

# Hiram's Lighthouse

PROVIDING MASONIC LIGHT FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT SINCE 2003  
Grand Lodge Merit Award Winner for District Newsletter - 2008

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February 1 2015

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Events Calendar	3
Around and About (News & Notices)	5
... by the Lighthouse Beam	27
Administration (It's all about US!)	29

*Dream-driven organisations can never die . . . unless they kill the dream.*

*In the life of every organisation, there comes a point of choice - a point at which circumstances, even the dreams themselves, culminate in a moment of decision. When that point is reached, each person*

*must make a choice. It isn't possible to avoid it, for not choosing is a choice. One choice leads to new growth, the other to the ease of death and the comfortable warmth of decay.*

*Freemasonry is at that point and each of us must choose! You may choose life or you may choose death; but you must choose!*

*- Bro. James Tresler, Reflections on the Future-2010*

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*From the desk of the D.D.G.M.*

Greetings Brethren of Toronto East District,

As the month of St. Valentine's Day begins, let us all remember to take the time to celebrate our beloved partners who support us in our Masonic endeavours and enable us to pursue our Craft and seek perfection as men, subjects, husbands and fathers. Keep balance in your lives and celebrate the love and support of those around you, for without our loved ones, none of our endeavours would be worthy.

Although none of our district lodges hosted an Official Visit or Installation in January, this does not mean that our District was not vibrant and active in this cold winter month. Firstly, I congratulate W. Bro. Terry Spalding-Martin and the brethren of Doric Lodge, who celebrated their milestone 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a lovely Robert Burns Supper, highlighted by a colourful Address to the Haggis, given by W. Bro. Dennis Rankin and an informative Immortal Memory of Robert Burns, offered up by R.W. Bro. Andrew McLelland; who, interestingly enough, grew up across the road from the Burns



Cottage in Scotland. If you didn't get enough of the enjoyable haggis in January, I strongly encourage you to join me in attending the annual Burns Night celebration hosted by Markham Union Lodge, to be held at Markham Veteran's Hall on the evening of Saturday, February 7, 2015.

My deepest gratitude and congratulations go out to R.W. Bro. Greg Seale and his District Long Range Planning Committee, including R.W. Bros. David Neave and Bruce Palanik, V.W. Bros. Edward Arlitt and Ervin Aspiras, for organizing a most interesting and informative Long Range Planning Symposium this past month at East Toronto Masonic Temple. These distinguished brethren laboured for months, organizing this event, which I believe has imparted invaluable knowledge and strengthened our lodges and district. Thank you also to the panellists, for contributing their experiences to this informative morning and the 40 or so brethren who spent a Saturday morning learning how to better their lodges. I encourage each of you to work with these brethren and support their initiatives and efforts in the development and advancement of your lodge's long range plan. It will benefit you and each of us as we proactively address future challenges.

February also marks that time of year when your District Deputy Grand Master truly starts earning his enormous salary, with the resumption of our Official Visits. Travelling to our various district lodges has always been an enjoyable experience and I encourage our younger brethren to join us in our travels, showing support and enjoying fellowship. Our journey of brotherhood begins with my Official Visit to Canada Lodge on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for what will be their 99<sup>th</sup> Official Visit! Shortly thereafter, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, I look forward to visiting Alpha-Tuscan Lodge for their Official Visit. Let us not forget the Official Visits the following week, to Universe Lodge and my own mother lodge, Birch Cliff. Don't forget also to attend the Installation at The Imperial East Gate, when my predecessor R.W. Bro. David Neave will be Installed as Worshipful Master.

Brethren, in June of 2017, Freemasons worldwide will celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Modern Freemasonry. This will be the year that our current and incoming Junior Wardens will assume the Chair of King Solomon within our own district lodges. This month we will be organizing our new Junior Wardens Group, so I encourage all of our Junior Wardens to come together, participate actively and bond as a coherent and strong group of future leaders of our District and the Craft. We rely on you for our future, so please participate actively in this new Wardens group. You will never forget or regret this amazing Masonic experience, the friendships and lessons learned.

The Mechanics of the Work sessions have also resumed on Saturday mornings and I urge our lodge officers to attend and gain valuable knowledge and practice in a forgiving, low-pressure environment. As an added bonus, on February 21<sup>st</sup>, special guest R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher, Grand Lodge Chairman of Protocol & Etiquette will be attending the session.

Ticket sales for the Toronto and York Districts Grand Master's Reception in honour of our own M.W. Donald A. Campbell have started strong and our district will be well represented in support of our Grand Master. But I just want to remind you that this event is being held in March and February will be the last month for district ticket sales. Please organize your tables, mark your calendars and get in contact with R.W. Bro. Keith Jones to purchase your tickets now. Otherwise, you risk being shut out as tickets for this historic event are running out.

Lastly brethren, I was saddened this month by the sudden loss of V.W. Bro. Alex Hart from Mimosa Lodge whom we all respected for decades of contribution to our Craft and will always remember. However, the very foundations of my faith were tested this month by the immensely saddening loss of Noah Miles, the young son of Bro. Jonathan Miles of The Beaches Lodge. As a parent, I personally spent a lot of time reflecting on this tragic loss as it touched me deeply. But from the grief of this



situation, I was ultimately moved and inspired by the courage shown by our brother, in eulogizing his beautiful son, reflecting on the love that this young boy enjoyed in his life and also by the support shown by our brethren, who were there for him in this most difficult time. From this immensely saddening experience, I have learned that truly, the greatest gift is love; be it brotherly love, friendship, charity or relief, and every day we should celebrate all those in our lives whom we love and who love and support us.

May He whose love knows no bounds watch over each of us in our travels.

With warmest fraternal greetings,

***R.W. Bro. Peter J. Sialtsis***  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Toronto East District

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**EVENTS CALENDAR:**

February 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						<u>1</u> * Ontario Chapter OES - <b>Notte Italiano</b> see below Doric Pickering
<u>2</u> <b>Groundhog Day</b> Is Willy going to see his shadow? We want more snow and sleet, right?	<u>3</u> * Canada - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm Doric Pickering	<u>4</u> RRJR and Todmorden - <b>Darts Night</b> see below Legion - Brigadier O M Martin Branch 345	<u>5</u> * Alpha-Tuscan - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>6</u> * Markham Union - <b>Robbie Burns Dinner</b> Markham Veterans Hall	<u>7</u> * TED - <b>Mechanics of the Work - Week 3/6</b> see below East Toronto	<u>8</u> * TED - <b>Claremont Winter Carnival Parade</b> see below Claremont
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> * Universe - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>11</u> * The Imperial East Gate - <b>Installation</b> Master Elect - R.W. Bro. David Neave Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> * Birch Cliff - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm DDGMs Lodge East Toronto	<u>14</u> <b>St. Valentine's Day</b> Chocolates or flowers. A kind word about her weight loss. 	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> <b>Family Day</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> long weekend of the year	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <b>Chinese New Year</b> Let the banquets begin! 	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> * TED - <b>Mechanics of the Work - Week 4/6</b> see below East Toronto	<u>22</u> * Coronati - <b>Blood Donor Clinic</b> give the gift of life 12:00 noon Cedarbrook Community Centre
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> * Winding Staircase - <b>Dinner and Lecture</b> see below U of T Faculty Club	<u>27</u> * Ontario - <b>71<sup>st</sup> Annual Hunter's Night</b> see below Port Hope	<u>28</u> * TED - <b>Mechanics of the Work - Week 5/6</b> see below East Toronto	



