

Dear Brethren,

Enclosed please find the *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*, Volume Eighteen, Issue 07 (Whole Number 182), Saturday, 01 March 2025.

This issue contains 135 pages.

The monthly calendar in *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter allows the Brethren to see, at a glance, the work being done in the District for that month. Thus, if you're interested in attending a particular Degree, look at page 06 to see where one is being conducted in the District.

Each month also provides an inspirational message from the D.D.G.M. as well as the monthly D.D.G.M. Communiqué from the Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master.

Definitions of Masonic terms are also included in each issue along with various aphoristic * "Masonic Points to Ponder", designed to be used for that short piece of Masonic Education that should be a part of every Lodge meeting, a longer piece of Masonic Education, excerpts from Mackey's Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and excerpts from Grand Lodge's publication by R.W. Bro. Wallace E. McLeod, Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario: 1764 - 1980.

Please don't hesitate to forward it on to anyone who might find its contents of interest. I would be very pleased to include the e-mail addresses of the Brethren in your Lodge in my distribution list if sent to me. By the same token, send me an e-mail if you would not like to receive further issues of *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter and your name will be immediately removed from its circulation list.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

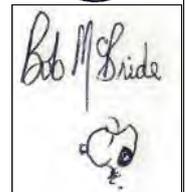
R.W. Bro. Bob McBride

[* An aphoristic style means a compact, condensed or epigrammatic { a concise, clever, and sometimes paradoxical statement or line of verse } style of writing.]



R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]

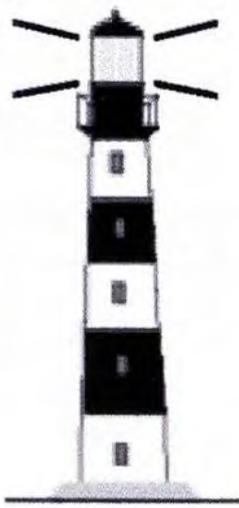
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master, 2007 - 2008
- Editor of the monthly electronic *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* 2007 - 2025
- Peterborough District Historian, 2001 - 2025
- Peterborough District Communications Chairman, 2002 - 2021
- Past Master, Keene Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 374 G.R.C., January 2002 - May 2004, May 2022 - April 2024
- Past Master, William James Dunlop Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 675 G.R.C., 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019
- Director, The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, 2009 - 2015
- Former Editor of the quarterly 60-page *Reflections: The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education*, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Member: July 2006 - July 2008, Editor: July 2008 - July 2010, Advisor: July 2010 - July 2011
- Past Editor of *The Ontario Mason Magazine*, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Member: July 2003 - July 2007, Assistant Editor: July 2008 - July 2010, Editor July 2010 - July 2011



Because I Am A Freemason

· I believe that freedom of religion is an inalienable right and tolerance an indispensable trait of human character; therefore, I will stand in my Lodge with Brothers of all faiths and respect their beliefs as they respect mine, and I will demonstrate the spirit of brotherhood in all aspects of my life.





The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!

Teamwork
Encourages
Active
Masons

Recipient of the Grand Lodge Award of Merit: 2012
Grand Lodge Award for the Best District Newsletter: 2009

Begun in September 1995 as the *Peterborough District Masonic Newsletter*
with two hard-copy issues per year.
Editors: 1995 - 1998: R.W. Bro. Frank E. Lucas
1998 - 2001: V.W. Bro. Thomas J. King
2001 - present: R.W. Bro. Robert C. McBride
Recipient of the Grand Lodge Award: 2002, 2003, Award of Merit: 2004, 2005, 2006
Became the *Peterborough District's Electronic Beacon* in July 2007.



Volume Eighteen, Issue 07

Whole Number 182

Saturday, 01 March 2025

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R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini,
District Deputy Grand Master

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bharatmaini2024@gmail.com



W. Bro. William Lorne Mitchell,
District Secretary

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ptbodistrictsecretary2024@gmail.com

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario
Peterborough District

February 23, 2025

Dear Brethren,

Time is flying. Spring is around the corner. I do hope all of you have had a good winter so far and that the snow has not slowed you down.

First, my sincere gratitude to V.W. Bro. Walter Howell for executing an exceptionally well-organized District Divine Service. Fifty Masons with their families attended with a total of one hundred and eleven attendees, including the local parishioners in total. This was an amazing show of support for the District for which I am very grateful and thankful to you, the Brethren.

Secondly, today my wife and I attended the Sweetheart Breakfast, hosted by Percy Lodge No. 161. There were over seventy attendees and the breakfast was delicious. The Brethren of Percy Lodge were serving and put in a lot of time and hard work. It was a job well done.

The above are two examples of community participation, which is so important for the survival of Masonry in the modern day. It exposes the fraternity to the public and gives the public an opportunity, not only to visit the temple, but also to ask questions. It demonstrates to them what we are all about and helps to allay some of their misconceptions of the fraternity. It may also produce potential Candidates – an example of PROPER Solicitation. I will direct your attention to the Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Art De Cecco's message in the January issue of *The Ontario Mason* magazine and *P and E No. 37* for further information on Improper Solicitation.

Thirdly, Peterborough Lodge No. 155 hosted a Chilli Cook Off. There were five Master Chefs and W. Bro. James Dunn was declared the winner after a hot contest among them. Congratulations to W. Bro. Dunn.

Fourthly, we had the Grand Registrar, R.W. Bro. Robert Culbertson, visit our District on the occasion of my Official Visit to Otonabee Lodge No. 101. He explained the connection of the regalia he was wearing which had belonged to the father of W. Bro. Wilson of Otonabee Lodge No. 101. It was a very emotional moment for W. Bro. Wilson. The Grand Registrar donated to the District Project in honour of this.



This month is an exciting month for Peterborough District. The Grand Master is visiting Havelock Lodge No. 435 to present a 70- year pin to R.W. Bro. Cody Wheeler. What an amazing accomplishment and dedication to our fraternity. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to R.W. Bro. Wheeler on this grand achievement.



R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini,
Peterborough District
Deputy Grand Master.
2024 - 2025

W. Bro.
William Lorne Mitchell,
Peterborough District
Secretary. 2024 - 2025

We also have the Lodge of Instruction coming up on March 15, 2025 at Golden Rule Campbellford / Hastings Lodge No. 126 led by the Custodian of the Work, M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell.

Finally, the Tri-District Day of Masonry: Peterborough District, Ontario District and Prince Edward District is on March 29 at the Oshawa Temple.

The Grand Master will be in attendance for a question-and-answer session on the day. Please be sure to get your tickets.

Brethren, keep up the excellent work in the District. I cannot stress enough the importance of visitation to other Lodges within and outside of the District. Have a wonderful March.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bharat Maini.

R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini
District Deputy Grand Master
Peterborough District
705-761-5656
bharatmaini2024@gmail.com



Ontario Masons

From The Editor:

This electronic *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* is a means of communicating with Brethren who have e-mail addresses. Please copy any information contained in this newsletter and forward it to Brethren who do not have access to e-mail. I look forward to receiving feedback about this form of communication. It does not replace any other forms of communication but, hopefully, will provide a forum for rapid communication.



I have purposely not included a listing of the Brethren on the circulation list for privacy reasons. If you know of other Brethren who would like to receive a copy, please let me know.

The first issue of *The Beacon* was sent on 30 July 2007. A big thanks to everyone who contributes to this newsletter. Your continued input and feedback is most appreciated.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob].

- Editor, *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*
- Peterborough District Historian,
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 - 2008).



**Masonic Licence Plates
Available now through
the Service Ontario office
- a Maple Leaf, Square and Compasses
graphic licence plate.**



Price: \$ 82.15 lundT.I.P. (Tax In Price)





Here are some Masonic and non-Masonic activities for you !!!

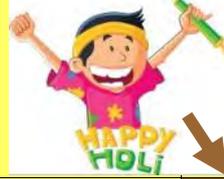


Ontario Masons

March 2025

In like a lion.
Out like a lamb.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 March is Red Cross Month						1	
2		3	4 Clementi 313 Official Visit 1st Degree: Connor Jongsma	5 Percy 161 Senior Wardens' Degree Team	6	7 Spring Break Starts !!! 	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Start of Daylight Saving Time !!!	Golden Rule 126 2nd Degree: Bro. Jason Shepherd		Village 145 1st Degree: Bradley Clarke	Happy Spring Break! 	Holi: Hindu Spring festival	Beware the Ides of March !!!	
16 Spring Break Ends !!! 	17 St. Patrick's Day !!! 	18 Peterborough 155	19 Otonabee 101	20 Spring Equinox !!! Village 145 1st Degree: Allan Clarke	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	World Back-up your Computer Day !!! 					
	Havelock 435						

R.E.M.: Ritual, Education, Mentoring.

RAMADAN

Ramadan for the year 2025 starts on the evening of Friday, February 28th, lasting 30 days and ends at sundown on Saturday, March 29.

Islamic holidays always begin at sundown and end at sundown the following day/days ending the holiday or festival.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

It is a month of fasting, prayer, giving and self-evaluation observed by Muslims.

The month lasts 29-30 days depending on the sightings of the crescent moon.



HOLI

Holi (Hindi pronunciation: ['ho:li:]) is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love, and Spring.

It celebrates the eternal and divine love of the deities Radha and Krishna. Additionally, the day signifies the triumph of good over evil, as it commemorates the victory of Vishnu as Narasimha over Hiranyakashipu.

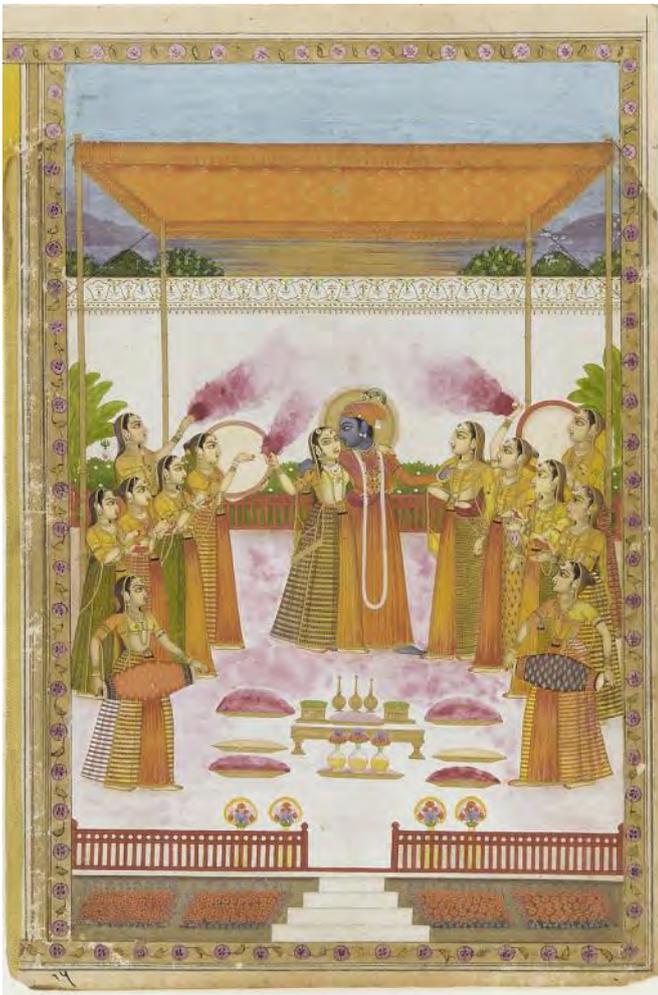
Holi originated and is predominantly celebrated in the Indian subcontinent, but has also spread to other regions of Asia and parts of the Western world through the Indian diaspora.

Holi also celebrates the arrival of spring in India, the end of winter, and the blossoming of love.

It is also an invocation for a good spring harvest season.

It lasts for a night and a day, starting on the evening of the Purnima (full moon day) falling on the Hindu calendar month of Phalguna, which falls around the middle of March in the Gregorian calendar.

Cultural significance



Krishna playing Holi with Radha and gopis

The Holi festival has a cultural significance among various Hindu traditions of the Indian subcontinent. It is the festive day to end and rid oneself of past errors, to end conflicts by meeting others, a day to forget and forgive.

People pay or forgive debts, as well as deal anew with those in their lives.

Holi also marks the start of spring, an occasion for people to enjoy the changing seasons and make new friends.

Holi is of particular significance in the Braj region, which includes locations traditionally associated with Radha Krishna: Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandgaon, Barsana, and Gokula. These places are popular tourist attractions during Holi.

Outside India, Holi is observed by Hindus in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan as well as in countries with large diaspora populations from India around the world.

{diaspora = members of an ethnic or religious group, that originated from the same place but dispersed to different locations}

The Holi rituals and customs can vary with local adaptations.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS
2024-2025

GRAND MASTER

M.W. Bro. James R. Ireland

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.W. Bro. Arthur Michael Di Cecco

GRAND SECRETARY

R.W. Bro. Louis M. Domjan

363 King St. W., Hamilton ON L80 18P

905.528.8644 -- FAX 905.528.6997-- office@grandlodge.on.ca

GRAND SENIOR WARDEN

R.W. Bro. Prince Dilipkumar Selvaraj

GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN

R.W. Bro. Shawn Warren Hewlett

GRAND REGISTRAR

R.W. Bro. Robert Michael Culbertson

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

R.W. Bro. Brian Gilkinson [Honourary]

Otonabee 101 (Peterborough)

Grand Steward

V.W. Bro. Scott Stuart

Village 145 (Millbrook)



Ontario Masons



The Grand Master's Project



presents:



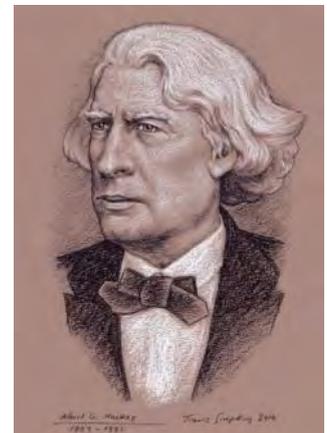
RMHC

Charity No. 2477



Freemasonry is a science of symbols, in which, by their proper study, a search is instituted after truth, that truth consisting in the knowledge of the divine and human nature of God and the human Soul.

Albert Mackey



www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/masonic.htm

DISTRICT LEADERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Benevolence - Masonic Board of Relief

R.W. Bro. Frank Groves

Cornerstone Project

V.W. Bro. Walter Howell

District Divine Service

V.W. Bro. Walter Howell

Education Committee

R.W. Bro. Bob Key

District Events Recorder

R.W. Bro. Drew Wilson

District Historian

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride



District Lodge of Instruction

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson

New Members Liaison

W. Bro. Larry Castle

Mentorship Team Chairman

R.W. Bro. Keith Buchanan

District Project

W. Bro. William Prentice

Grand Master's Project

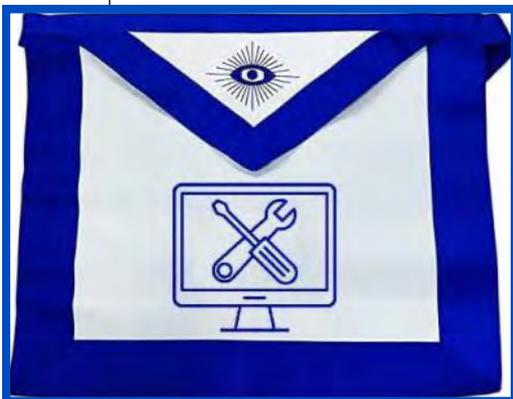
W. Bro. Al Nelson

Special Events

R.W. Bro. Al Baswick

Strategic Planning

R.W. Bro. Robert M. Kiff



It might be time for a new apron and office to be added. As more Lodges try to navigate this new world of technology-based meetings, we may need the Tech Support apron.

COMMUNICATION



**COMMUNICATION
DISTRICT SECRETARY**
W. Bro. William L. Mitchell
(Clementi No. 313)

The Beacon (electronic newsletter)
R.W. Bro Robert Collins McBride
(Village No. 145 / Otonabee No. 101)

WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Bro. Nick Burd
(Peterborough No. 155)
www.ptbomasonry.ca

DIGITAL ARCHIVIST / PHOTOGRAPHER

Bro. Danny McLaughlin
(Otonabee No. 101)

TRESTLE BOARD

Bro. R. Leon Jongsma
(Clementi No. 313)

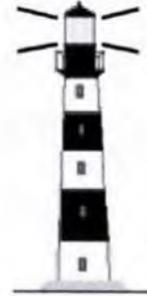
P.D.D.G.M. ADVISORS

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson

R.W. Bro. Robert M. Kiff

R.W. Bro. Frank Groves

Past D.D.G.Ms of Peterborough District





Peterborough District Lodges

Clementi No. 313	Peterborough	1st Tuesday
Percy No. 161	Warkworth	1st Wednesday
Golden Rule No. 126	Campbellford	2nd Monday
Village No. 145	Millbrook	2nd Wednesday
Otonabee No. 101	Peterborough	3 rd Wednesday
Peterborough No. 155	Peterborough	3 rd Tuesday
Havelock No. 435	Havelock	4 th Monday

PDMA Meetings

Executive Meeting	Thur. 26 September 2024
Semi-Annual Executive Meeting	Thur. 24 October 2024
Mid-Winter Meeting	Thur. 24 February 2024
Executive Meeting	Thur. 24 April 2025
Annual General Meeting	Thur. 22 May 2025

PDMA Degree Teams

Masters' Degree Team	Village Lodge Thur. 13 Nov. 2024 W. Bro. Ian Thompson
Senior Wardens' Degree Team	Percy Lodge Wed. 05 March 2025 W. Bro. James Dunn
Junior Wardens' Degree Team	Otonabee Lodge Wed. 16 April 2025 W. Bro. John Fraser

District Coffee Club

V.W. Bro. Roger Morton
– Every Wednesday morning



Peterborough Lodge Building:
415 Rubidge St.
Peterborough K9H 4E2

All Masons and guests
are welcome to attend
this opportunity
for quality fraternity.



Official Visits

VILLAGE No. 145	Wed. Oct. 09, 2024	Millbrook
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Mon. Nov. 11, 2024	Campbellford
HAVELOCK No. 435	Mon. Nov. 25, 2024	Havelock
OTONABEE No. 101	Wed. Jan. 22, 2025	Peterborough
CLEMENTI No. 313	Tues. Mar. 04, 2025	Peterborough
PERCY No. 161	Wed. Apr. 02, 2025	Warkworth
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Tues. Apr. 15, 2025	Peterborough



Installations

CLEMENTI No. 313	Tues. Dec. 03, 2024	Peterborough
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Tues. Dec. 17, 2024	Peterborough
VILLAGE No. 145	Wed. May 14, 2025	Millbrook
OTONABEE No. 101	Wed. May 21, 2025	Peterborough
HAVELOCK No. 435	Mon. May 26, 2025	Havelock
PERCY No. 161	Wed. June 04, 2025	Warkworth
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Mon. June 09, 2025	Campbellford



District Divine Service

Sunday, January 19, 2025.
 St. John The Baptist Anglican Church,
 81 Queen Street
 Lakefield, Ontario. K0L 2H0



Peterborough District Masonic Association Meetings

PDMA DEGREE TEAMS

W. Masters' Degree Team
Village Lodge, To Be Announced
W. Bro. Ian Thompson

Senior Wardens' Degree Team
Percy Lodge, Wed. 05 March 2025
W. Bro. James Dunn

Junior Wardens' Degree Team
Otonabee Lodge, Wed. 16 April 2025
W. Bro. John Fraser



PDMA MEETINGS

Executive Meeting
Thur. 26 September 2024

Semi-Annual General Meeting
Thur. 24 October 2024

Mid-Winter Meeting
Thur. 27 February 2025

Executive Meeting
Thur. 24 April 2025

Annual General Meeting
Thur. 22 May 2025

*Meetings scheduled to begin at 7:30
at the Peterborough Temple*

PDMA – Executive

Chairman: W. Bro. James Dunn
1st Vice: W. Bro. John Fraser
2nd Vice: W. Bro. Ian Thompson
Secretary: to be announced
Treasurer: W. Bro. Brian James
Honourary Chairman:
R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini
Member Ex-Officio:
R.W. Bro. Robert M. Kiff



Peterborough District's

TRAVELLING SQUARE

Created by R.W. Bro. W.R. Morris (DDGM 1927-1928), who wrote, "*The purpose and significance of the Travelling Square is to promote and encourage fraternal visits among the Lodges in the District.*"

The wooden box was hand-made in 1994 by W. Bro. David Montgomery and W. Bro. Reg Nelson, Members of Norwood Lodge No. 223.

The visiting Worshipful Master will take with him a full complement of his Officers to perform the Degree work of the evening, planning the Masonic Work of the evening with the host Worshipful Master.

By continuing to choose the months of October and April (other than in the cases of Otonabee, Keene, and Havelock Lodges, who hold their Elections in April), good travelling weather should be assured.



Travelling Square Schedule

The schedule is made to bring back the Lodges into a logical rotation.

YEAR	D.D.G.M	FROM	TO	DATE
2024 - 2025	B. Maini	Village	Golden Rule	October 2024
		Golden Rule	Clementi	April 2025
2025 - 2026		Clementi	Percy	October 2025
		Percy	Havelock	April 2026
2026 - 2027		Havelock	Peterborough	October 2026
		Peterborough	Otonabee	April 2027
2027 - 2028		Otonabee	Golden Rule	October 2027
		Golden Rule	Village	April 2028
2028 - 2029		Village	Percy	October 2028
		Percy	Clementi	April 2029
2029 - 2030		Clementi	Havelock	October 2029
		Havelock	Peterborough	April 2030
2030 - 2031		Peterborough	Otonabee	October 2030
		Otonabee	Golden Rule	April 2031





Brethren

As Chairman of the Lodge of Instruction Committee, I would like the opportunity, if invited, to visit each Lodge at their regular practice meeting(s), or at a regular Lodge meeting if they are short of work.

My hope is that, in this way, I can be of service to more Brethren of the District.

I look forward to working together with the Lodge Officers and to provide some instruction and information in a framework of fun and fellowship.

S&F

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson

Chairman, Lodge of Instruction Committee.





R.W. Bro. Bob Keay, as this year's District Education Chairman, will include a short piece of Masonic Education in each month's issue of *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter. As the District Education Chair I will try and bring some education to *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* each month that is informative, but not tedious to read.

SOME BASIC HELP IN COMPILING AND DELIVERING A "MASONIC" TOAST

Masonic Toasts are not part of our everyday life and can generate some fear to many who have the honourable task of proposing one.

The purpose of this short paper is to give an insight into proposing a toast, providing a few ideas as we go along and hopefully alleviate some of those fears.

So why is it that some people have a natural ability to be able to stand and speak for lengthy periods of time, while providing an interesting and humorous account of their chosen topic? Yet others, as implied above, can sweat buckets and generally work themselves up into what amounts to be a stressful 30 seconds of pure hell. Obviously, this doesn't help anyone, either the speaker or the listener.

I suppose it's like anything in life; some have the knack and others don't The real fact is more likely that they have performed umpteen toasts in the past and are well skilled in the art, but remember, they all had to start somewhere.

So let's take it in easy steps – first, what do you think a good toast should consist of?

Is it: Of Interest? Have Humour? Serious? Long? Short?

Interest and an element of seriousness must always come first and, with gained confidence, some humour can come later.

In most cases a combination of both interest and humour, over say a 2-to-5-minute period, is the perfect formula for a good toast (in my opinion). However, in some cases, humour may not be appropriate or the speaker may not be a natural at conveying humour, so it is then vital that what you say is interesting to your listeners.

So, let's make it quite clear: don't try and emulate a well-practised toast provider if you yourself are not skilled in the art, as the joke will invariably backfire on you ... so **STICK TO THE SCRIPT!**

Alright, let's draft out a Toast to the Visitors, a traditional and common toast. To begin we need a beginning, a middle and an end.

“ W. MASTER, DISTINGUISHED BRETHREN, BRETHREN ALL ... ”

Beginning:

- **Brethren, I have been given the pleasure of proposing the Toast to our Visitors.**

Middle:

- **We trust that you all have enjoyed your visit with us today.**

End:

- **Brethren of Otonabee Lodge, please rise and drink a Toast to our Visitors.**

OK – that's the Script, but it doesn't take much imagination to see that it is

1) a bit short,

2) a bit blunt,

3) not really expressing the Lodge's appreciation to our guests.

So let's think about improving the Script, by first concentrating on the Beginning ...

The extras we can add to this section are for example –

- **How many Visitors are present?
(do a bit of homework and ask the Secretary ...)**
- **Of that number, what is the percentage of regular & new guests?
(the Secretary again, should be able to give you a good idea ...)**
- **Are there any visiting from a far distance?
(Secretary again or possibly the Brother who invited the guest ...)**

So now let's have a look at the beginning with this new-found information ...

“Brethren, I have been given the pleasure of proposing the Toast to our Visitors.

I've done a little homework, and I can confirm

that we have 16 guests present tonight, to all of whom I bid you welcome. I recognise quite a few of our regulars but I also can see that we have several attending for the first time.

I have also been made aware of a Brother who has come all the way from Inverness in Scotland – although, I think the kilt was a bit of a give away?”

You can see how this has now extended our beginning with some interest and “wow and behold”, a little humour! – however, be a little careful with humour, especially if referring to someone who is not known to you, as they may be the type who could take offence.

Now let's do the same for our middle...

