

Dear Brethren,

Enclosed please find the ***The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!***,  
Volume Nineteen, Issue 05 (Whole Number 190),  
Thursday, 01 January 2025.

This issue contains 120 pages.

The monthly calendar in ***The Electronic 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 08 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*.

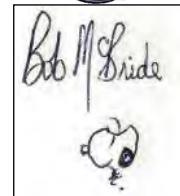
Sincerely and fraternally yours,

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. ]

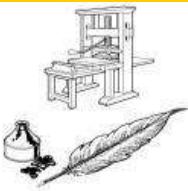
R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]

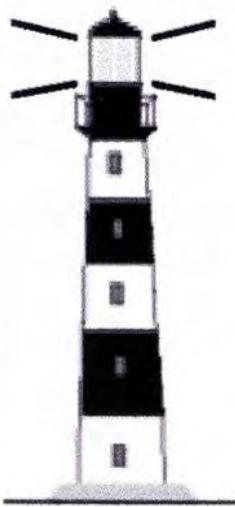
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master, 2007 - 2008
- Editor of the monthly electronic ***The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*** 2007 – 2026
- Peterborough District Historian, 2001 - 2006
  - Peterborough District Communications Chairman, 2002 – 2021
  - Past Master, Keene Lodge A.F. & 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 !!!

**T**eamwork  
**E**ncourages  
**A**ctive  
**M**asons

## 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 Nineteen, Issue 05

Whole Number 190

Thursday, 01 January 2026

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R.W. Bro. James J. Dunn  
District Deputy Grand Master

Peterborough ON  
705-653-62534  
ptboddgm2025@gmail.com



W. Bro. Brian Lalande  
District Secretary

Hastings, ON  
705-977-5295  
ptbodistrictsecretary2025@gmail.com



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

Peterborough District

On Monday, November 24, 2026,  
R.W. Bro. James J.M. Dunn,  
Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master 2025 - 2026,  
made his third Official Visit,  
this time to Havelock Lodge No. 435 G.R.C.  
where Bro. James Harley Proved Himself in 3rd. Degree.  
As V.W. Bro. Bill Osborne indicated,  
**“Approximately 50 Members and Visitors  
from 7 different Lodges covering 2 Districts attended.”**



Photo by V.W. Bro. Bill Osborne, Peterborough District Photographer 2025 - 2026.

In his talk to the Brethren at the banquet, R.W. Bro. Dunn said:

Brethren,

Good evening. It is truly a great honour to be here with you tonight. I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks for the warm welcome and the exceptional hospitality you have extended to me and to the Grand Lodge Officers who are present.

Your kindness and fellowship are felt the moment one walks through the door, and it is a privilege to stand before you.

This year, my theme is *Back to Basics*. I chose this because I believe it aligns perfectly with the Grand Master's priorities — ritual, education, and mentoring. These three pillars are not only essential for our growth as Freemasons but also for the continued strength and stability of our Lodges.

Brethren, this evening I want to speak about something central to all of us: the tenets of Freemasonry — Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

These are the principles we profess, the foundation upon which our fraternity stands. And with so many new Masons entering our District, there has never been a better time to revisit these values and reflect on how we apply them, both inside and outside the Lodge.

Brotherly Love reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves. It calls us to support, to respect, and to care for one another as Brothers. This is not just a phrase in our ritual — it's a way of life, a daily practice. When the world sees Masons treating each other with genuine kindness and unity, it sends a message about who we are and what we stand for.

Relief teaches us that our duty extends beyond our own membership. Whether it is assisting a Brother in need, supporting a widow or family, or contributing to the broader community, relief is a visible expression of our obligation to serve. It doesn't always require grand gestures; sometimes it's a simple phone call to a Brother we haven't heard from in a while, just to remind him that he is remembered.

And Truth — perhaps the most challenging of all — is the commitment to be honest with ourselves, with each other, and with the world.

Truth requires integrity. It calls us to be men of our word, to act according to our principles even when no one is watching.

When we do this, we honour the Craft and set the example that others can follow.

Brethren, when we bring a new man into our fraternity, we give him a book, we teach him our expectations — and we do this well. But we must also remember that he has expectations of us. He is looking to us for guidance, encouragement, and mentorship. He expects us to help him feel welcome, to help him understand not only how to perform the ritual, but why we do it, and what it means.

**Mentoring is not simply telling a new Mason what to memorize. It's walking beside him. It's sharing the lessons behind the ritual, the history of the Craft, and the deeper meanings that make Freemasonry more than just meetings and Degrees. It's creating a bond that brings him into the heart of our fraternity.**

And I want to say, Brethren, that I do not stand here pretending to have all the answers. I regularly reach out to several of the longer-standing Members of our District for advice and counsel. I won't mention names — you know who you are — but I want to thank each of you for your honesty and your willingness to share your experience. This is what true mentorship looks like: the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next, ensuring that our traditions are preserved and strengthened.

New Brethren should see meetings that are purposeful, educational, and enjoyable. They should see respect — the kind of mutual respect that makes every Member feel valued, whether he has been here for three months or thirty years.

Both new and long-standing Members benefit from the examples we set. It may be helping an Officer learn floor work or ritual. It may be offering a ride to a Brother who can no longer drive. It may be volunteering at a community event or supporting a Lodge fundraiser for a local charity. These actions not only strengthen our Lodge — they demonstrate to the public what Freemasonry truly represents.

We should also encourage all Brethren to visit Lodges beyond their own. Visiting strengthens our bonds across the District and deepens our connection to the wider Masonic family. When we travel, we learn. We share ideas, we support each other, and we build relationships that last a lifetime.

And speaking of ideas, Brethren — when we encourage Members to get involved and when we listen to new ideas, we shape the future of the Craft. Fresh perspectives are essential. Every Brother, no matter how new, has something valuable to contribute.

I genuinely believe that Freemasonry is on the rise. Many young men today are searching for something deeper — something meaningful, something that gives purpose. And what better place to find that than among like-minded men we call Brother? Men who respect one another, whose opinions matter, who lift each other up, and who provide a support system that lasts a lifetime.

Brethren, as we move forward, let us carry these tenets — Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth — not only in our words, but in our actions. Let us continue to strengthen our Lodges, support one another, and open our doors to those who seek what we have found.

Thank you, Brethren, for your attention, and once again, for the warm welcome and hospitality you have shown me. It is truly appreciated, and I am honoured to be among you.

Thank you, Brethren.



**R.W. Bro. James J.M. Dunn,  
Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master 2025 - 2026**  
705-653-6234  
[ptboddgm2025@gmail.com](mailto:ptboddgm2025@gmail.com)



**W. Bro. Brian Lalande  
Peterborough District Secretary.  
2025 - 2026 705-977-5295  
[ptbodistrictsecretary2025@gmail.com](mailto:ptbodistrictsecretary2025@gmail.com)**



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

## From The Editor:

*The Electronic 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.

If you know of other Brethren who would like to receive a copy, please let me know.



The first issue of *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way* newsletter 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].

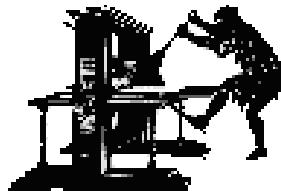
- Editor, *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*
- Peterborough District Historian,
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 - 2008).



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



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





Here are some Masonic  
(in blue with white lettering)  
and non-Masonic  
activities for you !!!



Ontario Masons



Happy January !!!



# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>The Northern Lights are often visible in northern latitudes in January !!!</b></p>			<p><b>1 New Year's Day !!!</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3 Quadrantids Meteor Shower !!!</b></p>
<p><b>4 World Braille Day !!!</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6 Clementi 313 Initiation of Mr. Addison Gyan</b></p>	<p><b>7 Percy 161 Masonic Education 50 year pin presentation: W. Bro. Brian Lalande</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>11 Clean Off Your Desk Day !!!</b></p>	<p><b>12 Golden Rule 126 50 year pin presentation: V.W. Bro. John Haig</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14 Village 145 Masonic Education</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20 Peterbor- ough 155 Proving 3rd Masonic Ed.</b></p>	<p><b>21 Otonabee 101 Exemplification: 1st Degree</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24 International Day of Education !!!</b></p>
<p><b>25 Robbie Burns Night !!!</b></p>	<p><b>26 Havelock 435 2nd Degrees: Bros. Thomas Gordon and Joseph Farrell</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28 National Fun at Work Day !!!</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>
						<p><b>R.E.M: Ritual, Education, Mentoring.</b></p>

## **GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

# **2025 - 2026**

### **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 L8O 1B8  
Tel: 905-528-8644 - Fax: 905-528-6997  
[office@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto:office@grandlodge.on.ca)

### **GRAND SENIOR WARDEN**

R.W. Bro. Hector Miguel Medina Avila

### **GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**

R.W. Bro. Andrew Allen McDowell

### **GRAND REGISTRAR**

R.W. Bro. Allison Frederick Gowling

### **GRAND TREASURER**

R.W. Bro. Sydney Schatzker

### **GRAND STEWARD**

V.W. Bro. William L. Mitchell  
Clementi No. 313

V.W. Bro. Larry R. Castle

Clementi No. 313



# **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](http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/masonic.htm)



## **DISTRICT LEADERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

### **DISTRICT PROJECT**

W.Bro. John Muise; [jmuise@live.ca](mailto:jmuise@live.ca)

### **GRAND MASTER'S PROJECT**

R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini; [bharatmaini2024@gmail.com](mailto:bharatmaini2024@gmail.com)

### **BENEVOLENCE - MASONIC BOARD OF RELIEF**

R.W. Bro. Frank Groves; [fwgroves@gmail.com](mailto:fwgroves@gmail.com)

### **DISTRICT LODGE OF INSTRUCTION**

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### **DISTRICT DIVINE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

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### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

R.W. Bro. Rob Kiff; [rmkiff@gmail.com](mailto:rmkiff@gmail.com)

### **CORNERSTONE**

V.W. Bro. Walter Howell; [whowell16@gmail.com](mailto:whowell16@gmail.com)

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

R.W. Bro. Bob Keay; [bobkeay1@gmail.com](mailto:bobkeay1@gmail.com)

### **MENTORSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN**

V.W. Bro. Dave Rosefield; [drosefie@gmail.com](mailto:drosefie@gmail.com)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

R.W. Bro. Al Baswick; [al.baswick@gmail.com](mailto:al.baswick@gmail.com)

### **DISTRICT EVENTS RECORDER**

R.W. Bro Gary Ballard; [mason.l164@gmail.com](mailto:mason.l164@gmail.com)

### **DISTRICT HISTORIAN**

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride; [ddgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto:ddgm2007@nexicom.net)

### **NEW MEMBERS LIAISON**

V.W. Bro. Larry Castle; [lrcastle53@gmail.com](mailto:lrcastle53@gmail.com)



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. Brian LaLonde  
(Percy No. 161)



### BEACON (*electronic newsletter*)

R. W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride; [ddgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto:ddgm2007@nexicom.net)  
(Village No. 145/Otonabee No. 101)

### WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Bro. Nick Burd  
(Peterborough No. 155)  
[www.ptbomasonry.ca](http://www.ptbomasonry.ca)

### DIGITAL ARCHIVIST / PHOTOGRAPHER

V.W Bro. Bill Osborne; [retyff96@gmail.com](mailto:retyff96@gmail.com)  
(Havelock No. 435)



### TRESTLE BOARD

W. Bro. R. Leon Jongsma; [wm2025clementi313@gmail.com](mailto:wm2025clementi313@gmail.com)  
(Clementi No. 313)

### WEBSITE LIASON

R.W. Bro. John Morton; [peterboroughddgm1516@gmail.com](mailto:peterboroughddgm1516@gmail.com)  
(Peterborough No. 155)

## P.D.D.G.M. ADVISORS



R.W. Bro. Harold Grills

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson

R.W. Bro. John Morton

R.W. Bro. Frank Groves



### Travelling Square

**Wednesday, October 01, 2025**  
**Clementi No. 313 to Percy No. 161**

**Monday, April 27, 2026**  
**Percy No. 161 to Havelock No. 435**



## PDMA MEETINGS

### **EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Thursday September 25th, 2025

### **SEMI-ANNUAL EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Thursday October 23rd, 2025

### **EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Thursday April 23rd, 2026

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday May 28th, 2026

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

## PDMA DEGREE TEAMS

### **MASTERS DEGREE TEAM**

Tuesday October 7th, 2025

Clementi Lodge No. 313

W. Bro. Jason Wraight

### **SENIOR WARDENS DEGREE TEAM**

Wednesday March 18th, 2026

Otonabee Lodge No. 101

W. Bro. John Fraser

### **JUNIOR WARDENS DEGREE TEAM**

Monday April 13th, 2026

Golden Rule No. 126

W. Bro. Ian Thompson

## Peterborough Coffee Club

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

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

Weekly Wednesday morning 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EXCEPT the 3rd Wed. of July.

Hosted by V.W. Bro. Roger Morton, W. Bro. Stephen Hedgecock and company since 2011.





## OFFICIAL VISITS

VILLAGE No. 145	Wed. Oct. 08, 2025	Millbrook
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Mon. Nov. 10, 2025	Campbellford
HAVELOCK No. 435	Mon. Nov. 24, 2025	Havelock
OTONABEE No. 101	Wed. Feb. 19, 2026	Peterborough
CLEMENTI No. 313	Tue. Mar. 03, 2026	Peterborough
PERCY No. 161	Wed. Apr. 01, 2026	Warkworth
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Tue. Mar. 17, 2026	Peterborough

*When scheduled, banquets will begin at 6:30 pm.*

## INSTALLATIONS

CLEMENTI No. 313	Tue. Dec. 02, 2025	Peterborough
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Tue. Dec. 16, 2025	Peterborough
VILLAGE No. 145	Wed. May 13, 2026	Millbrook
OTONABEE No. 101	Wed. May 20, 2026	Peterborough
HAVELOCK No. 435	Mon. May 25, 2026	Havelock
PERCY No. 161	Wed. Jun. 03, 2026	Warkworth
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Mon. Jun. 08, 2026	Campbellford

*When scheduled, banquets will begin at 6:30.*

## PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT LODGE MEETINGS

<i>Name of Lodge</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Regular Meetings</i>
OTONABEE No. 101	Peterborough	3rd Wednesday
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Campbellford	2nd Monday
VILLAGE No. 145	Millbrook	2nd Wednesday
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Peterborough	3rd Tuesday
PERCY No. 161	Warkworth	1st Wednesday
CLEMENTI No. 313	Peterborough	1st Tuesday
HAVELOCK No. 435	Havelock	4th Monday

*(Meetings begin at 7:30 pm)*



## PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT LODGE GEN- ERAL PURPOSEMEETINGS

<i>Name of Lodge</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>G.P. Meeting</i>
OTONABEE No. 101	Peterborough	2nd Tuesday
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Campbellford	4th Thursday
VILLAGE No. 145	"Wing House"	3rd Monday
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Peterborough	1st Friday
PERCY No. 161	Warkworth	4th Wednesday
CLEMENTI No. 313	Peterborough	4th Tuesday
HAVELOCK No. 435	Havelock	4th Sunday

*(Meetings begin at 7:00 pm)*



## P.D.M.A. EXECUTIVE

### CHAIRMAN

W. Bro. John Fraser

### 1st VICE-CHARMAN

W. Bro. Ian Tompson

### 2nd VICE-CHAIRMAN

W. Bro Jason Wraight

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Bro. Ed Spence

### HONNORARY CHAIRMAN

R.W. Bro. James J. Dunn



### MEMBER EX-OFFICIO

R. W. Bro. Bharat Maini



### DDGM'S THEME

*'Getting back to the basics.'*

### DISTRICT PROJECT

Hospice Peterborough/Norwood/Warkworth

*... (taken from the Hospice Resident Handbook)*

“Hospice care is not about bricks and mortar, it's about creating a welcoming, safe, peaceful place to live, die and to grieve.

It is their mission to enhance the comfort, dignity and quality of life of individuals and families living with or affected by life-threatening illness or grief.

As well, all programs and services provided by Hospice are offered at no cost to you or your family.”

## 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
2025 - 2026	J.J. Dunn	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.**





## PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

### R.W. Bro. Bob Keay, Education Chairman

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 Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter.

As the District Education Chair I will try and bring some education to *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* each month that is informative, but not tedious to read.

Today's Masonic Education piece is brief, but full of meaning. It was written by John Ross Robertson for an article entitled "Never", and this is an exert from it.

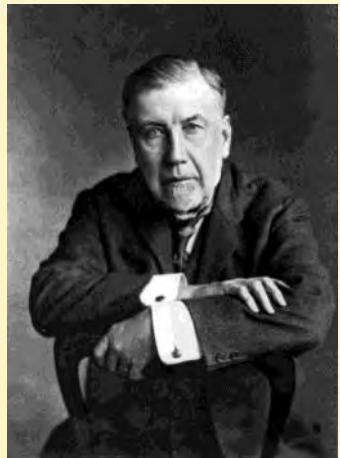
John Ross Robertson (1841-1918) was a prominent Canadian publisher, politician, sports figure (Father of Amateur Hockey) and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. He was known for his extensive historical writings, especially about Toronto and Freemasonry. He was a prolific Masonic writer and one that I have personally enjoyed throughout my Masonic career.

# NEVER



- 1) Never take an Office the duties of which you cannot discharge.
- 2) Never fail to watch the ballot box, and thus keep your role clean.
- 3) Never join cliques. As a rule they are always in the cold shade.
- 4) Never talk about every subject up for discussion.  
Give someone else a chance.
- 5) Never canvass for Office.  
If you have any value, the Craft will seek you out.
- 6) Never be late for your Lodge meeting.  
Be on hand when the WM opens and go home when the Lodge closes.
- 7) Never talk rashly. Think before you speak.  
Words without thoughts have no mission and are lost in the maze.
- 8) Never air your knowledge at the expense of your younger Brother.  
Be generous and remember you were once young yourself.

- 9) Never walk into your lodge room in a shambling manner, as if you had no right to be there. The heft of a Brother is oft-times indicated by his gait, when advancing to the altar.
- 10) Never turn from a Brother with a gruff answer. Politeness is an essential that should be cultivated by all. It smooths the rough edges in debate and should never be lost sight of by the Brethren.
- 11) Never revenge yourself with a black ball. It is an unfair advantage to take. The chances are that you are in the wrong. Rather return good for evil and let the Applicant come in. You will both be better friends when clothed in the lambskin.
- 12) Never bother the WM. He has enough to do to rule the Lodge, and your advice interjected at pleasure is a source of annoyance, not only to the WM, but to the Lodge. When asked for advice, give it, but wait till you are asked, and when giving it, be as unostentatious as possible. Say what you have to say in as few words as will express your meaning.
- 13) Never go to Lodge and sit through the business routine, taking part in the discussions, showing that you are a man from head to foot, and then, when a Degree is to be worked, go home or seek the ante room to smoke and gossip. Better to stay away altogether. It is such as you that do harm to the Craft. You are always on deck, save and except when you are wanted.
- 14) Never leave your Lodge with temper ruffled. Masonry means friendship, and, as the sun should not go down on anger, so neither should we part with ill-will to a Brother. Life's struggle is but a short one, and our mission should be to clear away boulders of ill-will, help one another along the road, so that, hand-in-hand, we may enter the gateway that guards the portals undissolving Lodge.



*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**



# District Deputy Grand Master's Theme

‘ *Getting back to the basics.* ’

*Is the District Deputy Grand Master  
automatically  
a Member of each Lodge in the District  
during his term of office?*



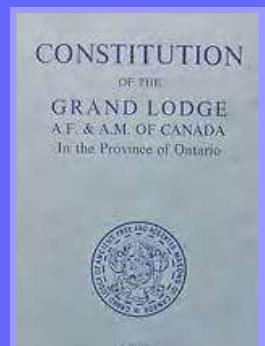
The District Deputy Grand Master is authorized to preside, and only those with this authority are presented, received under the wands, accorded the Grand Honours and given the gavel.

Each Lodge in the District is required to send a copy of every Summons to the District Deputy; however he is not a Member of every Lodge in the District, and is certainly not entitled to vote or ballot. (See the Book of Constitution Sec. 96, 239 and 344).