March 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						<u>1</u> * TED - <b>2015 Chili Cookoff and Trivia Challenge</b> see below East Toronto
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> * West Hill - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto * RRJR and Todmorden - <b>Darts Night</b> see below Legion - Brigadier O.M. Martin	<u>5</u> * The Beaches - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm Late banquet \$20 ea York Temple	<u>6</u> * West Hill - <b>Oldies Dance</b> see below St. Dunstan of Canterbury Church	<u>7</u> * TED - <b>Mechanics of the Work - Week 6/6</b> see below East Toronto	<u>8</u> <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b> 
<u>9</u> * Scarboro - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq-6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm Doric Pickering	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> * Todmorden - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> * Acacia - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>17</u> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> For those who are and those who wish they were Irish. <i>Green beer!</i> 	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring</b>  I told ya it would happen!	<u>21</u> * Birch Cliff - <b>Ladies Night</b> see below Rembrandt Banquet Hall	<u>22</u> * GLCPO - <b>Charles A. Sankey 2015 Lecture</b> 3:00 pm see below Brock University
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> * TED - <b>Blood Donor Clinic</b> see below Beach United Church	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> <b>Toronto and York Districts Grand Masters Reception</b> see below Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall					



## AROUND AND ABOUT:

### Toronto East District Charity

**Masonic Foundation of Ontario 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Supporting Prostate Cancer Research  
The Mikey Network**

The Masonic Foundation directors explored opportunities for the Foundation to provide meaningful funding for prostate Cancer research in Ontario. The conclusion was to make funding of prostate cancer the primary activity to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To further highlight the pressing need to make significant advances M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell, Grand Master and R.W. Bro. John C. Green, Deputy Grand Master pledged their full support behind this initiative. One component of this unique fund raising partnership will involve the charitable donations made to the Grand Master during his tenure being used to support the selected prostate cancer research projects. The target is to provide funding to the researchers for ten years.

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*Integrity combined with faithfulness is a powerful force and worthy of great respect.  
- Real Live Preacher, RealLivePreacher.com Weblog-2003*

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### Remember the North East Corner

It is within your power to give. Your gift will mean *absolutely everything to the recipients* but it will cost you *absolutely nothing* -- ever. And you don't even have to give anything now or hopefully for a long, long time. You'll never even notice. Register for organ donation.

Even if you've signed a donor card, *you still need to register your consent to donate.* It only takes a couple of minutes. But in doing so, you could one day save eight lives and enhance 75 more. Not a bad return on investment, eh? Register now.

[www.beadonor.ca](http://www.beadonor.ca)



We've have Masons in the Toronto Area on the list awaiting transplant donations. We've had Masons in the Toronto Area die before a transplant donation became available. Imagine the heartbreak of dying or losing a loved one when an alternative is readily available - *but no one got around to it.*

In Ontario, only 22% of residents are registered as donors at the end of 2012. During that year, 95 people - our family, friends and neighbours, died waiting for organs. In Durham Region the level of registration is ranked in the lower 2/3s of the communities listed at [www.beadonor.ca](http://www.beadonor.ca).

As an organization that is demographically the most likely to be at both ends of this issue, both needing and providing organs for lifesaving transplant, you'd think we would get behind this issue more.

What does it take?

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### **FYI**

**Brother William Brockmeier (1866-1947) of St. Louis conducted 5,586 Masonic funeral services.  
- Alphonse Cerza, The Truth is Stranger than Fiction, MSA**

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## Toronto East Masonic Centre



What a temperature rollercoaster we have been having in January. Statistically, from now on, the temperature rises and hopefully spring weather will be with us soon.

It has been a busy time for Board Members meeting with potential partners. Several others have inquired and we have responded accordingly. Some are submitting their first written proposal and others are working on their revised second proposal. The Board has set February 21<sup>st</sup> as the final date to have written proposals submitted to the Board. We are excited by the possibilities created by thinking outside the normal development box.

Our focus for February will be continuing meeting with potential partners to ensure their questions are answered to allow their proposals to meet our desires and expectations. Then at our Board meeting of February 22, to choose our partner and start legal contract negotiations.

The Board expects to have its Annual Financial Report completed by early March and will be submitting it to our sole shareholder TEMC.

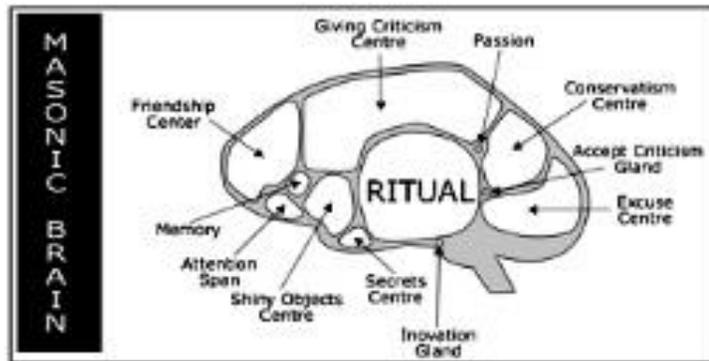
As always, we will answer your questions, just drop us a note.

*2316543 Ontario Limited, a for profit corporation is also known as ProjectCo. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Toronto East Masonic Center (TEMC). TEMC is a non-profit organization created by the Masons of Lodges in Toronto East District whose mission is to build and maintain a new masonic temple. The members of its Board of Directors are Gerry Campbell (Chair), Jim McKinnon (President), Neil Friedman (Treasurer), Michael Morris (Secretary), Maher Eid, Joe Lefevre and Bob Steenson.*

- Gerry Campbell @ [projectco@outlook.com](mailto:projectco@outlook.com) or 416.606.1373

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## Smile !



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### **Learn Something New This Year**

Do you know you can take FREE courses over the internet if you belong to the Pickering Library? Possibly this also applies to other libraries in your area. The list of courses is amazing; I am going to take one of the computer courses. I am not doing too badly at it, but I could use some updating with the constantly changing ways of doing things. Or I may take up Finger Chimes for Fun and Profit.

There are all kinds of courses in every subject. I just spent some time exploring and the variety of courses is extensive! Have a look . . . have fun.

[www.picnet.org/learn4life](http://www.picnet.org/learn4life)

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### **Planning to Attend Grand Lodge Communications Next Summer ?**

Are you anticipating getting a room at the Royal York Hotel?

As we all know, Toronto is hosting the 2015 Pan Am Games. Oh, yeah! That means hundreds of thousands of people will be flowing into the city to attend and otherwise support those games.



If you plan to get a room, or rooms, today would be better than tomorrow. If not, there could be a convenient room for you somewhere on the west side of Mississauga or the east side of Oshawa. Or maybe not, as those locations are hosting events as well.

Book your rooms as soon as possible.

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/glafam2015>

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### **I Did Not Know That !**

#### **In golf, where did the term ‘Caddie’ come from?**

When Mary, later Queen of Scots, went to France as a young girl (for education and survival), Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scot game ‘golf.’ So he had the first golf course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced ‘ca-day’ and the Scots changed it into ‘caddie.’

