evidence of this, for he soon became a captain, shortly afterward a major, and at twenty-six a lieutenant-colonel.

Masonic History

The 35th Regiment was stationed at Exeter in the period 1771-74, and it was in December 1773 that Lieutenant John Graves Simcoe was made a Mason in that City. The membership of the Lodge was limited to twenty-four, all gentlemen of standing in the County. The Lodge worked for about twenty years, when it collapsed, being "erased" in 1789.

Military Career

In July 1776, Simcoe purchased the command of a company in the 40th Foot (originally formed in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia in 1717), and with that famous regiment took part in the battles of Long Island (Aug. 27th), Harlem Heights (Sept. 16), White Plains (Oct. 23), Fort Mifflin (Nov. 18) and actions leading up to the Battles of Brandywine (Sept. 11, 1777) and Germantown (Oct. 4, 1777). Simcoe was in the midst of all this fighting and was wounded in the Battle of Brandywine, but his daring leadership on all occasions, and contempt for danger, led to his appointment to command the Queen's Rangers with the rank of Major.

This celebrated Loyalist corps equalled any regular regiment of the British line in efficiency and discipline. It was organized in August 1776 by Col. Robert Rogers of New Hampshire, a veteran officer of the old French wars. Simcoe succeeded him as commanding officer of the regiment, and being promoted Lieutenant Colonel, December 7, 1777. Simcoe's military career ended 1781, at the conclusion of the American Revolution.

Elected to Parliament in 1790

Normally a silent, private member of Parliament, his knowledge of American affairs enabled him to take part in the debates on the Bill by which the Province of Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada. His speeches, without rhetorical merit, were those of a simple, sound man, possessed of sound ideas. He became a steady party man, speaking only when he could speak with knowledge. His contribution to the

debate on the Canada Act – “The Constitutional Act” – attracted considerable attention, and almost as soon as the Bill became law, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the new Province of Upper Canada.

Simcoe arrived at Quebec on Jun. 11, 1792 in the *Henniker*, accompanied by William Jarvis, his Provincial Secretary. The latter, who had been appointed Provincial Grand Master of Upper Canada, was presented to H. R. H. Prince Edward, the Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, and then proceeded to Kingston, where the Provincial government was organized and Simcoe was sworn into office as Lieutenant Governor on Jul. 8, 1792 in the Protestant Church, later named St. George’s Church. The members of the Executive and legislative Council were also sworn in and writs were issued for the election of the Legislative Assembly of the new Province. On September 11, transfer was made to Newark, (now Niagara) where on September 17, the first Parliament was opened in great state by Simcoe.

This great drama was enacted in the Freemasons’ Hall, the only suitable place of meeting in the village, and where it continued to meet for about a year, when the government was removed to York, now Toronto. Newark in those early days was a centre of Masonic activity.

One of the first Bills passed by the Upper Canada Parliament brought into operation the whole body of English law. Another early measure prohibited the bringing of Negro slaves into the province. Thus to Ontario belongs the great honour of being the first Parliament to legislate for the abolition of slavery. This Bill was directly due to Simcoe’s personal influence. Soon afterward Simcoe turned his attention to the building of roads throughout the province. Expansion and settlement could only result from improved systems of transport. His first great project was the building of the great Dundas Highway – a road which he designed to stretch from the shore of Lake Ontario westward to the Detroit River.

Next he constructed Yonge Street; stretching from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe. It was soon realized by Simcoe and his associates that Newark was too exposed to attack in the event of war with the United States, and in August 1793, he decided to transfer the capital to York. A transfer of the establishment, administrative and military, was made forthwith from Newark (now Niagara) to Toronto, which had many advantages over the former site.

The First Toronto Lodge

Here at old Fort Toronto he quartered the Second Queen’s Rangers. This corps was raised in Canada from old soldiers of the regular regiments, strengthened by a detachment of ex-soldiers from English regiments, and came to Canada with William Jarvis in *H.M.S. Henniker* in 1792.

Lodge No. 3, Ancient York Masons, would seem to have begun its corporate existence at Niagara early in 1793, under a dispensation from William Jarvis, Provincial Grand Master, removing to York, the new capital, in August.

As would be expected, Simcoe did not look with unfriendly eye on the meeting of Craftsmen, which took place, month after month, in his regiment. His friend, Lieut. Colonel John Butler of the Rangers, was Senior Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge at Niagara in 1795, and another friend, Davenport Phelps, a prominent attorney, was Grand Secretary at the same time.

He founded little settlements, constructed forts, improved the main roads, and laid the foundations of new developments. He visited and helped the settlers with grants of food, seed and implements. He studied the country and the conditions and the people, and put the knowledge he gained to the greatest purpose. The reckless soldier became the steady governor, a master of the arts of peace. So much did he care for the higher things, for religion and all that religion stands for, that he gave a large part of his official salary for the establishment of an Anglican Bishop of Upper Canada. Simcoe proved himself a great man, and a great governor. He laid the foundation of a mighty province, and created a capital city; he conquered a wilderness and constructed roads through primeval forests.

