

District 'C' Chronicle



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Hamilton Masonic District C

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On November 15, 2011 a combined Memorial Service sponsored by Hugh Murray Lodge No 602, was held for Districts A,B, and C, in the Cathedral at the Masonic Centre of Hamilton. There was approximately 60 brethren representing 11 lodges from all three districts. My personal thanks to all of the lodges attending, as well as the DDGMs from A and B. W. Bro. Ed Patterson of Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 deserves a lot of credit for arranging the evening and it is his intention to make it an annual event. If you were unable to attend this year, brethren, please make a note of it for next time. I received nothing but positive responses from all who attended.

On November 21, 2011, I had the pleasure of attending Acacia Lodge No. 61 for the reception in honour of R.W. Bro. Donald Louis Jagger who received the Veterans Jubilee Medal from M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling. It is an honour richly deserved, in light of the 50 years of dedicated service to masonry.

On November 26, 2011, my wife Ann and I attended the Valley Lodge No.100 Holiday Dinner and Dance. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship which we fully enjoyed.

Congratulations to W. Bro. Chris Cleaver (Westmount Lodge No. 671) and V.W. Bro. Brad Carr (Corinthian Lodge No. 513) on their being installed in the chair of King Solomon for the upcoming Masonic year in each of their respective lodges. I wish them a successful and busy year, and look forward to visiting with them in the near future.

To the Electric Lodge No. 495, Wardrope Lodge No. 555, and Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602, thank you for your generous donations to the District Charity, Autism Ontario, Hamilton Wentworth Chapter. I know this money will be greatly appreciated by those involved with Autism as they continue to work with these children who suffer from this debilitating disorder. If you care to donate to the District Charity, brethren, it is through the Masonic Foundation Project No. 2457.

FROM OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



Another busy month has come and gone and soon we will be looking forward to the Christmas Season.

I would like to thank the Masters and Brethren of Temple Lodge No. 324 and The Electric Lodge No. 495 for their warm welcome and fellowship during my official visit to both lodges. My thanks also to Ancient Landmarks/Doric No.654 and Wardrope Lodge No. 555, the respective accompanying lodges for their support and fine turn out of their

brethren.

At the November 11, 2011 Blood Donors Clinic, sponsored by The Electric Lodge, approximately 70 units of blood were donated. Thank you, brethren, for your support of these clinics, and a special thanks to R.W. Bro. Cordero and W. Bro. Satchell for their efforts in setting them up.

The **DISTRICT CHRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is 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' Chronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

The Holiday season will soon be upon us and I would at this time on behalf of myself, and my family to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Christmas is a time of giving and sharing and what a wonderful time to practice those wonderful virtues of Freemasonry, and take the opportunity to share what the G.A.O.T.U has given us, with those less fortunate.

John K. Johnston
District Deputy Grand Master

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Our fall season has been filled with tremendous opportunities for us to gather together in celebration of Lodge special Anniversaries, especially marking 150 years of continuous existence. These have provided a wonderful chance to meet and greet the Lodge Brethren and their Ladies as your Guest of Honour and to bring greetings from Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Officers who have accompanied us. The warmth and hospitality displayed during these gatherings has been tremendous and thanks are extended to the organizing Committees for all their hard work.



We have also been privileged to attend ceremonies of Amalgamation (Essex), Dedication (Brantford), W.M.W. presentation (North Bay) and GM Meritorious Service Award presentation (Simcoe). At each of these events, I am pleased to see many old friends and have the opportunity to meet so many of our newer Brethren. There is excitement in our Lodges and renewed enthusiasm is evident. Frost may be in the air, but so too is a sense of renewal and an optimism towards the future. Keep up the good work Brethren. Believe in our Vision.

Housekeeping Items:

I would ask for your support with the following matters:

1. Master's Collar: There is still confusion about the wearing of the Master's collar outside his own lodge: As indicated in the Masonic Manual and P&E Essentials (Issue 4, Jan 2010) the Master may wear his collar outside his ownLodge on specified occasions **only**.

