

# Hiram's Lighthouse

PROVIDING MASONIC LIGHT FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT

Grand Lodge Website: - [www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm)

Lodges of the Greater Toronto Area: - [www.gtamasons.ca](http://www.gtamasons.ca)

Toronto East District: - [www.eol.ca/~freemason/lodge](http://www.eol.ca/~freemason/lodge)

D.D.G.M.: R.W. Bro. Elroy J. MacKinnon: - [elroy@sympatico.ca](mailto:elroy@sympatico.ca)

District Secretary: W. Bro. Moffat L. Kiloh: - [xamd@sympatico.ca](mailto:xamd@sympatico.ca)

January 1, 2008

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*If it were not for the Freemasons of the world today there would be no freedoms. Never before in the history of man have the principles of Masonry been needed more than at the present time. Imagine if the heads of all the world powers were Masons, who could sit down together and discuss things as you and I would do. They would have the respect and the trust for one another, knowing that each had traveled the same path, and each was interested in the other's welfare. Perhaps, some day, we will live to see the time when men can leave their troubles outside, and come into meeting with an open mind, and be interested in the welfare of everyone, and not just for selfish desires.*

*We as Masons have a challenge to meet, and we are taught the principles of Masonry in the lodge that can be applied to our everyday lives. If we will but remember our Masonic teachings in dealing with our fellow men in the business world, in the lodge, the clubs, and in church, we will show the way for continued freedom.*

*- Kansas Masonic Digest, 5948*

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

My Brethren,

## **“Promoting Pride in Our Craft.”**

As we step into the blank pages of a new calendar year let us do so boldly with pride, confidence and excitement. It would be easy to despair at the condition of Masonry in our jurisdiction if we listened only to the naysayers and looked only at the negative statistics. If, on the contrary, we consider what we have in our institution that others do not then we should rejoice in our good fortune!

While it is true that membership levels have dropped, that Lodge Warrants have been retired, and that some among us pine for ‘the old days,’ we often fail to look clearly at what we have. “Masonry is a way



of life. What Masonry offers to the Mason of today is as necessary and worthwhile as it was to Masons of a hundred years ago.”<sup>1</sup> We must recognize that the spirit of Masonry still thrives and its attraction remains appealing to men of principal in our communities today.

Of course, the pace of living has changed dramatically in almost every aspect. Distance, travel, communication, community structure and family dynamics influence our decisions in vastly different ways. The challenge, however, is not to ‘change Masonry.’ The tenets and ethics of the Craft remain steadfast. The challenge is to adapt the ways we communicate these values to those ‘good men’ of the next generation who seek the spiritual quality that is the essence of Masonry. It is our outreach and delivery systems that we must strive to modernize!

A myriad of questions leap to mind as to how Masons might address this dilemma. There are many possible solutions to consider which can become overwhelming, leading to lack of focus and frustration. Let us not get lost in that maze.

Ours is an organization that teaches the importance of a high moral code of behaviour, trust and honour. Let us look to our strengths as individual Masons and our commitment to practising our beliefs. Then have confidence to ask the next generation of Masons how they would go about applying those same ideals in this, the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are the men who will sustain and develop our beloved Craft in the future or who will reject it as too ponderous to maintain in their society. Working together we can go forward with assurance and pride!

A Happy, Prosperous and Confident New Year to You All!

Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Elroy J. MacKinnon  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Toronto East District



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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from comments made by Dewey H. Wollstein, PGM, Minnesota, quoted in *Facilifacts* Dec 07



## Toronto East District Events

### January

Tuesday January 1, 2008

**New Year's Day**

Be careful out there!

The new year is a chance for a fresh start. See if you can do better this time!



Wednesday January 9, 2008

Friendship Lodge – **Installation**

Visitors – 7:30 pm ←

Late banquet

Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

Thursday January 17, 2008

Alpha Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

East Toronto Masonic Temple

Saturday January 26, 2008

The Heritage Lodge – **Black Tie Banquet**

See notice below.

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Monday January 28, 2008

Scarboro Lodge – **Robert Burns Night**

Time – 7:00 pm

See notice below.

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Tuesday January 29, 2008

Long Range Planning – **Lodge Vitality Workshop**

Time – 7:00 pm

East Toronto Masonic Temple

### February

Tuesday February 5, 2008

Canada Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

Wednesday February 6, 2008

Brougham Union Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

Claremont Masonic Temple

Friday February 8, 2008

Birch Cliff Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Tuesday February 12, 2008

Universe Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Wednesday February 13, 2008

The Imperial East Gate Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Friday February 15, 2008

Tuscan Lodge – **Official Visit**

Visitors - 8:00 pm

East Toronto Masonic Temple

Saturday February 16, 2008

Brougham Union Lodge - **Claremont Winter Carnival Parade**

Building opens – 9:00 am

See notice below.

Claremont Masonic Temple



## AROUND AND ABOUT:

### Toronto East District Charities



**Autism**ONTARIO *Spectrum Disorder*) To ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

**FACT:** We don't know what causes autism and we don't know what cures it. We do know that early intervention can make a significant difference in quality of life.

