

*HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025*

*Anno Lucis 6025*

*To Each And Every One Of You !!!*

**It's now 2025**

and Lodges throughout our District,  
our Jurisdiction,  
and the world,  
are gearing up  
for a wonderful and fulfilling year !!!

We enter our Masonic New Year  
with the understanding that we are making a fresh start.  
We begin by discarding thoughts, attitudes, and habits  
that are not compatible with an excellent life.

We let go of whatever caused past discouragement,  
disappointment, or disagreement.

We know that seemingly negative outcomes  
are desires or goals that are yet to be fulfilled.

We are open and receptive to new ideas, activities, and relationships.

Each day, we can follow a fresh plan of fulfillment.

We act on divine ideas that we receive in moments of prayer, and inspiration.

These ideas flow through wholesome, positive, thoughts.

As we use creative thinking to build, upon divine ideas,  
our activities and our abilities are enhanced.

Therefore, we enter this New Year with optimism, joy, and enthusiasm.

**A Mason is not necessarily a Member of a Lodge.**

In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life,  
and to intelligently serve the needs of the Great Architect.



Source: [http://www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic\\_talk/more\\_light](http://www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic_talk/more_light)

Anno Lucis ("in the Year of Light") is a dating system used in Masonic ceremonial or commemorative proceedings, which is equivalent to the Gregorian year plus 4000.

Dear Brethren,

Enclosed please find the *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*,  
Volume Eighteen, Issue 05 (Whole Number 180),  
Wednesday, 01 January 2025.

This issue contains 125 pages.

The monthly calendar in *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter allows the Brethren to see, at a glance, the work being done in the District for that month. Thus, if you're interested in attending a particular Degree, look at page 07 to see where one is being conducted in the District.

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

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

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

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

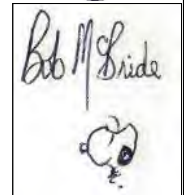
Bob McBride

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



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

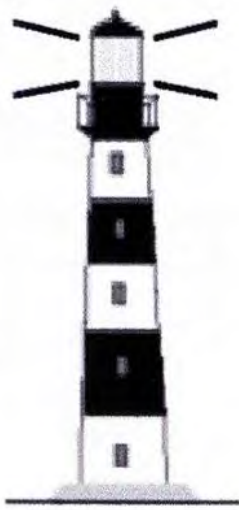
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master, 2007 - 2008
- Editor of the monthly electronic *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* 2007 - 2024
- Peterborough District Historian, 2001 - 2024
- Peterborough District Communications Chairman, 2002 - 2021
- Past Master, Keene Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 374 G.R.C., 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 Eighteen, Issue 05

Whole Number 180

Wednesday, 01 January 2025

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- Final Words: *Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to Meet Again !!!* p. 125



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

322 Hywood Road, Peterborough. ON  
K9K 2L3  
705-761-5656  
bharatmaini2024@gmail.com



W. Bro. William Lorne Mitchell,  
District Secretary

30 Strickland Street, Lakefield. ON  
K0L 2H0  
705-917-4344  
ptbodistrictsecretary2024@gmail.com

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

**Dear Brethren,**

The New Year has dawned on us. I hope you all had an excellent Christmas with your families and friends and that you had a good visit with Santa as well.

It is a fresh beginning for many and it is my hope that we all continue in the same vein and with the same enthusiasm as we left 2024.

Let new friendships be formed, let our respect towards each other blossom as we continue to work in peace and harmony together even more, achieving excellence. This was exemplified at a recent Official Visit when the District Brethren got together and put on a superb effort doing a Degree when the host Lodge had a number of unexpected illnesses. It was a beautiful and a wonderful feeling bringing home, one of the reasons why I enjoy Freemasonry: brotherly love. We need to help each other at every corner, at every opportunity and never fail to discharge this duty when called upon.

Now that we have the Grand Master's message imprinted in our brains on account of my constant hammering it at every meeting, and you all are doing an excellent job at it, it is time to focus on our infrastructure and further our co-operation amongst each other in the District and also among the Districts. We all need to put aside our biases and start thinking ahead. The future of Freemasonry in this District depends entirely on the steps we take today.

The questions we all need to ask ourselves are:

1. How do we attract more men to our fraternity?
2. How do we retain them and keep them interested?
3. How do we make our buildings accessible to one and all.  
(We have had Brethren who do not come to banquets due to the inaccessibility of the banquet rooms.)
4. How do we take ourselves into the future, modernize our buildings, or perhaps build new ones, leave our biases at home and work and co-operate together for the good of Freemasonry in the District and in the province.



Brethren, times are changing, expectations are changing, so must vision, our thinking, and our own expectations. We need to change.

We must change or else we will be left behind and perhaps empty-handed.

I leave you with one thought, a quote from one of my colleagues:

*“The past is simply a beginning.”*

May the Great Architect of The Universe shower you all with a very happy, healthy and a prosperous New Year.



Yours Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bharat Maini.

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



**Ontario Masons**

Throughout its history, Freemasonry has consistently emphasized the following principle:

***BROTHERHOOD AND FRATERNITY***

Promoting unity and fellowship among its members, regardless of race, religion, or social status.

Source: [masonicfind.com/timeline-of-freemasonry](https://masonicfind.com/timeline-of-freemasonry)



## From The Editor:

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



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

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

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

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

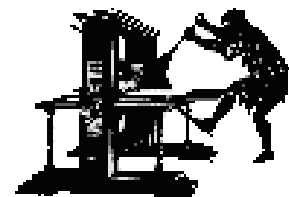
- Editor, *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*
- Peterborough District Historian,
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 - 2008).



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



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





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



Ontario Masons



# January

National Blood Donor Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Happy New Year</i>		1 New Year's Day !!! 	2 Hanukkah Ends !! National Science Fiction Day !!! 	3	4
5 National Bird Day !!! 	6 Percy 161 First Degree David Mackenzie → Epiphany	7 Clementi 313 Opening & Closing all three Degrees.	8 Village 145 Third Degree Bro. Nelson Ross	9	10	11
	13 Golden Rule 126 Second: Bro. Scott Wark	14 	15 Otonabee 101 National Hat Day !!!	16	17 	18 
19 District Divine Service St. John's Anglican	20 	NATIONAL HAT DAY	22	23	24 National Belly Laugh Day !!!	NATIONAL COFFEE DAY
26 National Spouses Day !!!	NATIONAL SPOUSES DAY	21 Peter borough 155	28 National Puzzle Day 	29 Puzzle Day !!! Lunar New Year !!!	30 	25 National Coffee Day !!!
	27 Havelock 435				31 	

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

**GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**  
**2024-2025**

**GRAND MASTER**

**M.W. Bro. James R. Ireland**

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**

**R.W. Bro. Arthur Michael Di Cecco**

**GRAND SECRETARY**

**R.W. Bro. Louis M. Domjan**

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

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

**GRAND SENIOR WARDEN**

**R.W. Bro. Prince Dilipkumar Selvaraj**

**GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**

**R.W. Bro. Shawn Warren Hewlett**

**GRAND REGISTRAR**

**R.W. Bro. Robert Michael Culbertson**

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES**

**R.W. Bro. Brian Gilkinson [Honourary]**

**Otonabee 101 (Peterborough)**

**Grand Steward**

**V.W. Bro. Scott Stuart**

**Village 145 (Millbrook)**



**Ontario Masons**





# The Grand Master's Project



presents:



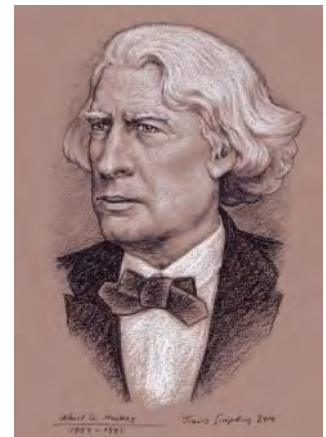
**RMHC**

Charity No. 2477



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

**Albert Mackey**



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

## **DISTRICT LEADERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Benevolence - Masonic Board of Relief**

**R.W. Bro. Frank Groves**

**Cornerstone Project**

**V.W. Bro. Walter Howell**

**District Divine Service**

**V.W. Bro. Walter Howell**

**Education Committee**

**R.W. Bro. Bob Key**

**District Events Recorder**

**R.W. Bro. Drew Wilson**

**District Historian**

**R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride**



**District Lodge of Instruction**

**R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson**

**New Members Liaison**

**W. Bro. Larry Castle**

**Mentorship Team Chairman**

**R.W. Bro. Keith Buchanan**

**District Project**

**W. Bro. William Prentice**

**Grand Master's Project**

**W. Bro. Al Nelson**

**Special Events**

**R.W. Bro. Al Baswick**

**Strategic Planning**

**R.W. Bro. Robert M. Kiff**



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

## COMMUNICATION



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

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

### **WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR**

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

### **DIGITAL ARCHIVIST / PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Bro. Danny McLaughlin**  
**(Otonabee No. 101)**

**TRESTLE BOARD**  
**Bro. R. Leon Jongsma**  
**(Clementi No. 313)**

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

**R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson**  
**R.W. Bro. Robert M. Kiff**  
**R.W. Bro. Frank Groves**  
*Past D.D.G.Ms of Peterborough District*



# District Deputy Grand Master's Theme

*"Working together, achieving excellence."*

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



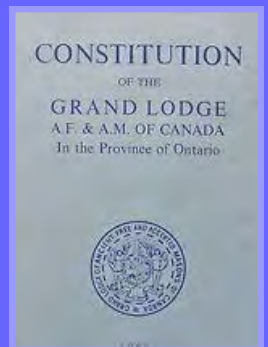
The District Deputy Grand Master is authorized to preside, and only those with this authority are presented, received under the wands, accorded the Grand Honours and given the gavel.

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:

Continuing the "*trade skills*" bursary program for promising young people who are trying to better themselves by going straight into a licensed trades training school from high school. This ties into our history as an early form of trades guild, while providing tangible assistance

for the hard-working winners.

Plus, the exposure of Masonry in Peterborough during an end-of-year presentation awards ceremony, with subsequent potential inquiries of interested men related to the recipients is a positive step for us also.



Charity No. 2469



## **Peterborough District Lodges**

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

## **PDMA Meetings**

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

## **PDMA Degree Teams**

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

## **District Coffee Club**

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



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

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



## **Official Visits**

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



## **Installations**

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



## **District Divine Service**

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



# Peterborough District Masonic Association Meetings

## PDMA DEGREE TEAMS

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

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

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



## PDMA MEETINGS

**Executive Meeting**  
Thur. 26 September 2024

**Semi-Annual General Meeting**  
Thur. 24 October 2024

**Mid-Winter Meeting**  
Thur. 27 February 2025

**Executive Meeting**  
Thur. 24 April 2025

**Annual General Meeting**  
Thur. 22 May 2025

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

### PDMA – Executive

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



## Peterborough District's

### TRAVELLING SQUARE

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

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

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

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





## Travelling Square Schedule

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

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



# Ontario Masons



**Brethren**

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

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

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

**S&F**

**R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson**

**Chairman, Lodge of Instruction Committee.**





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

Brethren, I borrowed from several online and printed documents to put this education piece together, and I would love to give all the authors the credit they deserve, but I did not collect their names at the time of downloading and they are now lost to me. I will attempt to be more diligent in the future but enjoy just the same.

Bob Keay Peterborough District Education Chair

## ***TAKE YOUR MASONIC LIFE TO THE NEXT LEVEL***

**It's easy to say, "I want to be better."**

Many of us express that desire, yet fewer take the necessary steps to truly transform. In Freemasonry this distinction is critical. Simply wanting to improve is not enough. What sets apart a Mason is the dedication to actively trying, working with discipline and intent to bring that improvement to life. To want something implies a wish, a hope for change. It's passive and abstract, like looking at a distant mountain and imagining the view from the top. But to TRY is to lace up your boots and start climbing. The desire to be better remains just that – a desire – until we step forward and embrace the hard work of trying.

In Freemasonry we are charged with the responsibility of putting in that work, not only for ourselves but for the benefit of those around us.

Ask yourself: are you content with wanting to be better, or are you committed to **trying to be better.**

### **HERE ARE 15 MASONIC PHILOSOPHIES TO HELP YOU BUILD YOUR TEMPLE**

#### **1. Brotherly Love: More Than Just a Hallmark Card Sentiment.**

Brotherly love might sound like something out of a cheesy greeting card, but in Freemasonry, it's far from fluff. This isn't just about loving your literal brothers (though you should probably give them a call once in a while). It's about treating every person you meet, yes, even that guy who cut you off in traffic, with a sense of respect and kindness. Think of it as the golden rule on steroids. When you start viewing people as Brothers, you're more inclined to act with patience, understanding, and a bit more empathy. And trust me, the world could use a lot more of that.

## **2. Relief: The Art of Being There**

Imagine a world where people actually helped each other out. Sounds nice, right? That's what Masonic relief is all about. It's not just about throwing some spare change in a charity box, though that's a good start. Relief is about showing up when it matters, offering a hand, a shoulder, or even just an ear. It's about making the conscious decision to lighten someone else's load. So, whether it's helping a friend move (even though you'd rather do anything else) or volunteering your time, embodying relief can transform not just your life but the lives of those around you.

## **3. Truth: Because Honesty Never Goes Out of Style**

No, the truth isn't always convenient, but in the world of Freemasonry, truth is non-negotiable. This isn't just about not lying, it's about living in a way that aligns with your inner values. We're talking about being truthful in your words, your actions, and even in how you see yourself. In a world full of filters and facades, being true to who you are and to others is like a breath of fresh air. Plus, when you consistently practise truth, you build trust, and trust is the foundation of every meaningful relationship. Don't just speak the truth; live it.

## **4. Moral Integrity: Your Inner Compass**

Moral integrity is your internal GPS, the thing that keeps you on the right path even when life throws a bunch of detours your way. We're not talking about perfection here. Everyone screws up now and then. But a man with moral integrity owns his actions, makes amends, and strives to do better. It's about making decisions that reflect your values, even when no one's watching. Integrity is what separates the boys from the men, and if you want to be the kind of man people respect, this is non-negotiable.

## **5. Respect for Others: No, It's Not Just About Being Polite**

Sure, saying "*please*" and "*thank you*" is nice, but Masonic respect goes way deeper. This is about truly acknowledging the worth of every individual you meet. It means listening more than you speak (a challenge for some of us, I know), valuing others' opinions, even when they differ from yours, and treating everyone with the dignity they deserve. Respect isn't just a box you check; it's a mindset. It's realizing that every person has something to teach you and acting accordingly.

## **6. Personal Responsibility: Own Your Stuff**

In a world where it's all too easy to pass the buck, personal responsibility is like a superpower. This is about owning your actions, your decisions, and, perhaps most importantly, your mistakes. It's about not blaming others when things go south but instead asking yourself, "*What can I do to fix this?*" Taking responsibility isn't just about being accountable to others; it's about being accountable to yourself. When you stop making excuses, you start making progress. Simple as that.

## **7. Temperance: More Than Just Cutting Back on the Booze**

Temperance isn't just about saying no to that third drink at happy hour (though that's not a bad start). It's about practising moderation in all areas of life: your work, your habits, even your thoughts. In a world that glorifies excess, temperance is the practice of finding balance. It's knowing when to push forward and when to pull back. It's about making sure that nothing, no matter how good it seems, takes over your life. Temperance is like the volume knob on life; sometimes you need to crank it up, but other times, you need to dial it down. This includes all of our Masonic activities as well. Your choices affect others!

## **8. Fortitude: The Backbone of Character**

**Fortitude isn't just about brute strength; it's about inner strength. It's the ability to keep going when the going gets tough, to stand up for what you believe in, even when it's unpopular or difficult. Fortitude is the grit that gets you through life's inevitable challenges. Whether it's dealing with a tough situation at work, facing personal fears, or standing up for someone who needs it, fortitude is what keeps you moving forward. It's the difference between giving up and getting up.**

## **9. Justice: The Pursuit of Fairness**

**Justice isn't just for the courtroom; it's for everyday life. This Masonic principle is all about fairness, about treating others as you'd like to be treated, and about advocating for what's right, even when it's not easy. It's about being the guy who doesn't just talk the talk but walks the walk, ensuring that your actions contribute to a fairer, more just world. Justice is not about perfection but about striving to be better, to do better, every single day.**

## **10. Equality: The Great Leveler**

**Equality isn't just a buzzword; it's a core Masonic value. This is about recognizing that every person, regardless of their background, status, or beliefs, deserves the same respect and opportunities. It's about leveling the playing field, not just in theory but in practice. Equality means looking beyond the superficial and seeing the inherent worth in everyone you meet. It's about understanding that we all have the same value as human beings, and treating people accordingly. Want to make the world a better place? Start by treating everyone with the equality they deserve.**

## **11. Faith: More Than Just a Belief System**

**Faith in the Masonic sense isn't just about religion; it's about having trust in something bigger than yourself. It's about believing in the goodness of people, in the possibility of a better future, and in the principles that guide you. Faith is what gets you through the tough times, what keeps you grounded when everything else feels like it's spinning out of control. It's about having a guiding star, whether that's a higher power, a set of values, or simply the belief in the potential for good in the world.**

## **12. Hope: The Light at the End of the Tunnel**

**Hope is what keeps us going, even when life feels like one long uphill battle. It's the belief that things can and will get better, that the challenges we face today won't last forever. Hope is what drives innovation, progress, and change. In the Masonic tradition, hope is more than just wishful thinking; it's an active practice of optimism. It's about setting your sights on a better future and working towards it, no matter how tough things get. Hope isn't passive; it's powerful.**

## **13. Charity: The Heart of Masonry**

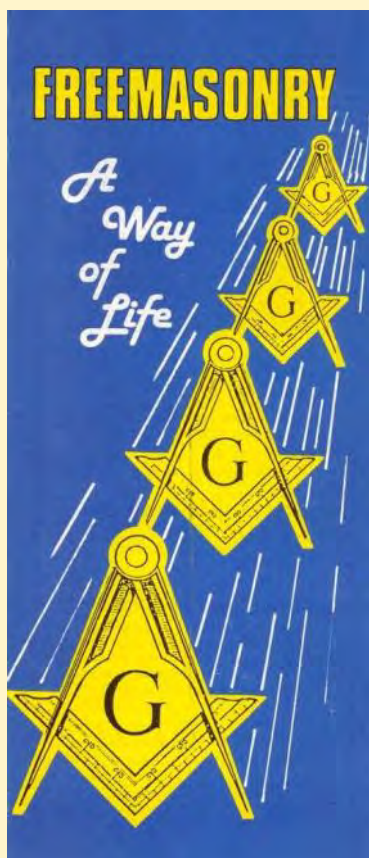
**Charity isn't just about writing a cheque or donating old clothes, (though those are great starts). In the Masonic tradition, charity is about giving of yourself in whatever way you can. It's about generosity of spirit, of time, and of resources. It's about making a difference, no matter how small, in the lives of others. Charity is the practice of selflessness, of putting others' needs before your own, and it's one of the most powerful ways to live a meaningful life. In a world obsessed with getting, charity is about giving. And in the end, that's what really counts.**

#### 14. Respect for Tradition: Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future

Tradition often gets a bad rap, especially in our fast-paced, ever-changing world. But in Masonry, respect for tradition is about honoring the wisdom of those who came before us, while still being open to progress and innovation. It's about understanding the roots of our values and practices and carrying them forward in a way that's relevant today. Tradition isn't about being stuck in the past; it's about taking the best of the past and bringing it into the present. It's about continuity, about understanding where we've come from to better navigate where we're going.

#### 15. Silence (Prudence): The Power of Knowing When to Speak & When to Listen

Silence is a lost art in a world that never stops talking. In the Masonic tradition, silence and prudence go hand in hand. It's about knowing when to speak and when to listen. We all know people who can prattle on and we often take steps to avoid them whenever we can. Silence is about being thoughtful with your words, understanding their impact, and choosing them wisely. Prudence isn't about being timid; it's about being smart, about making decisions that are not just right for the moment but right in the long run. Silence isn't just about keeping quiet; it's about finding the right moment to speak and, when you do, making sure your words matter.



So, there you have it...

Fifteen Masonic philosophies that, if taken to heart, can transform your life from the inside out. These principles aren't just relics of the past; they're timeless values that have as much relevance today as they did centuries ago when our predecessors carved them out. Whether you're looking to improve your relationships, make a difference in your community, or simply become a better Mason and a man, these philosophies can help.

The beauty of Masonry is that it's not about being perfect; it's about striving to be better, day by day, step by step.

Incorporating these Masonic philosophies into your daily life isn't about making grand gestures or massive changes all at once.

It's about small, consistent actions that, over time, lead to profound personal growth. It's about being mindful of how you interact with others, how you respond to challenges, and how you live out your values.

And remember, these principles aren't just for Masons.

