

District 'C'ronicle



August 2013

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 60

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Meet Our New District Deputy Grand Master **R. W. Bro. Geoffrey Spence Allan**



R. W. Bro. Geoffrey S. Allan is congratulated by our new G. M., M. W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell.

He is also an affiliated member of Valley Lodge No. 100 and Superior Lodge No. 672 in the Algoma District. Geoffrey has served The Electric Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1997, 2004, and consecutive years of 2009 and 2010, during their 100th Anniversary.

Geoffrey was born and resided in the Hamilton area for the first eighteen years of his life. Geoffrey is now fifty-four years old and resides in Oakville, with Christina, his lovely wife of twenty-three years. Although he lives in Oakville, Geoffrey is a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Hamilton. Geoffrey is self-employed as an Employee Benefits Consultant, and has been so for the past 25 years.

Geoffrey was initiated into The Electric Lodge No. 495 in 1988 and recently celebrated 25 years a mason this past March.

Geoff's leisure activities extend to photography, motorcycles, downhill skiing, woodworking and theatre. He has a sincere passion and love for the Theatre and has worked with numerous theatre Groups as an Actor, Stage Manager, Lighting Designer and Producer. He is grateful for the acting and theatre experience as he feels it brings a unique perspective to the understanding, delivery and presentation of our Masonic ritual.

At the request of R. W. Bro. Peter C. Mouriopoulos, our D.D.G.M. in 1998, Geoffrey became involved in the affairs of Hamilton C District by pioneering and designing our first District website. He went on to serve as the Hamilton C District Webmaster for the next 10 years. The development of the website from its humble beginnings to its present form has become an extremely valuable communication tool for all brethren. He was also responsible for designing and implementing the first website for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Geoffrey is a member of St. John's Chapter RAM No. 6, where he served as First Principal for two consecutive years from 2001 to 2003. He currently serves St. John's Chapter as Scribe E (Secretary) and has done so since 2009. This past April, he was appointed as a Grand Steward of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario for serving as the District Secretary to R. Ex. Comp. George B. Fairbairn. Geoffrey is also a member of the Royal and Select Masters as a Super Excellent Master in Adoniram Council No. 2.

As a credit to his Scottish heritage, Geoffrey has been involved with The Electric Lodge's 'Robbie Burns Night' every January, since its inception 15 years ago. Over the years, this event has been used as a Fundraiser for the Lodge in which over \$43,000.00 has been donated to the Women's Shelter, Martha House. Geoffrey has presented the "Address to a Haggis" each and every year.

Geoffrey is very much looking forward to working with the brethren of Hamilton District C.

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.

**2013 Elections and Appointments
At The Annual Communication
Of Grand Lodge**

Grand Master
Donald A. Campbell

Deputy Grand Master
John C. Green

Grand Senior Warden
Dale Graham

Grand Junior Warden
Walter Drane

Grand Registrar
Jacques Lacourse

The Board of General Purposes

Honorary	Elected	Appointed
F. Halpern	G. Crutcher	D. Armstrong
D. Jacklin	W. Atkinson	D. Cameron
R. Kliaman	C. Woods	R. Findlater
N. McCarthy	S. Drummond	C. Heap
D. Nichols	I. Wates	P. McConnell
E. Standish	G. Taylor	P. Todd
J. Sutherland	C. Reid	S. Warren
		L. Muss (1yr.)
		P. Skazin (1 yr.)

**Congratulations are also extended to
brethren from Hamilton District C for their
appointments and awards:**

Grand Steward
Dave Midgley
Westmount Lodge No. 671

Grand Piper
John Terence
Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Silver Award Winner - District Websites
Devin Tuinstra - Webmaster, District C

“The Secrets and Mysteries of the Order”

There exists a pervasive notion in the public perception, fuelled by subversive conspiracy theorists and malicious mischief makers that Freemasonry is a ‘secret society’ that performs bizarre rites behind closed doors. Nothing excites the imagination of the lunatic fringe more than something that is ‘secret.’ It cannot be denied that at certain times in the past and under certain circumstances, – for example during the Second World War in Hitler’s Nazi Germany – it was necessary for Freemasons to go underground. There are still areas where it is necessary to conceal one’s membership in a Masonic lodge. However, in North America and the free world, members openly display the Square and Compasses indicating their pride in being a member of the fraternity by wearing a ring, lapel pin, or placing an emblem on their vehicle. In Ontario, we have an authorized license plate available with the Square and Compasses superimposed on the red Maple Leaf. Meeting places are identified by signs and listed in local telephone directories. Open houses are held when the public is invited to visit our meeting rooms. If all that makes us a ‘secret society’ we are not very good at keeping secrets!

