

Hiram's Lighthouse

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

Grand Lodge Website: - www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm
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July 1 2011

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If we shall not be careful in the admission of candidates and improve the procedure of admission, we are then starting the composition of a funeral hymn for the death of our noble institution. As Freemasons, we should not allow this to happen. If and when we do, we are doomed, for we have just hammered the last nail in the sarcophagus of Freemasonry.

- Anonymous Bro., Rejections on Masonic Values

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

Brethren,

Soon after I was installed as your District Deputy Grand Master, I recalled the words of Robert Frost "The woods are lonely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep."

At my first meeting with the Masters and Wardens last August I announced that my theme this year would be "**Visitation + Education = Retention.**"

I indicated that in order to have a strong District and to ensure that there was a strong camaraderie among our lodges, especially since 11 lodges had relocated to the East Toronto, Doric and York Temples after Scarborough Temple was sold I expected to see visitations increased at Installations and especially Official Visits. Based on the statistics I have seen, there has been an increase in visitations.

I also mentioned that there was a yearning for Masonic education in the district, especially among the newer masons. It was with this in view that I choose **Masonic Education, Mentor, Friend2Friend and Brother2Brother** programs as being my Centres of Excellence. I asked my District Chairmen to work with Lodges and Lodge Chairmen to implement these Grand Lodge programs. There were a number of presentations on the above programs made in Lodges and workshops were conducted at the District level. We alternated meetings/workshops/discussion groups between the three temples, East Toronto, Doric and Claremont as another method of our oneness.



In addition to these programs, we mounted three **Lodges of Discussion** at the District Level which were very successful as the topics were thought-provoking. We also had **Lodge of Discussion** by some lodges for their members. There were extremely successful **Officer Progression and Improving the Proficiency of the Mechanics of the Work** Workshops for the District. As you can see, Education was the second leg of the formula “*Visitation + Education.*”

I also wanted to ensure that lodges had a Long Range Plan in place for retention of their membership and for future growth. To this end, the District Chairman, **Long Range Planning** sent a planning road map to lodges for them to develop a vision for their on-going future success. It provided a framework and structure to the process. Also I formed a 5-man committee to formulate a Long Range Plan for the District. We had a singular meeting where we discussed generalities and were to meet again to be more focused. I did not expect to have a plan before my term ended. However, I hope our new DDGM would pursue this vigorously as this can be the life blood for our district in the future.

When my term of office started, we had 21 lodges with 1,904 members. At the end of my term, we will have 19 lodges. The December/2010 half yearly returns showed 1,838 members as I had no information from one lodge as their warrant was arrested in January.

I would like to thank the Presidents of the East Toronto and Doric Temple Boards for allowing the District to hold meetings, training sessions, workshops etc. I am deeply grateful and indebted to them as they have shown a deep commitment to the fraternity. My thanks to the Masters and their lodges who hosted district meetings and workshops as their assistance was invaluable in terms of set-up, coffee, snacks and light lunches.

Last Saturday I attended the Senior Warden's BBQ and District Awards ceremony at WindReach Farm, our District Charity. It was a very enjoyable event; the kids and adults had a wonderful afternoon going on hay rides, having painted faces, feeding and petting the animals etc. The BBQ prepared by the Senior Wardens was mouth-watering good. District Awards were then presented to the winners who were:

Bro. Maher Eid, Wexford Lodge	Mason of the Year
Brougham Union Lodge	Lodge of the Year
Universe Lodge	Civic Involvement in the Community
Brougham Union Lodge	Remembrance Day Parade
Bro. Christian Giles, Beeches Lodge	Aubrey Smaller Award
Bro. John Katz, Alpha-Tuscan Lodge	Charles Hill Award
Universe Lodge	Blood Donor Award
Doric Lodge	Travelling Gavel
Caledonia Lodge	Most generous monetary contribution to District Charity

I congratulate the winners for their dedication and commitment to their lodges and the district.

On behalf of the District I presented a symbolic cheque for \$3,000 as a down-payment to the Sandy Mitchell, the founder of WindReach Farm and his Board of Directors. When all the monies from the BBQ are received and the amount from the Masonic Foundation included, the total amount will be determined. The Co-Chairmen, District Charity and I will then deliver a cheque for the total amount to the Executive Director.

I would like to thank Brian Sale, Chairman of the Senior Warden's group the *Networkers* and the Senior Wardens for putting on a splendid event and from all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously, especially the kids although the weather was not of the best.



I would like to remind you of Grand Lodge's Communication July 18th-22nd. There are a number of important motions that are before Grand Lodge, elections to the Board of General Purposes, Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Master. There will also be time for frivolity as there are a number of hospitality rooms in our District. I would like to quote a paragraph from our Grand Master's Special Communiqué: "I respectfully request that you advise the organizers of your District hospitality room at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel that while sociability and the enjoyment of convivial Masonry are the object, to conduct themselves with restraint and maintain good order. Every Mason is a walking definition of Freemasonry. We will not be the only guests at the Royal York. The public perception of Masonry and Masons is our responsibility. **Overindulgence by a few can sully the reputation of many.**"

I would like to end my final message with an inspirational thought which does not only apply to masons but to everyone in life.

- *I believe that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they love each other.*
- *That we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change. That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you once in a while and you must forgive them for that and that true friendship continues to grow.*
- *That it is taking me a long time to become the person I want to be and that I am responsible for what I do, no matter how I feel. That I can do something in an instant that will give me heartache for life.*
- *That sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel. That maturity has to do more with what types of experiences I've had and what I've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays I've celebrated.*
- *That our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for whom we become. That two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.*
- *That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences. That sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.*
- *That the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything they have. That credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.*

I thank you my brethren for a wonderful journey. I have thought long and hard about Frost's words "*The woods are lonely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep.*" Three hundred and fifty-six miles will have passed before I invest my successor. I am satisfied that I have kept my promises as my objectives this year were met, especially **Visitation and Education**. I would only know in a few months when the June half-yearly returns are known if we achieved my goal of **Retention**.

See you at Grand Lodge's Communication the week of July 18th.