They're for anyone who wants to live a life of purpose, integrity, and meaning.

So, take these philosophies, chew them over, and start embedding them into your daily routine.

You might just find that they're exactly what you've been looking for to take your Masonic life to the next level.

Modified for use in *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Ontario Masons**

# ***PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT PROJECT 2024 - 2025***

## ***SKILLED TRADE BURSARY***

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

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

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

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

Name: Skilled Trades Bursary

Project Number: 2469

Donations for EFT: < peterboroughdistrictproject@gmail.com >

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

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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



## ***FUN FACTS ABOUT JANUARY***

- ⇒ January is the first month of the year in both the Gregorian and Julian calendars.
- ⇒ In Scotland, “*first-footing*” is practiced on New Year’s Day, where the first person to enter a home brings gifts for luck.
- ⇒ Epiphany Tart is a traditional dessert for Epiphany on January 6.
- ⇒ January is the coldest of the 12 months.
- ⇒ The Anglo-Saxons called January “*Wulfmonath*” meaning “*wolf month*”.
- ⇒ The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks in early January each year.
- ⇒ Many animals, including bears and bats, hibernate during January in colder climates.
- ⇒ Puzzle Day is celebrated annually on January 29.







# ***SKILLED TRADE BURSARY - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED***

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

This provides great positive exposure to Freemasonry !!!

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

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

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



Electronic Email Money Transfer is strongly recommended.

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

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

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

Name: Skilled Trades Bursary

Project Number: 2469



Donations for EFT: <  
peterboroughdistrictproject@gmail.com >

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

Tax receipts will be provided at the end of the year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

W. Bro. William Prentice, District Project Chair

Cell: 705-875-5517

Email - williamprentice101@gmail.com

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



On Tuesday, 03 December 2024, Clementi Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 313 G.R.C. held its Installation and Investiture of Officers for the ensuing Masonic year.



**W. Bro. Leon Jongsma was Installed into the Chair of King Solomon by W. Bro. Kevin Ross and his Team.**



**Leon, Kevin and Bro. Michael Baird grew up in East City and spent a lot of time at the home of W. Bro. Chuck Ross.**

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

Then, on Friday, 06 December 2024, in the morning Peterborough District Masons had the privilege of assisting at Kawartha Food Share, where they helped sort the generous donations collected from recent food drives. Additionally, they were pleased to present a donation on behalf of the Peterborough Coffee Club.



That same evening, Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C. was honoured by the presence of the esteemed Scottish Rite 33rd Degree team, who Raised Bro. Andrew Kerr to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.



**On Saturday, 14 December, at the Campbellford Masonic Hall, Bro. Benton Fry was presented with his 50-year Masonic certificate and pin:**



**Left to right: Bro. George McCleary; Bro. Benton Fry; W. Bro. Matthew Davis, W. Master; W. Bro. Bob Phillips; R.W. Bro. Gary Ballard; W. Bro. John Smallwood; and Bro. Ken Tully.**

**Photo by: Bro. John Van Allen.**

**W. Bro. Allan Nelson and the new Officers of Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C. were Installed and Invested on Tuesday, 17 December.**



**Photo by: W. Bro. Leon Jongsma, W. Master, Clementi Lodge No. 313.**

Then, on Wednesday, 18 December, Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C. held its annual Christmas celebration:



Photos by Bro. David Underhill.

Arr. by emnsamsmom and LjMario007 **Christmas Time is Here** Vince Guaraldi Lee Mendelson

Slowly (♩ = 50)

A bit faster (♩ = 56)

Christ - mas time is here, hap - pi - ness and  
Snow - flakes in the air, car - ols ev - ry

cheer, where. For all times that chil - dren call their fa - v'rite time of  
and an - cient rhymes of love and dreams to

year. Sleigh beau - ty ev - 'ry -

where. Yule - tide by the fire - side and joy - ful mem - 'ries there.

# 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 !!!

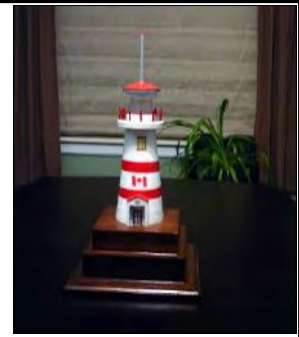
I will announce each month's statistics as they become available to me from each Lodge Secretary in the Peterborough District.

**NOTE:** It has been brought to my attention that, because of the difference in the numbers of Lodge Members in each of our seven Lodges, I should report the Visitors each month "*as a Percentage of each Lodge's Membership*". Please let me know your thoughts before I proceed to do so !!! Your feedback is most important to me !!!

Cheers, Bob McBride,  
 Creator of *The Lighthouse Trophy*.

## *The Lighthouse Trophy* results for 2024 - 2025:

	Sept 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	March 25	April 25	May 25	June 25	Total
Otonabee 101	2	26	14	3							
Golden Rule 126	2										
Village 145	2	19	3								
Peterborough 155	1	1									
Percy 161		4									
Clementi 313	17	16	7	2							
Havelock 435	1	2	2	1							



**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED**



# Ontario Masons

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

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

**Brethren, Sisters and Brothers:**

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

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

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



# **WING NIGHT**

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

**Time: 7:30 pm**

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

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**



Regular Meeting  
Second Wednesday of each month  
(except June, July & August)  
7:30 p.m.

Every month, the newly-formed Village Lodge No. 145 is including in their summons a piece of Masonic Education. Here is what is in the December issue:

## ***THE FELLOW CRAFT FREEMASON***

Masonic Education

Excerpt from: Bro. Bill Overy,  
Former Member of The Education Committee  
of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon.

**Congratulations, you are now a Fellowcraft Freemason.**

**This paper confines itself to the symbolism and allegorical understanding of the Fellow Craft Degree.**

**Among the allegories peculiar to it, the most striking and important one is that which symbolizes the approach to King Solomon's Temple: the two pillars, the winding stair and the Middle Chamber.**

**In this, you received important instructions and learned the wages of a Fellow Craft Freemason.**

**Symbolically, a Fellow Craft is a man in the prime of his life - experienced, strong, resourceful, able to bear, eager to learn, refined and participatory. It is he upon whom a family depends for support. He is the Atlas on whose shoulders rest the main burdens of business. By his skill and support, the arts and society are improved.**

**The entire allegory is a symbolic picture of the true and inner meaning of Masonic Initiation. The temple is the life into which we reach the middle chamber of our existence, which is removed from infancy and youth by the steps of knowledge and experience. There is a symbolism in the fact that the staircase winds. As we begin our ascent we cannot see the top, therefore we know neither its length nor the reward at the summit. Our goal is not in sight, but we do know that there is a goal and we begin our climb, one step at a time. We progress ever upward in our journey with faith and trust that we will, by our endeavours, reach our goal. The Middle Chamber has many meanings. Among others, it is a symbol of wisdom. By means of arduous labours and study, a man receives his wages of knowledge, experience and the balanced wisdom of life: his rewards for the ordeals he has endured on the way to his goal.**

**The Working Tools of a Fellow Craft are the square, the level and the plumb rule, which instruct us in our day-to-day living: righteousness in our dealings with our fellow men when tried by the square; equality when proved by the level; and uprightness when tried by the plumb.**

**The level instructs us in equality. Goodwill, charity, tolerance and truthfulness must be extended equally to all. The plumb rule instructs us to be upright in our actions: with our family, be respected and loved; with our friends, be a Freemason in action as well as in word; with our employers and employees, be honest and reliable.**



We join in fellowship easily because we have the same rights and privileges. Studious work has given to each of us a common knowledge of the work to be done. We are drawn to each other because we are filled with goodwill and a desire to assist one another, honour one another and practise that joy when called upon to do so by charity to a Brother. At the building of King Solomon's Temple an immense number of Fellow Craft, or hewers, were employed in the mountains and in the quarries .... It is expected that the Fellow Craft Freemason will equip himself for the journey ahead and the tasks that he will assume .... knowledge of grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy as explained in the lecture. These were not specific subjects to study, but were symbols signifying all that is meant by education.

You are able to visit all Lodges and be admitted to both an Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Lodge. Participate, and be a part of our grand fellowship. You will be welcomed as a visitor when you visit other Lodges, and they will extend to you the honour of being their guest. It is hoped you will reciprocate that welcome when visitors attend your Lodge. Work closely with your sponsors. Ask questions of them .....

## ***MORAL AND UPRIGHT MEN***

I joined the Masons because I was exposed to them while attending their community dinners and breakfasts in my village.



The Masonic Members that I met showed me that they were honest men with morals, that cared about doing what is right and helping others.

They explained to me what they stood for and I immediately knew that I would fit in with my Brothers and have found it to be one of the best decisions that I have made in my life.

There are no conspiracy theories that are true and it is a worthy organization for all men to join if they are moral and upright men.

By Bro. Paris Campbell, Chaumont Lodge No. 172,  
Grand Lodge of New York,  
F. & A.M.,  
Chaumont, New York.

Chaumont Lodge No. 172 was dedicated on Tuesday, November 25, 1930 and is approximately ninety-four years old.





Regular Meeting  
Second Wednesday of each month  
(except June, July & August)  
7:30 p.m.

Every month, the newly-formed Village Lodge No. 145 is including in their summons a piece of Masonic Education. Here is what is in the January issue:

## ***THE MASTER MASON***

By Bro. Bill Overy,  
Former Member of The Education Committee  
of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon.

So with your mind, moulded by virtue and science, it is then that nature presents you with one great and useful lesson more. She prepares you by contemplation for the closing hour of your existence. And by that contemplation, she conducts you through the intricate windings of this your mortal state and finally instructs you how to die. Such my Brother is the object of this, your Third Degree of Freemasonry.

It invites you to reflect upon this awful subject and teaches you to feel that, to the just and virtuous man, death has no terrors equal to the stain of falsehood and dis-honour.

### **The legend of Hiram Abiff**



The annals of Freemasonry afford us a glorious example in the unshaken fidelity and noble death of our Grand Master, Hiram Abiff. He was slain just before the completion of King Solomon's Temple. He was, as I have no doubt you are already aware, the principal architect. All Master Masons are familiar with the name of "*Hiram Abiff*". They are also aware of the legend associated with his name.

You were then told the manner of his death and you cannot fail to have been impressed by the tragedy of the presentation.

It is important that you understand it and appreciate its profound richness of meaning and it will remain with you as long as you live. This tragedy of Hiram is the climax

of the Master Mason Degree and, to understand its symbolism, is to understand Freemasonry.

Hiram was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali and came from the city of Tyre. He was an expert workman in stone and metals and was sent to King Solomon by the King of Tyre.

You must realize that the story, as well the whole of the Degree, is symbolic. Very little is taken from history as very little known. So, although the story never happened in history, it is a symbolic story of our Craft.

The whole of the Third Degree of Freemasonry that includes the story of Hiram Abiff is symbolic of what happens in the life of every man and Hiram Abiff represents the spirit of the human soul, of yours, of mine and every other man.

The work Hiram was doing in building the Temple is a symbol of the work you and I have been doing all of our life and includes the supervision, organization and direction of our lives from birth to eventual death.

The enemies that Hiram met are the symbols of those lusts and passions which are in your own breast and make war on your character all of your life.

His fate is the same fate that befalls every man who becomes victims to those enemies, to be interrupted by these enemies in one's work and to be made an outcast from the Masonic Mastership. Then, in the end, to be buried under all manner of rubbish which represents defeat, disgrace and misery and scorn.

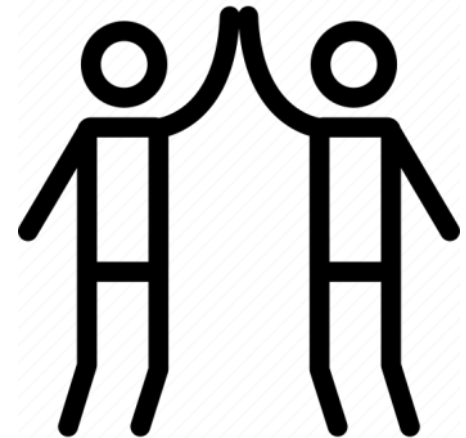
It then showed you the manner in which he was Raised from the dead level, to the living perpendicular again and it is the same manner by which any man can rise from self-defeat to self-mastery.

Working Tools of a MM: They are the Skirit, the Pencil and the Compasses.

## **KEY THEMES AND PRINCIPLES OF FREEMASONRY**

Throughout its history, Freemasonry has consistently emphasized the following principles:

- ◇ **Brotherhood and Fraternity:**  
Promoting unity and fellowship among its Members, regardless of race, religion, or social status.
- ◇ **Charity and Philanthropy:**  
Making significant contributions to various charitable causes and community service projects, including hospitals, scholarships, and disaster relief.
- ◇ **Moral and Ethical Development:**  
Encouraging Members to lead virtuous lives



through moral teachings and allegories presented in Masonic rituals. Freemasonry continues to be a global fraternity with millions of Members worldwide, balancing tradition with adaptation to contemporary society.

Source: [masonicfind.com/timeline-of-freemasonry](http://masonicfind.com/timeline-of-freemasonry)



*Pentalpha Chapter No. 28 Invites you to its*  
**2025 Installation of Officers**

*Tuesday January 7th, 2025 7:30 pm*

*Early banquet at 6:30 pm - \$30.00*

**Please RSVP to Ex. Comp. Marc Hubler - [hublermarc1@gmail.com](mailto:hublermarc1@gmail.com)  
please e-transfer for your meal to this email address as well**

**OSHAWA MASONIC TEMPLE**

**91 CENTRE STREET SOUTH  
OSHAWA, ON L1H 4A1**

**Note: There is limited street parking around the hall, but you will find lots of  
free parking behind the library and school across the street.**



**FIRST PRINCIPAL ELECT: EX. COMP. DEREK OSBORNE  
SECOND PRINCIPAL ELECT: EX. COMP. MARC HUBLER  
THIRD PRINCIPAL ELECT: COMP. DEAN PEEL**



**Happy New Year Companions:-**

**The date of the installation of Pentalpha's new Officers, January 07,  
is rapidly approaching. The cut-off date for reserving a meal at the early banquet  
is even closer, December 31. Please inform our 3rd Principal if you are planning  
to attend the banquet. [hublermarc1@gmail.com](mailto:hublermarc1@gmail.com)**

**The \$30 cost of the banquet can be prepaid by e-transfer**

**to < [se028@royalarchmasons.on.ca](mailto:se028@royalarchmasons.on.ca) >**

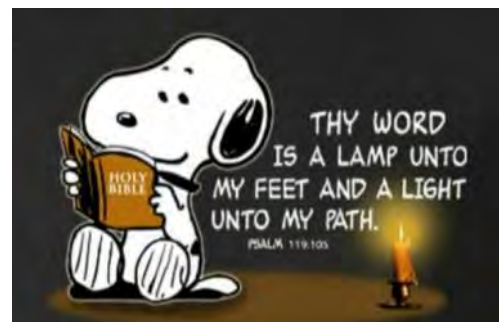
**Fraternally,  
R.Ex. Comp. Brian James  
Scribe E**



You are hereby cordially invited  
to the  
**Peterborough District Divine Service**  
at  
**St. John The Baptist Anglican Church,**  
81 Queen Street  
Lakefield, Ontario. K0L 2H0  
**Sunday, January 19, 2025**



The village of Lakefield opened its first Anglican church on Christmas Day, 1854. The small stone building, centrally located on the main thoroughfare of Queen Street, was named Christ Church and is the precursor to our modern-day congregation at St. John the Baptist. It wasn't long before Christ Church outgrew its tiny stone chapel. Just ten years after it first opened, the decision was made to relocate to a new building. In 1866, the growing congregation began worshipping at their new home, St. John the Baptist, under the guidance of its first priest, The Rev. Vincent Clementi.



**Clementi Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 313 G.R.C.**  
is named in honour of The Rev. Vincent Clementi.

**All are welcome, spouses, children, grandchildren.**

**A luncheon will follow  
provided by the ladies  
of the church.**

**Service starts at 10:00 a.m.**

**Arrive at 9:30 to put on regalia  
and take a seat in the church.**





## 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025,  
Social Time with 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 Ian McKenzie (905) 983-9542.  
marksmith106@gmail.com -- iandmck@hotmail.com

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



# North Entrance Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> Annual



## Masonic Curling Bonspiel @ Wilberforce Curling Club Saturday March 8 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Draw starts at 9 am

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

**\$160 per team – pre-registration required**

Limited spaces available

Please register at: [nelbonspiel@victoriadistrict.com](mailto:nelbonspiel@victoriadistrict.com)

Payment may be made by etransfer to [nelsecretary@victoriadistrict.com](mailto:nelsecretary@victoriadistrict.com).



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

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

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

**Please contact**

**Peterborough District  
Masonic Association Chairman**

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



\*\*\*\*\*

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

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



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





## Scottish Rite Valley of Peterborough



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



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

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

The [www.scottishritecanada.ca](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.

# Coffee Club

## MORNING COFFEE CLUB

Downstairs Wednesday mornings

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

at the Peterborough Masonic Temple  
on Rubidge Street, Peterborough.

**Come on out !!!**

**Bring your non-Masonic friends and relatives.**

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

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

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



Founders: Steve Hedgcock,  
Mike Gallimore, Roger Morton



**You deserve good things.**



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

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



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





**Quatuor Coronati**  
Lodge No. 2076

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

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

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

**Correspondence Circle members enjoy the following benefits:**

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

For other elements of Masonic advantage, please consult [www.quatuorcoronati.com](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 & Fraternaly,

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

Tel: (905) 707-6886

Fax: (905) 707-6884

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



Quatuor Coronati  
Lodge No. 2076



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

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

And they have access to research support and online reference material at [quatuorcoronati.com](http://quatuorcoronati.com)

WOW  
I DIDN'T KNOW

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



WHAT MADE  
ME SMILE  
TODAY



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

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

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

# CRASH

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of ROGET'S THESAURUS crashed yesterday losing its entire load.



Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, perplexed, fazed, disconcerted, perturbed, disturbed and breath-taken.





# 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)



 Canadian Blood Services  
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.



### Donate Today!

It's in you to GIVE



## 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.



Here is a short story about blood type:

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

*"Well, he needed a blood transfusion, but his blood type was not on record, so the doctors asked me if I knew what it was, as they urgently needed to know,*



David Poluck, owner of Luray Gems / Northern Jewellery, is a supplier, manufacturer and restorer of Masonic merchandise, regalia and memorabilia. Having corresponded with Dave, from Luray Northern Gems in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, for a number of years, here is his latest announcement to you about his custom-designed Masonic jewellery.



**Custom Designed  
Masonic Rings &  
Accessories  
Made easy with 3D CAD**



357 Northern Ave. East Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

**705-253-2645**

*www.luraygems.com Email northern.luray@yahoo.com*

*"I know that you will enjoy talking with Dave if you're interested in ordering some of these Masonic jewellery items."* Bob McBride

Looking for high-quality custom Masonic jewellery that combines precision, dependability, and timeless tradition?

Look no further than Luraygems.com!

With over 38 years of experience in creating stunning pieces, trust us to bring your vision to life with ease and affordability.

Elevate your Masonic style with jewellery that not only looks great but also stands the test of time



- choose Luraygems.com  
for all your custom jewellery needs!

**CONTACT US TODAY !!!**



With our Grand Lodge for 2024 - 2025, here is the



## Grand Master's Communiqué

December 2024

Brethren,

It is finally December, which marks the end of the calendar year, and while we are heading into the winter months, this season that we are approaching allows us time to read and learn more about Freemasonry. It affords us more time to read and reread the *Ontario Masons Magazine* and any other publication that we find interesting. Although I am not wishing for snow, hopefully the weather conditions imitate more of a summer feel these next few months. That being said, we will probably get a few centimeters of precipitation that we will have to shovel through.

My apologies for not promoting last month that our Members should be attending a Remembrance Day Memorial Service in their community, but I want to now thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to go to the local cenotaphs to show their support to the fallen Armed Forces Personnel. We need to take a moment to remember and reflect upon the past and to realize how lucky we are that the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today, are ours to hold on to. We also need to thank the Armed Forces men and women who are still working hard today to protect us, for their service to our country is still needed and highly valued.

The chance to remember the past and present world conflicts is a must in order for us to want to do better as a civilization. I also want to thank our Members for wearing their Masonic regalia in the community Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Proudly wearing the Masonic aprons in the public forum is a great feeling and an opportunity for the community to ask questions and gather information about Freemasonry. Being able to remember and respect the Masons that have passed while protecting our country is an amazing feeling that we have the opportunity to open our hearts to. Well done Brethren ! Lest we forget.



As Lodges in part of our Jurisdiction hold their Elections and Installations during this time of year, it's an exciting time for the newly Installed Worshipful Masters and Lodge Officers. It's a time for hope and dreams to be implemented in order to move the Lodge Members forward into the next Masonic year. One thing that bothers me is Members who are forced to skip a chair, and I am not a fan of skipping Officer Chairs. I still promote that every Member should experience every office.