Book of Constitution-Sec. 96-*The District Deputy Grand Master shall have authority, unless the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master be present, to preside at any Lodge Meeting within his District and to direct the business thereof during his visit thereto.*

Book of Constitution-Sec. 239-*The Master shall cause the Secretary to send a copy of every Summons to the Members of the Lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which the Lodge is situated, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master.*

Book of Constitution-Sec. 344-*All Members of the Lodge present when the Ballot is taken must Ballot.*



**The Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master's Project presents:**



**DISTRICT PROJECT**  
**‘Hospice Peterborough/Norwood/Warkworth’**  
... (taken from the Hospice Resident Handbook)

**“Hospice care is not about bricks and mortar,  
it’s about creating a welcoming, safe,  
peaceful place  
to live, die and to grieve.**

**It is their mission to enhance the comfort,  
dignity and quality of life of individuals  
and families living with or affected by  
life-threatening illness or grief.**

**As well, all programs and services provided by Hospice  
are offered at no cost to you or your family.”**

**2025/2026 District Project Number 2535**



# **2025/2026 DISTRICT PROJECT**

## **NUMBER 2535**



Brethren,

This year's District Project is focused on Hospice, specifically those in Peterborough, Norwood and Warkworth.

Most of us know someone who has lost someone close to them.

In my case, it's personal, as my wife died in hospice Peterborough last Thanksgiving.

I saw, firsthand, the love and compassion that they have, not only for the person dying, but for the family as well.

What most people don't realize, is how much is done for the family as a whole. Volunteers visit families in their homes, allowing the spouse to go out for a few hours, even if it's only to get a coffee with a friend or buy groceries.

From the moment a patient is diagnosed with a terminal illness, Hospice doctors or nurses will visit on a regular basis, making sure that their pain is controlled. The cost of all medications is fully covered.

There are also grief sessions available at no cost to anyone who has lost a loved one, even children.

While some of these costs are covered by the government, a large portion isn't, and that's where donations come in.

At the Charity Lecture, we are asked "*Would you give if it were in your power?*" We all answered "yes".

Please support this project to the best of your ability.

We never know when we, or someone we love, might need the love and care that Hospice gives.

**W. Bro. John Muise**  
**Peterborough District Project Chair**



**San Bernardino**  
**HOSPICE CARE**

## Peterborough District Project 2025 - 2026

This year's District Project is focused on Hospice, specifically those in Peterborough, Norwood and Warkworth.

Peterborough District Project Number 2535



**HOSPICE**



e-Transfer

We will accept e-transfers.



Please include a note to identify the individual donating and the project number

E-Transfers can be made directly to the Masonic Foundation at [donations@tmfo.ca](mailto:donations@tmfo.ca)

If donating by cheque, please make it out to:  
"The Masonic Foundation of Ontario"  
as well as noting  
"Project 2535"  
on the memo line.

Please give your cheque to either of:  
Peterborough DDGM, R.W. Bro. James J. M. Dunn,  
or District Chairman, W. Bro. John Muise.

Or mail it directly to:  
The Masonic Foundation of Ontario,  
361 King Street West, Hamilton, ON, L8P 1B4.  
Tax receipts will be issued by the MFO.

You will be apprised of our monthly project progress.

**So far we have raised approximately \$ 6,000 !!!**



**HOSPICE CARE**

W. Bro. John Muise  
Peterborough District  
Project Chair

# WELCOME



# JANUARY

The Japanese celebrate **“Coming of Age Day”** on the second Monday of January.

Many animals, including bears and bats, hibernate during January in colder climates.

The Wolf Moon, the first full moon of the year, typically occurs in January.

The Wolf Moon in 2026 will occur on January 3rd at 10:03 GMT. It is traditionally named for the howls of wolves during midwinter nights and symbolizes resilience and instinct. Additionally, it will be the first bright supermoon of the year.



**January 15, 1559:**  
Elizabeth I crowned Queen.

**January 22, 1901:** Queen Victoria died.

**January 27, 1945:**  
First International Holocaust Remembrance Day.



**January 31, 1606:**  
Guy Fawkes jumped off beheading scaffold to his death.



## **AROUND AND ABOUT PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT:**



On Tuesday, 16 December 2025, W. Bro. John Muise was Installed as the W. Master of Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C. for a two-year term, the first time since he was W. Master in 1987.



He was joined by his son, Bro. Steven Muise, Member of Jerusalem Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 31 G.R.C., Bowmanville, Ontario District, who presented him to the Lodge prior to taking the Master's Obligation in the Second Degree.

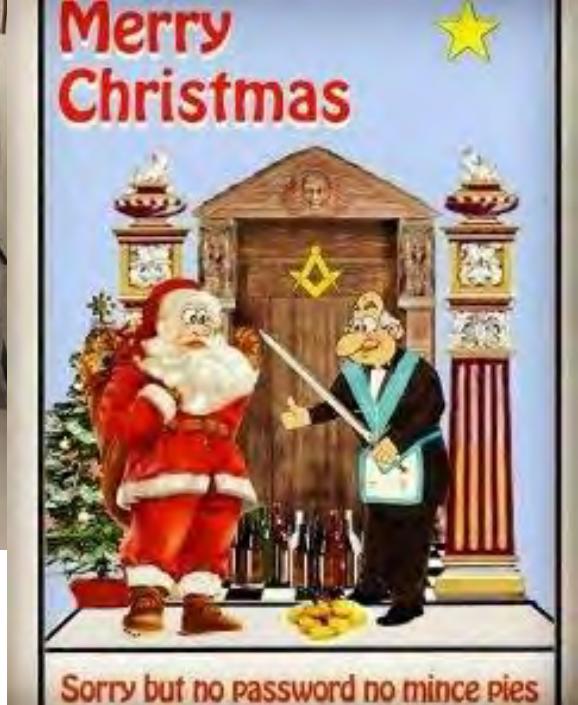


Photos by  
W. Bro.  
Kevin Ross,  
Past Master,  
Clementi No. 313.

On Wednesday, 17 December, Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C. held its Annual Christmas Celebration after W. Bro. Codie Bachner was Invested with his Past Master's Jewel.







Photos by V.W. Bro. David Rosefield,  
Inner Guard, Otonabee Lodge No. 101.



## 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*.**



**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	14	14	2	13	10	114
Golden Rule 126	3	2	6	0	3	6	8	0	4	0	32
Village 145	3	19	10	0	2	8	2	2	2	0	83
Peterborough 155	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	5	0	11
Percy 161	2	5	1	0	2	6	1	0	5	4	26
Clementi 313	20	16	14	2	13	16	27	9	19	5	141
Havelock 435	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	4	16



# Ontario Masons

**The winner of *The Lighthouse Trophy* for 2024 – 2025  
was Clementi No. 313 with 141 visits to other Lodges in the District.**

As the creator of the Peterborough District's Lighthouse Trophy in 2007, I have decided to give the trophy a break for awhile, perhaps resuming it sometime soon in the future.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED  
THROUGH THESE 18 YEARS !!!**

*Bob McBride*



**W. Bro. Tim Lucas, Secretary of Village 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!**



A collage of various food items on a wooden table. It includes several pieces of chicken wings (some with red sauce, some with cheese), several celery sticks, and two small containers of white ranch dressing. The food is arranged on pieces of brown paper.

**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.**

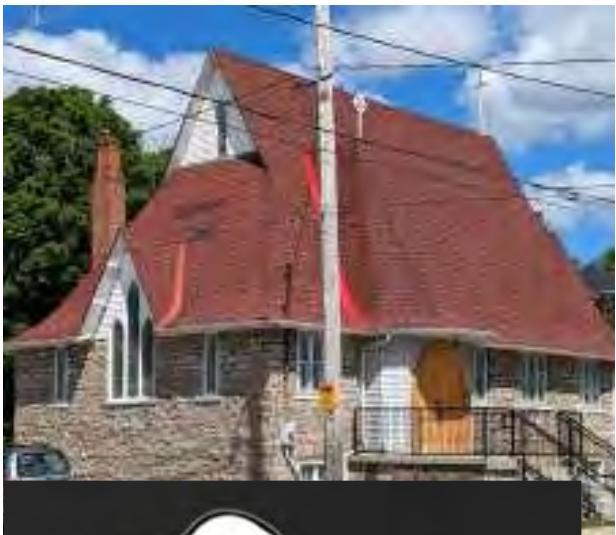
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

# Peterborough District Divine Service



You are hereby invited to join us on  
**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

**St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church  
1 George Street East, Havelock, Ontario**



**Apron room in the lower level.**

**Dress code:  
suit or jacket and tie.  
No tuxedos.  
Wear apron and jewels.**



**Take a seat anywhere  
in the congregation  
when you arrive.**

**No procession.**



**Light luncheon  
to follow downstairs.**





# THE VALLEY OF PETERBOROUGH MASTER MASON'S NIGHT



## Now that I'm a Master Mason, What's Next?

**Scottish Rite** is a world-wide Masonic Fraternity with a membership of approximately 17,000 in Canada. Its goals are to build upon the moral and philosophic teachings found in the degree work studied in the Craft Lodge, the foundation of all Masonic work.

**How many degrees are there in the Scottish Rite?** Thirty-three, including the Craft degrees. However, the Craft degrees are accepted as conferred by the Grand Lodges. The Thirty-third is conferred directly by Supreme Council, the governing Body of the Rite.

**The Valley of Peterborough will be hosting a Master Mason's Night. We invite all Masons for Fellowship and Information.**

Brethren, this is an Event you will not want to miss!  
Come and find out what Scottish Rite Freemasonry is all about at our Master Masons Night.

**Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026,  
Social Time with Light Dinner at 6:00pm.**

**(Free for our Master Mason Guests.)**

A cast of characters from Scottish Rite history  
Starting at 7:00pm

**Peterborough Masonic Lodge Building. RSVP is a must!**

For more information or to RSVP please contact: Mark Smith (905) 985-3110 or Andy Henderson (705) 778-7320. [marksmith106@gmail.com](mailto:marksmith106@gmail.com) -- [akhenderson@sympatico.ca](mailto:akhenderson@sympatico.ca)

(The attire for the evening will be business casual.)



**Valley of Peterborough  
Dinner/Theatre Night  
To benefit  
The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**WHERE ARE YOU**  
A comedy by Kristen Da Silva

**Where You Are** is set on Manitoulin Island, where sisters Glenda and Suzanne have lived together for many years, ever since Suzanne arrived single, penniless, and pregnant, and moved in with her sister and brother-in-law. When Suzanne's now-adult daughter, Beth, returns to the island to visit her mother and her now-widowed aunt, sparks fly between Beth and the sisters' neighbour, Patrick, but the women must confront some concealed truths that will change all of their lives forever.

**Performed by the Northumberland Players**

Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre  
930 Burnham St, Cobourg ON K9A 2X9

**Three Course Dinner: To be determined January 2026**

Cocktails, Social Hour 4:00 PM at Arthur's Pub  
Doors Open/Dinner 5:00 PM  
Play Begins 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$95 (Cash, Cheque Or e-Transfer to [srcf.ptbo.event@gmail.com](mailto:srcf.ptbo.event@gmail.com), by April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026)  
Tables of Eight, Cash Bar available

All Welcome: Masons, Family and Friends

All Proceeds to benefit the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation.

**Help solve the Puzzles of the Mind**



Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation: CRA Charitable Number: 119253466RR0001

For Tickets Please Contact: John Fraser, 705-775-6833 or [srcf.ptbo.event@gmail.com](mailto:srcf.ptbo.event@gmail.com)



M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND  
M.W. BRO. GEORGE CONTAXAKIS, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC  
ARE PLEASED TO INVITE ALL MASON AND THEIR LADIES TO UNITE IN MASONRY



Ontario Masons

M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND

Grand Master



M.W. BRO. GEORGE CONTAXAKIS

Grand Master

# The Grand Masters Gala

Click Here for  
**Tickets**  
**\$130.00** EACH

MEN  
FORMAL ATTIRE  
LADIES  
COCKTAIL DRESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026

**DEV Hotel and Conference Centre**

1950 MONTREAL ROAD, CORNWALL, ON

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHARITIES OF THE GRAND MASTER'S

**SOCIAL: 5:30PM | BUFFET: 7:00PM**



**CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR STAY**

FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE : (613) 936-5800

GROUP CODE : 126062

BOOK EARLY, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 28, 2026

TRADITIONAL ROOM WITH 1 QUEEN BED \$139.00-\$152.25

DELUXE SUITE WITH 2 QUEEN BEDS \$159.00-\$185.50

SUPERIOR KING \$169.00-\$208.75

RATES PER NIGHT INCLUDES BREAKFAST, TAXES, FEES



**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. John Fraser  
(Otonabee 101)**



\*\*\*\*\*

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

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





## 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](http://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](mailto: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 the Master Mason Degree and the story of the building 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.





**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 Hedcock,  
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*





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](http://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.

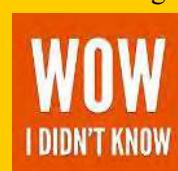
### **How to Join the Correspondence Circle**

Download the application from [www.quatuorcoronati.com](http://www.quatuorcoronati.com).

Thank you !!!

Sincerely & Fraternally,

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](mailto:rkliaman@cpa-ca.com)

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



**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 [www.quatuorcoronati.com](http://www.quatuorcoronati.com)



# YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE

Donate blood and join the movement today.

## BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

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

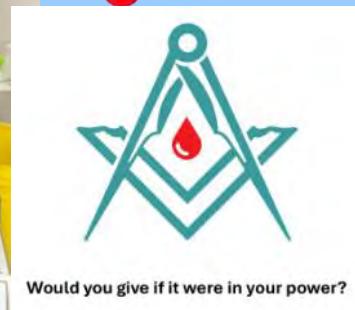
Book your appointment at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca)

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play |   



### 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?



Here is a short story about blood type: TypO

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 !!!”*





Enjoy this *Daily Smile*.

## CARTOON APPLE

**Q: Why did the cartoon apple stop in the middle of the road?**



**A: Because it ran out of juice!**





DECEMBER 2025

# Ontario Masons





## Grand Master's Communiqué

December 2025

Brethren,

Greetings all, welcome to the *Ontario Masons Magazine* for December. We are well into our current Masonic year, and I hope that you are enjoying the new *OMM* format, design and information that is provided.

To V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard and your team, well done, keep up the great work that you are doing and I can't wait to see where we go from here.

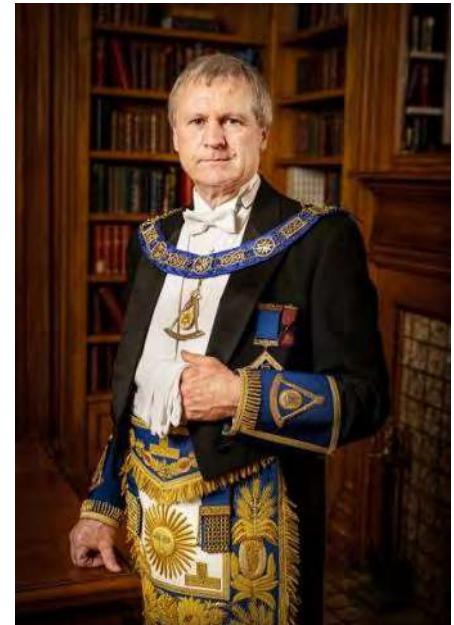
Looking back at November, I want to thank everyone for taking the time to remember our fallen soldiers and to realize that we have many Members, both of our Fraternity and of our communities, that still serve our country today. To the men and women of our Armed Forces, we thank you all for your service to this great country.

I have also presided over three William Mercer Wilson Medal presentations and I have received great joy in doing so.

Bro. Burt A. Rairamo of Zetland Wilson Lodge No. 86, Bro. Arthur B. Stephenson of Kaministiquia United Lodge No. 415 and Bro. Gregory E. Hannah of Seymour Lodge No.277, congratulations on your WMW Medals.

It was indeed an honour to be present to meet you all and your families. One of the greatest parts of holding the Office of Grand Master is to present these most prestigious awards to our most deserved Brothers.

Once again Brethren, Congratulations !!!

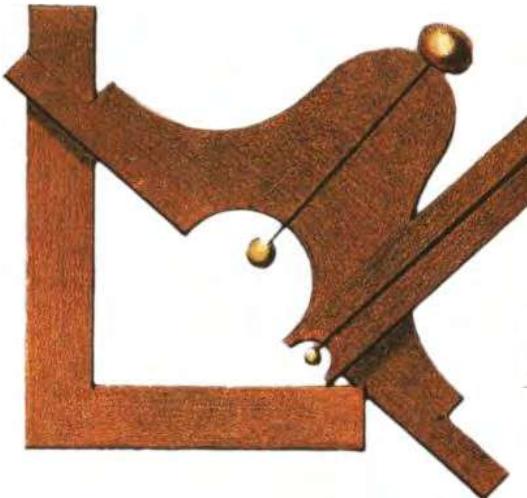


I want to share some inspiration that I have recently received. It is helping me to understand and get through some very tough negativity. The office that I hold as Grand Master gives me countless hours of happiness with a sense of peace, harmony and doing great things for our Grand Lodge. As with any elected or appointed office, you take the good with the bad, and I am alright with that. It is just that I wasn't prepared for the level of negativity, all crammed into an entire week.

That being said, my inspiration couldn't have come at a better time. After having attended meetings in the office all day, the Grand Secretary and I took the short drive to Cookstown, ON, to attend Innisfil Lodge No.737 to see what an Open Education Night was all about. This is a small but mighty Lodge in Georgian South District that I have driven past many, many times over the years and I've always wanted to see inside. Thank you to the Officers, Members and Visitors for the great experience. We were warmly welcomed into the Lodge, all the P & E was observed, and we got to the business of education. The Lodge was then opened in all three Degrees where the Lodge Secretary started off with explaining various points of interest about the Third Degree Tracing Board. I am certainly not going to divulge any information pertaining to the Degrees in this Communiqué, other than to say that, after the Secretary spoke, he invited the Brethren about the room to stand up and explain from their hearts, what their feelings for Masonry were, pertaining to the Third Degree. We then closed back down to the Second Degree where the same education was conducted and then back to the First Degree where again, the Brethren around the room stood up and talked about what Masonry teaches us in general and what it has taught them in particular. I sat there in awe as person after person stood up to speak, openly and honestly, about their feelings on the lessons that we are instructed to learn and live by. They all spoke from the heart as we should all be doing. It was truly an amazing night indeed.

When it was my turn to speak, at the end of the meeting, my comments were based on the inspiration that I was feeling. As I was still in a state of recollecting the week of negativity, I spoke about the lessons, meanings and teachings of our Lectures, Tassels, Tracing Boards and Working Tools in a general sense, as we had Members of all ranks among us. I stated my feelings from the heart that we need to live by our Obligations, and to use the information contained within our Ritual, to not only live by, but to be an example to others.

Brethren, we ourselves are watched every day for our actions in the Lodges, in the banquet rooms and in the communities around us. Our actions, especially amongst the other Members of our Jurisdiction, need positivity and inspiration to survive. Please, apply the Apron Charge to your conduct and continue to live by your Obligations. Our gentle Craft depends on the successes of our Grand Lodge and its Members. Remember that there are consequences to your actions of negativity, as well as many rewards for your positive paths forward.



I want to propose to every Lodge in this great Province that we all need to conduct an Open Education Night, just as Innisfil Lodge did. Let's have the Brethren stand up in open Lodge and talk from their hearts how they feel about our Fraternity. Open and honest conversation is propelling our Grand Lodge forward and I would hope that every Lodge has the level of peace and harmony needed to do the same.

Let us collectively commit to a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge and purpose. Be the living example of our tenets, be kind to all, and let the work you do be the reason the world sees the value of Freemasonry.

Brethren, let's keep our penny shining brightly and our Lodges vibrant with life and purpose. This is our time to inspire.

Let's commit to making a positive difference every single day, whether it's through a simple act of kindness or by embodying the principles of our Craft in all we do.

Let us remember that even on the cloudiest of days, the sun is still there. We, as Masons, are the light.

Let's shine brightly for our families, our friends, our Lodges, and ourselves.

Have a great Holiday Season, take care of each other and we'll talk again in the new year!

Thank you, Brethren.