VISITATION + EDUCATION = RETENTION

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

R.W. Bro. Leyland A. Muss
District Deputy Grand Master
Toronto East District



TORONTO EAST DISTRICT EVENTS:

July 2011						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<u>1</u> * Canada Day - get out there and enjoy the 1 st long weekend of the summer	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> * Aphelion See below
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> * Birch Cliff - Annual Golf Tournament See below Bushwoods Golf Club	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> 156 th Grand Lodge Communication Fairmont Royal York	<u>19</u> 156 th Grand Lodge Communication Fairmont Royal York	<u>20</u> 156 th Grand Lodge Communication Fairmont Royal York	<u>21</u> 156 th Grand Lodge Communication Fairmont Royal York	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>



August 2011						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<u>1</u> Simcoe Day - enjoy another long weekend * Start of Ramadan - Have mercy on your Moslem friends. They could be a might touchy for a few days.	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> * The Beaches - Paint Ball Games See below Wilderness Games Inc.	<u>21</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> * Doric - Annual Golf Tournament See below Spring Creek Golf & Country Club
<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> * End of Ramadan - time for lunch!	<u>31</u>				



AROUND AND ABOUT:

Toronto East District Charity

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. Project 2441.

Make cheques payable to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, include the Project number and your lodge on the cheque and mail to the Masonic Foundation - 361 King St W., Hamilton ON, L8P 1B4.



Contact: Todd Owens @ 678@yrp.ca or 416.722.0843, or
David Neave @ davidneave@rogers.com or 905.725.8032

The problem with Freemasonry is that it does not practice Freemasonry anymore.
- Bro. John J. Robinson (1925-1993)

Blood Donor Clinics



Just because there are no scheduled Masonic Blood Donor Clinics does not mean the need for blood has disappeared. This is the time of travel - vacations, cottage, BBQs, friends, family. Accidents happen while we are out there. If, unfortunately, it is one of us or our family or friends who are involved, we'd all want the necessary blood to be available. It only takes a short while and it's quite relaxing actually.

Find yourself a clinic at the website indicated below and go and give blood. Take your family and friends. Be sure to let your lodge Blood Donor Chairman know that you have donated to get credits for your lodge. The Toronto East District 'Partners For Life' number is **TOR0009781** and any donation registered under that number goes in our totals count.

For information regarding the location of blood donor clinics, go to
www.blood.ca/centreapps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm&CloseMenu

Contact: John Katz @ johnkatz@sympatico.ca or 416.264.7399
Doug Gray @ douggray@rogers.com or 416.266.0783

Toronto East Masonic Centre (T.E.M.C.)

With respect to the new temple design, we are facing three choices in terms of style and cost: one storey, three storey and multi-storey. They each have their merits and prior to summer, we the board need to provide direction and thus make a decision.

As well, the board needs to understand what the Chisholm temple board is going to do - related to the eventual sale of their property and disposition of their assets, as well expediting the impending transfer of capital from SMTC, enabling us to move forward effectively and efficiently. In this regard, there is a special meeting of the SMTC board called immediately prior to next TEMC meeting.



With respect to our real estate strategy, we will decide at the next meeting to either execute our development privately, utilizing the skill sets of Masons, or through a commercial realtor or DNKF, as discussed over the past several meetings.

The next board meeting is being held on June 29, 7:00 pm, again at Chisholm.

- Graeme Boyce, Board President

Remember the North East Corner

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 8 lives and enhance 75 more. Not a bad return on investment, eh? Register now.

www.beadonor.ca

How To Say It

Accessory	ack-sess-or-ee
Acquiescence	ack-wee-ess-ence
Adhere	add-here
Adherence	add-here-ense
Admonish	add-mon-ish ('o' as in 'on')
Admonition	add-mo-nish-un ('o' as in 'obey')
Adversity	add-ver-city ('e' as in 'her')
Affinity	a-fin-it-ee ('a' as in 'cat')
Afflicting	a-flick-ting
Affliction	a-flick-shun
Affluence	a-floo-ense
Allegory	a-leg-gore-ee
Allusion	a-lyoo-zhun
Altar	all-tar or all-tur
Amicably	am-ick-ab-lee

- Functional Pronouncing Glossary of The Work

What's That All About?

Why is the Masonry of today called 'speculative'?

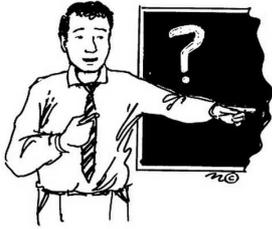
The word is used in the sense that the Masonry of today is theoretical, not practical, building; that it is a pursuit of knowledge, not of the construction of edifices.

Speculative Masonry began with the practice of admitting to membership in operative lodges, men who were not practical builders, stonecutters, architects, etc., but who were interested in the moral, ethical and philosophical teachings of the fraternity.

(Ed: It is now current accepted practice within Freemasonry that 'mason' indicates a practical or operative mason while 'Mason' indicates a speculative Mason.)



Freemasonry is said to be a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. What is an allegory?



Allegory is from two Greek words and means, “story within a story” - the Masonic story is told as a fact, but it presents the doctrine of immortality. Allegory, parable, fable, myth, legend, tradition, are correlative terms. The myth may be founded on fact; the legend and tradition more probably are founded on fact, but the allegory, parable, fable, are not. Yet they may be “true” if “true” is not taken to mean factual. “In the night of death hope sees a star and love can hear the rustle of a wing” is beautifully true allegory, but not factual. All allegories may contain truth, without being fact.

The allegory of the Master Mason’s Degree is not true in any factual sense, except in the historical background from the Biblical account of the building of the Temple. That the Hiram were Grand Masters; that the workmen on the building were Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons; that they met in various apartments of the Temple, with different numbers required for various quorums; that the events delineated in the ceremony actually happened are not factual statements.

Yet the allegory is true in the best sense of the word. For the story of Hiram is the story of the dearest hope of mankind. It is a tale told in every religion. It is affirmation, by picture, drama, and story, of man’s rugged faith that Job’s immortal question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” must be answered in the affirmative. It is a Mason’s observation that truth, slain by error, will be born again; it is the crucifixion and the resurrection of the Carpenter who died between two thieves. The Masonic allegory is true in the deepest sense of truth.

Why “Grand” Lodge? What is grand about it?

Grand is used in the same sense as in grand total or grandfather, meaning first, principal, and most important. It does not mean a lodge which is “grand” in the sense that it is big, impressive, or beautiful, as when the word is used in “a grand spectacle,” or “a grand performance.”

