

APRIL 2026



Ontario Masons



THE
NOBLE
ISSUE

THE ONTARIO MASONS MAGAZINE

Magazine Chairman /Editor-in-Chief
V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard

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The Ontario Masons Magazine
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The factual accuracy of all content is
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The opinions expressed by the authors
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Canada in the Province of Ontario

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Brethren,

Spring is here even though in some parts of the province it still feels like winter.

Soon enough, most Lodges will be calling off for the summer months, and the running of the Lodge will be left to the senior officers. Now is a great time to start planning ahead to the Fall and the official and fraternal visits that will happen with your District Deputy Grand Master.

Will your Lodge's Masonic year end in June or in the fall? When will the annual financial audit take place? What is the condition of your Lodges finances? All questions that need to be answered for the official visit.

When was the last time your Lodge reviewed the Lodge expenses and looked at your Lodge dues? Does the Lodge need to host events to raise funds for the Lodge or are the annual dues sufficient to cover expenditure?

Just like most people tend to do some sort of Spring cleaning of their house or yard, every Lodge needs to do a cleaning of the Lodge finances to ensure that all things are in good order and the Lodge will remain solvent and successful.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard
Chairman/ Editor-In-Chief
Ontario Masons Magazine



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DISCLAIMER:

The Ontario Masons Magazine advises that, while the greatest care has been taken in compiling the contents of The Ontario Masons Magazine (this "Publication"), the editor, designer, and publisher cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions.



Grand Master's Communique

Brethren,

April has finally arrived, the birds are back, and the spring flowers have been blooming. That was a cold and snowy winter, but here we are again, we made it to warmer weather. I've been reading a lot of Lodge summons and the messages from the East are all along the same sentiments, we're happy that Spring has finally sprung.

Thank you again V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard for giving us another great edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine that we can read at our leisure and gain so much information on the many topics that contribute to our many successes and to our Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M., Ritual, Education and Mentoring. If you want to see a particular topic covered and/or want to contribute some appropriate content, please submit your requests and stories or promotions to Dan for his consideration.

I also want to point you in the direction of the Grand Secretaries Communique in both this edition, and in previous editions, there you will find the information pertaining to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and what you need to do, as far as reporting dates and deadlines, Grand Master Banquet Tickets, and other instructions that will help you to have a better experience while attending in July. As far as I know now, the block of hotel rooms is sold out, but don't despair, there are many hotels in the area, so I bet there are still rooms available in one of them. Don't give up on the accommodation, book a room and spend some time with us this year, and as you know, this is the year that a new Grand Master will undoubtedly be invested and installed, and you don't want to miss that important event.

I want to briefly talk about a Day of Masonry that took place in both Barrie and in Ottawa. The Deputy Grand Master attended in Ottawa, and I went to the



event in Barrie. The Deputy assured me that the Ottawa Districts 1 and 2 had a very successful Day with lots of information being presented. I can report that the Georgian Districts Day of Masonry was exceptionally well organized and executed, and I thank everyone that attended for the hospitality that was shown to me and to all the current Grand Lodge Officers. The speakers' presentations were excellent, well delivered and contained great content. It's initiatives like this that move this Jurisdiction forward in a positive direction, and I applaud the efforts that were taken.

I also attended a 150th Anniversary in Flesherton, ON, at Prince Arthur Lodge No.333, it was very well attended and was a terrific night of celebrations. Congratulations to the Officers and Members of this Lodge on your 150th anniversary and on such a great night, I certainly appreciated everything that was done. We then travelled from there, to St. Catherines for the Sankey Lecture that was being held at Brock University. Professor Susan Sommers delivered an excellent presentation on James Anderson and the Constitution from 1723. It was well received by both the audience present and the ones that watched by the live streaming capabilities. Thank you to Professor Susan, and to the History Department of Brock University for another great afternoon, and to our Grand Lodge organizers for your hard work and pulling this all together.

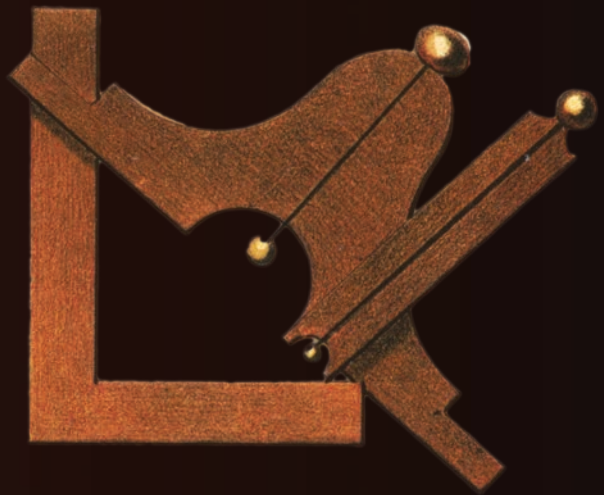
We have many more Grand Master Receptions coming up, so please, if you are able, you and your spouse can get dressed up and go out for a great meal and some fellowship. It'll be fun and you can support your District at the same time. I am certainly enjoying my visitations to the many Districts and meeting the members that are coming out.

Guess what, I am so excited about this next bit of news,.....we have finally had our first in-person Board meeting since before Covid. Yes, the Grand Lodge committee chairmen have met together, in-person, in Milton ON. It's been seven years since this last took place and it is so good to be back. The best way to solve issues and seize opportunities is by meeting face to face, around the table, with a common goal in mind. The feeling and opportunity of meeting together, like this again, was so positive, that it was unanimously decided to meet in-person at the May Board meeting as well. This is yet another sign of the

successes that Grand Lodge is experiencing and the progress that is being made every day.

The month of April also brings us the list of names of members that have let their names stand for election to a Grand Lodge Office.

Thank you Brethren for aspiring to a higher office and for your drive and dedication to this Fraternity. Now, it is incumbent on the membership, to do their homework, and to elect the best people to run our Grand Lodge committees, and to lead us into the future. Commit to finding out which name has the best track record on getting things done, have they been on a committee already, have they been on the Management Committee, have they



contributed to the success of a committee? It isn't that hard to find the answers to these questions as there is a lot of information available to enable you to make intelligent decisions. There are also several "meet the candidates" meetings happening that will help you to decide where your votes should go as well. Do your best, to elect the best, it is part of our duty to make informed decisions, and to put the right people in office that will actually work for us. Think about your choices, make informed decisions.

It's time again for my annual trip to the northern parts of our vast Jurisdiction, this April, we will

be visiting the Districts of Western, Algoma, and Algoma East, and you are all invited to attend with me. It was once said that our Grand Lodge was felt to be disconnected from the membership in the north, but I believe that we have changed that notion, as I have been in those Districts many times now during the last three and a half years. I have visited every Lodge in the northwest and most of the Lodges in the northeast, it's a gesture that I have wanted to do for a very long time. The Brethren in the north are starting to feel more at ease with the Grand Lodge Officers and starting to realize that we are all on the same team, working towards the common goal of peace, harmony, and brotherly love, all while living in the same Jurisdiction. Thanks go to R.W. Bro. James Broomhead for organizing the fourth trip for us, to go back up to his part of the province, please join us on our adventure.

As always Brethren, let us embrace the opportunities before us with enthusiasm and dedication. Let us nurture the vibrancy of our Lodges, spread a blanket of positivity wherever we travel, and work together as a team to build a bright future for Freemasonry in Ontario and beyond. Remember, even on a cloudy day, the sun is still shining somewhere. Let us be that shining light for our families, our Lodges, and ourselves. Carry and rub your shiny penny, and hopefully you are as proud to be an Ontario Mason as I am.

Thank you, Brethren. May you have safe travels, and God Bless you and your families.

Jamie R. Ireland



M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of A.F. & A.M. of Canada,
in the Province of Ontario

Grand Master's Visitations

April 1, 2026
Management meeting

April 10 - 12, 2026
All Canada Conference
Winnipeg ON

April 17, 2026
Grand Master's Reception
London Districts

April 18, 2026
Grand Master's Reception
Hamilton Districts

April 19 - 27, 2026
Northern Tour
Algoma & Western Districts

May 1, 2026
Illustrious Sir, David Bennett 33
OV to Home Lodge
North Bay ON

May 3, 2026
Grand Lodge of New York

May 13, 2026
Nickel Lodge No.427 & Friendship Lodge No.691
Amalgamation
Sudbury ON

May 15, 2026
World GM Conference
Capetown, South Africa

May 26, 2026
B of GP Meeting
Hamilton ON

May 27, 2026
Concordant Body meeting
Hamilton ON

May 28, 2026
Management meeting
Hamilton ON

May 29, 2026
Meet the Candidates meeting
Hamilton ON

May 30, 2026
Meet the Candidates meeting
York District

May 30, 2026
St. Andrew's Lodge No.642
100th Anniversary
Windsor ON

A man with a goatee, wearing a dark tuxedo jacket, a white dress shirt with a bow tie, and a blue and gold Masonic collar. He is also wearing a blue and gold apron with intricate embroidery. He stands in a room with bookshelves filled with books in the background. The lighting is warm and focused on him.