To dispel this widespread notion, it has been suggested by some apologists that, while not a ‘secret society,’ Freemasonry is a ‘society with secrets.’ This subtle semantic subterfuge does little to persuade or convince anyone. Yes, we must readily admit that in Freemasonry there are certain matters that are shared with the members only, just as there are certain matters that are kept private and confidential in any family, organization, or government agency. It would be better to say that we are a ‘private society’ – a fraternity open to all sincere men seeking to become better men.

So why all the fuss and bother about ‘secret handshakes?’ We have retained the traditional modes of recognition used by our ancient, operative brethren to identify themselves and their level of training, skill and ability in the days before trade school diplomas, union cards, or professional licenses. These are among those ‘private’ matters that are shared only among members because they can only be understood and appreciated by fellow members.

When a man joins our fraternity, he is admitted to “the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry.” He is told that “it possesses great and invaluable privileges.” Membership in the oldest and largest fraternity in the world is rightly considered a privilege. But what are the mysteries we promise? These are best understood as the allegories and symbols used to convey the ideas and ideals embodied in the rites and ceremonies of Freemasonry. As they are freely shared with all initiates, they cannot be considered secrets as such. We read in the Sacred Writings, “It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. ... because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.”¹

What is a Mason?

Presented at Landmarks/Doric No. 654
Regular Meeting – May 28, 2013

During the transition from operative to speculative, we adopted and adapted many of the forms and characteristics of the medieval stonemasons' guilds. The form of our degrees evolved from the morality plays that were a feature of the period. Taking the word from the Biblical phrase, "Behold, I tell you a mystery" these plays were known as mysteries, and are the origin of modern theatrical drama.

Bro. Albert Pike provides us with this definitive insight: "The mysteries, of which Masonry is the legitimate successor – from the earliest times the custodian and repository of the great philosophical and religious truths, unknown to the world at large, and handed down from age to age by an unbroken current of tradition, embodied in symbols, emblems, and allegories." ² Simply stated, it lays the world of human knowledge and the accumulated wisdom of the ages open at one's feet.

There is, however, a genuine secret in Freemasonry. It is a real secret because it can never be expressed in words but must be experienced to be comprehended, understood and appreciated. It is the sincere bond of fraternal affection that exists between Freemasons around the world. It is known as 'the Mystic Tie' that binds us in the oldest and largest fraternity of the great Universal Brotherhood of Man.

The Ancient Charges of a Freemason declare: "Masonry is the centre of union between good men and true, and the happy means of conciliating friendship amongst those who must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance." That is the great secret we share, first among our ancient privileges and mysteries.

For what we have received, we ought to be truly thankful.

Raymond S. Daniels, P.G.M.

¹ Matthew 11: vv. 11, 13.

² Albert Pike (1809-1891) **Morals and Dogma**. p. 210

Who's In Charge Here?

Publishing Schedule for W. M. Profiles - 2013 - 2014.

Photo with collar and 250 - 300 word bio to be submitted to the Editors (via e-mail) by the 15th day of the month prior to the date of publication.

Issue Date	Lodge	Profile due - 15 th
September 2013	Valley No. 100 & Wardrope No. 555	August
October	Temple No. 324	September
November	The Electric Lodge No. 495	October
December	Dufferin No. 291	November
January 2014	Buchanan No. 550 & Corinthian No. 513	December
February	Westmount No. 671	January
March	Hugh Murray No. 602	February
April	Seymour No. 272	March
May	Ionic No. 549	April
June	Landmarks/Doric No. 654	May
July	Meridian No. 687	June

When I first started my journey towards becoming a Mason, I had asked many individuals, both Masons and Non-Masons' alike, "What it is to be a Mason? What do they represent? What do they do? and What are they about?" Other than the customary answer from some Masons, which I will provide in a minute, I really did not get a straight-forward answer. I found this puzzling, especially for a fraternity that has been around, and claims to be around, for such a long time. Being the perfectionist that I am, this not only bothered me, but challenged my quest for learning more.