Why do brethren not pass between the Altar and the East when lodge is at labour?

Brethren do not pass between the Altar and the East in a Masonic lodge at labour (except in a degree) because the Master is supposed to have the Great Lights constantly in view. In theory, at least, he draws inspiration from the Altar to preside over the lodge and must not, therefore, be prevented from seeing it at any time.

The custom is but a pretty courtesy, but it is rooted in a fundamental conception of the Craft, that the Altar is the centre of Masonry, and that from it and from the Great Lights it bears, flow all that there is of Masonic inspiration and truth and light.

English lodges do not have this problem, since in them a pedestal near the Master is the Altar on which lies the Holy Book.

What is the “Lodge of the Holy Saints John at Jerusalem”?

Many a Master has been puzzled to answer this simplest and most natural of questions. As there is not now and never was such a lodge, there is certainly some reason for confusion.



Originally, lodges were dedicated to King Solomon. Later-at least as early as 1598 - Masonry connected her name with that of St. John the Evangelist. Dedications to the Saints John were made by other organizations as early as the third century, when the Church adopted the two pagan celebrations of summer and winter solstices and made them our St. John's Day in summer and St. John's Day in winter. It was wholly natural for operative Masons, having dedicated their Craft to the Holy Saints John, to begin to believe that both Johns were themselves Craftsmen. Craftsmen must have a lodge - where should that lodge be but in Jerusalem? Hence "The Lodge of the Holy Saints John of Jerusalem" came into imaginary existence.

No such lodge ever existed in fact, and yet it is not a fiction - it is an ideal, and without such ideals our life would be dim and drab. The thought back of the question and answer, then, is that we come from an ideal or dream lodge into this actual workaday world, where our ideals are to be tested. Today, as we use the phrase as the starting point for a Masonic career, Masons mean only that their Craft is dedicated to these holy men, whose precepts and practices, ideas and virtues, teachings and examples, all Freemasons should try to follow.

- One Hundred and One Questions About Freemasonry

Canada Lodge U.D. - Kandahar



The latest photo from Canada Lodge U.D. in their temporary location at the Canadian Lecture Theatre Facility (LTF - a tent used for briefings by the Canadian Forces in Kandahar). The Command of the Kandahar base has unfortunately decided to stop allowing Canada Lodge to meet at the Chai House which was a storied building, used for conference meetings by day and lodge meetings at night (it was used by President Hamid Karzai for meetings and reportedly by the Taliban before him). There is no storage area in this tent for the lodge regalia and furniture so it must be transported there and set up for each meeting.

- Joe Curry

Fer All Use Templar Freaks . . .

Off the track beaten by most Holy Land tourists lies one of the richest archaeological sites in a country full of them: the walled port of Acre, where the busy alleys of an Ottoman-era town cover a uniquely intact Crusader city now being rediscovered.

Preparing to open a new subterranean section to the public, workers cleaned stones this week in an arched passageway underground. Etched in plaster on one wall was a coat of arms - graffiti left by a



medieval traveler. Nearby was a main street of cobblestones and a row of shops that once sold clay figurines and ampoules for holy water, popular souvenirs for pilgrims.

All were last used by residents in 1291, the year a Muslim army from Egypt defeated Acre's Christian garrison and levelled its remains.

The existing city, built by the Ottoman Turks around 1750, effectively preserved this earlier town, which had been hidden for centuries under the rubble.

"It's like Pompeii of Roman times - it's a complete city," said Eliezer Stern, the Israeli archaeologist in charge of Acre. He called the town "one of the most exciting sites in the world of archaeology." The newly excavated area, part of a Crusader neighbourhood, is set to open later this year.

Today, old Acre is a picturesque enclave jutting into the Mediterranean, home to 5,000 Arab citizens of Israel who live in dense warrens of homes that are themselves historic artefacts. Most residents are poor. On a recent afternoon, a smattering of tourists walked through the old market, while at a sleepy fishing dock one boat's radio blared Katy Perry.



In 2001, Acre became Israel's first UNESCO World Heritage site. But whether because of its out-of-the-way location in the country's north or simply because it must compete with better-known sites like Jerusalem and the desert fortress of Masada, Acre has been overshadowed.

Jerusalem, for example, attracted an estimated 2.5 million foreign tourists last year, according to the Tourism Ministry. In contrast, during the same period, Acre's historic sites had 444,000 paying visitors - Israeli and foreign - according to the Acre Municipality. Old Acre has just one hotel with a total of 16 rooms.

Acre has existed for at least 4,500 years, but reached the height of its importance with the Crusader conquest in 1104.

Under Christian rule, the city became an unruly trading hub home to combative orders of soldier-monks, European factions that distrusted each other and sometimes fought in the streets, competing merchants from cities like Genoa, Venice and Pisa, and small populations of Jews and Muslims, all sharing an enclosed area that at its height was barely the size of two football fields.

A French bishop, Jacques de Vitry, reached Acre after a perilous sea journey in 1216. He was appalled. "When I entered this horrible city and found it full of countless disgraceful acts and evil deeds, I was very confused in my mind," he wrote in a letter home.

Acre, he found, was "totally depraved." Murders took place constantly, the town was "filled with prostitutes," and residents - many of whom he believed to be outlaws who had fled their own lands - were "utterly devoted to pleasures of the flesh."

Acre was "like a monster or a beast having nine heads, each fighting the other," the bishop wrote.

Israeli excavations got under way in earnest in the 1990s, and some remnants of the city that de Vitry knew can already be visited. One is the fortress of the Hospitaller knights, with its pillared dining hall



and storerooms, an orderly latrine and a dungeon whose stone walls still have holes for attaching shackles.

Also open is an underground passage constructed by the knights of the rival Templar order, leading from their own fortress to the port. Some used it on the day Acre fell to escape to Europe-bound vessels as their city, and the two-century-old Crusader kingdom, collapsed around them.

Underwater digs in Acre's harbour have revealed sunken fortifications and more than 20 lost ships. The most recent one to be found, armed with cannons and special shot used to shred enemy sails, dated to Napoleon Bonaparte's failed siege of the city in 1799.