Deputy Grand Master's Communique

Greetings Brethren,

In previous issues, our focus has been on the progress of several of our initiatives, programs, and the diligent work of their respective chairmen and committees. As we continue to build on these successes, the highlight of this issue is on our Cornerstone Project. The Cornerstone Program was Introduced in our jurisdiction as a pilot program in 2009 by our late R.W. Bro. Iain Wates. The program was introduced to fifteen Districts across our jurisdiction proved quite successful. By it's second year, the Cornerstone Program boasted twenty-seven lodges spread across eight Districts, having completed the two-year program and having received the coveted Cornerstone designation.

Right from its inception, the program was recognized as a valuable lodge recognition program that provides the designation of "Cornerstone Lodge" to lodges that have well rounded yearly programs for their members and who meet the prescribed standards. As noted by the original Cornerstone committee, "The Cornerstone Project has proven itself, during the piloted phase, to be a valuable tool for Making Good Lodges Better. It has not just been about recognizing lodges for their proficiency and quality of programs for members, it has more importantly been about lodges who have taken up the challenge, improved member services and raised the bar in many areas of lodge operation. This is the underlying goal of the Cornerstone Project, and we believe that the first big step has been taken. The team strongly recommends that a means be found to involve all constituent lodges."

In addition to the comments of the first Cornerstone committee, below are a few testimonials of the original participants of the program. Right from the outset, the positive impact of the Cornerstone Program was quickly noted by the Lodges and their members.

'It has improved participation in lodge activities like workshops and social events.', 'Members are more

involved; it has made everyone more proactive and interest has increased in new and older Masons.' 'Involvement has created a new focus on the core principles of Freemasonry.'

'It has improved teamwork, there is more pride in what we are doing, and it provides measurable objectives that challenge the lodge.'

'It has helped our lodge re-focus on the basics, it has created an environment that has allowed us to re-examine what we are doing and as such, lodge officers are finding ways of making lodge meetings more interesting.'

Brethren, I cite these testimonials because they express the same recurring sentiments of many of the lodges and their brethren who have taken up the challenge and enrolled in the program. Fast forward to today, the success of the program is undeniable, and we are pleased to note that the program has been noticed by other jurisdictions and has recently been adopted as well by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

As per our last reporting, we are proud to share that to date, thirty seven of our thirty-eight Districts are actively engaged in the program. One hundred and seventy lodges are currently enrolled in the program, with an additional nineteen lodges in serious consideration of enrolling in the program. The indication points to a substantial growth in participation where over forty percent of our lodges are involved and participating in the Cornerstone Program.

The program has restored its administration through a Grand Lodge committee overseen by the Education Pillar. Under the leadership of R.W. Bro. Graham Tait, and the excellent work of the committee, the Cornerstone Committee has conducted a complete review and update of the Program. The Committee has established a District Cornerstone Representative in each district and has produced additional documentation and tools to assist Lodge and District representatives in the administration and tracking of the program. These tools and assets are available through Grandview on our Grand Lodge website in the Members Portal / Resources /Master Mason/ Committees.



Art Di Cecco

Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of A.F. & A.M. of Canada, in the Province of
Ontario, Right Worshipful Brother
Art Di Cecco



Grand Chaplain's Communique

'Days are getting longer.' I have always found that a puzzling phrase. Every day is the same length of a 24 day. It would be more accurate to say there is more sun to enjoy each day. Or that there are more hours of daylight and warmer weather as a bonus.

The focus of the phrase is daylight. We tend to focus on what we might enjoy or like or look forward to.

There is a time to reflect honestly on our weaknesses as well. Arithmetic and I have never been close. It would be an unwise use of lodge resources to put me as treasurer. Others are much more adept at numbers, budgets, and forecasting.

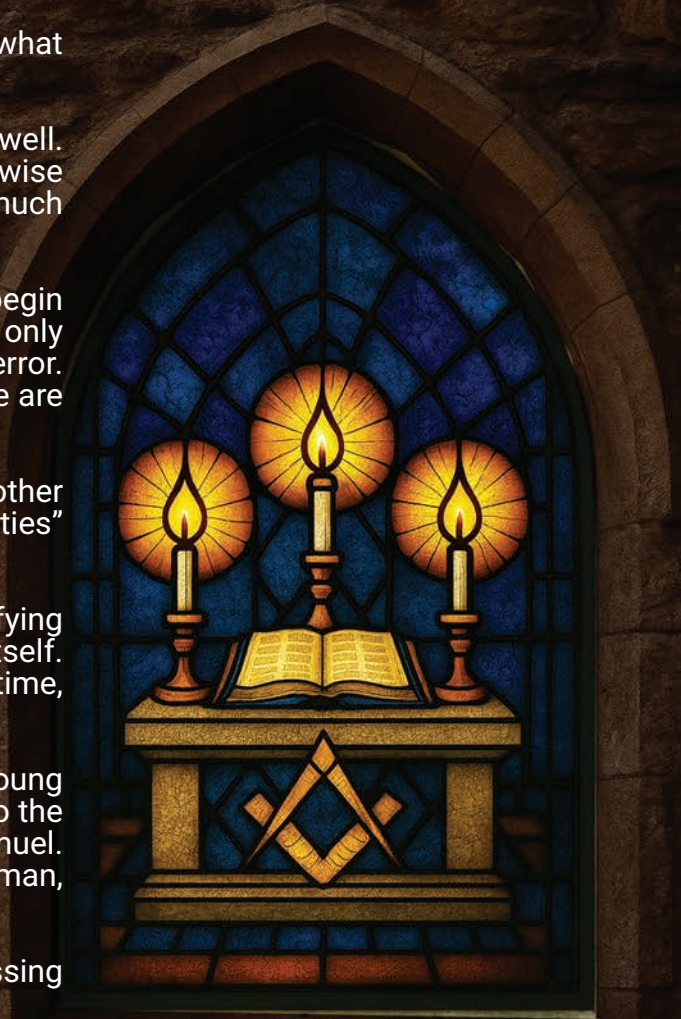
But when we honestly look at ourselves, then we can begin to see where we can help in lodge. Where we can not only serve but perhaps be best used. This might be trial and error. Not everyone is equally comfortable doing ritual, but some are quite adept. Let's encourage those who are.

If you are going through the chairs, keep an eye on the brother who is in the next one. What does he do? What are his duties? But in and out of the Lodge room?

We read of a servant of our Creator who spoke of magnifying his office, not making the officer greater but the office itself. Fulfilling the duties expected and maybe a bit more. On time, with a positive attitude.

The VOSL recounts the time when Samuel anointed the young David. He was the 8th son of Jesse and not even invited to the initial gathering with his older brothers and the prophet Samuel. The text tells us that the Spirit rushed toward the young man, who would be king.

Are we in that kind of hurry? To attend Lodge. To be the blessing to one another. To magnify each office, we hold.



David Spencer

Grand Chaplain

Right Worshipful Brother

David Spencer

Grand Chaplain's Schedule for April

April 6 | Renfrew Lodge

April 7 | Loyalist Lodge 50, Consecon

April 9 | Hiram Lodge, Bothwell. Daylight
King Solomon, London

April 12 | Divine Service, Cambridge
Wesley United 2 pm

April 21 | City of Lakes Installation, Sudbury

April 25 | Abitibi Lodge. Timmins. Daylight

Grand Secretary's Communique

Brethren,

Few items for your consideration and information.

Annual Communication – July 15-16, 2026

Our Annual Communication will take place at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel on Wednesday-Thursday July 15th-16th. Seminars and Workshops will once again be offered on Tuesday afternoon July 14th, 2026.

Grand Master's Banquet – Wednesday July 15, 2026

Guest Speakers are Sharon O'Leary and Rachel Macauley, Ronald McDonald House Southwestern Ontario. Dinner is 4-Course Duo Steak & Salmon. Individual Tickets \$95 and Tables of Eight (8) \$740.

Cutoff Date is Monday July 6, 2026. There will be no tickets for sale at the Annual Communication. The Eventbrite link to purchase tickets is: [HERE](#).

See poster included in this magazine for further details.

Hotel Rooms for the Annual Communication in July 2026

Rooms sold out very quickly once again this year. Rooms may become available if reservations are cancelled.

Check in time is 3:00 p.m. – early check in is NOT available this year

Last year the Hotel experienced a high rate of guests wishing to check in early. If you need a room before 3:00 p.m. - please check in the day before.

Please Note: As reported earlier, the following reservation / cancellation policies apply:

- Maximum 2 rooms under the same name
- Maximum 2 rooms on the same credit card



- If cancel reservation less than two (2) full weeks before arrival the guest will be charged one (1) room night plus taxes, notwithstanding whatever terms may be listed on any confirmation or otherwise
- Hoarding of rooms is not acceptable, and will result in all rooms being cancelled, and may result in further disciplinary actions

Hospitality Suites at the Sheraton and Best Western may ONLY be booked by contacting:

Mrs. Sandy Xu Papadimatos (Sales Manager) at the following E-Mail:

sandyxupapa@sheratonparkway.com (preferred)
Phone: 905 695 2882 (daytime only)

The Hotel Notice with complete details including pricing and reservation links can be found in the resources area of Grand View.