Rather than give up, I then proceeded to read numerous books on the topic, attended seminars, asked more varied questions from more people, researched it on the web and to be honest, this just really added to the confusion. Some saw Masons as noble and charitable; some saw them as instigators; some saw them as pagans (I have a best friend who actually stated this was a group of devil worshippers); and some saw them as God-fearing and working towards the improvement of mankind. Then I read about the conspiracies (my favourite conspiracy I have to admit so far has been how Jack the Ripper had Masonic ties), I read about the new world order, the power and control held by the Masons. I can go on and on but at the end of it the one truth I did find was that there was no clear response to be given or any clear and concise truth to be found on the matter.

This led me to conclude, in my mind at least, that this was not due to the fact that we are indeed one of the oldest Fraternities still in existence; this was not due to the fact that much of our history is actually fragmented due to this longevity; that much of our documented history has been lost over the years; and this was not due to the fact that many members have been in the power elite (hence the reason we have had so many articles about conspiracies aimed towards us). The simple truth, in my opinion, which is sometimes the hardest to believe, is simply no one can really answer this question. That this requires an intensely individualistic response and dependant on each person and what they hope to get out of the Fraternity. Hence the reason why the standard response by most Masons' follows some version of the following (and I quote):

"As the oldest fraternity of men, Freemasonry provides an opportunity for men to meet and enjoy friendly companionship. In the spirit of helpfulness and brotherly love and guided by strict moral principles, it encourages goodwill toward all mankind. Its rituals dramatize a philosophy of life based on morality. It promotes self-improvement. The tools of operative masons are used to symbolize and teach the basic principles of brotherly love, charity, and truth which Masons are encouraged to practice in their daily lives. Charity is a tangible way in which Masons help those whose circumstances in life fairly warrant it."

To answer anything differently would be hard for most. Since just as in life, we are still in the process of living and learning what it is to be a Mason and as life, can we truly answer or provide a definitive description of what it is about. The above statement is a great place to start to define what Masons' are about; but when I was reading a recent Masonic newsletter I came across a statement that I felt really summed up my forming thoughts as to what Masonry is to me.

*Masonry is a journey, not a destination.
Some days we pedal up the hills; others we coast down.
Make sure we are going in the right direction.
Focus on progress, rather than perfection.*

So, if a Mason were to ask me today what Freemasonry is about, my answer would simply be;

“This is your path of discovery and you will get out of it as much as you put in.”

As long as you always strive to do your best, are not afraid to love, and help others as best you can and are honest in this world, you will always be honourable. So does it really matter what others think or believe. To quote U.S. Senator and Freemason Barry Goldwater;

“History has to judge every man who served. I don't know how they are going to treat me. I may be the worst S.O.B. that ever came down the pipe. But I won't lose any sleep over it. I just like to be remembered as an honest person who tried.”

Than it dawned on me, I had my eureka moment, that during all this time while researching what it is to be a Mason that I have been doing exactly what it is to be a Mason for myself. That is specifically to meet others (mentors and peers' alike), to help where I can, to learn, to grow, to ask questions, to challenge the status quo and to do my best to be an honest (hard-working) person – to progress in my Masonic studies and to be ready when properly called upon; to not worry about what others have to say about me but to focus on and do what is right regardless of the cost and where it may lead; having faith and protecting those who need it, without due regard to credit or acknowledgement. Since God (the All-Seeing Eye) is the only true judge of my actions and worth in this life.

In my initial quest of learning more about Masons, I actually learnt that I was indeed on the road to discovery as to what an Ideal Mason is. That the journey has indeed unknowingly started and that the road is ahead of me and that the direction it takes is dependent on my actions and virtues; that this road is the journey in my life (not any other) and that the destination of what my life meant and what an Ideal Mason is has not been reached yet.