*Support for Families with Members with ASD (Autism Spectrum*



*WindReach Farm* strives to enrich the lives of persons of all ages with disabilities and/or special needs by providing opportunities

to enjoy experiences in farming, nature, outdoor recreation and other activities and to share those experiences with family and friends.

Please use the Toronto East District Charity Project Number for contributions made through the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. The number for the **Toronto East District Charity Project** is **2352**.

Contact: Todd Owens at 905-852-7880 or [678@yrp.ca](mailto:678@yrp.ca)

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*Believe nothing just because a so-called wise person said it. Believe nothing just because a belief is generally held. Believe nothing just because it is said in ancient books. Believe nothing just because it is said to be of divine origin. Believe nothing just because someone else believes it. Believe only what you yourself test and judge to be true.*

*- Buddha [Prince Gautama Siddharta], (563-483 B.C.)*

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### Blood Donor Clinics



CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

The response from the Brethren of Toronto East District to requests for blood donations during the current Masonic year has been dismal to say the least. With a combined total for the District of under 12 units being donated from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 through to December 15<sup>th</sup>, this looks like being a record year, **for all the wrong reasons**.

Two past DDGM's have required units of blood while undergoing major surgery this year. I am sure we all have a loved one or an acquaintance who has benefited from someone's gift of life.

As we enter the New Year, let those who are able give generously of our blood so that others may live. You never know - the life you save may be your own!

To help you in reporting instances where you or a close family member have donated blood, I have set up a new email address with AOL. Send an email to [ted2donate@aol.com](mailto:ted2donate@aol.com). That's **Toronto East District 2 donate**.

For information regarding the location of blood donor clinics in your area call **1-800-2DONATE**.



Watch next months **Hiram's Lighthouse** for information regarding an upcoming donor clinic sponsored by Toronto East District at the Doric Pickering Masonic Temple.

Contact: Bob Steenson at 416 697 0822 or [ontarioair@aol.com](mailto:ontarioair@aol.com)

*You Can't Get **Blood** Out of a Stone – But You Can Get **Blood** From a Mason!*

[http://www.bloodservices.ca/centre\\*apps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm](http://www.bloodservices.ca/centre*apps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm)

***PLEASE!***

**Do the survey!**

In order to help prioritize our limited resources and execute a defined long range plan for the benefit of the Craft over the next decade, please take 2 minutes to fill out the survey located at the Toronto East District website.

<http://www.torontoeastdistrict.com>

It's completely anonymous, and I'm sure you're as curious to see the results as I am.

This survey is **DEFINITELY NOT RESTRICTED** to members of Toronto East District.

### **Making Some New Year's Resolutions?**

Are you looking for something to do every now and then, or even on a regular basis that is masonically related but not the regular lodge meeting or ritual? Something that is really personally rewarding? Consider this.

### **History**

The Black Creek Pioneer Village Masonic Lodge building is one of the oldest in the Village. It is believed to have been erected in the 1840s on the main street of Woodbridge. From 1874 to 1899 it served as the home for Blackwood Lodge No.311 G.R.C. By 1981, the structure was in a state of disrepair and was to be demolished when members of Heritage Lodge and the then Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority united to preserve this historic building, restoring it in Black Creek Pioneer Village. This showcase into Masonry opened on September 29, 1984 and is one of only a small group of display lodges *in the world* that is staffed *daily* by volunteer interpreters.

### **Who**

The group of volunteer interpreters, some of whom have been on duty since the project began, come primarily from lodges in the Greater Toronto Area. There are some, however, who regularly travel considerable distances. Although the group includes past and present Grand Lodge officers and Past Masters, many are Master Masons.

### **Requirements**

To join the crew, first and foremost, you must enjoy meeting people, as you will be an ambassador for both the Village and Freemasonry. Secondly, you need to have a good understanding of the principles and history of the Craft and be prepared to openly and honestly answer all questions. You must be



prepared to make a commitment to serve one day a month from May 1 to December 31. In some instances, two brethren share a day: one takes the 'early' shift, the other the 'late' shift, with perhaps some overlap in the middle. Some Lodges have undertaken a day as a project and that Lodge arranges the schedule of brethren to cover the day, It is expected that the Lodge room be open during all Village hours of operation, normally 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. depending on the 'season' – lunch, washroom and coffee breaks excepted.

### Training

New volunteers normally 'sit in' with the seasoned veterans for a while. An information kit will be provided for you to read. It gives information about the historical period and the artefacts in the Lodge room and some typical visitor questions.

### Not Sure?

If you are interested, but uncertain about what's involved, contact the Chairman and arrangements will be made to let you observe one of the regular volunteers at work.