These include:

- (1) when conducting a Divine Service;
- (2) when conducting a Memorial Service;
- (3) when attending the Annual Communication;
- (4) when attending the Official Visit of the **D.D.G.M. in his own District**; and (5) when attending a Divine Service in his District conducted by the D.D.G.M.

2. Masonic Email Distribution Lists: Masonic Email lists must NOT be used to distribute political material either in support of, or against any political candidate in any election. During the time of the recent provincial election, several breaches of this policy occurred.

3. Use of Electronic devices to hold any ritual for use in Lodge: It is not permitted to have the Book of the Work in open Lodge during a meeting (except by the prompter). Recently, iPhones, iPods, laptops, etc., which contain all or portions of the Book of the Work, have been observed in use in the Lodge. As with the hard copy of the Book of the Work, these devices must not be used for that purpose in the Lodge room.

Looking Ahead:

In mid-November, the Management Committee met, under the direction of the Deputy Grand Master, to review the progress we are making on our Tactical Plan for 2011– 2012. This meeting focused on the first quarterly review of our Grand Lodge Committee work for this Grand Lodge year. We looked at each of our Strategic Plan themes to determine the progress we are making towards our Mission and Vision. These themes are based on both the external and internal forces that we feel are influencing the future of Freemasonry in Ontario. Tracking progress against these themes allows us to use them as “touchstones” when engaging in key decisions and course corrections.

The many Lodge Anniversaries that we are celebrating remind us that we are the current **custodians of a way of life** that has inspired and helped to cast generations of great men and leaders both here in Ontario and around the world. I quote from our strategic plan: *“The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario intends to embrace and exercise its mandate to protect and promote Freemasonry in Ontario, ensuring that Masonry’s timeless philosophy and way of life continue to be vital to countless future generations of men in Ontario.”*

Brethren, we are attracting today, some of those who will form the nucleus of the future generation of Ontario Masons. If we don’t communicate with them the values we place on our legacy, encourage them along their endless journey of Masonic and self discovery and instill in them the ‘joie de vivre’ of Masonry, then we are failing ourselves. We all have a role to play in “Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario.” Let’s **Believe** it and make it happen!

D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

Grand Master’s full itinerary at –
<http://www.grandlodge.on.ca> (Under Events Calendar)

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

District and Grand Lodge Committees

Being a committee member is about much more than simply attending meetings, although that is a committee member's first task. You should see it as an active not a passive role. Obviously you do need to attend meetings, but you also need to be aware of what decisions your committee is authorized to make, and to work with the other members of the committee to reach a consensus to enable business to move through the committee structure. Now that you have agreed to serve on a committee, you need to make sure you understand how the committee works, what it does and what you'll be expected to do as a member. It will do you no good to agree to be on a committee and then do nothing.

Getting involved in committee work will improve the Condition of Masonry in your Lodge, District and even in Grand Lodge. So don't wait for the Worshipful Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master or a Grand Lodge Chairmen to call you; call them and ask what you can do to be part of his team so he can accomplish his mandate, goal and or objectives. Don't complain about the Condition of Masonry; be part of the solution to improve the Condition of Masonry, by getting involved.

Lodges of Instructions

M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby, Custodian of the Work and his team, just completed another successful series of Lodges of Instructions throughout the Province of Ontario. They conducted 11 sessions in 25 days. I thank the brethren for supporting this and their attendance was greatly appreciated. Remember, you can continue with this training. Section 102 of the Book of Constitution (2011) allows the D.D.G.M. to grant dispensations for holding a Lodge of Instruction, with certain conditions. Take advantage of this. The brethren have asked for more education, especially in the area of the Mechanics of the Work. You have the opportunity to continue with this essential training. We have the resources available to assist you and your District.

New technologies have had a significant effect on the way Masons live, work and enjoy their retirement years. New and emerging technologies challenge the traditional process of teaching and learning, and the way education is managed. This new generation could mean that learning becomes a truly lifelong activity, an activity in which the pace of technology change forces constant evaluation of the learning process itself.