Safe travels and God Bless you and your families.

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

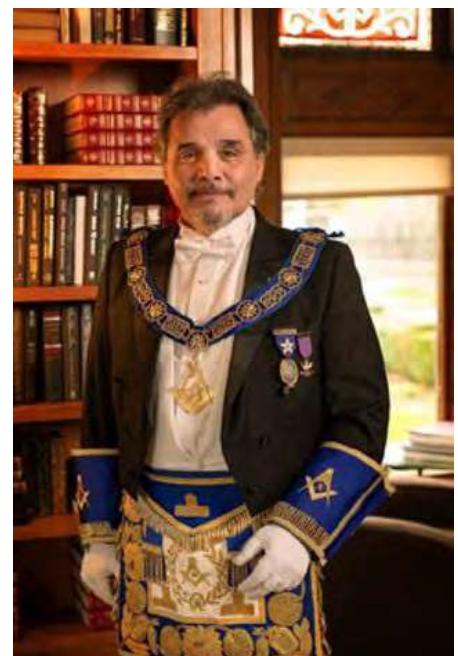


## Deputy Grand Master's Communiqué

Greetings Brethren,

The concept of self-improvement is a timeless and universal pursuit. It has been pondered over and addressed by thinkers and philosophers throughout the ages and across many cultures.

Confucius, the renowned Chinese philosopher, stated that "*the noble person seeks improvement within himself*," intimating that self-betterment requires a continuous effort in refining one's character and actions.



In his “*Meditations*”, Roman Emperor and Stoic philosopher, Marcus Aurelius, urged not to waste time arguing and debating what proper behaviour and virtue is, but to embody it:

**“Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one,”** a poignant reminder that action speaks louder than words.

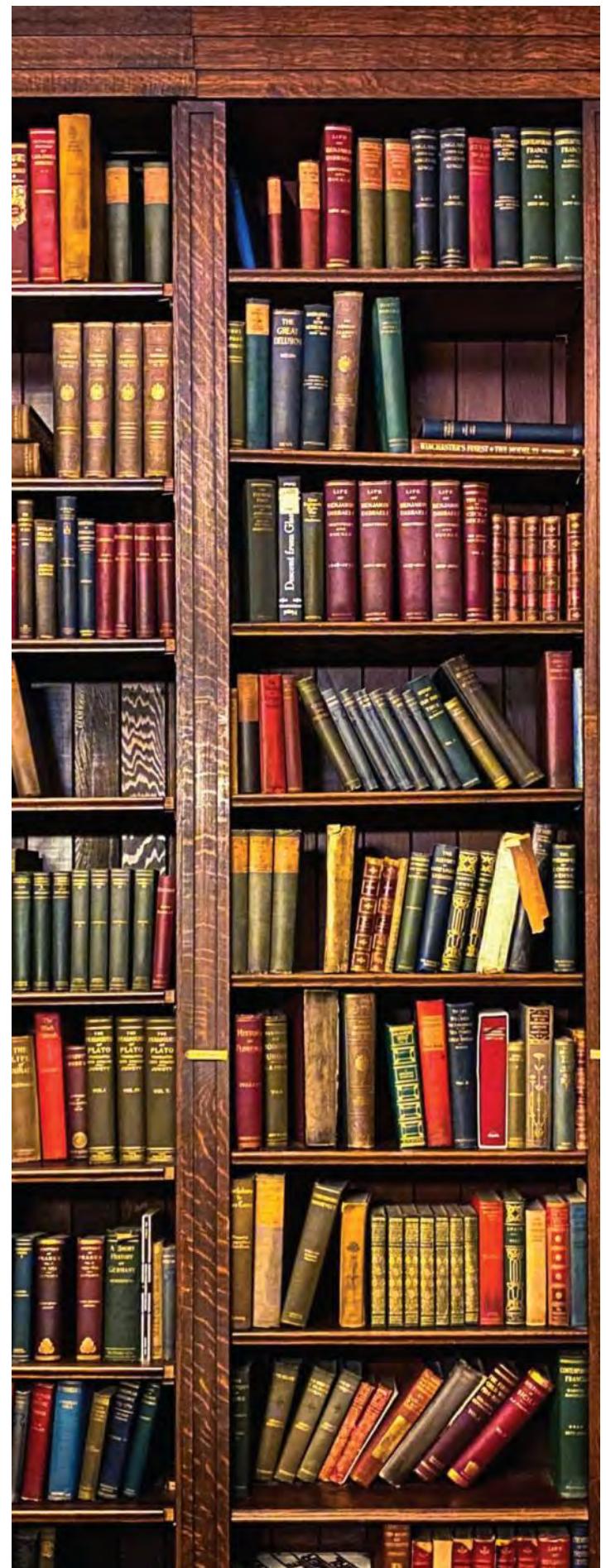
A variation of a more contemporary expression advises that “*we are all really two men; the man we are and the man we ought to be.*

*One day those two men will meet.*” This outlines our own internal struggle between the person we are and the ideal version of ourselves that we aspire to be.

Within Freemasonry, this theme, centred on regular introspection and self-improvement, serves not only for the betterment of our own character, but more importantly, to improve how we conduct ourselves among our Brethren, with our families, and within the forums of our vocations.

It also serves to beg the question: do our actions serve the collective good, are our motives for the betterment of the Craft, or do we act to serve our own personal interests and agenda?

Current social trends focus on gathering as much personal recognition as possible through various social media platforms but does this apparent need for validation illustrate our true capabilities?





Within our Craft, the notion of self-reflection is designed to keep ourselves accountable, with a mindset to benefit our Brethren to the best of our ability, to examine our actions, and to question, does my direction establish a harmonious and productive environment as we collectively move our endeavours Forward?

Brethren, as the Holiday Season has quickly come upon us once again, I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you, your families, and friends, health, happiness

and the very best of the Holiday Season. Let us all take the time to share in the spirit of the season in peace, harmony and goodwill for one another.

With my best fraternal regards,

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

## Grand Chaplain's Communiqué

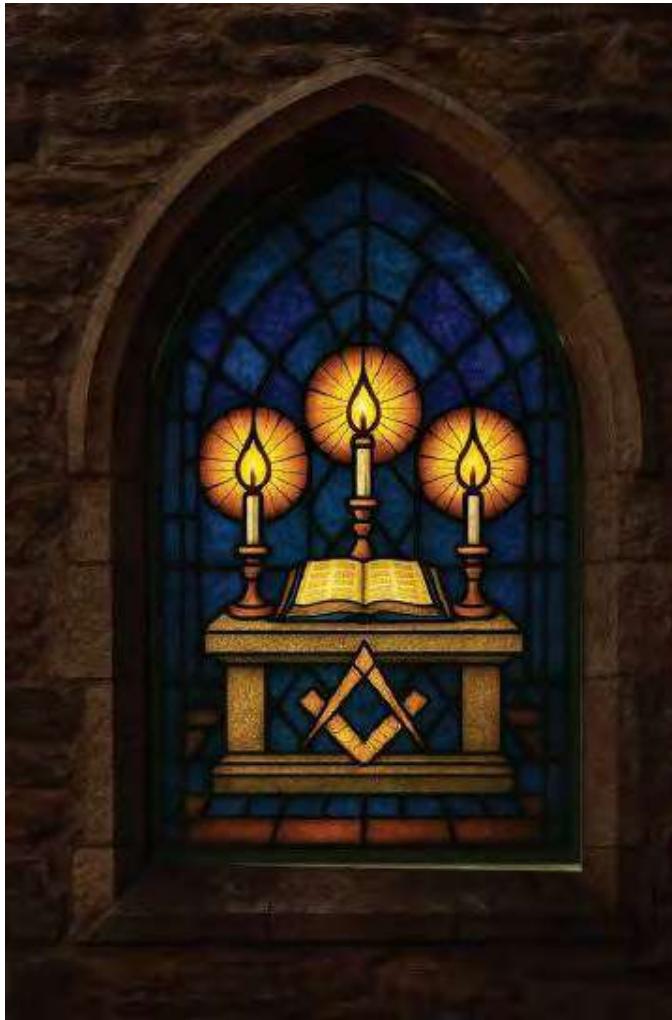
Tracy took up letter writing when we lived in Kenora. One of my grand girls received her first-ever letter. She wondered if mail was a new idea. That was a tad humbling. She was going to bring the unopened envelope to her room. Her mum said, "*there is something inside.*" And to her delight, there was a note written just to her. The treasure was on the inside.

Has me thinking about Lodge. Some buildings are quite imposing, others perhaps a bit plainer, but the Lodge is certainly not the building, rather the Brethren assembled. On a very specific time and with a defined purpose we gather to encourage each other and learn. As I was recently reminded, everyone there is a volunteer.

We get to know each other by listening, making a point of allowing a Brother to speak, to share. Maybe we have heard the story before, let's hear it again, if it matters to the Brother. It is never the time to one-up a Brother or interrupt to simply gain attention.

When Israel gathered at Mt. Sinai, after leaving Egypt they camped to learn from their amazing God. Moses asked to see the Lord and he was allowed a brief glimpse, but most of that experience was listening to the Creator. The same is true for people. We learn about someone from listening not seeing, using our ears not our eyes.





We bump into Brothers on a regular basis and yet, do we know them? Are we aware of what they might be facing? We must unwrap the polite, "I'm fine". We must show ourselves, trust worthy to listen and our conversation just might go farther, deeper and more meaningful.

Our Brother Mitchell Brown reminds us of the importance of discussing mental health. When I was W. Master of Sudbury Lodge, I had W. Bro. G. West speak to us of men's mental health. It was a challenge and at times tough to hear. And so very needed.

Days in December grudgingly begin to lengthen. The hint of Spring is amidst the cold winter chill. Let each of us be a listening ear. Let our daily supplications include our Brethren. Let each of us reflect the light of our Creator in a very dark world.

**R.W. Bro. David Spencer**  
**Grand Chaplain** < [david.spencer54@yahoo.com](mailto:david.spencer54@yahoo.com) >

## **Grand Secretary's Communiqué**

Brethren,

Few items for your information.

### **Lodge Dues**

**Lodge Dues are payable in advance of the due date.**

**Members in many Lodges are required to pay their Lodge Dues before January 1st of each year. For these Members, if you have not already paid your 2025 dues you are automatically suspended on January 1, 2026.**

**Lodges that actively contact Members in arrears before they are automatically suspended often have a great retention rate.**

**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. A Brother who neglects to pay his dues for twelve months is automatically suspended.**

**Any suspension causes a suspension in all Lodges and all concordant bodies.**

#### **Online Store**

**Grand Lodge now has the required merchant account. The Grand Lodge Office is pleased to announce that we can accept in-person debit and credit card payments. The on-line store will be going live very soon for Lodges to make on-line purchases. In addition to certain Officers being able to charge to the Lodge, the merchant account facilitates debit and credit card payment options.**

#### **Semi-Annual Invoices**

**By the time you read this, certain Officers will be able to view their draft Semi-Annual Invoices by clicking on the \$ sign in Grand View. Lodges are encouraged to review the draft invoice to see if the Lodge needs to make any adjustments before the draft invoice is finalized and locked down at the end of the period (e.g., December 31, 2025).**

**The July 1st to December 31st, 2025 Semi-Annual Invoices are due no later than January 8, 2026. Grand Lodge is pleased to announce that eTransfers are now set for auto-deposit. In addition to the usual details, the new invoice will list the Officers currently recorded in Grand View. The Lodge should be able to correct any Officer discrepancies by processing an annual election or a special election in Grand View. Please contact the Grand Lodge Office if you need assistance or guidance.**

#### **Grand View – Secretary Training**

**Grand Lodge is in the process of setting up two additional Secretary Training sessions for the Grand View system, likely in January 2026. Dates and other details will be shared with the Lodges when available.**

#### **Quebec and Ontario – Grand Masters’ Gala - Saturday February 7, 2026**

**Our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland and M.W. Bro. George Contaxakis, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Quebec, are pleased to invite all Masons and their Ladies to the Grand Masters’ Gala on Saturday February 7, 2026.**

**We are pleased to announce that we are holding the same price as last year, and proceeds will be donated to the Charities of the Grand Masters.**

**DEV Hotel and Conference Centre, 1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, Ontario  
Social: 5:30 p.m. – Buffet Dinner: 7:00 p.m. –**

**\$130.00 per person**

**Dress – Men: Formal Attire – Ladies: Cocktail Dress**

**Event Reservations and Tickets:**

**<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grand-masters-galatickets-1636937467029>**

## Hotel Reservations:

[Reservations: click here](#)

Phone: (613) 936-5800 – (Group Code: 126062)

Book early and no later than January 28, 2026

Traditional Room with 1 Queen Bed \$139.00-\$152.25

Deluxe Suite with 2 Queen Beds \$159.00-\$185.50

Superior King \$169.00-\$208.75

**Rates per night includes breakfast, taxes/fees extra**

**Michigan and Ontario – United in Masonry**

Our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland, and M.W. Bro. William J. Sauget, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Michigan welcomed all Masons to Unite in Masonry on Saturday November 8, 2025 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Centre in Hamilton. The event was a huge success as we furthered the great friendship we share with our neighbours.

While the Masons enjoyed the Ontario 1st Degree and Michigan 2nd Degree, the Ladies enjoyed a private tour and afternoon at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The Building Tours, Lunch and Dinner were excellent and well-attended. Special thank you to the volunteer tour guides. Michigan is already working on plans for hosting next year.

### Grand Lodge Office Hours

**Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., except holidays**

**Holiday Shutdown December 20, 2025 through January 4, 2026 inclusive**

The Grand Lodge Office has a letter mail slot for drop offs.

**Happy Holidays!**

**The Grand Lodge Office wishes you and your family all the very best for a safe, enjoyable and happy holiday season and a prosperous And healthy new year!**

**Thank you Brethren.**

**Sincerely and fraternally,**

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



**Ontario Masons**



## What is the significance of the Northeast Corner?



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.



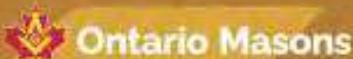
363 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1B4 - Telephone: 905-528-8644 Fax: 905-528-6979  
office@grandlodge.on.ca



# Stay Connected With The District Website Directory

Below are the web addresses of the District websites for the 40 Districts in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Algoma District	algomadistrict.ca
Algoma East District	algomaeastmasons.com
Brant District	brantmasons.com
Bruce District	brucemasons.com
Chatham District	chathammasons.com
Eastern District	easternmasons.ca
Essex County District	ecdma.ca
Frontenac District	mfd.ca
Georgian North District	georgiannorthmasons.ca
Georgian South District	georgiansouth.com/wp
Grey District	greydistrictmasons.ca
Hamilton North District	hamiltonmasons.ca
Hamilton South District	hamiltonmasons.ca
Huron District	hurondist.ca
London East District	masonic.on.ca
London West Districts	masonic.on.ca
Niagara District A	niagaraimasons.com
Niagara District B	niagarabmasons.ca
Nipissing Muskoka District	nmmasons.ca
Ontario District	ontariodistrictmasons.com
Ottawa District 1	ottawadistrict1masons.ca
Ottawa District 2	ottawamasons.ca
Peterborough District	peterboroughmasonry.ca
Prince Edward District	princeedwardmasons.org
Sarnia District	sarniadistrictmasons.ca
St. Lawrence District	stlawrencemasons.net
St. Thomas District	stthomasdistrictmasons.ca
Sudbury Manitoulin District	smmasons.com
Temiskaming District	temiskamingfreemasons.com
Toronto Don Valley District	tdvmasons.org
Toronto Humber Valley District	torontohumbervalley.ca
Toronto West District	torontowestdistrict.com
Victoria District	victoriadistrict.com
Waterloo District	waterloofreemasons.ca
Wellington District	wellingtonmasons.ca
Western District	northwestmasons.com
Wilson District	wilsondistrict.ca
York District	yorkdistrict.ca





# Ontario Masons ON Instagram



Follow  
The  
Official  
Account  
Today!

[instagram.com/ontariomasons](https://www.instagram.com/ontariomasons)

Included in the December 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason Magazine* was an article by V.W. Bro. H. Evan Woodhead FCF, Grand Librarian:

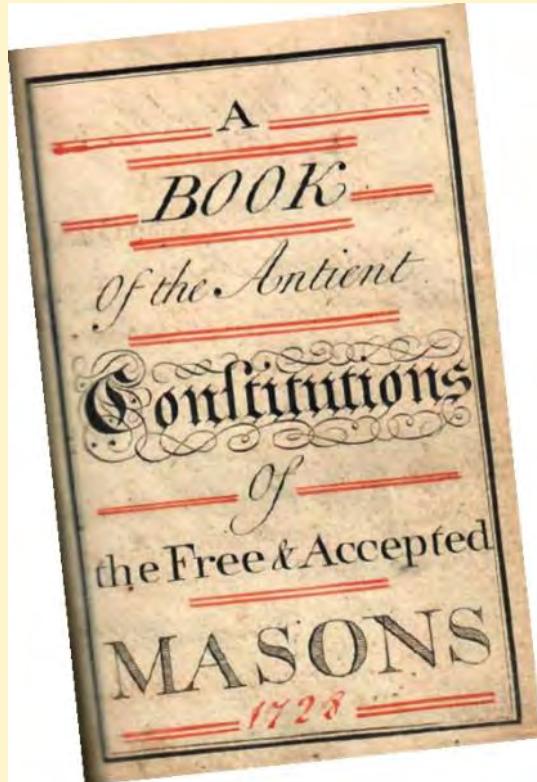
## ***FROM THE LIBRARY: THE OLDEST BOOK***

The Oldest Book in our Grand Lodge Library (to the best of my knowledge) is an original Book of Constitution published in London by Benjamin Cole.

The title page indicates 1728, although its actual release took place the following year.

Those of you familiar with the early history of Freemasonry will know that this publication date was only 11 years after the famous meeting in the *Goose and Gridiron* alehouse, at which 4 London Lodges formed the premier Grand Lodge.

Perhaps more significantly, it was just 5 years after James Anderson published his Constitutions of the Free-Masons.



Anderson's Constitutions are sometimes treated as the first official Grand Lodge Constitution, but this is not quite accurate. Although the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster approved the book for release, it was actually published privately by Dr. James Anderson.

Benjamin Cole's version may have been released to exploit (for profit) the absence of an official version. Whatever the reason, the publication of this little book gives us a window onto the past and preserves a bit of Masonic history for us to experience.

This is the oldest, but we also have other historically important Constitutions in the Grand Lodge Library, and we are currently working to have them scanned and posted so that you can see the details for yourself.