- You can refer to the splendour of the Temple.
- You can refer to the ceremony performed at the meeting but, obviously, this must be generalized as there could be Brethren who may not have attained the Degree that was performed. There is nothing wrong however, in mentioning some of the Officers involved, but check out first that there is not a toast to the Officers of the Lodge following. Otherwise you would be encroaching on their script!
- You can refer to the Festive Board.

Now let's move on to the end...

- Guests are important to our meetings.
- Urge the guests to come again.

So let's put that all together ...

"Brethren, I have been given the pleasure of proposing the Toast to our Visitors this evening.

I've done a little homework, and I can confirm that we have 16 guests, to all of whom I bid you welcome.

I recognise quite a few regulars, but I also can see that we have several attending for the first time.

I have also been made aware of a Brother who has come all the way from Inverness in Scotland – although, I think the kilt was a bit of a give away!

We trust that you have all enjoyed your visit with us today.

In particular, I hope our ceremony performed in the Temple was to your liking. No doubt it may differ slightly perhaps to your own Lodge ceremonies, but then that's part of what visiting is about, seeing variations in work.

Following our move here just 2 years ago, we are justly proud of the building and what it has to offer, in particular our festive boards, where our Chefs are really beginning to fine tune our menus.

To conclude Brethren, Visitors are an important part of our Masonic meetings. Therefore, I hope that you have seen enough to be tempted to return as I know you will be made warmly welcome.

Brethren of Otonabee Lodge, please rise and drink a Toast to our Visitors."

So there you have it, a simple three-line script expanded to an acceptable, but simple Toast to our Visitors.

This principal can be used when compiling any toast – just scribble out your beginning, your middle and your end, and then just add detail

I find if you are computer literate – *Word* is a great tool for this type of work.

A few tips to consider when compiling and delivering a toast:

With Masonic toasts invariably they must be informative and have a serious side.

- **Do some homework on your subject – ask some questions.**
- **Only bring in humour if you feel comfortable and, more to the point, confident, but not just to get a laugh!**
- **Try using a pause to emphasise a point or to allow the audience to react to a fact, anecdote or joke.**
- **Keep within the limits of your toast – do not encroach on another person's toast.**
- **Take your time in delivering the toast and make sure you speak to the whole room and not just to one section.**
- **Try to use your script as a prompt and to avoid just reading it like a book.**

Finally:

- **Hold your head up, speak clearly and don't rush ... and try to relax!!!**

There is no *magic* formula to writing and delivering a toast – however, there is this constructive format I have laid out which I hope may provide some basic help and understanding.

by R.W. Bro. Bob Keay, Education Chairman, Peterborough District



If you want to know more about our Masonic Ritual or any other educational topic of interest to you and your Lodge, please contact me.

As your District Education Chairman, I am charged with preparing and delivering presentations on a great many topics to help your Members gain more from their Masonic experience. I will come to your Lodge and deliver formal presentations in the Lodge Room, talks at the banquet hour, or small group discussions on topics of your choosing.

All I ask is that you allow sufficient time for me to conduct research and be properly prepared to make the delivery fulfilling for you and your Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Bob Keay – Peterborough District Education Chairman

< bobkeay1@gmail.com > (705) 930-3476



Ontario Masons



SKILLED TRADE BURSARY - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

At the end of last year, and with your help, we had fantastic TV and newspaper coverage of high school students, with their families, receiving bursaries going into a trade.

This provides great positive exposure to Freemasonry !!!

Peterborough District is trying to do great things for the youth in our community !!!

The Bursaries will help high school students to succeed in the goal of achieving a Trade. We Freemasons have learned from a traditional trade. Starting as an Entered Apprentice and, with your help and guidance, we were Raised to be Master Masons.

The demand for people with skilled trades is at an all-time high. If you could please make a donation it would be greatly appreciated.



Electronic Email Money Transfer is strongly recommended.

Please include your name, your Address and Lodge Number in the message box.

You are still welcome to write a Cheque and physically hand to your:

- Lodge Secretary
- District Deputy - R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini
- District Secretary - W. Bro. Lorne Mitchell
- Immediate Past District Deputy - R.W. Bro. Robert Kiff
- Kiff Auto or Prentice Lift Truck Inc.
- District Project Chair - W. Bro. William Prentice

Name: Skilled Trades Bursary

Project Number: 2469



Donations for EFT: < peterboroughdistrictproject@gmail.com >
Cheque address: 399 Pido Road, Peterborough, Ontario. K9J 6X7
Tax receipts will be provided at the end of the year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
W. Bro. William Prentice, District Project Chair
Cell: 705-875-5517

Email - williamprentice101@gmail.com

PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT PROJECT 2024 - 2025

SKILLED TRADE BURSARY

Last year's project was a fantastic success !!!

At the end of last year, and with your help, we had TV and newspaper coverage of high school students, with their families, receiving bursaries going into a trade. It was good to see fantastic exposure of Freemasonry in Peterborough District doing great things for the youth in our community.

The Bursaries will help high school students to succeed in the goal of achieving a Trade. We Freemasons have learned from a traditional trade. Starting as an Entered Apprentice and, with your help and guidance, we were Raised to be a Master Mason.

The demand for people with skilled trades is at an all-time high. With your donations and support, we can achieve that goal :)

Name: Skilled Trades Bursary

Project Number: 2469

Donations for EFT: < peterboroughdistrictproject@gmail.com >

Cheque Mailing address: 399 Pido Road, Peterborough, Ontario. K9J 6X7

Sincerely and Fraternally,

W. Bro. William Prentice, District Project Chair Cell: 705-875-5517



FUN FACTS ABOUT MARCH

- ◆ March was once considered the first month of the year.
- ◆ March symbolizes transformation and new growth.
- ◆ March was named after Mars, the Roman god of war.
- ◆ March is known for its unpredictable weather, giving rise to the saying "In like a lion, out like a lamb."
- ◆ In Old English, March was called "Hlyd monath" meaning "Stormy month."

- ◆ St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, honouring the Patron Saint of Ireland.
- ◆ The Ides of March led to Caesar's downfall
- ◆ March is the only month with three consecutive consonants in its name.
- ◆ The equinox in March means that the sun sets exactly in the west and rises exactly in the east.
- ◆ March is the beginning of sugaring season in many parts of Canada, when maple syrup is made from maple tree sap.
- ◆ Finally, March is a time of transition and renewal, as the winter ends and the spring begins, bringing new opportunities and possibilities for growth and change.

AROUND AND ABOUT PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT:



On Tuesday, 04 February, Clementi Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 313 G.R.C. welcomed Bro. Shan Shao into the Mysteries and Privileges of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry.



Photo by Bro. David Underhill, Otonabee Lodge No. 101.

Then, on Wednesday, 05 February, Golden Rule Campbellford Hastings Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 126 G.R.C. made a fraternal visit to Durham Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 66 G.R.C., Ontario District, in the Village of Newcastle.

Left to right: Bro. John Buck (Durham Lodge No. 66), R.W. Bro. Gary Ballard, Bro. Jason Shepherd, R.W. Bro. Scott Drummond, V.W. Bro. Jim Carswell, R.W. Bro. Brian Manson, Bro. Ed Spence, V.W. Bro. Bill Osborne, W. Bro. Landon Driskell (W.M. Durham Lodge No. 66), and Bro. Daniel Giddings.

Bro. Daniel Giddings provided some Masonic Education that evening, sharing some of his experiences while at a Masonic Lodge in London, England.



W. Bro James Dunn won the chilli contest with some delicious chilli at Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C. on Tuesday, 18 February.



Photo by Bro. Danny McLaughlin, Peterborough District Digital Archivist / Photographer.

Bro. Danny McLaughlin's friend and Brother, Raul Russel of Ionic Lodge No. 229, Toronto West District, visited Peterborough District for the week of 17 to 21 February.



On Wednesday, 19 February, R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini, Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master 2024 – 2025, made his fourth Official Visit, this time to Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C., where Bro. Robert Jones was Passed to the Second Degree.



Photo by W. Bro. Kevin Ross, Clementi Lodge No. 313.

Accompanying R.W. Bro. Maini was R.W. Bro. Robert M. Culbertson, Grand Registrar, 2024 - 2025. Following the Degree, R.W. Bro. Culbertson shared some thoughts with the Brethren assembled, his message being, in part,

“After being invested as Grand Registrar by M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron at our Grand Lodge of July 2024, W. Bro. John Wilson took the time to offer his congratulations. It was a very nice gesture.”

“As we walked and chatted, he mentioned that his father, R.W. Bro. David Wilson, was the Grand Registrar for the year 1986 - 1987. At that point I mentioned that I had to obtain the necessary regalia to assume and carry out my ‘ambassadorial’ duties as the current Grand Registrar.”

“He stopped and turned to me and said that he had his father’s regalia and asked if I would like to wear it. It was a very kind offer.”

“As a Mason that enjoys history and tradition, and as I regained my composure after his offer, I said ‘YES!’”

“We met at a Tim Horton’s and completed the transition of history and tradition. My heart was filled with happiness. W. Bro. John had a big smile on his face.”

“Wearing regalia with its own history has given me a special sense of honour as I have travelled our great jurisdiction, executing my traditional role.”

“On February 19, 2025, I attended the Official Visit of R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini, D.D.G.M. of Peterborough District, to Otonabee Lodge No. 101.

The Fellowcraft Degree was performed with excellence and a pleasurable night was enjoyed by all.”

“But, before that, I noticed as I walked toward W. Bro. John prior to the opening of Lodge, he quickly scanned me and, again, a big smile appeared on his face.”

“There is a charge given within one of our ceremonies that outlines the qualities of a Mason. Unless you are an Installed Master, you’ll have to wait until you become one to hear it and then read it. I cannot share it here: it’s a secret. What I can share is that W. Bro. John Wilson certainly exemplifies those described qualities of a Mason.”

“For those qualities, his kind offer, his nice gesture, I will always be thankful to be wearing ‘our’ Grand Registrar’s regalia.”

R.W. Bro. Robert M. Culbertson - Grand Registrar 2024 - 2025
Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario



Left to right: W. Bro. John Wilson, R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini, R.W. Bro. Robert M Culbertson, Fellowcraft Bro. Nathan Patrick Wilson.

Photo by R.W. Bro. Bob McBride, Editor, *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter.

W. Bro. John Wilson writes:

“We often don’t realize what our parents do for us when we’re children. It’s frequently when we become parents ourselves that we gain that insight. In my case, I found out earlier.”

“My father, David Wilson, joined the Craft Lodge in 1970, when I was six years old. After I joined Freemasonry and progressed through the three Degrees, various lectures, and charges, it became apparent that he was the exemplification of what a Mason should be.”

“Not a Mason in name only, his own teachings and lessons were what he himself lived. He diligently applied himself in the Craft, progressed through the chairs, and was a Master in 1976 and again in 1988.”

“Dad was elected Grand Registrar in 1986 and spent the year travelling the province. I accompanied him whenever I could.”

“Dad’s health declined and he passed in 1995. I was left with a huge hole in my heart, not only with the loss of my father, but my Masonic sponsor, mentor, and traveling companion.”

“When I met R.W. Bro. Robert Culbertson, and found out that he was the Grand Registrar for 2024 - 2025, I told him that my Dad had held the office in 1986. I asked about regalia and when I learned that he had not yet acquired his, I asked if he would be interested in Dad’s. It was an honour for me to pass it along and I know that Dad would definitely approve. Mom had held onto it as a memory for her but, since her passing, I had recently brought it to my home. I didn’t see the purpose of having it sit in its case and would rather it benefit someone than be made into a display.”

“It is comforting and a great joy knowing that R.W. Bro. Culbertson is wearing it while he so capably and admirably discharges the duties of his Office.”

“R.W. Bro. Culbertson attended Otonabee Lodge for our Official Visit in February and it was a happy event to be reunited with him and to see him in his regalia.”

“Sitting in Lodge that evening with my Brother and friend was a heart-warming night. I felt that I was in Lodge again with a small part of my Dad and, as a flood of great memories came back – many which had been long since stored in a deep recess of my mind – that empty hole began to fill up again. You see, giving up the regalia was not a situation where something was lost. It was only by giving that I could receive and, by doing so, I could relive wonderful times from days long gone.”

W. Bro John Wilson, Junior Steward, Otonabee Lodge No. 101.

Editor’s Note: We are indeed truly blessed and honoured to have many Freemasons in our Craft and this generous offer by W. Bro. John Wilson, accepted with gratitude by R.W. Bro. Robert M. Culbertson, demonstrates the genuine spirit of brotherly love.



Then, on Monday, 24 February, R.W. Bro. Cody Wheeler received his 70-year Masonic pin and certificate from the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland, at Havelock Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 435 G.R.C. Cody's family were in attendance for this historic occasion.



Bro. Morely Chard, Initiated the same evening as R.W. Bro. Cody Wheeler, has also been awarded his 70-year Masonic pin and certificate. However, due to his health, he was unable to be at the ceremony. Morley's wife, Molly, was in attendance. Also, in attendance were M.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom, Immediate Past Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Jeff Gatke, R.W. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, both Members of the Board, and R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini, Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master.



Photos by Bro. Danny McLaughlin, Peterborough District Digital Archivist / Photographer.



**A fantastic evening
for everyone in attendance !!!**



Peterborough District *Lighthouse Trophy*

In 2007 - 2008, Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob] donated an Attendance Trophy, "*Teamwork Encourages Active Masons*", in order to promote travelling in Peterborough District.

The theme of this trophy is a lighthouse that imparts knowledge to the ships at sea that helps them to navigate dangerous waters and reach a safe harbour, which is a good thing for the communities that they service.

The lighthouse also has many Masonic symbols within it, ranging from those words that the Candidate in the First Degree hears, "*Let there be light*", to its winding staircase, its column shape, and the fact that it can steer Brethren in the proper direction.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
R.W. Bro. Bob McBride
 (Creator of the Peterborough District's *Lighthouse Trophy*.)

As I have been asked to take on this role for 2023 - 2024 and 2024 - 2025, I have requested that every Lodge Secretary in Peterborough District send me a list of their Visitors after each meeting so that I can keep you all up-to-date !!!

I will announce each month's statistics as they become available to me from each Lodge Secretary in the Peterborough District.

Cheers, Bob McBride,
 Creator of *The Lighthouse Trophy*.
[The Lighthouse Trophy results for 2024 - 2025:](#)



STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES...
 ...SOME WEAR APRONS



	Sept 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	March 25	April 25	May 25	June 25	Total
Otonabee 101	5	30	22	3	1	4					
Golden Rule 126	3	2	6	0	3	1					
Village 145	3	19	10	0	2	7					
Peterborough 155	1	1	1	0	0	1					
Percy 161	2	59	1	0	2	5					
Clementi 313	20	16	14	2	13	11					
Havelock 435	1	2	2	1	1	3					



Ontario Masons

The winner of *The Lighthouse Trophy* for 2023 – 2024 was Otonabee Lodge No. 101. The trophy was presented to them on Wednesday, 16 October 2024, at their Lodge meeting.

North Entrance Lodge 1st Annual



Masonic Curling Bonspiel @ Wilberforce Curling Club Saturday March 8 2025 1st Draw starts at 9 am

Fun Bonspiel – No experience necessary. Bring clean running shoes and a helmet.
Price is \$160 per team (4 curlers) and includes morning coffee/treats and a delicious lunch.

\$160 per team – pre-registration required

Limited spaces available

Please register at: nelbonspiel@victoriadistrict.com

Payment may be made by etransfer to nelsecretary@victoriadistrict.com.



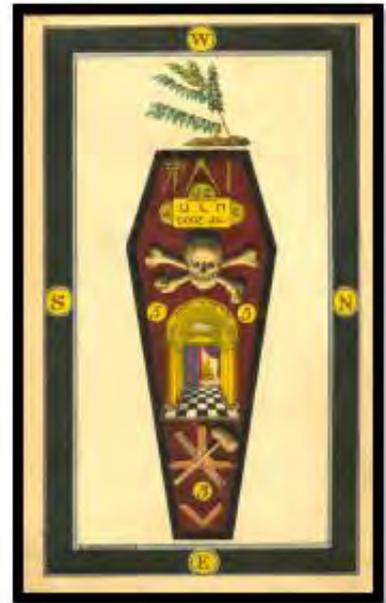
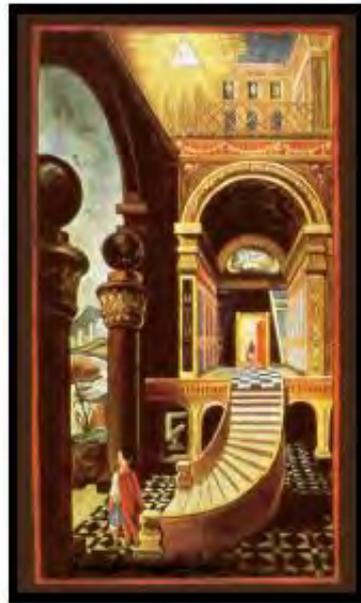
Ontario, Peterborough & Prince Edward Districts

Lodge of Instruction

Saturday March 15th 2025
Open to All Master Masons

Location: Campbellford Masonic Hall
53 Front Street South, Campbellford

Dress: Smart Casual



Registration: 8:30 am to 8:55 am
Lodge of Instruction: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm



Ontario Masons

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Host Lodge & Coordinator</i>	<i>Districts</i>
Saturday Mar. 15 9:00 am	Campbellford 53 Front St. S Campbellford	G.R.C.H. No. 126 Ian Thompson	Peterborough Prince Edward Ontario

Timetable and Session Programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Length</i>
8:30 - 8:55 am	Registration	25 min.
9:00 - 9:10 am	Welcome Introduction of G.L. Officers & Team	10 min.
9:10—9:35 am	Protocol and Etiquette	25 min.
9:35 - 10:00 am	Entered Apprentice Degree	25 min.
10:00 - 10:25 am	Fellow Craft Degree	25 min.
10:25 - 10:40 am	Break	15 min.
10:40 - 11:00 am	Installation Ceremony (Installed Masters only)	20 min.
	Break Out Sessions (for Master Masons)	20 min.
11:05 - 11:30 am	Master Mason Degree	25 min.
11:30 - 11:55 am	Question Period	25 min.
11:55 - 12 Noon	Appreciation	5 min.
12 Noon	Adjournment	



Ontario Masons

Bro. Bruce Stewart, Secretary of J.B. Hall Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 145 G.R.C. sent this message:

Brethren, Sisters and Brothers:

Come on out and join us for our monthly social gathering at "*The Wing House*" at Peterborough Square, 320 Water St., Peterborough, every third Monday at 7:30 pm. Kind of like the Wednesday Coffee Club but with optional wings and beer. A great time to meet people. Area Masons, spouses, friends and just plain people are invited. Come on out!

Bro. Bruce Stewart, Secretary, J. B. Hall Lodge AF & AM No. 145

Editor's Note: It has been decided to continue with Monday's Wing Nights, hosted by Village Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 145 G.R.C. Hope to see you there !!!



WING NIGHT

**Location: Wing House
320 Water St, Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7**

Time: 7:30 pm

**COME OUT FOR A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP
AND GOOD FOOD. WE WILL BE PASSING THE
HAT FOR THE DISTRICT PROJECT.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

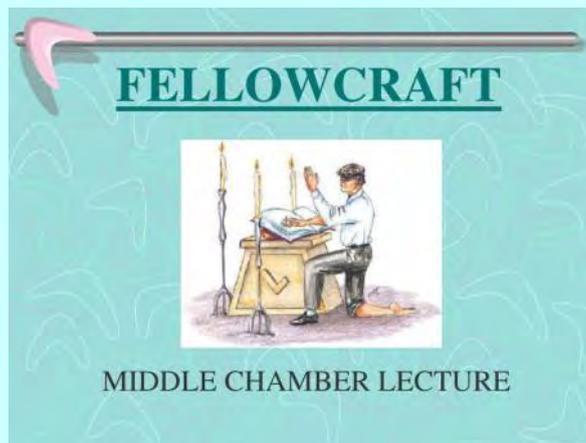


PETERBOROUGH LODGE
A. F. & A. M.
No. 155 G. R. C.



St. John's Lodge
A. F. & A. M.
No. 155 G. R. C.

**Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C.
is visiting St. John's Lodge No. 20, in London, Ontario,
for an Irish Fellowcraft Degree on Saturday, 29 March, 2025.**



**The bus will leave Peterborough at 8:00 a.m.,
take Highway 407, have lunch at the *EnRoute* restaurant near London,
and arrive at Dufferin at 1:00 p.m.**

Lodge open at 1:30 p.m. and closes about 3:30 p.m.

**After Lodge we will have a buffet lunch
with a bartender.**

**Arriving back in Peterborough,
around 8:00 p.m.**

The cost is \$50.00 per person.

**To order a ticket, please contact V.W. Bro. John Hewitt
< bjhewitt@sympatico.ca > or 705-742-8067**



To read more about St. John's Lodge No. 20 go to pages

GOLDEN RULE
CAMPBELLFORD-HASTINGS & VILLAGE LODGE No.145
LODGE No.126

PRESENT

BROTHERS

ONLY 30
TICKETS
AVAILABLE

ORDER
TICKETS
ASAP

ALL PROFITS TO
THE
PETERBOROUGH
DISTRICT
PROJECT



-12IN PIZZA &
FLIGHT \$40
-9IN PIZZA &
FLIGHT \$30
-FLIGHT \$20



& BREWS



BREWERY TOUR • PIZZA

PLEASE DRINK
RESPONSIBLY

LIVE MUSIC

FREE
POP &
WATER
FOR DD'S

BEER SAMPLING

98 COUNTY ROAD 35, HASTINGS, ON

SATURDAY
APRIL 5TH
2025

3:00PM-6:00PM

50/50 DRAW & DOOR PRIZES

CONTACT BRO. TREVOR DONNELLY (705)-927-4530
OR TDONNELLY03@HOTMAIL.COM
OR BRO. SCOTT TOWER
BRTHR.S.TOWER@GMAIL.COM FOR TICKETS



Scottish Rite Golf Classic

Valley Of Hamilton



THE 96TH EDITION OF THE
"RED APPLE TROPHY"

PRESENTED TO THE LOW SCORE FOURSOME FROM ONE LODGE

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2025.

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT
ARE IN SUPPORT OF
SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
AND THE LEARNING CENTRE
FOR CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA, HAMILTON

SOUTHBROOK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

4349 REGIONAL RD. 56 (HWY 56) BINBROOK, ONTARIO, L0R 1C0

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE \$ 10,000		ENTRY FEE \$200.00
AND		PER GOLFER
MENS AND LADIES LONGEST DRIVE & CLOSEST TO THE PIN		INCLUDES
CHECK-IN	11:30 a.m.	LUNCH
SHOTGUN TEE OFF	1:00 p.m.	18 HOLE SCRAMBLE WITH CART
CASH BAR	5:30 p.m.	DINNER (ROAST BEEF)
DINNER	6:00 p.m.	PRIZE TABLE
PRESENTATIONS	7:00 p.m.	DINNER ONLY \$75

REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL BY FRIDAY JUNE 6TH 2025
BY CONTACTING
KEN ADAMSON 905 522-1622 Ext. 22
or
hamiltonvalleygolf@gmail.com
CHEQUES PAYABLE TO : HAMILTON VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OR PAY DIRECTLY BY CREDIT CARD AT THE EVENT
Or on line to : www.scottishriteclub.ca/events

**The Peterborough District Masonic Association
is looking for
any Grand Lodge regalia
from Past Grand Lodge Officers
to refurbish and present to incoming**

**Peterborough District Deputy Grand Masters
and Peterborough District Grand Stewards.**

**If you have any of this regalia,
or know of any individuals who have some,
and would like to donate the regalia,**

Please contact

**Peterborough District
Masonic Association Chairman**

**W. Bro. James Dunn
(Percy 161)**



**Do you need a walker,
wheel chair, crutches ???**

**If so, contact
V.W. Bro. John Hewitt
705-742-8067
E-mail: bjhewitt@sympatico.ca**



**Defend the
poor and
fatherless:
do justice
to the afflicted
and needy.**

**John can get these items
for you or your spouse,
free of charge,
from the
London Scottish Rite.**



**BECAUSE I HAVE A
BROTHER
I ALWAYS HAVE A
FRIEND**



Scottish Rite Valley of Peterborough



The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada represents a fulfilling and comprehensive system of further instruction for Master Masons seeking further Masonic light. Each of its thirty-two degrees features explanations in addition to dramatic ritual which make a meaningful impact upon the observer.



The Peterborough Valley of the Scottish Rite affords an opportunity for those Master Masons in the Masonic Districts of Ontario, Victoria, Prince Edward and Peterborough to take advantage of the opportunity to further a life-long advancement in Masonic knowledge.

The Valley conducts spring and fall reunions in both its Lodge of Perfection and Chapter of Rose Croix.

The www.scottishritecanada.ca website provides the interested person with very useful information, including a membership video and instructions on how to apply to join the Scottish Rite. In addition, the Peterborough Valley can be contacted by emailing peterboroughvalley@gmail.com or by calling (705)-879-8658.



Lodge of Perfection



This Body confers the Degrees from 4th to 14th. They exemplify the legend of King Solomon's Temple. These Degrees are designed to build on the teachings of the first Three Degrees given in the Craft Lodge.

Unlike the Craft Lodge, Candidates are not required to do memory work in any of the Scottish Rite Degrees.

Upon completion of the 14th degree, the new Scottish Rite member is entitled to wear the distinguished Scottish Rite ring that has retained its design for over 200 years. An inscription inside the ring reads: "*Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit*" that is to say, "*Virtue has joined, death shall not separate*", or "*Whom virtue unites, death will not separate*".