So if I come across a Non-Mason today, how would I answer the original question I asked? How do I tell them what a Mason is? As long as I am alive on earth I am still actually driving along this journey and my destination has yet to be reached. So how would I be the authority of a destination not yet achieved? Do I explain what I have learnt so far? Do I provide my definition of what a Mason is? Do I explain that a Mason is truly what you make of it? Do I define what it

means to me so far, do I tell the story of my life so far and where I believe it is going?

The answer is clear – I do not answer the question. My response will be the following, since I will truly not have the answer for that person since I can only speak for myself. Speaking from my perspective would not answer any question they may truly have about their journey. So I will respond with this well-written and meaningful statement that I have heard so many times as I started my journey.

As the oldest fraternity of men, Freemasonry provides an opportunity for men to meet and enjoy friendly companionship. In the spirit of helpfulness and brotherly love and guided by strict moral principles it encourages goodwill toward all mankind. Its rituals dramatize a philosophy of life based on morality. It promotes self-improvement. The tools of operative masons are used to symbolize and teach the basic principles of brotherly love, charity, and truth which Masons are encouraged to practice in their daily lives. Charity is a tangible way in which Masons help those whose circumstances in life fairly warrant it.

Thank you for letting me share part of my journey thus far as a Mason and for being participants in it.

May god shine his divine light on us all and keep each of our journeys through life full of wonder, amazement and glory.

Bro. Nicholas D. Xenos

CRAFT ASSOCIATION OF HAMILTON MASONIC DISTRICTS

President:	W. Bro. Robert Blundell	289-389-2515
Vice-President:	V. W. Bro. Tim Corrin	905-548-9523
Treasurer:	W. Bro. Hal Hobbs	905-572-5417
Secretary:	W. Bro. Raymond Corrin	905-545-6935

Seminars:

Topic: Freemasonry, Too Common?
Tuesday, October 29, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. MCH
Presenter: W. Bro. Kevin Bagioie
Sponsor: St. Andrew's Lodge 593

Topic: Long Range Planning
Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – 7:30 p.m. Caledonia
Presenter: R. W. Bro. Lindsay Reiach
Sponsor: St Andrew's Lodge 62

D. D. G. M.s' Reception and Banquet
Saturday, March 1, 2014 MCH
Reception at 6 p.m. - Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

District Charity Final Report

On July 10, on behalf of Hamilton District C, D. D. G. M. R. W. Bro. Wayne Robinson and District Charity Chairman, R. W. Bro. John MacPherson, presented a final cheque to representatives of the Salvation Army Community and Family Services. Also present for the happy occasion were District Photographer, V. W. Bro. John Lyness and District Secretary, W. Bro. Dave Midgley.



Attending the presentation ceremony were (from left to right): V. W. Bro. John Lyness, Mr. Dan Millar (Director), W. Bro. Dave Midgley, R. W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson, Major Brad Donais (Executive Director) and R. W. Bro. John MacPherson.

The District Charity for 2012 - 2013 has been a huge success and my thanks to **R. W. Bro. Wayne Robinson** for his vision and decision to support this most worthy cause.

Through out the year, I have heard so many positive comments from our brethren about how the Salvation Army had helped their families or members of their family during times of distress. Now what a great opportunity to give back to their organization this drive has provided.

In total, through the support and contributions from the brethren of Hamilton District C and their families you have donated **as a package** to the Salvation Army Community and Family Services **\$27,704.35**

This has been a tremendous response to assist the needy in our community. Not only has this project supported those in need financially, it has also shown **Masonry in its true Light** as an organization supporting and giving freely to our community.

Finally; I received an email from **Major William King, the Executive Director of the Hamilton Salvation Army Community and Family Services** and the final sentence read;

“It is because of people like yourselves that helps to make the world a better place.”

R. W. Bro. John MacPherson
Chairman

Upcoming Events

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 and Friends Are All Welcome
See Your Lodge "Husker" Representative For Tickets
or Email beefcornroast@quickclie.net
No Tickets Sold at the Door.

Saturday, September 7, 2013

District C Fall Meeting

10:00 a. m.