When you finally achieve the Chair of King Solomon, then and only then do the pieces of the Ritual come together. In my own experience, when I finally got to the senior Officers Chairs in the Lodge, I felt that the Ritual finally made sense. I felt that the lectures came together to tell the story and that's when it was apparent that I was so thankful that I didn't skip over any chair/office. A Lodge always has a choice to have Members NOT skip chairs. They can always put a Past Master in an office as a place holder, or they can do some other solution. The end result is to NOT skip an officer chair.

Since this is the December Communique, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families and loved ones a very Merry Christmas. It is this time of year that we gather with our family, we share in a few Christmas feasts and we exchange presents with our kids, relatives, family, loved ones and maybe even colleagues. We should also remember the widows who are a part of our Masonic families, as these women were supporters of the Lodges for many years. Now that they are widows, I believe that we still need to show them that we value them, maybe they could be invited to a Christmas dinner or the Lodge could have a Poinsettia given to them. In some way, shape or form, the widows can be included and remembered for the loyalty that they had for the Lodge and for the support that they devoted to a past Lodge Member. It's the right thing to do at this time of year.

Also, at this time of year especially, please remember to be on your best behaviour. Do not drink and drive for any reason. Call a taxi or Uber if you need it. Remember that life can change in the blink of an eye. Not only your life can be affected but an innocent family can be dragged into your questionable decision-making.

In conclusion, as always my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look to this Masonic year with hope and determination and let us all inspire someone to do better !!! Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun isn't there ..... let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren, safe travels and God Bless.

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





## Grand Master's Visitations

- Jan. 1, 2025, Happy New Year to all !!
- Jan. 3 - 5, 2025, DDGM Midterm Meeting, Whitby
- Jan. 15, 2025, Ionic Lodge No.328
- Jan. 21, 2025, St. Andrew's No.16 and St. George's No.367 Amalgamation
- Jan. 25, 2025, Templum Fidelis Lodge No.746
- Jan, 31, 2025, Grenville Lodge No.629, Silver to Gold Anniversary
- Feb. 8, 2025, Joint Grand Lodge of Ontario and Michigan Lodge Meeting, Detroit, MI
- Feb. 15 – 19, 2025, North American Grand Master's Meeting
- Feb. 22, 2025, Heritage Lodge Black Tie Dinner

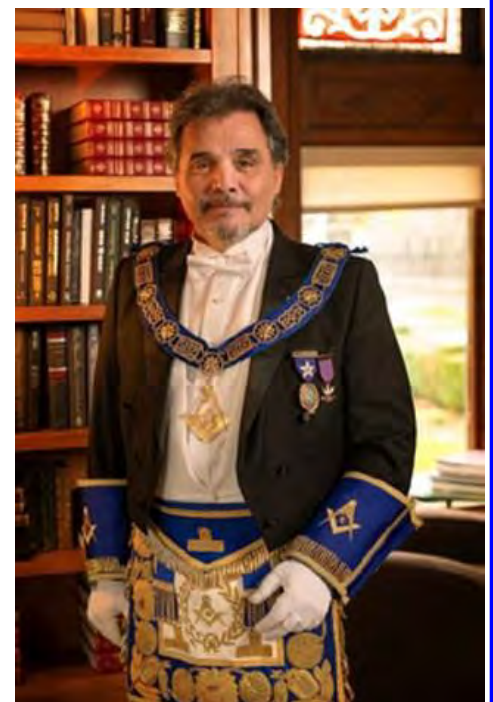
## Deputy Grand Master's Communiqué

Greeting Brethren,

In this edition, let's take a comprehensive look at the development of our ongoing branding initiative. Our Grand Lodge recognizes the importance of a brand identity and how it can directly establish the sense of value and strength of an organization. During our previous administration, our Community Outreach Pillar was mandated with the task of establishing a firm brand identity regulated by proper branding standards.

Our initial focus was on the "*Path Forward*" marketing initiative introduced by the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. Its research and survey findings showed that the values and tenets of our Craft resonate strongly with men of today's society, and that the foundation of our Craft is as strong as it has been at any time in our history. These findings led the Northern Jurisdiction to introduce their "*Not Just a Man, a Mason*" campaign.

In support of this initiative, our Grand Lodge has subscribed to this campaign. An important feature of the "*Not Just a Man, a Mason*" initiative is the website "*BeaFreemason.org*". It was launched by the combined efforts of The Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction, The Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction, and Shriners International. This interactive website is open to all Grand Lodges of North America and its' purpose allows for any local interest in our Craft to be directed to the appropriate jurisdiction. Our subscription to "*BeaFreemason.org*" has given our own jurisdiction a further venue for potential interest to be directed our way.



With Freemasonry now at a time where a comprehensive united front, both optically as well as internally, is essential to a successful path forward. The “*Not Just A Man, a Mason*” campaign serves to benefit us towards a collective commitment to the universality of Freemasonry, as well as to the global unity of the Craft.

Moving forward, we noticed that several jurisdictions in North America have begun to adopt this “*Not Just A Man, a Mason*” campaign as an overall backdrop. This initiative has served the individual jurisdiction as a means towards a path of refresh and renewal, with a specific focus on their own path to a distinctive and definitive Brand Identity.

By taking part in this fresh, new initiative, it set us on our own course of self analysis and rediscovery. It gave us an opportunity to look within our own jurisdiction, and it posed the question; to what extent does the “*Not Just A Man, a Mason*” campaign speak to our own identity and to who we are. In addition, when potential interest is directed to our jurisdiction, how are we, as an organization, ready to receive it? What is the initial sentiment generated from our own brand identity? Is a potential Candidate compelled to inquire further and subsequently, are we poised to ensure that a new recruit’s expectations match his actual experiences.

In their re-branding approach, the United Grand Lodge of England outlined that “*the modernisation of Freemasonry is not just about what happens at a Lodge meeting, it is also about the image we project. We need a visual identity that is recognizable, that represents our values and heritage, which also reflects our relevance to society.*”

Our directive and focus was to develop and establish, through a branding lens, a firm brand identity that would be considered both contemporary and instantly recognizable, yet unmistakably linked to our own rich heritage. A common banner with an emotional connection which the Brethren would rally and stand behind with pride, a fresh, uniform visual identity, distinguished by a strongly recognized symbol and wordmark, and highly identifiable with the Freemasons of our Jurisdiction.

Our reviews pointed to the common usage of the Square and Compass within the Maple Leaf. This iconic design with the Square and Compass within the Maple Leaf is highly recognized, and notably, widely circulated within our Jurisdiction in its various forms and applications. This would include the Maple Leaf pin as identified in section 384(c) (2024) of our Constitution.

This approach ultimately led to the approved lay out for our new Brand Identity which includes the Maple Leaf with the adapted Square and Compasses within the Maple Leaf as our new brand symbol, with the words/title “*Ontario Masons*” as our new brand wordmark to its immediate right.



**Ontario Masons**

To support and standardize our brand identity, our Brand Standards Manual which outlines the visual guidelines to assist the Brethren of our jurisdiction to communicate in a professional and consistent manner.

The intent is to establish a standardized look and appeal, which would at the same time illustrate the strength and uniformity of our organization. The Brand Standards Manual includes and outlines the following assets and their usage: The Standard Logo 3.1, The Ontario Masons Brand: Symbol and Wordmark 3.2, Colours, Typography, Cards and Stationery.

The initial steps for the roll-out of the brand standards began in August 2021 and will apply to any new documentation going forward including new Grand Lodge documents, circulations, presentations, letterheads, business cards, etc. These elements are currently available for download from the Grand Lodge website.

Please forward any inquiries to:  
[branding@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto:branding@grandlodge.on.ca).

Our Public Awareness Committee is ready to assist with any inquiry regarding our branding standards as well as any initiative that will positively enhance our presence and visibility within our Communities.

A special note of acknowledgment to the Brethren of Mercer Wilson Lodge No. 678 and Oxford Lodge No. 76 of Wilson District for their most current public awareness initiative. Their efforts have established a positive presence within the Woodstock community with the approved placement of an Ontario Masons “*Not Just A Man, a Mason*” banner on a Woodstock city bus. Additionally, our Community Outreach Pillar is currently working on the expansion of our on-line store which will be available soon through our Grand Lodge website.

Brethren, as the Holiday Season is now upon, I take this opportunity to wish all of you, your family and friends the very best of the Holiday season. Let us all take the time to share in the spirit of the season with all those near and dear to us in peace, harmony and goodwill.

With my best fraternal regards,

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

## Grand Chaplain's Communiqué

December is a month of contrasts. The shortest and darkest day of the year is soon upon us. Yet, the very next day, days once again, grudgingly, get longer. The night ever so slowly gives way to more daylight.

The promise made to Noah still stands. The GAOTU is true to His word. Season will follow season.



The ninth plague in Egypt was to be of such incredible darkness that it could be felt. Exodus 10:21 Moses is told the extent of the darkness.

But even a weak light illumines. But something must be done to chase away darkness.

When my dad started working in underground mining, his cap lamp was an open flame carbide lamp. This was several years before battery lamps. The flame was not very bright and often would blow out due to a gust of wind.

But the light, as even as weak as it was, showed him where he was and enabled him to work. Perhaps even more important, the light led him away from potential danger and toward safety at the end of each day's work.

Much of what happens to us is well beyond our control. But we choose how to respond. Do we look for and then become one of the helpers?

I remember singing, "*This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.*" Those words ring true today. A Freemason shines in the darkness of despair by deeds of kindness. Actions of integrity shine light on the proper way of acting as men. Words of compassion are meant to encourage. Sometimes, a word of correction is required to help a Brother get back on the proper way.

Darkness will not have the final word. The pavement reminds us of the uncertainty of life. The star gleaming the centre reminds us of the Providential care of the GAOTU. On Whom we may depend.

Regards,

R.W. Bro. David Spencer

Grand Chaplain

< david.spencer54@yahoo.com >

## Grand Secretary's Communiqué

Brethren,

The postal strike is impacting many of us personally and professionally. Here are four areas that impact us in Masonry.

**Postal Strike – Business that cannot be performed**

Section 269 of the Constitution confirms regular meetings can be held during an interruption of postal services, however no business shall be transacted if a summons is not delivered to all Members including:

- Vote to surrender warrant – 179 (b) (ii) and 179 (c) (iii)
- Honourary membership – 187 (a)
- Demit with dues owing – 194
- Restoration – 197, 198 and 203
- Remit dues – 200 (b) and 200 (c)
- Remove Officers – 231
- Elect vacant office – 234 (b)
- Elect if Master-elect not confirmed – 253
- Elect if Examining Board not favorable for Master-elect – 255



- Hold emergent meeting – 272
- Amend by-laws – 305 (b) and 305 (d)
- Applications – 319 and 362
- Balloting – 323 (a) and 323 (b)

Above business is permitted if hand deliver or courier summonses to Members that do not receive the summons by email. All Members must receive the summons.

#### Postal Strike – Sending Lodge Summons Electronically to Grand Lodge

Per the Grand Lodge Policy dated March 23, 2023 – Lodges are permitted to send each summons electronically to the Grand Lodge Office in accordance with the following:

- Summons must be a single attachment emailed to [summons@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto:summons@grandlodge.on.ca)
- Attachment must be in PDF format or Microsoft Word format only
- File size must NOT exceed 1 MB (one Megabyte)
- Filename must be Lodge number, 'summons', year, dash, month (no spaces) (e.g. "123summons2023-01. pdf" for the January 2023 summons of Lodge No. 123)
- If a revised summons, filename shall end in v2 (e.g. "123summons2023-01v2.pdf")
- If an emergent meeting, filename shall end in e (e.g. "123summons2023-01e.pdf")

Content shall be identical to that sent to all Members.

#### Postal Strike – eTransfer Lodge Dues

Lodge dues are payable in advance (see Section 199 of the Constitution). Lodges may offer the option of allowing Members to pay Lodge dues via eTransfer, however payments must be appropriately recorded in the books of the Secretary and Treasurer. Please note that Lodges offering an eTransfer option must also accept the usual methods of payment including but not limited to cash and cheque.

If paying by the usual methods of cash or cheque, the Secretary collects all moneys and pays them to the Treasurer.

Recommended process for accepting eTransfer payments for Lodge dues:

- Secretary sets up an email address for Members to send eTransfers to
- Secretary, with assistance from the Treasurer, sets up eTransfer auto-deposit into the Lodge bank account
- Secretary forwards each eTransfer notice to Treasurer
- Members should be instructed to include their name in the eTransfer note

In all cases, each payment must be recorded separately and individually in the Secretary's record book and in the Treasurer's record book.

## Michigan and Ontario – Joint Meeting

Plans continue to progress for the joint meeting of the Grand Lodge of Michigan and our Grand Lodge on Saturday February 8, 2025 at the Detroit Masonic Temple. Tentative plans include tours of the building at 10:00 a.m., the Grand Lodge of Michigan performing an exemplification of the Michigan EA Degree at 1:00 p.m., and our Grand Lodge performing an exemplification of the Ontario FC Degree at 3:00 p.m. Please save the date. Further details to follow.

Thank you, Brethren.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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

## ***THE ROLE OF CHARITY IN FREEMASONRY***

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that has been around for centuries and is known for its charitable works. The organization has a long history of providing aid to those in need and promoting the betterment of society. Through their charity, Freemasonry is able to help those in need, while also teaching the importance of charity and helping to build stronger communities.

Freemasons are often seen as philanthropists, donating time and money to help those in need. They do so through various forms of charity, such as donating food or clothing, offering educational grants and scholarships, and providing medical care. Additionally, they promote service projects that involve building homes or infrastructure for those who are less fortunate.

The core values of Freemasonry are based on morality, brotherhood, friendship, charity, truthfulness and loyalty. These values are reflected in the charitable works they undertake. Freemasons believe that it is their duty to use their collective resources to make positive changes in the world. This includes helping individuals who may be struggling with poverty or health issues as well as contributing to local charities and organizations that support worthy causes.

The act of giving back has long been an important part of Freemasonry culture. By showing compassion for others in need, they demonstrate their commitment to principles such as brotherly love and respect for humanity which lie at the heart of Freemasonry philosophy. Through acts of charity, they also seek to strengthen bonds within their own organizations by reinforcing the idea that everyone can contribute something meaningful towards making the world a better place.

Freemasons also believe that each individual should strive to become a better version of themselves by improving their knowledge and skillset through education and self-improvement activities like volunteering or even taking part in charitable events like blood drives or fundraising campaigns. This helps to foster a sense of community among Members while also serving as an example for others who may not have access to such resources.





## 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.



# Ontario Masons

**Management  
is doing things right:**

**Leadership  
is doing the right things!**

**Peter F. Drucke**



Also included in the December 2024 issue of *The Ontario Mason Magazine* was an article by V.W. Bro. Greg McKinnon Grand Archivist:

## From the Grand Archives

This month's submission consists of two letters making arrangements for a Lodge Life Membership for Brother Walter A. Howell.

It seems that Brother Howell's wife intended to obtain this membership for her husband as a Christmas gift in 1920.

In the first letter, John Ross Robertson No. 545 Secretary, A.C. Scott, is explaining to Mrs. Howell where the Lodge is at in the process of securing this gift. She had sent a cheque for \$112 to cover the \$100 cost of the Life Membership, per the Lodge by-laws, and a \$12 commutation fee, per the Grand Lodge Constitution.

The second letter is also from the secretary of John Ross Robertson No. 545 to the Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Logan, asking for Grand Lodge commutation regarding the administrative change in payment of dues for the Brother. The Secretary also requests a certificate to this effect, and asks that the information in the Grand Lodge records be changed to reflect the Life Membership.

It's interesting to note that \$112 was likely a significant investment for a gift in 1920. The value of \$112 in 1920 equates to approximately \$1,568.97 in today's currency according to the Bank of Canada's inflation calculator.

The letter states that the engraver has been contacted and that the membership will be ready for Christmas for her to present to her husband. Incidentally, Bro. Howell was a Charter Member and this gift made him the first "paid up" Life Member of the Lodge.

Often Lodge Life Memberships were constructed of metal with the Brother's membership details engraved on the surface. This would have been presented in a leather case. It was a symbolic gesture as well as a practical one: in this situation, the membership credential would be required to last, often many years.

Secretary Scott closed his communication to the Grand Secretary in this charming way: *"Will you be good enough to forward me the certificate at your earliest convenience, so that I can forward it in company with the one given by the Lodge, before Christmas, thus assisting her in her very laudable undertaking."*





As well, the December 2024 issue of *The Ontario Mason* magazine included this announcement:

## ***THE WHOLE IS GREATER LECTURE***

presented at the official visit  
of R.W. Bro. Dave Humphrey, London West D.D.G.M.,  
to St. George's No. 42 on October 3, 2024.

***“A person who only thinks about building walls, wherever they may be – and not building bridges – is not Christian. This is not the Gospel.” - Pope Francis***

The theme for this year will be ***“The Whole is Greater”*** and I begin tonight with the aforementioned quote as a basis for my talk tonight. We can all agree that the words of Pope Francis apply to men of all faiths, not just Christians. Every Volume of the Sacred Law, regardless of which faith it belongs to, exhorts us to build bridges, cross divides and work in harmony with one another to contribute our fair share and, through that contribution, exponentially grow the collective. This is the most important Masonic lesson of them all, and our *raison d'être*.

**My Brethren, when we are taken through our ceremony of Initiation and given the charge to complete the ceremony, we are reminded of what it means to be a citizen of the world, a loyal subject, a man of peace and love, and the expected quality of conduct we are to achieve on a daily basis.**

**In short, we are admonished to obey the laws created by both man and the Great Architect, to be faithful to our spouses and families, to be respectful, honest, humble, compassionate, and courteous to everyone we encounter so that all can say that Masons are upstanding citizens, role models for others to emulate, and leaders within our communities.**

**We seek men of action, of character and of quality, who embody those distinguishing traits or are able to do so more often than not. Through the world's oldest and most successful self-improvement program, as our gentle Craft has been referred to by many, we transform from being good men to becoming men of esteem and eminence.**

**The key to this is the ability to recognize a man's qualities before we admit them within our hallowed walls.**

**There are, unfortunately, times when we do not guard the West Gate properly and admit men of less substance and quality than we should. These are men who seek power and affluence, or rank and influence over others, or perhaps financial or personal gains. As our Grand Master has stated time and time again, we must resist the urge of doing things expediently by admitting men unworthy of the world's highest honour: the title of Brother within our fragile Fraternity. Seek character over coffers; desire quality over quantity; demand excellence over expediency.**

**Look for those who desire to contribute to the whole and make lasting bonds with others. Look for those who are quietly charitable; who demand perfection of themselves, and when not obtained, still achieve excellence; who remain respectful to others even when respect is not returned; who seek a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them; who do not desire power, prestige, rank, affluence, or monetary gains; and who work daily to tear down walls built by others.**

**My Brethren, be the inspiration for those who seek further light through our time-honoured Fraternity and demonstrate to the world at large that the title of Brother is your most highly prized reward received through your labours in our Craft.**

***"Be that shiny penny"*, as our Grand Master says, to those who seek solace, comfort, encouragement and light on a cloudy or petulant day.**

**Serve with distinction and humility, endeavour to be happy and communicate happiness to all within your sphere and protect our hallowed temples from those who wish to use them for personal gain.**

**In short, challenge yourself whenever and wherever you can to be the Mason you aspire to become. You are the example of what Freemasonry is to others, and I am next to enjoy you in striving to be all that is good and great in this life.**



Finally, let us all come together and contribute equally to the moral and spiritual fabric of our time-honoured institution and the whole of our united efforts will be greater than our individual contributions.

I do hope you will be next to enjoin me on this quest for a greater Fraternity and a greater society of men.

R.W. Bro. Dave Humphrey

Also included in the December 2024 issue of *The Ontario Mason* magazine was this article:

## ***SEVEN VIRTUES***

by R.W. Bro. Thomas A. Wills P.D.D.G.M., Niagara 'A' District

There are seven virtues that offset deadly sins.

These virtues (according to different interpretations) are humility, charity, chastity, gratitude, temperance, patience, and diligence.

I find it necessary to revisit this list from time to time.

After all, I am only human and often caught up in worrisome anxieties of daily life, or the temptations of ingratitude, ego, laziness, or impatience. I don't realize until I have a moment of clarity that I have even slipped into one or more of those faults.

Sometimes it is a self-realization, but usually it's pointed out by others that I have not been as charitable or understanding as I should be.

I find, however, that we can't tackle all these virtues simultaneously to assist in overcoming our faults. Recalling the various Degree lessons of our honourable and ancient society, for me there are certain moments in the ritual that stand out. I prioritize a couple of items on the virtue list I need to focus on, and I strive to improve myself.