Workers are now shoring up one of Acre's seawalls - which witnessed assaults by Napoleon, the Egyptian ruler Ibrahim Pasha, and a combined British, French and Austrian fleet - discovering, in the process, Napoleonic cannonballs and a Hellenistic pier more than two millennia old.

Acre, with its newer neighbourhoods, has grown to a modern city of 56,000 people, two-thirds of them Jewish and the rest Arab. It has experienced occasional ethnic tension, as well as violence linked to poverty and the drug trade. But the streets feel safe, and residents are welcoming. The past, Acre's residents seem to recognize, is their city's primary resource.

"It's a whole ancient city underground," said Bassam Dabour, a storeowner in the Old City market. "It's beautiful - why not continue working?"

Because of Acre's importance and the complexity of conducting archaeological work in a living city, the government's Israel Antiquities Authority has made Acre something of a laboratory for conservation work. The authority recently turned an old Ottoman mansion into a conservation center for local and international students who included, this week, representatives from Britain, Russia, Poland, Puerto Rico and the U.S.

Shelley-Anne Peleg, who heads the center and serves as a liaison with local residents, said archaeologists have learned that Acre's history cannot be separated from the people who live there.

The Antiquities Authority runs programs seeking to educate residents, teaches municipal sanitation workers about the importance of preservation and works with women to revive local handicrafts.

There are signs that Acre's fortunes as a tourist destination might be about to change. In addition to the underground city, there are plans for a new museum, a youth hostel is about to open in the Old City, and an investor has received permission to turn a currently empty Turkish inn into a luxury hotel.

But efforts to increase tourism, Peleg said, must be done "in a way that doesn't take over the city and overpower the people who live here."

"When you look at the city, it's not just archaeology, and it's not just Ottoman buildings. One of our jobs is to look at the city from all directions, and there is heritage still alive in these alleys," she said.

www.bibbiablog.com/2011/06/22/underground-crusader-city-revealed-beneath-streets-of-acre/



Now, Here Is A Lodge In . . .



East Toronto Masonic Temple, Toronto

Do you have a picture of a Masonic building in downtown Some-Place-Else? Send it in. Let everybody see.

Tim Bryce



Tim is a writer and management consultant who writes commentaries about the times we live in and management concepts. His writings are well known on the Internet and are humorous, educational, and at times controversial. You won't always agree with him, but Tim will definitely get you thinking. Tim is the Managing Director of M. Bryce & Associates (MBA), an international management consulting firm located in Palm Harbor, Florida (Tampa Bay area).

Tim's works have appeared in management and computing publications all over the world. His book, "The IRM Revolution: Blueprint for the 21st Century" made the Top 10 list of management books in Japan. His recent eBook, "THE BRYCE IS RIGHT! Empowering Managers in today's Corporate Culture," has also received critical acclaim. Tim's blogs and "Management Visions" weekly podcast are read and listened to by thousands.

He is a Past Master, and a member of the Philalethes Society. He has published hundreds of articles and stories on Freemasonry. Tim Bryce published the book "[The Freethinking Freemason](#)" that offers sage advice on how to run a Masonic Lodge, editorials on the future direction of the fraternity, and stories aimed at entertaining Masons. Written by a veteran management consultant and Freemason who knows how to provoke thought and engage discussion. It is time well spent for any Mason concerned about the future of this ancient fraternity.

A man's word should be the most durable of all material.
- Anonymous



Month of July 2011

Don't believe everything you read, hear or see. This info has been going around.

This is the only time any of us will see this. Well, *I* might see it again but you definitely won't. Check the calendar below. July 2011 has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays.

July 2011						
<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

This happens once in 823 years.

*(Actually - the claim about 823 years is rubbish. July always has 31 days, so there will always be 3 consecutive days which occur 5 times (4 weeks * 7 days) + 3 extra.*

Friday July 29th (the start of the 3 chosen consecutive days) will occur in all years in which July 1st is a Friday. This will be 4 times in every 28 years (1 in 7), as July 1st will occur equally frequently on any chosen day within a 28 year period. There is nothing 'magical' about dates (in the Julian Calendar) they just repeat every 28 years which is 'hidden' by the effect of February 29th.)

This year we're going to experience four unusual dates. 1/1/11, 11/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/11/11 and that's not all . . .

Take the last two digits of the year in which you were born - now add the age you will be this year -

The last two digits of the result will be 11. If you were born before the year 2000, the results will be 111.

I don't know what these facts will get you, but feel free to run with them!

Friday, July 1 2011

Canada Day



Canada Day, formerly Dominion Day, is Canada's national day, a federal statutory holiday celebrating the anniversary of the July 1, 1867, enactment of the [British North America Act](#) (today called the [Constitution Act, 1867](#)), which united two British colonies and a province of the British Empire into a single country within the empire called Canada. Canada Day observances take place throughout Canada as well as internationally.

Frequently referred to as 'Canada's birthday', particularly in the popular press, the occasion marks the joining of the British North American colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the

Province of Canada into a federation of four provinces (the Province of Canada being divided, in the process, into Ontario and Quebec) on July 1, 1867. *(I think some of us were there!)* Canada became a kingdom in its own right on that date, but the British Parliament kept limited rights of political control

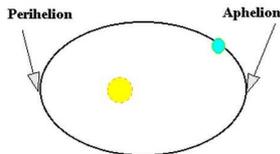


over the new country that were shed by stages over the years until the last vestiges were surrendered in 1982 when the [Constitution Act](#) patriated the Canadian constitution. (*I know many of us were there!*)

Under the federal Holidays Act, Canada Day is observed on July 1 unless that date falls on a Sunday, in which case July 2 is the statutory holiday, although celebratory events generally take place on July 1 even though it is not the legal holiday. If it falls on a Saturday, the following Monday is generally also a day off for those businesses ordinarily closed on Saturdays.

Sunday, July 3 2011

Aphelion



The rotation of Earth around the Sun is not a circle but an ellipse. The Earth gets closer to the Sun (perihelion) and farther from the Sun (aphelion). Today we will be the farthest from the sun - 94,555,000 miles or 152,171,521.91 kilometres. Wikipedia doesn't say whether protection from the cold will be necessary.