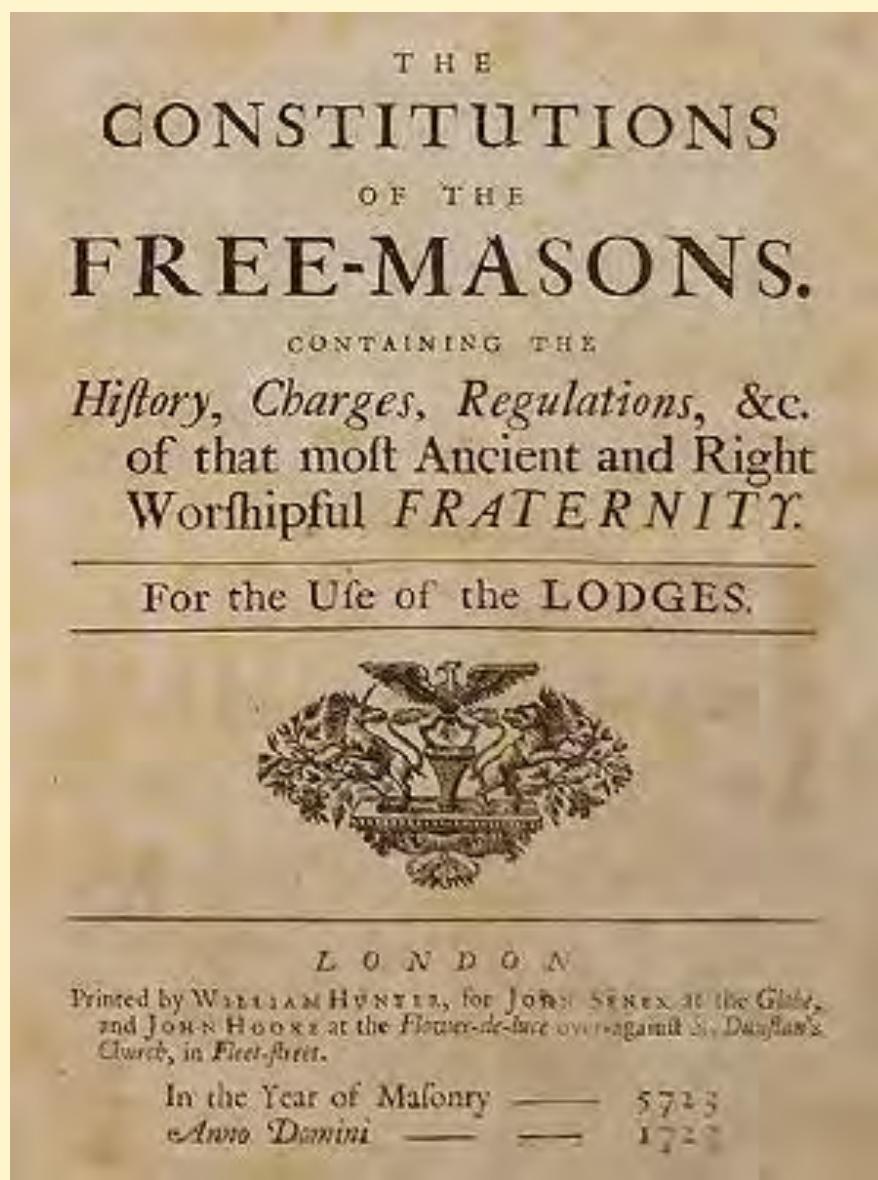
If you want to read more about this fascinating book, there is an excellent paper called Benjamin Cole's 1728 Constitutions: a footnote to Masonic history by our own V.W. Bro. Ian Donald, Past Grand Librarian, and V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern, Past Grand Historian (with additional material by Dr. Ric Berman).

It is posted online at [www.1723constitutions.com](http://www.1723constitutions.com).

This website is a project of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 G.R.E., developed to celebrate the tercentenary of Anderson's seminal publication.

In addition, this version of the Constitution is reviewed and reproduced in facsimile in The Old Gothic Constitutions by R. W. Bro. Wallace McLeod (published by The Masonic Book Club in 1985)

Read: Benjamin Cole's 1728 Constitutions: a footnote to Masonic history



Also included in the December 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason Magazine* was an article by R.W. Bro. Tony Fernando, PDDGM (THVD, 2014-2015):

# ***A REFLECTION: AFTER 37 YEARS IN THE CRAFT FOR OFFICERS, BRETHREN, NEW INITIATES, AND GRAND LODGE BRETHREN***

As I mark 37 years in Freemasonry, I do so with deep gratitude — and a sense of responsibility. This journey has given me more than I ever expected: wisdom, friendship, and a moral compass that has guided me through life's trials and triumphs.

Freemasonry itself is not the issue. It remains a beacon of light. But within our Lodges, we face challenges that threaten the harmony we cherish. These are not failures of the Craft — they are human challenges that demand honest reflection and collective action.

## **To Our Officers**

Leadership is not about titles — it's about service. Poor leadership, condescension, and lack of follow-through erode trust. I urge you to lead with humility, listen with empathy, and act with integrity. Your example sets the tone for the entire Lodge.

## **To Our Brethren & New Initiates**

Welcome to a journey unlike any other. You've joined a fraternity built on timeless values — but it's up to you to live them. Ask questions. Seek mentorship. And remember, being a Mason is not just about attending meetings — it's about becoming a better man.

## **To Our Grand Lodge Brethren**

Across Lodges, we share common struggles: miscommunication, fractured collaboration, and unfinished projects. Let us unite — not just in ritual, but in purpose.

Let's build bridges between Lodges, share best practices, and support one another in living the Craft fully.

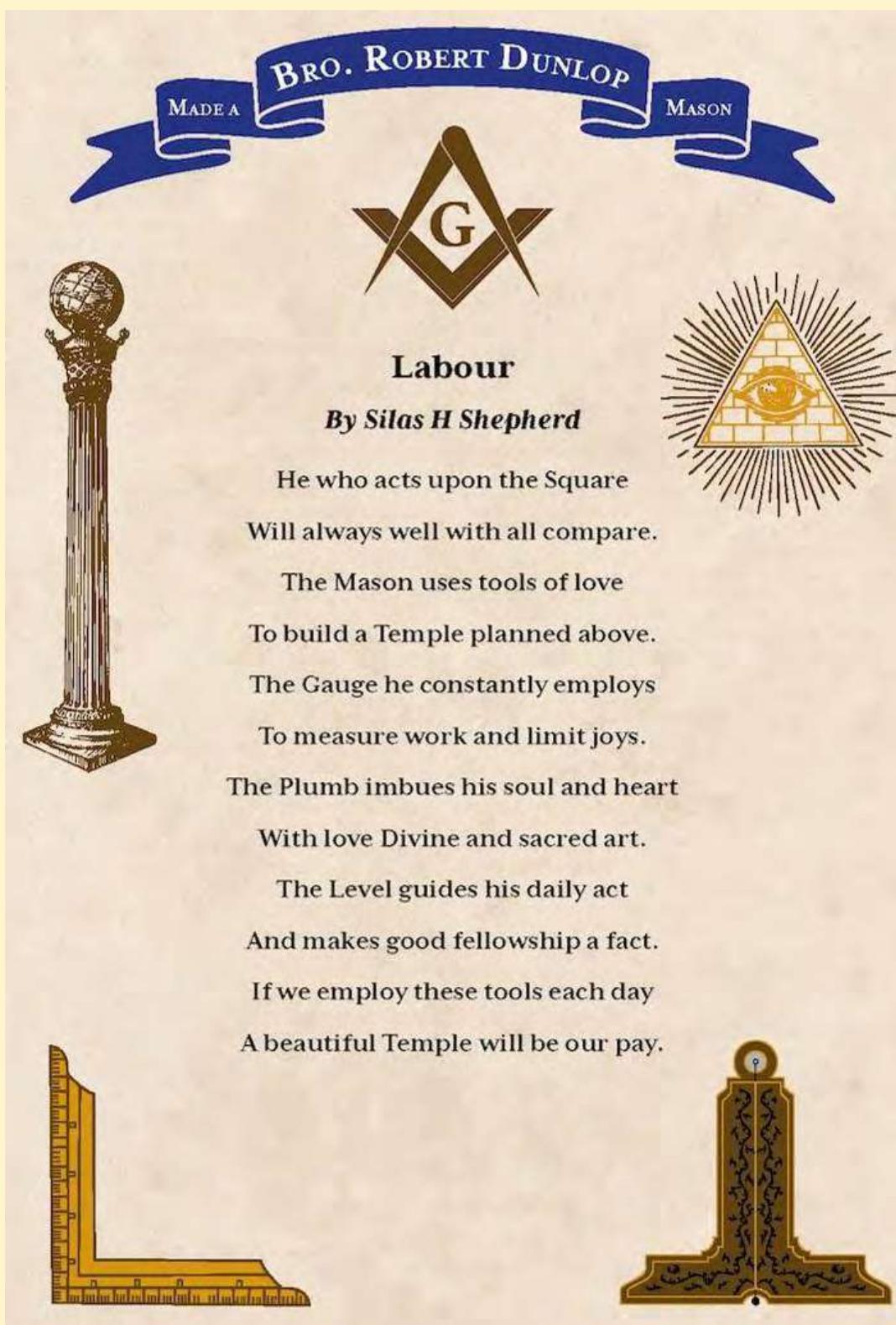
## A Call to Action

Let's recommit to the principles that brought us here. Let's speak with kindness. Let's work together. Let's finish what we started. Let's be the Masons our forebears hoped we'd become.

Freemasonry is not broken. But it needs us — every one of us — to uphold its light.

## Closing Affirmation

As a leader in Freemasonry, I pledge to walk uprightly, speak kindly, and act justly. I will guard against arrogance, cruelty, and discord, Knowing that my example shapes the harmony of the Lodge. In humility and brotherly love, I lead to build, not to break.



The December 2025 issue of *The Ontario Mason Magazine* included an article by W. Bro. Eyal Edelman, F.C.F., Member of Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee:

# **THE BENEFITS OF MENTORING**

*“The Lodge has always been a place of learning. The Ancient Charges make this clear: ‘A Lodge is a place where Freemasons assemble to work and to instruct and to improve themselves in the mysteries of their ancient science.’”*

-M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels, Past Grand Master GLCPO,

Mentoring Candidates, when done the right way, requires considerable time and effort. Lodges with limited resources may wonder, “*Is it worth it?*” The short answer is YES! The track records of Lodges that engaged in mentoring have proven their many benefits, both to the new Masons and to the Lodge.

## **Benefits of mentoring for the new Members**

- Mentors help new Masons feel welcome in their Lodge
- Mentors help new Masons integrate socially into their Lodge.
- Mentors help new Masons get answers to their questions and help them get their bearings in the new world of Masonry they just entered.
- Mentors help new Masons understand what Masonry is all about, which leads to personal growth.
- Understanding the meaning of the ritual helps with memorizing it.

## **Benefits of mentoring for the Lodge**

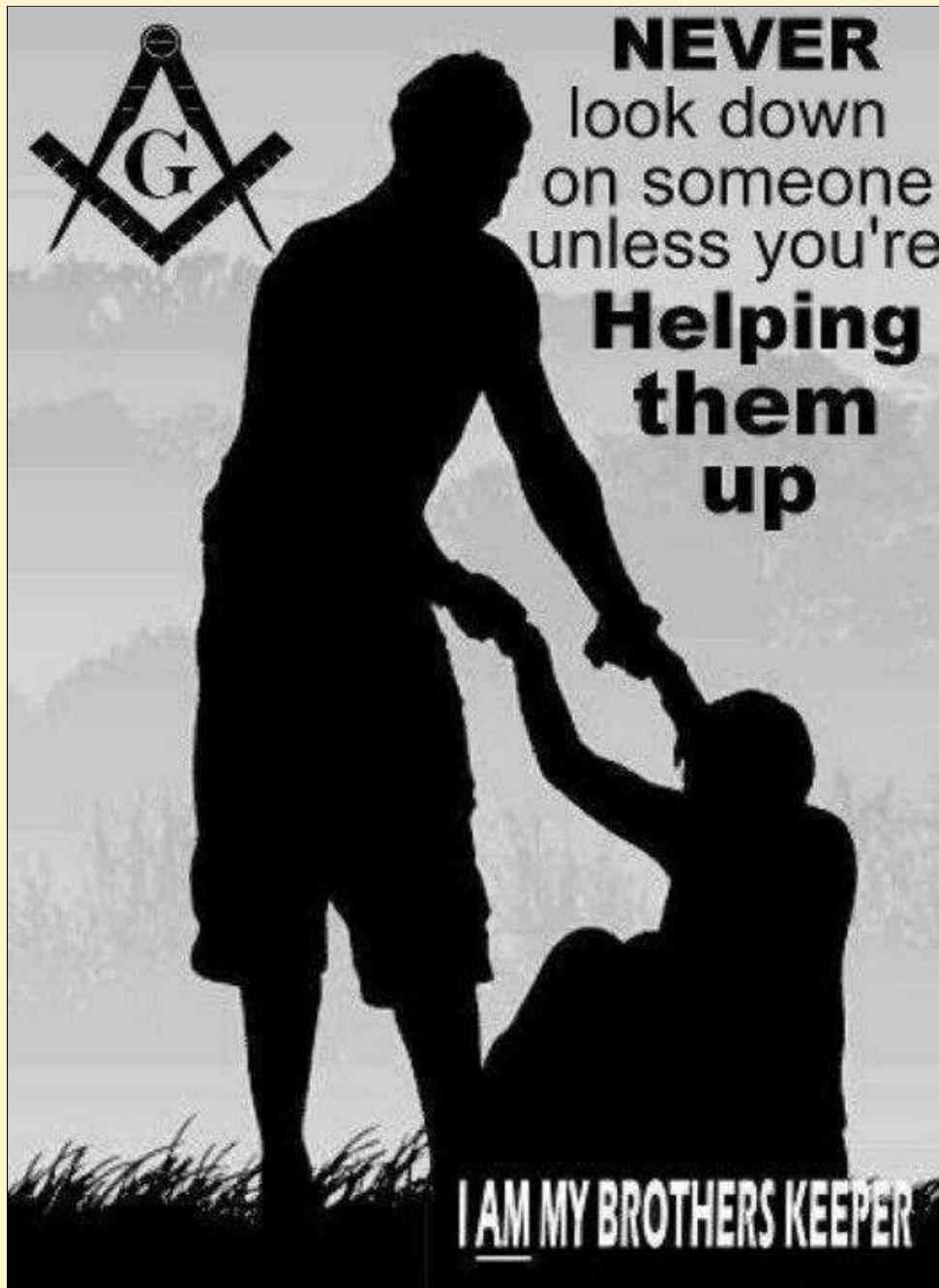
- More engaged and interested new Members, which helps with retention.
- More new Members completing all three Degrees
- New Members feel part of the Lodge, and are more willing to take part in providing a helping hand (assist with social activities, ritual work, become Officers, etc.)
- Better harmony and social cohesion between new Members and the Lodge, resulting in a better fraternal atmosphere.
- Seeing how happy and engaged your new Members are, will promote recommendations to join your Lodge, helping it to grow its numbers.
- Understanding the meaning of the ritual results in better ritual delivery (not just reciting, but actually delivering the ritual meaning)

Grand Lodge has identified Ritual, Education and Mentoring (REM) as the strategic activities 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 in their Lodge, attain the rank of Master Mason, and retain their membership.

To assist with mentoring, Grand Lodge has published a set of 6 mentoring booklets, available to order from the Grand Lodge office.

The mentoring committee is also available to assist in promoting mentoring in our jurisdiction.

Please contact G.L. Mentoring Committee Chairman, R.W. Bro. Charles Singh, through email < [gc64.singh@gmail.com](mailto:gc64.singh@gmail.com) > for more details.



# COLLEGE OF FREEMASONRY

**KNOWLEDGE GROUNDED  
ON ACCURACY**

**masonic.college@gmail.com**



**Ontario Masons**

## Tubal Cain

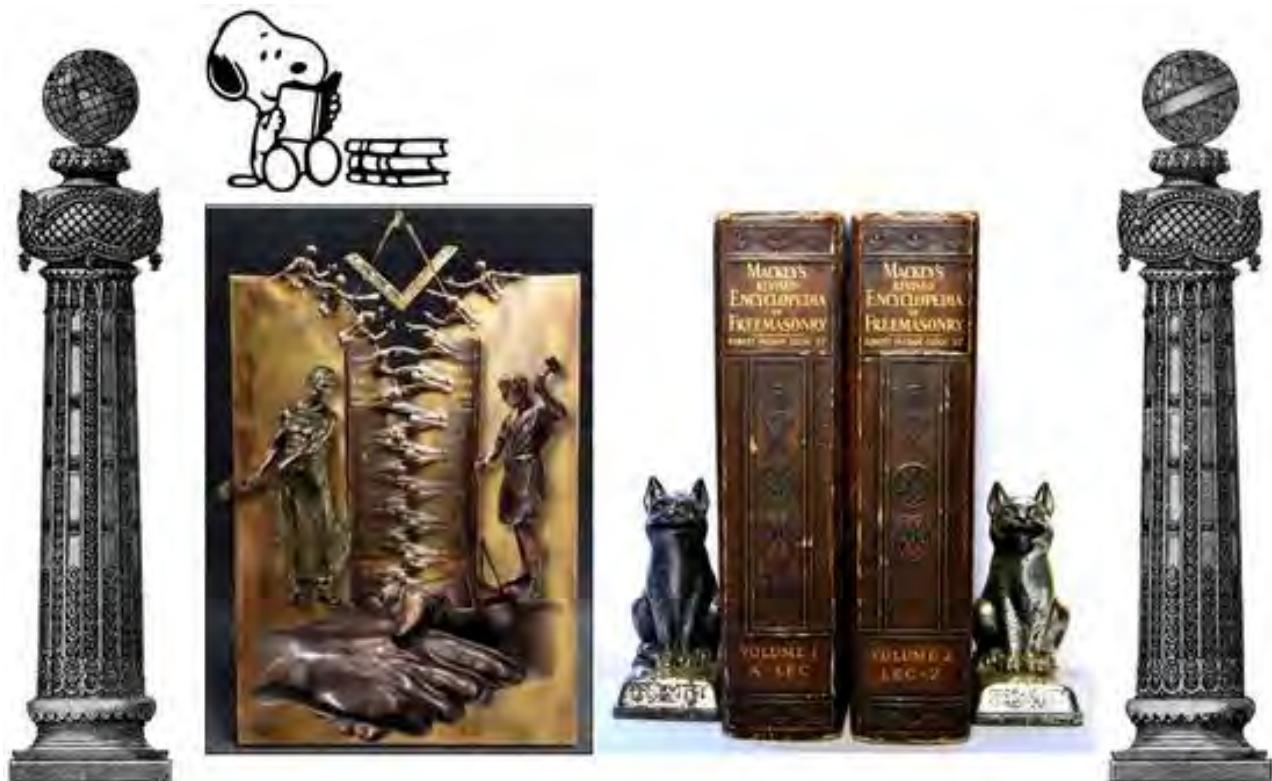
All that we hear about him in the Book of Genesis is that he was the son of Lamech and Zillah, and was “*an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron.*” ... The first Masonic reference to Tubal Cain is found in the “*Legend of the Craft*”, where he is called “*the founder of smith-craft.*”

- 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, pp. 807 - 808.

## Twenty-Four-Inch Gage

A rule two feet long, which is divided by marks into twenty-four parts, each one inch in length. ... its divisions are supposed to represent hours. Hence its symbolic use is to teach him to measure his time so that, of the twenty-four hours of the day, he may devote eight hours to the service of God and a worthy distressed Brother, eight hours to his usual vocation, and eight to refreshment and sleep. ... The twenty-four inch gage is a symbol of time well employed.

- 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. 811.



## Masonic Education:

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

If you are interested  
in obtaining articles from past issues

of the electronic *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*,  
please contact this Editor, R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob],  
who will gladly send them to you.

I can be reached at:

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]  
Maple Grove Farms,  
2260 North Esson Line,  
Indian River, Ontario, Canada.  
K0L 2B0

E-mail: [ddgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto:ddgm2007@nexicom.net).



*“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/](http://65-famous-masonic-sayings-quotes/)

## Masonic Education:

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## ***PERSONAL NOTE TO A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FROM AN OLD PAST MASTER***

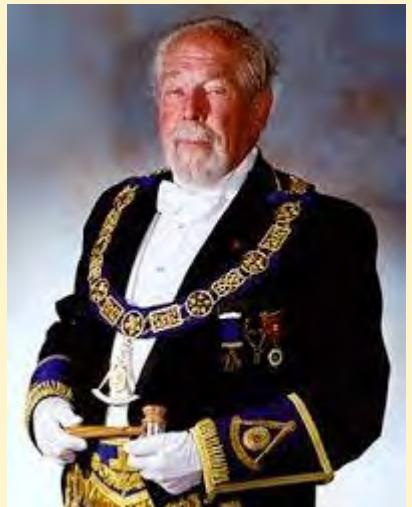
By M.W. Bro. Raymond (Ray) S.J. Daniels  
Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

M.W. Bro. Raymond (Ray) S.J. Daniels visited us here at our farm just east of Peterborough, Ontario, and talked me into becoming the Editor of what

I then called *Reflections: The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education*, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. He also visited Lodges in Peterborough District on a number of occasions as Grand Master.

Here is our feature article from him for this month's issue of

*The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter that I know you will enjoy reading:



# ***PERSONAL NOTE TO A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FROM AN OLD PAST MASTER***

I understand that you would like to explore your interest in Freemasonry. I was hoping that we might arrange a personal chat, but time and circumstances seem to make that a long-term goal. And so I will revert to this means.

First let me hope that you are settling in after graduation to life in the real world using the skill and ability that you possess in such ample form. Above all, that you are enjoying life.