### Reward

The greatest payoff for you is a wonderful day meeting new people in a quiet, magical setting. Perhaps you might even attract a new member for your Craft Lodge. Heritage Lodge hosts an annual luncheon in April in appreciation of your service. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, as a thank you for volunteer time, provides a card which qualifies you for a discount or two-for-one admission at many area attractions

Contact: W. Bro. Arnold (Mac) McCausland 905-567-4856 or [mccaus@istar.ca](mailto:mccaus@istar.ca)

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## **MORRISBURG**

**Ontario Upper Canada Village Heritage Park**  
[uppercanadavillage.com](http://uppercanadavillage.com)

**NOV. 22-2007**

## **HISTORIC KARS BUILDING TO BE OFFICIALLY TRANSFERRED TO MASONS**

**On November 24, 2007, the keys to the former Kars Orange Hall will be officially transferred to the Masonic Association of Eastern District (MAED) who in turn will transfer them to Upper Canada Village. The ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the Anglican Church Hall in Kars, Ontario, now part of the City of Ottawa. This marks the next step in an undertaking that started four years ago. In 2003, the MAED contacted The St. Lawrence Parks Commission inquiring if the Commission were receptive to the idea of adding a Masonic Lodge to Upper Canada Village, its pre-Confederation living history site. The Commission agreed in principle in 2005 and a partnership was forged between Upper Canada Village and the MAED.**

**The search was on and the Masons were able to secure the Kars Orange Hall as a suitable historical building from the 1860s time period. It has stood in the Village of Kars for the past 145 years. The Hall is to be relocated to Upper Canada Village in the next few weeks where it will be restored to a 19<sup>th</sup> century Masonic Lodge and become part of the living history experience. The Masons, together with Upper Canada Village, are providing research, artefacts and interpretive expertise in readying the building for the 2008 season. All costs associated with the Masonic Lodge project will be funded by the Masonic Association.**



Rideau/Goulbourn Councillor Glenn Brooks, MAED President Frank Gordon, St. Lawrence Parks Commissioner Jack McIntosh and Upper Canada Village Manager Dave Dobbie will all be present for the handing over ceremony. After sounding out the local residents at a public meeting in 2005, Glenn Brooks received a clear indication that the community and local heritage organizations supported this move.

“The St. Lawrence Parks Commission is pleased to partner in this heritage venture which is beneficial to both Upper Canada Village and the Masons”, said Commission Chair Peter Watson.

Fraternal organizations such as the Masonic Order were an important part of 19<sup>th</sup> century Canadian society. “By the time of Confederation, most cities and towns had a Masonic Lodge on the Main Street with the familiar square and compass symbol above the door. In those lodges, men from all levels of society met together as fraternal equals, bound by a belief in God and a desire to help all those in need”, said Len Fourney, Honorary Vice-president MAED. “Dressed in their aprons and regalia, they appeared in public to lay the cornerstone of an important civic building, to march in the funeral procession of a departed brother, and to take part in any great civic or state occasion where they personified the values of tradition and religion.”

Upper Canada Village is operated by The St. Lawrence Parks Commission, an agency of the Government of Ontario. It is located 1-¼ hours southeast of Ottawa (11 km east of Morrisburg), off County Road 2 and 24 km west of Cornwall (Exit 758 off Highway 401).

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### **Computer Hints**

Don't have MS Office? Don't want to pay \$500 or more to Billy Gates for Office? Can't open files such as PowerPoint? Take a look at this.

[http://www.download.com/OpenOffice-org/3000-2064\\_4-10778823.html?tag=lst-1](http://www.download.com/OpenOffice-org/3000-2064_4-10778823.html?tag=lst-1)

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### **Saturday December 8, 2007**

#### **Doric Lodge – 1775 Full Costume U.S. Lodge Meeting Re-enactment**

Ten brethren and seven ladies of the Colonial Craftsmen's Club of Massachusetts attended step-up night (afternoon?) of Doric Lodge where the brethren witnessed Bro. Corey Rick's third degree at the hands of next year's officer line-up. Corey's father, Rob Rick, who has affiliated with Doric Lodge was the inspiration for this exchange, is a member of Mount Hollis Lodge, Holliston Mass.



In the presence of visitors from Ontario, Victoria, Toronto York and Toronto East Districts, the Colonial Craftsmen presented a re-enactment of a lodge meeting that would have been held in a tavern in Boston in 1775. Wearing period dress and Masonic regalia, they set up the Union Jack, toasted King George III, participated in many toasts and arranged for the candidate to pay for the libation.





While the Lodge meeting was unfolding, the ladies enjoyed a presentation by the ladies of the Colonial Craftsmen of a colonial fashion show and details of the lives of colonial ladies from several strata of society.

The visit enabled us to explore our common Masonic roots and was a fine example of International Masonic Relations.

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*If you dislike change, you're going to dislike being irrelevant even more.*  
*- Eric Shinseki*

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**Tuesday January 15, 2008**

**Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons Talking Masonry**

Please **reserve** to give an idea of the number of meals. Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie.**

- Topic: Signs and Symbols: origins and some applications.  
 Carbon dating and other scientific methods suggest 'sign usage' as early as 20,000 B.C.E., with an apparent, and so far unexplained, hiatus: 'Strangely enough, the period between 10,000 B.C.E. and 4,000 B.C.E. seem[ing] to be totally devoid of signs.' One of the earliest inquisitors was John Locke and most recently in our time Norbert Wiener, the latter pointing out that 'what distinguishes human communication from the communication of most other animals is (a) delicacy and complexity...and (b) high degree of arbitrariness...'
- Speaker: Jorg Fischer  
 Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm  
 Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute  
 426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)  
 Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)  
 Contact: Pat Piccione at [pat\\_piccione@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_piccione@hotmail.com) or 416-341-7938

**NOTE:** If you are interested in sharing a Masonic subject at one of the luncheons, please contact Pat.

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**Saturday January 19, 2008**

**Robbie Burns Gala Dinner and Dance**

All friends and non-Masonic guests are welcome to this great evening. Performances by the York Regional Police spectacular Pipes, Drums, Dancers and Singers. A show to behold!! Door and Spot prizes. Wear your tartan!