As we resume our Masonic activities, the virtues I must work on are patience and diligence, and a big share of gratitude.

We closed my Mother Lodge in November 2021 after one hundred and ten years of surviving the changes in society, world wars and the Great Depression. We had our difficulties, but the last few years saw the Membership numbers fall and the Brethren slipping away. COVID hastened the decision we all knew we had to make one day to close our Lodge. It was my Masonic home; I truly miss those meetings with my friends in our small-town Lodge and feel that those times will never come back.

But I need to remember to be patient. No one knows what the future will hold. We carry our friendships forever, sometimes they may just be in our hearts. With time, new Lodge Membership, renewing old friendships and making new memories will reinvigorate my Masonic life. It won't happen overnight; it's going to take challenging work to find normality in Lodge again. We may need to develop new ways of doing things and making it better than before. Now is the time and opportunity to gain experience.

Patience and understanding of the realities of the situation will pay dividends. I must remember to be diligent.

Following the shut down caused by the COVID pandemic, many things in our lives were put on hold, some things changed, and some have ceased to be. I am worried that we will not be able to confer the Degrees that we conferred pre-pandemic.

The perceived amount of rebuilding and finding Members to take on all the parts is overwhelming, and it make me anxious.

I remember father giving me some of his sage advice one day at the old family garage many years ago; *“do one thing at a time, get that done and move on to the next thing – no one can do two things at once.”* We are all here to help each other, so be diligent and complete one task at a time. Know you aren't the only one working towards the same end and you aren't alone. Ask for help.

Most of all, I need to remember to be grateful, and make it known to others. Gratitude is a wonderful thing, and it is contagious. We have so many things to be grateful for; our family, friends, work and of course – Freemasonry.

Masonry has given me the opportunity to meet wonderful people that I would never have had the good fortune to meet. I have made so many friends and acquaintances everywhere.

Gratitude is the most easily practised virtue. Count your blessings and think of your Brothers. It makes me instantly grateful when I do.

As I mentioned at the beginning, there are several interpretations of the seven virtues. Aristotle also had a list: Trust, Compassion, Courage, Justice, Wisdom, Temperance, and Hope.

Those words are familiar, aren't they? We see them time after time in our ritual. So, when I think I'm getting my original list on track, I have more work to do.

*“Masonry is a continual struggle towards the light.”*

Rome wasn't built in a day. Planning for the future of our Lodge has been an ongoing task and this is an opportunity and perhaps a necessity to implement those new plans. Remember, there is no hurry. Let's do what we can and enjoy it. Let's make new memories and friendships as we resume our labours. Remember to enjoy the time together along the way. I will be grateful if together we can accomplish that.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Tom

As well as this article:

## ***THE INITIATE***

*“Do you seriously declare upon your honour, that unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself as a Candidate for the mysteries of Masonry?”*

To emphasize the importance of the question and to reflect his intention of seeking out membership, the Candidate will be asked this, five more times throughout the course of his admission.

Before accepting him as a Member, the Lodge must satisfy itself that it is really *“of his own free will and accord”* that he is seeking the privilege of becoming a Mason.

The conditions that Freemasonry requires of him are of such a serious nature that, under no circumstances, should he undertake the promises that he will make without a serious intention to perform them. He vows, among other things, to be a *“good man and true,”* to live a moral and upright life, to treat others as equals, and to practise brotherhood on a daily basis. At the end of the Initiation ceremony he is reminded of that from this point onward.

By the exercise of Brotherly Love [you are] to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and are inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other.

The word *“initiate”* comes from the Latin word *“inire”*, which means *“to enter in”*. The word induct comes from another Latin word, meaning, *“to carry”*. The difference is significant. To be *“inducted”* is a passive concept, for someone *“inducted”* into an organization is carried into it by others who are already members. But initiation involves the active concept of walking across the threshold by one’s own volition.

**IF A MAN TRULY UNDERSTANDS THE ART OF THE CRAFT, HIS INITIATION WILL TRANSFORM HIM SO THAT HE BECOMES A BETTER MAN.**

No one passively becomes a Mason. He must enter a Lodge on his own and be received as such. He must knock on the door of Freemasonry himself. While still beyond the door, he is asked once again if he freely and voluntarily seeks to become a Mason.

His future advancement in the fraternity will depend upon the correct answer.

The concept of initiation also has within it the concept of transformation. Initiation into Freemasonry is intended to be a transformative experience. All the symbols and allegories in Freemasonry that a Candidate will discover on his journey are intended to press that idea home.

If a man comes through the doors of Freemasonry with no intention of changing his life, then his admission is no more than a mere induction, so common in other organizations. But if he truly understands the art of the craft, his Initiation will transform him so that he becomes a better man. At the end of the evening, we will remind him that his Initiation, if properly understood, will change his life. We will tell him, for example, that he is to treat his neighbour differently than many in the outside world treat theirs.

*“... by acting with [your neighbour] upon the Square, by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require; by relieving his distresses and soothing his afflictions, and by doing to him as, in similar cases, you would that he should do unto you.”*

Freemasonry is an initiatic fraternity.

Becoming a Mason is not being “*inducted*” into a fraternal order or club. At the end of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Lodge confirms this by telling the new Mason: “*My Brother: having passed through the ceremonies of your initiation, allow me to congratulate you on your admission into our ancient and honourable Fraternity.*

*Ancient, as having existed from time immemorial, and honourable, as tending to make all men so who are strictly obedient to its precepts.”*

Becoming a Mason is a far greater commitment, with a far greater consequence, to his spirit and his life.

CaliforniaMasons.org

Take care, stay safe, and always be kind.

Ted.

## ***MASONIC QUOTES ON CHARITY***

Masonic Quotes on Charity have been a source of inspiration and reflection for Masons over the centuries. It is amazing to see how much these quotes have stood the test of time, with many of them still being relevant today. Charity is an essential part of Freemasonry, and it is important to keep in mind what these quotes say about it.

The key message in these quotes is that charity should be done out of love for one another, not out of any sense of obligation or duty.

This means that when you give, you should give freely and without hesitation. Giving should also be done in a spirit of joy and thankfulness, not just for yourself but also for those who are receiving your charity.

Masonic Quotes on Charity also encourage us to practise charity beyond our own communities. We must remember that we are part of a larger world community and that we have an obligation to help those less fortunate around the world as well as in our own backyards. By practising charity on a global level, we can make a real difference in the lives of others.

Therefore, Masonic Quotes on Charity remind us that charity starts at home. We must strive to put into practice the teachings found within the Masonic Lodge in order to better ourselves and our communities as well as those around us.

By doing so, we can bring more light and love into our lives and create a better world for all those who live within it.

By reflecting on these quotes, Masons can gain insight into how they can become better people by practising charitable works both within their own communities and across the globe.

They can also gain perspective on how their charitable works can help others and make a real difference in the lives of those they serve – no matter how small or insignificant it may seem at first glance.

In this way, Masons can show their commitment to making this world a better place by practising true charity from their hearts !!!



Source: [esotericfreemasons.com/masonic-handshake/masonic-quotes-on-charity](https://esotericfreemasons.com/masonic-handshake/masonic-quotes-on-charity)

Looking at the Grand Lodge's Library, Museum and Archives,  
I saw this item that you may enjoy reading about:



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

### Masonic Documents

Original letters, documents, minute books, letters, and reports,  
all document the growth of Freemasonry in Ontario.

#### 1822 Warrant for Norfolk Masonic Lodge No.10

The warrant for Norfolk No.10 was signed in the lower right corner  
by James Fitz Gibbon, in his capacity as Deputy Provincial Grand Master  
of Upper Canada. Brother Fitz Gibbon was a British Officer and veteran  
of the War of 1812. He commanded a unit called Fitz Gibbon's Green Rangers  
in 1813 at the Beaver Dams, and was the Officer whom Laura Secord  
made her famous trek to warn of an American surprise attack.



Stumbling on the above document reminded me about my third great grandfather, Captain John DeCou, whose home in the War of 1812 was the site of the headquarters of Lieutenant James Fitz Gibbon (16 November 1780 – 10 December 1863, age 83). Here's some of what I have recorded in my family historical research, that may be of interest to you:

On 12 June 1813, Lieutenant James Fitz Gibbon, of the 49th regiment obtained permission from General Vincent to organize a troop of mounted volunteers, the "*Green Tigers*" [ i ] to do scout and patrol duty in front of the British position.

In three days the troop, 46 men, was completed and outfitted and on the 16th they advanced and took up headquarters at DeCou's Georgian-style stone house.



***“FitzGibbon had chosen DeCou’s house as his headquarters, a choice which evinced an intimate knowledge of the locality as well as considerable strategic ability. The position gave him the command of four roads – to Queenston via St. David’s to St. Catharines and the lake, to Colonel Bishopp’s station, and to that most important post, Burlington Heights.” [ ii ]***

***“Immediately they entered upon a career of the most daring, picturesque and useful character. They struck the foe at many and widely-distant points, routed his patrols, ambushed his wagon-trains, seized his spies, raided his depots and so circumscribed the area within which small bodies of his troops***

***could operate ...” [ iii ]***

***“Complaints being made by the authorities at Washington of the sluggishness of the generals in command, orders were issued at headquarters that, at all hazard, an effort must be made to dislodge or capture this irrepressible soldier, batter down DeCou’s house, and, by securing the road to Burlington Heights, open the way to a successful attack upon that key to the position.” [ iv ]***



***“Burlington Heights in the possession of the Americans meant the probable occupation and possible subjugation of the entire peninsula.” [ v ]***

The American general, in turn ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Charles G. Boerstler, of Maryland, on June 23rd to take a force of 500 men and two field guns and advance to DeCou's house, which he knew to be FitzGibbon's headquarters, seventeen and a half miles from Fort George via Queenston and sixteen miles via St. Catharines, [ vi ] and destroy it.

At DeCou's nothing was known of the impending attack. The pregnant 32 year-old Mrs. Katherine DeCou and her five young children: John Junior, age 12; Catharine, age 10, (this researcher's second great grandmother); Robert, age 6; Frederic, age 4; and Edmund, age 1; [ vi ] living in one or two rooms while the soldiers occupied the rest of the house and its dependencies, must have rejoiced to have so many gallant protectors about them while Capt. John DeCou was a prisoner in the enemy's hands.

In DeCou's fields, to the east, a large party of 160 Caughnawaga Indians were encamped under the command of Captain Ducharme. [ vii ]

However, the sense of security was rudely disturbed on the morning of June 24th when a party of the Indians came to the house, having in their custody, Laura, wife of James Secord, of Queenston, whom they seized when she strayed into their camp in the darkness.



The story of Laura Secord's perilous journey to warn Fitz Gibbon of the advancing American troops

is too well known to repeat herein.

While she was describing to Fitz Gibbon the strong enemy column advancing towards him and the DeCou house, Indian runners brought forth the news that the foe had already passed St. Davids and had met with the British pickets. [ viii ]

***“Then ensured a time of wild excitement at DeCou’s. The whole body of Indians rushed away to ambush the advancing column, couriers galloped to appraise DeHaren at the Ten Mile creek, and Bisshopp at ‘the Twenty’, of the sudden developments in the situation, while FitzGibbon’s men dragged out all the stores that would stand such treatment and sank them in the waters of DeCou’s mill-pond. Accompanied by a handful of his men, the commander himself went forward to the scene of conflict.***

***Meantime, Mrs. Katherine DeCou and her daughter, Catharine, did what they could to relieve the exhaustion of Laura Secord. Food was set before her, her bare and lacerated feet and limbs were bathed and bandaged and the shoes and stockings of the daughter, Catharine DeCou, replaced those lost in the woods and bog.***

***Mrs. DeCou and her children were resolved to remain in their home until it should be actually assailed by the approaching foe, but Mrs. Secord was unequal to facing any additional trials of strength or courage that day, and she desired to be taken to the home of her friends, the Turneys, below the mountain, a mile or so distant.***

***Her exhausted body was incapable of any further exertion, so a hammock was made by fastening a long blanket to a pole, two Indians took her light weight upon their shoulders and one of the DeCou boys [probably the 12 year-old John Junior] walked beside, as guide and protector.***

***So Laura Secord went to a place of comparative safety while the inmates of DeCou’s house trembled at the boom of artillery, rolling through the woods and fields from the direction of the Beaverdams. ...” [ ix ]***

***“Ere the sun had set, DeCou’s saw, with inexpressible delight, the long column of enemy prisoners plodding along the highway towards Burlington, protected by redcoats from the enraged and vindictive Indians.***

***Captain DeCou, prisoner in Fort Niagara, only twenty miles away, knew nothing of the stirring events of that day nor the perils from which his wife and little ones had so providentially escaped. He was to pass through even greater perils himself ere he could listen to the tale from their own lips.***

***During the remainder of 1813 and for many periods in 1814, ‘DeCou’s’ was a military post. Stores were collected there, the mills ground grain for the army, detachments proceeding to or from the frontier halted there for rest or refreshment, and it was constantly a centre of military activity.***

***In the autumn of 1813 and again in July 1814, when temporary misfortune forced the British to abandon the DeCou encampment, enemy parties ransacked the place and the family were subjected to hardship and indignity.***

***So commonplace, however, were experiences of that kind in the Niagara region in those days that details of the occurrences did not even become subjects of tradition.” [ x ]***

***Following the Battle of Beaver Dams, “Colonel Boerstler and his friend, Dr. Young, were conducted to DeCou’s house.” [ xi ]***

***“The number captured were 25 officers and 519 non-commissioned officers and men, of whom 50 were dragoons, including 30 mounted militiamen; also one 12-pounder, one 6-pounder, two ammunition cars, and the colors of the 14th Regiment United States army. The Indians killed and wounded 56 men. Colonel Boerstler was also wounded. Fitz Gibbon’s force consisted of 46 muskets, a cornet of dragoons, and his own cool effrontery, his reinforcement a captain of the dragoons (Provincial), a sergeant, corporal and 12 dragoons – ‘the first of our dragoons ever seen in that quarter, and their arrival had an excellent effect upon the negotiations.’ (Account sent at his request to the late Sir Augustus d’Este.)” [ xii ]***

**An American account states in part:**

***“Colonel Boerstler was pushed forward with six hundred men of all arms, dragoons, artillery and infantry, to dislodge a strong picket posted in a stone house about two miles beyond a hilly pass, called the Beaver Dam, seventeen miles from Fort George. Arriving at the Beaver Dam, Colonel Boerstler was surprised by a large body of Indians under the conduct of young Brant and Captain J. Kerr, numbering about 450 warriors. The battle was maintained for about three hours, the Indians, of course, fighting after their own fashion, in concealment, having apparent surrounded Colonel Boerstler in the woods.***

***Indeed the enemy must have conducted the battle with considerable adroitness, for Colonel Boerstler, galled on all sides, dared neither advance or retreat, while the result of every observation was a conviction that he was surrounded by far superior numbers.***

***At length, Lieut. Fitz Gibbon of the 49th (enemy’s) Regiment arriving on the ground with forty-six rank and file sent a flag of truce to Colonel Boerstler demanding a surrender. After some parleying, the British lieutenant magnifying the number of their troops ... Colonel Boerstler, having neither reserve to sustain him nor demonstration to favor him, surrendered his detachment as prisoners of war.***

***This battle occurred on the 24th of June, and was a brilliant affair for young Brant, since it was fought by Indians alone, not a single cartridge being expended by the regular troops of the enemy.’***

***[William I. Thom, Life of Brant, Dearborn & Co., 1838].” [ xiii ]***

***“In a private letter from William Kerr (who was Brant’s brother-in-law) to Lieutenant Fitz Gibbon, he gives the number of ‘the Indians as 250, who were actually retreating when Colonel Boerstler surrendered to your handful of men.’” [ xiv ]***

**The American viewpoint of the battle is well described in an article “Battle of the Beaver Dams” that was printed in the *Niles Weekly Register*, Baltimore, April 20, 1816.**

**This account was prompted by Colonel Boerstler who wrote, at the beginning of the article:**

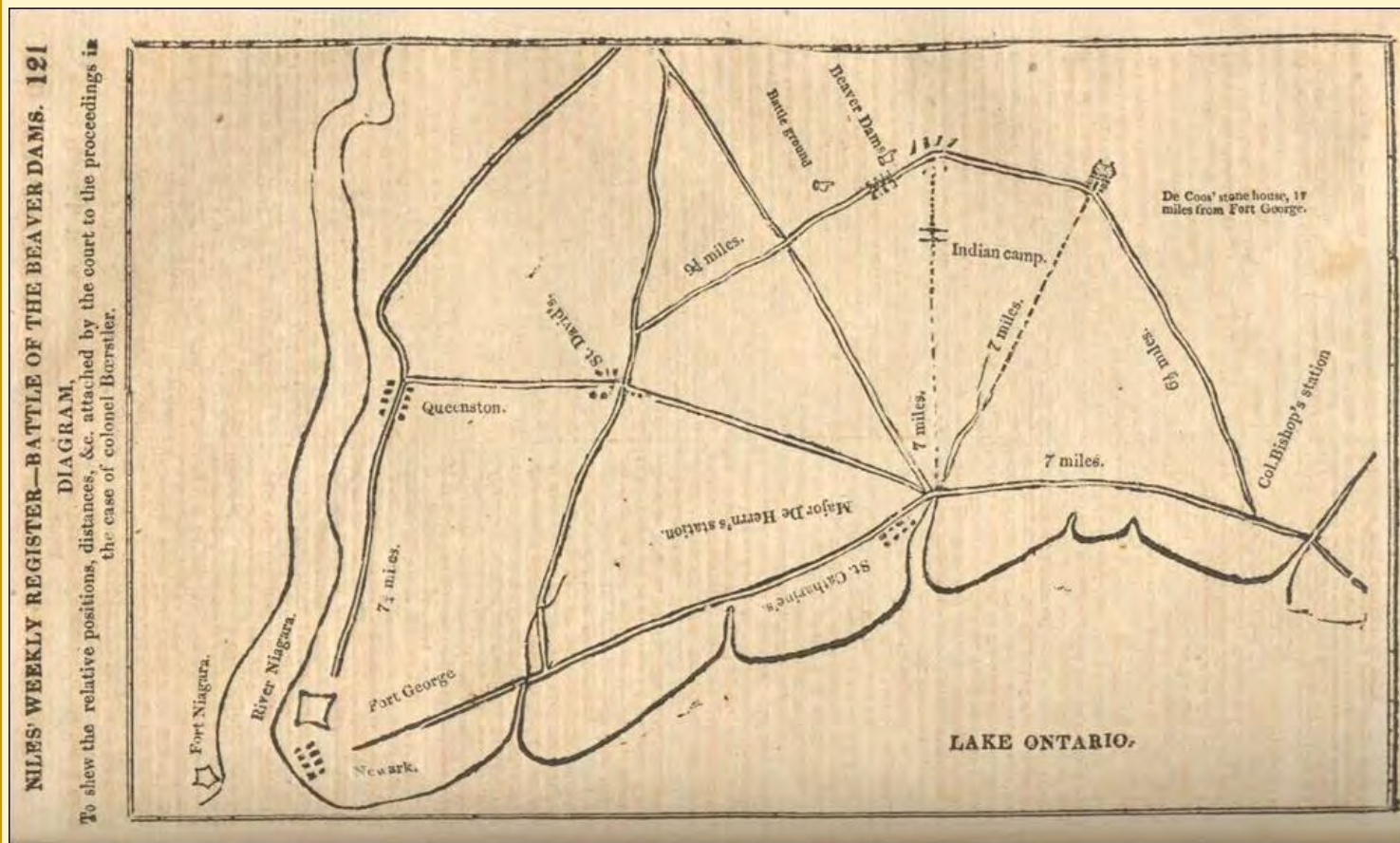
***“... I deeply regret to find, that slander and misrepresentation have not yet ceased to assail my conduct in regard to the ‘battle of the Beaver Dams’, which took place in Upper Canada in June 1813.***

*It may, perhaps, in a great measure be attributed to a want of information before the public, as my official account of that affair, though received by the commanding general a few days after my capture has never reached the war department, or been seen by the public – It was suppressed.*

*A respect for those, whose opinion I value, induces me therefore, at this distant period of time, to publish the following ‘statement of facts’ deduced by an honorable military court, from the testimony of numerous witnesses, and the ‘opinion’ of that court founded on those facts; believing confidently that this will be sufficient to convince all candid minds, that although unfortunate, I have not been wanting in my duty to my country. ... Baltimore, April 20, 1816.” [ xv ]*

Two full pages are devoted to this account and a third page, contains a full page map of the area between Fort George and DeCou House, this map also being reproduced in A Veteran of 1812:

The Life of James FitzGibbon, by Mary Agnes FitzGibbon [ xvi ]



*Laura Secord*

[ xvii ]

Laura Secord as an older woman.