Friday, July 8 2011

Birch Cliff - Annual Birch Cliff Open

The price includes 18 holes of Golf, a Power Cart, BBQ Steak Dinner and the pleasure of the many who have already committed to tickets. Prizes Galore. Best Ball Format. Staged T-Off. All are welcome - ladies and non-Masonic friends. For those wishing to attend, please contact any Officer of Birch Cliff Lodge **ASAP** as tickets usually become hard to get toward the event date.



Time: 10:30 am - T-Off
Location: Bushwoods Golf Club
10905 Reesor Rd., Markham
Cost: \$105/ea
Contact: Theo Doughty @ 905.649.8394

Shaggy Dog Story

In the 1850's, Tyro Lodge No. 79 was chartered in Drytown, Amador County. The local mining gave out and this Lodge became extinct in 1860. By tradition, this Lodge is the only one in which a dog "received the Master Mason degrees." According to old timers, a certain miner was elected to membership in Tyro and upon his First Degree night, his inseparable companion, a small shaggy dog followed him into the preparation room. The Steward objected to the dog and upon informing the candidate that he would not permit the dog in either the preparation room or the Lodge Room, the candidate said "No dog, no Masonry." However the Master decided to let the dog stay as the Lodge needed members.



As a result, the candidate and his dog went through each of the degrees together and all went well except for one place in the third degree when the dog got excited and broke up the meeting, insisting on taking a part not called for in the ritual.

He was vouched for later visiting in other Lodges. The tradition we are



quoting insists that the dog was so well trained that at the direction of his master he could give the sign of the third degree almost perfectly.

Author: Ralph T. Merriam
Publisher: Grand Lodge Bulletin, GRS
5971

Monday July 18, 2011
156th Annual Grand Lodge Communication
Please see below.

The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he hoped to make it.
- James M. Barrie (1860-1937)

Saturday August 20 2011
The Beaches - Paint Ball Game

The Beaches invites you to an all day Paint Ball war. A fun day for family and friends - anyone over the age of 12. We need about 30 contestants. The price covers your equipment and starter paint balls PLUS a continental breakfast of donuts and coffee, a BBQ lunch later on, and unlimited water - you will need it. Warning - if you are trigger happy, bring \$20 for more Paint Balls.

This is an outdoor field, over 100 acres, with trenches and other hidden areas. You should be in good health or you will be shot!!! Your brethren will show no mercy! <http://combatzonepaintball.webs.com/aboutus.htm>

There will be no tickets at the door - this is a pre-pay event. The **drop-dead date** for sign up is **July 20th**. Send cheques in the amount of \$57.37 to -
Ed Crosier - memo Paintball Games
883 Exeter St.
Oshawa, ON
L1G 6R9



Time: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Location: Wilderness Games Inc. - about 30 min. north of Whitby
end of Bradburn Rd. off of Cartwright West 1/4 line in township of Scugog
Cost: \$57.37/ea
Contact: Ed Crosier @ newfser@hotmail.com or 289.240.4913

Reflections on 37 Years in Masonry and on Turning 60

Last Sunday marked my 37th year in Masonry. The 1st of June was my 60th birthday. Being Blessed with the Chinese curse, "Have an interesting Life," these tidbits I pass on to you.

- As a Son, I learned that you don't provoke!
- As a Clown, I learned that someone is always watching and waiting for a good laugh!



- As a Magician, I learned that it may not be nice to fool folks, but it's better than being fooled yourself!
- As an Outdoorsman, I learned that everything follows a path!
- As a Wrestler, I learned that even Big Boys fall!
- As a Soldier, I learned that you do not have to do anything to be shot at!
- As a Horse Trainer, I learned that the harder they are to break, the better the horse!
- As a Statistician, I learned that opportunity is synonymous with positioning!
- As a Researcher, I learned that slow, keen observation can save you a lot of time!
- As a Clergy, I learned that everyone has a good sermon, but you have to get it out!
- As a Chess Player, I learned that you should play the game because you love it; winning will follow!
- As a Teacher, I learned that you may not always get the lesson across, but you get to set the stage!
- As a CEO, I learned that you can accomplish anything, if you do not care who gets the credit!
- As a Foreigner, I learned that you should always learn at least a few polite phrases in the native tongue, eat the native dishes, and smile!
- As an Author, I learned that the more you share, the more you'll learn of life.
- As a Writer, I learned that life is not all physical; even these inert words have sparks dancing in your mind!
- As a Planner, I learned that today's plans and actions may take many, many years before they happen!
- As an Economist, I learned that not only is diversity good, it is better!
- As a Philanthropist, I learned that only what you have done for others will out live you!
- As a Politician, I learned that you're very lucky if even half of the people like you!
- As a Leader, I learned that it is what you don't say that is of more importance!
- As for being Disabled, I learned that persistence is more important than education or genius!
- As for being Blind and Deaf, I learned that you can see and hear better!
- As for being Mortal, I learned that everyone will always leave something undone!

My supreme wish:

That Freemasons live their teachings, regardless of race, rank, religion, pedigrees and politics and move toward Universal Brotherhood. Live Well!

- Bro. Dave (David M. Daugherty Jr.)

Fiat Lux Email Forum

Sunday, August 28 2011

Doric - Annual Golf Tournament

Right in the heart of summer, what can be better for your heart than a great afternoon of golf? Nine holes of golf followed by a fully complimented Steak Dinner. The menu may be amended for allergy concerns or preferences. A lovely patio with a fully licensed bar and lounge exclusively for Doric Members and Guests. The most inexpensive golf deal around. Prizes for the typical Golf achievements (Broke the Most Clubs!). A motorized Golf Cart is available for an additional \$8.00. All are welcome - ladies and non-Masonic friends.

For those who might wish to partake of the Steak Dinner exclusive of the golf, the price would be \$25. If you want to bring children for the meal, a children's menu will be available. Tickets for this event are going very fast!



Time: 12:30 pm - T-Off
Location: Spring Creek Golf & Country Club
2425 Concession 9, Claremont - between Brock Rd. and Westney
Cost: \$45/ea
Contact: Terry Doyle @ tmdoyle@rogers.com or 905.839.3823, or
Scott McDonald @ smcdonal60@rogers.com or 905.428.7756



The 156th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge
Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Monday, July 18 through Thursday July 21, 2011

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Your committee has received Seven (7) proposed amendments to the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

1. The first proposal deals with Section 152 and the fees paid to Grand Lodge.

The proposed amendments would read as follows:

Sec.152. Fees payable to Grand Lodge shall be as follows:

- (c) Three hundred and fifty dollars for the commutation of dues to Grand Lodge;
- and-
- (m) Twenty dollars per annum payable January 2012 for every member of each lodge whose fees have not been commuted to Grand Lodge, including honorary and life members.