- Time: 5:30 pm - Social with hors d'oeuvres  
 5:30 pm - Entrance by York Regional Police Pipes and Drums  
 7:00 pm - Sit-down dinner with Haggis .....first class service
- Location: Rameses Shrine Temple-Keele St.  
 Cost: \$40/each  
 Contact: Ella Bytheway - 905-855-3443 or [cbytheway@sympatico.ca](mailto:cbytheway@sympatico.ca) and  
 Marilyn Carrique 1-705-721-7297 [bjmcarrique@aol.com](mailto:bjmcarrique@aol.com)



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**Saturday January 26, 2008**

**The Heritage Lodge – Annual Black Tie Banquet**

All friends and non-Masonic guests are welcome.

Website: <http://heritagelodge730.ca/>

Email: [heritagelod730@xplornet.com](mailto:heritagelod730@xplornet.com)

Speaker: R.W. Bro. James Pearson

Topic: Sharon Temple

Time: 5:00 pm - Cocktails

6:00 pm - Dinner

Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple

Cost: \$25/each Cash Bar

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**Monday January 28, 2008**

**The Famed Scarboro Lodge - Robert Burns Night**

Authentic Scottish Cuisine - Lectures on the life and work of the Bard featuring the designated Haggis Addresser of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada.

All friends and non-Masonic guests are welcome.

Scarboro Lodge - *The city lodge with the country welcome.*

**All tickets must be purchased or reserved in advance.**

Time: 7:00 pm - Dinner

Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple

Cost: \$10/each - Cash Bar

Contact: [Scarboro653@hotmail.com](mailto:Scarboro653@hotmail.com)



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*A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral.*

*- Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944)*

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**Saturday February 16, 2008**

**Claremont Winter Carnival Parade**

The Claremont (Brougham Union) Masonic Temple will open at 9:00 am with hot drinks. By 11:00 am we will assemble at the parade marshalling area on William St. 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 Lodge is again entering two floats 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 the Shrine Hillbilly Troop will be with us again. Among our guests in the Parade will be ambassadors from WindReach Farm (Toronto East District Charity) and town crier, Bill McKee.

Please note that the Toronto East District DDGM has requested 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 color 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: Building opens - 9:00 am  
Parade at 11:00 am  
Location: Claremont Masonic Temple  
Contact: Lou Lombardi – 905-649-3003 or 416-518-2242 or [loulombardi@sympatico.ca](mailto:loulombardi@sympatico.ca)

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### **Tuesday February 19, 2008**

#### **Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons Talking Masonry**

Please **reserve** to give an idea of the number of meals. Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie.**

Topic: tba  
Speaker: tba  
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm  
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute  
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)  
Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)  
Contact: Pat Piccione at [pat\\_piccione@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_piccione@hotmail.com) or 416-341-7938

**NOTE:** If you are interested in sharing a Masonic subject at one of the luncheons, please contact Pat.

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### **Tuesday February 19, 2008**

#### **Master Mason Night**

Hosted by Oakwood Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

***Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Royal Arch Masons of Ontario* – April 2008***

Bring your Master Mason friends to learn about completing your masonic journey. After a speaker from Grand Chapter, the film The Da Vinci Code will be shown.

Time: 7:45 pm  
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Temple  
Contact: Dushan Surovy – 416-816-1363 or [dushan\\_surovy@hotmail.com](mailto:dushan_surovy@hotmail.com)  
Peter Nuttall – 416-283-8056 or [pnuttall@idirect.com](mailto:pnuttall@idirect.com)

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***Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak.***

***Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.***

***- Bro. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill (1874-1965), British Prime Minister-1940-45, 1951-55***

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**Saturday March 1, 2008**

**Club 670 (West Hill Lodge) – Oldies Dance**

Tickets are limited

Time: 6:00 pm – wee hours  
Location: West Shore Community Centre  
South side of Bayly St. between Liverpool Rd. and Whites Rd.  
Cost: tba Cash Bar  
Contact: tba

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*You don't live in a world all alone. Your brothers are here too.*

*- Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), Nobel Physics Prize acceptance speech-1952*

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**Saturday April 19, 2008**

**The Beaches Lodge & Friendship Lodge – Ladies Night**

Both lodges are uniting once again for our Annual Ladies Night Gala. Dinner and Dancing with a silent auction for our District Charities. All Masons and non-Masons welcome. It will be an exciting and fun filled evening. This is an outstanding venue and tickets are limited, so buy early!