I certify that Mrs. Secord wife of, James Secord of Queenston, Esquire, did in the Month of June 1813. come to the Beaver dam and communicate to me information of an intended attack to be made by the Enemy upon the Detachment then under my command, there, which occasionally occupied a large Stone House at that place. This information was substantially correct, and a detachment did march for the Beaver dam (on the Morning of the second day after the information was given) under the Command of Lt Colonel Boerstler, which Detachment was captured.

Mrs. Secord arrived at my Station about sunset of an excessively warm day, after having walked twelve miles, which I at the time thought was an exertion which a person of her slender frame and delicate appearance was unequal to make.

James FitzGibbon

Capt. Henry Proby  
late Major 5th Lt. Infantry

York

26<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1820.

## Endnotes:

- [ i ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, A veteran of 1812: the life of James FitzGibbon, (W. Briggs & C.W. Coates, Toronto & Montreal, 1894) p. 73.
- [ ii ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, pp. 78 – 79.
- [ iii ] Ernest Green, “*John DeCou, Pioneer*”, Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records, Vol. XXII, (Toronto, 1925), p. 100.
- [ iv ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, pp. 79 – 80.
- [ v ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, p. 80.
- [ vi ] Emma Augusta Currie, The story of Laura Secord: and Canadian reminiscences, (W. Briggs, Toronto, 1900), p. 57.
- [ vii ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, p. 318, quoting from the “*Report of the Court-martial held to enquire into the cause of Boerstler’s surrender, held at Baltimore, 17th February 1815*”.
- [ viii ] Emma Augusta Currie, 1900, p. 56.
- [ ix ] Green, 1925, pp. 100 –101.
- [ x ] Green, 1925, p. 101, citing Cruikshank’s “*Blockage of Fort George*”, p. 8.
- [ xi ] Green, 1925, p. 101, citing Cruikshank’s “*Documentary History*”, Parts I, V and VI (numerous references).  
Narrative of Colonel William Claus.
- [ xii ] Lieutenant James FitzGibbon’s own phrase, quoted by Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, p. 92.
- [ xiii ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, p. 93.
- [ xiv ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, p. 95.
- [ xv ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, p. 95.
- [ xvi ] *Colonel Charles Boerstler, “Battle of Beaver Dams”*, *Niles Weekly Register*, Baltimore, April 20, 1814, p. 119.
- [ xvii ] Mary Agness FitzGibbon, 1894, map, “*Battle of Beaver Dam*” opposite p. 79, erroneously attributed to the *New Weekly Register*, Volume X, p. 121, the correct citation being the *Niles Weekly Register*, No. 8 of Vol. X, Whole No. 242, p. 121.



Freemasonry is

*“veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols”*

because these are the surest way  
by which moral and ethical truths may be taught.

It is not only with the brain and with the mind  
that the Initiate must take Freemasonry  
but also with the heart.

Carl H. Claudy

When I was the Editor of *Reflections: The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education*, a very good friend of mine, V.W. Bro. Vern A. Orr, Past Master of Corinthian Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C., Peterborough District, (1976), and Grand Steward (1982 – 1983), who has now Passed to the Grand Lodge Above, sent me this poem, that was published in Winter 2008, Vol. 23, No. 2, on pages 54 - 58:

## ***THE OLD MASTER***

He was sitting in a wheelchair,  
Looking down at the lawn,  
I thought he might be asleep,  
Then I saw the old man yawn.

I told him I'd come to visit,  
A big smile lit up his face,  
He said, "*It's not very often,  
People visit this old place.*"

*"Pardon my manners young man,"*  
As he offered me a chair,  
*"Would you like a glass of tea,  
It's on the table over there."*

I begged off the offer,  
But I said, "*I have a surprise,  
I've come to take you to Lodge.*"  
You should've seen his eyes.

*"You know, I'm a Past Master,  
About three or four times,"*  
He said as matter of fact,  
*"I can work any chair in line."*

I felt proud to push his chair,  
As we headed for my car,  
I had already checked him out,  
And signed his pass card.



When we drove into the lot,  
You should've heard the cheers,  
I had a lump in my throat,  
Down his cheek rolled a tear.

The Lodge was filled with Brethren,  
Who had come to celebrate,  
Our guest of honour had arrived,  
The Eastern Star had baked a cake.

We made a special presentation,  
That brought laughter and tears,  
For tonight our wise old Master,  
Had completed sixty-five years.

With countless years of service,  
In this Lodge in his hometown,  
He did it all with a gentle heart,  
And the strongest grip around.

His tired old voice cracked,  
But his mind was sharp and clear,  
As he took the microphone,  
Sitting there in his wheelchair.

We all sat down at tables,  
With hot coffee in our cups,  
He said, *"I'd like to take you back,  
To when I was just a pup."*

*"You see, there's been times,  
This old Lodge almost went dark,  
We were down to just a few,  
And some didn't know their part."*

*"But we kept on working hard,  
And doing everything we could,  
To get more men interested,  
In the Craft of Brotherhood."*

*"Oh there's all kinds of things,  
That's changed over the years,  
But younger men not coming in,  
Is one of our biggest fears."*





*"You see, it was different then,  
Than it is this day and time,  
I remember how strict it was,  
You didn't dare cross the line."*

*"About asking a man to join,  
When you knew he was good,  
God and family came first,  
This the Lodge understood."*

*"We had to wait until he asked,  
About how to become one of us,  
Then we could tell him the truth,  
About fellowship, honour and trust."*

*"We worked hard and did our best,  
To be good examples among men,  
We all know from reading the Bible,  
There's not a man without sin."*

*"So we'd take the best men,  
And gently show 'em the light,  
Just look at all the Brethren,  
That showed up here tonight."*

*"If I could live my life all over,  
And I could rewrite every page,  
I'd hit a few bumps a little softer,  
But there's nothing I would change."*

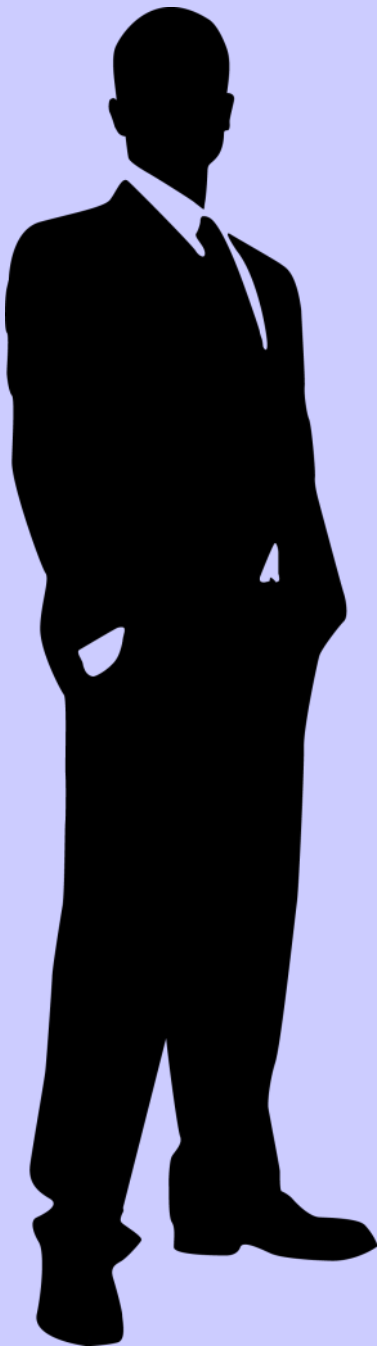
*"Each time I was asked to teach,  
Oh it made me feel so good,  
To lead you gently to the light,  
Until I knew you understood."*

*"I love you all my Brethren,  
I enjoyed being there for you,  
And I'll tell each one tonight,  
You've been there for me too."*

*He talked for half an hour,  
As we travelled back in time,  
He had taken us on a journey,  
And we hung on every line.*

*It was late when we got back,  
But he was still wide awake,  
As I pushed his wheelchair inside,  
He gave the nurse a piece of cake.*

*Until the old Master is called,  
To the Grand Lodge On High,  
His memories will be filled,  
With the celebration tonight.*



A few years have come and gone,  
Since we honoured him that night,  
The old Master even helped me,  
Raise my grandson to light.

His kind and gentle manner,  
Stands tall among the best,  
Today he made the final journey,  
We laid the old Master to rest.

In the same Winter 2008, Vol. 23, No. 2,  
of *Reflections: The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education*  
on page 58, I posed the following questions:

## ***WHAT KIND OF MASON ARE YOU ?***

A lot of Masons are like wheelbarrows

- no good unless pushed.

Some are like trailers

- they have to be pulled.

Some are like kites

- if you don't keep a string on them they fly away.

Some are like balloons

- full of wind and ready to blow up.

Some are like footballs

- you can't tell which way they will bounce.

And then, some are like a good watch

- open face, pure gold, quietly busy, and full of good works.



## Son of Hiram

A mixed tradition states that Aynon was a son of Hiram Abif and was appointed Master of the Workmen who hewed the cedars, shaped the timber for the temple, and was recognized for his geometrical knowledge and skill as an engraver.

- 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. 699.

## Sons of Light

The science of Freemasonry often has received the title of "*Lux*", or "*Light*", to indicate that mental and moral illumination is the object of the Institution. Hence Freemasons are often called "*Sons of Light*".

- 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. 700.



**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/

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



Date	Volume	Issue Number	Number of Pages	Masonic Education
2022-09-01	Sixteen	01	80	<i>Anderson's Constitution</i> , from V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom, Newfoundland.
2022-10-10		02	77	<i>Albert Pike</i> by V.W. Bro. Richard Slee, Astra Mt. Dennis Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 599 G.R.C.
2022-11-01		03	79	<i>Cable Tow &amp; Cable Length: Are they the Same? How do they differ?</i> From V.W. Bro. Adam Baker, Secretary, Clementi Lodge No. 313, Peterborough
2022-12-01		04	84	" <i>Jacob's Ladder</i> ", Editorial by Paul Gardner, from <i>The Square Magazine</i> , November 2022.
2023-01-01		05	94	" <i>And so New Members and New Officers</i> " by Bro. Bill Overy, Member of the Education Committee of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon. Director of Masonic Education, Dogwood Lodge No. 192
2023-02-01		06	95	" <i>Was Euclid a Grand Master?</i> " from V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom, Newfoundland.
2023-03-01		07	103	<i>A Masonic Minute: "Words are highly prized among Masons – A Cautionary Note"</i> by M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels
2023-04-01		08	92	<i>How to Learn Ritual with a Learning Disorder</i> , from the <i>Square Magazine</i>
2023-05-01		09	95	" <i>The Tracing Board of the First Degree</i> " <u>Part One</u> . By R.W. Bro. Bharat V. Epur, O.S.M. P.Dy.G.M, P.R.G.M. (E.I.), P.Dy.R.G.M. (S.I., N.I. & W.I.)
2023-06-01		10	115	" <i>The Tracing Board of the First Degree</i> " <u>Part Two</u> . By R.W. Bro. Bharat V. Epur, O.S.M. P.Dy.G.M, P.R.G.M. (E.I.), P.Dy.R.G.M. (S.I., N.I. & W.I.)
2023-09-01	Seventeen	01	126	" <i>The Tracing Board of the First Degree</i> " <u>Part Three</u> . By R.W. Bro. Bharat V. Epur, O.S.M. P.Dy.G.M, P.R.G.M. (E.I.), P.Dy.R.G.M. (S.I., N.I. & W.I.)
2023-10-01		02	100	" <i>The Tracing Board of the First Degree</i> " <u>Part Four</u> . By R.W. Bro. Bharat V. Epur, O.S.M. P.Dy.G.M, P.R.G.M. (E.I.), P.Dy.R.G.M. (S.I., N.I. & W.I.)
2023-11-01		03	104	" <i>SYMBOLISM of the BUILDER'S JEWEL (1741)</i> " an article by Rickey Pound with additions <b>(in Blue)</b> by V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom, Newfoundland
2023-12-01		04	107	" <i>A Matter of Character</i> " by Bro. Robert G. Davis From the November 2023 issue of <i>The Trestleboard</i> , Axixic Lodge No. 31 M. W. York Grand Lodge of Mexico
2024-01-01		05	104	" <i>Becoming a Mason</i> " by Bro. Robert "Bob" Docherty, FC, Otonabee Lodge No. 101, Peterborough District
2024-02-01		06	120	" <i>Addressing or Referring to Members of the Craft by Including Non-Masonic Titles</i> " by Bro. Ralph Doyle P.M. 1605 S.C., Hon. D.G. Architect, P.A.D.G.L., Trinidad and Tobago.

## Masonic Education:

### Index of Masonic Education within

*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*

(continued):



Date	Volume	Issue Number	Number of Pages	Masonic Education
2024-03-01	Seventeen	07	122	Tributes to the late Bro. Kenneth (Ken / Kenny ) Larry Sharp By various Brethren of Peterborough District.
2024-04-01		08	111	Looking to the future with Masonic Education by Bro. Bill Overy, former Member, the Education Committee Grand Lodge of BC.
2024-05-01		09	104	“Which Lodge is the Oldest Masonic Lodge in the World?” From <a href="http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/oldest-masonic-lodge.html">www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/ oldest-masonic-lodge.html</a>
2024-06-01		10	120	“St. John the Baptist: Why is He A Prominent Masonic Figure?” From: <a href="http://freemasonscommunity.life/st-john-the-baptist-why-is-he-a-prominent-masonic-figure">freemasonscommunity.life/ st-john-the-baptist-why-is-he-a-prominent-masonic-figure</a>
2024-09-01	Eighteen	01	131	“Exclusive Masonic Jurisdiction: Report of the Grand Historian” as recorded in the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario For the year 2024, by V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern
2024-10-01		02	108	“Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa”, by Bro. Patrick Steeves, a Math teacher at Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute and now Treasurer of Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 G.R.C.
2024-11-01		03	132	“Brother, Worshipful Brother, Right Worshipful Brother, Most Worshipful Brother” by Ira Gilbert, P.M. D.D.G.M. from <i>The Midnight Freemasons</i> web site.
2025-01-01		04	125	“The Light We Carry Forward: Freemasonry in a Changing World” from <i>The Masonic Journey: Your Guide to Masonic Light</i> newsletter

Every month, I now receive:



In the December 2024 issue, it talks about:

## ***THE LIGHT WE CARRY FORWARD: FREEMASONRY IN A CHANGING WORLD***



**Brethren,**

**As the sands of time fall silently in the glass, we stand at the threshold of a new year. But the Craft stands also at a crossroads, faced with challenges that test our resolve and call upon the best within us.**

**The stones of our temples are fewer, the treasuries leaner, and the Brethren fewer in number. Yet, as Masons, we are not taught to despair at difficulty, but rather to rise above it — to labour with purpose, guided by the designs laid out upon the Great Trestleboard of eternity.**

**The light of Freemasonry, entrusted to us by those who toiled before, shines still. But its brilliance depends upon our willingness to act, to labour, and to ensure that it illuminates the hearts and minds of future generations.**

**Brethren, the hour calls not for hesitation, but for courage.**

**The tools are in our hands. The work lies before us. Will we shirk the labour, or will we rise to meet it?**

### **The Craft Under Trial**

**Brethren, we must first face the challenges before us with open eyes. Across the globe, the Craft is diminished. Many Lodges now echo with silence where once they were filled with the fellowship of industrious men. The treasuries, once sustained by the contributions of many, now falter under the weight borne by too few. Rising dues strain the bonds of unity, and some Lodges have closed their doors, leaving darkened halls where the light once shone brightly.**

Yet these trials are not without remedy. Freemasonry has endured for centuries not because it was spared hardship, but because Masons laboured through adversity, adapting to the times while remaining steadfast in their principles. The Ashlar is never perfected without toil. The Temple is never completed without perseverance.

So too must we meet these challenges with the same strength of purpose that inspired those who came before us.

### The Eternal Relevance of Freemasonry

In contemplating our labours, we are reminded of why Freemasonry exists. It is not an idle pastime nor a mere social club, but a school of virtue, a brotherhood of enlightened men, and a path toward self-improvement and service to humanity. These teachings are not relics of the past — they are guideposts for the future.

The modern world is fraught with division, isolation, and the pursuit of fleeting pleasures. Men today long for connection, purpose, and principles that endure. Freemasonry offers these in abundance. It teaches balance, Brotherly Love, and the pursuit of Truth. It calls us to build not just temples of stone, but temples of character. In every age, Freemasonry has served as a beacon of light in times of darkness, and so it must again.

### A Call to Action: Renew, Reclaim, and Reimagine

Brethren, if the Craft is to flourish, we must labour together, united in purpose. Let us examine the Rough Ashlar of our current state and resolve to polish it into a Perfect Ashlar, one worthy of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Consider the tools before us, and how they may be used to address the challenges we face.

#### 1. Renew Our Lodges

- ◆ Our Lodges must be vibrant workshops where Brethren gather not out of obligation, but out of inspiration. Let us breathe new life into our meetings:

Let every meeting include Masonic education, drawing upon the rich symbolism and lessons of the Craft.

- ◆ Create opportunities for fellowship — bring Brethren together through mentorship programs, family events, and acts of service.
- ◆ Let every Brother, young and old, feel valued and connected.

#### 2. Reclaim Our Relevance

- ◆ To the profane world, Freemasonry may seem shrouded in secrecy or confined to history. We must dispel these illusions by living as examples of the principles we profess.
- ◆ Freemasonry must lead by example in our communities, demonstrating Brotherly Love and Relief through visible acts of charity.



- ◆ Let us embrace transparency, inviting the profane to see the light of Freemasonry through open houses, community events, and educational programs.

### 3. Reimagine Membership

- ◆ Membership is the life-blood of our Lodges.
- ◆ We must not only bring worthy men to the door of Freemasonry but ensure they remain engaged and inspired.
- ◆ Foster mentorship and fellowship for every Initiate, so no Brother feels abandoned on his journey.
- ◆ Remove financial barriers where possible.
- ◆ Host fundraisers, pool resources with nearby Lodges, and offer flexibility in dues payments, ensuring that no worthy Brother is excluded.

### 4. Lead by Action

- ◆ Freemasonry's teachings are not meant to be confined to the Lodge but to be lived in the world.
- ◆ Brethren, let us not merely speak of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth — let us exemplify them.

### Building the Temple of the Future

Brethren, the designs are upon the Trestleboard, and the Working Tools are in your hands.



The challenges we face today are great, but so too are the opportunities to labour in unity and build a legacy for those yet to come.



Freemasonry has endured because Masons have always risen to the occasion, carrying forward the light entrusted to them.

The question is simple:

**What will you do, Brother?**

**Will you step into the quarry to labour for the future of the Craft?**

**Will you take up the tools of Masonry and build a temple of light that will stand the test of time?**

As the year draws to a close, let us resolve to act. Let us carry forward the light of Freemasonry — not as a flickering flame, but as a Beacon that will shine brightly for generations to come.

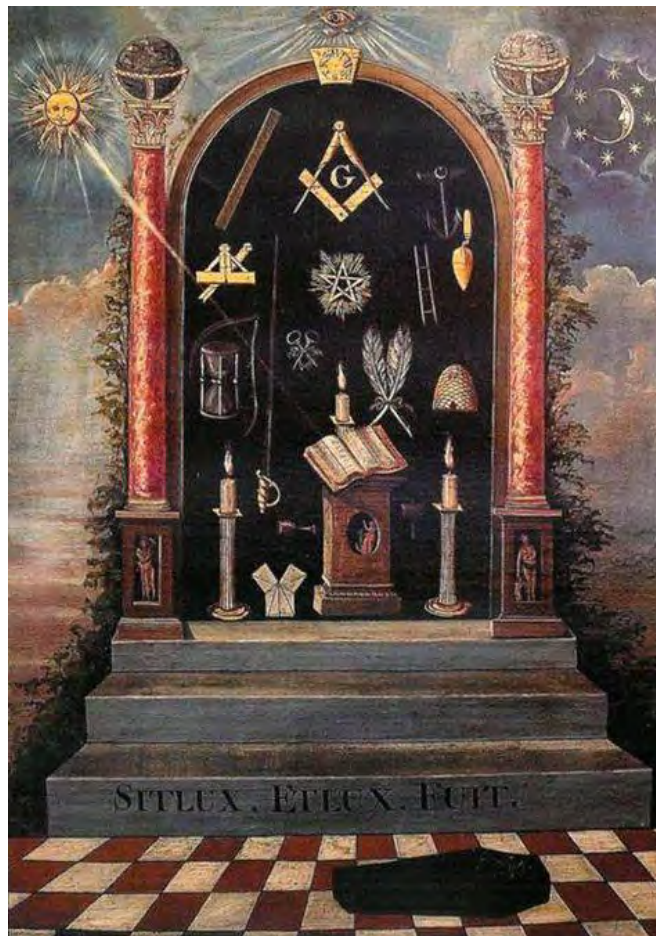
### The Guru's Year-End Reflection

To close, a personal reflection from The Guru, one that challenges the Brethren to rise to the occasion:

*“As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us remember:  
Freemasonry is not preserved by sentiment, but by action.  
The tools are in your hands, the designs are on the Trestleboard,  
and the temple awaits your labour. Brethren, the light we carry  
is not ours to keep — it is ours to share, to build with, and to pass on.  
The future of the Craft begins with the steps we take today.”* — The Guru

### A Final Charge

Brethren, let us labour together in the quarries of the Craft, not as men burdened by toil, but as builders inspired by purpose. The Great Architect has given us the tools. Let us use them wisely. The future is ours to shape. May the light of Freemasonry guide your path in the year to come.