Like many serious-minded, well-educated, well-read young men of your generation, many have expressed a curiosity and an interest in what Freemasonry is all about. I expect that you have explored some of the vast amount of information posted on the World Wide Web – both positive and negative – and probably discussed it with your friends. It is a matter not to be entered into lightly. Being a thoughtful young man with superior intelligence, you will have many questions. That fact, in itself, qualifies you as a potential Candidate.

When I am asked what Freemasonry is about, the best answer I can give in simple terms is that it is a global fraternity – the oldest and largest in the world – an ancient institution rooted in tradition with modern relevance. In this sense it is a gentleman's philosophical society based on high standards of ethical behaviour and moral conduct. It provides a means of self-discovery through self-discipline: self-examination, self-analysis, self-realization, and self-fulfillment. As such, it is personal and individual for every man engaged in his own quest for knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

What do young men in the twenty-first century find attractive that draws them to the fraternity? Each year about 1,300 Candidates are Initiated in Ontario. Having the privilege of meeting and talking with many of them, I have discovered that their motivation takes many forms, but falls into a relatively few categories: providing stability in a changing world, continuity in the midst of uncertainty, intellectual and spiritual stimulation, and male bonding. I feel certain that you would find many like-minded kindred spirits among the Members of a Masonic Lodge.

In our formative years, we all need role models to inspire our own hopes and dreams. In modern society, these have become rather few and far between. There is scandal in government and business, sports figures are sullied by allegations of drug abuse or sexual indiscretion, respect for leaders in the church has been reduced by unacceptable moral behaviour, the family unit has disintegrated in the “*me first*” hedonistic atmosphere.

Freemasons make serious promises to act according to the principles of virtue and morality that the Fraternity is based upon. No, none of us are gods or heroes, but there are role models among us worthy of emulation as men in society.

One of the first serious questions that concerns most young men is about religious belief. One of the great glories of Freemasonry is its universality. It professes no dogma, neither does it demand conformity to the specific belief of any religion. It does require what we term “*a belief in a supreme being*” – in other words, a greater power than mere mortals possess. This is left to each individual to define for himself. There are religious aspects to our Rites and Ceremonies, but the emphasis is on the spiritual rather than any established religion.

Unlike the established religions, each of which is based upon a prescribed body of dogmatic beliefs, which makes them exclusive, we are inclusive. The language of Freemasonry is careful to avoid a definition of God – preferring to use descriptive attributes: “*Supreme Being*,” “*Great Architect*,” “*Grand Geometrician*,” “*Most High*”.

All discussion of sectarian religion and party politics is strictly forbidden in the Lodge.

If you happened to read Dan Brown’s latest novel, The Secret Symbol, he makes the point: “*In a world where people are killing each other over whose definition of God is better, perhaps the Masons have it right.*” Brown is not a Freemason, but it could not have been said better. Our Members include Jews, Christians, Muslims, Pagans, and every other degree and shade of belief, respecting each other in the universal brotherhood of man.

There is a long-term commitment required to realize the benefits I have outlined. Freemasonry is known as a “*progressive science*”. Its principal purpose is “*the cultivation and improvement of the human mind*.”

That is a life-long process.

There are also certain financial obligations – Initiation fee and annual dues. Members of the Lodge are required to observe a dress code, usually a dark business suit. Formal dress is worn by the Officers.

Having said all this, and based on a lifetime of involvement, and despite giving many speeches and writing many articles on the subject, I must admit that mere words cannot really explain the profound meaning of Masonry. It must be experienced to be understood and appreciated fully.

Obviously, I would encourage you to pursue your interest, and I would feel privileged to discuss further any questions you might have.

Freemasonry has played a major role in my life. I truly believe that, with all my inadequacies as a person, it has contributed to making me a better man than I would otherwise have been. I have learned so much from the fraternal affection and example of the good and great men in the fraternity that I have been associated with now for more than a half century.

I look forward to hearing from you. I wish health, happiness, and satisfaction.  
RSJD 2014

R.W. Bro. Brian Gilkinson sent me these items from his colleague, R.W. Bro. Sandy MacMillan, that I have included for you in this issue of *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter:

*"The message in this email is one that each of us should bear in mind as we enter 2026. Feel free to include it in the *Beacon* if you wish.*

*Best regards,  
Brian"*

## **BROTHERHOOD AND RECONCILIATION** **AT CHRISTMAS TIME**



**"We must pass through the darkness, to reach the light."**  
Albert Pike

### Reconciliation

Source: The Master's Library - The Infinite Lecture Collection

## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

*Brotherhood and Reconciliation at Christmas time*

As the Christmas season approaches, we are reminded of the values that lie at the heart of both the holiday and our Masonic teachings:

## *Unity, Reconciliation, and Brotherly Love*

This time of year has a unique way of bringing people together, encouraging us to set aside our differences and focus on what connects us rather than what divides us. As Masons, we have a special opportunity to reflect on these themes and consider how we can live them out, not just during the holidays, but throughout the year.

Let us explore how the spirit of Christmas aligns with the principles of Freemasonry and how we, as builders, can actively work to foster reconciliation and strengthen the bonds of Brotherhood.

### *The Spirit of Unity in Christmas and Freemasonry*

Christmas is a season that calls for togetherness.

Families gather, communities celebrate, and even strangers exchange greetings with warmth and goodwill.

It is a time when barriers seem to fall away, and people are reminded of their shared humanity.

Similarly, Freemasonry is built on the foundation of Brotherly Love, which unites us regardless of differences in background, belief, or station in life.

In the Lodge, we meet as equals, bound by a common commitment to self-improvement and service to others.

This unity is not passive; it requires effort, understanding, and a willingness to bridge divides.

Just as the holiday season inspires people to come together, Freemasonry challenges us to actively cultivate harmony within our Lodges and our communities.

We are called to be peacemakers, building bridges between individuals and groups, and to model the kind of unity that transcends personal differences.

## *Reconciliation: A Time for Healing*

**One of the most powerful aspects of Christmas is its emphasis on reconciliation.**

**The holiday season encourages us to reflect on relationships that may be strained, to extend forgiveness, and to seek forgiveness in return.**

**It is a time to mend what has been broken, to repair bonds that may have been frayed by misunderstanding, conflict, or neglect.**

**In Freemasonry, we are reminded of the importance of harmony within the Lodge.**

**Discord among Brethren is not just a personal issue; it disrupts the balance and unity of the Craft as a whole.**

**Our teachings emphasize the need for reconciliation, encouraging us to approach one another with humility, patience, and understanding.**

**Consider the words we hear during our obligations, commitments to support, aid, and respect our Brothers.**

**These are not just ceremonial phrases; they are guiding principles that call us to action.**

**If there are disagreements or divisions, the holiday season provides the perfect opportunity to reflect, reach out, and restore harmony.**

## *The Role of Brotherly Love in Building Bridges*

**Brotherly love is central to both the message of Christmas and the principles of Freemasonry.**

**It is the driving force behind acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion.**

**Brotherly love is not merely an emotion; it is a commitment to act in ways that uplift and support others, even when it requires effort or sacrifice.**

**Building bridges requires empathy, the ability to see the world through another's eyes.**

**It asks us to listen, to understand, and to prioritize the well-being of others over our own pride or grievances.**

**As Masons, we are uniquely equipped to practise this kind of love, as our rituals and teachings consistently remind us of the importance of unity and fellowship.**

## *Reconciliation in Action*

History provides countless examples of reconciliation during the Christmas season. One of the most moving, is the Christmas Truce of 1914 when soldiers on opposing sides of World War I set aside their weapons to share moments of peace, exchange gifts, and even play games together.

### *Thought for the Day*

*“As the Lodge is opened with the rising sun ... and closed at its setting in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love, so, if you have any animosity against a Brother Mason, let not the sun sink in the West without being witness to your reconciliation.”*



R.W. Bro. Brian Gilkinson also sent this:



*Battlefield Lodge # 61  
Presents  
An Exemplification  
Of  
The Third Degree, Scottish Ritual*



Where: Scottish Rite Cathedral  
4 Queen St S, Hamilton

When: 17th January 2026  
Refreshments 2.00pm

Tickets: \$60

Traditional Burns Degree: 4.30p m "prompt"

Supper/Door Prizes Burns 'Su per 6.30p m

Address to Haggis by Bro. Steven Dall

Piping and Highland Dancing

Contact for tickets: Graham Tait @ 905-512-8150 / ddgm201516@gmail.com

# BROTHER ROBERT BURNS



**Painting by Duncan Brown**



The BATTLEFIELD LODGE A.F. & A.M. No. 61 will be hosting their annual SCOTTISH 3rd DEGREE '*Exemplification*' & ROBBIE BURNS SUPPER on SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral 4 QUEEN STREET SOUTH (at KING), HAMILTON. All '*Master*' Masons are welcome to attend.

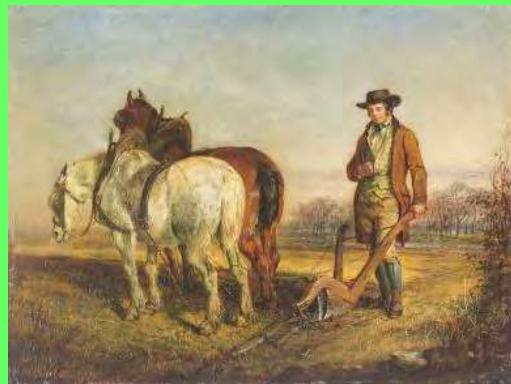
We welcome '*Faileadh Dhachaigh*' one and all

and you must register and pay (\$60) for a meal in advance.

To reserve one please contact R.W. Bro. Graham Tait P.M. Battlefield Lodge No. 61 Hamilton District South @ (905)-512-8150 [ddgm201516@gmail.com](mailto:ddgm201516@gmail.com) providing your name, contact information, and number of tickets. You can also e-transfer to his email.

# BROTHER ROBERT BURNS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SCOTLAND'S FAVOURITE SON,  
THE PLOUGHMAN, POET AND FREEMASON.



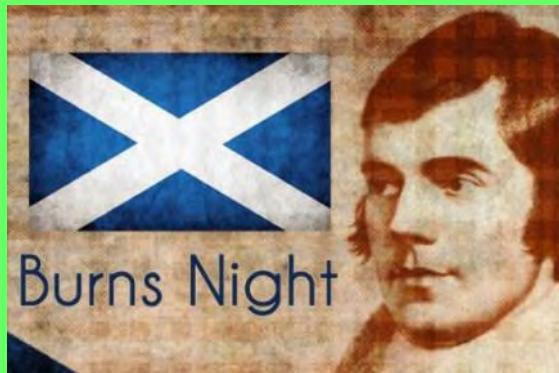
**“Burns at the Plough”** Image credit: National Trust for Scotland,  
Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

To every Freemason in every Province, District, and Lodge,  
“Slàinte Mhath” (Good Health) & “Oidhche Bhlas Burns” (Happy Burns Night).



Many influences played on Robert Burns as he developed into the historic character who is so widely revered throughout the world, his life and works being celebrated far and wide as many participate in Burns Suppers globally, a celebration begun on 21 July 1801, the anniversary of the poet's death. Led by the Reverend Hamilton Paul, a number of Burns' friends met at Burns Cottage in Alloway to raise a glass to the memory of their friend and quote some of his work. They didn't know it at the time, but this was the first Burns supper.

Haggis and sheep's head were on the menu, while they recited “Address to a Haggis” and sang some of the great man's songs. Thereafter, the celebration was moved to annually mark his birth in January.



Known in medieval Celtic culture as a story teller, verse maker, and composer, the word '*Bard*' has become synonymous with the world's greatest poets.

However, few are as celebrated as Scotland's own National Bard, Brother Robert Burns, who we pay tribute to in January each year.

If you are looking for a day of something different, some social interaction, fun and celebration, then please accept this invitation to join with us. As in the past, we are anticipating another successful event and expect a sell-out crowd to help celebrate the life of Brother Robert Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796). We hope you can come join us for some friendly banter, camaraderie and "*richt guid*" cheer!

The Robbie Burns Dinner is a formal event. *Kilts* and *Tartans* are not required but are encouraged!

Guests can anticipate a warm welcome as bagpipes fill the air, marking the entrance of the haggis in a ceremonial procession.

## GRAND LODGE of SCOTLAND TARTAN & BROTHER ROBERT BURNS' APRON



2.00p.m. Some '*John Barleycorn*' refreshments and socializing.



4.30 p.m. '*prompt*' Exemplification of a Scottish Third Degree Ritual

6.30 p.m. Burns' Supper - Haggis Neeps and Tatties



**ADDRESS to the HAGGI by Brother Steven Dall**  
The "Address to a Haggis" not only pays homage to this iconic Scottish dish but also showcases Burns' skill in capturing the spirit of celebration and camaraderie that defines Burns Night festivities.



**HAGGIS** is the national dish of Scotland. It is a type of pudding composed of the liver, heart, and lungs of a sheep (or other animal), minced and mixed with beef or mutton suet and oatmeal.

It is seasoned with onion, cayenne pepper and other spices.

The mixture is packed into a sheep's stomach and boiled.

It is usually served with "neeps" (turnip), "tatties" (potatoes) and more, with generous helpings of whisky.



One day, you'll take  
your last seat in Lodge.  
Make every one  
before it count.



*"We must pass  
through the darkness,  
to reach the light." Albert Pike*

#### MASONIC QUOTE OF THE DAY

At Christmas, we are reminded that the true light of Freemasonry is not found in ornaments or ceremony, but in the quiet acts of brotherly love, relief to those in need, and truth lived daily among men.

As the world grows colder, may a Mason's heart grow warmer.



As the world grows colder, may a Mason's heart grow warmer.



*Reaching out to new Brothers is part of our job as Masons - both to perpetuate our membership and to defray the costs.*

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.”*

Here's one that Bro. Hodwitz recently posted:

## ***A MASONIC MOMENT: THE LETTER “G”***

The history and meaning of the letter G in the Masonic Square & Compasses is complex — there's not just one clear origin, and its symbolic meaning has evolved.

Early Masonic symbols (in the early 1700s) often depicted a square and compasses separately, not interlaced, and without a “G”.

Some sources say the “G” was not formally part of the interlaced symbol until around 1850, at least in terms of jeweller-made pins/badges.



- The use of “G” in the Square & Compasses is especially common in North America.
- The United Grand Lodge of England has redesigned its symbol.



## The Meaning of the G



Many historians agree that the earliest and primary meaning of “G” was Geometry.

This makes sense in the context of operative stonemasonry: geometry was central to building, measuring, and craft.

As speculative (philosophical) Freemasonry developed, “G” also came to be associated with God, more precisely the “*Great Architect of the Universe*” — a non-denominational term many Masons use.

In some Irish Lodges, the “G” is said to be the “*first letter of the Worshipful Master’s word*,” not explicitly God or Geometry.

It has been suggested that the G may have referred to Gnosis which was esoteric knowledge of spiritual truth held by the ancient Gnostics.

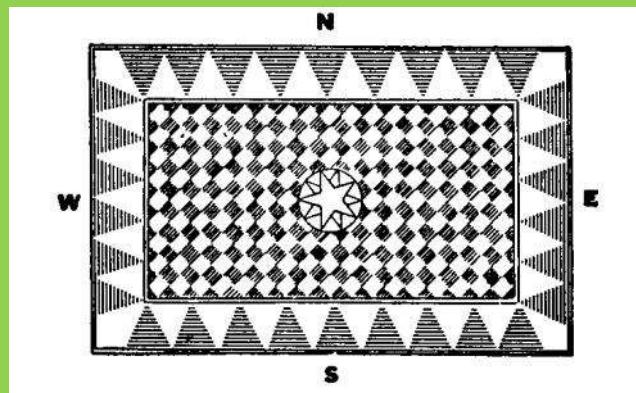
Some argue the “G” is an aesthetic or jeweller’s addition, rather than a deeply ancient or universally canonical symbol.

In the future, perhaps people may say that the G stands for Google.

## The Blazing Star

According to Harry Carr, a Masonic historian, in some continental European rituals, the “G” is placed in a “blazing star” and may carry different symbolic meanings depending on the Degree.

The “G” is often associated with the Blazing Star in Tracing Boards or Lodge Floor Cloths.

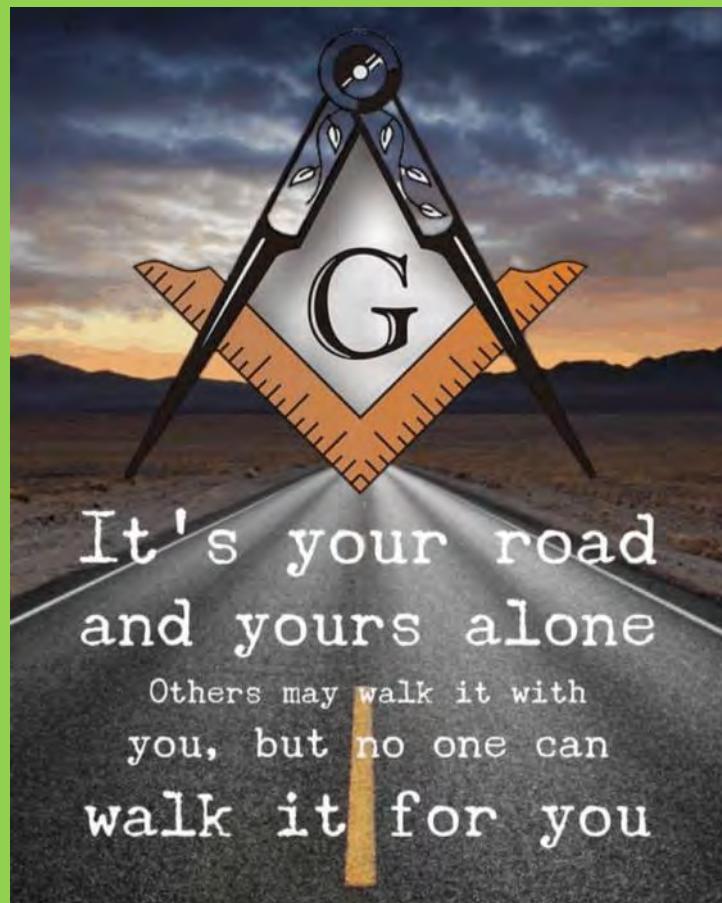


## Last Thoughts

The evolution of the “G” illustrates how Freemasonry adapted and evolved from its operative roots (stone masons) into a philosophical / speculative Fraternity.

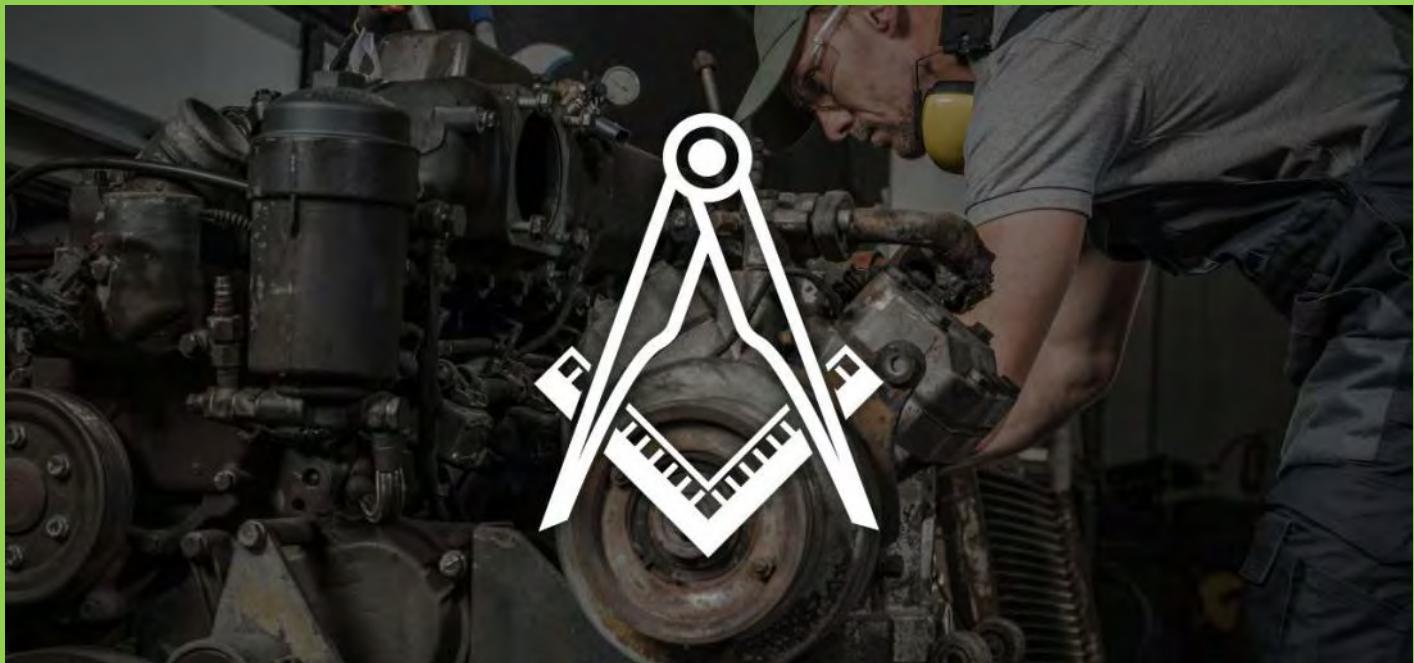
The dual meaning of “G” (Geometry + God) is powerful: it encapsulates a core Masonic ideal — the link between human endeavor (craft, science) and divine design.

