

District 'C'ronicle



May 2013

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 57

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

R. W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson

Greetings, Brethren:

It has been a busy month with Official Visits to Seymour Lodge No. 272, Dufferin Lodge No. 291 and my Homecoming to Westmount Lodge No.671, as well as several other fraternal visits.



At all times, I was greeted enthusiastically and with all the due pomp and ceremony accompanying such occasions.

I would like to thank the brethren for their support of our District Charity, both in food donations for the Salvation Army Family Services Food Bank and financial donations from the

Lodges and individual members. As well, I would like to thank the brethren for their concern over my recent health issues.

In the course of my Masonic research, I came across a beautiful poem which I thought appropriate to pass along to the members of District C. It provides the brethren with much food for thought. The author of the poem is not known.

A Mason and a Man

My brother, masonry means more
Than the wearing of a pin,
Or carrying a paid-up dues receipt
so the lodge will let you in.

You may wear an emblem on your coat,
From your finger flash a ring,
But if you are not sincere at heart
This doesn't mean a thing.

It's merely an outward sign to show
The world that you belong,
To this great fraternal brotherhood
That teaches right from wrong.

What really counts lies buried deep
Within the human breast,
Till Masonic teachings brings it out
And puts it to the test.

If you practice out of lodge
The things you learn within,
Be just and upright to yourself
And to your fellow men.

Console a brother when he's sick
And assist him when in need,
Without a thought of personal regard
For any act or deed.

Walk and act in such a way
That the world without can see
That only the best can meet the test
Laid down by Masonry.

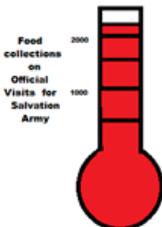
Be always faithful to your trust
And do the best you can,
Then you can tell the world
You are a Mason and a Man.

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'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.

DISTRICT CHARITY UPDATE

The city wide food drive last month was a huge success with over 700 pounds being delivered to the Family Services Food Bank. In addition, with donations from the DDGM's visit to Seymour Lodge and other personal donations, another 250 pounds were received. This brings the total donations received to date to be over 3500 pounds, which indicates tremendous support from the Brethren to this great and worthy cause. Thank you, Brethren.



Westmount Lodge is conducting a draw with a number of major prizes donated, 100% of the proceeds being directed the District Charity, Masonic Foundation Project #2490.

The draw will be made at the Hamilton C, B, & A Districts Picnic on Saturday, June 22. Please contact any member of Westmount Lodge for a ticket and good luck.

Again, thank you to all for your continued support.

R.W. Bro. John MacPherson

See the DDGM Communiqué for Messages from the G.M., D.G.M.

At the request of Grand Lodge, in order to promote the recently up-dated Grand Lodge website, we will no longer be running the Messages from the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Secretary which appear monthly in the DDGM Communiqué. We encourage our readers to go to the Grand Lodge website at www.grandlodge.on.ca/.



To find the Messages go to the Grand Lodge website. Login with **your username and password**; and then proceed on

to >>**Communications**>>**Grand Lodge Newsletters**, which appears below the word **Publications**>>**D.D.G.M. Communiqué**>>**2013-01 April** to take you to the most recent message. In addition, you can see previous messages by clicking on either **2011** or **2012**, which appear on the left-hand side of the screen.

Who's In Charge Here?

Ionic Lodge No. 549 W. Bro. Martin Bate



W. M. of Ionic Lodge, W. Bro. Martin Bate,

Born in England, Martin Bate emigrated to Canada at the age of nine, along with his parents. Martin was raised in Alberta but lived all over Canada, coming to Hamilton with his wife, Sue, and son, Liam, in 2005. He has a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Sciences, and is an avid sailor.

Martin's view on masonry: In our current world of superficial nano-second relationships, Freemasonry gives men an opportunity to have meaningful relationships with each other and to affect the world in a positive sense. To me, Masonry is incredibly grounding, a perspective adjuster, a battery recharger and a refuge from the shallowness and superficial nature of modern life. It's "facetime" not "Facebook".