Other nearby hotels include:

- Hilton Garden Inn Toronto/Markham
- Courtyard by Marriott Toronto Markham
- Residence Inn by Marriott Toronto Markham
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites Toronto – Markham

Qualification – District Deputy Grand Masters

Candidates must be qualified under Section 50. (b) prior to submitting their nomination form (no exceptions).

Please note that a qualifying certificate under

Section 50 (b) means a qualifying certificate dated within three (3) years of the proposed date of Installation, or any date of a "Past Master's Course Certificate of Completion" as offered by the Grand Lodge College of Freemasonry.

Electronic Voting for DDGMs and Grand Lodge Officers

Registration Monday-Friday June 8-12, 2026.

DDGM Voting Monday-Tuesday June 15-16, 2026.

Registration Monday-Friday July 6-10, 2026 (if did not vote in June).

Grand Lodge Officer Voting Monday-Tuesday July 13-14, 2026.

2nd Ballot and other details will be distributed later. Everyone is strongly encouraged to register June 8-12, 2026

Elections: Did You Know?

Did you know that voters receive the results before the lodges? Did you know that it only takes a minute to register for elections? Did you know that it only takes a minute to vote for the District Deputy Grand Master, and only a few minutes to vote for the Grand Lodge Officers? Did you know that every current member with an email address recorded in the Lodge Management system received notice of registration? If you are a Master, Warden or Past Master and you did not receive the notification last year, please ask the Secretary of your lodge to ensure the Lodge Officers and your email address are correctly recorded in the Grand View system. If you successfully register for the June elections, your registration is automatically carried over to the July elections (you do not need to register a second time). *Please exercise your vote by participating in the elections.*

Michigan and Ontario – Save the Date – Saturday November 21, 2026

Michigan is hosting the annual Joint Meeting with a day of tours, degrees and banquet. Last year we enjoyed a very successful day hosted by Ontario in Hamilton. The year before, Michigan hosted a very successful day at the Masonic Temple Detroit. Further details to follow.

Grand View Training for Lodge Accounting

Two training sessions were held on March 10, 2026 for Lodge Accounting in Grand View. A number of Lodge Treasurers and Lodge Secretaries attended. The two sessions were recorded and links to view the training can be found in Grand View under Resources – Treasurer – Training and under Resources – Secretary – Training.

Lodge Meeting Dates and Times in Grand View

Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries are temporarily able to update lodge meeting dates and times in Grand View. Lodges should plan to review and make any adjustments as early in April as possible before this is once again locked down.

Lodge Mailing Address and Physical Address in Grand View

Lodges are asked to please review the lodge mailing address and the physical address of the lodge building and make any adjustments as early in March as possible. Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries are temporarily able to update the physical address of the lodge building and will be able to update the lodge mailing address at any time.

Masters, Wardens, Treasurers and Secretaries in Grand View

All Masters, Wardens, Treasurers and Secretaries need to login to Grand View.

In addition to providing you with valuable access, it will keep you informed, including with regards to electronic voting.

The Secretary must ensure email addresses are assigned to these officers in Grand View so they can login, and the Secretary must keep all officers up to date to ensure access and electronic voting rights.

Please support your lodge. It makes a difference!

Thank you Brethren.



Louis M. Domjan

Grand Secretary
Right Worshipful Brother
Louis M. Domjan



Ontario Masons

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ONTARIO MASONS MAGAZINE ?

2025-26 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ALL Images must be clearly labelled and must be 300dpi in .PNG .SVG OR .JPG File format

ALL Written Materials must be in a separate folder clearly labelled. All Written content must include sources and Authorship credits.

.PDF file format is preferred

ALL Articles containing Images please write at the top of your submitted article the photo file names associated with your submitted piece.

Have a **Clearly marked folder** with your submission title and a sub folder for your images and written content.

Send All submissions to
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should be submitted to:
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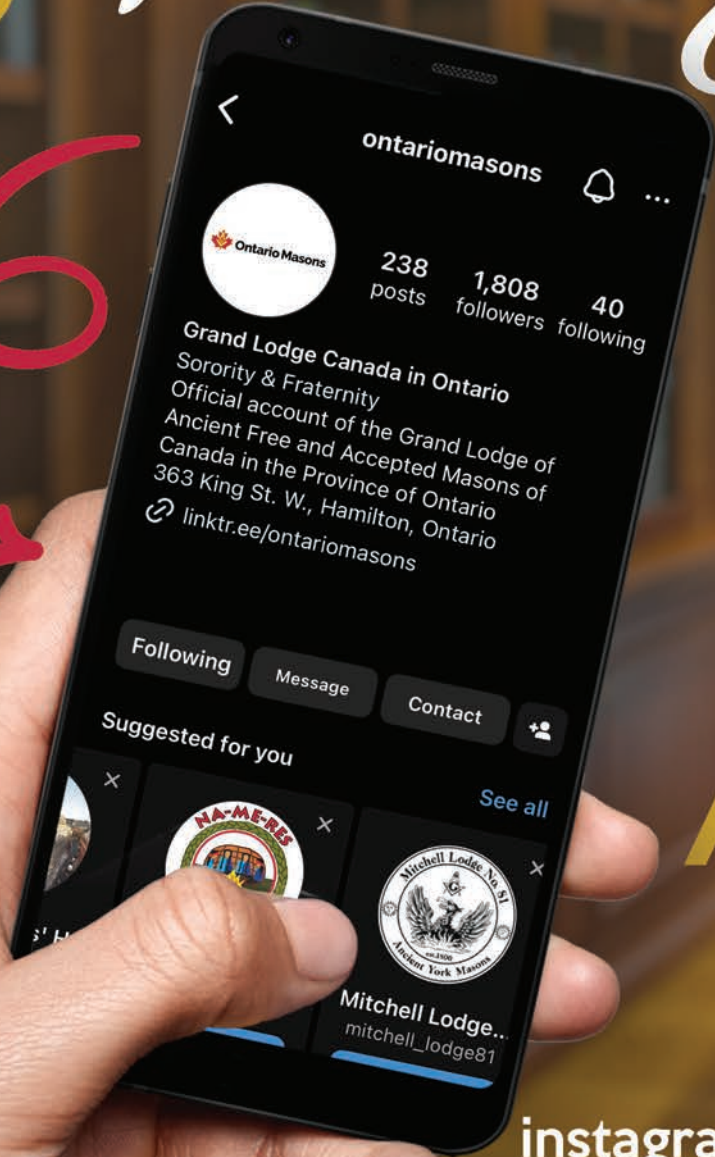


Ontario Masons

ON



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Custodian's Corner

BY M.W. BRO. DONALD A. CAMPBELL, PGM

Installed Masters

The pandemic created situations across the province, mainly dealing with Installed Masters.

Many Lodges had their Master serve for 2 or 3 years, and not being able to Initiate, Pass, or Raise candidates has put additional pressure on them. As per Section 287 of the Constitution, a Board of Installed Masters requires seven (7) Past Masters of the Lodge (W.M. plus 6 P.M.) to be present to open a Board of Installed Masters.

"At all meetings of a lodge, whether regular or emergent, seven members shall be a quorum, and no business shall be transacted, and no degrees shall be conferred unless at least seven members of the lodge are present."

Grand Lodge of Instruction Questions and Answers

Q

If the I.P.M. is not available at the Installation meeting, and he is to be invested "at a subsequent regular meeting when a Board of Installed Masters is convened for that purpose", (see the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture of Officers of a Lodge (2025), p. 86):

- a) How many Installed Masters are needed to open a Board?
- b) Must the Board be opened from the M.M. degree?

A

a) Section 287 of the Constitution (2024) requires that seven members shall be a quorum for a meeting, and, as this is a meeting of the lodge, seven Installed Masters, who are members of the lodge, are required to open a Board of Installed Masters.

b) As the Board is opened as a separate entity, there is no requirement to open in the F.C. or M.M. degree before opening a Board of Installed Masters.

Q

Can the Tyler be considered to determine if a lodge has a quorum?

A

Yes, as long as he is a member of the lodge. A Tyler cannot be considered if he is not a lodge member. See Section 287 of the Constitution: "Unless seven members of the lodge are present"



**KING SOLOMON'S PLOT
THE CONTINUING TRADITION
IN MEMORIA**

MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY - TORONTO

SUNDAY, MAY 24th, 2026

Assembly 1:30 P.M. at the Cemetery Gates on Yonge Street.
Parading in regalia 2 pm. Led by Pipers and drummers.



The 1894 Memorial

LED BY THE GRAND MASTER M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND

. : Programme : .