Dundas Temple, 3 Main St. E., Dundas

Saturday, November 9, 2013

London Masonic Conference

Dufferin Masonic Hall
453 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario

Come out and enjoy a variety of distinguished and accomplished speakers, including our Keynote – **Brother 2nd Lieutenant Joseph F. Curry**, Member of **Beaches Lodge No. 473**, Toronto, and **Canada Lodge (U.D.) Kandahar, Afganistan**, Author of **The Rifle and The Apron** and **The Craft At Work In Kandahar**.

Tickets are \$25 and are available to Masons and guests. For tickets or further information, contact

Randy Hearn
66 Stephen Moore Drive
R. R. # 5, Komoka, Ontario N0L 1R0

Please make cheques payable to:
London West Masonic Event

Around The District

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 Sponsored The Three District Picnic at Binbrook Park.



This group of participants seemed to have enjoyed the day.



Brethren and their families relaxed in the shade.



Furry- and feathered-friends joined in on the fun!



Some young participants found the day just too darn tiring.

Interesting Websites

Visit the **District Website** for lots more information at:
www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org.

The Sankey Lecture Series in Masonic Studies - to hear and see the latest in the series of lectures by Dr. Joy Porter, the University of Hull, Hull, U.K. on "Native American Freemasonry: Joseph Brant to the 21st Century", go to sankeylectures.ca.

For something you may not have seen or heard about before, here is the interesting result of good international relations. First take a look at www.peacegarden.com and then go to <http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2010/06/freemasons-and-international-peace.html>. Our brethren from out West have produced something of which they can be justly proud.

To learn more about the events and displays at the museum in Uxbridge, go to www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com.

Explore the Grand Lodge Website For Some Great Ideas To Rejuvenate Yourself and Your Lodge!

Members of Grand Lodge have gone to a great deal of effort and work trying to develop and present stimulating materials for the use and benefit of the brethren across Ontario.

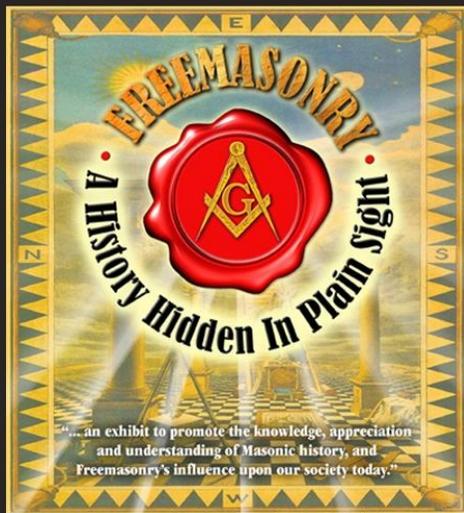
In the Grand Lodge website, under the banner of **Craft Stewardship**, you will find the heading, **Lodge Resources**. In this section, you will find B2B (Brother to Brother), Cornerstone, F2F (Friend to Friend), Mentors and Officer Progression.

Take a look at each of these areas, if you are looking for some good ideas to rejuvenate your masonic life, both for you personally and for your Lodge. You will be glad you did.

The latest and most recent development in the website is the initiation of the My Grand Lodge section of the Members part of the website. For instant communication with your brethren, this is the place. Different subsections include My Profile, My Friends, My Memberships, My Photos, My Videos, and My Events, each subsection having more choices. It is really neat!



New at Uxbridge Historical Centre!



June 8-Sept. 29, 2013

Wed to Sunday and Holidays (10am-4pm)
Regular Admission Rates Apply.

Thank you to Uxbridge's Zeradatha Lodge, Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society,
and the Uxbridge Rotary Club for helping to finance this unique exhibit.



www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com
(905) 852-5854

7239 Concession 6, Uxbridge



The District 'C'hronicle Team

Editor: W. Bro. Harley Auty
Associate Ed.: R. W. Bro. Bill MacPherson
Webmaster: Bro. Bill Paul
District Photos: V. W. Bro. John Lyness

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

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

– The 'C'hronicle Editorial Staff

*As you are relaxing over the summer, remember these
immortal words from a Brother Mason.....*

*Wine is proof that God loves us and
loves to see us happy.*

– Benjamin Franklin

**People who think they know everything are
a great annoyance to those of us who do.**

– Isaac Asimov