Chapter Rose Croix

After completion of the 14th Degree, the Masonic educational journey continues with the Degrees of the Rose Croix. The 15th and 16th Degrees related to the rebuilding of the Second Temple by Zerubbabel. The Second Temple Degrees portray the never-ending struggle against the adversaries of Truth and Light: a struggle that is still going on today.

In these Degrees important moral and spiritual precepts of value to Masons of all ages are proclaimed.

The 17th Degree is an approach to, and the 18th Degree a recognition of, the religious ethics in universal terms: thus assisting in the building in our hearts of the Third Temple not made with hands. The 18th Degree culminates with the Degree of the Knight Rose Croix.

Coffee Club

MORNING COFFEE CLUB

Downstairs Wednesday mornings

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

at the Peterborough Masonic Temple
on Rubidge Street, Peterborough.

Come on out !!!

Bring your non-Masonic friends and relatives.

**Coffee and donuts will be served,
casual dress.**

**Donations will be accepted
and applied to the District Project
as well as to supply**

**the Lodges in the Peterborough Temple
with pop, water and other items as needed.**



Founders: Steve Hedgcock,
Mike Gallimore, Roger Morton



You deserve good things.



At the Peterborough District's
Wednesday Morning Coffee Club
in the Peterborough Temple
on 29 November, Coffee Manager,
V.W. Bro. Roger Morton,
and W. Bro. John Muise,
prepared the morning's coffee
and treats for visitors.

Photo by Peterborough District
Digital Archivist / Photographer,
Bro. Danny McLaughlin.



Coffee
is NOT just a drink...
it's a Lifestyle





Quatuor Coronati
Lodge No. 2076

Dear Sir and R. W. Bro. Bob McBride:

I am the local Secretary for Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle (QCCC) for Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, the premier Research Lodge in the world.

We have put together a one page advertisement with the sole purpose of informing the membership in Ontario of the benefits to joining QCCC, that are as follows:

Correspondence Circle members enjoy the following benefits:

1. To receive on joining a complimentary copy of a recent volume of AQC.
2. To receive annually the latest volume of AQC.
3. To receive a newsletter with Masonic information including the activities of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. This will usually include a “*questions and answers*” section largely inspired by queries that have been sent in by Circle members;
4. On payment of a small fee, to receive in advance, in .pdf format, only a copy of the paper due to be read in Lodge, and to comment upon it in writing;
5. (If qualified by membership of a Lodge under the UGLE or under a Grand Lodge recognized by the UGLE) to attend all meetings of Quatuor Coronati Lodge; to participate personally in the discussion of papers after their delivery; and to dine with members of the Lodge after the meeting [see note on dining arrangements below].
6. To attend public presentations of papers delivered under the auspices of the Lodge, and to dine with members of the Lodge after the meeting [see note on dining arrangements below].
7. To submit to the Editor
 - (a) comments on papers published in AQC and
 - (b) questions relating to Freemasonry
(to which considered answers will be given as speedily as possible - an important and rare service, drawing upon extensive scholarship).
8. To offer letters, reviews, information, photographs, and works of original research for possible publication within AQC;

For other elements of Masonic advantage, please consult www.quatuorcoronati.com.

Dining

Notice of intention to dine must be given to the office of Q.C. Correspondence Circle Limited at least 48 hours prior to the date of the meeting. Correspondence Circle members and other visitors are asked to help defray the cost of the meal, and their contribution will be collected at the table.

Corporate Membership

The Secretary of the Lodge (or the equivalent) receives only one copy of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* per year and one copy of each newsletter. The volume circulates but slowly, if at all.

It can thus be seen that there are weighty advantages of individual membership in the Correspondence Circle.

Material for Lodge Meetings

There are now more than one hundred and thirty volumes of the Lodge’s transactions, AQC, both printed and on CD, and in them can be found papers, notes, answers to questions, etc., that can be read at Lodge meetings.

The Editor will be happy to assist a Lodge for which such a meeting is being planned.

How to Join the Correspondence Circle

Download the application from www.quatuorcoronati.com.

Thank you!!!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

R.W. Bro. Robert Kliaman, P.G.S.W. (Hon.),
Canada Lodge No. 532

Tel: (905) 707-6886

Fax: (905) 707-6884

Email: rkliaman@cpa-ca.com



Quatuor Coronati
Lodge No. 2076



*The Most High Pursuant and We
Charles Lewis Duke of Richmond
Earl of March and Darnley &c*

Quatuor Coronati Lodge - 'QC', the world's premier research lodge, shares its research publications and provides support to Masonic scholars and researchers nationally and internationally through 'QCCC' - the QC Correspondence Circle.

And they have access to research support and online reference material at quatuorcoronati.com

WOW
I DIDN'T KNOW

*The
Brotherhood
of Man
begins with
the Manhood
of the Brother.*



**WHAT MADE
ME SMILE
TODAY**



Every morning, I receive a *Daily Smile* from V.W. Bro. Eric Lakien, Assistant Grand Chaplain, 2012 - 2013, and thought that I would share this one with you.

If you would like to receive the *Daily Smiles* from V.W. Bro. Lakien, please contact him at: Eric Lakien < eric@lakien.com >

Enjoy this *Daily Smile*. Stay safe. Best Regards ... Eric.

GOLF LESSON



A teacher was taking her first golf lesson.

"Is the word spelled P-U-T or P-U-T-T?"
she asked the instructor.

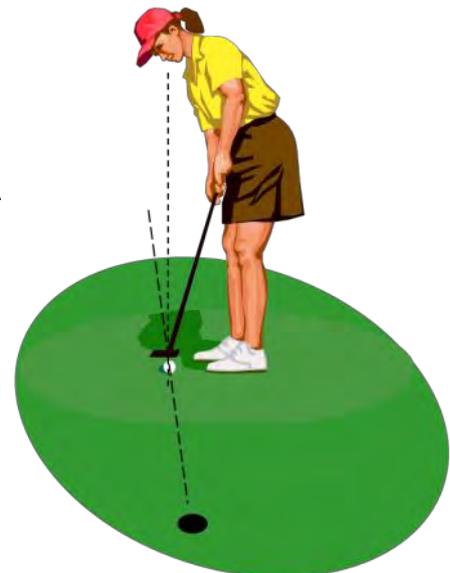
"P-U-T-T is correct," he replied.

"P-U-T means to place a thing where you want it."



And P-U-T-T means ...

a vain attempt to do the same thing."





BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Tuesday 3pm-7pm
Wednesday 10am-2pm
Thursday 3pm-7pm
Friday 8am-12noon
2nd & 4th Saturday
8am -12noon
NEW DONORS NEEDED

Book your appointment at blood.ca
Canadian Blood Services
it's in you to give

Donate Today!
It's in you to GIVE



Sow a word of praise today,
Plant a kindness-seed,
Listen to a troubled friend,
Help someone in need.



THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR DONORS

There is an immediate need for donors from all communities to keep appointments and help restore the low supply of blood for patients. Inventory of several blood types are at concerning levels. Right now, patients across Canada need donors more than ever. Please, only cancel your appointment if necessary.

People with which blood type tend to misspell things?
TypO

Here is a short story about blood type:

I knew a lady who had lost her husband, and she told me her sad story ...

“Well, he needed a blood transfusion, but his blood type was not on record, so the doctors asked me if I knew what it was, as they urgently needed to know, in order to save my Norman’s life.”

“Tragically, I’ve never known his blood type, so I could only sit by his side and say goodbye. I’ll never forget how supportive my Norman was. Even as he was fading away, he kept on whispering to me, ‘Be positive, be positive !!!’

That was my Norman! Always encouraging others !!!”





Grand Master's Communiqué

February 2025

Brethren,

It's almost spring. February is a short month and the days in March are getting longer and warmer. Sure, we might still feel the clutches of winter trying to hold on but we're on the right side of the season and I can't wait for the weather to turn.

January was such a great month. I attended the DDGM Midterm meeting in Whitby where almost all of the Districts in this Grand Jurisdiction were represented. Positivity is the key word of this Masonic year. The DD's are reporting that the Lodges are busy, they're doing lots of Degree Work and they are following our Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M. In the meetings that I have been attending, I agree, the Ritual, Education and Mentoring is alive and well and carrying the Lodges forward.

I do want to comment on having only one Ritual book open for the "*named official prompter*" to use, as this also came up at the Midterm meeting. Sometimes when the other books are removed there is some bad feelings but by the time the meeting is complete, the negative vibes have turned to positive Thank you's. Once the crutch is removed, the Member realizes that they didn't need the book at all. I've known all along that Lodge practices are needed, and the books are not. I am so proud of everyone who has strived to do better, which in turn translates into well-done lectures and floor-work, better and more meaningful Degrees and, more importantly, impressed Candidates. After all, we can all agree that it's all about the Candidates and their experiences.



As R.E.M. is our focus to re-energizing our Membership, which in turn allows our Lodges to better succeed, I want to introduce everyone to our new Grand Lodge Mentoring Booklets that were authored by W. Bro. Eyal Edelman. The Deputy Grand Master and I are very excited to bring these Booklets forward for your use. We showed the 6 Book set to the DDGM's at the Midterm meeting and we received very positive comments.

There are two booklets designated for each of the three Degrees, a six-book set in total, and they are for the Member to read and better understand the information of the Degree that he just received. W. Bro. Edelman, a Member of the Mentoring Committee, also put together a brief description of these booklets that I want to share with the Jurisdiction. This set of Booklets is \$30.00 from Grand Lodge, \$5.00 each and will be a welcome addition to every Lodge Mentoring Chairman.

Freemasonry 101 Mentoring Booklet Series

Grand Lodge has identified Ritual, Education and Mentoring (REM) as the strategic activity to help revitalize and strengthen Freemasonry in Ontario. Mentoring has been recognized for many years as a vital tool in educating and engaging our newest members. Well-educated and engaged Members are more likely to be active members of their Lodge, obtain the rank of Master Mason, and retain their Membership.

Although mentoring may differ to meet the needs and interests of each unique Candidate, certain general guidelines have been identified as contributors to delivering a great mentoring experience to the Candidates:

- Timely engagement soon after completing each Degree
- Personal connection between the new Candidate and his Mentor, with continued engagement
- Going beyond routine memorization, exposing and explaining the meaning of our ritual
- Educating Candidates about the broader aspect of Freemasonry beyond the ritual (e.g. protocol & etiquette, our history, visitation, exposure to the operations of Lodges and Grand Lodge).

In order to support our newest Members and our Mentors, Grand Lodge has published a new series of booklets. These booklets are now available for purchase from Grand Lodge: <https://ontariomasons.ca/ItemDetail?iProductCode=MENTORING%20BKLTs&Category=BOOKLET> .

The “*Freemasonry 101*” mentoring booklet series is composed of six booklets, two per each Degree, and forms the basis of a well-rounded mentoring program. The Freemasonry 101 booklet series include:

Degree	Booklet Name	Content
EA	I am a new Mason ! Now what ?	Introduction to the Masonic Lodge, its Officers, and basic P&E.
EA	Contemplating the Entered Apprentice Mason Degree	Explaining the meaning of the main points in the EA Degree
FC	I am a Fellow Craft ! Now what ?	Introduction to Masonic History, our Ritual origin and Grand Lodge
FC	Contemplating the Fellow Craft Degree	Explaining the meaning of the main points in the FC Degree
MM	I am a Master Mason ! Now what ?	Available “ <i>Next Steps</i> ” for Master Masons after Raising
MM	Contemplating the Master Mason Degree	Explaining the meaning of the main points in the MM Degree

As its name suggests, the Freemasonry 101 series is intended as a first introductory course and is not meant as a comprehensive training. Interested parties may find more extensive training through the courses offered by the College of Freemasonry.

Thank you very much, Eyal, for your work on this important initiative. I appreciate your dedication to Freemasonry. These Mentoring Booklets add to the success of our vision of R.E.M.

In conclusion, as always my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look ahead to this upcoming Masonic year with hope and determination and let us all inspire someone to do better !!!

Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun isn't there let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren, safe travels and God Bless.

M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland
Grand Master.



Grand Master's Visitations

- Mar. 8, 2025, Georgian North and South and York Districts Day of Masonry
- Mar. 18, 2025, Conestoga Lodge No. 295, M.W. Bro. Green 50 yr pin presentation
- Mar. 19, 2025, Ionic Lodge No. 328, MM Degree
- Mar. 21, 2025, St. Andrew's No. 16 and St. George No. 367 Amalgamation, TDV District
- Mar. 28, 2025, Grenville Lodge No. 629 Gala
- Mar. 29, 2025, Ontario Day of Masonry
- Mar. 30, 2025, Sankey Lecture, Brock University
- Apr. 5, 2025, St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560, John Forester 60 yr pin
- Apr. 9, 2025, Amity Lodge No. 32, 175th Anniversary, Niagara A District, Dunnville, ON
- Apr. 11, 2025, Union Lodge No. 7, 225th Anniversary, Grimsby, ON
- Apr. 12, 2025, Breakfast with Union Lodge No. 7 Members, Grimsby, ON
- Apr. 22, 2025, Harriston Lodge No. 262, R.W. Bro. Al Simpson, 50 yr pin presentation
- Apr. 24 – 27, 2025, All Canada Conference of Grand Masters
- Apr. 29 – May 7, 2025, Northeastern Tour
- May 8, 2025, Prince of Wales Lodge No. 171, Iona Station, ON

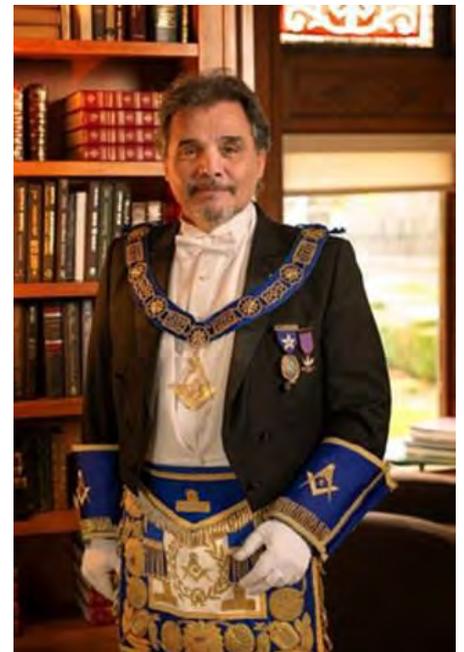
Deputy Grand Master's Communiqué

Greetings Brethren,
Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth: three words we are presented with from the outset of our Masonic journey.

Couched as the fundamental principles of our Order, we are reminded regularly in our ritual, our writings and our charges, that we are to conduct ourselves in concert with these three basic, yet fundamental principles in all we do, within or without our Lodges. As every new Initiate enters our Craft, he is presented with a copy of our Constitution. The importance of this document is that it not only delineates our regulations, our roles, and our responsibilities, moreover Parts VI of the Constitution provide a concise summary and explanation of our Ancient Charges, which specify the key elements required of our conduct.

From the very beginning, we are taught that these principles are not merely concepts but are essential guidelines designed to refine our character and our conduct, both within our Lodges and in our everyday lives. They serve as a constant reminder to align our actions with the ideals we profess to uphold, and by embodying these principles, the intent is to create a harmonious environment in which to conduct our endeavors and resolve our issues.

In fact, this direction is emphasized in the very first Charge we are given, immediately after we are Invested with our very first badge of the Order. The lesson implied in this first Charge is that in order to benefit from the principles of our Craft, one of the very first challenges we must learn to recognize and overcome is adversity.



Brethren, this charge is not to be interpreted as a pass to avoid the common resolution of an issue, nor does it promote the attitude to not attend Lodge because of a potential or ongoing issue or dispute with another Brother. In fact, the underlying message is that, to fully appreciate the values of our Craft, one of the very first things we must learn to master is our approach to adversity. Yet somewhere along the line, the essence of this message continues to be lost or misinterpreted, as piques and quarrels continue to prevail within our organization.

Brethren, we are regularly confronted with issues, and our lives are laden with adversity in our vocation, our families and among our Brethren. We do not all think and feel the same in regard to our surrounding matters and concerns. Yet the dilemma is not necessarily with the conflict itself, or the diverse positions and views surrounding the issue, but more so with how we choose to deal with it. As noted earlier, our Craft outlines from the initial steps in our Masonic journey that one of the very first things we must learn to do as Masons is to deal with adversity, by putting into practice the virtues and fundamental principles of our Order. These building blocks of our organization are built into our core values and serve as tools to deal with conflict and opposing positions. These tools are easily acknowledged as they are regularly present within the experience and lessons of our ritual and charges.

To further assist in the resolution of any differences in peace and harmony, our Conflict Resolution Handbook is also available for use by our Brethren. The handbook can be downloaded from our Grand Lodge website Members area, in the Masonic Education Pillar under Masonic Education. A special note of gratitude to the Brethren of our Grand Lodge Masonic Education Pillar for all your efforts in making this handbook available.

In summary, conflict resolution in our context is the determination of a way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to any disagreement. When a dispute arises, often the best course of action is to resolve the issue in a state of harmony and peaceful negotiation. The events and trials we regularly experience may not always yield a favourable outcome, and our own resolve may be put to the test. Our reaction and approach to a resolution will be the true measure of whether we are becoming the better man.

In closing Brethren, I leave you with an excerpt from Most Worshipful Brother Norman E. Byrne's report in the Grand Lodge 1995 Proceedings. As a Past Grand Master and Chairman of the Discipline Committee he penned; *"Surely charity, toleration, a little common sense and a big helping of brotherly love would produce a much better result for all concerned. Your committee knows it is easy to say, but the exercise of the aforementioned Masonic virtues will produce much better results for an aggrieved Brother, the Lodge and even Grand Lodge, than the laying of Masonic charges in the heat of passion for a 'personal' affront or wrongdoing. The test may well be 'has this Brother clearly and unequivocally offended Freemasonry generally? – or is it just me?'. A serious question, which deserves a serious answer."*

With my best fraternal regards,

R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco
Deputy Grand Master

Grand Chaplain's Communiqué

I have been deeply moved and encouraged by those who have asked about me. There have been so many times, as I am getting to know someone there seems to have been no interest in me. No time to ask about my story.

My first chat with our late Brother, M.W. Bro. Peter Dunlop, was at Sombra, Ontario. I noticed a Masonic decal on the last vehicle coming off the Sombra ferry. I asked if he had a few moments to chat. He turned off the car and gave me his full attention. He asked about me. In many ways those few moments were the tipping to get me thinking seriously about the Craft. I had the privilege of sitting in Lodge with him at Ionic Lodge in Napier. This dear Brother went on to be Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

I met, but once, our late PGM, M.W. Brother R. Daniels. He recognized from my grip I was a Fellowcraft. He asked about me. How long was I in the Craft? He spoke of the imagery of the SW's lecture. For those few moments he expressed a genuine interest. That lesson has not been lost on me.

At a banquet for our Grand Master, a Brother at our table asked me to tell two highlights of my career as Canada Border Services Officer. The person who asked was interested in another Brother's story.

At the same gathering, I was approached by a Brother in leadership in our jurisdiction. He asked how my term as Grand Chaplain was going. We had never met but his concern for me, the office of Grand Chaplain and our Craft was quite apparent.

As if people matter. PGM, M.W. Bro. Cameron has challenged us with those words several years ago. Those moments when Brethren have chosen to be involved in my life remain highlights of my Masonic journey. Let's each take a moment to ask and thus learn about another Brother.

R.W. Bro. David Spencer

Grand Chaplain

< david.spencer54@yahoo.com >



Grand Secretary's Communiqué

Brethren,

A number of important announcements and reminders.

Annual Communication – July 16-17, 2025:

Our Annual Communication will take place at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. Details for accommodations and hospitality suites were included in the January issue. This year, the Seminars and Workshops will be held Tuesday afternoon July 15th to allow extra time for the Annual Communication on Wednesday-Thursday July 16th-17th. Further details to follow, including for the Grand Master's Banquet on Wednesday evening July 16th.



Lodge Dues:

Members are required to comply with the By-Laws of the Lodge and the Constitution. Please pay your Lodge Dues in advance as required by the Constitution. Lodge Dues are payable each year in advance of the due date. A Brother who neglects to pay his dues for twelve months is suspended. Any suspension causes a suspension in all Lodges and all concordant bodies.

Lodge Summons:

Section 239 of the Constitution requires a copy of every Summons to be sent to the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master, at the same time as the Summons is sent to the Members. Lodge Secretaries are reminded of this requirement in August each year. Many Lodges are not in compliance with Section 239. If this is because the Lodge is not meeting regularly, or because the Lodge repeatedly does not have a quorum, please let the Grand Secretary know right away and Grand Lodge will commence the process for returning the Warrant.

Just because Grand Lodge does not raise the failure to you, does not mean the practice can continue.

Brethren – please support your Lodge by attending meetings.

Worshipful Masters and Secretaries – we know which Lodges are not complying with Section 239 and this must be corrected!

This is not the first reminder.

Lodge Meetings:

Lodges must hold regular meetings in accordance with the By-Laws of the Lodge. Meetings should only be postponed in exceptional circumstances, such as extreme weather or a power outage. Any such meeting must be rescheduled (and not cancelled).

Lodge Officers:

The required Officers are outlined in Section 217 of the Constitution. Per Section 218, to be eligible for election, the Brother must have proven himself in the Master Mason Degree. Permission (s. 219) and dispensation (s. 221) must be obtained prior to election. Per section 234, should any Officer die, resign his office, or become permanently incapable, a successor shall forthwith be appointed or elected. Section 237 (b) requires the elected and appointed Officers of the Lodge to be updated and maintained in the Grand Lodge Database/System immediately after their Installation and Investiture and upon any change in any such Officer.

Many Lodges are not complying with the Constitution. Lodges must correct all Non-compliance's and remain compliant! This is not the first reminder.

Please support your Lodge. It makes a difference!

Thank you, Brethren.

Sincerely and fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Louis M. Domjan, Grand Secretary

THE LETTER G



The letter G appears inside the Square and Compasses and (sometimes) at the centre of the Blazing Masonic star.

Its symbolism in Freemasonry often differs from one jurisdiction to another.

Some say it refers to “God”, i.e., the Supreme Being.

Others articulate its meaning to “Geometry”; the study of the order of numbers in mathematics and sciences in general.

Other Lodges believe it stands for “Gnosis”; the understanding of spiritual mysteries which is a central part of the Craft.

Some Masons link the meaning of the letter G to Hebrew. In ancient Hebrew, the letter G had a similar numeric value of 3. In history, number 3 was used severally when referring to God and his teachings.

Source: masonicfind.com/masonic-symbols

What is the significance of the Northeast Corner?

My Goal
Isn't To Be
Better Than
Others

My Goal
Is To Be
Better Than
I Once Was



Cornerstones are laid in the Northeast corner. Entered Apprentices stand in the Northeast corner of the Lodge. The point midway between the darkness of the North and the brilliance of the East was chosen by ancient builders as the point of beginning - a spot to mark a birth - the commencement of a new structure.

Obviously, he who stands in the darkness has no light; as obviously, he on whom falls the whole light of the brilliant East and its rising sun is not in darkness.

The point halfway between then, is a symbol of a beginning - the traveller has left the darkness and moved toward the light. Those who build have left the "darkness" in which there is no building, and progressed far enough towards the "light" to lay a foundation stone: - a place that, by its position, symbolizes movement away from blackness into the day.

The symbolism of the Northeast corner in the Entered Apprentice Degree is taken from this ancient practice of laying the cornerstone in the Northeast corner.

He who stands there in the Lodge, "*a just and upright Mason,*" is himself a cornerstone of the Lodge which will be.

A Lodge is erected, not only by, but upon, her sons. The Entered Apprentice of today is the veteran Mason and Lodge Member of tomorrow.



Ontario Masons



Also included in the February 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason Magazine* was an article by V.W. Bro. Greg McKinnon Grand Archivist:

From the Grand Archives

This month's archival submission is a framed letter with two mounted replica coins commemorating the 50th anniversary of Riverdale Lodge No. 494.

In 1959, Riverdale Lodge No. 494 celebrated its 50th anniversary. One of the celebratory events was the creation of a 50-year commemorative coin.

Between the anniversary date and early 1964*, Riverdale Lodge Member, W. Bro. A.J. Mavor, met with Lord Mancroft (formally known as the 2nd Baron Mancroft) whose given name was Stormont Mancroft (he legally changed his last name from Samuel upon receiving the title). On this occasion, Bro. Mavor asked his Lordship to deliver one of the commemorative coins to his colleague Robert Arthur Balfour, Lord Riverdale (formally known as the 2nd Baron Riverdale).

This letter, dated March 17th, 1964, was written by Mr. Bennett, personal secretary to Lord Riverdale and ensures W. Bro. Mavor that Lord Mancroft did forward the coin and that it was now in his safe possession. Mr. Bennett planned to, "*keep this safely on one side*", until Lord Riverdale's return from his trip overseas, when Mr. Bennett would present it to the Lord.

It's uncertain whether or not Lord Riverdale was a Mason. However we do know that his father, the 1st Lord Riverdale, was definitely a Mason and a founding Member of University Lodge Sheffield No. 3911, which continues to flourish to this day under the United Grand Lodge of England.

The letter was found in the records of Riverdale Lodge No. 494 and, in 2009, at the 100th anniversary, the Lodge Brethren framed it alongside two replica coins that commemorated the 50th anniversary. It was donated to the Grand Lodge Archives when the Lodge went dark.