Time: 6:00 pm – Social  
7:00 pm – Dinner  
Location: Four Seasons Golf and Country Club  
Cost: \$50/ea  
Contact: Mike Enns at (416) 275-6391 or [mike-enns@hotmail.com](mailto:mike-enns@hotmail.com)

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**Friday April 25, 2008**

**Birch Cliff Lodge – Table Lodge Event**

This evening is open to all Masons and their significant others and promises to be a truly fun-filled night.

Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple  
Cost: tba  
Contact: Jim Pickett – 416-282-9373 or [j\\_o\\_pickett@yahoo.ca](mailto:j_o_pickett@yahoo.ca)

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## This Month

### January

When we say Happy New Year, we happily invoke the energy of the ancient Roman god of passage. He has two faces - one for endings and one for beginnings. Janus, for whom January was named, was the guardian of the gateway between the past and the future. Janus, from the Latin root 'janua', meaning door, was honoured as the guardian of the door. Trevor Stewart writes, "In the Classical era, Janus was commonly shown as carrying two keys, one of gold and the other of silver, to open and lock each of the two solstitial gates, the Janua Coeli and the Janua Inferni, corresponding respectively to the Winter and Summer solstices (i.e., the two extreme points of the Earth's annual cycle around the Sun)." Janus, as Master of Time, was the Janitor who opened and closed this cycle.



On the other hand, he was also the god of initiation into the Greater and the Lesser 'Mysteries'. The word 'Initio' comes from the root-word 'in-ire' - (to enter) and this is clearly connected with the concept of a gateway. According to one rather obscure passage in Cicero's treatise De Natura deorum, the name 'Janus' had the same root as the verb 'ire' - (to go) and this root-word has been detected in Sanskrit texts where among its derivatives is the word 'yana' - (the way).

According to most linguists, it seems that that word 'ianus' is based on the root 'ia'. This is an extension of an Indo-European root 'ei' (to go) and this abstract term signifies 'passage' or 'travelling'.

The ancient Oriental concept of 'Tao' means literally 'the way' and is shown in Mandarin Chinese by two ideographic characters that are the signs for the head and the feet (i.e., the beginning and the end). Furthermore, you will recall that Jesus proclaimed Himself to be 'the Way'.

It is interesting, and not entirely inapposite, that the symbol of the two keys is retained, even to this day, by the Papacy in its Coat of Arms. That is because Peter (the first Bishop of Rome) was said to hold the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. His standard iconography includes a pair of keys to commemorate this. The keys, of course, we assign to the Treasurer. Incidentally, another symbol for Janus was that of a barque, a vessel that appropriately could move backwards and forwards - corresponding to Janus' two faces - and this is also retained today as one of the other chief symbols of the Papacy. The 'ship of the Church' was also a standard symbol for Peter, along with the inverted cross, which represents his method of execution. The New Testament names Peter as one of the three pillars of the Jerusalem Church, that of Strength. The other two pillars are James the Wise and John the Beloved (Beauty). Early depictions of the ship make it look more like Noah's ark.

There is one other curious co-incidence that you may care to consider.

Janus was the god of beginnings. His name was assigned to the first month of the Roman calendar. He presided over the so-called solstitial gates, the 'gate of men' and the 'gate of the gods'; i.e., the Summer and Winter Solstices respectively. His solstitial festivals were commemorated by the members of the Collegium Fabrorum (the guild of artisans) whom some would regard as the Classical forerunners of the later medieval stonemasons. These solstitial feasts of Janus eventually became, in the Christian tradition, the festivals of the two Saints John, and the medieval stonemasons had both Saints John as their patrons.



Furthermore, in the very early days of speculative Freemasonry (perhaps the inheritor of these medieval traditions) Lodges were known as 'St. John' Lodges.

Remember also that according to Cicero at least, the name Janus has the same root as the verb 'to initiate', and what is it that Freemasons' Lodges do except initiate? In other words, they are concerned with 'beginnings'. Perhaps Freemasons have more to do with Janus than at first glance from whatever of his two faces we are looking at!

Janus' festival, called the Kalendae is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sacrifices were also made in January to the goddess Fortuna for favours in the coming year. Nowadays, we make resolutions to sacrifice destructive or useless habits to make room for worthwhile and constructive activities and behaviours that will lead us to good fortune. January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Years' Day, also known as Hogmanay, is a Scottish celebration that includes a walkabout around the boundaries of ones property. Also called 'first footing', folklore tells us that the first foot inside your door after midnight, December 31 will foretell the flavour of the coming year's fortune. This custom of walking the boundaries was standard well outside of Scotland. An annual procession of the entire parish was commonly required to sustain incorporation. These circumambulations, both personal and by groups, were always made clockwise to assert possession and membership. A purchase of property was concluded by the new owner touring the new boundary. Procession in the opposite direction (widdershins) was thought to be unlucky at best. A candidate thus asserts membership and some sense of joint ownership of the lodge by his circumambulations.

Group processions were typically led by one of the local craft guilds, which were responsible for upkeep of the regalia and the presentation of a feast. One of Henry VIII's first reforms was cutting out all the holidays during planting and harvest, because he thought too much time was wasted on all the feasts and processions.