Next month – Landmarks/Doric No. 654



The best things in life are unseen; that is why we close our eyes when we kiss, laugh and dream.
- Author unknown

District C Installations

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Buchanan Lodge No. 550 Hillcrest
Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Lodge Tyled - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

The Electric Lodge No. 495 MCH
Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Lodge Tyled - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 27, 2013

Wardrobe Lodge No. 555 MCH
Lodge Tyled - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Landmarks/Doric No. 654 MCH
Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Lodge Tyled - 7:30 p.m.

A Young Mason's Journey

to find, the making of a good man, better.

PART I

by Brother Mark Kapitan, F.C.F.
Ivy Lodge No. 115, A.F. & A.M. G.R.C.

This talk was delivered at Rideau Lodge No. 460, Seeleys Bay, July 5, 2012.

The journey starts for many of us, with the initial contact of someone who will probably be our sponsor. We sit down with a person, whom we have never met before, or may not know very well, and ask questions in order to decide whether a Masonic journey is for us. This is probably one of the most important decisions many of us have to make at this time, do I join, or not, remembering that our choice will be based on an enormous amount, of limited information. I recall sitting with my sponsor for three hours, who, during this time, did a very good job of answering all my questions, and quite frankly, telling me absolutely nothing. But, the one comment he did make that tweaked my interest, was that "Freemasonry takes a good man and makes him better". Personally, I know as men, we have no problem re-assuring ourselves, that yes, "I" am a good man; however, as many of us can attest, it is not uncommon for our better halves to remind us, there is always room for improvement. Upon hearing this oh-so-wise reminder in my head, it became one of my reasons, to fill out an application, and join Freemasonry.

After a successful Examination, a report is given and we are balloted on. A letter follows from the Lodge, and if positive, your date of Initiation is chosen. You now ask.. What will be next? Well, the journey continues with the big night, nerves are on high alert, and one questions oneself, "what am I doing here"? Everyone is so friendly, smiling at you, shaking your hand, one could assume the best, or the worst, is about to happen. It is at this time; at least it was for me, that the nerves got a kick in the stomach. One of those new friendly faces informs me that I am going to have to change out of this nice suit I have on, and into an interesting pair, of what is best described, as pyjamas, and even further, that I will be blind folded for a short period of time. As the meeting starts and you are not yet part of it... I am sure some of us have wondered if it would not be wise to change our minds, and leave. After all, I was sure I could get down the stairs and out the door, before the Tyler, who distracted with returning his knocks, could have gotten to his sword. Finally, some of the Brethren come out, one asks some questions, making references to an ancient penalty, which you are not to worry about of course, and this again sends the mind off wondering, what have I gotten myself into? Then that point of no return occurs, you pay the requested monies, and another Brother, with what appears to be a spear, is there to make sure you are properly prepared.

It's now time! You are walked around a room blindfolded, listening to every word, from all directions, trying to remember, how many did I see come in, are they behind me, in front of

me, what's happening, what will be next? Your head is bursting with so many questions. You repeat something, seal it, and then, the blind-fold is off. You are moved here and there; different brethren are coming up to you and overwhelming you with parts of the ritual.

Finally, at last, it's done. The Master comes down to the level, congratulates you, which is followed by a round of applause from all those in attendance, and then asks the big question, "Do you have anything you would like to say?" Wow, what a question! Let's see, I've come here dressed up in a suit, paid you a few hundred dollars, was paraded around, initially blind-folded, in front of several men I have never met before, been overwhelmed with some of these strangers speaking to me individually, have been asked to change back to my suit, only to come back in and be overwhelmed again, the whole time not understanding half of what is said to me, and YOU are wondering if I would have anything to say? Of course I do, what just happened? And, ultimately, how will this make me, a better man?

Many of us continue on our journey to be Passed and Raised to the degree of a Master Mason, proving each of our degrees in front of the members of our lodge, or depending on the evening, perhaps a few more than normal. I have often made this statement with regards to the Degrees: The First, is the one that just happens. I feel that this is the Degree that binds us as brethren, for here, we all experience the same thing, with pretty much the same results, nervousness and confusion. The Second, is the one you do for yourself, we practice and learn, wanting to do it well; and finally, the Third, this is the one we will never forget.