As a matter of interest, notice that the letter is written on Capital Steel Works letterhead, Lord Riverdale's company.

And that the business' address is "*telegraphic*" as opposed to a physical one.

* (most likely in 1964 - Mavor's year as Master of Riverdale Lodge)



Telegraphic Address LORD RIVERDALE SHEFFIELD.
Telephone No. SHEFFIELD 22071.

Capital Steel Works,
Sheffield.3

17th March, 1964.

Dear Mr. Mavor.



This note will briefly acknowledge safe receipt of the coin commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Riverdale Lodge which you handed to Lord Mancroft for Lord Riverdale, which I have today received in his Lordship's absence.



Lord Riverdale is at present overseas and will be abroad for several weeks yet, but I will keep this safely on one side and see that it is placed before his Lordship immediately on return to this country. Lord Riverdale will, I know, greatly appreciate your kind thought in sending this to him and will no doubt be writing to you personally in due course.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. Bennett. (Pisc)

P/Sec. to Lord Riverdale.

Mr. Al Mavor,
Messrs. Calladine & Baldry,
343, Broadview Avenue, Toronto. 8.



GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
LIBRARY, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

As well, the February 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason* magazine included this article:

MASONIC MENTORING FOR A LIFETIME

A personal experience that tells the story

We start with two questions. What is Masonic Mentoring and Whose Lifetime? It is 58 years since March 1967 when I was Initiated in Freemasons Hall, the home of the Grand Lodge of England in London, and I have been mentored and been a mentor for all those years. For me the answer to those two questions is not a subject to speculate on, but a personal experience that I can talk about, and hope that it will enrich or encourage today's mentors and their Masonic charges.

There are many Mentoring papers and articles available on our Grand Lodge website that are easily reached, but they are not about what I want to convey here. A driving manual does not teach you how to drive, only years of driving experience, and only a responsible driver can be a qualified instructor/mentor. I may not make a good driving instructor, but I do know that I have been well-mentored in the Craft and additionally continue to be mentored, and have become the mentor that I hope I have been over the years.

I was brought into the Craft by my late father into a Lodge where I found out that I knew many of the members from our own community. Lodge of Instruction started the week following my EA Degree and continued every week as a learning and fun activity every week. It was upstairs at a tavern. All Officers and many of the Lodge Members came out to participate. Every week we did a Degree sort of rehearsal and the first week I was the Candidate. The next week I was Tyler with a mentor standing next to me. It was progressive week by week. A beer and a sandwich followed, and we were done at 7.30 p.m., and that's where it began. After 4 years, I knew so much work, and learned how to project myself. I realized how my new feeling about myself was helping in my business life and with my new young family. But more than that, I got more and more into What is Freemasonry and it fascinated me. Always wanting to learn more and finding mentors for myself wherever I could.

Arriving in Canada in 1971, I found a good Lodge and hung onto all mentors that I could grab. They never let me down, and I grew into the happy mentor that I became. It has been a lifetime that every new Mason can also acquire if only he gets started right today. It's a great thrill to grow from mentored to mentor and always remain as both. Every one of our Candidates needs to know that.

Never mind all the instruction lessons that are very much just as important, mentoring is the close relationships with the right Brethren and the thirst for more Masonic knowledge and experience that will give us that Lifetime of Joy in Freemasonry that is there for us all to take for ourselves.

In Freemasonry, knowledge is key, and relationships are key. It's up to you to draw them to yourself, and to bring that Joy and Rejoicing into your lifetime in the Craft.

Bro. Stephen Maizel

Also included in the February 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason* magazine was this article:

THE LIFELONG IMPORTANCE OF MASONIC MENTORSHIP

By – R.W. Bro. Richard W. Kaufman
– Chairman – Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee

Mentorship is a cornerstone of Freemasonry, fostering personal growth, strengthening fraternal bonds, and ensuring the continuity of Masonic traditions. While formal instruction plays a vital role in learning rituals and procedures, true mentorship transcends structured teaching, offering invaluable personal guidance, insight and friendship.

What is Masonic Mentorship?

Masonic mentorship is the process of guiding new and less experienced Members through the vibrant traditions of Freemasonry. A mentor serves as a role model and guide, imparting knowledge about the history, philosophy, and values of the Craft. Mentoring extends beyond the lodge room — it's about creating a meaningful connection, fostering curiosity, instilling confidence, and building lifelong friendships.

When you learned to drive: the driving manual provided rules and techniques, but it is only through the guidance of an experienced instructor that you became a confident, responsible driver. Similarly, mentoring in Freemasonry provides the practical and philosophical framework necessary for personal growth within the Craft. This can only be obtained by more senior Members communicating their personal experience to the younger Members of the Craft.

The Pillars of Effective Masonic Mentorship

To ensure mentorship is impactful, mentors should focus on these guiding principles:

- 1. Personal Connection:**
Build trust and rapport, fostering a space where questions and concerns are welcomed.
- 2. Continuous Learning:**
Mentorship is mutual; mentors impart wisdom but also grow through reflection and engagement.
- 3. Tailored Guidance:**
Each Brother's path is unique.
Effective mentors adapt their approach to the needs and aspirations of their mentee.

4. Ritual Proficiency and Meaning:

Beyond memorization, mentors illuminate the deeper significance behind Masonic symbols and teachings.

5. Inspiration for Exploration:

A mentor nurtures curiosity, encouraging mentees to engage with broader Masonic activities, lodges, and resources.

Why Mentorship Matters in Freemasonry

More than sharing knowledge, Masonic mentorship builds lasting relationships that enrich the Masonic journey. A good mentor not only helps a new Mason understand the rituals and teachings but also inspires them to explore the deeper meanings of the fraternity. These relationships enrich the Masonic experience, helping Members find purpose, connection, and joy in their journey.

By fostering close bonds and encouraging a thirst for knowledge, mentors help create an environment where Members thrive both in and outside the Lodge. Mentorship has a cascading effect: as a mentee grows in their Masonic understanding, they are empowered to guide others, strengthening our fraternity.

Mentorship Beyond Ritual

While ritual instruction forms the foundation of mentorship, the Craft extends into other areas of personal development. Freemasonry teaches virtues like patience, resilience, and tolerance — qualities that are nurtured through mentorship. The lessons shared within a Lodge often ripple into a Brother's professional and personal life, fostering leadership, public speaking, and collaboration.

Mentorship strengthens not only the Lodge but the community. By encouraging charitable initiatives, mentors help instill a sense of responsibility and service that benefits society at large.

A Lifetime Commitment

Masonic mentorship is not a one-time endeavour — it is a lifelong journey. As Members grow within the Craft, they transition from mentees to mentors, ensuring that each generation of Freemasons receives the guidance and support needed to flourish. This reciprocal cycle sustains the fraternity, providing Members with a profound sense of belonging and purpose.

By building strong mentor-mentee relationships, Freemasons preserve the traditions and values of the Craft while inspiring each other to reach new heights. Every Brother has the potential to experience the deep satisfaction that comes from helping another find their path within Freemasonry.

In Freemasonry, knowledge is the key to unlocking the deeper meanings of the Craft, and relationships are the foundation upon which this knowledge is built. By committing to mentoring, we uphold the traditions of Freemasonry while paving the way for its future. A lifetime of joy and fulfilment awaits those who embrace the dual roles of mentee and mentor, ensuring that the Craft continues to thrive for generations to come.

The Future of Mentorship in Freemasonry

As Freemasonry continues to evolve, so too must its mentoring practices. Lodges should consider implementing structured mentorship programs that pair seasoned Brothers with new Initiates, creating formal opportunities for engagement. Leveraging resources, such as our College of Freemasonry, can also enhance accessibility and inclusivity.

Ultimately, the success of Masonic mentorship depends on a shared commitment to the Craft's principles. Every Member, regardless of rank or experience, has a role to play in cultivating a supportive, thriving Masonic community.

Let us, as Brothers, take up the mantle of mentorship. By guiding others with intention, we preserve our Craft and inspire the next generation to embrace its timeless teachings.

Also included in the February 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason* magazine was this article by M.W. Bro. David Cameron, Past Grand Master:

THE BOOK OF RUTH

We think that, as the lessons of Masonry are derived from the VOSL, all Lodges must open their volume at the same place. But if you travel you will see that is not the case.

The Irish Lodges in London, and many American Lodges open it at Psalm 133: *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell in unity.*

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there, the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

Well, that seems appropriate.

Albert Mackey says that, in the past, it was opened at the twenty-second Chapter of Genesis, which gives an account of Abraham's intended sacrifice of Isaac. Well, that would seem appropriate too as it was one of the grand offerings mentioned in the lecture.

Or sometimes it was opened at the twenty-eighth chapter, which records the vision of Jacob's ladder. Alright, that's good too.

We open our VOSL in the First Degree at Ruth 4 where we find the story of a deal being sealed by the exchange of a slipper. *"Now this was the manner in former time in Israel...to confirm all things."*

Ruth is one of only two books in the Bible named after women. Don't you think it is an odd book for a male only group to highlight? The book of Ruth is usually seen as a testament to the faithfulness of a woman, although feminist commentators see it as a condemnation of patriarchy.

Let us consider the backstory.

A couple from Bethlehem move to the territory of Moab because of a famine. The man's name is not common today, but his wife was called Naomi. Now Moab was considered an unsavoury place, full of sexual depravity and idolatry. The couple's two sons end up marrying local Moab women. Then the father and both sons die, So Naomi decides to move back to Bethlehem. But she doesn't think her two daughters-in-law should come, because she knows they will not be accepted back home. They are evil foreigners. So she tells them to go back to their mothers' houses and try to find other husbands. The one named Orpah, which is not a common name, does so. (Actually, Oprah Winfrey's parents had intended to name her Orpah, but her father wrote it down wrong on the birth certificate.) The other daughter-in law was called Ruth. She insisted on accompanying Naomi back to Judah.

So they get back to Bethlehem but have no food or money. Ruth must gather the barley left in the field after harvesting (called gleaning). While doing so she catches the eye of a landowner named Boaz. It turns out he is actually a kinsman of her late husband and so he lets her collect grain right off the crop itself, not just at the edges. And then he gives her six measures of grain out of the stores.

That night she washes and anoints herself with oil, then sneaks back to the place where the men are. After they had eaten and drank, and laid down to sleep for the night, she softly goes in, finds Boaz, uncovers his feet, and lies down. *"And behold it comes to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and behold, a woman lay at his feet. And he said, 'Who art thou?' And she answered, 'I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid."* He praises her for not going after the young men, instead giving kindness to the old guy and then asks her to stay the night. Many biblical scholars believe that it was not his "feet" that she uncovered. Regardless of what actually happened, Boaz becomes even more interested in her welfare.

Now it turns out that Naomi's husband actually had some land in Bethlehem, but as she and Ruth are mere women they cannot work it. So she decides to sell it. For some reason, the sale of the land is tied to marrying Ruth. Boaz is interested in Ruth, or the real estate, but there is another kinsman who is more closely related and so has a better claim on the land. But he doesn't want to buy it if he has to look after Ruth as well, so he declines. A shoe is removed in front of the witnesses. Boaz and Ruth marry and live happily ever after. They have a son named Obed and a grandson called Jesse. Jesse's son, David, becomes king.

Now the marrying of a dead brother's wife may seem odd to us, but it was in fact, the required thing in ancient Israel.

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 says:

"If Brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without onto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother unto her.

And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel."

The custom insured that a man's name would not die off but be continued. As well, it looked after the welfare of the widow. In that society, a woman who had neither husband nor sons was nothing. She had no standing in the community and no way even to support herself, except perhaps by gleaning.

So why, as Masons, do we highlight this book?

The obvious link is the sealing of a deal/obligation with the exchange of a shoe. In Scotland, the Candidate actually takes off his slipper and hands it to the Right Worshipful Master as a sign of purchasing Freemasonry. The Master then returns it to him in confirmation of the bargain. But do they use the passage because they do that, or do they do that because of the passage?

The fact that King David's great-grandmother was a Moabite – a foreigner, from a race of infidels – reinforces our commitment to Universal Tolerance.

But this scripture also points to a man's obligation to look after the widow of his brother, be it an actual sibling, a more distant relation, or even a Masonic Brother. The unnamed man forgoes his duty because it might cost him some income, but Boaz steps up to the plate and does the honourable thing. This may be the lesson we are meant to learn.

And there is another possible explanation, one sent by Bro. Eyal Edelman of Mosaic Lodge in Toronto Don Valley District.

Going back to the Deuteronomy passage, it continues:

"And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him; and if he stand to it, and say, 'I like not to take her'; Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, 'So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed'".

There are several clues in the Book of Ruth that show us that this is the custom referred in Chapter 4:

1. Boaz tells Ruth he would like to perform the act of fathering a child, but there is another kin of her husband who is a closer relative (Ruth 3:12)
2. The person refusing to perform the act is not named, as befitting his shamefulness (Ruth 4:1)

Notice everyone in the story is named, except the relative. To this day we know the names of Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, Obed, Orpah (or Oprah), and Jesse. But the dishonorable man has had his name obliterated for all time.

3. Boaz takes the man before the elders at the city gate, as required for him to refuse the act (Ruth 4:2)
4. The kinsman sites financial reasons for refusing to do the honourable act. His shameful refusal is due to him not wanting his inheritance to suffer (Ruth 4:6)

Taking this new insight suggests a possible alternative explanation to the Candidate being slipshod. In his preparation, the Entered Apprentice is deprived of all metals to put him in the shameful position of he who has nothing; this is a great lesson that teaches him to be charitable with others in need.

In a similar way, the E.A. is slipshod to put him in a shameful position of he who is branded forever for failing to do his brotherly duty and putting fortune before virtue. It re-enforces in him the concluding passage in his Obligation:

“or the more effective punishment of being branded as a wilfully perjured individual, void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into ... the society of men who prize honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune.”

Brethren, I encourage you, as you go through your Degrees, to examine the V.O.S.L.; read not only the passage, but the story around it, and try to figure out the life lesson it teaches.

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Ontario Masons

New Short Talks on the Grand Lodge Website

Men012 From Winter to Spring - Prosperity in the Craft

Men013 Making Masonry Positive

Men014 Contributing Factors to Improving Freemasonry

Men015 Which Degree Has Most Impacted My Life

Pub010 Why are you a Mason?

Pub011 The Universal Mason

Pub012 Freemasonry and the Crisis of Masculinity

Pub013 The Soul of Freemasonry

Pub014 What You Seek Is Seeking You

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2nd Annual

Day of Masonry

Sat., March 8, 2025

Save the Date



Hosted by Georgian North District and Georgian South District

Special guest:

The Grand Master

Most Worshipful Bro. Jamie R. Ireland

All Masons are invited to attend a day of educational seminars, vendors, concordant body tables and camaraderie
Masonic Temple: 99 Morrow Road, Barrie Check-in and Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

SPEAKERS



V.W. Bro.
Garry Perkins
Successful
Ritual Practises



M.W. Bro.
Donald A. Campbell
Protocol and
Etiquette



W. Bro.
Mitchell Allison
Sacred
Geometry

Arriving from England



W. Bro.
Tony Harvey
United Grand Lodge of England
*The Future of Freemasonry:
Evolution & Change*

*A copy of W. Bro. Tony Harvey's book included with the first 200 paid registrations

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



The Grand Master
Most Worshipful
Bro. Jamie R. Ireland
Town Hall

\$50*
per person
catered lunch and refreshments incl.

Business
Casual Dress
No Regalia

Registration required by Sat., March 1, 2025 - no registration at the door

For further information contact W. Bro. Barry Goodyear,
Chair, Georgian South District Masonic Association
gsdmasonicassociation@gmail.com



Scan to register for Day of Masonry



Ontario Masons

HAVING AN OPEN MIND

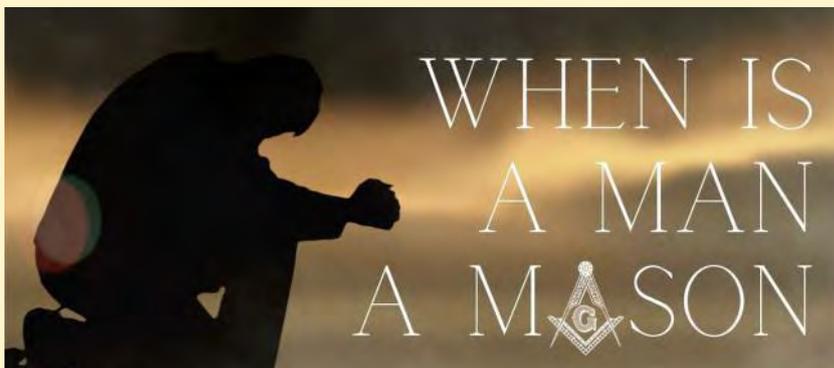
**My Brother, Masonry means more
Than just to wear a pin,
Or carrying a Dues Receipt
So some Lodge will let you in.**

**You wear an emblem on your coat,
And on your hand a ring.
It is just an outward sign to show
The world that you belong
To this Fraternal Brotherhood
That teaches right from wrong.**

**What really counts lies buried deep
Within the human breast;
Masonic teaching brings it out
And puts it to the test.**

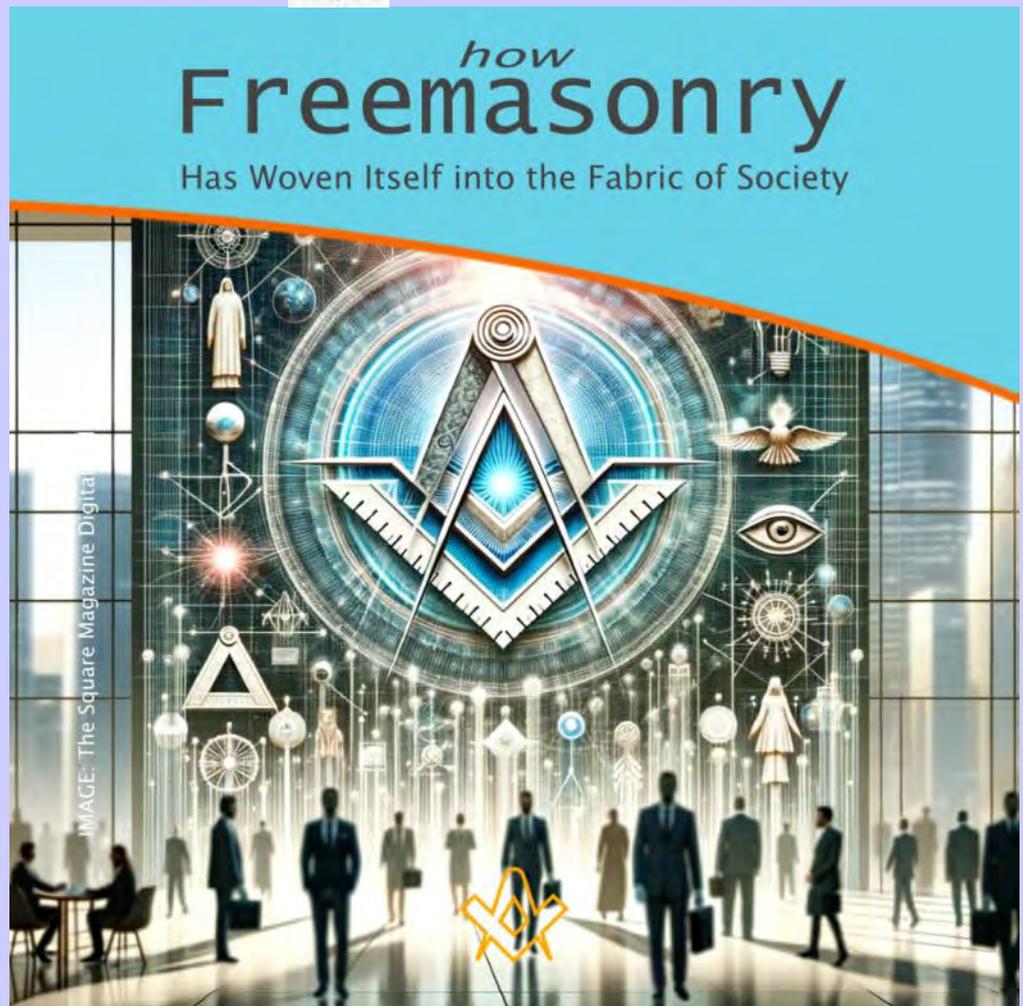
**If you can do outside the Lodge
The things you learn within,
Be just and upright to yourself
And to your fellow-men;
Console a Brother when he is sick,
Alternatively, help him when in need
Without a thought of a reward
For any act or deed.**

**Conduct yourself in such a way
The world without can see
None but the best can meet the test
Laid down by Masonry.**



**Respect and live up to your trust,
Moreover, do the best you can;
Then you can tell the world
You are a Mason and a Man !!!**

Here's a recent article from *The SQUARE Digital 2025* newsletter:



Like the worn stones of an ancient temple, Freemasonry's origins reach far back in history, shrouded in equal parts of mystery and intrigue.

Emerging from the medieval guilds of stonemasons, this fraternal organization can trace its roots to the late 16th or early 17th century. Yet, even with beginnings stretching centuries into the past, the enigmatic aura surrounding Freemasonry has only further embroidered its legacy in the modern era.

At its core, Freemasonry revolves around a system of moral and spiritual instruction imparted through ritual dramas during its Member Initiation process.

This process consists of three main Degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. Each successive Degree reflects a deeper understanding of Masonic principles, safeguarded by centuries of layered symbolism and secret customs. Like climbing the rungs of a winding staircase, the teachings at each stage build upon one another.



Originating in Britain, Freemasonry has spread its wings worldwide over the centuries, drawing together men from diverse walks of life bound by shared ideals of tolerance, respect and kindness.

Yet, much like the fading glow of a setting sun dipping below the horizon, membership in Freemasonry has seen a slow and steady decline after its zenith in the early 20th century. This downward trajectory, once a fiery blaze, now smolders as flickering embers struggling to stay alit.

Gazing into the mirror of history, Freemasonry's far-reaching influence can be glimpsed, casting a long shadow from the 18th century onwards. Though not always overt, the invisible threads of Freemasonry have been intricately woven into the very fabric of modern society. From fostering moral discipline and mutual assistance among Members, to shaping societal values of morality and charity, Freemasonry's core tenets have permeated social norms over time.

The significant role of Freemasonry in spurring community growth and social development cannot be overlooked. Like the flying buttresses of a grand cathedral, Freemasonry has provided crucial foundations and support structures enabling societal progress. From schools to hospitals, libraries to universities, the hidden fingerprints of Freemasonry are etched upon these pillars of advancement.

Delving deeper, one finds Freemasonry's constituent involvement in humanitarian efforts, with various missions and philanthropic initiatives nurtured under its umbrella.



Fast forward to the 21st century, and Freemasonry continues exerting positive societal influence through its humanitarian focus. Upholding timeless teachings of brotherhood, charity and truth, Freemasonry actively engages in community outreach, fostering a spirit of service and putting noble principles into practice. The goal extends beyond merely improving the lives of Members, but also uplifting communities through deeds big and small, touching countless lives in the process.

Yet Freemasonry's declining membership sparks valid concerns, with implications rippling outwards into society at large. The confluence of factors behind this trend are complex, and warrant close examination. What does the future hold for this age-old fraternal order in the modern era? Will it continue fading into irrelevance or can the tide be turned towards revival and renewal? The path ahead remains nebulous, with Freemasonry poised at a pivot point between decay and reinvention.

The digital revolution has also impacted Freemasonry, presenting both obstacles and opportunities to overcome. In many ways, Freemasonry seems a relic of the past in today's world of instant gratification and ephemeral trends. But perchance it can serve as an authentic, steady compass amidst modern society's dizzying pace of change. At the cusp of an accelerating world, Freemasonry's role begs re-evaluation.



Adding prestige to its legacy, Freemasonry has counted numerous influential figures amongst its ranks through the centuries. Founding fathers of America like George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were active Freemasons, as were famed scientists like Sir Isaac Newton. The teachings of Freemasonry undeniably helped shape the ideology and actions of these leaders, and through them, society itself. Their indelible contributions woven into history's tapestry were tinted by the guiding principles of Freemasonry.

Peeling back the veneer further, one finds Freemasonry's deep roots in philanthropy and service. Masonic Lodges incorporate charity into their activities, upholding values of care and compassion.

Institutions like the Shriners Hospital for Children, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and Scottish Rite RiteCare clinics exemplify this, providing medical aid to children and families in need, regardless of means. Such generosity nourishes society's less fortunate corners, enhancing collective welfare.

Masonic symbolism and philosophy have also been embedded into iconic architecture and city planning worldwide. To the keen observer, this hidden language emerges in dimensions, orientation and decorative details, betraying the subtle Masonic influence behind many structures.

From the street layout of Washington D.C., to the soaring vaults of France's Chartres Cathedral, this unseen hand has shaped building design and urban landscapes over time.

Yet Freemasonry's aura of secrecy has bred an array of perceptions and misconceptions amongst the public. To some, it represents an elite old boys' club for the rich and influential. To others, its mysterious rites suggest darker occult undercurrents.

Such notions, fanned by pop culture caricatures and lack of transparency, have both helped and hindered Freemasonry through the ages. Today's Masons increasingly promote openness to counteract lingering false impressions, while still safeguarding their heritage.