Grand Master — Welcome

The Immortal Memory — M.W. Bro. John Ross Robertson

The Memorials

Grand Master final word — Auld Lang Syne

“Happy to meet Sorry to part”

Family and friends are most welcome.

They will not be in the parade.

They will be conducted to the plot and seated with their hosts for the event.



Ontario Masons

APRON CHARGE FIRST DEGREE

BY R.W. BRO. PETER GORDON. DORIC LODGE NO 455

When the Senior Warden invests a newly initiated brother with the Entered Apprentice apron, he says, in part:

"It is more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honourable than the Star or Garter, or any other order in existence..."

So, just how ancient and honourable are these orders? Let's look into that. With the assistance of Wikipedia, I give the following:

The Distinguished Order of the Golden Fleece is a Catholic order of chivalry founded in 1430 in Brugge, Belgium, by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy,^[2] to celebrate his marriage to Isabella of Portugal. Today, two branches of the order exist: the Spanish Fleece and the Austrian Fleece. The current grand masters are King Felipe VI of Spain, head of the House of Bourbon-Anjou and Karl von Habsburg, head of the House of Habsburg-Lorraine. The Grand Chaplain of the Austrian branch is Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna.

The separation of the two existing branches took place as a result of the War of the Spanish Succession of 1701–1714. The grand master of the order, Charles II of Spain (a Habsburg), had died childless in 1700, and so the right to succeed to the throne of Spain (and incidentally to become the Sovereign of the Order of the Golden Fleece) initiated a continental conflict. On one hand, another Charles, brother of Holy Roman Emperor Joseph I, claimed the Spanish crown as an agnatic, member of the House of Habsburg, meaning that succession goes to the deceased sovereign's brother, rather than his son, which had inherited the Burgundian titles and had held the Spanish throne for almost two centuries. However, the late king of Spain had named Philip of Bourbon, his sister's grandchild, as his successor



in his will. After the conclusion of the war in 1714, the European powers recognized Philip of Bourbon as King of Spain, but the old Burgundian Habsburg territories became the Austrian Netherlands (1714–1797), and with them went the Treasure of the Order and its archive. The two dynasties, the Bourbons of Spain and the Habsburgs of Austria, have ever since continued heading the separate orders of the Golden Fleece. The Golden Fleece, particularly the Spanish branch, became one of the most prestigious and historic orders of chivalry in the world. De Bourgoing wrote in 1789 that “the number of knights of the Golden Fleece is very limited in Spain, and this is the order, which of all those in Europe, has best preserved its ancient splendour”. Each collar is solid gold and is estimated to be worth around €50,000 as of 2018, making it the most expensive chivalrous order. Current knights of the Spanish order include Emperor Akihito of Japan, former Tsar Simeon of Bulgaria, and Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, among 13 others. Knights of the Austrian branch include King Philippe of Belgium, his father former King Albert II, and Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, among 22 others.

The Roman Eagle

When one searches the Roman Eagle, one is referred to a society that was formed by Mussolini in 1942 in Italy, which was abolished in 1944. However, The Roman Legion Eagle goes back much farther in history. We don't know which of these is being referenced in our Masonic teachings, but one might assume that it is the earlier one.

An aquila (Classical Latin: [ak la]; lit. 'eagle') was a prominent symbol used in ancient Rome, especially as the standard of a Roman legion. A legionnaire known as an aquilifer, the “eagle-bearer”, carried this standard. Each legion carried one eagle. It represents the Eagle of Jove (Aëtos), being Jove the “Father of the Roman state”.

The eagle had quasi-religious importance to the Roman soldier, far beyond being merely a symbol of his legion. To lose a standard was seen as

extremely grave, shameful and dishonorable, and the Roman military went to great lengths both to protect a standard and to recover one if it were to be lost. For example, after the annihilation of three legions in the Teutoburg Forest, the Romans spent decades retaliating for the defeat while also attempting to recover the three lost eagles.

No legionary eagle standards are known to have survived. However, other Roman eagles, either symbolizing imperial rule or used as funerary emblems, have been discovered.[1]

This reference dates back to September AD 9.

The Garter

The Most Noble Order of the Garter is an order of chivalry founded by King Edward III in 1348.

The most senior order of knighthood in the British honours system, it is outranked in precedence only by the decorations of the Victoria Cross and the George Cross. The Order of the Garter is dedicated to the image and arms of Saint George, England's patron saint.

Appointments are at the Sovereign's sole discretion, typically made in recognition of national contribution, service to the Crown, or for distinguished personal service to the

Monarch. Membership of the order is limited to the sovereign, the Prince of Wales, and no more than 24 living members, or Companions. The order also includes Supernumerary Knights and Ladies (e.g., members of the British royal family and foreign monarchs).

The order's emblem is a garter circlet with the motto Honi soit qui mal y pense (Anglo-Norman for “shamed be (the person) who thinks evil of it”, in older translations “evil be to him who thinks of evil”) in gold script. Members of the order wear it on ceremonial occasions.

History

King Edward III founded the Order of the Garter around the time of his claim to the French throne. The traditional year of foundation is usually



given as 1348 (when it was formally proclaimed). However, The Complete Peerage, under "The Founders of the Order of the Garter", states the order was first instituted on 23 April 1344, listing each founding member as knighted in 1344. The list includes Sir Sanchet D'Abrihecourt, of whom the latest notice (according to the book) is 20 October 1345. Other dates from 1344 to 1351 have also been proposed. The King's wardrobe account shows Garter habits first issued in the autumn of 1348. Also, its original statutes required that each member of the Order already be a knight (what would now be referred to as a knight bachelor) and some of the initial members listed were only knighted that year. Its foundation is likely to have been inspired by the Castilian Order of the Band, established in about 1330.

The Star

The Order of the Star (French: Ordre de l'Étoile) or Company of the Star was an order of chivalry founded on 6 November 1351 by John II of France, to rival the Order of the Garter founded in 1348 by Edward III of England. This was the first monarchical order of knighthood, and first military order in French history. The inaugural ceremony of the order took place on 6 January 1352 at Saint-Ouen, from which it is sometimes called the Order of Knights of the Noble House of Saint Ouen.

History

The Order was initially conceived of in 1344 by John of Valois, Duke of Normandy and future king of France. This project, like the one to refound the Round Table which seems to have inspired it, had to be postponed for a number of years, and was only brought to fruition in January 1352 - nearly two years after the first feast of the Order of the Garter, and more than sixteen months after John succeeded his father on the French throne as king John II of France.

Established under sanction of Pope Clement VI, the Order of the Star's inaugural ceremony on January 6, 1352, had a lower turnout than anticipated and embarrassingly, a small English force took the castle of Guînes while its captain, the Sire of Bavienghem, attended the meeting. The Order was designed to accommodate up to 500 members, a notably larger figure compared to the 24 members of the

English Order of the Garter. The significant losses of 80–90 knights at the Battle of Mauron suggest that the Order had a robust membership, with knights likely inducted beyond the initial meeting. The Order's chapter house was to be funded by lands and wealth seized in prosecution of crimes of lèse-majesté. However, in the end, the king granted little of the wealth promised, finding it more profitable to use confiscated or forfeited lands to buy off noblemen's loyalties.

The Order was inspired by Geoffroy de Charny, theoretician of chivalry and elite knight who ultimately earned the apex privilege of Oriflamme bearer. In part it was intended to prevent the disaster of Crécy and to this end only success on the battlefield counted towards a member's merit, not success in tournaments. By its statutes, members also received a small payment and the Order provided housing in retirement. They were sworn not to retreat or move more than four arpents (about six acres breadth) from a battle. This last provision cost the lives of ninety members of the Order at the Battle of Mauron in 1352, and at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356 cost the king his freedom when many, if not most, of his fellow knights of the Star lost their lives. The Order fell rapidly into disuse during John's captivity in London, but afterwards the nominal ranks swelled so enormously that by the time of Charles V its bestowal was meaningless.

Freemasonry:

Freemasonry consists of fraternal groups that trace their origins to medieval guilds of stonemasons. Freemasonry is considered the oldest existing secular fraternal organisation, with documents and traditions dating back to the 14th century.

A Masonic lodge is the basic organisational unit of Freemasonry. It is also a commonly used term for a building where Freemasons meet and hold their meetings. Every new lodge must be warranted or chartered by a Grand Lodge, but is subject to its direction only by enforcing the published constitution of the jurisdiction. By exception, the three surviving lodges that formed the world's first known grand lodge in London (now merged into the United Grand Lodge of England) have the unique privilege to

operate as time immemorial, i.e., without such warrant; only one other lodge operates without a warrant – the Grand Stewards' Lodge in London, although it is not entitled to the "time immemorial" status.