After this point, when one has been raised, it might be difficult for the Mason to see, just how does Masonry, take me, a good man, and make me, better? And it is here that I began my quest for an answer. From what I thought I could see, my memory was improving through practicing of the Ritual for my degrees, was I on my way to becoming a better man? I was quickly reminded by my lady who was still asking me "did I forget" ... it was garbage day, or, that we were going to her mother's tonight. Improved memory??? I guess she would tell you, I was still suffering from that well known man's disease called, selective hearing or listening.

After proving our third, some of us believe we are ready to assume the role of an Officer and most actually do, to the delight of the many recycled Past Masters, however, for many of us, it is difficult to get up and speak in front of others, myself included. I presumed the proving of degrees, would help prepare for the journey through the chairs, allowing us the opportunity to somewhat feel comfortable, speaking in front of others, at least in our own Lodge. Interests are peaked during this time, yet I feel often, are not tapped. For many of us, we want to be more involved, but being new, don't know how to, are afraid to ask, are simply just assigned ritual, or, allowing us the opportunity to somewhat feel comfortable, speaking in front of others, at least in our own Lodge. Interests are peaked during this time, yet I feel often, are not tapped. For many of

us, we want to be more involved, but being new, don't know how to, are afraid to ask, are simply just assigned ritual, or, may have been deterred with that famous phrase, "Because that's the way it's always been".

Looking at my own Masonic journey thus far, you can imagine that I have heard those words on more than just a few occasions. Another of my favourite phrases is, "wait until you have sat in the East"..... I see! It would be preferred that we rock the boat when we are all a little older, and a lot less stable on our feet. In all fairness though, these two statements are both very viable comments to many. The first shows that we, as a fraternity, have stayed true in the longevity of our institution, and the second would reference obviously, experience and education. Is this how a good man is made better, longevity, experience and education?

I was hoping this wasn't the full answer, as some things are in fact being done differently and are not the way they were. To start with, many older brethren have often told me that when they joined the Craft, one would have to wait possibly several years just to get in the Junior Steward's chair. This would mean that many men would have been ten-plus years a Mason, before they became the Master of the Lodge. During these times, although some Lodges were doing plenty of degrees, many still found the time to do some form of Masonic Education, and turn outs were good. The time spent waiting to get in the officer line up, combined with the journey itself of ten plus years, would provide one the experience and education needed to make the second statement true, "Wait till you have sat in the East". One could also add that with reference of the charge "to make a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge", many of the older Brethren, in fact, did.

This charge, was it put forth to encourage oneself to go out, find it, to take the initiative, seek knowledge through education, and then, put it in place? We all know this is not always an easy task, as for many of us; we need to see what is missing, in order to desire it, or know it is in fact missing. Was this charge to encourage one to find what makes a good man, better?

In today's time of hustle and bustle, we find in many Lodges there are few new members joining, or there is a lack of attendance, which is forcing many Past Masters to do the officer line up, in various rolls, several times. In order to resolve the pressure on the P.M.s, we find many Masters are being made in a considerably shorter time, in many instances; it is five years or less, leaving us with these questions: are these brethren good with the ritual? Are they good men? Are they good examples of Masons worthy to project a public image of the Craft? Of course they are!

PART II - next month



Picnic Committee Needs Your Help!

A Three-District Picnic Organizational Meeting will be held at
9575 White Church Road, Mount Hope,
(off Upper James) on **Sunday, May 12 at 1 p.m.**

for the purpose of preparing for the Hamilton Districts BBQ.

Each Lodge is requested to send at least one member to this meeting.

If a Lodge is interested but is unable to attend the meeting, please advise me of your Lodge name and intention to tardis_01@hotmail.com or 905-679-5611.

This is a great event for all members and their families and also a chance to showcase to new or prospective Masons what we do in Lodge.

W. Bro. Edward Patterson

Proverbs for Contemplation:

A good example is like a bell that calls many to church.
– Danish proverb

Don't see all you see, and don't hear all you hear.
– Irish proverb

Use your wit as a shield, not as a dagger.
– American proverb

Mistrust is an ax at the tree of love.
– Russian proverb

Blood Donors Committee Report

Hamilton Masonic District C

The month of March marked the end of our fiscal year with the Canadian Blood Services (CBS). **Twenty-two clinics** were sponsored by the District this year with the participation of **ten Lodges**. The total number of units of blood credited to our district is **1,170**. Many thanks go to all the volunteers, and to all the Lodges and individuals who contributed monetarily.