#### **On February 1**

In 1587, English Queen Elizabeth I signed Mary Stuarts death sentence;

In 1650, Rene Descartes, philosopher “I think, therefore I am”, stopped thinking;

In 1666, Sjihab al-Din Sultan C Shah Djahan, mogul of India and builder of the Taj-Mahal died;

In 1793, France declared war on England and Netherlands (*this was at the same time as the troubles between the Antient and Modern Grand Lodges*);

In 1851, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author of ‘Frankenstein’, died at age 53;

In 1867, bricklayers started working an 8-hour day;

In 1878, Hattie Wyatt Caraway, a teacher became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman elected to the U.S. senate;

In 1924, the Soviet Union was formally recognized by Britain;

In 1949, RCA released the 1<sup>st</sup> single record ever (45 rpm);



In 1951, we saw the 1<sup>st</sup> telecast of an atomic explosion;  
In 1958, the 1<sup>st</sup> US satellite (Explorer I) was launched;  
In 1964, the Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand," became their 1<sup>st</sup> #1 hit, stayed #1 for 7 weeks;  
In 1968, Vince Lombardi resigned as coach of the Green Bay Packers;  
In 1972, the 1<sup>st</sup> scientific hand-held calculator (HP-35) was introduced (\$395);  
In 1977, a heavy blizzard in New England claimed 100 lives;  
*People were born; people died. Nothing much else happened. I guess it was too cold and everyone was inside, huddled around the fire.*

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### **The Month of February**

February comes either from the Latin, 'Febris' (meaning the fever of love), either from the old-Italian god Februus or else from februa, signifying the festivals of purification celebrated in Rome during this month.

The number 'two' is unlucky, and as 'one' denoted light and the good principle or God, 'two' denoted darkness and the evil principle. Hence, it was that the Romans dedicated the second month of the year to Pluto, the god of hell, and the second day of that month to the manes of the dead.

February's birthstone is the amethyst, the gemstone used in the rings of Catholic Bishops, and in many rosaries. It symbolizes spirituality, faithfulness, spiritual attunement, temperance, peace, and quietude. The name comes from the Greek 'a' (not) and 'methustos' (to intoxicate), a reference to the belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness. The ancient Greeks and Romans wore amethyst and made drinking vessels of it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication. It is the stone associated with the 7<sup>th</sup> Chakra, and has been used as an amulet for breaking bad habits and addictions. Amethysts were used in hand-fastenings (rings, bracelets), showing faithfulness and stability.

Valerian, the herb associated with February, quiets the nerves, allays pain, and promotes sleep.

The number of days in the month has varied over the ages. Apparently, Februarius, when adopted, had but 23 days. Traditionally the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the month was the end of the calendar year. That indicates Februarius may have been observed in pre-Romulan times when months had as few as twenty days. Also, adding five days at year-end (to extend February's length to 28) is similar to the change made by many other peoples who, around the time of Rome's founding, added five days to their own calendar, but considered them to be unlucky and not part of the normal year.

Romans always reconciled differences between calendar and solar year lengths during that 'Month of Purification.' Whenever and however Roman calendars were modified to correspond to year length, it was always done after the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, traditionally the last day of the year. Even in our time, leap year is observed with a 29-day February. To purists, 'leap day' is February 24<sup>th</sup>, not the 29<sup>th</sup>.

"Numa . . . added an intercalary month, to follow February, consisting of twenty-two days, and called by the Romans the month Mercedinus. This amendment, however, itself, in course of time, came to need other amendments."

- Plutarch

"February was named after Februaria, the ritual for atonement. It was originally 29 days long, but at one point, one day was transferred to the month of August. It is now 28 days long with a 29<sup>th</sup> day being added in leap years."

- Livy



Midway between the four points of the solstices and equinoxes are the Cross-Quarter Days, the fixed points of the natural year, represented in the Catholic Church by the four Gospels, and symbolized by a man (Aquarius), a bull (Taurus), a lion (Leo), and an eagle (Scorpio). These correspond to the four Pagan fire festivals. About halfway in the Sun's journey through the fixed sign of Aquarius, is the man-point. The Cross-Quarter Days are all 15 degrees of fixed signs, and support the eighth harmonic division of the Earth's orbital year. In concept, this correlates to the Lunar cycle, which is an eighth harmonic division of the Moon's orbital month. The timing of the Moon's orbit around the Earth varies from the timing of the Earth's orbit around the Sun, which accounts for the offset of the calendar systems.

February 1<sup>st</sup> is the first cross-quarter festival in the Celtic or Pagan calendar: Imbolc, or Oimeic (both pronounced 'ee-melc'). It is also known as Brigantia, which corresponds with the festival of the Norse goddess, Brigid (in Ireland, the virgin goddess Bridhe) who embodies the three-fold nature of the goddess, and their powers of healing, smith craft, and poetry/divination. In Greco-Roman mythology, the triune nature of the goddess is maiden, mother and crone, and at the cross-quarter, the goddess is transformed from the barren hag of winter back again to the vibrant virgin bride of spring. Imbolc, which means 'ewe's milk', refers to the first lactation of the year, promising new lambs and a blessed spring. Imbolc is a time of commitment to the waxing Light of the coming spring, and dedicated to purification and cleansing. In ancient Greece, the three-day Lesser Eleusinian Mysteries began each year on this day, on February 1<sup>st</sup>, in honour of the goddesses Ceres, Demeter, Persephone, and Proserpine.

“In the month of Anthesterion (February) the lesser mysteries were conducted near Athens, at Agrai by the Ilissos River, as something of a preparation for the greater mysteries celebrated in Boedromion [September].”

- The Ancient Mysteries: A Sourcebook, - Marvin W. Meyer, Editor

“This sacred month was highly respected - even if a war was on, it would be halted to allow its members to attend the mysteries. A truce was proclaimed, and fighting would cease, for example in Sparta, Thracia, and the Peloponnesus, to allow participation. This also occurred, incidentally, with the Olympic games.”

- The Still-functioning Greater and Lesser Mysteries - Geoffrey Hodson

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Groundhog's day. Tradition tells us if the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be another 6 weeks of winter, a correlation to the 40-day penitence of Lent. Candlemas (February 2<sup>nd</sup>) is the Christian feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary. A Mass is said for the blessing of the candles and the return of the Light, commemorating when Jesus was first presented in the temple. Many Roman Catholics perform a novena (9 days of formal prayer), ending on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the festival for The Lady of Fatima (which was the name of Mohammed's daughter). Our Lady of Fatima is said to have appeared in Lourdes near an ancient Celtic healing spring (once in Islamic territory), and is associated with Februa, Greco-Roman goddess of fire, the Sun, and healing.



The Chinese New Year day is on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Because this is a new moon day, it is the first day of the first Chinese lunar month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar system. The traditional New Year's celebration will end on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the lunar month. According to legend, in ancient China, the Nián was a man-eating beast from the mountains (in other versions from under the sea), which came out every 12 months somewhere close to winter to prey on humans. The people later believed that the Nián was sensitive to loud noises and the colour red, so they scared it away with explosions, fireworks and the liberal use of the colour red.

These customs led to the first New Year celebrations. Guò nián, which means 'to celebrate the new year', literally means 'the passover of the Nián'.



This year is the Year of the Sheep, Goat or Ram. People born in the year of the Goat are thought to love peace and to be “kind” and “popular”. With the addition of the wood element, the sheep/goat characteristic is thought to love peace and to be helpful and trusting, but yet also to be “clinging” and of a nature resistant to change. They will have to win certain challenges before they can get to know the good side of their destiny. They will have to live discreetly, with eyes wide open, and immediately solve any problems that may arise, for their natural tendency will be towards growth.