January 6<sup>th</sup> marks the Christian celebration of Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek and Latin root meaning appearance, manifestation, or revealment, and to show forth or to manifest. An epiphany today means a meaningful experience wherein a luminous moment occurs that changes the significance of everything in the life. Epiphany is celebrated as a time of consecration, a time of dedication to a better future. The celebration of Epiphany is taken from the story of the three Wise Men from the east, who traveled 12 days and nights to see the newborn Saviour. It was 'revealed' to them in a dream, that if they followed the 'appearance' of a special star or light in the heavens, they would find a child in whom The Christ was manifested.

The Wise Men or Magi brought special gifts from their homelands - Persia – gifts fit to offer a king. These wise men were astrologers. The gifts included gold (ruled by the Sun), the precious metal of Kings, because of its beauty and rarity. Of all the metals, it is nearly inert - doesn't easily mix with other elements, and doesn't break down, but maintains its elemental form. The second gift, frankincense (also Sun ruled), was an aromatic hardened gum resin of the *Boswellia Carterii Thurifera* tree, used as an incense in religious rituals, and represents pure prayer. *Boswellia* is an anti-inflammatory, now used to treat arthritis. The third was myrrh (Saturn ruled), a resin from the *Commiphora myrrha* tree - used in incense, as a holy oil for anointing the dead, as a mouthwash, to combat vermin, and as a painkiller. It is a fragrant but bitter-tasting gum resin used to make incense, perfumes, medicines, and holy ointments for consecration. In many Lodges, we use incense to clear and clean the air. The resins are found in Arabia and Somalia, and are used in protection rites.

January 25<sup>th</sup> in the runic calendar is Disting, the feast of the Disir, the Norse guardian goddesses. In the Druidic form of this ritual, the Fire Maiden lights the fire of wisdom and love and power, and makes an offering so that the sacred fire burns within us. Then the Keeper of the Well pours water of wisdom and



life, and makes an offering so that the sacred waters flow within us. Then the Tender of the Tree dresses the Cosmic Tree, Yggdrasill, symbolic of Life and our connection with the Earth, and asks that the sacred tree grow within us. Symbols of land and sea and sky within and without honour the adage “as above, so below”.

January 26<sup>th</sup> is Vasant Panchami, the festival of Kites, devoted to Saraswati, goddess of learning and wife to Brahma. She is asked to bestow the wealth of Knowledge to all humanity. Celebrants wear yellow clothing in honour of the mustard fields, symbolic of spring coming to the land. Saraswati is a bit like our ‘Sophia.’

January’s gemstones are the garnet and the agate. The word garnet is derived from the Latin, granatum, which means pomegranate, which is an important symbol in Freemasonry. Garnet crystals are granular, shaped like the fruits of the pomegranate. The most prized colour of the gemstone is the deep clear poppy red of the fruit, although garnets also come in many hues (even to red, orange and yellow). These gems were reported to bring sleep to their wearers, and to calm a restless brain. Garnets were also associated with constancy and fidelity, and were said to fortify the heart of the owner. The agate is a type of chalcedony, made up of layers of colour. Its history suggests it be worn to clear emotional blockages by piercing the veil of inner levels of consciousness, and allowing remembrance of past lives. Moss agate was worn to balance emotions and as a blood cleanser. Lace agate was worn to release muscle spasms and tension.

January is the month of Saturn, embracing both of Saturn’s signs, Capricorn and Aquarius when time often weighs heavily. Saturn rules Time, and the hourglass as an object of reflection symbolizes this concept well, a reminder of mortality. Time is most certainly an enigma. “You would measure time the measureless and the immeasurable. You would adjust your conduct and even direct the course of your spirit according to hours and seasons. Of time you would make a stream upon whose bank you would sit and watch its flowing. Yet, the timeless in you is aware of life’s timelessness, and knows that yesterday is but today’s memory and tomorrow is today’s dream. And that which sings and contemplates in you is still dwelling within the bounds of that first moment which scattered the stars into space. But if in your thoughts, you must measure time into seasons, let each season encircle all the other seasons, and let today embrace the past with remembrance, and the future with longing.” (Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931), The Prophet, On Time)

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## ... by the Lighthouse Beam

### Darkness Visible

Last night I sat in Lodge with twenty-one *just and upright men*.

You might say there is nothing too unusual about that except that this night, which was to have been the annual occurrence of this Lodge's Installation, proved to be an auspicious occasion for another reason.

This was the night upon which the Brethren who were regular attendees of this Lodge in addition to 15 or so other Brethren would, for the final time, meet to discuss and then subsequently vote upon a motion from the north to, "... return our Charter to Grand Lodge"

During the discussion period, at which time the Master and his Wardens called the Brethren from "Labour to refreshment" that each would feel free to speak, unfettered by the ceremony of our Ritual, many fine and eloquent members of our gentle Craft stood to say their piece, make a point, offer an opinion, suggest a reason "Why" and occasionally suggest a better way.

As a visitor to this Lodge, I listened and watched and tried to understand why.

**Who** sat where?

**Why** is this situation permitted to continue?

**Who sat where?** After a few minutes of listening, it became clear to my mind that these Brethren had become tired, weary of the face of Freemasonry presented by their Lodge. They talked of days gone by when candidates were plentiful, the Lodge was vibrant and busy, the Craft was loved by all ..... and all embraced its call to perfection through perseverance.