This year the District Blood Donors Committee was very fortunate in receiving extra financial assistance from two Lodges in the District which sponsored more than one clinic each. Three clinics were held during the month of March; starting with Paramount, on March 8, where 66 units of blood were collected, the hospitality station at Paramount is manned on permanent basis by Meridian Lodge No. 687. US Steel, on March 14, with 35 units collected (half a day only), the hospitality station was manned by district volunteers, and on March 25, at the Hamilton Convention Centre with 65 units collected, the hospitality station at this monthly clinic is permanently manned by Buchanan Lodge No. 550.

Two separate clinics were held during the month of April. The first clinic was at MUMC on April 19th, 2013. This clinic was sponsored by Seymour Lodge No. 272. The hospitality station at this clinic was manned by members of Meridian Lodge No 687. Forty two units of blood were collected at this clinic between 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The second clinic was held at the Hamilton Convention Centre on April 26th, 2013. This clinic was sponsored by a personal contribution from a member of Meridian Lodge. The hospitality station at this clinic was manned by Brethren from Buchanan Lodge No. 550, who have taking the responsibility of manning this clinic every month from now on.

Our first clinic for the 2013-2014 year will be held **May 31, 2013 at the US Steel Plant**. This clinic is sponsored by Meridian Lodge No. 687. The hospitality station at this clinic will be manned by the brethren from Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602. The District Committee is looking for a Lodge or Lodges which will take over the hospitality station at the US Steel Plant on a permanent basis. Meantime, volunteers for this clinic are still needed. Please, contact Eduardo Cordero at 905-548-5111 or at 905-730-9850.

Between April, 2012 and March 2013, Hamilton Masonic District C sponsored twenty two clinics (22) for the Canadian Blood Services. Eleven hundred and seventy one (1171) units of blood were collected at these clinics. . Nine Lodges (9) and one (1) individual contributed financially this year. Eleven hundred and fifty dollars (\$1150.00) were donated to the Canadian Blood Services.

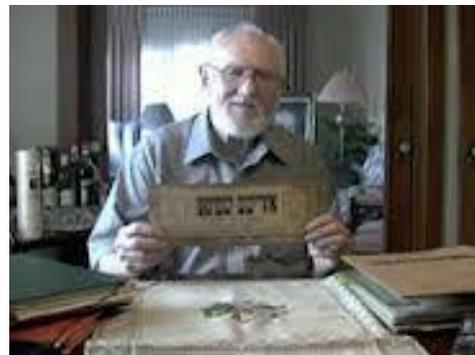


Volunteers Joe Murdoch (red vest on left) and **Ken Wallace** (red vest on right) from **Buchanan Lodge No. 550** assisted donors at the hospitality station at the Hamilton Convention Centre Clinic on March 25, 2013.

The Blood Donors Committee thanks all the Lodges and volunteers for their support this year. Our assistance to the CBS is greatly appreciated. We have become a strong and much needed partner in their continuous work of collecting blood for the hospitals and clinics in our community. We are thankful for the opportunity to assist.

R. W. Bro. Eduardo Cordero

Bro. Morley Balinson, of The Electric Lodge No. 495, Awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal



The brethren of **The Electric Lodge No. 495** congratulated **Bro. Morley Balinson**, who was recently presented with the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal**. Bro. Balinson is an Armed Forces veteran and is currently the oldest member of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. He also served in the RCMP and as a member of the Commissionaires Canada.

The **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal** is a commemorative medal created in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II. It is awarded to citizens for outstanding service to their community.



Around The District

Dufferin Lodge No. 291



W. M., W. Bro. Devin Tuinstra and the Officers of Dufferin Lodge No. 291, along with W. Bro. Martin Bate, W. M. and members of the accompanying Ionic Lodge, No. 549, and the candidate, Bro. Serge Avdeyev, posed for this memento of the Official Visit of the District C D.D.G.M., R. W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson, on April 18, 2013.

Wardrobe Lodge No. 555



Father, Louie Christoff, and sons, Philip and Greg, along with cousin, Mike Koshuta, are all Brothers now as of March 25, 2013 when both Phillip and Louie were raised to the Third Degree.