But recognition will be theirs as their future unfolds and their dreams, hopes and wishes fall into place. They must not permit their shy demeanour to hold them back but step up to the plate and accept the rewards being offered. Although doing so will be a most difficult task, if they don’t take advantage of the generosity being offered, they may never get another chance.

February 17<sup>th</sup> is Mardi Gras, which means Fat Tuesday, aka Shrove Tuesday (shrive: to confess and gain absolution), the final day of ‘Carnival’, which comes from the Latin root, meaning ‘farewell to meat’. It is usual to eat pancakes on this day.

The next day (February 18<sup>th</sup>) is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the Christian season of penitence and renewal in preparation for the festival of Easter. Lent comes from ‘lencten’, the Chaldean word meaning ‘spring’ or ‘lengthening’ (of days). In Medieval Europe, meat and dairy were to be shunned and only one meal was eaten in the early evening. Good deeds and disciplinary behaviour were offered in thanksgiving for the sacrifice of The Christ, and in acknowledgment of His death and resurrection. This has a parallel in the 40 days of abstinence that precedes the pagan festival of the fire-goddess of the morning star, Astarte. On Ash Wednesday in the Christian tradition, a cross is drawn on the forehead of the penitent with ashes made from palm leaves that were burned on Palm Sunday, as the symbolism of sorrow, regret, and humility, and a reminder of our humanness, and that we are worthy of redemption.

The palm tree is the tree of life in the Babylonian Garden of Eden story, and symbolizes hope for the future. The Hebrew word for palm is ‘tamar’, their name for the goddess, Ashtaroth, aka Astarte, Ishtar, and Venus-Hesperos (Evening Star). Astarte rescued and healed a palm tree uprooted from the Garden of Eden by a great flood.

St. Valentine was a Martyred Roman Priest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. St. Valentine’s Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> holds sacred the number 5 (1 + 4). In ancient times, when a woman wanted to attract a lover or husband, five bay leaves were placed under her pillow on St. Valentine’s eve. This holiday has an association with lovebirds, and their first matings of the year. St Valentine is associated with Juno, goddess of maternal and married love, and also with the Norse/Teutonic goddess of Love, Sjöfn, who shares this feast day. In Scandinavia, they ran the Labyrinth on this day, as a test of love.



Love is like perfume; you can’t give it away without getting a little on yourself.

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### **District Awards**

Last year’s awards were presented at the Black and White Gala held in June at the Ajax Convention Centre. This year, the awards are to be presented at the same event to be held on Saturday June 13, 2015.



The six awards are: -

- M.W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew Award  
to the lodge that exemplifies Masonic principles within the craft  
presented to Wexford Lodge #683 in 2014
- M.W. Bro. Terence Shand Award  
to the lodge that best exemplifies Masonic principles in the Community  
presented to Brougham Union Lodge #269 in 2014
- M.W. Bro. Ronald E. Groshaw Award  
to the Toronto East District Mason of the Year  
presented to Bro. Steve Hudson in 2014
- R.W. Bro. William Reiach Award  
to the lodge best supporting Remembrance Services  
presented to Markham Union Lodge #87 in 2014
- Blood Donor Award  
to the lodge best supporting the Blood Donation Services  
presented to Coronati Lodge #529 in 2014
- Travelling Gavel Award  
to the lodge best supporting visitation within the District  
presented to Wexford Lodge #683 in 2014

It is our aim to make the lodges aware of the awards and to have more competition to earn them. It is our hope the your lodge will try to win one or more awards as Wexford Lodge #683 did as they were presented with two awards. To find out more about the selection criteria for the awards, please contact me for details.

Contact: Jim Johnston @ [johnston1946@rogers.com](mailto:johnston1946@rogers.com)  
Chairman Awards Committee

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### **I Was Wondering**

In the Masonic Year of 1976-77, the Education Committee of Toronto Masonic District No. 3 Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario (many of the lodges of which were realigned into the current Toronto East District), under the direction of R.W. Bro. Frank J. Bruce P.D.D.G.M. compiled 47 questions that were sent to the late W. Bro. Harry Carr P.J.G.D., Past Secretary and Editor of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 United Grand Lodge of England. These are his answers. It is to be noted that the answers refer to the Ritual and customs of the Grand Lodge of England in 1976.

*This transcript of the Questions and Answers edited by W. Bro. Nelson King FPS*

### **What does the word 'Free' signify when connected with Freemasonry?**

The origin of the term has given rise to much debate. In the earliest attempt to regulate building wages in 1212, the freemason's (sculptores lapidum liberorum) were distinguished from "masons" (caementorie) as separate classes of workmen, notably in their wages. Masons were paid 1.5 to 3 pence per day; freemasons received 2.5 to 4 pence, and in numerous later building accounts, the "freemasons" (in a variety of spellings) are regularly distinguished from "rough masons", layers, rough hewers, hard hewers, etc. Originally, the term "freemason" is undoubtedly connected with "freestone" (franche pere in Old French, where the "franche" means of excellent quality). Freestone was a fine-grained stone that could be worked in any direction and could be undercut, lending itself particularly to the carving of foliage, images and mouldings,



vaulting, window-frames and doorways. The skilled worker in freestone was an artist and a precision worker, so that the designation “freemason” denoted “superior qualifications in the mason trade” Confusion arises however, when the titles are occasionally interchanged doubtless through carelessness. It is not surprising, perhaps, that when the character of the Craft began to change by the admission of “Accepted “or non-operative Masons, the title Freemasons was adopted, quite unofficially, for men who had never worked in stone. When Elias Ashmole recorded his admission on October 16, 1646, he wrote in his diary: “4:30 p.m. I was made a Freemason at Warrington, in Lancashire, with Colonel Henry Mainwaring, of Karincharn in Cheshire”. Two other uses of the word Free arise in the records of the mason trade:



1. Free, i.e. not a bondman, who would not be eligible for admission even as an apprentice.
2. Free of the trade: it was customary in the London Masons Company as in many other crafts, for an apprentice at the end of his indentures to buy his “freedom by the payment of certain fees. He then became “free of the trade” and was entitled to set up as a master. I am satisfied that neither of these connected with the title “Freemason”.

### **What is cubit measure?**

Originally, the distance from the elbow to the fingertips (*Oxford English Dictionary*) varying at different is and places, but usually about 18 - 22 inches.

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### **Now, Here Is A Lodge In . . .**



King Solomon #394, Thamesford ON  
with thanks to Joe Parker - Temple Lodge #597

Do you have a picture of a Masonic Hall in downtown Some-Place-Else? Send it in and let others see.

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*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*

*- Luke 12:48*

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## **Monday February 2 2015**

### **Groundhog Day**



Groundhog Day is a day celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Canada and the United States. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter-like weather will soon end. If it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and the winter weather will continue for six more weeks.

Modern customs of the day involve celebrations where early morning festivals are held to watch the groundhog emerging from its burrow. In southeastern Pennsylvania, Groundhog Lodges (Grundsow Lodges) celebrate the day with fersommlinge, social events in which food is served, speeches are made, and one or more g'spiel (plays or skits) are performed for entertainment. The Pennsylvania German dialect is the only language spoken at the event, and those who speak English pay a penalty, usually in the form of a nickel, dime or quarter, per word spoken, put into a bowl in the centre of the table.