They still love the Craft but now many had grown old and tired, they have lost the vitality of their youth, and too few younger men were there to learn our noble art and science and assist them in the governance of their Lodge.

And so they vote, .....  
and darkness prevails.

Were I to offer an opinion of why this Lodge and others in our Grand Jurisdiction suffer from poor attendance, I would say we, **that is both you and I**, need to look first to ourselves.



Which brings us to, **why** this situation is permitted to continue?



It is an accepted fact that we do not solicit men to participate in the knowledge of our hidden secrets and mysteries. How then is it that we are to increase our numbers?

The simple answer is to live our lives, as best we can, by the lessons of the Working Tools. As we seek to attain that state of perfection which will shine as a beacon to all who cross our paths, good men will recognize and appreciate both our humility and brotherly love, prompting them to ask about Ancient Freemasonry. Hopefully opening the portal through which they also can begin their journey towards discovering the genuine secrets of Masonry.

If the answer is seemingly so simple, why do we fail to retain many of these excellent men whose feet tread on our mosaic pavement?

Again, I would recommend to your most serious perusal and consideration, your own actions within the lodge.

When did you last commit yourself to learn a new piece of work? Sit in Lodge with a new Mason and answer his questions regarding our ritual? Or guide a junior officer in the execution of the floor work?

Retention of new candidates is in direct proportion to the quality of the experience he receives.

When our ritual and floor work is lacking, this is perceived by the new candidate as an inferior and disappointing 'product', one probably not able to satisfy his expectations or fulfill his needs, and so he will not persevere.

When we emulate the Ritual at a superior level, it is infectious, raising not only our spirits but also those of the candidate and the brethren looking on, inspiring all to perfection.

We would do well to remember, that, "the utmost extension of fraternal feeling and affection which can exist between man and man is expected to be displayed amongst the brethren in a Freemason's Lodge, and then will be attained the chief point in Freemasonry, namely,

**"to endeavour to be happy ourselves, and to communicate that happiness to others"**

Nothing makes a person happier than when they exceed their own expectations.

I recently read an article in *The Masonic Sun* an Ontario Masonic magazine published in 1937. In it the author pointed out that despite an unprecedented drop off in the membership of Masonic Lodges since the start of the great depression, the resurgence in the economy had sparked a renewed interest in Masonic membership.

The core Mason's of the time were ready to meet this challenge, to impart their skills to the E.A., F.C. and M.M. and this is evidenced by the many great Masons who have led our craft through the past 70 years.

Today, we are seeing a new revival in Masonry. After years of declining numbers I believe we are on the brim of a renaissance<sup>2</sup> fuelled by a basic human instinct to know the creator.

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<sup>2</sup> Encarta English Dictionary describes renaissance as;  
**a rebirth or revival, e.g. of culture, skills, or learning forgotten or previously ignored**



Today, the majority of Freemason's in Canada are in their late 60's. If these brethren choose not to attend their Lodge or worse, attend but not play a vital role in the education and mentoring of the apprentices and Fellowcraft and indeed the Master Masons, then how are the genuine tenets of our time honoured institution (to) be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

Are you ready for the challenge this revival in Freemasonry presents to all Masons?

Will you once again support your lodge by attending on a regular basis?

Will you rise up to guide and instruct a new Mason and a brother in our hidden mysteries?

Finally Brethren, let each of us remember the early days of our Masonic existence and the way in which an experienced Brother would guide and gently admonish, so that we attained a state of perfection peculiar to each of us.

Take this remembrance to your Lodge and permit it to empower you to be happy yourself and to communicate that happiness to others, through a sharing of your understanding of our great fraternity.

To the Brethren of Dentonia Lodge No. 651, G.R.C., I applaud you for the decision you have made. I am encouraged in the knowledge that each of the Brethren of Dentonia Lodge had stated a desire to affiliate with and participate in a Lodge closer to their home.

Author: Bob Steenson  
6007

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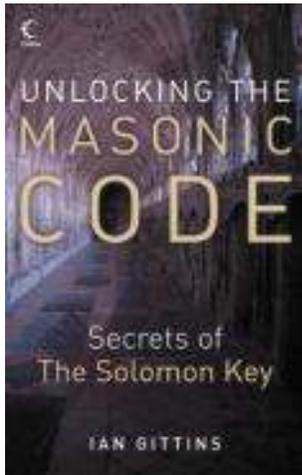


## Book Review

### **Unlocking The Masonic Code: Secrets Of The Solomon Key**

Author: Ian Gittins  
ISBN: 9780007234677  
Publisher: Collins  
Published: 2007

It is already common knowledge that next book by *Da Vinci Code* author Dan Brown will be called *The Solomon Key* and whereas his previous books had the Priory Of Sion and the Illuminati involved in arcane conspiracies, it will be the Masons' turn in his next book. Although it may seem strange that an author would set out to debunk the contents of a book that has yet to be published I think we all know the old chestnuts that will be dug up for this conspiracy-fest.