Centennial Daylight Lodge No. 679



This is the last gathering of the members of Centennial Daylight Lodge, along with visiting members of Ionic Lodge No. 549, their wives, and representatives of the Alzheimer's Society of Halton and Hamilton. The brethren of Centennial Daylight Lodge donated their remaining assets following going dark to the Alzheimer's Society.

Westmount Lodge No. 671



A large number of Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers joined the officers and members of Westmount Lodge to celebrate the Home-Coming of Hamilton Masonic District C's D.D.G.M., R. W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson. In the front row are R. W. Bro. John Johnston, I.P.D.D.G.M.; V. W. Bro. Martin Tees, G.S.; R. W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson, D.D.G.M.; W. Bro. Jeff Heimple, W. M. of Westmount Lodge; R. W. Bro. Lindsay Reiach, D.D.G.M., Hamilton District B; V. W. Bro. John McCullough, P. G. S.; V. W. Bro. Michael Martin G. S., Hamilton District B; and R.W. Bro. Allan Quanton, D.D.G.M., Hamilton District A.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 11, 2013

District C Spring Meeting

10:00 a.m.
Hillcrest Temple

Friday May 31, 2013

Annual Meeting

Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

Presentation of Candidates for Grand Lodge Offices
Masonic Centre Hamilton

Meet and Greet 5:15 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Cost for dinner \$15.00.
Meeting to begin at 7:30 pm.
Dress: Business Suit

This is a great opportunity to "Meet the Candidates" for Grand Lodge Offices.

Open to All Past Masters, Masters and Wardens

Please contact Tom Young to reserve your dinner at thomas.young@shaw.ca or 905-318-0182 by Friday, May 24, 2013.

Saturday, June 8, 2013

8th Annual Valley Lodge

Golf Tournament and Charity Auction

Registration- 10:00 a.m. First Tee - 10:30 a.m.
Cocktails - 4:00 p.m. Dinner - 5:30 p.m.

Copetown Woods Golf Club 1430 Concession 2 West
Copetown, Ontario (905) 627-4653

\$150 per player incl. cart and dinner or \$55 p.p. dinner only
Contact: Bill Paul @ (905) 719-6464 or bill_paul@dart.biz
Cheques payable to Valley Lodge No. 100 by June 1.

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Three District Picnic

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Serbian Centre, Binbrook

Hosted by Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Contact W. Bro. Edward Patterson for information or to help organize the event at tardis_01@hotmail.com

Monday, June 24, 2013

Hanover Masonic Lodge

50th Annual Steak Fry

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Lodge: 7:30 p.m. No degree work

Please bring your own plate and cutlery.

Dress -Regalia + Business Suit.

If you are planning on attending, please contact

Garry MacGregor, 735 21st Avenue, Hanover, ON N4N 3E1;
519-364-2756 or Email - gmacgregor@wightman.ca

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

MASONIC BEEF & CORN ROAST



Ancaster Agriculture Society Fairgrounds
630 Trinity Road
(Corner of No. 2 Hwy and Trinity Road)

OPEN: 4:30 p.m. CORN: 5:00 p.m.
DINNER: 6:00 p.m.

ADULT TICKET - \$15.00 (12 Years and Over)
CHILDREN'S TICKET - \$5.00 (Less Than 12 Years)

FAMILY & FRIENDS ARE ALL WELCOME
SEE YOUR LODGE "HUSKER" REPRESENTATIVE
FOR TICKETS or Email beefcornroast@quickclick.net
No Tickets Sold at the Door.

Interesting Websites

Visit the District Website for lots more information at:
<http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>

For the latest issue of the **Education Monthly**, go to the Grand Lodge Web Site at www.grandlodge.on.ca/ then to: Member Area >> Membership >> Masonic Education >> **Education Monthly** Note: All the previous issues of this publication are available for viewing/download in the 2011 and 2012 folders under this heading.

For the latest issue of **Protocol & Etiquette** (and for previous issues) go to the Grand Lodge website (as above) then to: Member Area>>Communications>>Grand Lodge Newsletters >>Protocol & Etiquette

Here is a beautiful musical rendition that you may wish to share with your friends - The Masonic Ring, written and performed by Bro. Howie Damron
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oFeKJKoaKc>



The District 'C'hronicle Team

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