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) is the governing Masonic lodge for the majority of freemasons in England, Wales, and the Commonwealth of Nations. Claiming descent from the Masonic Grand Lodge formed 24 June 1717 at the Goose & Gridiron Tavern in London, it is considered to be the oldest Masonic Grand Lodge in the world, together with the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

History

Moderns and Ancients in English Freemasonry
Prior to 1717 there were Freemasons' lodges in England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the earliest known admission of non-operative masons being in Scotland. On St John's Day, 24 June 1717, three existing London lodges and a Westminster lodge held a joint dinner at the Goose and Gridiron alehouse in St Paul's Churchyard, elected Anthony Sayer to the chair as Grand Master, and called themselves the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster. The City of London Corporation has erected a Blue Plaque near the location. Little is known of Sayer save that he was described as a Gentleman (a man of independent means) when he became Grand Master, but later fell on hard times, receiving money from the Grand Lodge charity fund.

Historian Marsha Keith Schuchard notes that the Whig administration of England organised the Grand Lodge as a Hanoverian-loyalist counter to the Jacobite rising of 1715, since the Whigs were concerned at the previous Jacobite influence in Freemason lodges. The Freemasonry that predominated in Hanoverian England was hence closely linked with Whiggism.

In 1718 Sayer was succeeded by George Payne, a successful Civil Servant. The society then passed into the care of John Theophilus Desaguliers, a scientist and clergyman, then back to Payne. In 1721, the Grand Lodge managed to obtain a nobleman, the Duke of Montagu to preside as Grand Master, and so was able to establish itself as an

authoritative regulatory body, and began meeting on a quarterly basis. This resulted in lodges outside London becoming affiliated, accepting sequentially numbered warrants conferring seniority over later applicants.

In 1723, by authority of the Grand Lodge, James Anderson published the Constitutions of Masonry for the purposes of regulating the craft and establishing the Grand Lodge's authority to warrant Lodges to meet. The book includes a fanciful history of the Craft, which nevertheless contains much interesting material.

Throughout the early years of the new Grand Lodge there were any number of Masons and lodges that never affiliated with the new Grand Lodge. These unaffiliated Masons and their Lodges were referred to as "Old Masons", or "St John Masons", and "St John Lodges".

During the 1730s and 1740s antipathy increased between the London Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland. Irish and Scots Masons visiting and living in London considered the London Grand Lodge to have deviated substantially from the ancient practices of the Craft. As a result, these Masons felt a stronger kinship with the unaffiliated London Lodges. The aristocratic nature of the London Grand Lodge and its members alienated other Masons causing them also to identify with the unaffiliated Lodges. On 17 July 1751, representatives of five Lodges gathered at the Turk's Head Tavern, in Greek Street, Soho, London and formed a rival Grand Lodge: "The Grand Lodge of England According to the Old Institutions". They considered that they practised a more ancient and therefore purer form of Masonry and called their Grand Lodge The Ancients' Grand Lodge. They called those affiliated to the Premier Grand Lodge, by the pejorative epithet The Moderns. These two unofficial names stuck.

The creation of Lodges followed the development of the Empire, with all three home Grand Lodges warranting Lodges around the world, including the Americas, India and Africa, from the 1730s. Formation of the United Grand Lodge of England In 1809 the Moderns appointed a "Lodge of Promulgation" to return their own ritual to



regularity with Scotland, Ireland and especially the Ancients. In 1811 both Grand Lodges appointed Commissioners; and over the next two years, articles of Union were negotiated and agreed upon. In January 1813 the Duke of Sussex became Grand Master of the Moderns on the resignation of his brother, the Prince Regent; and in December 1813 another brother, Duke of Kent became Grand Master of the Antients. On 27 December 1813 the United Grand Lodge of England ("UGLE") was constituted at Freemasons' Hall, London with the Duke of Sussex (younger son of King George III) as Grand Master. A Lodge of Reconciliation was formed to reconcile the rituals worked under the two former Grand Lodges.

The new Grand Master had high hopes for Freemasonry, having a theory that it was pre-Christian and could serve the cause of humanity as a universal religion. However, his autocratic dealings with ordinary lodges won him few friends outside London, and sparked open rebellion and a new Grand Lodge of Wigan in the North West. Within Grand Lodge, opposition centred on Masonic Charity. Robert Crucefix launched the *Freemason's Quarterly Review* to promote charity to keep Freemasons from the workhouse, and to engage masons in the broader argument for social reform. The Earl of Zetland's complacent and inept management of Grand Lodge played into the hands of the reformers, and by the end of the 1870s English Freemasonry had become a perfect expression of the aspirations of the enlightened middle classes.

Summary

So we have shown that the Order of the Golden Fleece takes its origins from 1430, the Roman Eagle from before the time of Christ, the Order of the Garter from 1348, and the Order of the Star from 1351.

Does Masonry really predate these orders? Well, we claim that "at the building of King Solomon's Temple an immense number of Masons were employed".

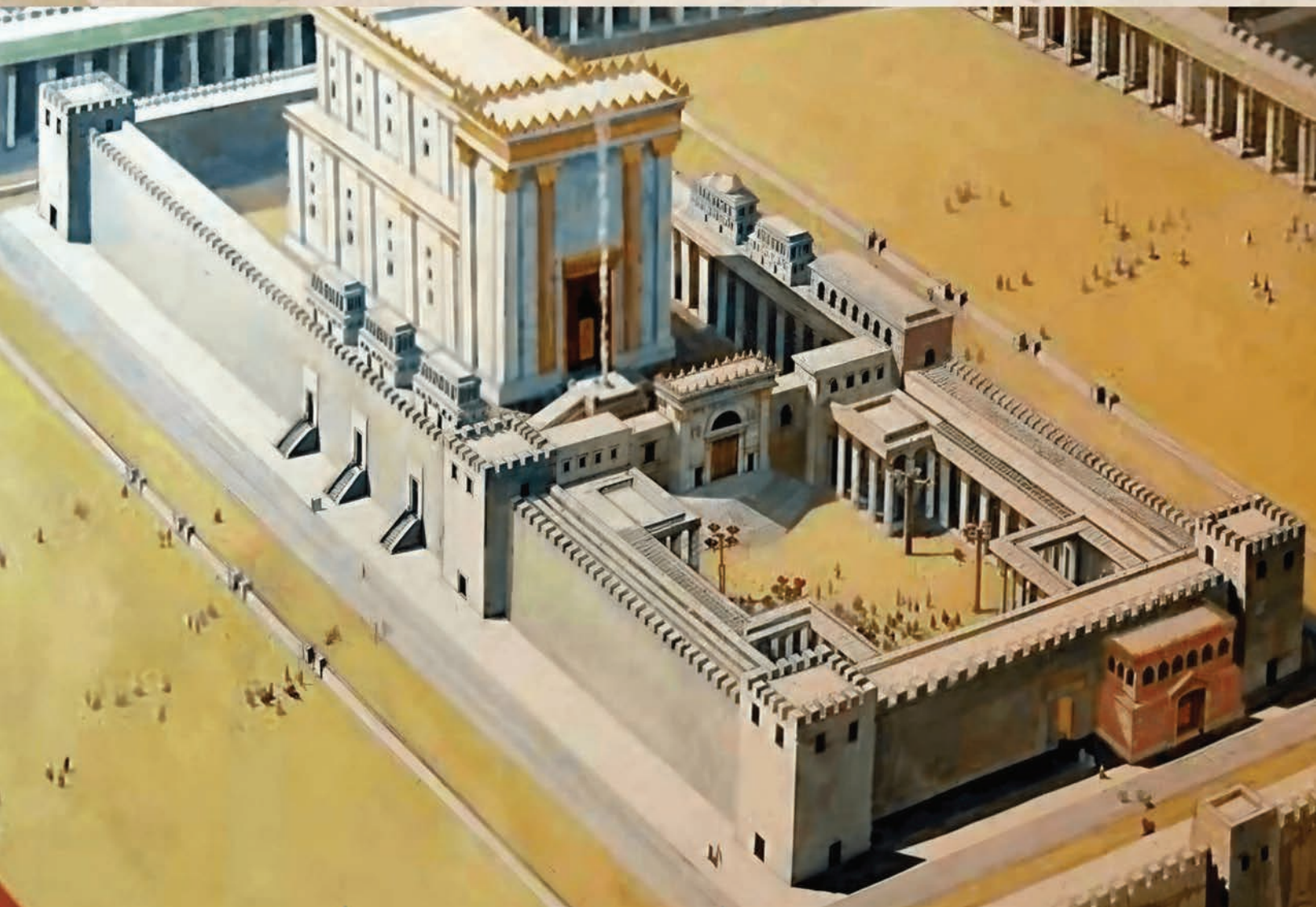
Of course, in our ritual, we refer to the building of King Solomon's Temple, which has its origin in the time of Solomon, long before the time of Jesus Christ, so much more than 2000 years.

When was Solomon's Temple built?

A Copilot search reveals the following:

"Solomon, son of King David, became king of Israel around 970 BCE and undertook the construction of the Temple as a permanent dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments. David had desired to build the Temple but was forbidden by God due to his history as a warrior, so Solomon inherited the divine mandate to construct it (1 Chronicles 28:3).