The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Groundhog Day, already a widely recognized and popular tradition, received worldwide attention as a result of the 1993 film of the same name, Groundhog Day, which was set in Punxsutawney and portrayed Punxsutawney Phil.

Not to be outdone, here in Ontario in the beautiful Grey Bruce Peninsula, in the bustling metropolis of Whiarton, 2015 will see the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Whiarton Willie (the only albino groundhog prognosticator) Festival running from February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup>. The festival has an array of diverse social, recreational and fun events ranging from a Prime Rib Dinner (*Ummm! Food!*) to comedy shows and plays. Willie invites you to spend some time listening to fabulous live entertainment, performing in the Wee Willie Idol contest, or winning at Monte Carlo night.

- Wikipedia and the Whiarton Willie Website

What an indication of our culture! The Greeks had the oracle at Delphi. We have as a prognosticator, a groundhog! A rodent! (*I'll bet his predictions are just as accurate, although un-veiled in allegory and un-illustrated by symbols.*)

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## **Wednesday February 4 2015**

### **Riverdale JRR and Todmorden - Darts Night**



Would you like to throw a few darts? Enjoy an evening out for some fraternal fun and a few laughs with your brothers outside the Lodge room. This darts night has been running successfully for several months on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and the entire district is invited to join in. Bring a friend - Mason or not. Throw a few darts at regulation boards. Beginner or expert - it does not matter - come on out.

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Royal Canadian Legion



Brigadier O M Martin Branch 345  
81 Peard Rd., Toronto, ON  
Closest major intersection is Victoria Park and O'Connor. The Legion is just a touch north  
of St. Clair on the west side of Victoria Park

Contact: Tom Fulton @ [tsfulton@rogers.com](mailto:tsfulton@rogers.com) or 416.694.3891 or  
Greg McKinnon @ [gregmckinnonmm@gmail.com](mailto:gregmckinnonmm@gmail.com) or 416.686.0107

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### **Saturday February 7, 21 and 28 2015**

### **Saturday March 7 2015**

#### **Mechanics of the Work Class**

These classes begin again for the spring session. Classes are open to all Masons, from the newest Entered Apprentice to the rustiest young timer. We are informal in the normal lodge meeting sense and welcome anyone who wants to improve their skills or reacquaint themselves in many aspects of our ceremonies and rituals. Attendance for the full three-hour class or at every class is not compulsory.

The work is from the **2013 black Book of the Work.**

We cover openings and closings, coming to order, the F.P. of F., the Grand Honours, entering and leaving a lodge while at work as well as when and how to address the Worshipful Master.

Hope to see you come visit to partake in and enjoy the sessions that many others have gotten a charge out of over the many years this program has been offered.



Time: 8:30 am - Coffee (*coffee!*) and day-old sticky buns. Honest!  
9:00 am - noon - Classes

Location: East Toronto

Contact: Dennis Rankin @ [kdrankin@pathcom.com](mailto:kdrankin@pathcom.com) or 416.691.1704

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### **Saturday February 7 2015**

#### **Claremont Winter Carnival Parade**



This is an old time, country village event. Families and kids enjoying a day in the dead of winter. Participate. Enjoy!

The Claremont (Brougham Union) Masonic Temple will open at 9:00 am with hot drinks. By 11:00 am, we will assemble at the marshalling area on William St. The horse drawn wagon will be there. At the end of the parade, we will all assemble at the Masonic Temple for a bowl of hot chili and hot drinks, with ice cream and cookies for the children.

Brougham Union is again entering a float and inviting all Masons and their families to join us. You may wish to march in the Parade or ride one of the wagons. We are happy to report that among our guests in the Parade we have invited ambassadors from the Town Criers, the Rameses Drum Corps and the Rainbow Girls.



Please note that the Toronto East District DDGM has been asked for dispensation for all Masons to wear regalia for the occasion. If you are a member of a Masonic concordant body, you may wish to wear those regalia to add colour and diversity.

It is always a great winter family outing and we cordially invite you to share this annual fun get-together with us.

Time: 9:00 am - Assembly  
11:00 am - Parade  
Location: Claremont Masonic Temple  
Contact: Lou Lombardi @ [loulombardi@xplornet.ca](mailto:loulombardi@xplornet.ca) or 905.649.3003 or 416.518.2242

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**Saturday February 7 2015**  
**Ontario Chapter O.E.S. - Notte Italiano**

Please join us for a night of fun and fine food with an Italian flare. Each table will be decorated for a month of the year to provide you with a unique dining experience! Dinner will be followed by Bingo and prizes.



Time: 6:00 pm - dinner is served  
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall  
Cost: \$20 ea - adults  
\$10 ea - children  
Contact: Karen Caldwell @ [mysterymother@rogers.com](mailto:mysterymother@rogers.com) or 905.683.2970, or  
Gay Adair @ [gayandmike@sympatico.ca](mailto:gayandmike@sympatico.ca) or 905.668.9930

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**Saturday February 14 2015**  
**St. Valentine's Day**

St. Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated by many people throughout the world. In the English-speaking countries, it is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionery. (*Ed: Notice that nowhere in there does it say anything about giving her a big honking diamond!*) The holiday is named after two among the numerous early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1391) in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

It is a common opinion that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to Christianize celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia, and that a commemorative feast was established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I, of those "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God," among whom was Valentine, was set for the useful day. Alternatively, William M. Green argues that the Catholic Church could not abolish the deeply rooted Lupercalia festival, so the church set aside a day to honour the Virgin Mary.



Lupercalia was a very ancient, possibly pre-Roman pastoral festival, observed on February 15 to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility. The Lupercalia was believed in antiquity to have some connection with the Ancient Greek festival of the Arcadian Lykaia (from Ancient Greek: "wolf", Latin *lupus*) and the worship of *Lycaean Pan*, the Greek equivalent to Faunus.



In the good old days that some of us remember as only being a little while ago, there were numerous Masonic Valentine cards. Here are a few.



## *Gung Hei Fat Choy*

The Chinese New Year Day is on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015. Because this is a new moon day, it is the first day of the first Chinese lunar month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar system. The traditional New Year's celebration will end on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the lunar month. Two weeks of eating and celebrating. You thought one day was tough to survive! It is a time when banquets of as many as 125 courses are traditionally held. No one has invited me yet. My calendar is still open!

Chinese New Year is celebrated round the globe including countries like Singapore, Indonesia, Mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Festivities also take place in different countries with major Chinese ethnic populations. Though Chinese New Year is celebrated with pomp and glory in Japan, Cambodia and Philippines, it is not a public holiday.



According to legend, in ancient China, the Nián was a man-eating beast from the mountains (in other versions from under the sea), that came out every 12 months somewhere close to winter to prey on humans. The people later believed that the Nián was sensitive to loud noises and the colour red, so they scared it away with explosions, fireworks and the liberal use of the colour red. These customs led to the first New Year celebrations. Guò nián, which means 'to celebrate the new year', literally means 'the passover of the Nián'.