The variations in meaning and usage across jurisdictions highlight how Masonic ritual is local, historical, and flexible.



Here's something from *MasonicFind*:

## **18 DUTIES A MASTER MASON OWES TO HIMSELF, HIS LODGE, AND COMMUNITY**



Freemasonry teaches that a man must continually improve himself while living by high moral standards and serving others.

Its core principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth guide Members in all areas of life.

In practice, Masonic teachings emphasize duties to oneself, to fellow-Masons, to one's own Lodge, to family, to one's work, and to the wider community.

### **Duties to Oneself**

#### **Personal improvement:**

Freemasons are expected to continuously cultivate their character, knowledge, and moral excellence.

Freemasonry exhorts the pursuit of excellence in all endeavours, including learning, self-knowledge, and virtue, seeing self-improvement as a Mason's constant duty.

### **DUTIES TO ONESELF**



## Integrity and honour:

A Mason must maintain strict personal honour, honesty, and virtue in his private life. Each Mason's conduct is his own responsibility, and he must always strive to choose that course of moral action which brings credit to himself and honour to the fraternity. Living honourably in small matters preserves one's good name and, by extension, the reputation of Masonry.

## 24/7 Masonic identity:

A Mason must remember that he is always a Mason, even outside Lodge. Freemasonry reminds Members that their behaviour in public, at work, at home, or when alone reflects on the Craft.

A noted Masonic author urges: "*in every moment of our life, in public, at work, at pleasure, with our families, even when you are alone, you are a Mason!*"

The non-Masons who know us will judge each of us, and Masonry itself, by the way in which we conduct ourselves.

Thus, a Mason should govern himself on the level at all times.

### Duties to the Fraternity

#### Brotherly support:

A Freemason should show Brotherly Love by helping fellow-Masons who struggle or fail, offering a hand without judgment, and providing guidance without harsh criticism.

Masons are expected to act as mentors, especially Master Masons, to educate, guide, and mentor Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, exemplifying ethical and moral conduct for their benefit.

#### Loyalty to the Craft:

Masonry requires fidelity to the fraternity above other interests (after family and civil law) and fidelity to Lodge and Grand Lodge rules.

Loyalty to the fraternity and obedience to its laws is a Mason's fundamental duty. In practice, this means upholding lodge regulations, respecting Officers, and meeting other commitments such as voting on Candidates, while never using membership for improper advantage.

### DUTIES TO THE FRATERNITY



## Uphold Masonic principles:

Freemasonry is founded on Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, as well as virtues like tolerance, charity, and mutual help.

A Mason should live these ideals and encourage them in others.

In short, he should propagate the fraternity's teachings by acting justly and kindly toward all Brethren, guarding the Craft's reputation, and never betraying Masonic trust.

### Duties to the Lodge

#### Active participation:

Every Mason has a moral obligation to his Lodge: attend stated communications, participate in deliberations and ceremonies, and help carry on Lodge business.

Whether cast in secret ballot or in public vote, a Mason should take his share in Lodge decisions.

Even without mandatory attendance rules, active involvement, such as acting as speaker, Officer, or Committee Member, is considered essential for the Lodge's welfare.

#### Service and leadership:

This includes standing for Office when able, teaching Degrees or catechisms, acting as mentor within the Lodge, and helping organize events or charity drives. The Lodge depends on its Members' willingness to share time and talent for ritual work and management.

Providing administrative or educational support ensures the Lodge remains vibrant.

#### Order and harmony:

A Mason should observe proper Masonic etiquette: respect the Worshipful Master and Officers, follow customs such as dress and ritual format, and keep meetings dignified.

In practice, a Mason helps settle disputes amicably, strives to preserve peace, and never causes scandal in Lodge affairs.

### DUTIES TO THE LODGE



## Duties to Family

### Priority of family:

A Mason's obligations to spouse, children, and parents must take precedence over Masonic activities.

In fact, it is explicitly taught that no duty to the Craft should conflict with duties to the family. Meetings and projects should not cause neglect or hardship at home.

When conflicts arise, family responsibilities, and the law, come before Lodge or fraternity commitments.

### Lead by example at home:

A Mason should show kindness, patience, and integrity to his family members, echoing the teaching of "*kindness in the home*." He is expected to provide moral guidance at home, modeling the compassion and honour he learns in Lodge.

Master Masons should extend the same moral and ethical leadership in their families as they do in the Craft. A Mason's home should reflect his values: honesty, temperance, charity, and love.

### Support and care:

This practical duty means working to support loved ones financially and emotionally. It also includes sharing Masonry in positive ways, such as involving family in Lodge events like dinners or picnics, so that loved ones feel respected and included.

Masonic literature explicitly states that Masonry recognizes a man's obligations to family, community, and self, and does not interfere with his ability to meet these obligations. A Mason ensures his home life flourishes even as he serves the Craft.

## DUTIES TO FAMILY



## DUTIES TO WORK



## Duties to Work

### Honesty and fairness:

"*Honesty in business*" and "*fairness in work*" are both fundamental principles for a Freemason. He must be truthful with customers, employers, and employees, maintaining clear and fair transactions and agreements.

This reflects the symbolic lesson of the Square (uprightness) and Plumb (fairness) in Masonic teaching.

**Reliable honesty on the job protects one's own integrity and the fraternity's good name.**

**Diligence and competence:**

**Dependability on the job is a Masonic expectation.**  
Just as an operative mason was accountable to his guild and to his tools, a Speculative Mason should do his best work and continually improve his skills.

**Completing tasks with care, showing initiative, and being punctual all exemplify Masonry's teachings of industriousness.**

**The quality of one's labour should reflect the Craft's value of truth in all things.**

**No favouritism:**

**Masonic law strictly forbids using membership to obtain jobs, contracts, or promotions. Freemasonry emphasizes merit-based dealings: one must not favor fellow-Masons at the expense of others.**

**New Members explicitly swear they expect no material advantage from Masonry and will not seek preferment through Lodge ties.**

**Breach of this duty is considered un-Masonic. A Mason treats all business associates equally and refuses any expectation of special favours.**

### **Duties to Community**

**Charitable service (Relief):**

**Freemasons are taught to practice charity beyond the Lodge, caring for the broader community. This means volunteering time, donating to local causes, and offering help where it's needed, not only to Brethren but to all people, including widows, orphans, the sick, and the underprivileged.**

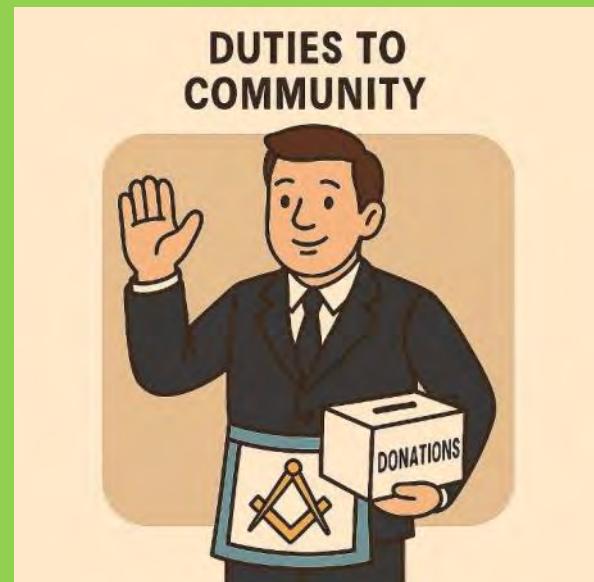
**Masonry historically supports hospitals, youth programs, and disaster relief, but each Mason is also personally encouraged to contribute to civic charities.**

**Good citizenship:**

**Masonry declares that obedience to just laws and co-operation in society are a Mason's duties. A Mason is expected to be a quiet and peaceable citizen, loyal to the government and law-abiding.**

**In practice, this means paying taxes, voting, serving on juries, and helping maintain the public good. Lodges remind Members that a well-ordered society is a key part of Masonry's goals.**

**A Lodge stands for morality and law-abiding citizenship in its community.**



**Acting justly towards all:**

Masons should act with tolerance, courtesy, and kindness toward everyone in the community. This means respecting others' opinions, being polite and fair in all social interactions, and showing sympathy for the less fortunate.

Masonic teaching stresses pity and concern for the unfortunate as a duty.

By exemplifying understanding and goodwill, a Mason spreads the Craft's light in society and helps make the world more harmonious.

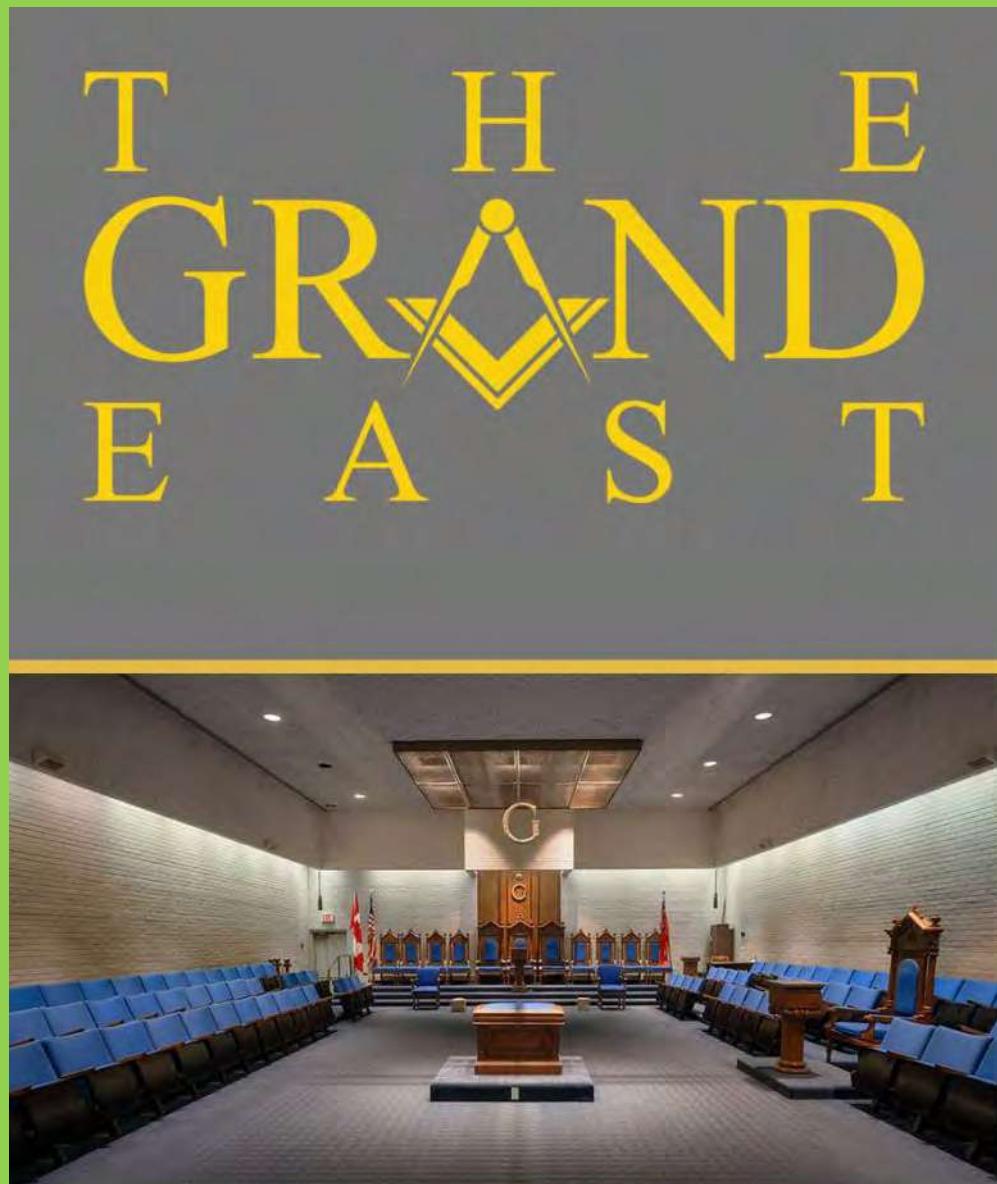


# The Freemasons' Community

A **first-of-its-kind online community** for those looking to learn more about the mysteries of Freemasonry in the company of like-minded men.

<https://masonicfind.com/masonic-duties>.

I'm very pleased to receive Manitoba's Grand Lodge newsletter.





In its December 2025 issue, the Editor included this article:

## ***WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?***

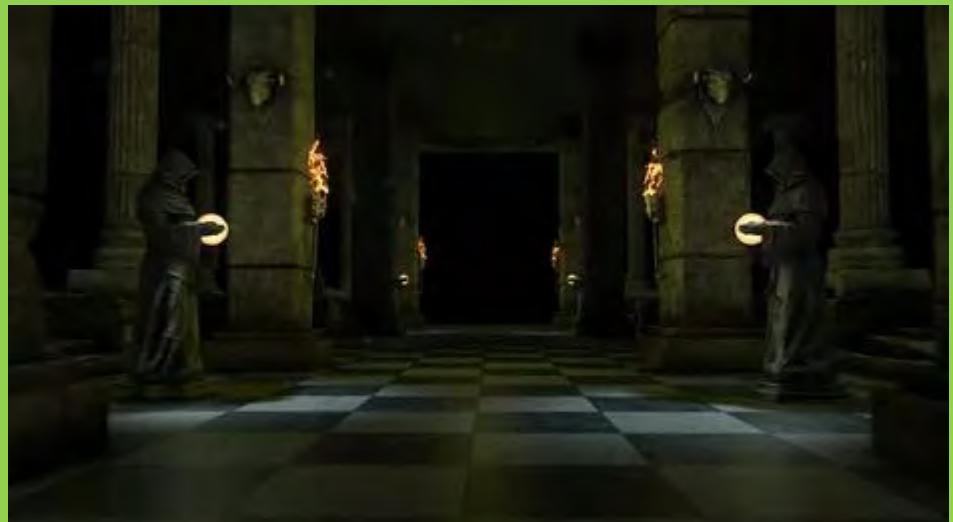
Freemasonry is, first and foremost, a fraternity. It is not a secret society; rather, it is a society with secrets. For Freemasons, the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God is primary.

This means that its activities are designed to promote friendship, morality and brotherly love. It is a unique institution that has been a major part of community life for a little over three hundred years. It is the world's largest and oldest fraternity and one that continues to be an important part of many men's personal lives and growth. It provides opportunities for personal development, leadership, fellowship and service. It is not a religion but its emphasis on the Fatherhood of God ensures that the Brotherhood of Man follows naturally.

This, coupled with the obligation to abide by the Golden Rule, particularly with a fellow-Freemason, makes for one of the strongest bonds of society. When a Freemason meets another Freemason, the odds that the latter will treat the former as the former would like to be treated are very high indeed.

Freemasonry is also a way of life, a philosophy of life. It manifests itself in our daily contacts with others. It is not what the tongue proclaims but what the heart contains. The true Freemason, then, is one who interprets the symbols in which Freemasonry is concealed or by which it is explained, through exemplification in his daily life of what was put into such symbols long before Solomon started construction of the Great White Temple.

Our way of life is one of doing good, just because. It entails sharing our 3T's (Time, Talent & Treasure) while continually trying to be a better human being, person, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, son, cousin, grandson, relative, friend, neighbor, citizen, manager, subordinate, co-worker, leader and follower. – M.W. Bro. Chibu Uson





*I Think we skipped too many meetings...*

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!



Help cancer patients in your community



**WHEELS  
OF HOPE**

For more information  
Email [volunteer@cancer.ca](mailto:volunteer@cancer.ca)  
or call 1-888-939-3333



**Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity. It is comprised of adult men of good character from every country, religion, race, age, income, education, and opinion. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, his faith, his country, and his fraternity.**



I was very pleased to receive:



**The BEAR  
Bulletin**

Winter 2025

»» "helping children with dyslexia to read"

Here's an article from this newsletter, entitled

## ***OUR TUTOR-TRAINER EXPLAINS TUTOR TRAINING***

We have started the year off with a larger than usual group of volunteer tutor trainees. This group consists of some very experienced teachers, who come to the Orton-Gillingham technique with extensive experience with children with learning difficulties. The Learning Centre is most grateful for their time and enthusiasm.

They are finding that learning the Orton-Gillingham technique requires time, and thoughtfulness. However, they are keen on becoming certified Orton-Gillingham Practitioners as this carries significant professional recognition of quality as a dyslexia interventionist.

To become certified all tutors must attend 45 hours of training, in person and online. This training covers the details required to tutor each of the five levels of the Scottish Rite Orton-Gillingham Program.

As well, overarching topics are explored such as language and vocabulary development, the history of the English language, morphology, co-morbid conditions such as ADHD, and details about the assessment and diagnosis of dyslexia. Some of these areas are covered by experts such as a registered psychologist, a speech language therapist, and a psychometrist.

After 15 hours of introductory training, tutors begin tutoring a child twice a week for one hour each session. These lessons are crafted individually by each tutor specifically for their child and are vetted and screened by the trainer prior to being delivered. For certification, each tutor is required to teach at least 100 hours with a minimum of two children. These tutors are observed teaching a minimum of 8 times.

Detailed feedback is provided in an apprenticeship manner to ensure that the tutors are mastering the steps of delivering an OG lesson. Volunteer tutors are asked to commit to tutoring at the Learning Centre for a minimum of 3 years. Of course, life can interrupt these plans, but if a tutor-child pair works together over this period of time, the tutor should be delivering lessons into Level 4 or even 5 of our OG program. Trainers are looking to certify tutors having seen them deliver lessons at these higher, more complex levels of the English language.

There are other requirements to become certified such as book reports, quizzes, take home tests, and even a final exam. In some universities, this process is delivered as a master's course.

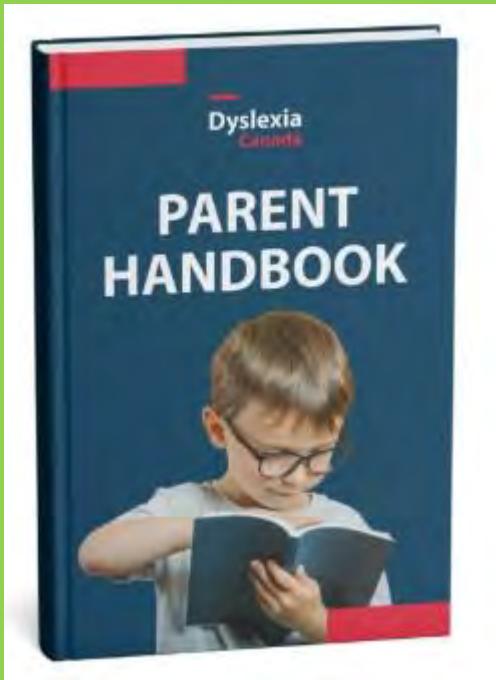
The rigor of Orton-Gillingham training rises from the fact that reading and writing are some of the most complex tasks that the human brain tackles. In fact, the human brain is not hard-wired to learn these complex processes but needs to rewire other parts of the brain in order to accomplish literacy tasks.