Furthermore, Freemasonry has permeated creative arts, literature and popular entertainment for centuries. Masonic imagery, rituals and mythologies have fuelled countless conspiracy theories, books and films over the years. Works like Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code and big-screen adaptations like *National Treasure* continue stirring public fascination, albeit often prone to sensationalism. Still, such portrayals underscore Freemasonry's enduring aura of intrigue.



Each knot unravelled reveals yet another facet of Freemasonry's multi-layered imprint upon society. It stands as an ever-evolving tapestry, woven from varied threads of history, mystery and human creativity. And this living tapestry continues being embroidered over time, while adapting to stay relevant amidst modernity. Freemasonry's place in contemporary society ultimately depends on maintaining core values while reinventing practices for the 21st century. Its enduring societal influence is evident and remains pivotal, not unlike bold brushstrokes on a canvas defining the overall composition.

Surveying Freemasonry today reveals a complex interplay of legacy, struggle and possibility. While facing obstacles adapting to modern times, its narrative arc still bends onwards. Revitalization remains plausible, given commitment to upholding traditions while harnessing its multitude of potentials.

Gazing farther down the horizon, Freemasonry's outlook shimmers with renewed potential. The unwinding scroll of tomorrow offers ample space for this age-old fraternal order to flourish anew.

What trajectory might it follow into the future? A digital reawakening perhaps? Or a metamorphosis to seamlessly blend with the modern era?

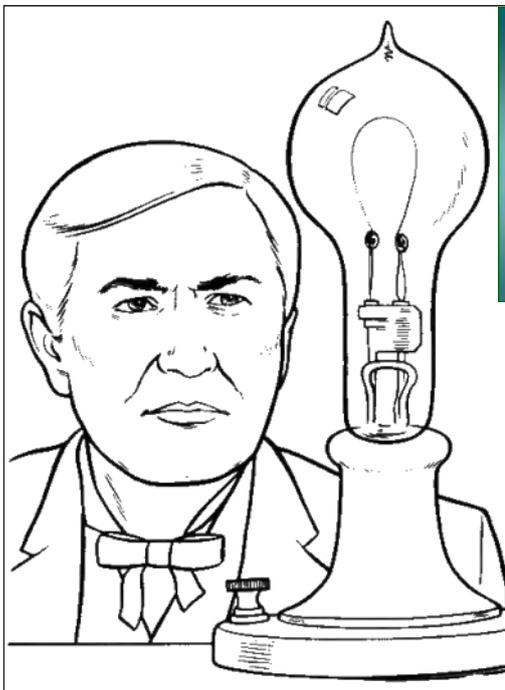
The road ahead remains unwritten.

One thing is certain – Freemasonry's enduring influence shall persist, leaving indelible footprints upon the sands of time.

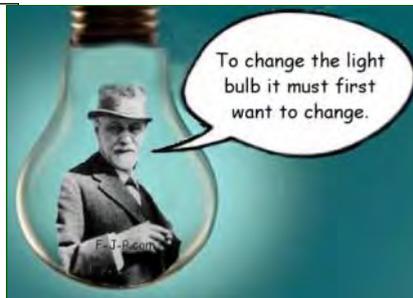
Source: www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/article/2024q1how-freemasonry-has-woven-itself-into-the-fabric-of-society

Q). How many Masons does it take to change a lightbulb ???

A). **CHANGE ??? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ??? CHANGE ???**



1879
Thomas Alva Edison
invents the lightbulb



Thomas Alva Edison
Born:
Thursday, 11 February 1847
Died:
Sunday, 18 October 1931

Thomas Edison was an inventor and entrepreneur whose Masonic spirit

brought forth world-wide illumination in the form of inexpensive electric light.

Thomas Edison was one of the modern era's greatest inventors and businessmen. His prolific inventing literally illuminated the world, bringing inexpensive electric light to millions. And his business acumen created General Electric, one of the largest, most successful companies in the world.

He was Initiated in Malta Lodge, Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1949 and was Raised a Master Mason in Columbia Lodge, Washington, DC. The influence of the Craft can be seen in Edison's never-ending quest to bring the light of knowledge to humanity.

Edison was born in 1847 in Ohio to a middle class American family. From this humble beginning,

great things would come. He began his experimenting at a young age, conducting experiments during his down time as a telegraph worker.

By 1874, he had his first successful invention, which he sold for \$10,000, over \$220,000 in today's dollars! And from there, his career as an inventor took off. Not merely content to invent devices, Edison went into business, hiring other bright young minds to work for him doing research and developing technologies.

Some of the achievements in human progress that he orchestrated were the popularization of electricity and electric lights and the invention of the phonograph. Overall Edison would file over 1,000 patents before his death in 1931. He left a legacy of technological innovation and progress that is unrivaled to this day, illuminating and improving the condition of the human race.

www.universalfreemasonry.org/en/famous-freemasons/thomas-edison

Here's another article from:

The Masonic Journey

— Your Guide to Masonic Light —



THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH: A MASONIC JOURNEY

by Gregory Preston

“One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we’ve been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We’re no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It’s simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we’ve been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back.” — Carl Sagan

In an era where information and misinformation co-exist in a tangled web, Carl Sagan’s words ring truer than ever. This profound observation on the human condition speaks to the heart of the Masonic journey — a relentless quest for truth and enlightenment, no matter how challenging or uncomfortable it may be.

The Allure of Deception

Imagine a young Mason, Alex, full of enthusiasm and a burning desire to uncover the deeper truths of the universe and his place within it. Early in his Masonic journey, he encounters a charismatic figure who speaks with authority and seems to possess a profound understanding of the mysteries Alex seeks to unravel. This figure promises quick enlightenment and easy answers, captivating many within the lodge.

The allure of such figures is powerful. They offer certainty in a world fraught with ambiguity and doubt. Yet, as Carl Sagan so aptly noted, the longer we are deceived, the harder it becomes to accept that we have been deceived. The charlatan's hold strengthens, and the truth becomes an unwelcome intruder in a carefully constructed illusion.

The Challenge of Disillusionment

Alex, however, embodies the true spirit of Freemasonry. He delves deeper into his studies, immersing himself in the rich tapestry of Masonic philosophy and history. He reads the works of renowned Masonic scholars, engages in thoughtful discussions, and reflects on the core values of the Craft — wisdom, strength, and beauty.

As his understanding deepens, Alex begins to notice inconsistencies in the teachings of the charismatic figure. His initial admiration turns into skepticism, and he embarks on a personal quest to uncover the truth. Armed with historical evidence and philosophical insights, Alex attempts to share his findings with his fellow Masons.

Here, he faces one of the most significant challenges: resistance from those who are deeply invested in the charlatan's narrative. It's a painful process, as Carl Sagan describes, to acknowledge that one has been deceived. For many, it's easier to reject the evidence and cling to the comforting familiarity of falsehood.

The Path of Resilience and Integrity

Despite the resistance, Alex remains steadfast. He embodies the resilience and integrity that Freemasonry upholds. He understands that the pursuit of truth is not a sprint but a marathon. Instead of confronting his peers with accusations, he adopts a more compassionate approach.

He mentors others quietly, encouraging them to seek knowledge and question assumptions. Through patient and persistent efforts, Alex plants seeds of doubt in a manner that respects the autonomy of his fellow Masons. He invites them to join him in his studies, sharing the resources that helped him see through the deception.

Gradually, the tide begins to turn. Others in the Lodge start to recognize the inconsistencies and question the charismatic figure's teachings.

Reclaiming the Lodge's True Purpose

As more Members open their eyes to the truth, the Lodge undergoes a transformation. The charlatan's influence wanes, and the Lodge rededicates itself to the core principles of Freemasonry. The process is neither quick nor easy, but it is profoundly rewarding. The Members emerge stronger, wiser, and more united in their shared commitment to the pursuit of truth.

Alex's journey is a powerful reminder of the resilience required to overcome deception and the importance of integrity in the face of falsehood. It underscores the value of the Masonic principles that guide us — wisdom, strength, and beauty. These principles are not mere words but a way of life that demands courage, patience, and a relentless dedication to truth.

Reflections on the Modern World

In today's world, where AI-generated images and videos can create convincing illusions, Sagan's warning is more relevant than ever. We must remain vigilant, discerning, and committed to seeking the truth, even when it is uncomfortable. The Masonic journey teaches us that true enlightenment comes not from easy answers but from the rigorous pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

As Masons, we are called to be beacons of truth in a world often shrouded in deception. We must strive to embody the virtues of our Craft and inspire others to do the same. By doing so, we honour the legacy of those who came before us and pave the way for future generations to continue the noble quest for truth and enlightenment.

In conclusion, Carl Sagan's poignant observation serves as both a warning and a call to action.

Let us embrace the challenges of our Masonic journey with courage and integrity, ever mindful of our commitment to the pursuit of truth.

For it is through this journey that we find not only enlightenment but also the strength to reclaim our power and guide others toward the light of understanding.

Source: www.themasonicjourney.com/the-pursuit-of-truth-a-masonic-journey

Charles Stratton Actor

Birthday: January 4, 1838

Deceased: July 15, 1883

Biography:

General Tom Thumb was the stage name of Charles Sherwood Stratton, a dwarf who achieved great fame as a midget performer under circus pioneer P.T. Barnum.

Stratton became a Freemason on October 3, 1862, age 24.

Stratton, by now 2 feet, 11 inches (89 cm) tall, was Initiated with a man 6 feet, 3 inches (191 cm).

He weighed 16 pounds when he was Raised to the sublimed Degree of a Master Mason.

He became a 32nd Degree Mason and a Knight Templar.

When he died (of apoplexy) at the age of 45, more than 10,000 persons attended his funeral.

A life-sized granite statue of himself, which he had commissioned, was placed atop his grave in Bridgeport.



Here's a bit of the history of St. John's Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 20 G.R.C.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE A.F. & A.M. NO. 20 G.R.C.

Constituted October 4, 1841 under the Grand Lodge of Ireland.
Came under the Grand Lodge of Canada on February 1, 1856.

The Warrant for the first Masonic Lodge for London District was granted to Mt. Moriah Lodge, Nilestown, in 1822.

The City of London, being a garrison town, saw many British Regiments stationed here from time to time. Many Regiments had what was called travelling Masonic Lodges, which usually bore the regimental number.

Lodge No. 83 was a Lodge working under a field warrant in the 83rd Regiment of Foot, issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1808, and was exchanged for No. 83 as a stationary warrant in 1817. The last meeting was held in 1846.

A number of the Brethren of these military Lodges, chose to receive their military discharge in Canada and received land grants in the London area.

Being desirous of starting a Masonic Lodge, they applied to the Grand Lodge of Ireland for a Warrant early in 1841.

A Warrant was granted on October 4th, 1841 under the name of St. John's Lodge No. 209 I.R., but owing to some delay, it did not arrive until October 2nd, 1842.

W. Bro. Samuel Peters, for whom the village of Petersville was later named, and other Officers were Installed on October 3rd 1842. The Lodge was closed in peace and harmony, to meet on the second Tuesday of October 1842.

The second Tuesday of each month has been religiously observed, from that date to the present, first by St. John's Lodge No. 209 I.R., No. 14 G.R.C. and now St. John's Lodge No. 20 G.R.C.

The original Warrant No. 209 I.R. was annulled in 1855.

It was somehow revived in 1860 and continued until 1872 when it joined the Grand Lodge of Canada as St. John's Lodge No. 209a. Lodge No. 209 I.R. is today a working Lodge in Cork, Ireland, called St. Finn Barre's Lodge No. 209.



More about St. John's Lodge No. 20

St. John's Lodge No. 20 continued working under the Irish warrant until 1855. The Lodge was one of the founding Lodges of the newly-formed Grand Lodge of Canada, and ceased working under the Irish warrant.

The Lodge was renumbered 14, G.R.C., and was renumbered again to 20 in 1859 with the union of the two Canadian Grand Lodges into the Grand Lodge we know today.

When the Grand Lodge of Canada decided to adopt a modified English Ritual, (Emulation), the Lodge was granted dispensation to retain the original Irish ritual they had been using under the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The Lodge laid the cornerstone of St. Paul's Church on St. John's Day on the 24th June, 1844. This was at the request of Reverend Benjamin Cronyn. Reverend Cronyn became the first Bishop of Huron and the church was elevated to a Cathedral.

The Lodge first met at Bro. Balkwill's Tavern on King Street, across from the market. This would have been a very apt choice, since the Tavern was centrally located with easy access.

Then too, should the Members over indulge in the après Lodge refreshments, the horse could usually find its way home.

The Lodge has always taken their duties very seriously. In an early instance when a Member had died, and left a large family, the Lodge undertook the task of finding suitable homes for the children. History records that they kept close watch on the children, and when one was not being well-treated, they found more suitable accommodation for her.

In more recent years, the Lodge instituted the Master's Walk, in 1968. It was initially to raise funds to pay off the mortgage on the Lodge Hall. Once that goal had been reached, the funds were devoted to charities. They also started the annual garage sale to raise fund for Job's Daughters, and the order of DeMolay.

Source: masonic.on.ca/lodges/st-johns/

Editor's Note:

My great-great grandfather, W. Bro. William McBride, was the W. Master of St. John's Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 20 G.R.C. in 1871.

William McBride was a carriage manufacturer in London, beginning around 1840 until 1867, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Alexander Lowrie, for a while, and in partnership with his younger brother, John McBride, a blacksmith, for a time. William was listed in the 1861 census as employing 20 men with an annual product of business valued at \$ 17,000.00, his personal estate that year being listed as \$ 16,000.00.

As well he was:

- appointed an assessor of the Village of London in 1846;
- served as a Justice of the Peace in 1857 - 1858 (perhaps longer);
- one of the pioneer officers forming the Mechanics' Institute on January 5, 1841, a gentleman's club, where he was the librarian for a number of years;
- a trustee on the building committee, along with his younger brother, Samuel, of North Street Methodist Church beginning in 1852;
- being Secretary and Presiding Steward until October 1874 when he resigned the secretaryship of the Trustee Board;
- joined St. John's Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 20 G.R.C. in 1867 (History, Trials and Progress of St. John's Lodge No. 20, G.R.C., p. 35) along with his younger brother, John McBride, William becoming Junior Warden in 1868, Senior Warden in 1869 (p. 36) and Worshipful Master in 1871 (p. 36);
- entered municipal politics in the first council of the incorporated City of London in 1855 as Councilman for the Second Ward, becoming Alderman for that ward 1856 - 1858, and the fifth mayor of the City of London in 1859, having the distinction of being the first to hold that office by public elections, previous mayors being appointed by council;
- became a Lieutenant in the London Militia 2nd Battalion in 1856 when his brother, Samuel, was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain of the same battalion;
- one of forty-two residents who formed the London Board of Trade on April 22, 1857 along with such notables as John Carling and John Labatt;
- formed with ten others the London and Lake Huron Railroad on June 10, 1857;
- Chairman of the London School Board in 1863;
- ran as the Liberal "*Grit*" Candidate for federal politics in June 1863 against the Conservative (Sir) John Carling who won by only 355 votes;
- along with seven others had the idea of a Western Fair in 1867, serving on a committee of five to carry the project into effect which occurred on March 21, 1868, becoming one of its first Directors in 1868, and was the first Secretary-Treasurer (1868 - 1881) of the Western Fair Association;
- was instrumental in forming the first Wesleyan Methodist cemetery in London in 1850.

William McBride
W. Master of St. John's Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 20, G.R.C.
1871

The Historical Sketch
of St. John's Lodge No. 20, G.R.C.
Ancient, Free And Accepted Masons,
From Its Inception As 209, I.R.,
in 1841 to 1955, (Hunter Ptg, London,
1957) records that in 1867 (p. 35):

***"The following Members were added:
Wm. McBride, D.A. McArthur, T.H. Bollen,
Robt. Orr, R.J.C. Dawson, Wm. Dodd,
Robt. Smith, John Phillips, John McBride,
E. Pavey, M. Mulcahy, Robt. Wallace,
Jas. Webster, and James Taylor."***

Thus both William
and his younger brother, John McBride
became Freemasons in 1867.

Pages 36 - 37 report:

"The election of Officers for 1869 were:

Graham Glass, W.M.;
M.D. Dawson, Sen. War.;
Wm. McBride, Jr. War.;
R.J.C. Dawson, Chaplain;
John Smart, Treas.;
John H. Bell, Secretary;
and James Heron, Tyler. ...

***The following Officers were elected
for 1870, viz.: M.D. Dawson,
W.M.;*** ***Wm. McBride,
S.W.;*** ***R.J.C. Dawson,
J.W.;*** ***Henry Beltz, Chaplain;***

John Smart, Treas.; ***J.H. Bell, Secretary;*** ***James Heron, Tyler. ...***

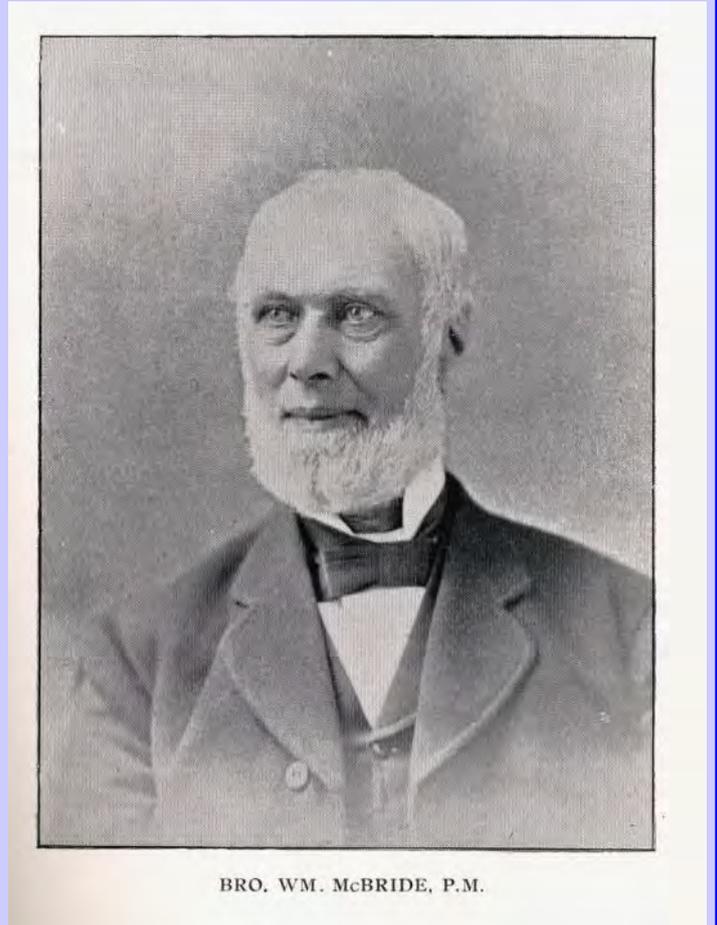
The following Officers were elected for 1871, viz.: Wm. McBride, W.M.;
Robt. Wallace, Sen. War.; ***Jas. Lindsay, Jr. War.;*** ***Geo. Morehead, Chaplain;***
John Smart, Treas.; ***J.H. Bell, Sec., and James Heron, Tyler."***

When describing the years 1871 - 1880, this source reports (pp. 38 - 39)

***"This was a very prosperous period for Masonry in London,
more especially for this Lodge. The attendance at our meetings
was very large, the membership increased, and the funds of the Lodge
were advanced. ...***

***In January, 1871, P.M. Bros. Thos. Winnett reported the formation
of the Masonic Benefit Association ...***

***In September, a Board of Benevolence was organized
by the various Lodges, which has existed ever since,
and done much good work in alleviating distress and dispensing charity."***



The Historical Sketch of St. John's Lodge
No. 20, G.R.C. Ancient, Free And Accepted
Masons, From Its Inception As 209, I.R.,
in 1841 to 1955, (Hunter Ptg, London, 1957)
Opposite page 56.

“In October, the Lodge appropriated \$100 for the assistance of Brother Masons who were sufferers by the late disastrous fire in Chicago. The W.M. [William McBride], Secretary [J.H. Bell], and Treasurer [John Smart] were appointed as a committee to see that the money was properly distributed. The following month the amount for the same purpose was still further increased.”



Great Chicago Fire, conflagration that began on October 8, 1871, and burned until early October 10, devastating an expansive swath of the city of Chicago.

The fire, the most famous in American history, claimed about 300 lives, destroyed some 17,450 buildings covering almost 3.5 square miles (9 square km), and caused \$200 million in damage.

Roughly one-third of the city lay in ruins, and an equal proportion of the population—nearly 100,000 people—was homeless.

Source: www.britannica.com/event/Chicago-fire-of-1871



William McBride died at the age of 64, in the prime of his life, still in the capacity of city assessor and Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Fair Association, drowning aboard the *Victoria* on May 24, 1881 along with over 230 others on the River Thames. The city honoured him with a “state” funeral, including the Members and Officers of St. John’s Lodge No. 20.

William McBride
Drowns Aboard ‘*The Victoria*’
May 24, 1881
Age 64

Harry Bapty wrote (March 28, 1928):

“On May 24, 1881, in the afternoon, William with his wife and a lady friend, went on a small river steamer Princess Louise, from the foot of Dundas St. to Springbank Power House. Traffic was heavy on the holiday and Wm. McBride got off the boat a moment intending to step on again.

Unfortunately, it started back almost immediately and he waved his hand to his party and called out he would come back on the sister boat, The Victoria. He stepped on this boat, which when a short distance west of the Cove Bridge, collapsed.”

Over 200 souls perished, including William McBride.

Thus, the statement made by William to his son, Robert Hillier McBride, in his last letter, that “... *if things are not always as nice as they might be, they might be a good deal worse*” had come to fruition only twelve days after being written.

The Free Press (Weekly Edition, Vol. XXIV, Whole No. 1683, London, Thursday, May 26, 1881), when writing about “*Incidents of the Catastrophe*” reported “*Mr. William McBride, one of the city’s assessors, was supposed to be sitting under the fatal deck. His body was recovered at an early hour, and taken to the city in a boat.*”

Harry Bapty continued his description of the day in his March 28, 1928 family narrative.

“... the Bapty’s and others were gathered on the memorable Queen’s Birthday 1881. Lem had fireworks ready ‘to set off’ after the tea had been partaken of, when Burt [Hubert C. McBride] burst in to tell of what was known ever after as the Victoria Disaster. He told of 20 people drowned. When the party of men, including Uncle Sam [Samuel McBride] arrived at the overhead bridge on Wharncliffe Rd. and the G.T.R., crowds were coming cityward along the railroad track. One of them, E.B. Reed, barrister, told of Uncle William McBride’s body on its way in a row boat to the Sulphur Baths. Our party turned around and accompanied the mournful party to Albert St. [the home of William] all stunned by the accident.”

The Free Press (Weekly Edition, Vol. XXIV, Whole No. 1683, London, Thursday, May 26, 1881) reported on May 25, 1881:

“Ald. Jones moved, seconded by Ald. Love, that the corporation and officials attend the funeral of the late ex-Mayor Wm. McBride in a body. Carried.

Ald. Jones moved, and it was seconded, that the Fire, Water and Gas Committee have the streets leading to the cemetery watered on the occasion of the funeral. Carried.

On motion of Ald. Boyd, it was decided to appoint a Committee to make arrangements for the funeral.”

This same edition of *The Free Press* reported:

“Funerals of Society Men. At an early hour this morning large crowds of citizens visited the family residence of the late Wm. McBride, and took a last look on the remains of the deceased gentleman. At a quarter to ten, the solemn procession started.

“It was composed of a detachment of city police, the Mayor, and Members of the Council, city officials, the President, Vice-President, and Directors of the Western Fair Association, a large number of the Masonic Fraternity (all on foot) followed by numerous prominent citizens in carriages.”

“The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers - Messrs. John B. Smyth, George Taylor, Murray Anderson, Samuel Screatton, Isaac Webster, and Samuel Peters.”

“The remains were interred in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, where, in addition to the usual religious services, the very solemn Masonic Ritual was read.”

Archie Bremner, in *City of London: The Pioneer Period and The London of To-Day* (London, October 1900, pp. 63 - 65) perhaps best sums up the events that transpired that fateful day:

“A dreadful tragedy, the sad memories of which have become mellowed by time, occurred on the 24th day of May, 1881. The air was clear, the sun shone, and it was veritable ‘Queen’s weather’.”

“The city had given itself up to holiday purposes. Thousands had gone on excursions, but thousands still remained, and of these many made Springbank their objective point. The steamboats were crowded far beyond their legalized capacity in conveying passengers down the river all day, and the crush became greater on the return trips toward nightfall. About five o’clock the Victoria left the dock at Springbank on what proved to be her last trip. That she was overloaded all at the scene were well aware. The estimates as to the number on board range from 600 to 800, but there is no method of exactly determining.”

“The Victoria was of 43 tons burthen, 70 feet long, with a 26-foot beam, and when loaded to her normal capacity had a water draught of 16 inches. These figures are official but, in estimating the capacity of the boat, the flimsy nature of her construction should be taken into account, as this contributed largely to the subsequent loss of life.”

“As the boat neared the Cove Bridge and, when a couple of hundred yards below the bend, she careened, the boiler became loose, and, rolling over, carried away the stanchions that supported the hurricane deck.”

“The passengers were crushed down and about one-third or one-fourth of the total lost their lives. The exact number who were drowned or crushed to death cannot be stated, but it is probably not overstating it to say that 200 persons lost their lives, and one estimate made at the time, based on very careful calculation, placed it at 215.”

“To realize the full horror of the disaster, it must be borne in mind that all the victims were from a circumscribed area. Few families in London escaped without the loss of a relative - none without the loss of a friend.”