This year is the Year of the Sheep (Goat or Ram), the eighth sign in the Chinese zodiac. The Sheep is among the animals that people like most. It is gentle and calm. Since ancient times, people have learned to use its fleece to make writing brushes and skin to keep warm. As it is white, people describe delicate and precious white jade to be 'suet jade'. Thus, it is close to the meaning of good things. People born in the Year of the Sheep (1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015) exhibit characteristics such as -

- Tender
- Polite
- Filial
- Clever
- Kind-hearted
- Possess a special sensitivity to art and beauty
- Faith in a certain religion
- A special fondness for quiet living
- Wise
- Gentle and compassionate
- Cope with business cautiously and circumspectly

However, they possess a couple of negative characteristics as well. Sheep year people are often worriers who are shy, pessimistic, moody, indecisive, over-sensitive, weak-willed and puzzled about life. They are easily inclined to be deeply religious. They are timid in nature and like to be looked after by others.



They like flattery, compliment and suggestions from friends. They do not dare to express their love openly and usually have interests in strange theories.

Traditionally, Red envelopes or red packets are passed out during the Chinese New Year's celebrations, from married couples or the elderly to unmarried juniors. It is also common for adults or young couples to give red packets to children. Red packets are also known as the money used to suppress or put down the evil spirit, during this period. Red packets usually contain money, usually varying from a couple of dollars to several hundred. Per custom, the amount of money in the red packets should be of even numbers, as odd numbers are associated with cash given during funerals.

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### **Thursday February 26 2015**

#### **71<sup>st</sup> Annual Shuter Haskill Hunters' Night**

The Degree Team will all be comprised of hunters from all over the area, dressed in their camouflage, vests and boots. This event was started in the 'dirty thirties' when a group of brethren, including Shuter, were hunting to put much needed meat on the table. One of the hunters suggested that the brethren among the hunters put on a degree - and a tradition was started. The Banquet afterwards will feature the very best of whatever those old hunters brought down - if road kill is not available. ☺

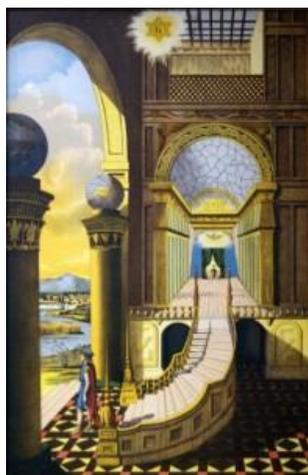


Location: Ontario Lodge #26, Port Hope, ON

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### **Thursday February 26 2015**

#### **The Winding Staircase - Dinner and Lecture**



Please join The Winding Staircase for a special evening event - dinner and a lecture. There will be a cash bar available and dress is Business or Business Casual. All are welcome.

The speaker will be Renée Lafferty, Assistant Professor of History and Canadian Studies - Brock University

Renée N. Lafferty is associate professor of History at Brock University and a relative newcomer to the study of Freemasonry. Maintaining an abiding interest in religious history - or, more accurately, in the history of sin - she has recently turned her attention to the social and cultural world of the War of 1812, where sin of all description abounded. In this domain, alcohol, prayer, sex, treason and desertion among the fighting men, have become the mainstay of her research.

The topic of the lecture will be 'Brothers in Arms: Freemasons and the War of 1812'.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social  
7:00 pm - Buffet Dinner



7:30 pm - Lecture  
Lecture: Brothers in Arms: Freemasons and the War of 1812  
Speaker: Renée Lafferty, Assistant Professor of History and Canadian Studies  
Location: University of Toronto Faculty Club - 416.978.6325  
41 Willcocks St., Toronto, ON, M5S 1C7  
(just off Spadina Ave., south of Bloor St.)  
Cost: \$45 ea - tickets prepaid  
please purchase tickets via the PayPal button on The Winding Staircase website at  
[www.thewindingstaircase.com](http://www.thewindingstaircase.com)

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*Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let each new year find you a better man.*

*- Bro. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)*

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### **Wednesday March 4 2015**

#### **Riverdale JRR and Todmorden - Darts Night**

Would you like to throw a few darts? Enjoy an evening out for some fraternal fun and a few laughs with your brothers outside the Lodge Room. This darts night has been running successfully for several months on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and the entire district is invited to join in. Bring a friend - Mason or not. Throw a few darts at regulation boards. Beginner or expert - it does not matter - come on out.



Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: Royal Canadian Legion  
Brigadier O M Martin Branch 345  
81 Peard Rd., Toronto, ON  
Closest major intersection is Victoria Park and O'Connor. The Legion is just a touch north of St. Clair on the west side of Victoria Park  
Contact: Tom Fulton @ [tfulton@rogers.com](mailto:tfulton@rogers.com) or 416.694.3891 or  
Greg McKinnon @ [gregmckinnonmm@gmail.com](mailto:gregmckinnonmm@gmail.com) or 416.686.0107

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### **Saturday March 7 2015**

#### **T.E.D. - 2015 Chili Cook Off and Trivia Challenge**

Do you have the best Chili Recipe? Do you think you are the most knowledgeable person in the district?

“The Guardians” in conjunction with the Beaches Lodge #473 give you an opportunity to show your culinary skills, or partake of someone else’s. Last year’s competition was a friendly but competitive one.

The reigning Grand Champion, Joe Curry, prepared a delicious pot of Chili, earning the 1<sup>st</sup> T.E.D. Chili Cook Off Grand Champion Trophy, a gift certificate for The School Fine Dining, (generously supplied by Nick Zarafonitis of Beaches Lodge #473) and the bragging rights that go along with it. There will be prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place as well.



There are 10 positions available for the Chili Cook Off, all of which were filled in last year’s competition. Several places for this year have already been filled.



Each participant will prepare their delicious chili prior to competition in a crock-pot or large pot (kitchen facilities available to heat pots) and are asked to arrive 1 hour prior to competition.

Each chili will be judged on its own merit, keeping the competition fair and competitive.

Sample bowls of the submitted chilis can be enjoyed while supplies last by way of a donation. Light snacks and refreshments will be available at the snack bar. All proceeds will be donated to the Toronto East District Charity - Prostate Cancer Research

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Location: East Toronto Masonic Hall  
Contact: Russ Richardson @ [russdriver@hotmail.com](mailto:russdriver@hotmail.com) or 647.222.5855, or  
Mark Ingram @ [ingram75@gmail.com](mailto:ingram75@gmail.com) or 416.420.0291

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### **Saturday March 7 2015** **West Hill - Oldies Dance**



"Take those old records off of the shelf!" A classic, great dance and a perennially sold-out event.

Lots of convenient parking. Dress is casual. A good filling meal. Dancing to the music of DJ Jimmy Mack. Door prize and spot dance prizes. Cash bar. Get your ticket order in early! Don't miss out because you can stay up later as Daylight Savings starts the next day.

Time: 6:00 pm - Social  
7:00 pm - Dinner  
Location: St. Dunstan of Canterbury Church  
56 Lawson Rd., Toronto. (Port Union and Kingston Rd. area)  
Cost: \$30 ea  
Contact: Walter Drane @ [wallyjd@rogers.com](mailto:wallyjd@rogers.com) or 416.755.3734, or  
Gerry Ouellette @ [gerry.ouellette@rogers.com](mailto:gerry.ouellette@rogers.com)

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### **Saturday March 21 2015** **Birch Cliff – Ladies Night**

An enjoyable evening for a dinner and dance. Join our D.D.G.M. and his lady as they dance the night away.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social  
7:30 pm - Dinner  
Location: Rembrandt Banquet Hall  
930 Progress Avenue, Scarborough  
(east off Markham Rd., just south of 401)  
Cost: \$?? ea  
Contact: Errol Chin @ [erroll@bell.net](mailto:erroll@bell.net) or 416.778.0369, or  
John Darling @ 416.291.3737

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**Sunday March 22 2015**

**GLCPO - Sankey Lecture**

2015 Lecture - The Masonic Empire of Thomas Dunckerley: England to Quebec and the Broad Oceans In-between

Susan Mitchell Sommers is Professor of History, Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Her fields of specialization include the Enlightenment, Early Modern and Modern Britain, the Age of Empire, Historical Method, and the History of Fraternalism.