# ***THOUGHT OF THE DAY***

**Freemasonry without education  
in its proper role  
can quickly devolve  
into a mere social club  
that is a shell of its original self  
as it grew from artisan trade guild  
to a place of philosophical exploration  
in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.**



**From the December 2024 of *The Masonic Journey*.**

# THE PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER

SINCE 1847

On Monday, 02 December, *The Peterborough Examiner* included this cartoon that I thought you might enjoy seeing:



THE FIRST BLAST OF WINTER ARRIVES...WITH MIXED REVIEWS.



And, on Saturday, 08 December (first snow of the winter):

Then, on Friday, 13 December  
*The Peterborough Examiner*  
published this one:



Here's another one,  
Saturday, 14 December:

And on 18 December:



Followed by this one on Saturday, 21 December:



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

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

On Sunday, 29 December 2024, he sent the following —

## ***A MASONIC MOMENT: CANADA***

Resolutions come and go, but information sticks with us – especially Canadian facts that are unique and have us focus on all that there is to appreciate.

Here is a list of Canadian geographical details to relish and to quote when you want to impress someone.

There is a map of Canada at the end of the list.

The largest freshwater island in the world is in Ontario: Manitoulin Island.

Canada has the world’s longest coastline: 243,792 kilometres,  
or 151,485 miles.

85% of Canada’s population lives within 300 kilometres of our southern border and 40% of the country’s fresh water is available to those people.

Hamilton, Ontario, is closer to the equator than it is to the north pole.

Leaving Niagara Falls or Ottawa on a road trip to British Columbia, when you are halfway there, you would still be in Ontario.

The world’s longest covered bridge is in New Brunswick.

The only species of deer family in which the female have antlers is the caribou.

The Arctic Tern makes the longest migration of any animal.

About 5% of the world’s precipitation falls as snow, Canada’s yearly deposit of the white stuff is 39%.

The Canadian record for the greatest single-day snowfall happened in a town in British Columbia.

It received 143 cm. or 56 inches or 4.7 feet of snow that day.

Canada’s driest place is Nunavut.

Canada’s southernmost point is Middle Island in Lake Erie.

Twenty-seven U.S. states have land north of that point.

Prince Edward Island has the greatest population density.

There are more than 60 Indigenous languages in 12 language families in Canada.

The only golf club in North America which does not allow male members is the Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto in Markham, Ontario.

The Canada/US border is the longest undefended border in the world. The entire length is kept deforested to a width of 6 metres.

Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King said that Canada has, "Too much geography and not enough history."



Geography of Canada. Source: <http://atlantislsc.com/map-of-usa-and-canada-west-coast/map-of-usa-and-canada-west-coast-geography-of-canada/>



A recent posting from the Widow's Sons in Scotland:



### Widows Sons Scotland West



Today the Widows Sons Scotland West Chapter had the great pleasure of presenting a cheque for £4500 to CHAS- Robins House.

We were delighted to hand over the money to help with their running costs which amounts to around 20 million £ every year.

2k of the donation came from our New fund called *Aldo's Helping Hand Fund* which is going to be used over five years.

Thank you to Cara for all the information about Chas and for the warm dry welcome on a very wet day.

This donation is down to the loyalty and commitment of the West Brothers

as they all have contributed every month to make this possible.



Children's Hospices Across Scotland



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

Here's one that appeared in *Chips Off the Ashlar*. December 2024

A Masonic Moment

(*Chips Off the Ashlar*) December 2024

R.W. Bro Richard Lacoursiere

## ***“WHITHER ARE YOU DIRECTING YOUR COURSE?”***



If I may, I would like to awaken some memories for you by reminding you that your decision to become a Freemason was prompted by a favourable belief fashioned by you, not after but prior to your Initiation, and also that it was your desire for knowledge and enlightenment along with a firm intention to be of real service not only to Members of your Lodge but also to your Fellowman.

If you and I travelled back in time to our earlier petitions, did we not also promise full obedience to and strict compliance to the established rules, regulations and customs of our fraternity? This is the tool kit which a Freemason must carry as a preliminary guide to the ultimate attainment of the Sublime Degree and, having attained that high rank, it is then up to him to chart his course accordingly. One must make use of the landmarks set out before us and to the Obligations solemnly undertaken.

As one dives into the numerous volumes of Masonic history and education, one soon learns that Freemasonry has not changed all that much over the centuries but, rather, we have changed. The ritual is basically the same, technology and science and the ever-pressing needs and desires of today's world have changed us.

It is because we have changed that we find so much evidence of indifference within our Lodges of today. If the craft is faced with one problem more important than that of another, it is imperative that the Lodge leadership helps in the guidance and the direction the steps of which the Brethren are expected to travel and become a standard bearer for Freemasonry.

It was while perusing through the Grand Lodge resource centre that I happened upon a small, aged book, authored by Major Arthur Powell and published in the year 1924, entitled The Magic of Freemasonry. Major Powell writes that the world away from Lodge consists of turmoil, hurry, hustle and bustle with so much pushing, self-assertion with little or no consideration for others, so little true dignity.

He continues on to write that it is a wonderful tonic for nerves strained by the tension of ordinary life to come into the precincts of a Masonic Lodge, where all is quiet, orderly, and peaceful, where every Officer and every Brother has his allotted place and his prescribed duty, where none encroaches on another, where all co-operate in harmony.

Again, I ask you *“Whither are you directing your course?”*

We, ourselves have much to learn about Freemasonry, for we are still travellers along the road of life and within the craft.

There are many obstacles to overcome, burdens to bare.

It is the challenge from each that bares asking the Worshipful Master’s question:

***“Whither are you directing your course?”***

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

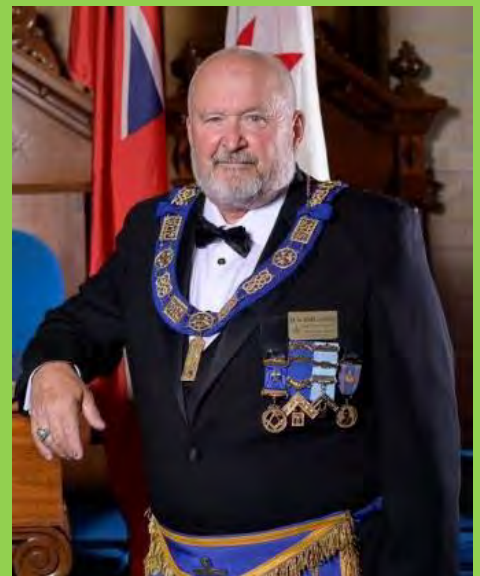
Yours in the Craft

RPAL

Remember,

***FREEMASONRY – “YOURS TO DISCOVER”***

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





And then, here's the *Chips Off the Ashlar* for January 2025:

## *Chips Off the Ashlar*

January 2025

### ***PLATO'S CAVE ALLEGORY AND MASONIC ENLIGHTENMENT***



<https://s.studiobinder.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/What-is-Platos-Allegory-of-the-Cave.jpg?resolution=1680,0.66666666665348816>

This month's Masonic Moment comes from the mind and writings of a well-read, articulate Entered Apprentice from Ancient Landmark No. 3 Lodge, Brother Augustin. Find below his thoughts on Plato's Allegory of the cave and its relationship to Masonic Enlightenment.

#### *Plato's Cave And Masonic Enlightenment*

*“What do you most Desire?  
Light.”*

These Initiation lines accompany perhaps the most dramatic and penetrating moment in the First Degree.

It is significant that a volume of the sacred law, containing ancient scriptures, is always opened on the altar, yet at that moment it is particularly significant, since the book is the source of enlightenment, precisely as the Sun is to our eyes.

I greatly adore reading ancient books, contents of which are non-perishable, only more valuable over time. One such book recently planted in my mind the seed of insight on the much deeper meaning of the receiving of Light.

This book is Plato's Republic, in which the famous allegory of the Cave is described, the allegory recognized by some thinkers as mankind's most principal archetypical parable.

A lot can be said and discussed about Platonism with its vast impact on the history of human thought or about Freemasonry with its ancient roots.

This essay, nevertheless, attempts to laconically communicate some of the symbolic connection of both, their profound and beautiful resonance.

Plato's Cave became a classical archetype of enlightenment long before this word began to be associated with the 17-18 centuries period and the birth of modern sciences. It is clearly one of the most ancient narratives representing this ideal.

### *A Retelling Of The Allegory*

Presented in Book VII of The Republic, the allegory describes a group of people imprisoned in a cave since childhood. They are chained in such a way that they can only see the cave wall before them. Behind them burns a fire, and between the fire and the prisoners, objects are moved by others, casting shadows on the wall. The objects casting the shadows are varied and include vases, as well as statues representing both animals and human figures.

For the prisoners, these shadows constitute their entire reality, although the shadows are not even images of real objects, but mere images of images. Hearing the noises by the people walking behind, the prisoners attribute them to various images on the wall.

One day, a prisoner is freed and compelled to turn around. At first, he is blinded by the fire's light and struggles to comprehend the objects whose shadows he once believed to be reality. If led out of the cave into the sunlight, he initially suffers pain and confusion but gradually begins to see the world clearly — first the reflections of things in the water, then the objects themselves, and finally, the Sun, which he understands as the source of all light, life, and truth.

Returning to the cave to free others, the enlightened prisoner is met with hostility. The others, still chained and accustomed to shadows, mock his insights and resist the idea of leaving their familiar reality.

### *The Cave & Freemasonry*

What is this parable about?

At first glance, the answer seems obvious. It is a story about the fact that from childhood and throughout our lives we are prisoners of illusions and false certainties.

Next, it is the story that one day a profound personal transformation must happen to us.

Finally, this story is about the fact that, because of this transformation, we can only understand our purpose and realize our basic responsibilities to the world and to other human beings.

It is a story of liberation, of healing, of approaching the Light. It is described as coming out of the cave into the open world, being brought from darkness to light (!) by releasing illusions and learning true reality and conscious action.

We can distinctively now see that it inspired such plots as the Matrix movie trilogy, which demonstrates its archetypal power still to be alive in our age.

Let us proceed then with our archeology of timeless meanings and connect them to Freemasonry.

First, it is worth noting the significance of the Cave itself. In Empedocles' religious poem, Katharmoi (Purifications), the powers which conduct the soul to its earthly incarnation say "*We have come into this roofed cavern.*"

This leads to the clue that the image was likely taken from mysteries held in caves or dark chambers representing the underworld, through which the Candidates for Initiation were led to the revelation of sacred objects in a blaze of light – to such mysteries Freemasonry traces its roots, and they clearly existed in ancient Greece, where they were brought from Egypt, according to some scholars.

Second, the Light in the parable clearly symbolizes knowledge – early on, the fire, painful at first, is what allows us to see the simulacrum (shadows, images of images), but as we ascend, the light of the Sun allows us to see the true objects.

Here we must acknowledge that Plato's concept of enlightenment goes far beyond a mere empirical contemplation of tangible, immediately seen objects. The Platonic ideal consists of the elevation to the immediate knowledge of that highest, ultimate moral Good, symbolized by the Sun. I can see in this the significance of the path, the active process of searching for wisdom, of living it, rather than thinking it can be obtained once and for all (one of our Brothers once told me that we are in fact always learning Fellowcrafts, as long as we still live). We live under the Sun and thus it can guide us.

The Republic represents an inquiry aiming, among other things, to define and describe the character of a perfect philosopher-king who is most suitable to rule.

Plato values harmony in a commonwealth, but as a pre-condition such harmony must first be established in one's soul, same as we ought to bring our inner Light to lighten the Lodge.

Clearly, the philosopher-king is a perfect ruler over himself in the first place.

Most certainly, Freemasonry starts in one's heart before it extends on our social life.

Kant's essay "*What is Enlightenment?*" (1784) compares the Enlightenment to mankind's maturity, ability to think for oneself, resembling Plato's ideas:

*"That the guardian of the people (in spiritual things) should themselves be incompetent is an absurdity which amounts to the eternalization of absurdities"* (quote from the essay).

## *Towards Ultimate Good*

Same as the philosopher's (or that of the enlightened man) duty is to bring others from darkness to Light, precisely as he was once delivered before, so is our duty of giving brotherly love to every poor and blind Candidate, entirely destitute of all the lights, rights and benefits of the Craft, since we were once in his place.

The ultimate Good, represented by the Sun, however, remains undefined in the strict sense in The Republic.

Such Good will take more than one word to describe.

Brother Benjamin Franklin fairly enumerated seven tenets of Freemasonry that conduce to the common good: Charity, Benevolence, Community, Morality, Education, Belief, Truth, and Justice. The only word(s) that should probably be added to these tenets is (brotherly) love.

The ultimate Good is nevertheless illustrated and explained to some extent by Plato, not in the sense of what it inherently is, but in the sense of what it should bring about. In the same way that the Sun, as the greatest source of Light, makes all the world before our eyes visible, so is the ultimate Good that makes all other things intelligible to the mind. It is the ultimate form (*eîdos*), that enhances our perception of everything else and allows us to know the purpose of things.

But if one stares directly at the Sun, released from the cave unprepared, they may get blinded.

The ideal of Freemasonry deals with it in a proper way, allowing its Members to be "*The Light of the World*".

Every Mason can be a source of Light to others, if he directs his Light elsewhere, by keeping the Sun in mind and transmitting its rays to the world, to the temple we are building, the ashlar of our Brethren's souls we can mutually perfect.

The most benevolent application of the Good is not selfishly absorbing its light alone, but using it to multiply this Good, bringing Light wherever there is darkness.

The fact that the moral duty of the enlightened man in this parable is to return to the cave, readjust himself to its darkness, and strive to guide the prisoners toward the higher light signifies a symbolic parallel with our Lodge life. We, too, eventually return to the world to carry out our values and share our love with the individuals we encounter.

## *Beyond Torture*

The EA Degree part with the sword also bears a resemblance to an idea from The Republic: that we must keep our hearts faithful to the values we have embraced, even when facing torture of the flesh and worldly dangers. These trials are insignificant compared to the danger of losing one's soul, one's dignity, and the essential, life-bringing inner beauty, which stands in stark contrast to treacherous ugliness.

In the same way, Plato's ideal man — the philosopher-king — is to rule over himself and pursue the highest good more reverently than any other aim, regardless of fears or dangers.

Such a man is unfit for his role if he is consumed by cowardice or corrupted by greed. He cannot afford to waste his spirit on petty matters.

At first, the prisoner's encounter with the minor source of light (the fire) is painful for his eyes. If he values the comfort of the cave more than truth, he will willingly surrender his freedom and abandon any attempts to escape, bound by his high standing among the other prisoners as an interpreter of shadows. Even if he steps out and adapts to the fire's light, there is still a long journey ahead before he will have to endure comprehending the Sun after abandoning the cage (interestingly, only one letter separates "cave" from "cage").

## *A Legacy Spanning Generations*

Failing to apply the highest type of knowledge (which is the knowledge of the Good) will make us fall into the same trap that Faust is discovered by the reader at the beginning of Goethe's poem.

Faust complains that he mastered all the principal fields (in his time it was theology, philosophy, medicine, jurisprudence), yet he does not feel that he reached anything meaningful. Feeling lonely, unworthy and despaired, he even agrees to promise his soul to Mephistophel, the spirit-deceiver, if the former will manage to bring him a single moment of fulfilment.

Thus, their fascinating journey begins, yet Faust shows our inherent vulnerability if we are disconnected from something so essential to Life.

I hope to explore "*Faust*" on a future occasion, especially since it was also written by a Mason. For now, to connect it back to Plato, we can recall that this poem is severely influenced by Dante's "*Comedia*", which, in its turn, bears the imprint of Platonism.

The Pythagorean movement, however, left its mark on Plato. Pythagoras is said to have received his "*Light*" from the Egyptian mysteries to which Freemasonry is also tracking its esoteric roots.



In the following example, we can observe how Plato's impact lasted through centuries, including the Enlightenment period and the French Revolution: Danton, one of the leaders of the Revolution, is believed by some to have been a Mason, but regardless of whether he was one or not, Freemasonry coincidentally played a huge part during the period. Danton associated himself with the great Roman orator, Cicero, inspired by his speeches against tyranny and in favor of Republican ideas.

Cicero, in his turn, clearly adopted the similar ideas of Plato, for which the tyrant, or the despot, was the most miserable type of man, meaning not only the tyrant on the scale of the state, but also the despotic character – when a man is enslaved by his petty impulses and weaknesses (notably, Plato failed to build his political career in Syracuse, a Sicilian polis, while Cicero had a great start of his career as a questor in Sicily, centuries later).

And so, I conclude that any Brother who shall read Plato, the thinker whose shadow is still so huge that other thinker's impact can barely compare to it, will find what resonates with the delightful principles accepted through our journey, one such principle being receiving and passing out Light.

***“Let there be Light!”***

\*\*\*

I express my gratitude to every Brother for reading this.

Sincerely Yours,  
Augustin  
Entered Apprentice  
Ancient Landmark No. 3

Discussions, reflections and critique are welcome: [augtayt@gmail.com](mailto:augtayt@gmail.com)

\*\*\*

I would like to thank Augustin for his thoughts and the willingness to share his light with us.

Wishing you and your families  
a prosperous and Happy New Year in 2025.

Yours in the Craft

RPAL

Remember,

***FREEMASONRY – “YOURS TO DISCOVER”***





On Thursday, 05 December 2024, R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis, Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire, Scotland, sent me this article and photos:

## ***INSTALLATION OF GRAND OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.***

On the afternoon of Thursday, 28th November, 2024, the Installation of Grand Office-bearers of the Grand Lodge of Scotland took place within the headquarters of Scottish Freemasonry, Freemasons' Hall in George Street, Edinburgh.

A full complement of Brethren from Scotland, Bahamas, Lebanon and many other Districts under the Scottish Constitution, as well as others from Grand Lodges in amity with GLoS, such as El Salvador, witnessed Brother W. Ramsay McGhee being Installed, once again, as Grand Master Mason. Following this, Brother Alexander Moncrief and Brother David Reid were Installed as Depute and Substitute Grand Master respectively.

All Brethren were absolutely delighted that the Guest of Honour that day was His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. His presence marked, to the day, the 55th anniversary of him receiving Honorary Membership of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Following the Installation of the remaining Grand Office-bearers, carried out by Brothers Moncrief and Reid, Brother McGhee, Grand Master Mason, addressed the Brethren assembled, this address being very warmly received.

The remarks from the East by Brother, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, were equally positively welcomed, the Brethren being delighted that he has made the journey north to honour them by his presence.

A wonderful ceremony, and the visit by our distinguished guest, will remain in the minds of those present for many a year.