Who is your D.D.G.M.'s successor?

It's hard to believe his term of office is one third complete, and your District should be planning on his successor. At the Regional Meetings, held last August, we congratulated the first D.D.G.M.s who all completed the course for prospective District Deputy Grand Masters. Remember, his successor shall be in possession of a certificate of completion of the course as offered by the College of Freemasonry before the Grand Master will confirm his election. We encourage any

Past Master who wishes to increase their Masonic knowledge to take this course. It is not just for candidates for the office of D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar. It is open for all Past Masters in the jurisdiction who are in good standing.

The Office of Worshipful Master

We all know the highest honour a lodge can bestow on any of its members, is the office of Worshipful Master. In many parts of our Grand Jurisdiction, brethren have asked for guidance, assistance and training to prepare them to be Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The Masonic Education Committee – College of Freemasonry, have submitted a Lodge Officers Course for review and approval, to assist Masons who have aspirations to the Office of Worshipful Master. The course is composed of three sections: Duties and Leadership; Administration and Communication; and Ritual, Protocol and Etiquette.

Upon completion, this training will provide a good grounding in the duties, responsibilities and perhaps being able to prevent problems that may occur. The information contained in the course will support the Mason in his journey to the Chair of King Solomon.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

THE WORKING TOOLS OF A CONVIVIAL FREEMASON

"I now present the working tools of a Convivial Freemason. They are: The Fork, The Knife, and The Tumbler.

The FORK is an implement that enables even the most inexperienced Freemason to secure, at times by reaching across the table, the delicate and succulent morsels that adorn our Festive Board to delight the eye and stimulate the jaded appetite. This implement is used to convey these morsels to that aperture which has been specifically designed to receive them, and which reduces all nutriment to a common level. The Fork should always be used when partaking of Peas, which, if conveyed to the mouth with the assistance of the knife, often prove very elusive.

The KNIFE, when properly ground and sharpened, is used to reduce all crude matter to a regular form, and assists us to dissect the anatomy of even the most venerable Rooster. The KNIFE teaches us to cut off no more than we can chew, and to limit our desires in every station of life, so that rising to eminence by merit we may live respected, and die regretted.

The TUMBLER enables us to ascertain and determine, with accuracy and precision, the quantity of liquor we find conducive to the preservation of genial joviality. As all TUMBLERS have not that mark upon them, commonly known as the Pretty, the skillful Craftsman will measure his tot with the aid of the two or three finger rule. The TUMBLER will only hold a certain amount of liquor without detriment to its surroundings, and it teaches us that we should

ascertain, and never exceed, the limits of our own internal economy.

As we are met here this evening as Speculative, as well as Energetic and Operative, Convivial Freemasons, we also apply these tools to our morals.

In this sense the FORK teaches us that we should not always sit down and await what we desire in life, but reach out, secure and retain it, profiting by our opportunities and assimilating the knowledge gained through our experiences. Nor should we forget that the little things in life should be looked after, lest they elude our grasp and are lost beyond recall. As the prongs of the FORK are all equal and mutually assist one another, being joined together in one compact structure, so we as Freemasons should stand together and practice those four qualifications that cannot be too strongly recommended to your notice:

- Straightforwardness in our dealings with one another.
- Sympathy for the failings of a Brother.
- Good Temper in our differences and opinions.
- Add Fidelity to the sacred Tie that binds us together.

The KNIFE teaches us the value of assiduity, and the patience to cope with the many problems that confront us, so we are taught to take care of our mental and corporeal faculties. The TUMBLER teaches us the importance of moderation and temperance. As it has no graduated scale by which to measure its varying contents, the user must exercise his judgment as to the quantity of liquor he pours therein. As the TUMBLER will only hold a limited quantity without detriment to its surroundings so we should estimate our capacity so as not to confuse our mental and physical equilibrium. As the perfect TUMBLER always rings true, be it empty or full, so the perfect Convivial Freemason should always ring true after labour at the Festive Board. A cracked TUMBLER is despised and rejected by all.