Dr. Sommers' talk will be based on material from her 2012 book on Thomas Dunckerley entitled Thomas Dunckerley and English Freemasonry. The following is some background from the book "Thomas Dunckerley is a late eighteenth-century icon of British Freemasonry; his story is a fascinating morality tale of self-invention and self-deception. Climbing to the highest echelons of the order, and long accepted as something of a hero, the reality of Dunckerley's life is very different from the version that was recorded by his nineteenth-century biographers. Sommers reveals Dunckerley's widely accepted claim to be an illegitimate son of George II to be untrue. But alongside a very real success as a Freemason, his true story includes the Royal Navy, travel, a career in law and the 'scandalous Worsley affair'. In one of the first books to provide a scholarly study of English Freemasonry, Sommers uses Dunckerley's case to examine the changeable nature of personal identity in the eighteenth century and the evolving methodology and expectations of biography."

In lieu of charging for admission, a [tax deductible] contribution is requested to:  
Masonic Foundation of Ontario, Brock University Partnership - Project Number 2937

Time: 3:00 pm  
Location: Brock University  
500 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines

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**Friday March 27 2015**

**T.E.D. - Blood Donor Clinic**



The gift of blood is a truly charitable donation. Each donor gives an insignificant amount of time and the results will benefit an untold number of people in desperate need. To a patient and their family, you will be giving the most appreciated gift possible. Your gift will be appreciated by someone you don't even know. Someone like Mackenzie, who received 27 units of blood and a stem cell transplant.

Book an appointment today. Let your friends and family know that you are donating and ask them to join you.

If you cannot donate blood but would like to help those that do, come down and help with the set up and break down of the clinic. Payment comes in the form of juice and cookies - and a lot of personal satisfaction.

Time: 3:00 pm - 7:45 pm - Volunteers  
3:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Donor Clinic  
Location: Beach United Church  
140 Wineva Ave., Toronto, ON  
Contact: Gilbert Carreiro @ [gilbert.c@rogers.com](mailto:gilbert.c@rogers.com) or 416.704.7551





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## **Tuesday March 31 2015**

### **Toronto and York Districts - Grand Master's Reception**

Honouring M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell. An opportunity to mix and mingle with brethren and their families from not only your own district, but also the other districts in the GTA. Tickets have been distributed and are selling. To make sure Lodges and Members of Toronto East District have good seats, get your tickets now. Ladies are invited and tables of 10 are the norm.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social  
7:30 pm - Dinner followed by entertainment  
9:00 pm - Dancing  
Location: Crystal Palace Banquet Hall  
60 McDowell Gate, Markham  
Cost: \$60 ea  
Contact: Keith Jones @ [kjones@nmdaviscorp.ca](mailto:kjones@nmdaviscorp.ca) or 416.489.6858

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### ***The Paradox of Our Age***

- *We have bigger houses but smaller families;*
  - *More conveniences, but less time;*
  - *We have more degrees, but less sense;*
  - *More knowledge, but less judgment;*
  - *More experts, but more problems;*
  - *More medicines, but less healthiness;*
  - *We've been all the way to the moon and back,  
but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour.*
  - *We built more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever,  
but have less communication.*
  - *We have become long on quantity, but short on quality.*
  - *These are times of fast foods but slow digestion;*
  - *Tall men but short character;*
  - *Steep profits but shallow relationships.*
  - *It's a time when there is much in the window,  
but nothing in the room.*
- The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso [Lhamo Dondrub]*
- 

## **April 15 to April 30 2015**

### **Mocha Shrine Temple, London, ON - Trip to Scotland**

The editor of **Hiram's Lighthouse** took a trip to Scotland similar to this in September/October 2014. This tour will use the same tour guide who is very knowledgeable of both Scottish and Masonic history. The trip is well worth the time and effort and will keep your wife and other non-Masons interested and occupied. If you are seriously contemplating taking advantage of the trip, do not delay in making contact and booking. Time is extremely short.



The purpose of the tour is to visit Masonic Lodges, historic castles, points of interest and other attractions in the heart of Masonry - Scotland.

The tour will last two weeks and many places of interest are on the itinerary. Among those will be: -

- The oldest existing lodge room in the world
- The Royal Yacht Britannia
- Rosslyn Chapel
- Stirling Castle
- The Falkirk Wheel
- The Famous Grouse Distillery
- Loch Lomond
- Lodge No. 0, The Mother Lodge of Scotland in Kilwinning
- Burns Cottage
- Edinburgh Castle
- The Wallace Monument
- The Glenfiddich Distillery
- St. Andrews
- The Scottish Borders which will include: -
  - Melrose Abbey and
  - Floors Castle, largest private home in Britain

Contact: Chapman Cultural Tours Ltd.  
Robert Nidderly @ [bob@chapmantours.ca](mailto:bob@chapmantours.ca) or 416-445-4447

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**Sunday April 19 2015**  
**Toronto East District - Divine Service**  
Family and friends are most welcome.



Time: 9:30 am - Assembly  
10:00 am - Church Service  
Location: St. Margaret in The Pines Anglican Church  
4130 Lawrence Ave. E., Scarborough  
Contact: Joe Daz @ [joedas683@gmail.com](mailto:joedas683@gmail.com) or 416.291.6444

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*Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.*

*- Proverbs 3:3*

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**Saturday June 13 2015**  
**Toronto East District - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Black and White Gala**

You, your lady and guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres to the sounds of a jazz trio, followed by a four-course dinner in a beautiful setting. Corsages are planned for the ladies. After a sumptuous meal, there will be dancing to the 21-piece George Lake Big Band orchestra.



Brethren, we want to be sure and thank our ladies in a very special way for a year of patience and support and this will be a night for them to remember. We also want to have an award ceremony that truly reflects the stature of the District award winners.





In keeping with promises, all speeches will be short and no raffle tickets of any kind will be sold, nor silent auctions held.

Your committee has also managed to arrange an event pricing from the Hilton Garden Hotel next door. If you book your room before May 13<sup>th</sup>, the room rate will be \$129, after that date the price will be \$179. Rooms can be booked directly with the hotel, 905 686 9400. The rooms are held under The Toronto East district Black and White Gala.

Time: 6:00 pm - Social  
7:00 pm - Dinner  
9:00 pm - Dancing  
Location: Ajax Convention Centre  
550 Beck Cres., Ajax (401 and Salem)  
Dress: Formal  
Black Tie or dark business suit  
Speaker: Bro. Joseph Curry, presently deployed in the Middle East  
Cost: \$100 ea  
Contact: the Senior Warden of your lodge

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*It profits nothing to show virtue in words and destroy truth in deeds.  
- St. Cyprian of Carthage (~200-258)*

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**Thursday September 17 through Sunday September 20 2015**  
**Bedford Lodge (U.S.) Masonic Navy - 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Voyage**

We have done this trip several times over the years and it has always been enjoyable. We are accepting up to 32 participants, so get your reservation/deposit in soon. Please get back to one of us as soon as possible so we can accurately plan the upcoming trip.