Simcoe’s ideas however were not always acceptable to Lord Dorchester, the Governor General of Canada, and it was doubtless that this disagreement in great part influenced Simcoe’s decision to leave Upper Canada in 1796, and in that year he returned to England.

He was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and later given partial command of the British troops investing San Domingo; however, the force sent from England was insufficient and General Simcoe returned to England in 1797, to procure additional forces. But Simcoe did not return to the West Indies; instead he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General and given command of the Western District, with headquarters at Plymouth, where the invasion of England by the French under Napoleon was anticipated; but it did not materialize.

By this time the General’s health had begun to fail; yet, contrary to the wishes of Mrs. Simcoe, he accepted, in 1806, the important position of Commander-in-Chief in India. Before proceeding east he was ordered to join Lords Rosslyn and St. Vincent in a special and very delicate mission to Lisbon. On his way there, he was stricken with a grievous sickness; the ship which had brought him from England took him home again. At Topham in Devonshire, John Graves Simcoe died, on the 25th day of Oct., 1806 - a gallant gentleman, a great commander, and the founder of the Province we now call Ontario.

Abridged from **John Graves Simcoe:
Freemason, Soldier, Statesman**

Author: J. Lawrence Runnalls

Publisher: The Papers of THE CANADIAN MASONIC
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The Heritage Lodge No. 730, A.F. & A.M.

54th ANNUAL ADAM ZIMMERMAN MEMORIAL BONSPIEL

November 27th at Glendale Golf and Curling Club,
Sponsored by Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654

BONSPIEL WINNERS WERE:



l-r Joe Petruszkiewicz, lead; Dennis Monteith, vice; Art Raymond, skip; and Bob Beringer ,second.

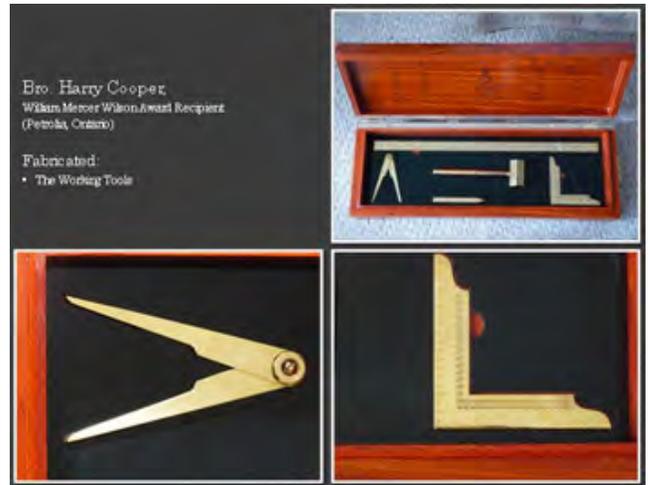


Organizers, Ed. Mallard and Bob Gilbank.

He is such a diplomat, his favourite colour is plaid.

NEW WORKING TOOLS FOR CANADA LODGE U.D. (Under Dispensation), AFGHANISTAN

Fabricated by Bro. Harry Cooper of Petrolia Ontario,
W.M.W. recipient



VISITING DIGITALLY

Masons use their computers to visit digitally to gather information, to learn and to share information. It is said that the Internet is the best, and the worst thing that ever happened to Freemasonry. It can be the best for it makes for more effective lodge communications as well as gathering information from regular Lodges. It can be the worst for several reasons; i) it is easy to pick up false information about Freemasonry; ii) the profane can pretend to be brothers and gain the trust of those who truly are; iii) a mason can be tempted to forget his obligation while surfing the net in the privacy of his own home.

The Mason or a person interested in Masonry does not go to the library or buy a book to do research. They surf the net. There exists, on the Internet today, access to regular lodges and irregular lodges. Anything and everything is available about Freemasonry somewhere in the digital universe. Information is available on out-of-print books and the body of information available grows almost weekly. This is an enormous boon for Masonic research. There is a down side; the Internet is also the depository of anti-Masonic information and is the new home of clandestine masons and irregular lodges.

The internet gives irregular and clandestine masons a wide and sometimes unsuspecting audience. If one types "Freemasonry" in a browser, at least half of initial hits will be websites condemning Masonry or giving information from irregular lodges. In a digital world, it can be very confusing to the non-Mason or regular Mason. They can easily be misled. The regular Mason should check the Grand Lodge Web Site of our jurisdiction. There he will find websites listed of regular Lodge Jurisdictions. Another useful aid is to look at the Register in the anteroom of his lodge; there he should find an up-to-date list of all the regular Grand Jurisdictions recognized by our Grand Jurisdiction.