Your committee finds this proposal to be regular

2. The second proposal deals with Section 134(k) and the Management Committee Elections & Appointments

PRESENT VERSION

BOOK OF CONSTITUTION - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Sec 134(k) Board of General Purposes

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 134(j) the composition of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:

- (i) the Grand Master (ex officio);
- (ii) the Deputy Grand Master (ex officio) who shall preside as Chairman of the Committee;
- (iii) (deleted 2004)
- (iv) the Chairman of the Committee on Audit and Finance (ex officio)
- (v) two members of the Board of General Purposes appointed by the Grand Master for a term of office of three years
- (vi) three member of the Board of General Purposes elected by the Honorary, Elected and Appointed members of the Board of General Purposes from amongst their own number for a term of office of three years.
- (vii) vacancies occurring in the ranks of appointed members of the Committee will be filled through appointments by the Grand Master. Vacancies occurring in the ranks of elected members of the Committee will be filled through election by the Honorary, Elected and Appointed members of the Board by secret ballot without nomination at the next meeting following the creation of the vacancy. The term of office for a member so appointed or elected shall coincide with the remaining term of the member he replaces. (1993)

PROPOSED CHANGES

The proposed changes pertain to subsections iv, v, vi & vii Sec 134 (k) Board of General Purposes

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 134 (j), the composition of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:



- (i) the Grand Master (ex officio);
- (ii) the Deputy Grand Master (ex officio) who shall preside as Chairman of the Committee;
- (iii) the Chairman of the Committee on Audit and Finance (ex officio)
- (iv) five (5) members from among the Honorary, Elected and Appointed members of the Board of General Purposes; consisting of 3 elected by the above noted members of the Board of General Purposes and 2 appointed by the Grand Master. (2011)
- (v) the term of those individuals elected to the Management Committee shall be three years with a maximum of three elected terms. One person shall be elected each year to serve a term of three years. (2011)
- (vi) the terms of those individuals appointed by the Grand Master shall be for 2 years each, coinciding with the term of the Grand Master that appointed them. There is no limit to the number of times an individual can be appointed by successive Grand Masters. (2011)
- (vii) vacancies occurring in the ranks of the appointed members to the Management Committee will be filled through appointment(s) by the Grand Master. Vacancies occurring in the ranks of the elected members of the Management Committee will remain vacant until the following Annual Communication when voting for Management Committee takes place. Any year that a vacancy has arisen and two (2) people are to be elected, the member with the highest number of votes shall be elected for a 3 year term. The member with the second highest number of votes shall fulfill the remaining term of the vacant position. (2011).

Your committee finds this proposal to be regular

3. The third proposal deals with Section 172(a) and amending it to read that a jewel be added to the William Mercer Wilson collar.

Your committee finds this proposal to be irregular

4. The fourth proposal is to amend Section 135 by adding a new Standing Committee as follows:
Amend article 135 Standing Committees of the Board, add

- (i) Brock University Partnership.

Amend article 136 Powers and Duties of Standings Committees, add

- (i) Brock University Partnership

In partnership with Brock University encourage research into the significant impact fraternalism in general and Freemasonry in particular have made on society here in Canada and throughout the world.

The Committees mandate is structured under three phases with each Phase to proceed, subject to available funding:

- Phase I. To assist Brock University with the series of annual lectures by world renowned and local Masonic scholars, with options for periodic multi-day conferences.
- Phase II To establish an endowment fund in conjunction with Brock University to financially assist in the study of Masonry.
- Phase III To establish an Endowed Chair in conjunction with Brock University for Masonic Studies.

- (i) To promote the project to the brethren and encourage donations to Project 2937 of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.
- (ii) To enter into contracts with Brock University (subject to approval of Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication) to achieve the committee objectives and for the transfer of funds from Project 2937 of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario to Brock University.



- (iii) To submit yearly Financial Statements of all financial transactions to Grand Lodge through the Audit and Finance Committee.
- (iv) To promote and encourage other Grand Lodges, Concordant and Appendant Bodies to financially support and participate in the Initiative.

Your committee finds this proposal to be regular

5. The fifth proposal is to amend article 152, Fees Payable to Grand Lodge by adding a section (q) as follows:

(q) Two dollars per annum payable January of each year for ten (10) years for every member of each lodge whose fees have not been commuted to Grand Lodge including honorary or chartered members for the support of the Brock University Partnership. To be transferred to the Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project 2937 on an annual basis.

Your committee finds this proposal to be regular

6. The sixth proposal is an amendment to Section 281

Section 281, as stated becomes 281(a)

New section 281(b) to read as follows

No lodge or district website and related links shall be established or transmitted in any form, or by any means, without the express consent of the Grand Master on the recommendation of its content by Grand Lodge.

Your committee finds this proposal to be regular

7. The seventh proposal is to amend Section 135 by adding a new Standing Committee as follows:
Amend article 135 Standing Committees of the Board, add

- (f) Finance Advisory

Section 135 STANDING COMMITTEES

- (a) Audit & Finance
- (b) Benevolence
- (c) Condition of Masonry
- (d) Constitution & Jurisprudence
- (e) Discipline
- (f) Finance Advisory
- (g) Fraternal Correspondence
- (h) Fraternal Relations
- (i) Library, Museum & Archive
- (j) Long Range Planning
- (k) Management
- (l) Masonic Education

and an addition to Section 136 to read as follows:

Section 136

- (f) To provide the Lodges assistance and advise on matters of financial management and stewardship of financial resources.



- To undertake the review and reporting from time to time on reference from the Grand Master, the Board of General Purposes, financial issues that require immediate attention in the interest and welfare of the Craft.
- To provide financial advice, simplified protocols and facilitate financial understanding and stability to all Lodges and to Masonic Corporation Boards should they require advice regarding financial matters only.
- To receive from the Committee on the Condition of Masonry the annual reports of the DDGM's in so far as they relate to financial matters of the Lodges and their respective facilities and report thereon to the Grand Lodge and the Board of General Purposes with whatever financial remediation may be prompted by these reports.
- To consider and report to the Board of General Purposes on any financial matters referred to it.
- To report annually to the Grand Master, the Board of General Purposes on all financial matters and on such other occasions as the Committee may deem desirable.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to act in an advisory capacity to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge in all matters deemed to be in the best interest of and for the better financial administration of the Craft.