The author knows, as we do, that Brown will bring out the Masonic connection with the Founding Fathers of The United States and of course there was one; George Washington, Ben Franklin, Paul Revere and some (but not all) of the signers of The Declaration Of Independence were Masons, as no doubt were many of those who were opposed to Independence. He will no doubt also bring out the fact that those who participated in the Boston Tea Party had previously met at the Green Dragon Tavern the same night as St. Andrew's Lodge had their meeting, no doubt conveniently forgetting that a group called The Sons Of Liberty had also met there that night. He also debunks the fact that that the design of Washington DC and The Great Seal of The United States on the US Dollar are 'Masonic' but I guarantee that those will be part of Brown's Masonic conspiracy.

However the *Solomon Key* part of the book is, I believe, an effort to find a wider audience for the book. In reality this book is *Freemasonry In A Nutshell*, or *For Dummies* if you will. And as that kind of book, it is one of the best, especially for the modest price (\$11.95). The book gives a succinct and well-written history of the Craft including what he calls the 'real' and 'notional' histories.

There is also an excellent explanation of the symbols of Freemasonry and the duties of the various officers. Strangely enough the part that might be of the least interest to Masons is the chapter where he gives the details of the three degrees. **WARNING:** if you do purchase this book and leave it lying around, it does divulge all of the signs, grips, tokens and words. This is done from an English perspective so there are some differences, for instance I did not know that when they letter the word in the Second Degree they begin with the second letter.

As it says on the back of the book "Ian Gittins delves deep into the true origins of the society, its philosophy and practices, describes the rituals and profiles a number of key figures. Along the way, he also shows where fact and fiction have fought and fiction has won the battle". How true.

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[www.masonicbookstore.com/](http://www.masonicbookstore.com/)

(Editor: Bill's bookstore in beautiful Port Perry carries a large number of books related to Freemasonry, as well as other books, both new and 'gently pre-owned'. Take a drive up. If you take your wife, be prepared to stay in town for a while. Tell Bill you saw his review here.)

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## District Lodges

**Toronto East District** is comprised of the lodges residing in the Ajax (Doric-Pickering), Claremont, East Toronto (Chisholm) and Scarborough Masonic Halls. Take a chance! Pick some lodge you haven't seen and go visiting!

<b>Lodge and No</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Mtg</b>	<b>Inst</b>	<b>Off Vst</b>
Acacia #430	East Tor	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Sep	Mar
Alpha #384	East Tor	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Oct	Jan
Birch Cliff #612 <a href="http://www.birchcliffodge.com">www.birchcliffodge.com</a>	Scar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	Dec	Feb
Brougham Union #269	Clar	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Oct	Feb
Caledonia #637 <a href="http://www.caledonialodge637.com">www.caledonialodge637.com</a>	Scar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Oct	Apr
Canada #532	Ajax	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Oct	Feb
Cathedral #643	East Tor	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Oct	Mar
Coronati #520	Scar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	Sep	Apr
Dentonia #651	East Tor	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu	Dec	Feb
Doric #424	Ajax	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Dec	Oct
Friendship #729	Ajax	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Jan	Oct
Mimosa #576	East Tor	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	Oct	Apr
North Gate #591	Ajax	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	Apr	Oct
Riverdale - John Ross Robertson #494 <a href="http://www.rjrr494.com">www.rjrr494.com</a>	East Tor	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	Sep	Apr
Scarboro #653	Scar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	Dec	Mar
St. Aidan's #567	Scar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	May	'Mar
The Beaches #473 <a href="http://www.beacheslodge.ca">www.beacheslodge.ca</a>	Scar	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu	May	Mar
The Imperial East Gate #543	Scar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Nov	Feb
Todmorden #647 <a href="http://www.todmordenlodge.com">www.todmordenlodge.com</a>	East Tor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	Nov	Mar
Tuscan #541 <a href="http://www.tuscan541.com">www.tuscan541.com</a>	East Tor	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	Nov	Feb
Universe #705 <a href="http://home.eol.ca/~freemason/lodge/universe.htm">http://home.eol.ca/~freemason/lodge/universe.htm</a>	Scar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	Oct	Apr
West Hill #670	Scar	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Dec	Mar
Wexford #683	Scar	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	Nov	Apr
<b>Total Lodges:</b>	<b>23</b>			



## ADMINISTRATION:

**Hiram's Lighthouse** is published on the last day of every month. This is your newsletter. Please feel free to offer suggestions, submissions for ... **by the Lighthouse Beam**, book and film reviews, and topics of Masonic interest.

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send us a message at [tsm@295.ca](mailto:tsm@295.ca) with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past.

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

Anyone wishing to get on the subscription list, please send a message to [tsm@295.ca](mailto:tsm@295.ca) including your full name, with a subject of Newsletter.

Moving? Changing ISPs? Remember to send in your new snail-mail address and e-mail address to both your lodge secretary and us.

FYI – there are currently [179](#) names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

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Terry Spalding-Martin *F.C.F.*  
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No trees were harmed and no costs were incurred as a result of this email, however a large number of electrons were temporarily inconvenienced. How is your lodge summons being distributed?

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