The Temple stood on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, the site traditionally associated with Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac. Thus, we see that Masonry does indeed predate any or all of these noble orders.



Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

**Grand Master's Banquet
July 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

**Grand York Ballroom
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites**

Guest Speakers:

Sharon O'Leary and Rachel Macauley
Ronald McDonald House Southwestern Ontario

Ticket Sales:

Tickets are once again only available for purchase online using Eventbrite

Individual Tickets \$95 and Tables of Eight (8) \$740

Cutoff Date is Monday July 6, 2026

The Eventbrite link to purchase tickets is:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grand-masters-banquet-2026-tickets-1985640235396>

There will be no tickets for sale at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge

Please notify Grand Lodge at office@grandlodge.on.ca the full names of William Mercer Wilson Medal Recipients that will be attending

4-COURSE DUO STEAK & SALMON DINNER

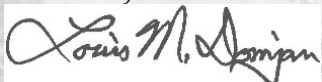
SOUP
SALAD
ENTRÉE

DESSERT TASTING TRIO

Warm chocolate lava cake, strawberry cheesecake, and crème brûlée

**Please distribute to all members with email
and kindly post on Lodge bulletin board**

Sincerely and fraternally,



Louis M. Domjan
Grand Secretary



Ontario Masons

The DDGM Preparation Committee 2026 Spring Session Workshops.

Coffee served at 8:30 am,
Sessions begin at 9:00 am till 2:00 pm

BARRIE, Saturday March 21st,

99 Morrow Rd, Barrie

TORONTO, Saturday April 11th,

2040 Weston Rd, Toronto

BROCKVILLE, Saturday April 25th,

Concession 2 Rd, Brockville

Northern Session, Saturday May 2nd,

Location TBA

ONLINE, Saturday May 9th

Preregistration is a must.

All Districts welcome at all sessions.

Light lunch is supplied. Donations are welcomed.

Register at ddgmprep@gmail.com



50 YEARS OF MASONRY

BY W.BRO.DAVE CLARKE
SECRETARY, IONIC LODGE NO. 328

PHOTO: In the picture from left to right are; R.W. Bro. Earl Morwood, V.W. Bro. Rob Hathaway – Worshipful Master, Ionic Lodge No. 328, V.W. Bro Jim Patterson, R.W. Bro. Roger Martin, DDGM, Sarnia District and V.W. Bro. Alex McLean – Master of Ceremonies for the 50 year pin presentation. Also a part of the pin presentation team was Bro. Shawn Morwood, who served as Chaplain.

On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Ionic Lodge No. 328 was very pleased to present a 50 year Masons Pin to V.W. Bro. Jim Patterson.

V.W. Bro. Patterson has always been active at Ionic Lodge, serving as Lodge Treasurer for many years and assisting with many projects that the Lodge has undertaken.

He is also very active in his community, with his church – St. Andrew's Presbyterian in Strathroy – where he serves as a Senior Elder, and helping out with many other community events. During the pin presentation R.W. Roger Martin congratulated V.W. Bro Patterson and pointed out how well know he is throughout the District. M.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland, Grand Master, was not able to attend the ceremony but did send a message "Jim's dedicated years of service to Freemasonry in general and Ionic Lodge No. 328 in particular has greatly contributed to the success of our small country Lodge. His past service as Lodge Treasurer for so many years and his continued attendance bodes well for the future of Masonry in our community."

After receiving his pin, V.W. Bro. Patterson was very humble, expressing gratitude to have been blessed with good health and to have been able to enjoy so much pleasure from his Masonic relationships. His closing remark was " I never met a Mason that I didn't like."

LEAMINGTON LODGE No. 290



L-R Front Row: Bruce Jackson, Tom Easton, Ross Taylor, Carole Dibley, Kent McMillan District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) of Essex County District, Lillian Brisseau, Nancy Moody, Charlene Wilkinson; 2nd Row: Michael Fritsch, Michelle Brassard, Tom Dobbie Leamington 290 W. Master, Elaine Stevenson, Richard Stevenson, Randy MacNevin; 3rd Row: Andy Dobbie, Bruce Lowe W. Master Windsor Lodge, Keith Tyler Grand Steward. John Blevins District Secretary; Back Row: Andy Dobbie, John Patterson, Brian Delisle, Eugene Kerrigan, Bob Lane Behind the Lens: Rick McKee

The official visit of Leamington 290 on February 19, 2026 started like any other. The members and visitors being seated in the Lodge, the meeting was opened in the First Degree. All distinguished visitors being brought in in proper order, the Essex County District DDGM R.W. Brother Kent McMillan was received into the Lodge. With this being done and the gavel being passed back to the Worshipful Master it was time for the Master to call the brethren from Labour to refreshment for the time it would take for business item listed in the meeting summons, simply as "Special Presentation".

Five ladies from Peachland Rebekah Lodge #45 were escorted into Lodge room. Their Lodge secretary was introduced. She proceeded to address the District Deputy, Worshipful Master and all Masons present. After introducing their contingent, it was noted that they were viewing this presentation as a method for one fraternal organization to assist another. That purpose was for the Rebekah's to aid in the fund raising for Masonic Foundation of Ontario Essex County District Project number 2547. The benefit, or assist for the Rebekahs', was to have their donation augmented by the Masonic Foundations' 33% matching program on the first \$50,000 collected while everyone was assisting the local communities hospice programs.

The amount of the donation was announced, and the Rebekah sister who has carrying the "big check" in a manner as to conceal the number revealed the face to show the value of \$10,000.

After pictures, the ladies retired to the tune of a standing ovation, as a show of thanks and appreciation. They enjoyed a short social time in the downstairs banquet hall that had been arranged for them while we went back to business.

Note: The donation funds raised are from volunteer services provided by the Rebekah Membership to the local Chances Gaming Lounge and Hospice donations are on their license.

Hanover Lodge No. 432 60th Annual Steak Fry



*An Institution
in
Bruce District
for "60 Years"*

Come Join Us !

*There Are No Strangers
In Freemasonry,
Only friends You
Have Yet To Meet!*

Contact:

R.W. Bro. Brian MacTavish

Phone: (519) -889 -0473

Email: bmac5@wightman.ca

V.W. Bro. Ian McDougall

Phone: (519) 506-9541

Email: hanover432@wightman.ca

For your Convenience,
Kindly Bring A
Plate & Cutlery
R.S.V.P. BY:
June 8/24



Monday June 29, 2026

Dinner 5:00 - 6:30 pm - \$ 45.00

Lodge 7:30 pm

No Degree Work

Dress For the Evening will be Business Suit

"A Night of Masonic Fellowship"

Guest Speaker:

R.W. BRO. JAMES O. WARK

**Member of the Board of General Purposes
of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M of Canada
in The Province of Ontario**



Ontario Masons



JOIN CHATHAM DISTRICT

To Celebrate

GRAND MASTER

M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND



13 June, 2026

Links of Kent

← 120 Indian Creek Rd W, →
Chatham ON N7M 2E2

[Event info/Hotel Bookings](#)
www.chathamasons.com

Moffat Lodge No. 399 partners with Canadian Blood Services

R.W.BRO. BONG VILLAVECER, PDDGM
MOFFAT LODGE NO. 399 A.F. & A.M.

As masons, we commit to serving our respective communities. Although others may initially appear to be strangers, we are reminded that we share a common origin.

Recognizing our shared humanity, we are called to support all individuals. We embody this principle by offering assistance to those in need.

Through blood donation, we fulfill our masonic responsibilities and positively impact the lives of individuals who urgently require help. Moffat Lodge No. 399 is featured in this photo as a proud partner in supporting Canadian Blood Services in maintaining a safe, sustainable and life-saving blood supply to those in need.



75 Years Of Dedication: A Legacy of Service and Dedication



BY: VW BRO. ERVIN ASPIRAS
CORONATI LODGE NO. 520



For more than half a century—indeed, nearing eight remarkable decades—Bro. George Leslie Shields has walked steadfastly in the light of our Craft. His story is not merely one of longevity, but of unwavering devotion, quiet leadership, and a lifetime woven into the very fabric of Masonic brotherhood.

Bro. George Leslie Shields is a Life-Member of Coronati Lodge No. 520, and he was initiated into Freemasonry on May 9, 1950, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on June 27, 1950, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on September 26, 1950. He later received his Grand

Lodge Certificate on April 11, 1951, bearing Certificate No. 242896 and Roll No. 672.

Born on December 2, 1925, our honoree has recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Seventy-five years as a Mason is not merely a number; it represents a lifetime of dedication, perseverance, and service. Bro. Shields' Masonic journey, which began nearly eight decades ago, was marked by curiosity, self-improvement, and a sincere desire to serve others. From the moment of his initiation, he has exemplified the timeless virtues that Freemasonry holds dear—brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Throughout the years, Bro. Shields has witnessed the evolution of our Fraternity and has contributed to it through his wisdom, kindness, and quiet leadership. His presence within the Lodge has served as a guiding light, offering encouragement and mentorship to newer Brethren, while inspiring all who have had the privilege of knowing him through his unwavering commitment to Masonic principles.