Your committee finds this proposal to be regular

Other proposed amendments were received after the time limit for receiving same had expired and these will be added to those proposals received for discussion next year.

All of which is submitted by, Frederick Halpern, Chairman

REGISTRATION

The Credentials Committee will register delegates in the Concert Hall on Tuesday evening July 19th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and Wednesday July 20th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. **NOTE:** Members will receive their ballot on registration in the Concert Hall, Convention Floor.
ENTRY TO CONCERT HALL WILL BE THROUGH SALON B.

All balloting, except district elections for the office of D.D.G.M., shall be done at the time of registration in the Concert Hall. The district elections for the D.D.G.M., and a second ballot, if required, for the office of Grand Master, and/or Deputy Grand Master shall commence at 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Wednesday July 20th.

REGISTRATION OF VOTING DELEGATES CLOSES

WEDNESDAY JULY 20th, at 3:00 pm SHARP!

PROXIES

The rules relating to the issue and use of proxies are defined in Sections 56 and 57 of the Book of Constitution. *Please read carefully.*

Regalia Room

The Ontario Room on the Convention Floor will be available to the general membership to change into regalia on Wednesday and Thursday but must be vacated by 3:00 pm Wednesday July 20th to be used for District Meetings. For safety's sake, hats and coats, regalia bags, etc. should be checked in the hotel



checkroom as neither the Fairmont Royal York Hotel nor Grand Lodge will be responsible for loss or theft.

District Meetings

*At District Meetings, all ballots, regardless of colour, are **ONE VOTE** only.* The District Meetings for the election of District Deputy Grand Masters and for such other business as may properly be brought before them will be held at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Wednesday July 20th in the following rooms.

<u>District</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Floor</u>
Toronto Don Valley	4:00-4:50	Ballroom	Convention
Toronto East	4:00-4:50	Ontario	Convention
Toronto Humber Valley	5:00-5:50	Ballroom	Convention
Toronto West	4:00-4:50	Concert Hall	Convention
York	5:00-5:50	Concert Hall	Convention

Agenda

Monday July 18

The **Board of General Purposes** will meet in the Ballroom, on the Convention floor at 9:00 am and 1:30 pm. R. W. Bro. Gary Dowling, Deputy Grand Master and President of the Board, will preside.

Tuesday July 19

The **Board of General Purposes** will meet at 10:00 am in the Ballroom.

MEET THE NOMINEES - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Salon A - Convention Floor

Cornerstone Presentation

There will be a presentation on the Cornerstone project for all interested at 8:30 p.m. in Salon A on the Convention level. The session will last approximately one hour and will provide an overview to this valuable program.

Wednesday July 20

Grand Lodge will assemble in the Canadian Room at 8:45 am, M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels presiding. Brethren are earnestly requested to bring their own aprons and to be in their seats in Grand Lodge before 8:30 am on Wednesday. Distinguished visitors, representing other Grand Jurisdictions, will be received and welcomed.

An Address of Welcome will be tendered and Grand Lodge will then proceed with business until 11:30 am.

The brethren are asked to reassemble after lunch in the same place at 1:30 pm.

Cornerstone Presentation

There will be a presentation on the Cornerstone project for all interested at 2:45 p.m. in the Toronto Room on the Convention level. The session will last approximately one hour and will provide an overview to this valuable program.

Thursday July 21

Grand Lodge will reassemble at 8:45 am in the Canadian Room.

The **installation and investiture of Grand Lodge officers and the newly elected D.D.G.M.s** will take place in the Canadian Room, at such time as the Grand Master shall direct. It is essential that each one be present and that he bring his regalia with him. Every member of Grand Lodge is expected to be present sharp on time.



Instruction Class for D.D.G.M.s-Elect Only

The Custodian of the Work will instruct the new D.D.G.M.s on Thursday morning, July 21st at 7:59 am in the Alberta Room.

The D.D.G.M.s will see that their successors are in attendance and on time. They will also be present in Grand Lodge, with the regalia for the new D.D.G.M.s, and be prepared to invest at the proper time in the installation ceremonies.

The instruction class is for the new D.D.G.M.s only. Others cannot be admitted. The D.D.G.M.-elect will have with him his Past Master's apron so that he can go directly from the class to Grand Lodge. Our time for instruction is very limited - so it is essential that all assemble on time.

Seminars

Tuesday July 19

Discussion and participation seminars for all brethren. Pre-registration not required.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Alberta Room</u>	<u>B.C. Room</u>	<u>Quebec Room</u>	<u>Algonquin Room</u>
1:30 to 2:20	Degree Planning	Installing Teams P & E	Religion in Freemasonry	Computer Resources presentation
2:30 to 3:20	Degree Planning	Installing Teams P & E	Religion in Freemasonry t	Computer Resources presentation
3:30 to 4:20	Engaging The New Mason	Engaging The New Mason	Engaging The New Mason	Computer Resources presentation

GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET
 Wednesday July 20, 2011
 6:30 pm
 CANADIAN ROOM
 FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL
M.W. Bro. Richard E. Fletcher
Past Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Vermont
 Guest Speaker
 * * * * *

Doors open at 6:00 pm. Special Entertainment.
 Tickets \$58 available from the D.D.G.M.s.
 Cash sales only. Sales cease July 14, 2011.

Reserved tables of 8 direct from Grand Lodge.



BOOK REVIEW:

Written in Stone: Decoding The Secret Masonic Religion Hidden In Gothic Cathedrals And World Architecture

Author: Richard Cassaro

New York, NY (PRWEB) June 08, 2011

Move over, Dan Brown. Symbolist Richard Cassaro, a specialist on esoteric wisdom, is presenting a mysterious architectural “code” he’s found “hidden-in-plain-view” on the façades of world-famous Gothic cathedrals.