**R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis was honoured to be installed as Grand Sword-bearer of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.**



**With Jim's son, Jamie,  
Past Master of Lodge Hope  
Bridge Castle, No. 827,  
and Provincial Grand Junior Deacon.**

**With Brother Ronnie Gemmill, Provincial Grand Master of the Province  
of Linlithgowshire, successor of R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis.**

Jim also sent these photos that you might enjoy seeing:



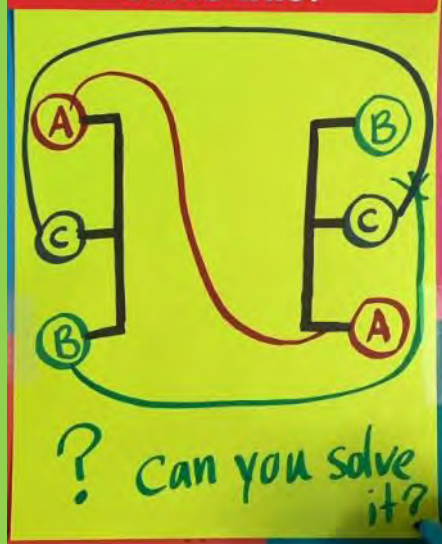
IQ Test

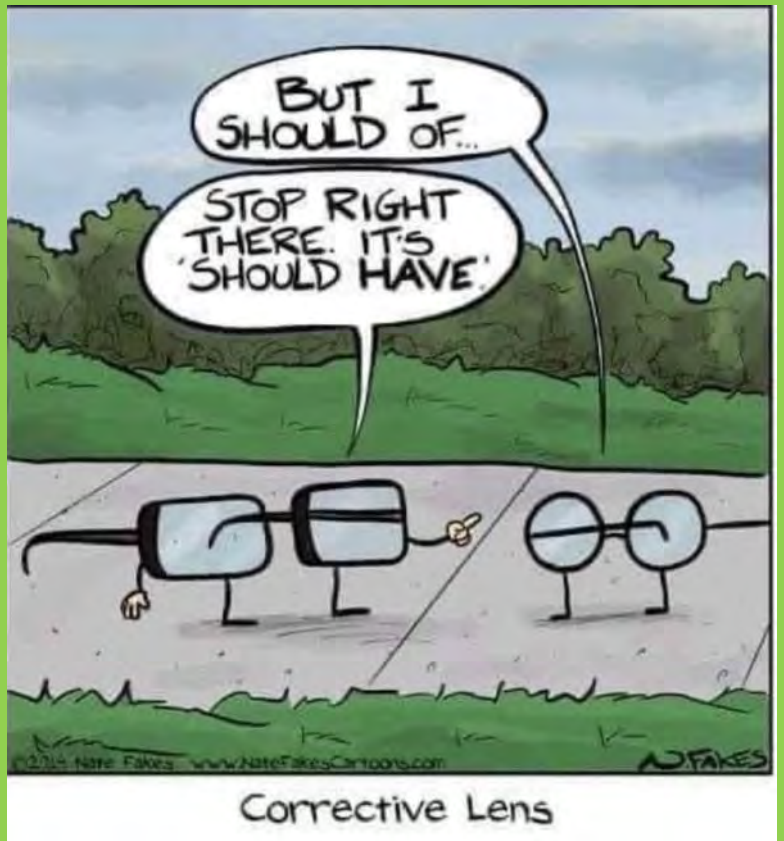


The highest Masonic Lodge in the world is on top of Cerro de Pasco in Peru, 14,208 feet above sea level. It's called "The Roof of The World" Lodge No. 1094 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.



98% of adults can't solve this!



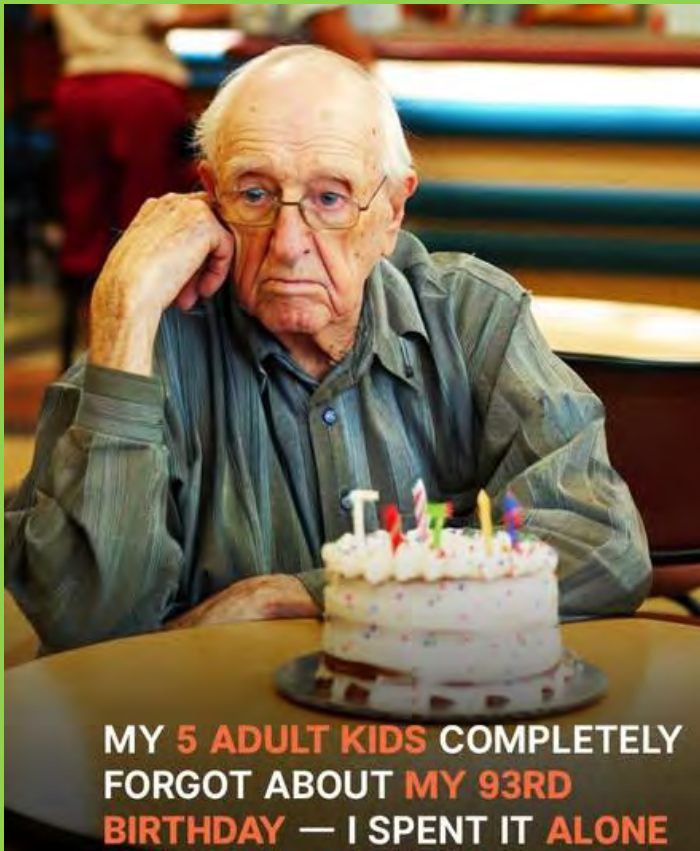


Good grammar are important.  
 Its amazing how many write there sentence's wrong.  
 Och, well ..... suit yourselves !!!

My name is Arnold, and after living for 93 years, I can confidently say that I've had a blessed and joyful life. My wife passed away a few years ago, and since then, it's just been me and the five beautiful souls we brought into this world — our five children.

I remember the excitement I felt as I my 93rd birthday celebration drew near. I wrote five letters to my children, inviting them to come. I didn't want to hear their voices through a phone line; I wanted to hug them and share all the stories I'd been saving!

On my birthday, I was over the moon with excitement. Each car sound made my heart jump, but with each passing hour, the hope in my eyes began to fade. I started to worry as I stared at the five empty chairs around the dining table ... I called them several times, but they didn't answer. It dawned on me that I might end up spending this special day alone, just like so many other days.



## IQ-TEST

Srikant Mathematics

If  $9 \times 8 = 64$

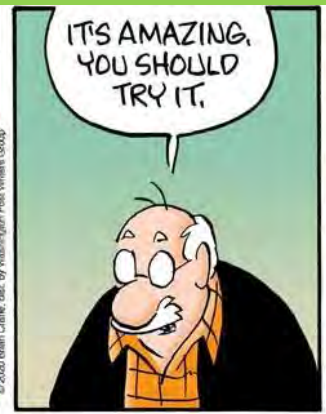
$8 \times 7 = 49$

$7 \times 6 = 36$

$6 \times 5 = 25$

$5 \times 4 = 16$

Then  $4 \times 3 = ?$





Time for early evening coffee, playing a Eurythmics album and something with crackers.

Don't know what, though, but there's something in the back of my mind trying to get through.

Och, well ..... Suit yourselves !!!

**If you think that the the work of a proofreader is easy, read this again.**



#### More Masonic Humour:

A Brother knocked for admission into the Lodge. The Master asked the Inner Guard to find out who was seeking admission. The Inner Guard opened the door and saw someone fully dressed in Masonic regalia with all the jewels you could think of.

The Inner Guard asked for his identity and he replied,

*"I am the Past Master of..., District Grand Master of... Past Provincial Grand Master of... the Deputy Grand Master of... Senior Grand Warden of..."*

and several other Offices he had occupied within the craft.

This made the Inner Guard shiver. He then told him to wait while he reported the information to the Master.

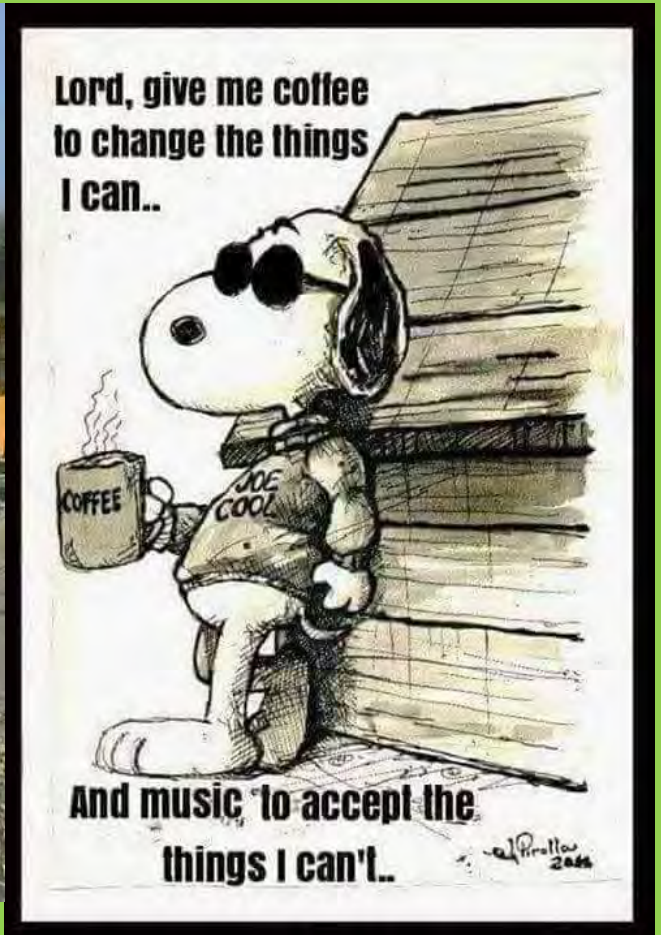
When he entered the room, the Inner Guard said:

*"Master, it looks as if today, the Great Architect himself, is here and he seeks admission."*



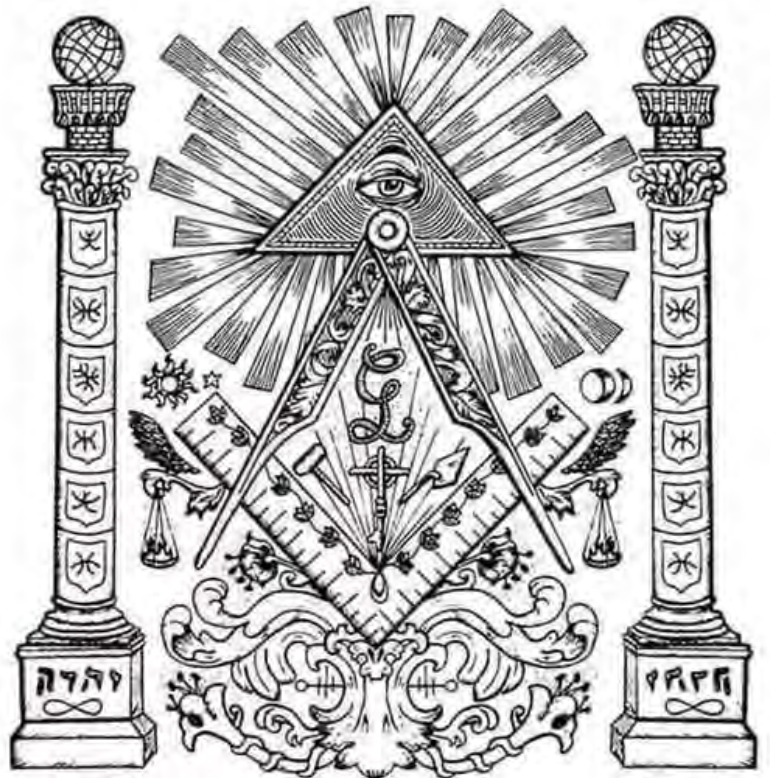


R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis, Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire, Scotland, also posted these:



How an E.A. wants to start diving into Masonic texts before learning his proficiency. LOL





A cool rendition we've never seen before !!!

98% Can't Solve \*  
\* this!

$$22 + 4 = 24$$

$$13 + 6 = 16$$

$$80 + 2 = 82$$

$$67 + 9 = ??$$



Norman Rockwell

*"Santa with Elves"*  
by Norman Rockwell (1922)

**Happy New Year Everyone !!!**



# I don't need Coffee



False Information

Checked by independent fact-checkers

See Why

LAUGHING BECAUSE THROAT PUNCHING IS FROWNED UPON

Can I join the Illumi...

Freemasons are not Illuminati!

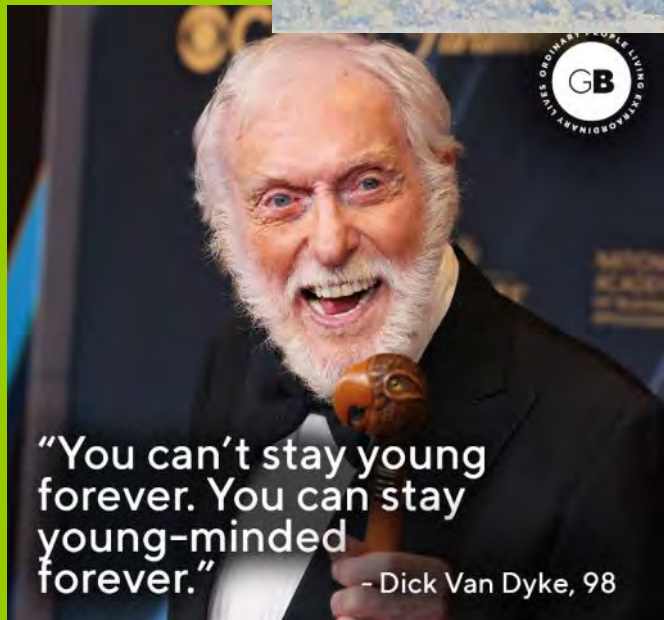


I WASN'T MADE FOR WINTER!



Divide 100 by half then add 60. What's the answer

Dick Van Dyke turned age 99 on 13 December 2024 !!!



"You can't stay young forever. You can stay young-minded forever." - Dick Van Dyke, 98



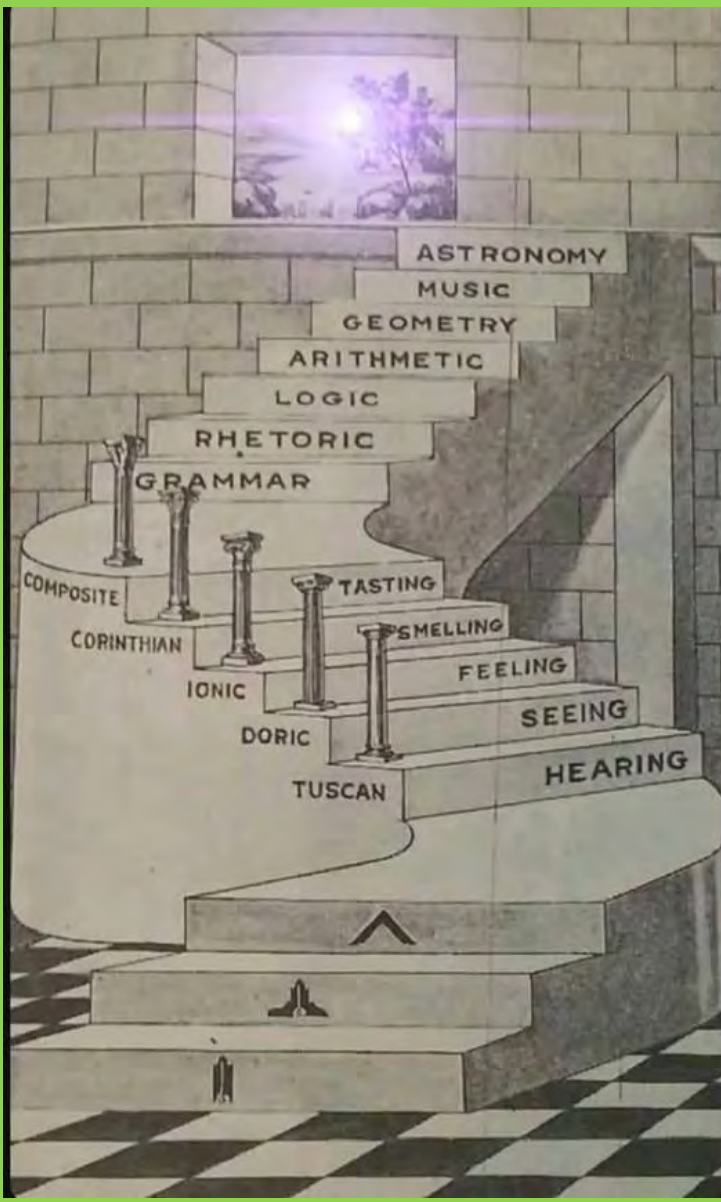
**DICK VAN DYKE TURNS 99!**

*“I’m acutely aware that I could go ANY DAY now, but I don’t know why it doesn’t concern me. I’m not afraid of it.”*



Actor and comedian, Dick Van Dyke, was also a Freemason, as were director John Ford, actor Charles Bronson, and animator Walt Disney. Music and Freemasonry have been intertwined throughout the centuries, with many influential musicians having been Members of the fraternity.





## Find the Hidden Word

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## His First Piece of Ritual



# A Mason's Wife

From active Masons, resolute,  
Our wives and families we salute;  
We surely know the price you pay,  
Who sit alone while we're away.

No high degrees on you conferred,  
In Lodge, your name is seldom heard;  
You serve our cause though out of sight,  
While sitting home alone tonight.

Masonic papers list our names,  
Awards are given, fit to frame;  
But yours is absent...you who strive,  
To keep our fortitude alive.

You're part of every helpful deed,  
On your encouragement we feed;  
Without your blessings, how could we,  
Continue acts of charity?

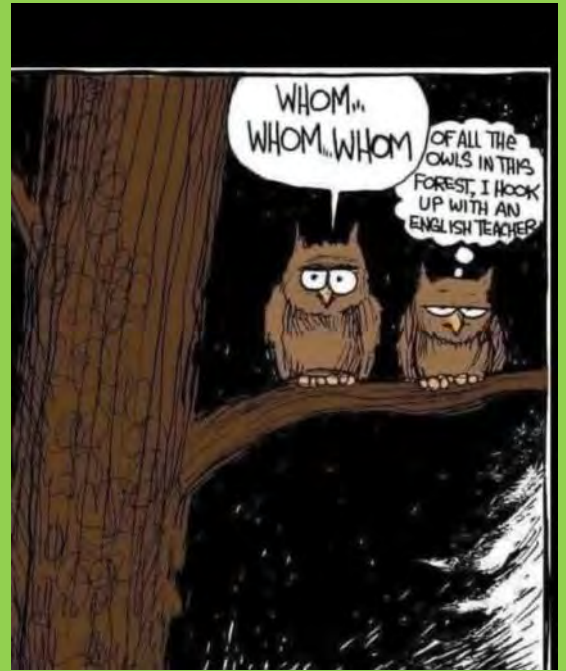
And so, this poem, we dedicate,  
To every Master Mason's mate;  
And offer our undying love,  
Rewards await in Heaven above.

by Robert Pinkerton

Needs to go  
to another Branch  
and join his Brothers.

They're sitting over there  
with their friends.  
(Aye, auld habits die hard!)

Och, well .....  
suit yourselves !!!



They're = Ownership.  
There = They are.  
Their = Location.



by Brett.





**R.W. Bro. Jim Ellis**

**Past Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge  
of Linlithgowshire, Scotland,**

**Former Head Teacher / Principal Teacher  
at Education in West Lothian**

**Studied at The Open University**

**Studied at  
Callendar Park College of Education**



**35th European Grand Secretaries and  
Grand Chancellors Conference 2024 Hosted by  
The Grand Lodge of Scotland**

**The Grand Lodge  
of Antient Free and Accepted Masons  
of Scotland**







Restoration Underway



Another newsletter that I receive is entitled:



# THE MIDNIGHT FREEMASONS

A group of Master Masons talk about topics of Masonic interest—each from their own unique perspective. You'll find a wide range of subjects including history, trivia, travel, book reviews, great quotes, and hopefully a little humor as well on topics of interest for Freemasons and those interested in the subject of Freemasonry.

Here's one of its articles:

## ***A NEW YEARS MESSAGE FROM THE MIDNIGHT FREEMASONS***

Happy New Year!

This time of year is an important for many persons in setting goals and resolutions for the year to come. What kind of goals have you set for yourself in the Lodge? Is there a particular piece of ritual that you would like to learn? Are you researching Masonic history to write an article? Is your goal to be a more active Lodge Member? Is there a friend whom you will talk to about becoming a Freemason?

Of course most people don't follow through on their resolutions and within a couple of weeks, they are largely forgotten.

But as a Freemason, whatever your particular goal or resolution might be, you have a great advantage, in our Fraternity there is always a trusty Brother waiting to assist you. Perhaps you are that Brother who will be asked to assist.

One of our purposes is to make good men better.

I can't think of any better way to do this than helping another Brother achieve a goal!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

W. Bro. Gregory J. Knott



W. Bro. Gregory J. Knott is the Past Master of St. Joseph Lodge No. 970 in St. Joseph (IL) and a plural Member of Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL), and Homer Lodge No. 199 (IL). He's a Member of both the Scottish Rite, and the York Rite, and is the Charter Secretary of the Illini High Twelve Club in Champaign-Urbana. He's also a Member of the Ansar Shrine (IL) and the Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees.

Greg is very involved in Boy Scouts - an Eagle Scout himself, he serves the Grand Lodge of Illinois A. F. & A. M. as their representative to the National Association of Masonic Scouters.

## Excerpts from Whence Come We:

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



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

## CHAPTER 8: THE SECOND HALF CENTURY

### Events of 1936 - 1945:

#### The Second World War (Cont'd).

During M.W. Bro. Dobie's first year in office, the Second World War broke out. France fell in June of 1940, and soon the Battle of Britain began. Grand Lodge acted promptly by offering to provide homes for the children of British Masons if they were sent to Canada. A Special War Services Committee was established with M.W. Bro. Copus as Chairman. The Committee requested that a thousand homes be made available to receive evacuated children. In fact, 2,500 were offered. Because of the conditions then existing, the British Government declined to send out the children and the plan was dropped.

At about the same time, a number of mothers and children had come to Canada outside the Government scheme. As the British government had placed a rigid embargo on the export of funds, the fathers of these families were unable to send support. Grand Lodge provided monthly payments to the wives and children of British Masons.