Thus the Working Tools of a Convivial Freemason teach us to bear in mind and practice the cardinal virtues of Temperance and Prudence, so that when we are summonsed to rise and drink the Tyler's Toast, having partaken of the good things provided by a bounteous Providence for our enjoyment, we may depart homeward with the gratifying testimony of a contented mind, a clear brain, and equal poise."

Source: The Round Table, Muskoka-Parry Sound, Volume 11, Issue 10

BLOOD DONORS COMMITTEE

The Blood Donors Committee for Hamilton Masonic District C thanks all the Brethren of Electric Lodge No. 495 for their sponsorship of the November 11, 2011 clinic at Paramount. That afternoon was very busy at the clinic with a grand total of over 70 units of blood collected that day. The next two clinics at Paramount are for January 13, 2012, which will be sponsored by Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602, and March 9, 2012, which will be sponsored by Wardrope Lodge No. 555.

Also, thanks to the efforts of W. Bro. Stan Satchell, the students and staff at Orchard Park Secondary School in Stoney Creek, a blood donors clinic was held on November 15, 2011 at that school. A total of 45 units of blood were collected at the school that day. W. Bro. Satchell organizes blood donor clinics at Orchard Park S.S. twice a year. Our most sincere gratitude goes to all those involved.

The Hamilton Masonic District C Blood Donors Committee is anticipating improvements in the way we assist the Canadian Blood Services in the collection of units of blood in our city. These improvements will be in the area of the number of clinics we run and the number of volunteers needed to run these clinics. Further details are forthcoming.

And finally, Ancient Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654 and Meridian Lodge No. 687 will have a speaker at their regular meetings in the early new year who will give a talk on how blood donations saved the life of her infant child here in Hamilton. Further details are forthcoming.

Many thanks go to all the brethren in the District who continue to support, directly or indirectly, our noble cause. The M.H. is within you.

Eduardo Cordero
Co-Chair, Blood Donors Committee

ANCIENT CHARGES OF 1723

III. of Lodges

"A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; Hence that Assembly, or duly organized Society of Masons, is call'd a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its By-Laws and the General Regulations.

It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the Regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annex'd. In ancient Times, no Master or Fellow could be absent from it especially when warn'd to appear at it, without incurring a sever Censure, until it appear'd to the Master and Wardens that pure Necessity hinder'd him.

The persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good an true Men, free-born, and of mature and discreet Age, no Bondmen, no Women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good Report."

Source: Nelson King website - www.nelsonking.ca

THE GIFT OF YOURSELF

A Masonic Christmas Story



Yes, the crotchety old Past Master was wagging his finger yet again at the room awash with light blue aprons and dark hair. It had almost become a tradition since a wave of younger men had joined several years earlier and revived a sparsely-populated and sad old Lodge on the verge of reluctantly

handing the warrant back to Grand Lodge. Whenever a motion came onto the floor, you could be sure Alec Sampson—or “Worshipful Brother Grumpy”, as they called him—would be automatically opposed. Especially when it came to the Lodge treasury.

“You want to give yourselves free dinner and drinks on the Lodge’s dime using Christmas as an excuse,” he exclaimed, as he stated his lack of enthusiasm for the Junior Warden’s plan for a Christmas Party on Saturday night. “And besides, who’s going to be in the mood for Christmas? It’s going to rain that night,” was his parting shot as he sat down to raucous laughter of the Lodge, though he didn’t understand what they found amusing.

The Past Master ignored any further discussion as he sat and mumbled to no one in particular and stewed before the brethren voted in favour of the festive gathering.

“Now, remember,” the Worshipful Master gently reminded, “Make sure you bring a present that we can put under the tree. But nothing too expensive so it looks like we’re giving better gifts to some than others.”

“Hmmpf,” grunted Sampson to himself. “I’ve been on a pension for 20 years. I don’t have the money these young guys with their gas-guzzlers and big-screen TVs have. And they want me to buy something for them?” Then he ‘hmmpf’ed again.