“Proceedings were taken against the authorities of the boat, but as time wore on the excitement became allayed, and no judicial punishment followed.”

“The following is a full list of the local interments, and of those sent abroad for sepulture, so far as obtainable:
MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY:

... McBride, Wm., 64, city ...”





On Tuesday, 18 February, W. Bro. John Muise, Education Chair of Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C. shared with us this piece of Masonic Education:

LEARNING BY PARTICIPATION

No pleasure, no learning. No learning, no pleasure.
Wang Ken, Chinese philosopher.

The scene is familiar. We have all been there. The business of the Lodge has been completed, Minutes read and approved, accounts passed, Reports heard, a Ballot taken, when the Worshipful Master, trying his best to sound enthusiastic, announces, "*Brethren, this evening R.W. Bro. Good Chump* (it is always a senior Past Master or Past Grand Lodge Officer) *will give us some Masonic Education.*" The groans from the side benches are scarcely disguised as audible signs, postures slump, arms are folded, and legs are crossed as Members prepare to endure another lengthy discourse. Heads begin to nod as the well-intentioned Brother reads his carefully prepared script with the same animated verse as the Minutes of the last meeting. Little wonder that the traditional approach to "*Masonic Education*" gets a bad name in the Lodge.

Yet, Grand Masters tell us that "*Masonry and Education are synonymous terms*" and Grand Lodge Committees on Masonic Education continue to emphasize the crucial role that learning plays in the life of the Lodge, the mentoring of Candidates, and the retention of active Members.

Bergen Evans once defined a college professor as, "*one who talks in other people's sleep*".

There is a better way. It is suggested in an old Chinese proverb:

What I hear, I forget.
What I see, I remember.
What I do, I know.

Learning is a participation sport. Real understanding requires participation on the part of the learner. We only truly know something when we have applied it, manipulated it, or added to it. Surely there is a lesson to be learned from operative masonry - the rough ashlar requires "*hands on*" work to polish and perfect it.

Do we not tell every Fellow Craft that he is privileged to express his sentiments and opinions on such subjects as are regularly introduced in the lecture, under the superintendence of an experienced Master - that he may improve his intellectual powers? That injunction implies that opportunities will be afforded to ask questions and enter into free and open discussion of the meaning of the symbols and allegories embodied in the Rites and Ceremonies we perform, to explore the philosophy of Masonry.

Nothing focuses our attention quicker and clarifies thought better than a pointed question. Socrates, the Athenian philosopher (460—399 BCE), used this method of teaching to question his students. The Socratic method or dialectic question and answer remains a most useful pedagogical tool.

Examine the old rituals. They were cast in the form of questions and answers, remnants of which are found in the Openings and Closing of the three Degrees. Over time, these catechisms evolved into the lecture forms used today - the Junior Warden's Lecture in the First Degree and the Senior Warden's Lecture in the Second Degree.

The basic concept embodied in *Let's Talk Masonry* in Masonic Nights at the Round Table is learning through participation. At a Round Table all places are equal, and all are equidistant from the centre, where Truth may be found. There are no inappropriate questions, and there is no one right answer. All opinions are valid, and there is always more than one interpretation to be considered. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Is there risk in inviting questions? Of course, one must be confident in one's ability to admit that one may not have the answer. That, however, is the essence and value of putting these questions on the floor and sharing the benefit of the collective knowledge of all participants.

Remember, risk and reward travel side by side.

Avoid one and the other will also pass you by.

There is truth in the question posed by Frank Skully:

"Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?"

What are we afraid of?

What we discover for ourselves through conversation and discussion, reading and research is always more significant and permanent.

To debate the validity of ideas expressed, to test the truthfulness of what we read, to make up one's own mind what is true - these are the most effective means of enlightening the mind.

"To repeat what others have said, requires education; to challenge it, requires brains." - Mary Pettibone Poole,

A Glass Eye in a Keyhole (1938).

Of course, it's easier to stand up and read a paper that has been prepared. There is no question that there is a place for lectures, addresses and papers. Much can be learned from eloquent scholars and skilled orators. We do not all learn in the same way. Astute and capable Worshipful Masters will employ a variety of means to instruct their Brethren in Masonry. A well-conducted *Lodge of Discussion* when pertinent questions are posed and considered will never be a boring night at Lodge.

The Curriculum Group of The Committee on Masonic Education,
Reflections Newsletter, Volume 20, No. 4. 2006.

W. Bro. Muise ended his piece of Masonic Education
by reading the following Masonic poem:

SHOW ME

By Edgar Albert Guest

I would rather see a Mason,
than hear one any day,
I would rather one would walk with me
than merely show the way.

The eye's a better pupil
and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing,
but example's always clear.

And the best of all the Masons
are the men who live their creeds,
For to see the good in action
is what everybody needs.

I can soon learn how to do it
if you'll let me see it done,
I can watch your hands in action,
but your tongue too fast may run.

And the lectures you deliver
may be wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson
by observing what you do.

For I may misunderstand you
and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
how you act, and how you live.



Square and Compasses

These two symbols have been so long and so universally combined - to teach us, as it says in an early ritual, "*to square our actions and to keep them within due bounds*", they are so seldom seen apart but are so kept together, either as two great lights, or as a jewel worn once by the Master of the Lodge, now by the Past Master - that they have come at last to be recognized as the proper badge of a Master Mason.

- source: Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, [An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences, Comprising The Whole Range of Arts, Sciences and Literature as connected with The Institution,](#) (London: The Masonic History Company), 1924, p. 708.

Stations

The positions occupied by the Master and Wardens are called *stations*, as "*the Senior Warden's station in the Lodge*". This is because these three Officers, representing the sun in the three prominent points of rising, culminating, and setting, are supposed to be stationary, and therefore in the spot appropriated to them by the Ritual, while the Deacons and other Officers are required to move about from place to place in the Lodge.

- source: Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, [An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences, Comprising The Whole Range of Arts, Sciences and Literature as connected with The Institution,](#) (London: The Masonic History Company), 1924, p. 713.



Masonic Education:

**Index of Masonic Education within
*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!***

**If you are interested
in obtaining articles from past issues
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please contact this Editor, R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob],
who will gladly send them to you.**

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*“There are parts of a ship
that taken by themselves
would sink.*

*The engine would sink.
The propeller would sink.*



*But when
the parts
of a ship
are built together, they float.”*

65-famous-masonic-sayings-quotes/

Masonic Education:
Index of Masonic Education within
The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!
 (continued):



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2025-03-10		07	135	“Freemasonry and Happiness” by V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern FCF

FREEMASONRY AND HAPPINESS

by V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern FCF

Presented by W. Bro. Stephen Thomson in Victoria Lodge No. 56, April 2, 2012
 Reprinted from *Reflections* newsletter, Volume 27 No. 4

The idea of happiness as a goal unto itself has recently entered into our culture through books, magazine articles, and academic research.

Since WWII, a survey company in the United States has asked Americans, “Are you happy?” They found that people were happiest in the 1950s.

The King of Bhutan prompted leaders of the United Nations to meet in early April 2012 to talk about the sustainability of the world and the need for a Gross National Happiness Index to complement economic indices. Canada ranks fifth in the world on the current Happiness Index.

Recent studies measuring human happiness make some interesting observations. One is that human relationships are consistently found to be the most important correlation with happiness. Indeed, happiness tends to spread through close relationships with friends, siblings, spouses, and next-door neighbours.

It was the comedian, Groucho Marx, who said: *“Each morning when I open my eyes, I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today.”*

[Groucho Marx was a Freemason, and his brother, Harpo, also had a life-long dream of becoming a Freemason. Harpo Marx, in contrast to his brothers, was known for his visual comedy style and never spoke during performances.]

One might think that happiness would be a traceable component of Freemasonry, from the present, back to the earliest references. After all, when a group of likeminded good men get together, how can there fail to be a sharing of good times and good cheer? In short, how can we fail to participate in happiness?

Yet happiness is not explained in the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, revised edition. Neither are such terms as *“mirth”*, nor *“cheer”*.

Nor is there a description of happiness in the seminal book, The Meaning of Freemasonry, by W.L. Wilmhurst. Nor is happiness given a place in the book, Masonry Defined, by Johnston.

The expression of happiness is found in Richardson’s Monitor, published in the United States, dating from 1860. But within these old pages, it is found only in reference to the Installation of a new Worshipful Master.

However, it is obvious to every active Mason that happiness rests within our Lodges, and within our Fraternity.

So where in our work is there a mention of happiness? When opening in the First Degree, the Worshipful Master invokes a blessing: asking that what we do be conducted in peace and closed in harmony. Then, when closing in the First Degree, the IPM states that we are about to quit this retreat of friendship and brotherly love. Certainly, there must be happiness in such a place.

The Entered Apprentice is told during the Apron Charge that, if he has a dispute he should resolve it, and with the resolution being *“happily effected”*, he may enjoy harmony in the Lodge.

And in the explanation of the Working Tools, the Entered Apprentice is told that with these tools he may *“establish happiness in the paths of science”*.

Throughout the ritual, there are many mentions of words and thoughts synonymous with happiness: harmony, friendship, brotherly love, social mirth, and pleasure.

The clearest references to happiness are in the annual Ceremony of Installation and Investiture.

The newly installed Master is given a charge from the N.E., where, as an Entered Apprentice, he learned of charity. Now he is told that *“the happiness of the Brethren will be generally promoted in proportion to the zeal and assiduity with which you promulgate the genuine tenets and principles of the fraternity.”*

And a moment later the new Worshipful Master is told that, by discharging his duties with honour and reputation, he will prepare for himself a *“crown of joy and rejoicing”*.

Then we hear something that is unique to our Grand Jurisdiction, the General Charge at the end of the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture of Officers. The first reference is: *“I trust that we should have but one aim, to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.”* This was part of the original English text of the Ceremony of Installation from 1723. It is also similar to the text found in Richardson’s Monitor.

Following this, there is a description of how we should conduct ourselves while in Lodge. It concludes with these words: *“Then we shall have obtained the chief point of Freemasonry, namely, to endeavor to be happy ourselves, and to communicate that happiness to others”*. These are the words of V.W. Bro. Otto Klotz and originate from his Ladies’ Night address on December 27th, 1864, to the ladies and Members of Alma Lodge No. 72 on the occasion of Ladies Night.

Indeed, there is one Lodge within our Fraternity which may be in a constant state of happiness.

I refer to the Lodge of Happiness No. 7952. The Lodge of Happiness meets near the centre of Birmingham.

The Lodge of Happiness was formed in 1962 by senior Members and founders from the Lodge of Faith and Hope No. 4772. How appropriate!

For with a foundation of faith and hope one may indeed achieve happiness!

How important is happiness? Contemporary academics and commentators see happiness both as a result of living well, and also as a goal to be achieved by persevering through specific activities. To one who is already happy, it is a state of mind and a reality that is simply accepted and may be readily shared.

Thus, it is for us to share happiness within our Fraternity.

Indeed, happiness is always increased the more one shares it.

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- Richardson's Monitor, personal library of V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern, FCF
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Ontario Masons

Masonic Education Pillar - Masonic Education



Bro. Albert Pike (1809-1891) eloquently described the Masonic ideal: *“When friends meet, and hands are warmly pressed, and the eye kindles and the countenance is suffused with gladness, there is a religion between their hearts; and each loves and worships the True and Good that is in the other. It is not policy, or self-interest, or selfishness that spreads such a charm around the meeting, but the halo of bright and beautiful affection: the splendor of kindly liking and affectionate regard – honest, heartfelt, disinterested, inexpressible affection.”*

If we find such an overt expression of magnanimous sentiment uncomfortable, it is because it is diametrically opposed to the self-serving, me-first hedonistic age in which we live. It also makes nonsensical the current notion that communication through the several forms of social media can replace personal contact.

The Worshipful Master is charged at his Installation with the responsibility of ensuring the happiness of the Brethren:

“The happiness of the Brethren will be generally promoted in proportion to the zeal and assiduity with which you promulgate the genuine tenets and principles of the fraternity.”

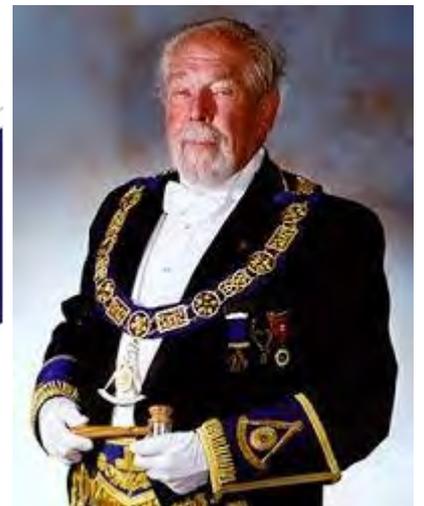
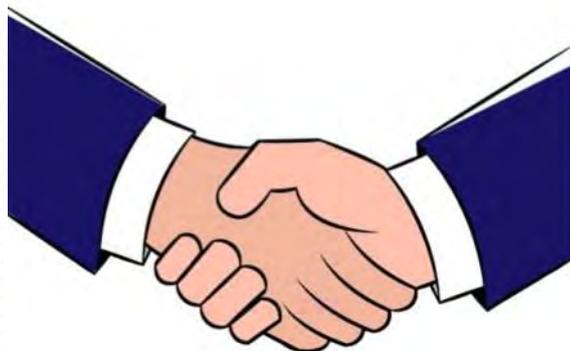
Referring to the Lodge, Bro. Pike continued, *“Here we meet as Brethren, to learn to know and love each other. Here we greet each other gladly, are lenient to each other`s faults, regardful of each other`s feelings, ready to relieve each other`s wants.”*

In this context those insidious *‘private piques and quarrels’* that all too often arise between Brethren would be avoided.

Surely this is what it means to be a Mason and defines what is meant by perfect unanimity and concord.

RSJD

“Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario”
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario -
A Masonic Minute. M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels



Bro. Bill Hodwitz, from Niagara B District, writes:

“A few years ago I put out a Masonic newsletter called “The District Light”. Recently I began another, aimed at the Brethren of my Lodge, hoping to rekindle the interest of lapsed Members.”

On Saturday, 15 February, with southern Ontario entrenched in a severe snow-storm, Bro. Hodwitz posted:

A MASONIC MOMENT: THE EAVESDROPPER

An eavesdropper is someone who makes a point of hearing things that he is not meant to know. The idea of an eavesdropper came from someone who stood so close to a structure that they were able to hear what was going on inside, but he was under the eaves of the building and so was subject to the drippings from the roof during a rain.



Today an eavesdropper is still one who listens in.



We should be cautious about what we discuss in public. People will take snippets of conversation and make conclusions about us that are “*based on fact*” but totally inaccurate.

For example, I was subjected to an accusation based on the phrase, “*We take good men and make them better.*” The man was self-assured in proclaiming that Masons had the purpose of bettering the financial states of each other.

Attempts made to clarify such thinking are often dismissed as cover-ups.

The Cowan

Originally, a Cowan was a person who worked as an operative mason, but was not part of a lodge and not formally trained.

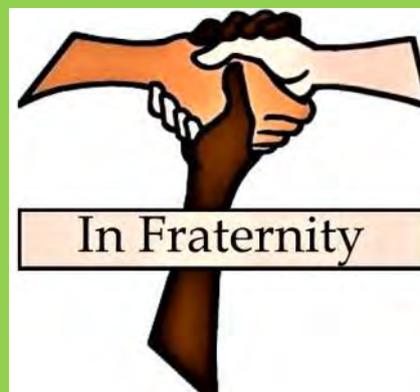
In modern terms a cowan is a “*scab*”, someone who either refused to join a union or in some way went against a union.

For our purposes, a Cowan is any individual who presents himself as a Freemason, but has never joined the Fraternity. In a real sense, a Cowan is a clandestine Mason. A Cowan may have all of the right answers to be able to ask for Masonic charity or to get in the door of a Lodge room.



Regardless of the origins of the words, Cowans and Eavesdroppers can be treated as similar.

We need to remember our Obligation to protect the integrity of the fraternity and to be careful of who we let into our Lodge room and, by extension, those we let into our lives.



THE PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER

SINCE 1847

On Monday, 03 February 2025, *The Peterborough Examiner* published this political cartoon that I thought you might enjoy seeing:



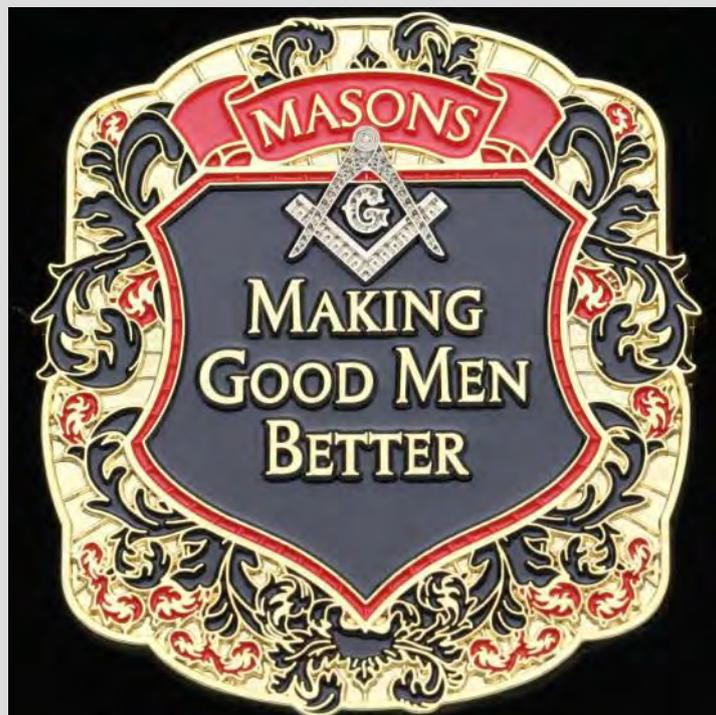
Then, on Friday, 14 February, one could find this political cartoon:



THE PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER

SINCE 1847

Following the back-to-back snow storms that blasted southern Ontario during the week of 16 to 20 February, here's the political cartoon that was published on Saturday, 22 February 2025:





Another electronic newsletter that I now receive comes from R.W. Bro. Richard Lacoursiere 32°, Unity District Deputy Grand Master 2020-22, Manitoba, entitled ***Chips Off the Ashlar***, published every month, and ***Threads From The Tassel***, published every two months.

Here's one that appeared in ***Chips Off the Ashlar***. March 2025

A Masonic Moment

(Chips Off the Ashlar)

R.W. Bro Richard Lacoursiere

THE ESOTERIC SIGNIFICANCE OF JACOB'S LADDER



Photo from Freemasons Network

In Freemasonry there are many paths that we can follow in regards to education, History, Ritual, Spiritual Alchemy, and Esoteric to name but a few.

For myself personally, I tend to traverse between Spiritual Alchemy and the esoteric meanings in our Masonic symbols. One of the first exposures in our ritual that I found myself searching for far more than what was given, was found in the Junior Warden's Lecture regarding Jacob's Ladder.

From my youth I was more than familiar with the story of Jacob's dream and the ladder that ascended and descended between earth and heaven.

It got me thinking that there had to be more to its involvement in Freemasonry than a simple passage in the Lecture.

It sent me off reading, searching for deeper enlightenment.

This is where my Masonic spark was lit. The following writing was from a posting by the *Freemasons Network* that I found on LinkedIn.

Jacob's Ladder, a biblical story from Genesis, holds profound esoteric significance across various spiritual traditions.

In the narrative, Jacob dreams of a ladder extending from Earth to Heaven, with angels ascending and descending upon it. This vision symbolizes the connection between the material and spiritual realms, illustrating the journey of the soul towards higher consciousness.

In esoteric interpretations, the ladder represents spiritual ascent, with each rung embodying a stage of personal and spiritual development. The upward movement signifies the quest for enlightenment, while the angels symbolize divine guidance and inspiration.

The ladder also reflects the concept of the Tree of Life found in Kabbalah, suggesting that one can ascend through knowledge and spiritual practice.

[Editor's Note: Kabbalah is an esoteric method and school of thought in Jewish mysticism that explores the nature of God, the universe, and the purpose of creation.

It is often described as the received wisdom of Jewish theology, built upon teachings handed down through generations. Kabbalah is over 4,000 years old and is meant for everyone, offering insights and practical wisdom that can transform lives.

It emphasizes understanding the essence of God and His interaction with the world.]

Moreover, Jacob's experience serves as a reminder of the potential for transformation inherent in all individuals. It emphasizes the importance of bridging the mundane with the divine, encouraging seekers to recognize and cultivate their inner spiritual potential.

Thus, Jacob's Ladder remains a powerful symbol of growth, connection, and the journey towards self-realization.

I believe that our existence is to try and perfect our ashlar.

To do that we must climb that winding staircase, climb Jacob's ladder, rung by rung, to find that Philosopher's Stone, or if you will, Perfect Ashlar.

We have to daily work at transforming ourselves spiritually from lead to gold.

It is a daily journey that each of us have obligated ourselves to.

Lastly, if any of you have papers or ideas for a Masonic moment do not hesitate to email me at < rpal5655@gmail.com >.

Yours in the Craft,

RPAL

Remember, we are no more than a perfecting ashlar.

FREEMASONRY – "YOURS TO DISCOVER"

The opinions and thoughts written here are not of any Grand Lodge, but rather those of my own.





R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis posted this: —

On Saturday, 01 February, the Annual Installation of Office-Bearers took place at Lodge Ancient Brazen.





On February 06, 2025, R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis posted this:



This year's first Regular Communication of The Grand Lodge of Scotland, Thursday 6th February 2025

A Regular Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland is a formal gathering of up to 600 Scottish Freemasons at our Headquarters in Edinburgh, often referred to as “*Grand Lodge Assembled.*”

These meetings are held three times a year—on the 1st Thursday of February, the 2nd Thursday of June, and the 3rd Thursday of October—and are open to all Master Masons in Good Standing.

During a Regular Communication, several key activities usually take place, including:

1. Reports from the Grand Master Mason:

The Grand Master Mason provides updates on the work of the Grand Lodge, its activities, and any new developments in Scottish Freemasonry.

2. Decision-making:

Grand Lodge epitomizes democracy in action, where the assembled Membership discusses and approves various matters related to Masonic practices, rules, and governance. Grand Lodge assembled is the decision-making body for Scottish Freemasonry, comprising every Scottish Lodge Master and Wardens from around the world.

They are the voice of our global membership.

3. Ceremonial Proceedings:

Certain ceremonial components are included in the meeting, as Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on symbolism and rituals.

4. Social Aspects:

The meetings also include opportunities for fellowship among members, reinforcing the Brotherhood and solidarity central to Freemasonry.

The term “*Regular*” in this context refers to the fact that the meeting is sanctioned by Grand Lodge, conducted according to established rules, and adheres to the Masonic tradition of being held in a manner that upholds the values and principles of Freemasonry.

Attending Grand Lodge is an important aspect of Scottish Freemasonry, and all Master Masons should enjoy the experience as part of their Masonic journey. It is a great way to stay engaged and connected with the broader Masonic community.





R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis sent this video providing one with a tour of the Grand Lodge of Scotland that I know you will enjoy watching:

< <https://youtu.be/imLop1Z-Byo> >

To open, click on the above link !!!

When watching the video, if an ad pops up, click on the word **SKIP** to delete the ad and continue watching the video.

You'll be able to watch Jim talking in person towards the end of the video.

Wikipedia • Freemasonry or simply Masonry includes various fraternal organisations that trace their origins to the local guilds of stonemasons that, from the end of the 14th century, regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients.



Editor's Note: R.W. Bro. Ellis wrote to me ...

“ A bit of background about the video.

On 28/29 September weekend, the Grand Lodge of Scotland hosted Open Days for the public, with Grand Office-bearers lending a hand. As such, I went on the Saturday, taking my friend, whom I have known for a considerable time ... initially through education (he's a teacher and we used to take our respective schools to the same outdoor education centres) and now as a personal friend. I showed him around Freemasons' Hall and answered his queries and could see that he was interested. When we reached Grand Hall and were listening to the organ being played, Dominik Smrek, the video maker, approached us and asked if he could add me to the production ... so the organist was asked to stop and Dominik shot the interview.

I'm happy to advise that, a few weeks later, my friend intimated a wish to join.

I proposed him and my son seconded him for my Lodge. He has passed his Enquiry Meeting and will be balloted by the Brethren on Wednesday, 26 February.

I'm sure he'll be approved and will be Initiated on 4th Wednesday of March.