Beyond the Lodge, Bro. Shields' dedication to Freemasonry has reflected the true spirit of the Craft—extending its lessons into daily life and community, and demonstrating by example the values we strive to uphold.

During his seventy-five years in Freemasonry, our honoured Brother, George Leslie Shields, has not only faithfully attended countless meetings and ceremonies, but has also embodied the spirit of service that our Craft so deeply cherishes. His devotion extends beyond the walls of the Lodge, reflected in his active involvement in his church and his long-standing participation in the Toronto barbershop community.

Through quiet leadership, steadfast reliability, and sincere devotion, he has shown that true Masonry is lived daily, not merely practised ceremonially.

Bro. Shields' contributions have left a lasting impression on both the Lodge and the wider community. He has assisted in Lodge activities, supported charitable causes, and offered encouragement and guidance to countless individuals. He has stood as a pillar of strength and an example of what it means to be a true Mason.

In music, Bro. Shields has been equally remarkable. As one of the longest-serving members of the East York Barbershoppers, chartered in the early 1950s, he helped shape one of Ontario's most respected chorus groups.

He served as President of the Ontario District of the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1957, led the chorus as director for many years, and guided them to represent Ontario internationally, earning high placements in competitions. In 1973, he helped establish the Harmony Ranch Recreation Club, a centre of fellowship that thrives to this day.

For his service to barbershop music, he was named an Honorary Life Member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and was inducted into its Hall of Fame, the first Canadian so honoured. Perhaps most notably, in 1986, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for founding Harmonize for Speech, a charitable initiative supporting children with speech challenges. His mentorship has nurtured young singers, including Gordon Lightfoot, and his charitable work has touched countless lives. Bro. Shields' life exemplifies dedication, leadership, and service, virtues that mirror the Masonic ideals we honour tonight.

The Symbolism of Seventy-Five Years

Seventy-five years in Masonry is more than a passage of time; it represents a lifetime enriched by experience, wisdom, and growth in the principles of the Craft. This milestone stands as a testament to Bro. Shields' perseverance, fidelity, and unwavering dedication. It reminds us that Masonry is not a pursuit of haste, but a lifelong journey of self-improvement, reflection, and service to others.

Continuing the Masonic Path

As we gather tonight to honour Bro. Shields for seventy-five years of faithful service, we also look forward with gratitude to the continued benefit of his friendship, counsel, and example. His journey in Masonry is a living testament to loyalty and devotion, and we are indeed fortunate to have him among us, continuing to enrich our Lodge through his presence.





Arcana Veritas

DISTINCTION AWARDS 2026

The Arcana Veritas Distinction Awards (AVDA) were formally announced at the Annual Communication and Installation of Grand Lodge Office-Bearers of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland, held in Edinburgh on 30 November 2023.

Established to commemorate and celebrate outstanding contributions to Masonic literature, the Arcana Veritas Distinction Award is dedicated to writers and authors whose work demonstrates both scholarly rigour and interpretive insight across the breadth of Masonic study. Submissions may address, among other themes, the history of the Craft, symbolism, degrees, ritual practice, jurisprudence, comparative traditions, or other subjects grounded in Masonic teachings and experience.

AVDA are set to recognize writing that strengthens understanding within the fraternity and supports the continued development of Masonic knowledge. Works will be considered on the quality of research, clarity of argument, fidelity to sources, and the extent to which they advance thoughtful discourse in a manner consistent with Masonic principles.

The Awards welcome contributions from diverse perspectives, encouraging authors to illuminate different dimensions of Masonic philosophy and practice with precision, originality, and intellectual integrity.

We invite Masonic writers and authors to submit eligible works for consideration in accordance with the published guidelines and submission windows.

<https://www.arcanaveritas.com/>

The panel of internationally recognized judges for the 2025 Arcana Veritas Distinction Awards included M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron of our jurisdiction. The finalists for 2025 included two Brothers from our jurisdiction. Congratulations to both of them for their support of the Craft.

The 2025 AVDA list of finalists included Bro. Cameron Adamson in the category of "White Papers". Bro. Adamson is a member of Windsor Lodge No. 403, and other lodges. In 2020, he founded Square & Compass Promotions. (<https://squareandcompass.ca/>) Square & Compass Promotions produces content that explores the many ways in which Freemasonry was and is relevant to the communities in which it is located. Starting with the question "How



can Freemasonry increase member engagement?”, Bro. Adamson explored the idea of gamification as a tool for member retention and engagement from a sound academic basis. The nominated paper is available here:

<https://medium.com/sustainable-cities/its-more-than-a-game-2157d53a4f78>



V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern, Past Grand Historian, was a finalist in two AVDA 2025 categories. His book “The Master’s Emblem Explained for Masons”, was a finalist in the Historical Book category. This book guides the reader through several common – and incorrect – explanations for the Master’s Emblem. The documented origin of the emblem is shared. The conclusion that the Master’s Emblem is the diagrammatic proof of the 12th Problem of the First Book of Euclid is demonstrated by visual similarity, literary congruence, contextual relevance, and a moral connection to the Ceremony of Installation of the Worshipful Master. V.W. Bro. Kern has delivered lectures on the Master’s Emblem to events in Masonic jurisdictions across Canada, the USA, and the U.K. The book “The Master’s Emblem Explained for Masons” is available from the author’s website www.mastersemblem.com.

A biography of R.W. Bro. James Agar was a finalist in the White Paper category. The nominated paper is available from the same website www.mastersemblem.com. R.W. Bro. James Agar was an Irishman who became an English barrister and Deputy Grand Master. He is responsible for the ongoing use of a Tyler’s Register for Masonic lodges. He is responsible for the emblem on our aprons to designate the Worshipful Master and Past Masters of a lodge. He influenced the current form of Masonic aprons and was an exemplar of charity within the early years of the United Grand Lodge of England.



FROM THE LIBRARY: PROGRESS UPDATE

BY V.W. BRO. H. EVAN WOODHEAD FCF, GRAND LIBRARIAN

The focus of our committee's work is to transition the library to a new format. We will make the resources of the Grand Lodge Library available to all Ontario Masons on an equal basis. Perhaps more important—we will make access more convenient. You will no longer need to physically visit the library. Instead, the books and other materials will be made available to you in your own home. We are also planning to branch out and deliver Masonic literature in a variety of new forms... but I'm getting ahead of myself. In the past these would have been unrealistic goals. Fortunately, today's technology makes remote access feasible.

As I mentioned in the January article, we've got our work cut out for us before we can begin delivering new content or activating new delivery channels:

- We are compiling a complete catalogue of the library's books and other holdings.** Once we are finished, the catalogue will be posted where all members can consult it, to determine what material we have that meets your Masonic research needs.

- We are removing excess duplicates from the collection to free up shelf space.** Does 50 copies of Herrington's History of the Grand Lodge of Canada sound like too many? I think so. As a general rule we are keeping the 2 best copies of any given title. Obviously, there are exceptions to this guideline. For example, some of the more notable Masonic books were published in various editions over many years. The differences can be significant, and we would want to retain as many versions as possible.

- We are reorganizing the entire system by which books are located on the shelves.** Once this is complete anyone will be able to locate any book in the library by using its classification code, which will be found in the online catalogue.





This is the team working to catalogue the books in the Grand Lodge Reference Library (L to R): Bro. Brett McCrindle, V.W. Bro. H. Evan Woodhead FCF, Grand Librarian, Bro. Mehmet Batili FCF, Bro. Angel Arizmendi

•We are consolidating the books in the inner rooms and removing extraneous furniture and equipment. These changes will make it possible to more effectively display the museum collection at the front of the building.

The good news is that several hard-working Masons have volunteered to help, and the team had made great progress. To date we have catalogued over 4,000 books and loaded the details into a relational database. I believe this aspect of the work is now more than 50% complete. We have removed enough surplus copies to free up over 50 linear feet of shelf space, which is extremely helpful to both the re-shelving of books and the reorganization of the space. Now that the process of taking inventory is well in hand, we are also commencing the work to scan materials that can be made available to you electronically... but once again I'm getting ahead of myself. There will be more details on that in a future OMM article.

As you can imagine, it is very challenging to restructure and reorganize the space at the same time as keeping track of which books are already accounted for in the inventory. As a result, it has

become necessary to close the library to in-person visits for the duration.

On a brighter note, there is a side benefit of documenting every book in the collection. Some clear patterns are emerging, which will be very helpful as we move into the next phase of the transition. In particular, it has become clear that the most uniquely valuable part of the library is our Special Collections:

•The John Ross Robertson Collection includes a series of bound manuscripts which contain supporting material he compiled in the process of writing *The History of Freemasonry in Canada*. It also includes a large quantity of historical manuscripts stored in bound scrapbooks, and several valuable artefacts he purchased or was given.