After the meeting, one of Lodge’s new members, a keen Fellow Craft who had attended everything since his initiation several months earlier, innocently went up to the Past Master.

“So, Worshipful Brother Sampson, are you going to the party?” he quietly asked.

“Going?” he said, shocked. “Johnny, do you know why we stopped having them parties years ago? We used to spend all kinds of money on a hall, decorations, a band—we even had a church choir come in one year—and no one showed up. Oh, the brethren said ‘Yeah, don’t worry, I’ll come’ but then they’d make some excuse and stiff the Lodge. That was back in the ’70s. We’d be left with a big, empty room and bills to pay. If a few of us hadn’t donated money to the Lodge, we would have been broke.

“The last one I went to was in 1959. One of the guys got

liquored up beforehand—probably was at a Shriners do, or something like that—and fell into a huge cake Bro. Wallace’s wife baked. Ruined the whole night. Nope, I’ve had enough of Lodge Christmas Parties,” he added with an air of finality. With that, he went to get his coat and hat and headed for the door.

“Nice young fellow,” admitted Sampson to himself, as he drove away from the hall to his little home not far away, “He means well, and he does good work in the Lodge, but he has the damndest ideas some times.”

Saturday night came, and the grouchy Past Master got set to spend it as he always did: watching some old movies on the TV. So it was a shock after he turned on the set and settled down into his chair that his wife stood in an arched doorway and said:

“So, are you all set to go?”

“Go where, Martha?” he demanded. “A Western with Jimmy Stewart is about to come on.”

Just then, the doorbell rang. “You’ll see,” said the little grey-haired woman as she slowly made her way to the front door and found a young man clutching an open umbrella over his head. It was the Fellow Craft.

“Ohhhh, no!” exclaimed the Past Master, waving his finger in the air just like he did in Lodge all the time. “I see what this is. I’m not going!”

“Now, Alec,” Martha chided, “Johnny called today to see if we wanted a ride to the Christmas Party. I told him my feet still aren’t feeling right, so I can’t go. But you can. He came all the way into town from out in the valley 45 miles away to pick you up.”

“But I’m not dressed for it,” he insisted.

“That’s okay,” said the Fellow Craft, “The guys won’t mind.”

“And I don’t have a present like you guys voted I should have,” he sputtered.

“But you do, Worshipful Brother Sampson,” replied Johnny.

The grumpy Past Master was puzzled by that remark. But then he thought for a moment. Johnny *was* a good young man and dedicated to the Lodge and, after all, had made an effort to come get him.

“Well, okay, I guess,” he reluctantly and sullenly agreed. “Besides, I know how ‘The Man From Laramie’ turns out anyhow.”

Martha handed him his rumpled coat and a fedora that had seen better days then cracked open the front door. Sampson peered into the damp and menacing sky. “See? I told you it was going to rain. None of you ever listen to me!”

Cheery music with sleigh bells filled the banquet room of the old hall. Brushing the tall ceiling was a healthy Douglas fir, glistening with tinsel, sitting watch in the corner over a mound of presents around its trunk. But the tree isn't what shocked Sampson. It was the people. The 90-year-old room, big enough to fit 250 when the Hall was built and the Lodge was initiating dozens every year, was packed.

"Where did all these people come from?" Sampson demanded. "A lot of them are friends of the members," the Fellow Craft replied. "They brought their wives and kids and other friends."

"Well, the hall certainly looks nice," said the Past Master, looking around.

"A bunch of us got together and decided to paint the downstairs," Johnny answered, then pointed. "Dave over there donated the paint. Don brought the rollers and the brushes. We all chipped in to save the Lodge a bit of money."

At that moment, a well-dressed man in his early 20s, came up to the pair. The Fellow Craft spoke.

"Rob, this is Worshipful Brother Alec Sampson. He was Master of the Lodge in 1957. He's been a Mason a very long time."