We are planning on two 10-person larger boats and two 6-person smaller boats. See [www.houseboatholidays.ca/](http://www.houseboatholidays.ca/)

We can board the boats around noon on Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> and would like to leave the marina by 4:00 pm. to travel to one of the islands for Thursday night, if everybody can get there in time. If not, we will sleep at the marina and depart in the morning. It only takes about 45 minutes to get to a decent island from the marina.

We will enjoy the beauty of the 1000 Islands between Gananoque and Hill Island. House boating along the St. Lawrence Seaway is fun and relaxing. The islands we will be stopping at are all part of the St. Lawrence Islands National Park (Canada). We will travel to a different island for each night. Most of the islands we will be stopping at have walking/hiking trails, some have picnic shelters (pavilion type structures) and fire pits where we can just enjoy the fellowship and brotherly love. We plan to have a campfire each night on the islands. There is tent camping available on each island if anyone is interested at about \$10 per night, payable on the island. Bring your own tent and equipment.

We will get back to the marina by noon or so on Sunday.



It is the committee's intention to get the boat assignments done early and distributed to all participants so each boat can coordinate snacks and drinks if they choose to. Each year we all bring too much snacks, etc., so we think a little coordination would help everybody.

The boats only have 12v power as far as I know. We should plan to have people bring an inverter for each boat or a small generator for any breathing machines.

The boats have kitchen stoves with ovens.

The boat rentals include sheets, pillows, and blankets. If you are planning on sleeping on the floor, in a tent or outside, you will need to bring a sleeping bag, etc.

We need to collect money early because we have to pay the boat company for the deposit for this trip. As always, all deposits and payments are **non-refundable**.

\*\*\* I have participated in this annual trip on 11 of the 16 years it has been happening. It is limited to Master Masons (very occasionally EA and FC). The price includes everything except your booze. There is an excellent mix of Canadian and American Masons on this trip. While the info suggests payment by the end of January, what is needed is email commitment and payment by end of March. I would be happy to answer any questions about this Masonic Navy. - Gerry Campbell @ [gerry\\_campbell@msn.com](mailto:gerry_campbell@msn.com) or 416.606.1373 (*secretary - RJRR*)

Time: 12:00 pm - September 17 - Board  
12:00 pm - September 20 - Disembark  
Unless you plan to be on the highway early, you should consider driving on the Wednesday and staying overnight at a motel.

Location: St. Lawrence National Park, Gananoque, ON

Cost: \$400 ea - \$100 ea deposit **ASAP**

Contact: Jerry Bergeron @ [rwjerryb@gmail.com](mailto:rwjerryb@gmail.com) - cheques to  
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Ed Gordon @ [edgordon12@comcast.net](mailto:edgordon12@comcast.net)

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## ... by the Lighthouse Beam

### What is Moral Behaviour And What is Ethics?

Morality denotes the cluster of standards or rules of behaviour that an individual or group accept as right or wrong. These may vary from culture to culture and even within a culture. Knowing the difference between right and wrong involves caring about the difference. Amoral is an indifference toward, or disbelief in any set of moral standards or principles. Ethics refers to our reflections or philosophy as to why we consider certain behaviours right or wrong and consideration of the moralities of other people.

An individual's opinion about what is morally "right" or "good" may vary for many reasons including cultural change or what he sees others are doing. Today some people sacrifice their personal values to meet an objective for themselves or a corporation or do what is legal even when it doesn't feel right. Our society's moral values are being questioned. It is important for Masons to stand up to those questions. What we have been taught about morality in our religion is strengthened by the values Masons have professed for hundreds of years including our belief in a Supreme Architect of the Universe.

The following are some examples about what has been written about morality and ethics:

- Benedict De Spinoza believed because God is infinite and the creator of all, understanding God is the most important goal in life. Those who understand God will follow virtue and desire good for others and behave ethically toward them.
- Edward O. Wilson believes that what humanity considers ethical behaviour has its roots in evolutionary biology. Individuals who act in ways that benefit the larger group are more likely to survive, and their genes are passed on to the descendants who inherit their tendency toward altruistic behaviour.
- Philip Yancey believes ethical behaviour cannot be explained by genetics or evolutionary theory. Many animals are cruel by nature, as are most humans who have no moral compass. Today something unprecedented in human history is brewing: a rejection of external moral sources altogether. This is an ethic of self-fulfillment and expresses itself at every level of society. Without a belief in God or an afterlife, a person can only follow those instincts and impulses that are the strongest. Civilization holds together when a society learns to place moral values above the human appetites for power, wealth, violence, and pleasure. A society cannot maintain a moral life without religion.

- Peter Singer wrote

“when there is a conflict of values, the morally good man must think out the solution for himself based on what furthers the best interests of those affected, the sanctity of life, individual rights, justice, purity, etc. (not just on what increases ones happiness and reduces his suffering). Ethics changes our sense of priorities.”

He does not believe self-interest lurks somewhere beneath the surface of every ethical action as some have suggested.

- Robert Coles stated

“ethics is the science of character and character is how you behave when no one is looking.”



- Fernando Savater, the author of *Amador*, wrote that ethics is “really how to live a human life among human beings, and live it well. Knowing-how-to-live is the art of living which we call ethics.”
- Jean-Paul Sartre wrote “We are condemned to freedom and the responsibility that goes with it.”

As Mason’s our belief in God is in harmony with the above opinions. However, Nietzsche disagreed.

- Friedrich Nietzsche in *The Will To Power* stated “religion subjects individuals to coercive and unauthentic morality. By rejecting this illusion of morality, the individual can experience the fullness of life and can develop a genuine ethic based on human existence rather than abstract concepts. In the practice of religious faith, one sacrifices all freedom, all pride, and all self-confidence of the spirit. The concepts of God and sin will one day seem to us of no more importance than a child’s toy and child’s troubles seem to an old man. Piety is the subtlest and ultimate fear of the truth. Fear leads people to religion. To love man for the sake of God is stupid. Ethical behaviour does not require the belief in heaven or hell.”

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. Treating other people by recognizing what they need and not just what we can get from them makes it possible for them to give back to us. Then we come to enjoy human life among our brothers and fellowmen.

What do you believe are the moral or ethical values we are taught as Masons?

What does it mean to be different in our society?

Who - if anyone - has the right to judge someone else?

Author: Stan Shapiro  
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<http://sites.google.com/site/edsmasonicmatters/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/ed.halpaus>

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## ADMINISTRATION:

**Hiram's Lighthouse** is your newsletter. It is published on the last day of every month. If **Hiram's Lighthouse** does not have the content you would prefer, it is because the editor does not have that content available. With 19 lodges currently in the district, including grip-and-grin pictures of the Official Visit, Installation and Ladies Night of each lodge would dominate the content. If you want something more, please submit it. Please feel free to offer suggestions, submissions for ... **by the Lighthouse Beam**, book and film reviews, and topics of Masonic interest.

We also ask all Secretaries and Worshipful Masters to inform their lodge members of the existence of the newsletter and how to subscribe to it.

Anyone wishing to get on the subscription list should personally send a message to [hiramslighthouse@rogers.com](mailto:hiramslighthouse@rogers.com) including your full name, lodge and lodge location with a subject of Newsletter.

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FYI - There are currently 242 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

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