There are many perils for the regular Mason on the Internet. It is easy to join forums on which irregular masons participate. A brother by default can be drawn into discussions that should not take place in a public forum. A regular Mason visiting, and/or communicating on the Internet must always remember his obligation and the fact that he reaffirms his obligation each time he gives a sign to the W.M. of his lodge. The primary purpose of Masonic secrecy is the positive effect it has on the nature and character of the brother who keeps his obligation. The Internet is a potential threat to all Masons for many reasons, but especially to those who have not yet developed the practice of secrecy or who have ceased to appreciate its importance.

When a Mason from this jurisdiction visits on the Internet, he should keep the Grand Lodge Policy on publishing in mind and apply the policy to anything he writes. He should also use the policy as a filter for any Masonic information he reads. The Grand Lodge Policy is a good one. If one writes articles for the Internet reading one should apply the policy. Due diligence is the level of judgment, care, prudence,

determination and investigation that a Mason should exercise. One can also apply the policy to test the truth of what one reads. It cuts both ways.

Policy points include:

1. Ensure that the Ritual is not quoted at length and the secrets not at all.
2. Current political and religious references are to be avoided.
3. Subject matter supports a positive image of Grand Lodge.
4. Subject matter is authenticated and properly authored.
5. Material is consistent with and supportive of Grand Lodge publications
6. Information supports the unity, civility and harmony among the members of the Craft.

The Mason from a regular lodge should very cautious of information he reads on the Internet that does not fit within the guidelines published by our Grand Jurisdiction. Applying the guidelines allows a regular Mason to spot articles from irregular or clandestine lodge sources.

Visiting digitally can be informative, educational and provide useful information. In the last issue of *The Round Table*, I referred to an article by H. L. Haywood. He suggested that visiting was a "Landmark" because we have a standing invitation from each regular lodge in the world to be its guest. Masons from regular lodges can enjoy visiting digitally in the same sense as going to another brother's lodge, if he applies the publishing policy of our Grand Jurisdiction as a filter when he reads articles on the Internet. Masons from regular Lodges can use this very important tool as aid to surfing the web and finding reliable and trustworthy information.

Printed with the permission of R.W. Bro. Garnet Schenk, editor of the 'The Round Table' the Newsletter of the Muskoka /Parry Sound District referenced from a paper *Freemasonry: the Digital Challenge* by Bro. Ronald J. Watkins, of Wayfarers Lodge No. 50, G.L. of Arizona

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREE TEAMS

Would you like a Scottish Rite degree team to assist your lodge in presenting a degree and providing a speaker as well? If so, contact W. Bro. Tom Fiddes at 905-648-1680 for a First Degree; contact R.W.Bro. Gerald Postill at 1-519-443-5367 for a Second Degree; and contact V.W. Bro. George Benton at 905-628-4360 for a Third Degree.

THE WANDS

The P&E Committee was asked to clarify when the Deacons (with their wands) should be used to escort visitors into a lodge.

As pointed out in The Masonic Manual, (page 51), proper use of the wands is an important part of the reception of brethren of senior rank. Only visitors who are entitled by their office to assume the gavel should be escorted into lodge under the wands.

Thus the wands should only be used when the visitor(s) is:
The Grand Master;
A Past Grand Master;
The Deputy Grand Master; and
The District Deputy Grand Master in his District.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM: BRO. JOHN H. CALDER, member of Seymour Lodge No. 272, Ancaster, Mercer Lodge No. 347 Fergus, and Royal Arch Masons of Guelph passed to the Grand Lodge Above on Thursday December 23, 2010. John had lived in the Belwood area since 1968. Masonic Memorial Service on Wednesday, December 29, 2010 at 5:45 pm in the Graham Giddy Funeral Home, Fergus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MID TERM DISTRICT 'C' MEETING, Saturday January 22, 2011, at Masonic Centre Hamilton, starting at 10:00 am.

DISTRICT C, P.D.D.G.M.'s DEGREE TEAM, will be conferring a third degree, on **Tuesday, January 25th, 2011**, at Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654 at 7:30 pm at MCH. Dinner at 6:30 pm.

FEBRUARY 8 TO 15, 2011, SECOND WINTER VACATION AND FRATERNAL VISIT TO The Respectable, Meritísima y Centenaria Logia Holguin, HOLGUIN CUBA.

Sponsored by Quinte St. Alban's Lodge No. 620. For Masons, their spouses, friends and children.

Only four seats remain available at the group price of \$1,060.00 including all taxes and fees. For those interested and for more information, please contact W. Bro. Vincent Lombardo, (905) 731-0504, vince.lombardo.to@gmail.com

SANKEY LECTURE, Sunday March 20, 2011 at Brock University at 3:00 p.m. by Associate Professor Jessica Harland-Jacobs from the University of Florida. Two recent articles are: "Freemasons and the Political Culture of the British Atlantic World, 1717-1798" and "Freemasonry and Colonialism".

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, USA, May 27- May 29, 2011.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

<http://www.cornerstonepublishers.com/roberts.pdf>

The American Masonic edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Editor: R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie
Assist. Editor: W. Bro. Harley Auty
Webmaster: Bro. Devin Tuinstra

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



Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, from the Editorial Staff of the Chronicle