"That's great," smiled the young man. "I've read a lot about Freemasonry and it's the kind of thing I'd like to join. It believes in helping your fellow man and helping the world. And my grandfather was a Mason. He died when I was little but he was great to me and my sister and he used to bring over cookies that grandma baked for us. I think he was a member of this Lodge."

"Oh?" Sampson's left eyebrow went up. "Do you know his name?"

"Sure," laughed the young man. "It's Alan Wallace."

Sampson stood stunned as if Santa himself had just bounded down the chimney.

"Alan Wallace was my sponsor into the Lodge," Sampson said in a low voice. And his wife Emily used to bake things for our functions all the time."

The young man brightened some more. "Do you want to see her? I brought her," he asked.

"What? She's still alive?" Sampson asked, astounded.

"She was when I left her by the punch bowl three minutes ago," he chuckled. And with that, the young man manoeuvred the old Past Master through the crowded room of revellers over to a little table where a small woman sat primly, wearing a light blue dress and a neat hat that wasn't too out of style. She looked wide-eyed at her guest for a second or two, then

stood up.

"Well, if it isn't Worshipful Brother Grumpy!" she grinned. "Merry Christmas, Alec. How have you been?"

"I'm doing fine, Emily. I haven't seen you for years."

"The Lodge hasn't had one of these for years," the widow observed. The young members of the Lodge are really wonderful. They put together a list of all us old-timers and started calling. They offered to bring us to the party and even buy us a little gift. It's very thoughtful. They want to do something for us on Valentine's Day, too. Alan would be so proud of them."

The old Past Master realised now he had not been paying attention to all the discussion during the Lodge meeting about the party. The gifts were for the widows. Not the members.

"I asked one of the young ones if you were coming, but I was told you're always busy doing something. That's retirement, isn't it? You become busier than when you were working."

Sampson offered a sheepish smile.

"All of us used to have such fun at these years ago. Stanley Phillips and Ted Barnham and John Lee. Ah, they're all gone now. And Dick Moody. Everyone thought he was drunk but he had a trick leg with a mind of its own sometimes. Remember the Christmas Party his leg gave out and he landed right in the middle of the cake I baked? Alan and I never laughed so hard!"

The widow laughed heartily at the memory. "Well, I'm going to get some more punch. One of the wives of one of the new members brought it. See you in a bit!" And, with that, Emily Wallace spryly made her way into the crowd.

It was then Sampson realised that all the bad feelings he had built up about some of the things the younger members had planned were for naught. They *were* keeping an eye on the Lodge's small funds. And they were following the principles of the fraternity by extending a hand of friendship and assistance to widows and senior brethren. And he had made some wrong assumptions about that Christmas Party so many years ago that caused him to stop coming. His thoughts were interrupted.

"So was it nice to see Mrs. Wallace again?" It was the new Fellow Craft.

"You know, Johnny," he started slowly, "you brothers have done such a wonderful job here. I really have to apologise to you. The Worshipful Master asked everyone to bring a gift and I didn't bring anything."

"But, it's like I said before, you *did* bring one. Mrs. Wallace told me the one thing that makes her sad is just about all the people she knew in the Lodge when her husband joined are

dead. She doesn't know anyone any more. Except you.

"Worshipful Brother Sampson, you brought a gift no one else could bring. You brought the gift of yourself."

"Well, I had a little help doing that," he chuckled. "And because of that, I've been given a Christmas gift, too."

Source: <http://justamason.blogspot.com/2010/12/gift-of-yourself.html>

STIMULATING AND ENGAGING MEMBERSHIP

Freemasonry provides an enabling environment within which good men can make themselves better if they choose to do so. We cannot force change: we can provide the stimulation and encouragement to our members. Without this we will continue to suffer membership decline with high rates of suspension and demits which indicates dissatisfied members.

In its July 2008 report to Grand Lodge, the Committee on Lodge Resources noted that *close to 40% of the new masons initiated do not complete their journey and become Master Masons* (2008 Annual Proceedings, p 108).