Cassaro, author of the forthcoming book says the code was secretly put there by the medieval operative Freemasons who designed and built these sacred structures. A photographic presentation of the “Cathedral Code” can be found here: <http://www.deepertruth.com/press-release.php>

Cassaro formed his Cathedral Code theory in the mid 1990s, while on a cathedral tour through France. He noticed the same architectural patterns repeating on cathedral facades. As he studied the symbolism behind these patterns, they started falling into place like a jigsaw puzzle and an astonishing message emerged.

“The goal of the Freemasons was to commemorate a Pagan wisdom-doctrine,” says Cassaro. “This is in line with the Catholic Church’s suspicions and accusations of heresy against the Freemasons over the centuries. Ironically, this pagan wisdom-doctrine may have more in common with the religion Jesus preached than with what goes on in today’s Church,” Cassaro asserts.

“A growing body of scholars believe Christianity is actually based on a much older Pagan religion called Gnosticism,” says Cassaro. “Gnosticism was present among the troubadours in thirteenth-century France, and in the Renaissance hermetic movements of Giordano Bruno and John Dee. Gnostic elements appear in the poems of William Blake and the philosophies of Georg Hegel and Ralph Waldo Emerson. As a staple of Freemasonry, it framed the thoughts of America’s Founding Fathers. It also informed the writings of Carl Jung and Aldous Huxley.”

For those interested in cultural similarities, esoteric architecture, comparative philosophy, ancient religions, symbolism, and hidden history, Written In Stone is a groundbreaking reinterpretation of Freemasonry.

To learn more, Cassaro has made a free PDF report available on his website. Breaking The Cathedral Code can be accessed at <http://www.deepertruth.com/freemasons>.

About the Author

Richard Cassaro, a specialist on esoteric symbolism, is currently active as an author and speaker. He has worked as a U.S. correspondent for major Italian media outlets and as a magazine editor in New York City. Cassaro holds a degree from New York’s Pace University, where he studied Journalism and Philosophy.



... by the Lighthouse Beam

Pondering Our Demise

Years ago there was a cartoon in a magazine that depicted an obviously retired man sitting on a park bench reading a book that was obviously the bible; he was reading and enjoying a nice sunny spot to do his reading: A young teenager rode up on his bike, and said “Hey, old man, what are you doing?”

The bible reading man simply replied, “Cramming for finals.”

Not too long ago a friend; a Masonically young, eager to learn Brother, mentioned to me that it seemed that Masons seem to ponder their demise a lot. I never thought of that, but, on reflection, since a significant lesson of the Master Mason Degree is the immortality of the soul, possibly those of us who study the allegories of the Master Mason Degree might think about our lives a bit more than the uninitiated might. On the other hand, since the average age of Masons is said to be around 60 (but lowering) maybe it's natural for men over 50 to think about their demise; they may realize they don't have a lease on life, as younger men might tend to do.

Thinking of the average age of Masons being over 60 isn't a bad thing, as some would like us to believe. I look at it a little differently; we Masons who appear to be older, because there may be some grey in our hair or beards, were once young Masons; that's the thing with Masonry: We who were made Masons as young men grew to love Freemasonry so much; too much to have it be only a passing phase in our life. For us it has become a way of life, and we rejoice when other men, of all ages, knock at the door of our Lodges to present a petition for the degrees.

Young men get involved with a lot of groups, causes, and organizations as they move along in life, but they stick with only a very few for a lifetime; Freemasonry is certainly one of those. Maybe we should change our paradigm and be pleased enough to smile when Freemasonry is called an 'old man's' organization; there aren't many that can make that claim: Freemasonry has been an old man's (but young at heart) fraternity for a long time: it was, some 30 plus years ago, when I took my degrees in my home Lodge. As a young man then that didn't dissuade me, in fact, I hoped to live long enough to become one of the old members someday. I'm pleased that I took my degrees in my thirties, and I'm very happy to be a Mason in my 60's: I hope I will be a Mason in my 90's, however, I know I'll be an active Mason until I make the transition to the Celestial Lodge above. There is an old humorous saying about living long enough to be a problem to your children, but I think it is more appropriate to think about living long enough to be an inspiration to your family and your lodge. Maybe when we study the Master Mason Degree we don't ponder our demise as much as we ponder on improving, as long as we live.



As mentioned earlier the most significant lesson of the Master Mason Degree is the immortality of the soul and the promise of a better life in the presence of the Great Architect of the Universe (although individually we use varying names for our Creator; according to our individual religions). So, for the Masonic student, pondering the lesson of the Master Mason Degree is not gloomy or sad, it is being realistic, and by learning and understanding the lessons of the degree, we Freemasons can apply those lessons to



our individual lives; striving to become the best men we are capable of being. That's how we become better men; we strive to be better sons, brothers, uncles, nephews, husbands, fathers, and grandfathers, than we might have been had we not been fortunate enough to know that to become a Mason we had to ask for the privilege of receiving the degrees.

Freemasons are fortunate men who are ambassadors; ambassadors who show the world the kind of person a man can be. A Freemason's true nature is to express love and understanding toward all whom he meets with compassionate words and deeds, he is one who makes a difference in the lives of others.

Recently someone complimented an older acquaintance by saying what a kind and friendly person he was, and asked how he would like to be remembered; his reply was that we aren't the ones who decide how we're remembered, but if he were fortunate enough to be able to write his own eulogy he would prefer to be remembered as a kind person; he commented that there are many friendly people, but there are far fewer kind people; kindness comes from deeper within a person; kindness is an expression of tolerance, and Masons are tolerant men.

Author: Ed R. Halpaus
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<http://halpaus.blogspot.com/>
www.halpaus.net



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 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 hiramslighthouse@rogers.com including your full name, with a subject of Newsletter.

Be aware that **Hiram's Lighthouse** DOES NOT respond to any email security messages. It is the subscriber's responsibility to ensure that **Hiram's Lighthouse** is white listed.

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send a message to hiramslighthouse@rogers.com with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past.

Moving? Changing ISPs? Remember to send in your new snail-mail and email addresses to both your lodge secretary and **Hiram's Lighthouse** - hiramslighthouse@rogers.com

FYI - There are currently 246 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

Terry Spalding-Martin F.C.F.
Toronto East District Newsletter Editor
Doric Lodge #424 G.R.C.
hiramslighthouse@rogers.com

If this newsletter was received at your email address in error, please inform the newsletter editor and delete the message.