OG specialists learn from the research of neuroscientists who continually study the complexities of the brain.

Once becoming a certified Orton-Gillingham Practitioner, tutors are continually required to earn 30 professional development hours of additional training over 3 years, often by attending conferences led by these researchers. Orton-Gillingham trainers typically take as long as eight years to become a Certified OG Trainer.

The fact that experienced, dedicated educators are taking the time and effort to learn the OG technique and become certified, while helping our deserving children and families is a real testament that the Learning Centre for Hamilton is providing high quality delivery of in demand intervention for children with dyslexia. We should all be proud of our support for this Learning Centre.

## DYSLEXIA CANADA'S PARENT HANDBOOK



The Parent Handbook was created to help families understand dyslexia and learn how to support children at home and at school. It was designed to be practical, easy to navigate, and grounded in current research.

**The handbook includes:**

**Dyslexia basics and identification –**  
what dyslexia is, early signs, myths, and how screening and assessment work.

**Instruction and intervention –**  
what effective reading instruction looks like, how to plan and monitor interventions, and the role of accommodations

**Supporting your child –**

building confidence, fostering self-esteem, and understanding your child's rights in education

The handbook is available in print or digitally.

To access your free copy please visit [dyslexiacanada.org](https://dyslexiacanada.org). and complete the online order form.

As a national charity, Dyslexia Canada is committed to ensuring every child in Canada learns to read.



The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation  
Learning Centre for Hamilton  
"helping children with dyslexia to read!"

## Donation Form

### Donor Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Donation to: Learning Centre for Hamilton  Niagara Satellite

### Payment Options

**Cheque:** Please make cheque payable to: *The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton*.

**E-transfer:** [office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com](mailto:office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com)

**Credit Card:** Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code (3 numbers on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation \_\_\_\_\_ One time  Monthly

Donation is in memory or honour of \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement to be sent to: \_\_\_\_\_



Donations (one time or monthly) may also be made through [CanadaHelps](https://www.canadahelps.org) and directed to either the Learning Centre for Hamilton or the Niagara satellite. Visit [CanadaHelps.org](https://www.canadahelps.org) and search for Learning Centre for Hamilton. Official receipts for income tax purposes will be issued by CanadaHelps.

Donations of \$20 or more will be acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

Donors names will be printed in our newsletter. Please let us know how you would like to be recognized.

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Anonymous

If donating by cheque please complete this form and mail it and your cheque to:

**SRCF Learning Centre for Hamilton**  
148 George Street  
Hamilton ON L8P 1E5

If donating by credit card complete this form and email to: [office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com](mailto:office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com)



905.523.5003



[office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com](mailto:office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com)



Charitable No. 75358 4129 RR0001

Here's a poem from Hamilton South District.

# The Chronicle



## ***A MASONIC MINUTE: THE LAMBSKIN - A POEM***

by Edgar A. Guest

It is not ornamental, the cost is not great  
There are other things far more useful, yet truly I state  
Tho of all my possessions, there's none can compare.  
With that white leather apron, which all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,  
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent  
    On shaving and dressing and looking just right,  
    Until Mother would say: "*It's the Masons tonight.*"  
And some winter nights she said: "*What makes you go,*  
*Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,*  
*You see the same things every month of the year.*"  
Then Dad would reply: "*Yes, I know it, my dear.*"

Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true.  
    And though they are old, they always seem new,  
    For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,  
    Seem a little bit closer each time that we meet.

Years later I stood at that very same door,  
With good men and true who had entered before,  
    I knelt at the altar, and there I was taught  
    That virtue and honour can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,  
If worthily worn, grows more precious each year,  
    That service to others brings blessings untold,  
    That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.

I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,  
That enmities fade 'neath the compass and square,  
    That wealth and position are all thrust aside,  
    As there on the level men meet and abide.

So, honour the lambskin, may it always remain  
    Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,  
And when we are called to the Great Father's love,  
    May we all take our place in that Lodge up above.





A translation of part of the presentation by Entered Apprentice Mason, Bro. Paul Birnat, from Orpheus Knits Nr 264 Lodge, Brasov, Romania.



V.W. Bro. Mihai (Mike Samoila) once again visited Romania and, upon his return, presented the above piece of Masonic Education to Landmarks Temple Lodge No. 324.

He has submitted the piece for publication in the *Chronicle*.

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, his father Leopold Mozart music teacher, composer and conductor, his mother Anna Maria, dedicated time and effort to Mozart's musical education.

Also Leopold's sister, Nannerl, who also was a talented musician, travelled with Amadeus through Europe to different classic music concerts.

At the age of three, Amadeus started to play harpsichord and, at five, started playing viola and pianos.

After serving to the court of the archbishop in Salzburg, he moved to Vienna in 1781, where he became well-known as a composer and conductor.

During his life he wrote over 600 symphonies, just to name a few well-known:

- *Figaro*,
- *Don Giovanni*.

He married in 1782 Constanze Weber and they had six children, out of which only two survived: Karl and Franz. Despite the fact that he was friends with many rich personalities and he was recognized for his music, he had many financial difficulties.



He joined the craft, becoming a Mason in 1784, and he studied Illuminati principles.

He composed *The Joy of Mason* (*Die Maurerfreude*), and *Masonic Funeral Music*, *The Magic Flute*. He died when he was only 35 years old.

Mike said that the presentation ended with a playing of some of Bro. Mozart's Masonic Music.

<https://youtu.be/df-eLzao63I?si=vZoyA4VmJ8smQT9N>



The Alberta Freemason

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Volume 90, No. 11, December, 2025

THE ALBERTA  
FreeMason

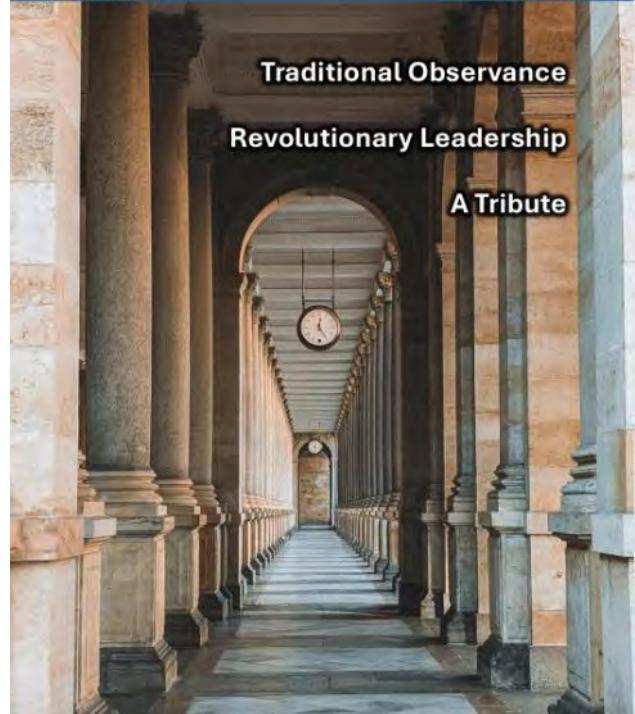
Vol 90, no 11

December 2025

Traditional Observance

Revolutionary Leadership

A Tribute



included this article:

## ***LEADERSHIP IS A DIMINISHING SKILL***

R. W. Bro. Gord Hughes  
Grande Prairie Lodge 105, Grand Prairie

*“Leadership is a diminishing skill. You have to practise, or it atrophies and dies.” - Leif Babin, Navy Seal, 2025*

This phrase resonates deeply within Freemasonry, especially among Members of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. It reminds us that leadership — much like the Working Tools of the Craft — is not something we possess once and for all. It must be used, refined, and sharpened through continual labour.

In Masonry, leadership is not about authority or title; it is about service, character, and the steady pursuit of improvement in ourselves and those around us.

### The Nature of Masonic Leadership

In our Lodges, every Officer — from the Tyler to the Worshipful Master — is entrusted with duties that are both symbolic and practical. These duties form the foundation of leadership development. Yet, when those duties are left unpractised, or when a Mason withdraws from active participation, the habits that define strong leadership begin to fade.

Leadership in Masonry is rooted in example. It is shown through patience in the face of disagreement, humility in the face of recognition, and constancy in the face of fatigue.

A Brother who once inspired others through diligence and moral clarity can lose that influence if he stops engaging in the Craft's living lessons — study, mentorship, and fellowship. The Working Tools rust when left unused.

### The Discipline of Practice

The ritual itself teaches that labour is both a duty and a privilege.

“*To improve ourselves in Masonry*” is not a ceremonial phrase; it is a lifelong task. Leadership must be exercised with the same regularity as one sharpens a chisel or squares a stone.

This means practising self-restraint in heated moments, extending charity where there is misunderstanding, and offering guidance when others are uncertain. In this way, Masonic leadership mirrors the operative labour of the ancient craftsmen. Each action — each meeting, decision, and word — shapes the rough ashlar of our character. If we cease to work on it, it remains unpolished; if we abandon it entirely, it decays. The atrophy of leadership is not sudden — it happens quietly, in moments when we choose comfort over engagement, or pride over humility.

### Leadership as Service

The Craft reminds us that leadership is fundamentally about service — to our Lodge, our Brethren, and to the greater community. In Alberta, where Freemasonry has long been a quiet force for good, our Lodges rely on active and principled leaders who model integrity, discretion, and compassion. The true leader does not seek to be served, but to serve well.

Yet, even service requires practice. A leader who does not continue to learn, who stops attending Lodge, or who withdraws from mentoring newer Brethren, soon loses touch with the very principles he once embodied.

His influence wanes, not from lack of respect, but from lack of presence. Leadership must be lived continuously, not merely remembered.

### Renewal Through Labour

Fortunately, leadership can also be renewed. The lessons of the square and compasses, the plumb, and the level remind us that balance and uprightness are not achieved once — they are maintained through vigilance. Returning to the Lodge, engaging in ritual, participating in discussion, or guiding a Brother through his journey, are all acts that reawaken leadership.

When practised in this way, leadership becomes not a role but a rhythm — an ongoing dialogue between duty and self-improvement. It is the living embodiment of our Masonic charge: to act upon the square, to keep a tongue of good report, and to walk uprightly before God and man.

## Conclusion

Leadership, in Masonry as in life, cannot survive on past achievement. It must be worked daily, renewed through practice, and strengthened by humility. The words “Leadership is a diminishing skill. You have to practise, or it atrophies and dies,” remind us that our obligation as Freemasons is not only to build good men but to keep building ourselves.

In the quiet work of self-improvement, in the mentorship of others, and in the steady example of a life lived upon the level, we ensure that leadership does not wither — it endures.

“All healthy relationships are based on integrity, truth and free choice. The goal need not be perfection, but an openness to change and growth.” - Joe Egan



Also in the December 2025 issue of  
was this article:



*Iberia Freemason* magazine

## ***THE REVERENCE OF THE LODGE ROOM***



**R.W. Bro. William Brook  
Fort McMurray Lodge 195, Fort McMurray**

When entering the Lodge, there should be a sense of reverence, as it is a room where the Craft ply their trade. Among all the landmarks within and the meetings which are conducted, it is a place that should not be treated with irrelevance or insincere conduct by the Brethren.

The Lodge should always be treated as one would treat entering a church: you would not act out when entering St. Basilica in Rome or even the local religious chamber where the sermon is to occur, nor should you act any differently when entering or conducting meetings in a Lodge. The Lodge is a space to teach moral and spiritual development, as well as the symbolic meaning of the layout and landmarks within.

A Lodge Room is identified by its furniture:

The Altar signifies the presence of the divine, holding the VSL, the Square and Compass where all work is conducted when Obligating all Brethren into the Craft. The VSL, teaches us how we should act through life through its parables and moral instructions.

The Square reminds us to square our actions through life.

**The Compasses reminds us to stay within due bounds while conducting ourselves through life.**

**The “G”, which typically hangs over the Altar, represents the Great Architect of the Universe, reminding us of a higher power or Supreme Being presiding over all of mankind.**

**The Ashlars, rough and smooth, symbolize the journey a Mason makes in their journey through the Craft. The four tassels are the guides on how we can strive to become that smooth Ashlar by following their tenets.**

**The Blazing Star in the East represents divine light and enlightenment which is provided by the Worshipful Master.**

**The Mosaic Floor represents the duality in life, good versus evil, light versus darkness, reminding us that there is both good and evil intent within each of us, whereas the Craft teaches us to dwell on the good and defeat the evil thoughts and intentions within each of us.**

**The two pillars symbolize strength and stability, which are depicted in King Solomon’s Temple.**

**There is certain etiquette that should be followed while in the Lodge conducting business, further reinforcing the reverence required in an Open Lodge. One must conduct oneself with decorum, such as, not interrupting someone else while they are talking, and allowing them to finish what they are saying before providing your wisdom, experience, or opinions. As the Volume of the Sacred Law is open there is to be no profanity uttered whatsoever. The Book provides moral instruction and, as such, it is required to be treated as such with reverence and respect. Frivolous behaviours should not be tolerated. Ensure that you are dressed for the occasion, that your posture is upright, and you are attentive for the duration of the meeting.**

**This does not mean that everything must be conducted in all seriousness, as jovial dialogue should be allowed and encouraged.**

**Keeping the meetings light-hearted at times and conducted with all seriousness at others, depending on the course and content of the meeting and discussions within.**

**The Lodge room embodies the core Masonic values of Brotherly Love, Truth, and Relief, where we meet to reaffirm these values and strengthen our bonds of fellowship. These should not be taken lightly or frivolously, as we are in a welcoming space where we provide support and fellowship to each other.**

**As our meetings are typically short, it is not an onerous endeavour to conduct oneself accordingly with the decorum and reverence the Craft deserves and demands.**

As well, here is this article, entitled:

## HOW TO START A NEW LODGE

New and Closed Lodges, decade over last.

18	24	66	47	5	4	15	16		2	3	5	2	3+
1905	00s	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	00s	10s	20s
	2	4	4	3				16	14	23	12	12	6+

Until a Charter was granted to Sexsmith Lodge 160 in 1932, Alberta had new Lodges opening up every year. In fact, it was 142 Lodges in 27 years (after the 18 we started with in October 1905). This rapid growth came to a sudden halt a few years into the Great Depression.

There's no real mystery behind that chain of causality.

We didn't see another Lodge (Empress 161) chartered until 1945.

Growth really spiked (relatively) in the post-war 1950s and '60s.

Maybe we could see that again in the next few years, if we can recommit to what makes our fraternity worthwhile and deliver what we promise to the men who knock at our doors.

Breaking away from stale tradition might be what inspires you to start a new Lodge, or maybe you're tired of being a passenger in a Lodge that has gotten a little too big (don't be afraid of success).

Competing with the colour TV since the late '60s, and all of the other things that now demand our time, part of the problem may be internal, that when Brethren discover that the Lodge they've joined isn't what they'd expected, they leave, unaware that they have the option of finding or starting a new Lodge that will satisfy their unmet needs — and surely there are other Brethren and Candidates who seek the same fulfilment ....

First, it should be obvious that joining another Lodge is the simplest option available to a dissatisfied Mason. Or maybe you want to stay with your Lodge and engage in a new experience (let's admit that there are many Masonic bodies outside the Craft Lodge that might satisfy that craving, too.) There are many reasons that a new Lodge is the right fit for you.



When you've decided that you want to start a new Lodge, do what you should have already been doing: get out and visit other nearby Lodges and start talking to people about your idea for a new Lodge. Somebody might try talking you out of it (he might be a Grand Master) — ignore him (especially if he's a Grand Master).

Next, have serious discussions about how the new Lodge is going to meet your individual and collective needs.

There are a lot of things that Masonry can be, and a lot of ways for that identity to manifest.

Finally, realize that you have to follow Grand Lodge procedures to make this work.

You will need:

- 7 Master Masons who belong to this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.
- A place to meet. It doesn't need to be fancy, but it needs locks.
- Consent of nearby Lodges (unless you plan to meet at least 160 km from the nearest Lodge meeting place).

With those two things, you can petition the Grand Secretary for the necessary paperwork. While that's happening, make sure you can meet the physical needs of the Lodge:

- Furniture. It doesn't need to be new, but it should look good.
- Regalia. There are options for sourcing this, talk to a Secretary.
- Money. Everything costs money, your Charter Members will have to carry most of that weight.



Having purchased *The Master's Library: The Infinite Lecture Collection*, here is one of its articles:

## ***FREEMASONRY IN ACTION: THE VALUES THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES***

Brethren and honoured guests,  
What does it truly mean to live a Masonic life?  
Freemasonry, with its rich traditions and ancient rituals,  
provides us with a framework, but it is the values we live by that shape us.  
These values are not confined to the lodge room. They are guiding principles  
for how we engage with the world, from our homes to our workplaces,  
and our communities. Tonight, I invite you to explore with me  
the deeper meaning behind some of these timeless values.

Let us begin with one of the most fundamental virtues:

### **Kindness in the Home – The Foundation of a Harmonious Family Life**

Kindness is often mistaken for something soft or passive, yet it is one of the most powerful forces we can cultivate. Within the walls of our homes, kindness sets the tone for everything that follows. It is the foundation on which strong families are built. When we show patience, understanding, and empathy to those closest to us, we create an environment of safety and love.

Freemasonry teaches that charity begins at home, reminding us that this is where the practice of virtue takes root. It is in our homes that we learn to be Brothers to all.

### **Honesty in Business –A Cornerstone of Integrity in Our Daily Dealings**

In the competitive world of business, honesty is a rare and precious commodity. Yet, it is essential to maintaining not only professional relationships but personal integrity. An honest person can be trusted, and trust is the bedrock of all human interaction. Freemasonry asks us to be just and upright in our conduct, and that extends to the marketplace. When we deal fairly, transparently, and ethically with others, we uphold the high standards of our Craft and prove that true success is not merely material, but moral as well.

## Courtesy Toward Others – A Reminder That Respect Can Elevate Any Interaction

A simple act of courtesy can transform even the briefest exchange, creating goodwill and fostering mutual respect. Courtesy shows respect, and respect invites connection. When we treat others with dignity, regardless of their station, we raise the quality of our social fabric.

As Masons, we are reminded that we meet on the level. This means that each person we encounter, regardless of rank or wealth, is deserving of the same respect. Courtesy, then, is not just a formal practice; it is a deep and genuine acknowledgment of our shared humanity.

## Dependability in One's Work – A Silent Yet Powerful Testament to Your Character

Dependability may not make headlines, but it is the quiet virtue that underpins our professional lives.

To be dependable means to be consistent, reliable, and steadfast. It is not just about getting the job done, but doing so with integrity and commitment.

As Masons, we know that our word is our bond. When others can count on us to fulfill our promises, we reflect the highest standards of our Craft. In a world where so many fall short, being dependable is an act of quiet distinction that earns respect over time.

## Compassion for the Unfortunate –An Opportunity to Uplift Those in Need

Compassion is more than an emotion; it is an active force that compels us to do something when we see suffering.

Freemasonry teaches that we must be ever ready to relieve the distressed, and this is not limited to financial aid. It may come in the form of a listening ear, a kind word, or a helping hand. Compassion binds us together, for we are all vulnerable at times. In showing kindness to the unfortunate, we are not only aiding our fellow-man, but we are practising the virtues that will be needed when we, too, face hardship.

## Resistance to Evil –The Courage to Stand Against What is Wrong

The world is full of temptations and challenges, and there are times when it is easier to remain silent than to oppose what is wrong.

Yet, Freemasonry calls upon us to resist evil in all its forms.

Whether we face moral corruption, injustice, or cruelty, we must summon the courage to stand firm. The fight against evil is not always grand or heroic. It is often found in the daily choices we make to uphold justice, to be honest when it is difficult, and to protect those who cannot defend themselves. In resisting evil, we safeguard not only our own souls but the integrity of society.

## Help for the Weak – A Guiding Hand Where Strength is Lacking

Strength is not something that belongs to us alone. It is a gift we must share. Freemasonry teaches that when we encounter someone who is weak (whether physically, mentally, or emotionally) it is our duty to offer assistance.