Can this situation be slowed or even reversed? And can it be based on existing Lodge resources without calling for new and increased investments of money and time? In both cases I think the answer is "Yes." All Lodges should be encouraged to consider some "best practices" which are already being implemented:

1. Masonic Toolkit: Most initiation fees cover the costs of a Bible, Constitution and By-Laws (given out at Initiation) and a Book of Work, apron and case (at the end of the Third Degree). Some Lodges also provide a one-year subscription to *Reflections* to the newly initiated Mason. The publications here are a start in encouraging the new member to begin to accumulate and use a Masonic library.

2. Masonic Education: Many Lodges include a 3-5 minute presentation during a meeting, often related to the work of the evening. At the end of a third degree, for example, it would be useful for a member of the Lodge to cover some particular part of that degree. During the year the Lodge program may provide for a Masonic or non-Masonic speaker on a particular topic of interest (in the latter case the Lodge would call off, or the speaker address the members at the festive board, for example).

3. College of Freemasonry: For those who seek a more formal approach to Masonic education and self-improvement there is a four-part College of Freemasonry program. Completion of the full program entitles the member to be called a "Fellow of the College of Freemasonry," and to place the initials "FCF"

after his name. Those interested in the College program should obtain details from their Lodge Secretary.

4. Protocol and Etiquette: Many Lodges have the Director of Ceremonies cover an item of protocol or etiquette in a two- or three-minute window at the end of a Lodge meeting. Grand Lodge's Protocol and Etiquette Essentials is a useful tool, but the DC can demonstrate many important (perhaps critical) matters and explain them at the same time. One of the most difficult actions to learn are those of The Grand Honours and the DC can walk members through it slowly while explaining the meaning of each movement.

5. Masonic Study Circle: in the two Ottawa Districts interested Masons meet every 3-4 months at a quality restaurant and use a private room where they can discuss items of common interest. Topics covered in the last two years include: books (Dan Brown, Jack Whyte's Templar trilogy, for example), stamps portraying Freemasonry, music connected with the Craft. The topics are limitless.

6. Masonic Quiz: the two Ottawa Districts hold annual quizzes and often hold an inter-district "quiz-off." Prizes usually include a publication of masonic interest.

Beyond these best practices, however, there is one key area where I believe change is crucial to improvement. This relates to the need for some instruction on the roles and responsibilities of Sponsors. This is perhaps the most important area for us: the relation between the new applicant-cum-candidate-cum-Mason and his sponsors should be a life-long attachment. The sponsors should escort the new mason on his voyage, visiting new Lodges where he is properly introduced, participating with him in the Mentorship program undertaken by his Lodge, and a host of other activities. In this way the new mason becomes an important part of our fraternity.

V. W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns
Grand Historian.

Source: Education Monthly, Committee on Masonic Education, Reprinted with permission.

*Age is an issue of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.
- Mark Twain*



‘T’WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, DOWN AT THE LODGE



‘Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the lodge
not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge
Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West
You could savour the silence, most gladly divest
All metal and mineral, it mattered not,
Since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot.
In the hearth of your home place, all Masons abed,
As visions of trestle boards danced in their head;
When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered ‘What for?’
He answered the knocking with raps of his own,
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan
Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red
Except for one notable feature instead!
Upon his large finger he wore what we knew
Was compass and square on a background of blue!
‘Why Santa!’ he shouted and lowered his blade,
‘I see you’re a Mason!’ the Tyler relayed.
He looked toward the Master’s most dignified chair
And said, voice near trembling, ‘Most Worshipful there
Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!’
The Master replied, ‘Let’s allow him - but wait!
You tell me a Gentleman, but I don’t see
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be
Our visitor hasn’t been properly raised?
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?
‘I do beg your pardon,’ ol’ Santa said quick
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear,
Adorned like the Master’s, complete with a sign
Of “Lodge Number One, the North Pole” on one line!
“Now let this man enter,” the Master declared,
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,
For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen
For many a century - there in between
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!
“It’s Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess,
“Are actually images brought from the West
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!”
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled
An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,
“My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast

On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!”
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,
As presents and promises flew from his sack,
A Mason, showed he had a knack
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they’d seen
On this very night only happiness reigned!
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained
That only a Mason could be so inclined
To make all kids happy, make all people find
A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!
Source: <http://www.craftymason.ca>

MASONIC MILESTONES



On November 15, 2011, Hugh Murray Lodge No.602 hosted a Hamilton District’s A, B, and C Memorial Service in the Cathedral of the Scottish Rite. It was well attended by brethren from of all three Hamilton Masonic Districts.