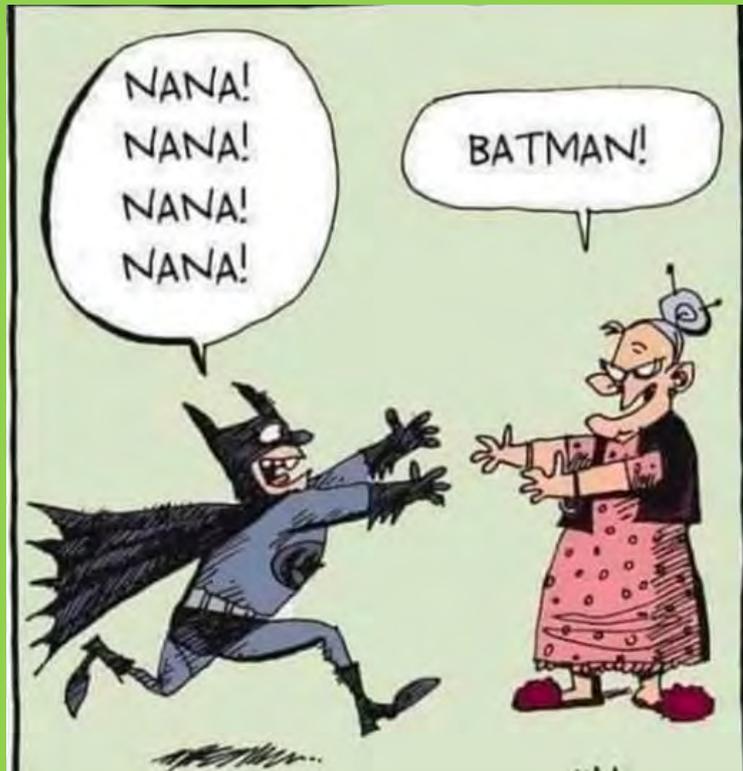
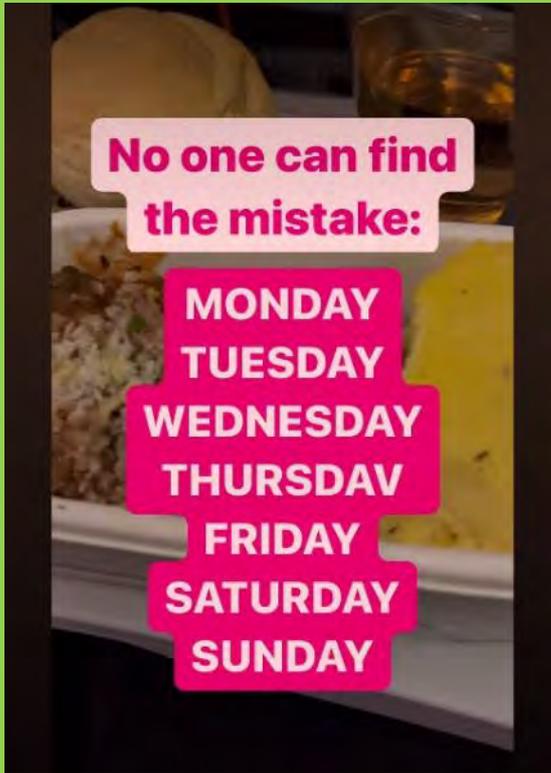
Kind regards

Jim ”





Here are some cartoons from R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis, Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire, Scotland:



Always appreciate your elders, especially your close family members. The memories you will make with them will be invaluable.



Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, in the 1950s.

With so much disharmony in the world at global level, national level, town level and even neighbourhood level, it's up to all of us to use whatever power or influence we have in order to achieve a more harmonious life.

A smile is invaluable in this so I would encourage you to leave a smile wherever you are. I've already started.

Och, well
suit yourselves !!!



If you don't understand the vocabulary, don't be an eejit. Just haud yer wheesht. Ah umnae crabbit about it. You can still take part.



Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up the biggest step on your life.

A rich vocabulary is the key to unlocking a world of nuanced expression. It is the also key to unlocking deeper understanding and expressing yourself with precision.

When learning new words, you might think, “*Ma heid’s mince,*” but get the books out and gie it laldy. It’s really nae bother!

Here’s a start.

Och, well suit yourselves !!!

"CONDESCENDING"



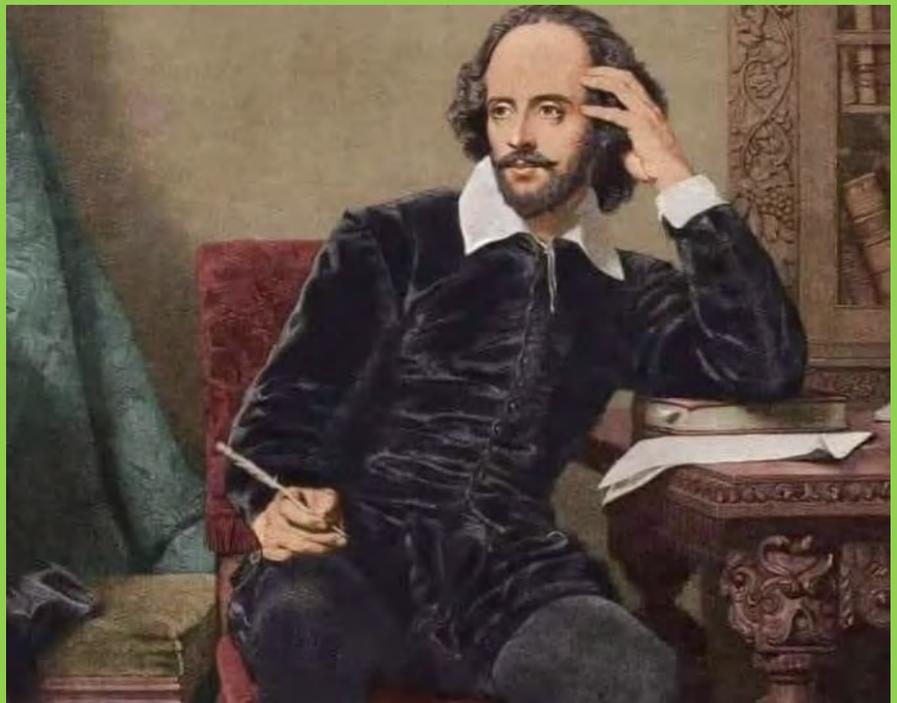
At my First Aid training, I was advised that, for a sore joint, ice should be applied for at least 20 minutes at a time, several times a day.

Of course, certain factors may mitigate against that procedure.



A rare, worn down pencil belonging to William Shakespeare has historically been unearthed. It has been sent to an eminent university in order that the forensic department can provide a detailed analysis of it.

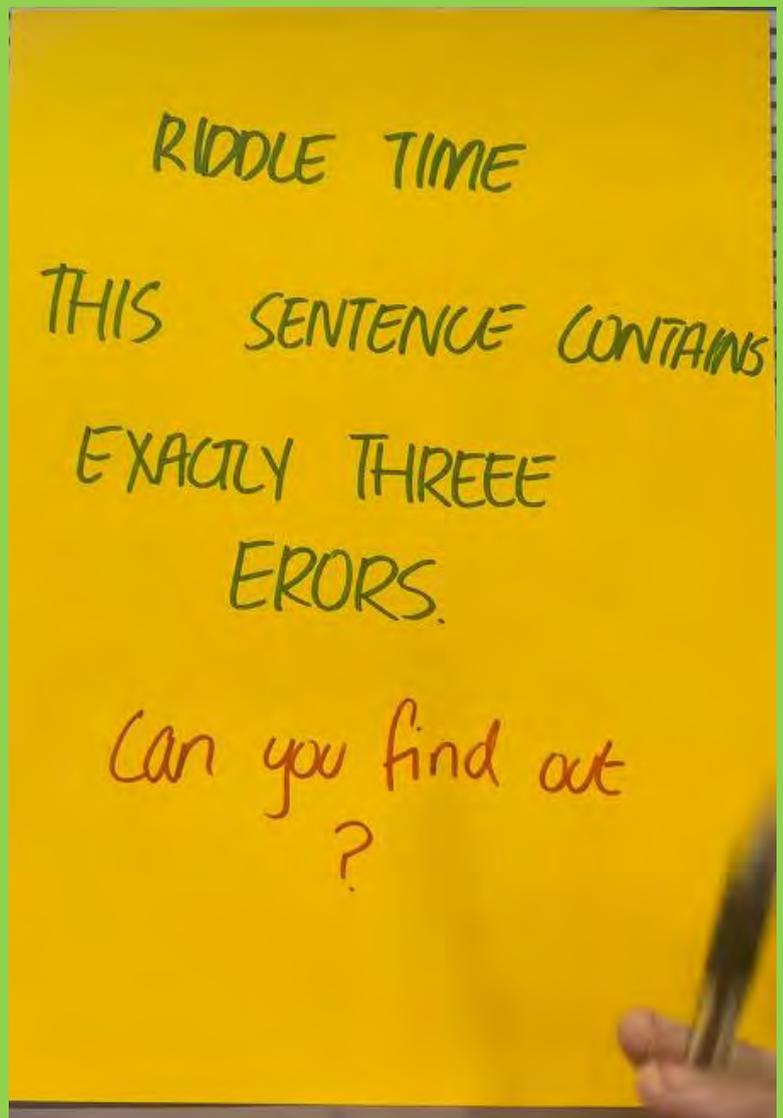
Although making steady progress, experts, to date, have still to ascertain

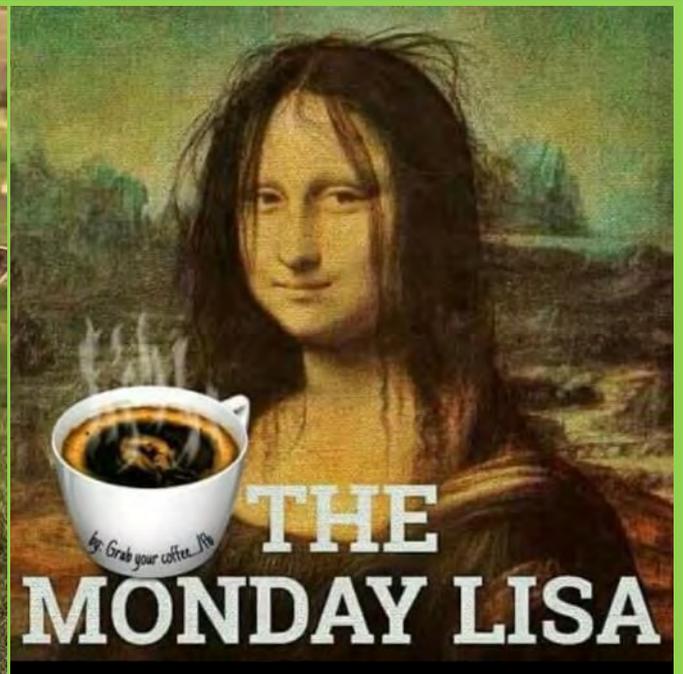
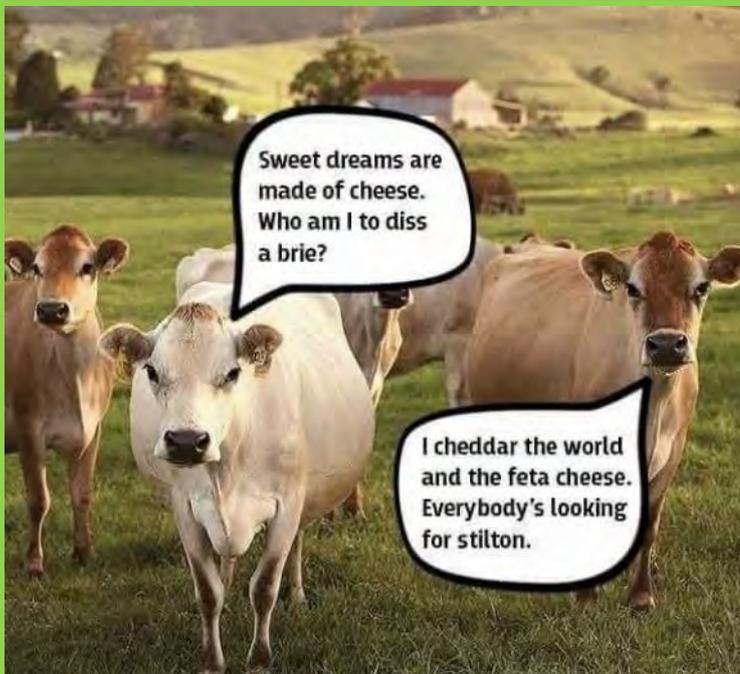


if the



pencil is 2B or not 2B.





Let me introduce you to these moo-sical stars.

You sang it too, didn't you?

A wee twist on an old one.

I'll begin with my caption :
"How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?"

Over to you for your original caption now (remember, a caption is fairly short).

Och well,

suit yourselves

— feeling amused.



It's amazing how time flies. This cold snap brings back memories of when the farmer across the fields from my house one morning found all his cows frozen by the keen overnight temperatures. He prayed for help and a woman appeared from a car which had stopped. He sort of recognised her but couldn't place her.

After hearing his problem she waved her arms over the cows and they immediately defrosted.

The Farmer cried,
"Thank you ... are you Magic?"

"No," she replied, "I'm Thora Herd."

Och, well suit yourselves !!!



And the story begins ...



Still love Snoopy and the gang ...



An old man meets a young man who asks:

"Do you remember me?"

And the old man says no.

Then the young man tells him he was his student,

and the teacher asks:

"What do you do, what do you do in life?"

The young man answers:

"Well, I became a teacher."

"Ah, how good, like me?"

asks the old man.

"Well, yes. In fact, I became a teacher because you inspired me to be like you."

The old man, curious, asks the young man at what time he decided to become a teacher.

And the young man tells him the following story:

"One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came in with a nice new watch, and I decided I wanted it.

I stole it, I took it out of his pocket.

Shortly after, my friend noticed the his watch was missing and immediately complained to our teacher, who was you.

Then you addressed the class saying, 'This student's watch was stolen during classes today. Whoever stole it, please return it.'

I didn't give it back because I didn't want to.

You closed the door and told us all to stand up and form a circle.

You were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found.

However, you told us to close our eyes, because you would only look for his watch if we all had our eyes closed.

We did as instructed.

You went from pocket to pocket, and when you went through my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You kept searching everyone's pockets, and when you were done you said 'open your eyes. We have the watch.'

You didn't tell on me and you never mentioned the episode.

You never said who stole the watch either.

That day you saved my dignity forever.

It was the most shameful day of my life.

But this is also the day I decided not to become a thief, a bad person, etc.

You never said anything, nor did you even scold me or take me aside to give me a moral lesson.

I received your message clearly.

Thanks to you, I understood what a real educator needs to do.

Do you remember this episode, professor?"

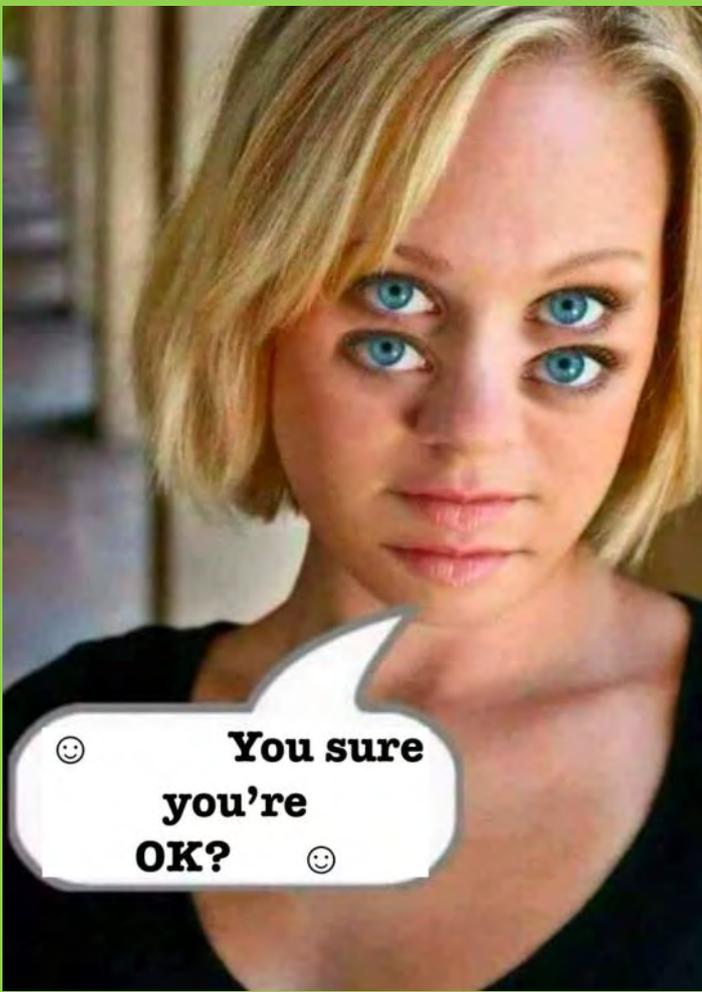
The old professor answered, *"Yes, I remember the situation*

with the stolen watch, which I was looking for in everyone's pocket.

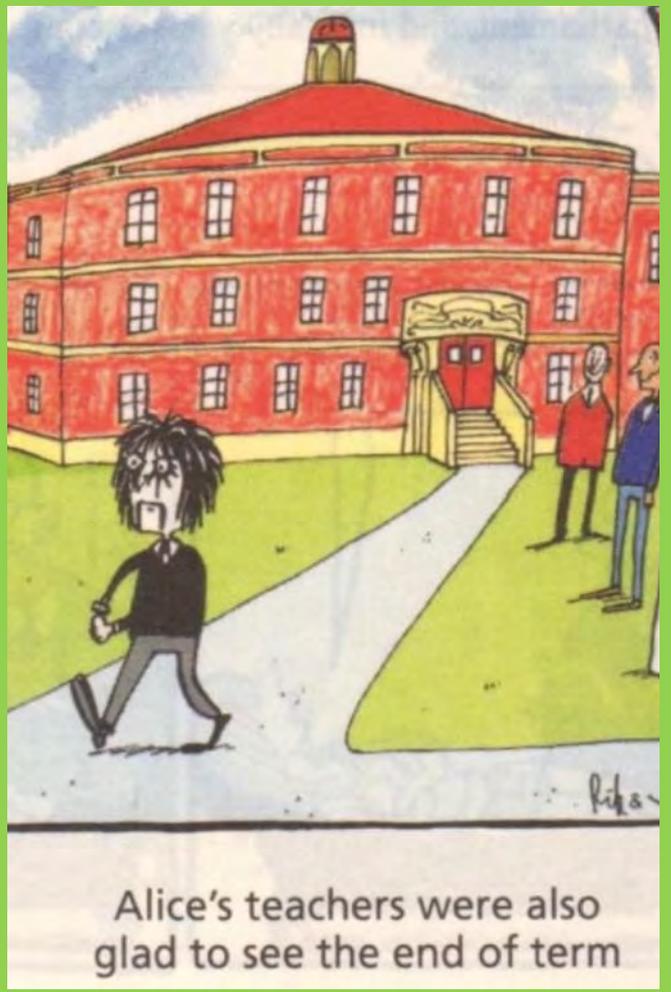
I didn't remember you, because I also closed my eyes while looking."

This is the essence of teaching:

"If to correct you must humiliate, you don't know how to teach."



☺ **You sure you're OK?** ☺



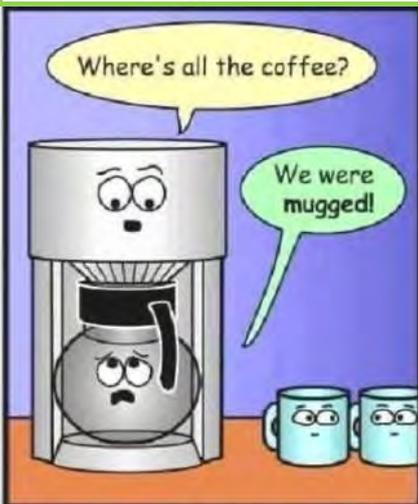
Alice's teachers were also glad to see the end of term

Heard that there's a strange virus doing the rounds which primarily affects spendthrifts. Just wanted to check on you.

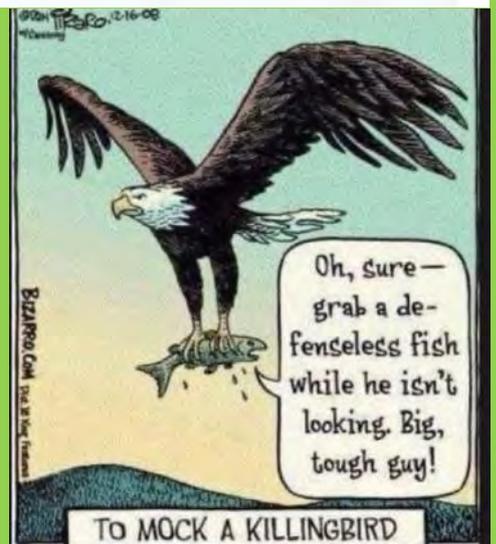
Enjoy these Ducks changing their minds 🤪



Enjoy these Ducks changing their minds 🤪



With many novels having a crazy woke overhaul e.g. Roald Dahl's children's novels Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Witches, Matilda etc. have had words relating to weight, height, gender and skin colour removed, are we now witnessing a witch hunt to change titles? Which titles will the Woke Brigade change next ... and to what?





E.A. F.C. M.M. P.M.

HOW IT FEELS GOING THROUGH THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

I solemnly swear to always up hold my dedication and consumption of Coffee



May the Fourth be with you !!!!

$$X - Y = \backslash$$

I feel so proud of myself. Just helped my granddaughter with her algebra homework. So much for my 5th year maths teacher not recognising and nurturing my hidden ability.

MY KIDS LAUGH
BECAUSE THEY THINK
I'M CRAZY
I LAUGH BECAUSE
THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S
HEREDITARY



👉 The highest number of teachers in the UK per person.

👉 Record number of people from deprived backgrounds going to university.

👉 Over 1,000 schools built or refurbished since the SNP came into office.



**HIGHEST
PER PERSON
INVESTMENT
IN EDUCATION
IN THE UK**

VE DAY

80

ANNIVERSARY

1945-2025



VE DAY 80th Commemoration is on Thursday, 6th March 2025

Here is an article from *The*
Volume 90, No. 2,



Alberta Freemason magazine,
February 2025:

THE ALBERTA Freemason

Vol 90, no 2

February 2025



THE EXTENDED HAND

By Bro. Mike Baine
Commercial Lodge 81, Edmonton

Very early on in our Masonic journey, we see what importance a handshake is to the greeting of Brethren. We witness these Brethren shake hands with each other looking on as a seeker in search of the light as we attend festive boards or events to get to know the men of the Lodges we sought to join. These men we did not know would extend a warm hand in greeting each other and us, to bring the comfort of an introduction the first time, and every time we would visit thereafter, breaking the wall of being unfamiliar with one another and starting the comradery and love of being a Mason.

We are then taught the implicit meaning of what is seen as a simple handshake from the outside, and how this handshake connects us to each Degree of the craft and to signify to other Brethren our membership, cementing further the importance of the handshake within Freemasonry.

THE ALBERTA
Freemason

THE ALBERTA Freemason

So, we can see on a surface what it means to greet each other as we extend a hand when we meet, and how we know in our heads what that signifies in relation

to what we have learned coming up through the Degrees.

But the extended hand needs and deserves to be approached on a more philosophical level in relation to how we connect to one another.

We all lead busy lives filled with our jobs and family, or even Masonic events and meetings that we may attend. We see the same faces each month in our Lodge for the most part, and it seems to become routine to greet the same men each month in the same way it would become routine to go to work or be with family. It becomes simply what we do. As we slip into the complacency of the routine of attending Lodge, a curious thing might happen that we don't notice as much as we should: the absent Brother.

This is a Brother who had attended every meeting, was there each month, but perhaps was not noticed as much as others. This is the Brother who sat on his own for the most part or did not seem to actively seek a group to have a conversation with. This is the Brother who perhaps did not get asked to participate in special events or be part of any groups.

This is the Brother who was not noticed when he missed the meeting, and no one asked why during the next meeting that he attended, to see if he was ok. This is the Brother who noticed that lack of inquiry, and at the next meeting he decided to do something else instead.

Yet again, when this Brother attended the next meeting, nothing was asked, and nothing was said. He then had the impression that his presence in the Lodge did not really matter to those around him and fell into dismay and became disillusioned with his Lodge or the Craft in general.

Another month goes by, and now he has become the absent Brother deciding not to come back.

That is a very basic example of a Brother losing touch with the love of Lodge and not being motivated to attend anymore. But maybe there is a Brother who has fallen deeper than a lack of motivation and is in the darkness and drowning with the weight of his life. Perhaps the more serious consequences of a lack of love will drag him further beneath the surface.

We have all experienced low times in our lives in which things did not work out as we planned, or some sudden event turned off our light temporarily, or permanently if someone was not strong enough to cope with cards dealt.



We can all remember a person, song, or event that might have helped drag us back from the void and once again be happy. Perhaps this could have been the case with our absent Brother. He could have been brought back if we had only known to talk to him. If we had only noticed and acknowledged his absence the first couple of times to show our genuine concern for his well-being.

This is where we need to look at the extended hand as more than a gesture of greeting, or verification. We need to think of it in a broader sense.

If we picture the Brethren of our Lodge as if a car within a train with each car connected to each other via a coupler. We can easily see in our minds what would happen if the last car in the long train uncouples from the rest. It may not be noticed at first, but it will slowly begin to move away from the rest of the train as its speed decreases.

In that same manner of the car slowly moving away, had it been noticed there might have been an opportunity to give it the push or pull it needed to recouple with the train once again and continue its journey with the rest.

Perhaps the absent Brother could have been saved in the same way, by the extended hand reaching to him to bring him back in.

It is within each Brother to possibly be the catalyst needed for a soon-to-be absent Brother, or currently absent Brother to come back to the light of the Lodge and the Craft and be among the men who swore to be his support in all his endeavours.

Don't let the routine of Lodge become complacent and obscure our connection to a Brother who needs help or wants to belong but has not been offered the opportunity.



Brotherly love, truth, and support are the bedrock of what it means to swear our Obligation and what we promised to uphold towards each other as Brethren. It is, after all, just as simple as an extended hand.