This help may come in many forms: a guiding hand, a word of encouragement, or simply being present when others are absent.

To help the weak is to embody the very essence of brotherhood, for we are all interdependent, and what we give today may return to us tomorrow when we find ourselves in need.

## Concern for Good Government – The Responsibility to Advocate for Just Leadership

Freemasonry has long advocated for the principles of good government, not through partisan politics, but by encouraging the pursuit of justice, fairness, and liberty.

As Masons, we are taught to respect the laws of the country in which we live, but also to participate actively in civic life to ensure that those laws are just. We must be vigilant in the preservation of freedom, advocating for leaders who are wise, ethical, and committed to the common good. Good government is the safeguard of society, and it is our responsibility to support and promote it.

## Support for Education – The Unwavering Belief That Knowledge Empowers All

Finally, we come to the value of education, a cornerstone of Masonic philosophy. Knowledge is the light by which ignorance is dispelled, and it is through education that we empower individuals and uplift communities.

Freemasonry has always supported learning and self-improvement, recognizing that the pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong journey. Education opens doors, broadens perspectives, and provides the tools we need to build a better world. By supporting education, we invest in the future, not only for ourselves but for generations to come.

Brethren, these principles are not abstract ideals.

They are the building blocks of a meaningful life.

Freemasonry challenges us to live these values daily, to embody them in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

They are our moral compass, guiding us as we navigate the complexities of the world.

And in living them, we become a reflection of the Masonic ideal:

Men of integrity, compassion, and wisdom, ever striving to build a better world.

Thank you, Brethren.



## 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).

#### The Clouds Begin to Break. (continued)

In 1945, the Government had instructed all hotels to refrain from reserving rooms for convention purposes, in order that travel facilities might be conserved for returning servicemen. The Grand Master made arrangements therefore so that the meetings of the Board of General Purposes and of Grand Lodge could both be completed within one day.

- Source: Wallace E. McLeod, ed.,

Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario:1764 - 1980, (Hamilton: Masonic Holdings), 1980, p. 147.

### Next month:

#### Events of 1936 - 1945

#### The Second World War: (continued)

**The Clouds Begin to Break. (continued)** He also directed the Brethren to summon ...



## MASONIC LAMBSKIN

In the Bible, a white lamb was an emblem of innocence.

In most ancient religions, an apron was worn by religious leaders as an honorary badge.

In Freemasonry, a White Masonic Lambskin apron is worn to prevent clothes from staining, although a white lamb is known to depict purity and innocence.

It expresses the importance of keeping oneself pure from moral vices and stains that tint the soul.

It is a symbol that encourages spiritual cleansing of the soul from impurities and keeping oneself in Honour.

On 24 March 2025, I reconnected with V.W. Bro. Brendan Kyne, Secretary, The Victorian Lodge of Research No. 218, United Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia, author of *Thoughts For The Enquiring Mason* since 2012.



He kindly sent me articles from this publication, saying that I could publish any of them in my newsletter for your reading interest.

The introductory page states:

### ***A HISTORY OF THE THOUGHTS FOR THE ENQUIRING MASON***

In August 1987, a pillar of the Lodge, the late V.W. Bro. Graeme Love, published the first monthly "*Thoughts For The Enquiring Mason*" (TFTEM).

This one-page TFTEM has continued to be sent out every month the Lodge is in session, included with the Summons Notice and Minutes, to all Lodge and Correspondence Circle members.

Over the decades, the TFTEMs have covered a wide variety of Masonic related topics, from symbolism, history, philosophy, principles, famous Freemasons, other Masonic Orders and other bits that fall through the cracks.

The Victorian Lodge of Research hopes you enjoy this selection of TFTEM from 2012 to 2018.

The opinions expressed in these transactions are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of either The Victorian Lodge of Research or of its Members.

ISSN 2653-3804

Published by The Victorian Lodge of Research, No. 218  
on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient,  
Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria.

Kind regards,  
Brendan Kyne  
Sec. The Victorian Lodge of Research  
TFTEM author since 2012

Here's his next one:

## ***THE CURIOUS CASE OF BROTHER CHEVALIER D'ÉON***

Over the last 300 hundred years Freemasonry has included amongst its numbers some very colourful and controversial Members.

One somewhat obscure but, at the time, no less controversial character was the Frenchman, the Chevalier d'Eon.

Charles Geneviève Louis Augste André Timothée Déon de Beaumont was born on 5th October 1728. As a young man, Chevalier d'Eon joined the French Diplomatic Service, working for a time at the French embassy in St. Petersburg. During the Seven Years War he had a distinguished career, receiving the Cross of the Military Order of St Louis for bravery.

During the 1760's Chevalier d'Eon was a member of the French delegation negotiating an end to the war with Britain, going on to be appointed First Secretary at the French Embassy in London. However, d'Eon did not get on well with the French Ambassador with their relationship deteriorating to such an extent that d'Eon fled the embassy, taking crucial documents with him. Supposedly these papers included the names of the British MPs in the pay of the French Government. Attempts were made to reclaim these documents, and even to kidnap Chevalier d'Eon, all to no avail.

It was at this time that d'Eon joined the Lodge of Mortality, which met at the Crown and Anchor in the Strand. Chevalier d'Eon was Initiated according to ancient form being a free, upright man of sound mind and body.

However, around this time rumours spread that the Chevalier was a woman, and by 1770 enormous sums had been wagered on d'Eon's sexuality. In 1777, due to these exorbitant bets, the matter went as far as the Full Court of the King's Bench where the final verdict was that d'Eon was a woman. King Louis XVI of France quickly followed suit and issued a decree that d'Eon, "*... is hereby required ... to resume the garments of her sex and is forbidden to appear in any part of the Kingdom except in garments belonging to a female...*"

Throughout this whole episode d'Eon refused to take a medical examination or to submit to the witness box at the trials. In the end, d'Eon returned the documents and received a cash payment and a pension, and agreed to never to dress in a man's clothing again.

In May 1810 La Chevalière d'Eon died in London and, when the body was prepared for burial, d'Eon was found to be 100% male – no question, no doubt.

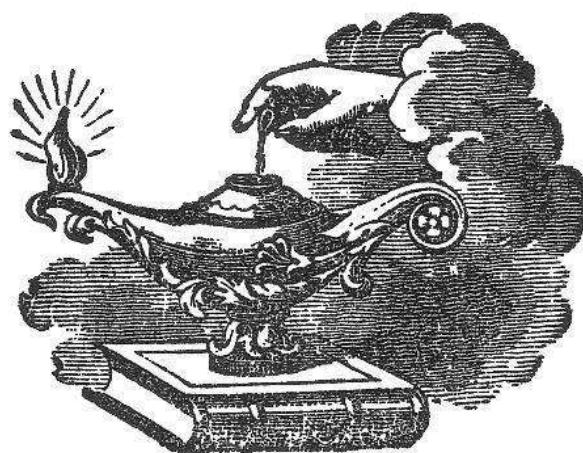
Interestingly the London Freemasons remained completely silent during this whole affair. We know from Pritchard's "Masonry Dissected" (1730) that the Candidate was received, "... *neither naked nor clothed, bare-foot nor shod, deprived of all metal ...*" and contemporary illustrations show that the mode of preparation has remained largely unchanged.

So, Chevalier d'Eon's Lodge Brothers would have known the truth, but perhaps the injunction never to reveal their ceremonies, or a fear of the ridicule associated with Initiating a "woman" made silence the prudent course of action.

Unfortunately, in the end, the Lodge had to exclude d'Eon from Freemasonry once he agreed to adopt the persona of a woman.

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(Adapted from Jasper Ridley – A Brief History of the Freemasons, Constable & Robinson, London, 2008, pp. 83-9)





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 H. 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:

## **MASONIC TALK**

***“I’m seeking a little light,”*** said the New Brother, sitting down by the Old Tiler and reaching for his cigar case.

***“I think I have a match-”*** the Old Tiler felt in his pocket.

***“I get you!”*** grinned the New Brother, ***“But that’s not the light I am looking for. I want light on a Masonic subject.”***

***“I don’t pretend to be the only Masonic illuminant,”*** answered the Old Tiler, ***“but if I have what you want, be sure I’ll let it shine.”***

***“Every now and then,”*** began the New Brother, ***“I hear Masonic talk in public places. At a poker game in a club where I was recently, I heard one man say, ‘Them you have passed, but me I shall not pass! Lots of men say they will do this or that on the square or on the level. I run across ‘and govern yourself accordingly’ in print every now and then. Are such public quotations from Masonic work against good Masonic practice?”***

***“It seems to me your question isn’t very complete,”*** answered the Old Tiler. ***“Why not?”***

***“It takes no account of motives. If you hear a man say that the stream rose and his house and his children were in danger, but a tree fell across the rushing waters, so that, in His mercy, God dammed the stream, you have heard testimony to His glory. And if you hear some man couple the name of Deity with the word which begins with D, you listen to profanity. Same sounds in each case; the difference is, the motive, the meaning.”***

***“If I declare that I will do what I say I will do ‘on the square,’ any one understands that I mean I will act honestly. If any hearer knows the expression is Masonic, surely the fraternity has not been injured.”***

*“But if I say to a stranger, or within a stranger’s hearing, ‘these are certain Masonic words, and we use them in the Degrees’ and then repeat various phrases, I skirt dangerously close to breaking my Obligation, and by the very fact that I seem to be careless with Masonic business, I am doing it harm!”*

“That’s very plain,” said the New Brother. “Suppose some man wants to learn if I am a Mason? Suppose I meet a man with a Masonic pin and want to examine him Masonically? What about that?”

“You shouldn’t want to do things which can’t be done!” laughed the Old Tiler.

“You might, indeed, put the stranger through an examination as to what Masonry he knew, but it wouldn’t be Masonic.

You have no right to constitute yourself an Examining Committee. That is the Master’s prerogative.”

“Suppose he wants to talk Masonic secrets with me?”

“No Mason wants to talk Masonic secrets with any man he doesn’t know to be a Mason! The man who wants to talk secrets, without having sat in Lodge with you, or being vouched for to you, is either very new or a very poor Mason or no Mason at all!”

“But surely one can talk Masonry with strangers. If they wear the pin and have a card they are probably Masons, and -”

“Talk all the Masonry you want! But make sure it is the Masonic talk you could utter in the presence of your wife. Your true Mason won’t want you to talk any other kind in public. Not long ago I was on a train, and behind me two men, neither of them Masons, were arguing about Masonry. The things they knew were not so wonderful! But I never opened my mouth. And the conductor, whom I have known for years as a Mason, heard them, and all he did was wink at me. We knew the truth; they didn’t. What was the use of stirring up an argument?”

“What about giving some sign or word in a mixed company, so I can let the other fellows know I am a Mason?” asked the New Brother.

“Oh!” cried the Old Tiler. “You’ve been reading novels! You have an idea that when you go to a card party you should wiggle your ears or something, so that other Masons will know you are one, too! Nothing to that! Masonic recognitions are not for pleasure, but for need and use. You have been taught how to let others know, if you need to. You know how to recognize a Mason when he lets you know.”

old tiler talks  
Judge Not!

Carl H. Claudy



***“But these are not for social gatherings,  
and the man who lards his speech  
with Masonic expressions is merely  
showing off.”***

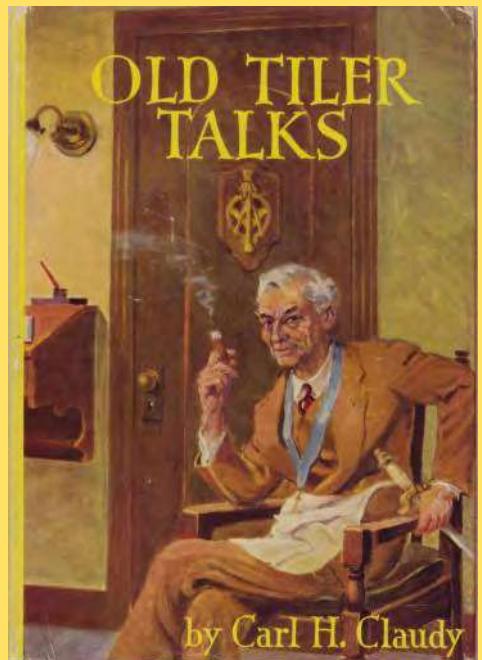
***“I asked for light; we could substitute you  
for one of the Lesser Lights,”***  
said the New Brother.

***“If you mean that for a joke,”***  
the Old Tiler answered slowly,  
***“I shall think my words were wasted.”***

***“I didn’t,”*** protested the New Brother.  
***“I was only trying to say, perhaps clumsily,  
that I thought you’d make a good Master!”***

***“Then I shall think only of the motive.  
Thank you for the compliment,  
and forget the way you put it!”***

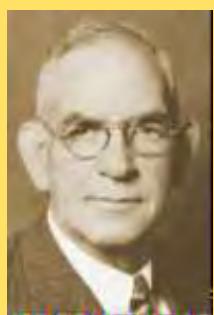
smiled the Old Tiler.



by Carl H. Clady

Bro. Carl Harry Clady (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 Clady 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 January 2026 issue  
of *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter.

## **OTONABEE POEM**



When men first came in ox carts  
With a promise and a wife,  
The river ran in those days  
And gave the new folks life.

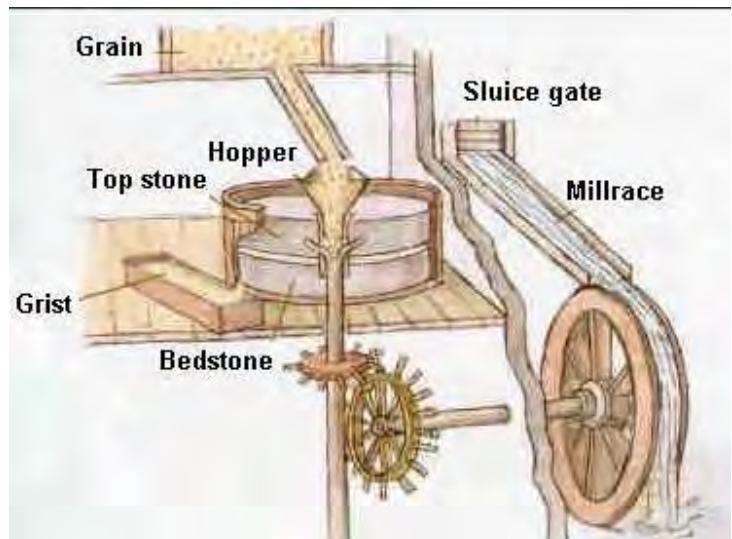
The native name, Otonabee  
Adopted from the start,  
Captured its description  
River that beats like a heart.

They faced its awesome power  
And they fought with it each spring,  
But they used it where  
and when they could  
For gifts that it could bring.

They drew its quenching waters  
And they fished its swirling pools,  
And the mill wheel stole its power  
To spin their shaping tools.

The factories that followed  
Making goods for this new land,  
Harnessed men to make their livings  
And the river lent a hand.

But man, being oh so clever,  
Found a new use in their haste,  
If they dumped stuff in the river  
It could flush away their waste.



Let's flash forward for a moment  
To the river of today,  
A paradise for sportsmen  
And a place for all to play.

The shores, all lined with cottages  
With lawns trimmed green and neat,  
Provides us with a refuge  
To escape the summer's heat.

Inner tubes inflated  
Make a rugged floating toy,  
No doubt scaring many parents  
While filling kids with endless joy.



By R.W. Bro. Bob Keay,  
Otonabee Lodge No. 101.

Otonabee (or Odenaabe)  
is an  
Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe)  
word meaning “*the river  
that beats like a heart*,”



And in winter, when it's frozen  
Shiney like a dinner plate,  
Just some hard work with a shovel  
Gives the kids a place to skate.

So despite the wrongs we've dealt it  
All the toxins that were dumped,  
It continues to give back to us  
Which leaves some pundits stumped.

So once again this Christmas  
My wish for you and me,  
Is to follow old traditions  
And enjoy Otonabee.

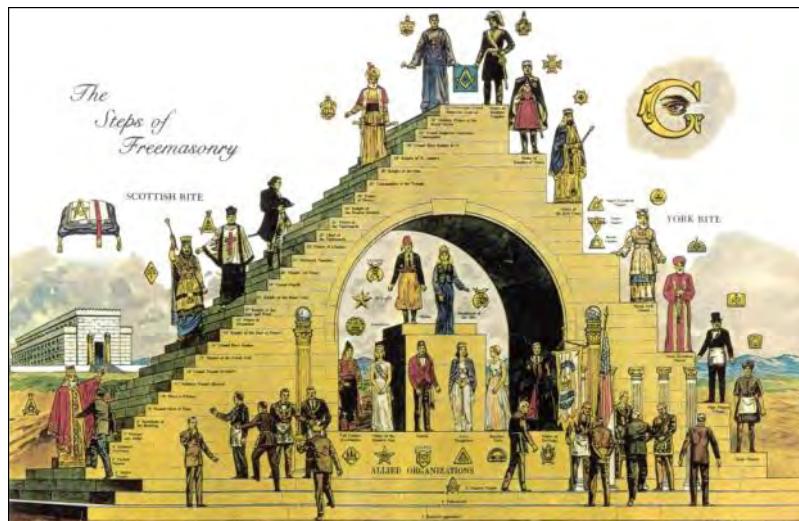


referring to the Otonabee River  
in Ontario, Canada,  
and its bubbling rapids  
or essential life-giving nature.  
The name signifies the powerful flow,  
sometimes like boiling or flashing water,  
and its deep importance  
to the Indigenous people  
who lived there for millennia.

## 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.

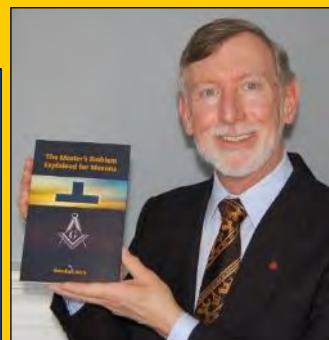
From a moment of inspiration, to final release of The Master's Emblem Explained for Masons, W. Bro. Marshall Kern spent two years researching his discovery. The result is a book that includes a Short Talk, and a longer piece of Masonic Education, as well as Bro. Kern's detailed examination of dozens of primary research sources.

Price is \$20.00, plus shipping. Details and ordering information at [www.mastersemblem.com](http://www.mastersemblem.com)

Also at [www.mastersemblem.com](http://www.mastersemblem.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



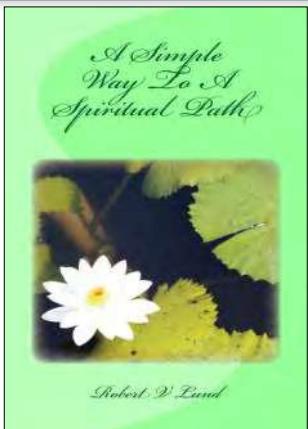
<http://www.mastersemblem.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MastersEmblem/>

V.W. Bro. Kern's blog is here: <https://mastersemblem.wordpress.com/>

# Well worth the read !!!

## Books by V.W. Bro. Robert V. Lund

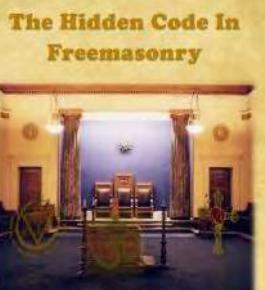


### Mystic Masonry

An esoteric interpretation of the symbols in Freemasonry



Robert V Lund



Finding Light through Esoteric interpretation of Masonic ritual

Robert V Lund

ESOTERIC HANDBOOK  
For The  
Entered Apprentice Mason



Robert V Lund

ESOTERIC HANDBOOK  
For The  
Fellowcraft Mason



Robert V Lund

ESOTERIC HANDBOOK  
For The  
Master Mason



Robert V Lund

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<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.**



Instituted: September 21, 1977  
Constituted: September 23, 1978



## *The 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. Graeme Boyce, e-mail: < [heritagelodge730@gmail.com](mailto:heritagelodge730@gmail.com) >.

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 < [dgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto:dgm2007@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.**