IN MEMORIAM



W. Bro. James (Ross) Lindsay
Buchanan Lodge No. 550
Called to the G. L. A.: October 22, 2011
Past Master of Buchanan Lodge No. 550 and long-time volunteer at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. Donations to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum or the Cancer Assistance Program (C.A.P.) would be appreciated.

Bro. Lloyd Merle Deeks
Seymour Lodge No. 272
Initiated: January 7, 1947 Pembroke Lodge No. 128, Ottawa 2 District.
Passed: April 24, 1947
Raised: June 12, 1947. Affiliated with Seymour Lodge No. 272 on January 17, 1969.
Called to the G. L. A.: October 22, 2011 Member of the Masonic Order for 64 years.

Bro. Bruce Wainwright
Landmarks/Doric Lodge No.654

Initiated: March 16, 1970

Passed: Sept. 21,1970

Raised: January 1, 1971.

Called to the G.L.A.: September 25, 2011

Worked for Dofasco for 40 years; a member of the Hamilton Fire Fighters' Drum and Bugle Corps, and The Shrine.

Bro. Henry Alan Faris
Seymour Lodge No. 272

Initiated: November 27, 1956

Passed : January 2, 1957

Raised: February 26, 1957

Called to the G.L.A.: August 30, 2011 Faithful member for over 50 years.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

If you are interested in Masonic research, here is a local site:
Toronto Society for Masonic Research <http://www.tsmr.org>

To see what some of our Northern Ontario brethren are up to, visit Sudbury Manitoulin Freemasons at:
<http://www.smmasons.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Breakfast at the Rite

(formerly known as Breakfast with Santa)

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome.

For tickets call Bob Kerr at 905-945-0132

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Hamilton Masonic CHIP Clinic

will be occurring in conjunction with Breakfast at the Rite.

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 13, 2012

Blood Donors' Clinic

Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek

2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Sunday, January 15, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

District BBQ Organizing Committee

At the home of W. Bro. Ed Patterson,
9575 White Church Road, Mount Hope

We are hoping to have a member from each Lodge present.

Email: tardis_01@hotmail.com

Monday, January 30, 2012

Officer's Progression/Masonic Leadership

Sponsored by Centennial Daylight Lodge No. 679

Presenter: V. W. Bro. Wm. Brimer

Masonic Centre of Hamilton - 7:30 p.m.

D.D.G.M. OFFICIAL VISITS

Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Dinner 6:30 p.m. – Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Accompanying Lodge: Centennial Daylight No. 679

Location: Hillcrest Masonic Centre

Ancient Landmarks/Doric No. 654

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Dinner 6:30 p.m. – Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Accompanying Lodge: Corinthian Lodge No. 513

Location: Masonic Centre of Hamilton

INSTALLATIONS

Ionic Lodge No. 549

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Dinner 6:30 p.m. (Donation) Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Location: Masonic Centre of Hamilton

Hugh Murray No. 602

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Dinner 6:00 p.m. - Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Masonic Centre of Hamilton

Seymour Lodge No. 272

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Dinner 6:30 p.m. - Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Ancaster Masonic Hall

**Season's Greetings to One and All,
From The Chronicle Editorial Team**



| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Editor: | W. Bro. Harley Auty |
| Assoc. Editor: | R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson |
| Ed. Advisor: | R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie |
| Webmaster: | Bro. Devin Tuinstra |

Editorial thanks to V. W. Bro. John Lyness,
Hamilton District C Photographer, for the photos.

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