SUPPORT YOUR MEMBERS...

WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER.

Find Recognized
Lodges & Bodies

Share Real-Time
Member Status

Check In
to Events

Vet Visiting
Brothers

Built-In Protocol & Visibility

300+ GRAND LODGES. 40,000+ LODGES. ONE CRAFT.



Source: February 2025 issue of

Excerpts from Whence Come We:

Editor's Note: Beginning with Volume Two, Issue, 1, September 2008, *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* has provided you with excerpts from the Grand Lodge's publication, Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario: 1764 - 1980, Edited by The Special Committee on the History, Wallace E. McLeod, Chairman (Hamilton: Masonic Holdings), 1980. Here's this month's excerpt:



Editor's Note: Prior to 1763, what we today think of as Ontario was part of *New France*. Between 1774 and 1791 it was part of what was known as *Quebec*. Between 1791 and 1841 it was known as *Upper Canada*, between 1841 and 1867, as *Canada West* and in 1867 became known as *Ontario*.

CHAPTER 8: THE SECOND HALF CENTURY

Events of 1936 - 1945:

The Second World War (Cont'd).

During his two years in office, M.W. Bro. John Alexander McRae visited in all thirty-five Districts. He observed that the Brethren were thirsting for information about the activities of Grand Lodge and Masonic happenings of note throughout the jurisdiction. He suggested, therefore, that a special committee should examine the possibility of a Grand Lodge bulletin for distribution to the Brethren. The *Bulletin* was duly authorized in 1944.

- Source: Wallace E. McLeod, ed., Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario: 1764 - 1980, (Hamilton: Masonic Holdings), 1980, p. 146.

Next month:

Events of 1936 - 1945

The Second World War: (continued)

The Clouds Begin to Break. In the Election for the office of Deputy Grand Master in 1943, the ...

Cable Tow

A cable tow is usually attached to a Mason's robe. In the ancient days, cable was a strong rope used to tie together with heavy objects on a raft.

A tow was also a rope used for pulling objects. A cable tow, therefore, was a robust heavy rope used for binding and pulling objects.

In Freemasonry, the cable tow is a visible symbol of a person's pledge to the craft.

It represents a vow that a Mason will fulfill his duties and help a fellow Brother to his full capability. The length of the cable tow indicates the extent to which a Member is willing to go to assist a fellow Mason.

That's why the length of a cable tow is significant in Freemasonry.

The cable tow can be related to the cord that unites a mother and child during birth.

After a child is delivered, the physical bond between them is cut and replaced with unconditional love.

During Initiation, the cable-tow is removed from the recruit because the vow taken on the altar is stronger than a visible tie. It becomes a moral constraint bounding a person to brotherly love in the craft.

The bond becomes a two-way traffic where a person is linked to a Freemason, and a Freemason is bound to the person.

Source: masonicfind.com/masonic-symbols





For a number of years, Bro. Francis Dryden sent me his monthly newsletter, *The Trestleboard*, from sunny Mexico. However, most unfortunately, it is no longer available.

Each issue of *The Trestleboard* newsletter included articles by Carl Claudy.

The Old Tiler Talks, first published in 1925, by Carl H. Claudy, is a series of short anecdotal stories told in the setting of a new Member asking an Old Tiler for his opinion on various Masonic topics. These short articles are still very relevant, 100 years on, and hopefully provide some insight to new Members today.

Here's one entitled:

WHY MEN LOVE FREEMASONRY

The New Brother sat near the Old Tiler in the anteroom, crossed his legs and took out his cigar case.

"Have a smoke and unpuzzle me."

The Old Tiler accepted the proffered cigar with a smile.

"I am often puzzled, too," he sympathized. "Tell me."

"I am crazy about Masonry. I love it. So do a lot of other men. And I don't know why. I can't find anyone who will tell me why. Old Tiler, why do men love Masonry?"

The Old Tiler got up and crossed the room to a book case, extracted a volume and returned.

"I read that question in this little book, The Magic of Freemasonry, by Arthur E. Powell. Let me read to you - -"

The Old Tiler fluttered the pages.

Finding his place he sat and began: "Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hillman, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap we may divine the magic of Masonry."

"Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cabletow of God, running from heart to heart ..."

The Old Tiler closed the book and waited.

***"The cabletow of God," repeated the New Mason.
"That's a beautiful phrase."***

"It's more than a phrase, I think," the Old Tiler answered.

"As I see it, the heart of Freemasonry by which all manner of men are attracted and held, is just that - the longing for communion with the Most High."

"Oh, you must be mistaken. Men who want God go to church."

"Do you go to church?"

"Er, oh, well, sometimes."

"Yet you never miss coming to Lodge?"

"No, I don't, but --"

"Never mind the 'but.'" The Old Tiler smiled.

"A lot of men come to the Lodge who do not find heart's ease in the church. The Lodge is not a substitute for church. Masonry is not a religion, although it has religion. If the church fails, occasionally, it is because all human institutions must fail at times. No minister or church can satisfy all men. Some men find communion with the Most High in Masonry a greater satisfaction than in a church."

"I think that is the real reason some men love Freemasonry so much."

"You give me credit with being a lot more religious than I do," retorted the New Mason.

"Men are incurably religious," asserted the Old Tiler.

"Many don't know it and refuse to call it by that name, like you, for instance!"

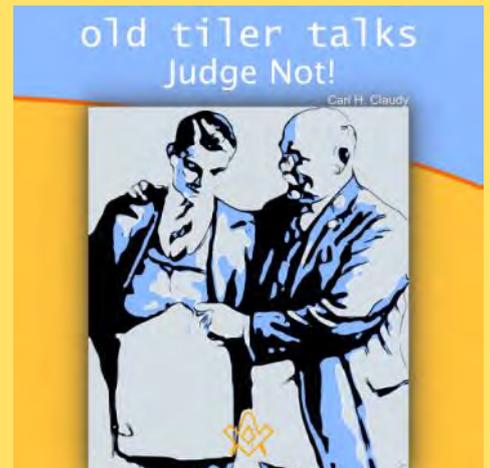
"In a church men are told various things about God. In a Lodge they are allowed to tell themselves what they will. In a church you are taught a creed, a dogma. In a Lodge there is neither."

"In a church you are quiet and respectful and whisper if you speak at all. It is kept high, unspotted from the world. A Lodge is more intimate, personal. You can be jolly in a Lodge, except during a Degree."

"Here are just other men, Brothers. They think as we do; they believe in the one God, as we do. They repeat the same words, think the same Masonic thoughts, do the same Masonic acts, as we do."

"We feel at home with them in consequence."

"Through years of simple, profound Degrees, we weave the Mystic Tie. We cannot say of what it is composed. We cannot put a name to it. St. Augustine, asked of God, answered, 'I know until you ask me - when you ask me, I do not know.'"



***“In your heart you know, and I know,
what the Mystic tie is -
what Freemasonry is.
But you cannot say it, nor can I.
It is too deep for words. It is the reason
we use symbols, for words cannot
express it.”***

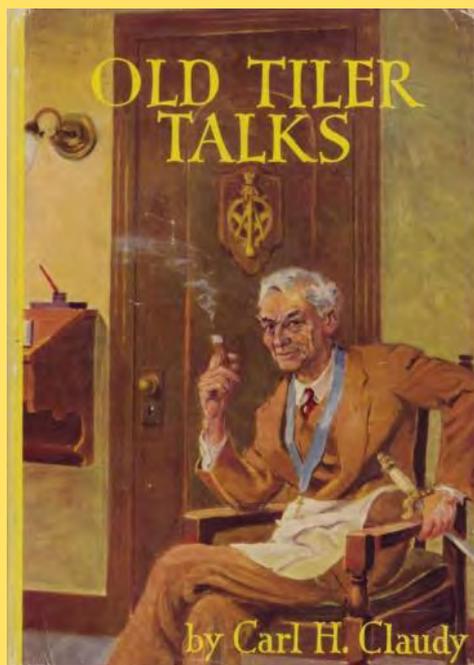
***“Deep in us is something
which understands what our brains
cannot think; something which knows
what our minds cannot comprehend.
Masonry speaks to that something
in its own language.”***

***“If we must put it into words,
God is the only syllable which
seems to fit. But when we say God
we mean no special deity, but all that is beautiful in life, in friendship,
in charity, in brotherhood.”***

***“So, my Brother, there is no reason for you to be puzzled;
no man can answer your puzzle. Freemasonry is loved by men
because it strikes deep into the human heart, and supplies
the answer to the question, the food for the hunger,
which the tongue cannot express.”***

***“Unless it is the tongue of a wise, wise Old Tiler,”
finished the New Brother thoughtfully.***

“And thank you, I am not puzzled now.”



Bro. Carl Harry Claudy (1879 - 1957) was an American author, magazine writer, and journalist for the *New York Herald*. His association with Freemasonry began in 1908, when, at the age of 29, he was Raised a Master Mason in Harmony Lodge No. 17 in Washington, D.C. He served as its Master in 1932 and eventually served as Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia in 1943.

If you can believe it ... Bro. Carl Claudy wrote well over 400 of these *Old Tiler Talks* along with many other Masonic books and pieces ... a very dedicated Mason and man.

His Masonic writing career began in earnest when he became associated with the Masonic Services Association in 1923, serving as Associated Editor of its magazine, *The Master Mason*, until 1943.



Our resident poet laureate,
R.W. Bro. Robert A. Keay,
Past District Deputy Grand Master
of Peterborough District, 2014 - 2015,
continues to share some of his poetry
with me that I know
you will enjoy reading !!!



Here's one for the March 2025 issue
of *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter.

RIDER'S BLISS

I've been riding motorcycles
Since a boy of just sixteen
And every bike I've purchased
Was the best I'd ever seen



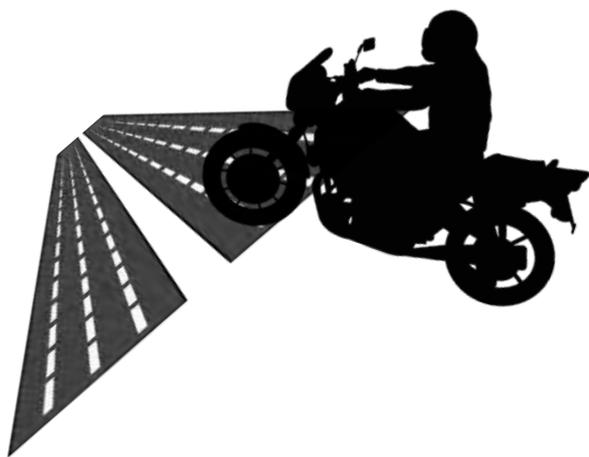
Some were small and noisy
Meant for riding in the dirt
Others big and flashy
How those big ones love to "flirt"

And I've ridden many twisty roads
That make your heartbeat skip



Knowing on some copper's radar
You're a fast-approaching blip

**But sometimes it's on the freeways
What we label "riding slab"**



**Another great location
Finally leading to a nab**



**But every bike and every road
Rests warmly in my heart
Through the curse of frozen winter
Waiting for the spring to start**



**I've ridden with great riders
Some of whom I'd rate as best**

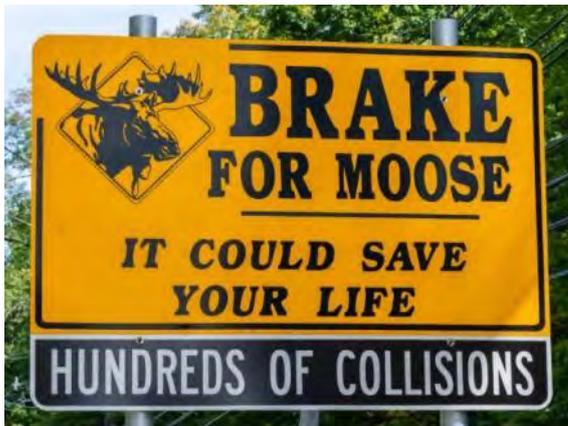


**But I've also joined in group rides
Where you get to see the rest**



There are those that ride with no hands
Others like to go too fast
There are those that make adjustments
With the traffic streaming past

And those that like the devil rum
Make sure they have a bottle
Held tightly in the left hand
While the right hand holds the throttle



But among my favourite riders
Are the ones who lead up front
When you come upon a road-bound moose
Their bikes will take the brunt



And on every ride I've ridden
You can't forget the food
Grilled up in a Sobeys' shopping cart
By a highly suspect dude

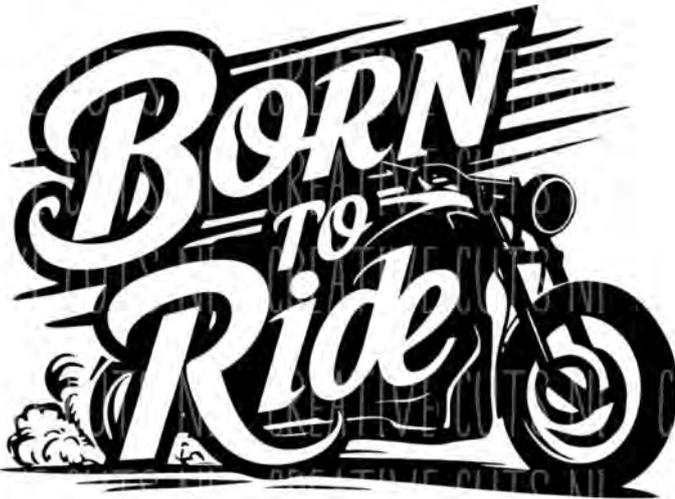


But my favourite all-time rider
Checks for food before he'll stay
The motel has to butt up to
A "Wok The Beat" buffet



So I know I'll keep on riding
Just as long as I am able
And there'll be some hefty horsepower
Always waiting in the stable!

By R.W. Bro. Bob Keay, Otonabee Lodge No. 101.



YOU DON'T STOP
RIDING WHEN
YOU GET OLD

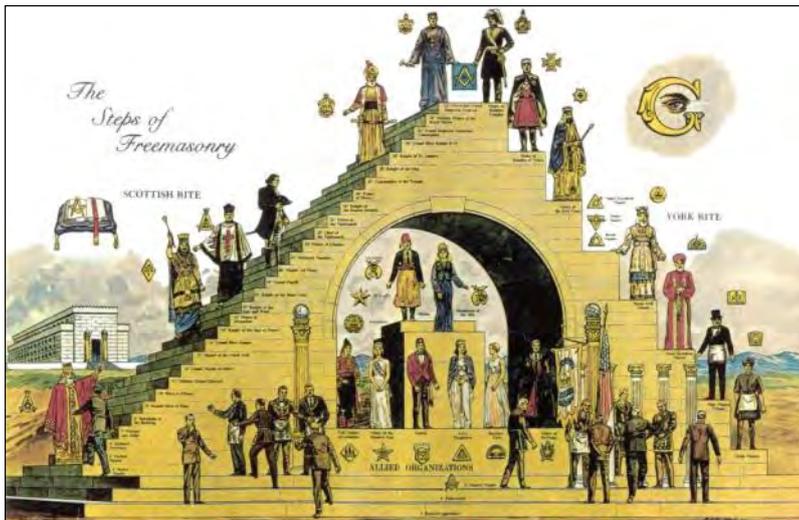


YOU GET OLD
WHEN YOU
STOP RIDING

Family of Freemasonry

A Brief Compendium of the Family of Freemasonry

Masonry is composed of several layers of membership. At its base are the three Degrees of Craft or “*Blue Lodge*” Freemasonry. The fraternity looks to these three Degrees as being the highest attainable, as all of the lessons of the fraternity can be found within them, but that has not precluded the development of the larger body, often referred to as the “*family*” of Freemasonry.



This illustration depicts the entry and progression of the fraternity.

**Interested in joining *ZOOM* or
GoToMeeting
across Ontario and beyond ???**

Then ... go to <https://masonicyear.com/>

Masonic Calendar of Events happening online ...

All bodies are encourage to share their events:

Grand Lodges\ Districts\ Lodges

Shriners Temple\Clubs Scottish Rite

RAM\Cryptic\Templar Etc.

Have A Look At The Event Schedule. There's lots there to choose from !!!



V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern has provided our readership with articles including, in the June 2022 issue, on page 48, about:

Here is a definition of a word found within Masonic ritual that is not common outside of our Lodge rooms.

In his role as Librarian & Historian from the Sarnia District Masonic Library, he is also an author of the book, [The Master's Emblem Explained for Masons.](#)

Here is some background about the book:

The emblem that distinguishes the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and all Past Masters, has been described as a “Tau”, or as “levels”, or as “two squares”.

The reality is quite different. There is a direct connection between Euclid, the Ceremony of Installation of the Worshipful Master, and the Book of Constitution.

From a moment of inspiration, to final release of [The Master's Emblem Explained for Masons](#), W. Bro. Marshall Kern spent two years researching his discovery. The result is a book that includes a Short Talk, and a longer piece of Masonic Education, as well as Bro. Kern's detailed examination of dozens of primary research sources.

Price is \$20.00, plus shipping. Details and ordering information at www.masterseblem.com

Also at www.masterseblem.com is an extensive biography of the esteemed Brother who introduced the emblem to our Fraternity. He was an Irishman who became a barrister in England and held high Masonic office at the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England. The same scholarly attention to accurate research was given to both the biography and the book.

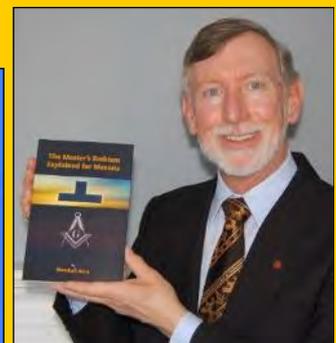
The biography is free; the book is \$20.00 plus shipping.

S & F,
Marshall Kern, Author

<http://www.masterseblem.com/>

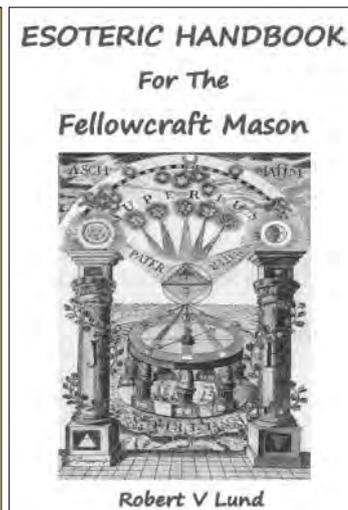
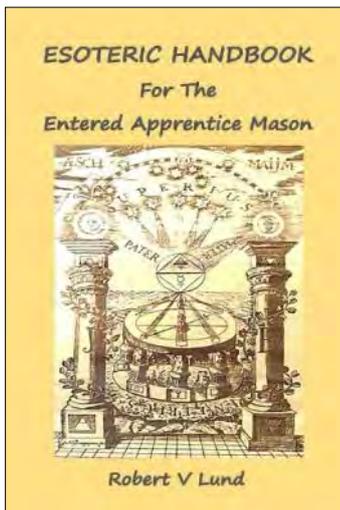
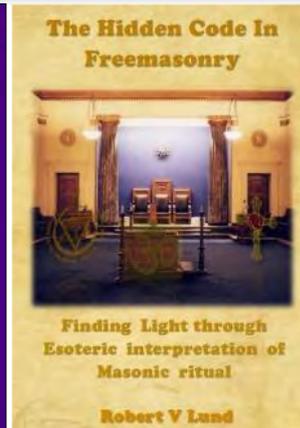
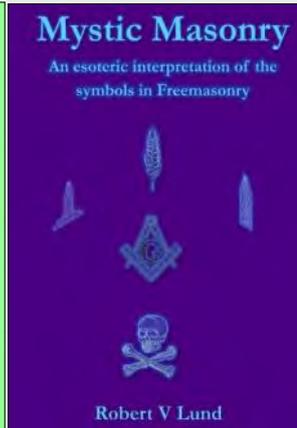
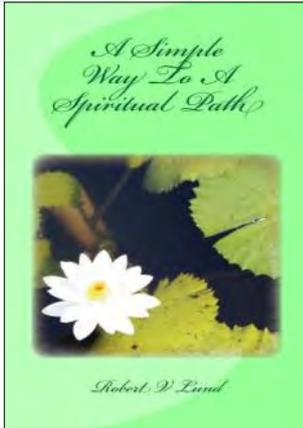
Facebook: [https:// www.facebook.com/MastersEmblem/](https://www.facebook.com/MastersEmblem/)

V.W. Bro. Kern's blog is here: <https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/>



Well worth the read !!!

Books by V.W. Bro. Robert V. Lund



Rob Lund [e-mail: robvlund@gmail.com]

<http://www.kilwinning565.com/>
<http://www.torontowestdistrict.com>
<https://www.rosicrucian.org>
<http://www.theosophical.ca/>
<http://www.ts-adyar.org/>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RobertVLund>

***“The moment one gives close attention to anything,
even a blade of grass,
it becomes a mysterious, awesome,
indescribably magnificent world in itself.”***

“Opportunities For Further Light”

DID YOU KNOW ???



The Grand Lodge College of Freemasonry offers interesting Correspondence Courses on Masonic Education throughout this Jurisdiction which is comprised of nineteen different modules. Any Master Mason may take any module individually for \$10.00 each or they may wish to complete a course of study for a set fee. If a Brother takes an individual module today, and decides to complete a course of study later in time, he will be accredited with the module he has completed prior. In other words, he does not have to pay for or rewrite



what he has already completed in the past. There are four courses of study offered by the College of Freemasonry:

1. “*The Masonic Arts and Sciences course*”.
2. The “*Past Master’s course*”.
3. The “*Worshipful Master course*”
4. The “*District Secretary’s course*”.

Any Brother looking to run for the office of D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar is required to have in their possession a certificate of qualification from Grand Lodge. In July 2018 a constitutional change was approved by the membership, and Section 50 (b) now reads ... *A candidate for office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession of a qualifying certificate as offered by our Grand Lodge, on or before June 15 of the year seeking office.* (2018). A copy of the revised 2018 Book of Constitution is on the Grand Lodge website. It can be found under the Recent documents tab.

What this change means is that there are now two paths available to receive a qualifying certificate for this running for D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar. One remains the Past Masters Course and the other is to participate in any number of the day-long enhanced D.D.G.M. Preparation workshops that are conducted around the jurisdiction.

For a Past Master that is looking to run for the Board of General Purposes, the certificate of qualification remains the same under Section 38 (b), and that is the “*Past Master’s Course*” offered by the College of Freemasonry.

For those who wish to pay for the College course you can do so by cheque, please send it to W. Bro. George Warner, 4010 Chadburn Crescent, Mississauga, ON, L5L 3X2. For those who wish to pay via credit card, just fill in the application form and send it to <masonic.college “at”gmail.com>, and the Brother will be e-mailed payment instructions through PayPal (an account is not necessary). If any Brother has any questions, they may e-mail R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, FCF, Administrator, College of Freemasonry, <masonic.college “at”gmail.com>. You may also get information by going to the Grand Lodge Website. Sign in, click “*Education*”, then “*College of Freemasonry*”. We also have many electronic books and other resources here. Check it out!



As Freemasons, what we learn from our rituals and our obligations strengthens our commitment to moral behaviour. We learn to take seriously the question of freedom, to take responsibility for creating our own path and to be responsible for the consequences of our actions. We know a good life depends on having relations with other human beings and that friendship, respect, and love develops best among equals.

After all is said and done, a lot more will be said than done.



Heritage Lodge No. 730
A.F. & A.M., G.R.C.



was formed to provide an intellectual environment for the pursuit of Masonic knowledge and also to provide a means for receiving and recording historical artefacts to ensure the preservation of our Masonic Heritage without encroaching on the normal functions of Constituent Lodges. Heritage Lodge accepts, by affiliation in the usual manner, all Masons of like-mind, desirous of working together to fulfil the aims and objectives established by the membership.

The Lodge Secretary is R. W. Bro. Dan Graham, e-mail: secretary@heritagelodge730.ca.

The fee for Affiliation is \$ 65.00 and the annual dues are also \$ 65.00.

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob] is the Heritage Lodge Regional Liaison Chairman for the Ontario, Peterborough, Prince Edward, and Victoria Districts. He can be reached by sending an e-mail to ddgm2007@nexicom.net.



The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!! newsletter is circulated via e-mail to all Brethren who are interested in keeping abreast of events, announcements within the Peterborough District and items of Masonic Education. Please feel free to copy these newsletters and circulate them among the Brethren who do not have e-mail access.

If you would like to have any Masonic announcements included in future issues of this electronic newsletter, please contact me at the address below.

Please pass these electronic newsletters on to others who may be interested. We welcome new subscribers, be they Masonic Brethren or friends.

If you have received this directly from me, then you are subscribed. Otherwise, if you would like to subscribe to “*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*” newsletter, please send me a note.

If you have received this issue of “*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*” newsletter and would **NOT** like to receive any further e-mails from me, please let me know and I will immediately remove you from my distribution list.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob],
The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!! and District Historian.
Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 – 2008)

E-mail: ddgm2007@nexicom.net



**Masonry aims at the promotion of morality
and higher living
by the cultivation of the social side of man,
the rousing in him of the instincts
of charity and love of his kind.
It rests surely on the foundation
of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.**

**To have a Notice placed
in *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter
please send it to
R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]
(ddgm2007@nexicom.net)
at least a couple of weeks prior to the event.
It will be run in each issue until the event is over.**



Happy to Meet. Sorry to Part. Happy to Meet Again.