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

### Next month:

#### Events of 1936 - 1945

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

In February 1941, the Grand Lodge British War Relief Fund was established, primarily to ...

## Types of Masonic Handshakes

Masonic handshakes are an important part of the Freemason tradition.

They are used to verify a person's identity and to indicate their rank within the organization.

There are several different types of Masonic handshakes that are used in different situations:

- **The Lion's Paw:** This is one of the oldest Masonic handshakes, dating back to ancient Egypt. It is a closed-fist grip with both hands, symbolizing strength and unity.
- **The Boaz and Jachin Grip:** Named after two pillars that stood at the entrance to Solomon's Temple, this handshake consists of one hand grasped by another with each thumb touching the knuckles of the other's fingers. This handshake is usually used as a sign of respect or friendship between two Masons.
- **The Five Points of Fellowship:** This handshake consists of each Mason grasping the elbow or shoulder of his partner while standing side by side with their feet touching. It symbolizes brotherly love and friendship between Masons.
- **The Grand Architect's Grip:** This handshake is similar to the Boaz and Jachin grip, but it is performed with one hand placed on top of the other and each thumb touching the knuckle on the opposite's fingers. In this case, it is used to represent the bond between a Mason and God.

Source: [esotericfreemasons.com/masons/what-is-a-masonic-handshake](http://esotericfreemasons.com/masons/what-is-a-masonic-handshake)

**Editor's Note:** Of course, there are also Masonic handshakes associated with each Degree.



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

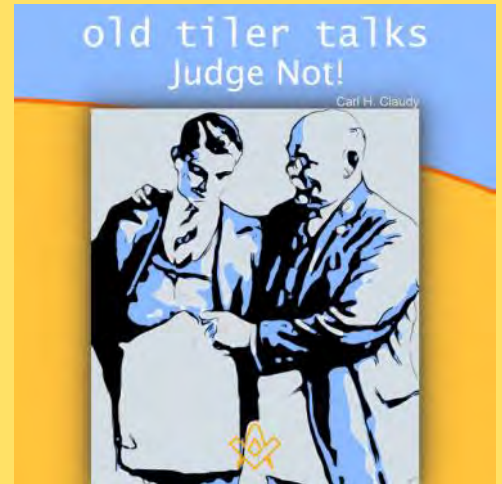
Each issue of ***The Trestleboard*** newsletter included articles by Carl Claudy.

***The Old Tiler Talks***, first published in 1925,

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

Here's one entitled:

## ***JUDGE NOT !!!***



*"Well, they'll have to show me!"* cried the New Brother to the Old Tiler, on guard in the anteroom with sword in hand.

*"Who will have to show you what?"* inquired the Guardian of the door.

*"The committee appointed to investigate a couple of petitions for reinstatement on the rolls of the Lodge!"* answered the New Brother.

*"Old Godfrey was dropped for non-payment of dues thirty-six years ago. He has never petitioned this or any other Lodge for membership since. Now he wants to reinstate himself."*

*"A Brother Jerkins I never heard of, who was raised forty years ago and took a demit thirty-one years ago, wants to come back - he's never affiliated in all that time."*

*"I've heard of those cases,"* mused the Old Tiler. *"I helped Raise them both."*

*"You can't tell me they haven't put their eyes on our Masonic Home! Having reached an age which shows them some practical use for the fraternity, they now propose to pay a year's dues, and then get into the Home to be taken care of for the rest of their lives! But not if I can stop it!"*

*"Softly, softly, my Brother!"* warned the Old Tiler. *"It is against the laws of the Grand Lodge to disclose to any one how you have voted or intend to vote on any application for membership."*

*"Well, and I won't then!"* cried the New Brother. *"But they won't get in!"*

*"Are you not previous in judgement?"* inquired the Old Tiler, gently.

*"Seems to me you'd better wait and hear what the committees have to say on the matter."*

*"What could the committees say? I won't let any softhearted committee pull anything on me. I love the Lodge too much!"*

*"Don't love her so much you forget that the 'greatest of these is charity!'" warned the Old Tiler. "Nor that these whose motives you judge are yet your Brethren, sworn to the same obligations."*

*"I happen to know something about these cases. Brother Godfrey was a spoiled child. As a young man he had so much money that he didn't know what to do with it. It was just carelessness that he allowed himself to be dropped N.P.D. (None payment of dues) He didn't care for Masonry. He was all for travel, a good time, balls and parties and races and such. About ten years ago his wife died - he had a good wife and he was very fond of her. It changed him. He felt differently about many things. He commenced to do something for someone besides himself.*

*He still has more money than he can spend. There is no possibility of his becoming a charge on the Lodge. And I happen to know why he wants to come back."*

*"Why is it?" asked the New Brother.*

*"He's ashamed of himself!" answered the Old Tiler.*

*"He's offered to pay back all the back dues, with interest.*

*I told him we couldn't accept that; that he couldn't buy his way back into the Lodge. But he is no worse off than another in like case. If he tells the committee what he told me, that he is old enough to know better and to value brotherhood; that he wants again to be a part of our gentle Craft and to make up for what he has lost all these years, they will doubtless report favorably."*

*"This Lodge will not override its committee unless someone has something personal against him."*

*"Oh, well, that's different, of course!" The New Brother looked a little ashamed.*

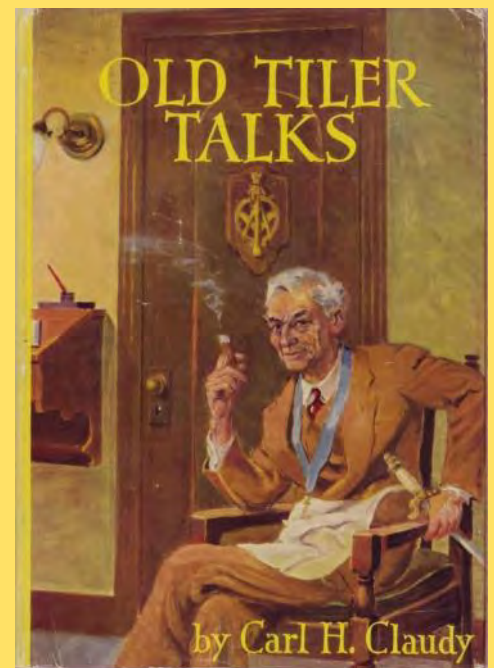
*"How about Brother Jenkins?"*

*"Well, he's different, too!" smiled the Old Tiler.*

*"Brother Jenkins was a young man full of promise, fire and energy. He had a good position, a good income, a fine wife and four little children. Then he fell and hurt his head; he was two years under the doctor's care. They had no money; she went to work. Of course the Lodge helped. He got his wits back and went to work, but he couldn't do any but physical labour. Something was gone from his mind. He was not crazy, but he couldn't think hard or long. So he became a carpenter."*

*"He paid back to the Lodge every penny it had spent on him. Then he took his demit. He couldn't afford the dues and he wouldn't let us carry him. Somehow he brought up his children; they are all happily married now.*

*"His wife is dead, worn out. He is alone, with an income quite sufficient for his simple needs, and four stalwart children to care for him if it isn't enough. Now that he can afford it, he wants to come back into the Lodge he loved and left."*



***“Oh, you make me so ashamed! I’m a first-class moron and no Mason at all, to judge before I knew!”***

The New Brother looked at the Old Tiler remorsefully.

***“It never pays,”*** grinned the Old Tiler. ***“I don’t believe anyone will want to drop a black ball for Brother Jenkins, do you?”***

***“Not I!”*** cried the New Brother.

***“Didn’t I tell you not to tell how you would vote?”*** chided the Old Tiler. But his eyes smiled.

Bro. Carl Harry Claudy (1879 - 1957) was an American author, magazine writer, and journalist for the ***New York Herald***.

His association with Freemasonry began in 1908, when, at the age of 29, he was Raised a Master Mason in Harmony Lodge No. 17 in Washington, D.C. He served as its Master in 1932 and eventually served as Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia in 1943.



If you can believe it... Bro. Carl Claudy wrote well over 400 of these ***Old Tiler Talks*** along with many other Masonic books and pieces ... a very dedicated Mason and man.

His Masonic writing career began in earnest when he became associated with the Masonic Services Association in 1923, serving as Associated Editor of its magazine, ***The Master Mason***, until 1943.

***“The true Mason takes full responsibility for the condition of his character and ever strives for its perfection.”***

**William Howard Taft**



**Source: 48-famous-masonic-sayings**



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 2024 issue  
of *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter.

# PUPPET ME

I am a doll without a name  
I move through life with little fame  
My body carved from fallen tree

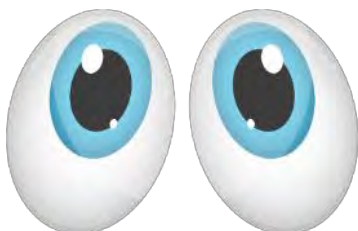


My paint still fresh for all to see  
My puppet strings cause me to jerk  
My puppet hands no longer work



But still I strut upon my stage  
Deliver lines right off the page  
Oh I can give you all I've got  
But who I am is what I'm not.

I need someone to make me move  
To do my tricks so you approve  
To write my script, to move my mouth  
To make my head turn north and south



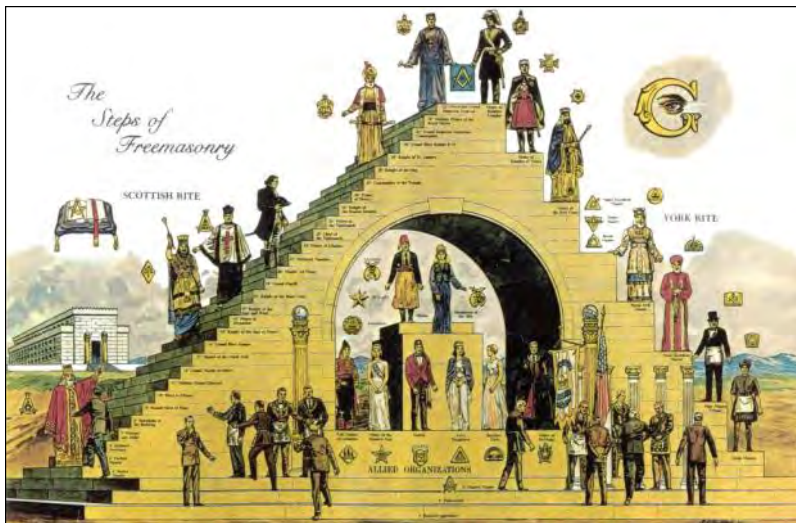
But my small heart beats on its own  
It's part of me that's never shown  
There is no string to make it start  
It is my only human part  
But human being I'll never be  
For what I am is what you see.

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

## Family of Freemasonry

### A Brief Compendium of the Family of Freemasonry

Masonry is composed of several layers of membership. At its base are the three Degrees of Craft or “*Blue Lodge*” Freemasonry. The fraternity looks to these three Degrees as being the highest attainable, as all of the lessons of the fraternity can be found within them, but that has not precluded the development of the larger body, often referred to as the “*family*” of Freemasonry.



This illustration depicts the entry and progression of the fraternity.

**Interested in joining *ZOOM* or  
*GoToMeeting*  
across Ontario and beyond ???**

**Then ... go to <https://masonicyear.com/>**

**Masonic Calendar of Events happening online ...**

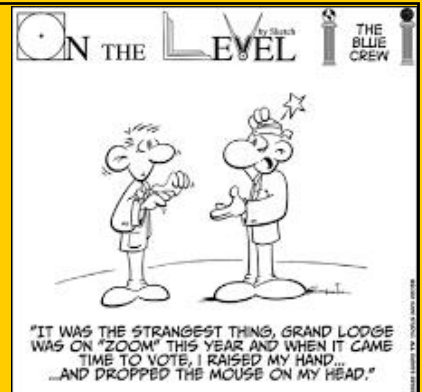
**All bodies are encourage to share their events:**

**Grand Lodges\ Districts\ Lodges**

**Shriners Temple\Clubs Scottish Rite**

**RAM\Cryptic\Templar Etc.**

**Have A Look At The Event Schedule. There's lots there to choose from !!!**





V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern has provided our readership with articles including, in the June 2022 issue, on page 48, about:

## Here is a definition of a word found within Masonic ritual that is not common outside of our Lodge rooms.

In his role as Librarian & Historian from the Sarnia District Masonic Library, he is also an author of the book, [The Master's Emblem Explained for Masons.](#)

Here is some background about the book:

The emblem that distinguishes the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and all Past Masters, has been described as a “Tau”, or as “levels”, or as “two squares”.

The reality is quite different. There is a direct connection between Euclid, the Ceremony of Installation of the Worshipful Master, and the Book of Constitution.

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

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

Also at [www.masterseblem.com](http://www.masterseblem.com) is an extensive biography of the esteemed Brother who introduced the emblem to our Fraternity. He was an Irishman who became a barrister in England and held high Masonic office at the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England. The same scholarly attention to accurate research was given to both the biography and the book.

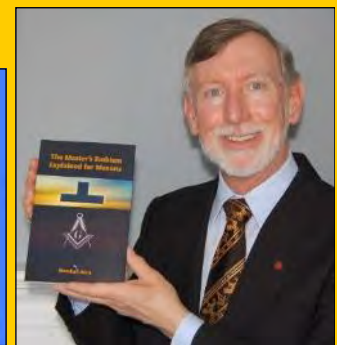
The biography is free; the book is \$20.00 plus shipping.

S & F,  
Marshall Kern, Author

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

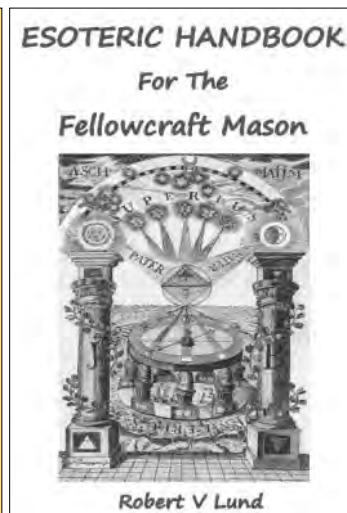
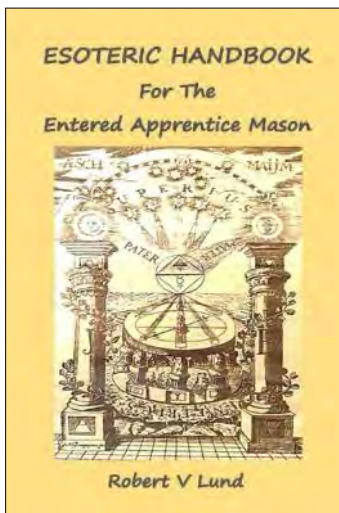
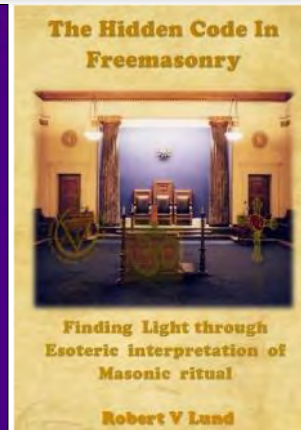
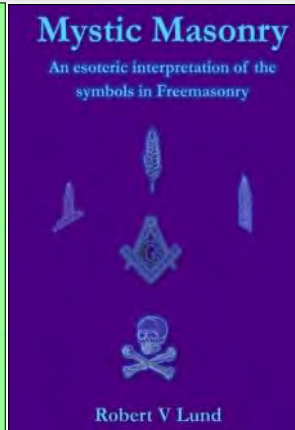
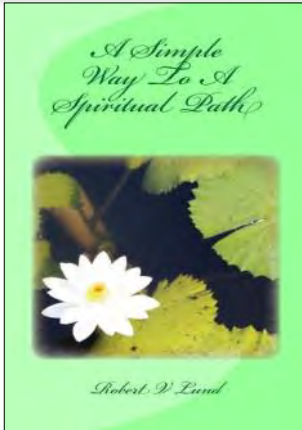
Facebook: [https:// www.facebook.com/MastersEmblem/](https://www.facebook.com/MastersEmblem/)

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



## Well worth the read !!!

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



Rob Lund [e-mail: [robvlund@gmail.com](mailto:robvlund@gmail.com)]

<http://www.kilwinning565.com/>  
<http://www.torontowestdistrict.com>  
<https://www.rosicrucian.org>  
<http://www.theosophical.ca/>  
<http://www.ts-adyar.org/>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RobertVLund>

***“The moment one gives close attention to anything,  
even a blade of grass,  
it becomes a mysterious, awesome,  
indescribably magnificent world in itself.”***

**“Opportunities For Further Light”**

## ***DID YOU KNOW ???***



The Grand Lodge College of Freemasonry offers interesting Correspondence Courses on Masonic Education throughout this Jurisdiction which is comprised of nineteen different modules. Any Master Mason may take any module individually for \$10.00 each or they may wish to complete a course of study for a set fee. If a Brother takes an individual module today, and decides to complete a course of study later in time, he will be accredited with the module he has completed prior. In other words, he does not have to pay for or rewrite



what he has already completed in the past. There are four courses of study offered by the College of Freemasonry:

1. “*The Masonic Arts and Sciences course*”.
2. The “*Past Master’s course*”.
3. The “*Worshipful Master course*”
4. The “*District Secretary’s course*”.

Any Brother looking to run for the office of D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar is required to have in their possession a certificate of qualification from Grand Lodge. In July 2018 a constitutional change was approved by the membership, and Section 50 (b) now reads ... *A candidate for office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession of a qualifying certificate as offered by our Grand Lodge, on or before June 15 of the year seeking office.* (2018). A copy of the revised 2018 Book of Constitution is on the Grand Lodge website. It can be found under the Recent documents tab.

What this change means is that there are now two paths available to receive a qualifying certificate for this running for D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar. One remains the Past Masters Course and the other is to participate in any number of the day-long enhanced D.D.G.M. Preparation workshops that are conducted around the jurisdiction.

For a Past Master that is looking to run for the Board of General Purposes, the certificate of qualification remains the same under Section 38 (b), and that is the “*Past Master’s Course*” offered by the College of Freemasonry.

For those who wish to pay for the College course you can do so by cheque, please send it to W. Bro. George Warner, 4010 Chadburn Crescent, Mississauga, ON, L5L 3X2. For those who wish to pay via credit card, just fill in the application form and send it to <masonic.college “at”gmail.com>, and the Brother will be e-mailed payment instructions through PayPal (an account is not necessary). If any Brother has any questions, they may e-mail R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, FCF, Administrator, College of Freemasonry, <masonic.college “at”gmail.com>. You may also get information by going to the Grand Lodge Website. Sign in, click “*Education*”, then “*College of Freemasonry*”. We also have many electronic books and other resources here. Check it out!



**As Freemasons, what we learn from our rituals and our obligations strengthens our commitment to moral behaviour. We learn to take seriously the question of freedom, to take responsibility for creating our own path and to be responsible for the consequences of our actions. We know a good life depends on having relations with other human beings and that friendship, respect, and love develops best among equals.**

**After all is said and done, a lot more will be said than done.**



***Heritage Lodge No. 730***  
***A.F. & A.M., G.R.C.***



was formed to provide an intellectual environment for the pursuit of Masonic knowledge and also to provide a means for receiving and recording historical artefacts to ensure the preservation of our Masonic Heritage without encroaching on the normal functions of Constituent Lodges. Heritage Lodge accepts, by affiliation in the usual manner, all Masons of like-mind, desirous of working together to fulfil the aims and objectives established by the membership.

The Lodge Secretary is R. W. Bro. Dan Graham, e-mail: [secretary@heritagelodge730.ca](mailto:secretary@heritagelodge730.ca).

The fee for Affiliation is \$ 65.00 and the annual dues are also \$ 65.00.

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob] is the Heritage Lodge Regional Liaison Chairman for the Ontario, Peterborough, Prince Edward, and Victoria Districts. He can be reached by sending an e-mail to [ddgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto:ddgm2007@nexicom.net).



*The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter is circulated via e-mail to all Brethren who are interested in keeping abreast of events, announcements within the Peterborough District and items of Masonic Education. Please feel free to copy these newsletters and circulate them among the Brethren who do not have e-mail access.

If you would like to have any Masonic announcements included in future issues of this electronic newsletter, please contact me at the address below.

Please pass these electronic newsletters on to others who may be interested. We welcome new subscribers, be they Masonic Brethren or friends.

If you have received this directly from me, then you are subscribed. Otherwise, if you would like to subscribe to “*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*” newsletter, please send me a note.

If you have received this issue of “*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*” newsletter and would **NOT** like to receive any further e-mails from me, please let me know and I will immediately remove you from my distribution list.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob],  
*The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* and District Historian.  
Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 – 2008)  
E-mail: [ddgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.***