•The Craft Lodge History Collection includes hundreds of books published by Ontario lodges (usually at significant milestones such as a Centennial) as well as almost a thousand electronic files compiled by one of our Past Grand Historians.

•The Professor Wallace E. McLeod Collection includes materials published by R.W. Bro. McLeod, as well as hundreds of documents donated to us by his family. The notes and writings of this Past Grand Historian, Past Chairman of Masonic Education, Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 E.R., Prestonian Lecturer, etc., etc., etc., are of unique and special interest to any serious student of Masonic history and literature. Scanning and posting the contents of the special collections will be our top priority in the next stage of the library's transition.

Conclusion

We realize that this transition may entail some inconvenience, especially for a few members who live close to the Grand Lodge office location. However, we feel that this is more than balanced by the added value to the thousands for whom the Grand Lodge library was, in the past, a remote and useless appendage.





Ontario Masons

In keeping with our Grand Lodge's emphasis on Ritual excellence, regular Education and engaging Mentorship (REM), our Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master have asked the following three (3) Committees to make themselves available for presentations and consultation around our grand jurisdiction.

If you are planning Workshops, Days of Masonry, Brother-to-Brother, District Association meetings and other events that could benefit from their presentations; please reach out to them directly.

Mentoring: Setting the table for success

Hear about a planned and intentional approach to mentoring that inspires confidence and fosters personal development and growth in all of our members
Sharing best practices for active engagement, immersive learning
Learn how to create opportunities for enjoyable masonic experiences
Discover resources for mentors and leaders
Member engagement and retention

Contact

R.W. Bro. Charles Singh
gc64.singh@gmail.com

Leadership Development ...the Masonic way

Cultivate leadership through action, reflection, and fellowship, not just theory.
Support emerging leaders by providing pathways and guidance for greater Lodge responsibility.
Encourage mentorship; provide practical development via workshops on communication, Lodge management, and ethics.

Inspire reflection with short lessons and insights during Lodge communications.
Recognize contributions and encourage Brothers who step into leadership roles.
Foster collaboration through monthly committee check-ins and shared leadership of initiatives.
Model Masonic values by holding each other accountable with patience, grace, and respect.
Engage beyond the Lodge by delivering in-person leadership presentations in districts.
Leave a legacy of leadership excellence for future generations of Masons.

Contact

R.W. Bro. Maher Eid
cici20101998@yahoo.com

Officer Progression: A Guide for the Journey through the Chairs

What it means to be an Officer
Benefits of the journey through the chairs
Preparation for each Officer position
Symbolism of the jewels and instruments of each office
Officer expectations: engagement, visitation, support

Contact

R.W. Bo. Jeremy Fleming
jeremy.fleming22@gmail.com

GREEK STYLE ROASTED LAMB WITH POTATOES

Cooking is as much a science as it is an art. A "suggest-ipe" is one approach. The goal: a tasty dish, and given the ingredients gathered and/or available, I proceed onwards using basic techniques, guided by experience and intuition, knowing very well that mistakes can be eaten, and the guests are usually forgiving. Each dish is unique, and every occasion to share a meal creates a memory. Toasts and tributes add flavour; while conversations bubble with laughter and fun... relationships are forged.

Having given simple one-pot recipes in previous issues, it's time to take our culinary efforts to a new level. This month's recipe is inspired by a fellow committee member I travelled with, of Greek heritage, and rightfully proud of Mediterranean food culture. As we welcome spring, try this straight forward Roasted Lamb,"suggest-ipe:.. It should inspire confidence as you build your skills and widen your repertoire

LOOKING FOR INGREDIENTS TO LEVEL-UP YOUR LODGE MENTORING PROGRAM?

•New Resources are now available at the Grand Lodge Website under

*Resources -> Master Mason -> Committees
-> Mentoring*

•The Lodge Mentor Training Guide includes detailed mentoring plans, best practices and list of resources available to assist mentors in this important work.

•The three Lodge Mentor Notes provide easy to access wealth of information about the lessons and meaning(s) of the three degrees.

**The 6 Mentoring booklets can be purchased from the Grand Lodge office:
Office@GRANDLODGE.ON.CA**

For more on mentoring, contact your Grand Lodge Mentoring team via:

R.W. Bro Charles Singh at
gc64.singh@gmail.com



INGREDIENTS:

1 large leg of lamb (about 3kg/6.5lb)
6 large cloves of garlic
1 bunch oregano
2 fresh lemons - zest and juice
10-12 tbsp olive oil
2.5 kg potatoes
400g can chopped tomato; salt to taste
1 cup pitted kalamata olives

DIRECTIONS:

Combine and crush together: garlic, oregano, zest of lemons, a heavy pinch of salt in a mortar & pestle (or bowl). Add lemon juice and 6 Tbsp of olive oil; mix well. Use a sharp knife to pierce and make slits all over in the meat, then push as much of the herb paste as you can into the slits. Rub and coat meat well. Reserve a couple spoonful of paste to toss with potatoes. Pre-heat oven to 475F.

Peel & cut potatoes in half, or leave whole if small. Put in a large roasting pan, tossing with remaining herb mixture and rest of olive oil. Sit the lamb in and among the potatoes. Roast for 25-30 mins, then reduce heat to 375F. Baste the lamb with juices. Roast for 1 hr 20 mins more for medium-rare (145 -160 F internal temp). basting a couple more times. When the lamb and potatoes are finished roasting, remove from pan and cover with foil; let meat rest 15-20 mins. Using the roasting pan and juices - over a medium heat; add the canned tomatoes and olives, then simmer, mixing well to thicken; season/test for salt. Carve and serve the lamb and potatoes, with sauce. Add a simple salad and bread for a rewarding feast.

Serves approx. 12

Hospice: The End Of A Masonic Journey

BY: W. BRO. JOHN MUISE,

"Though this moment be your last!"

Every Master Mason has experienced that moment when we come face to face with the reality of life – that it is not an endless journey, but one with a definite beginning, middle & end. The only uncertainty is how much time we have between the start and the finish.

When we are younger, we tend to take so much for granted, but it's only as we get into our senior years that we realize that while today is a reality, tomorrow isn't guaranteed.

A few years ago, my best friend was mowing his lawn. Seeing something in the grass, he bent down to pick it up – and kept going, landing heavily. I asked him if he had felt faint or passed out, but neither of those things had happened; he "just kept going until he hit". He got up, dusted himself off and finished cutting the lawn. A few days later, it happened again, except this time he lost feeling on one side. An ambulance was called, and after tests were conducted, it was discovered that he hadn't had a stroke, as was first thought, but the doctors had discovered several tumors in his brain. That was in September – he died in our local hospice on New Year's Eve, 2019.

Prior to my first visit with him at Hospice, it was a place that, for want of a better description, "scared



the Hell out of me".

It was where people went to die.

In North America, death has been "sanitized". Sterile, impersonalized hospitals give way to sterile, slightly more personable funeral homes, but, more often than not, funerals have been replaced by civilized "celebrations of life".

The year I was Master of my Mother Lodge back in 1987, a majority of the members were in their '80's, which resulted in more Masonic Memorial Services than Initiations. Then again, I was in my late '30's and thought that death was really something that happened primarily to "old people". Now that I'm in my 70's, my thoughts on the matter have dramatically changed.

Early in 2019, the doors opened on the new Hospice in Peterborough. It is a modern, bright and, as strange as it might sound, cheerful place. There are 10 rooms with lots of natural light, a large, flat screen TV that can not only be tuned to local cable channels, but can also be filled with scenes of a beach, with the sound of waves gently rolling in, sunsets, or even pictures selected by the family. It can also play the person's favourite music. This was what I discovered when I went to visit my friend, a few weeks before he died. In addition, there is

around-the-clock medical care to ensure that pain and suffering are kept at a minimum, if not eliminated. Unlike a hospital, where meal trays are delivered to a room, then taken away whether anything has been eaten or not, the Hospice employs cooks who do their best to cater to the needs of every resident.

If the resident's family want to stay overnight, they can, and will be catered to, in order to make their stay as comfortable as possible. There is also emotional support geared towards every member of the family, even children. The family can also bring in the family pet to make the resident feel "at home". There is even a big bag of dog treats in the drawer of the reception desk – something you would never find at a hospital.

Above all else, there is an overwhelming feeling of love and compassion, or as I later came to describe it, that place is like a warm, comforting hug.

In 2022, I overcame my fears and decided to become a volunteer at Hospice. I have been a volunteer in one form or another for as long as I can remember: cub leader, equipment manager in our local minor hockey association, school community council member, Optimist Club member, etc. etc. etc., but nothing, absolutely nothing I have ever done, has been as rewarding as the time I have been with Hospice.

During my 10 weeks of training before starting as a volunteer – consisting of 3 hours every Thursday evening - I learned a lot about the role Hospice serves in the community, but surprisingly, I learned a lot about myself as well: about my strengths, my weaknesses, and my fears. Who says that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks".

I also heard a lot of stories that blew my preconceived notions about Hospice out of the water. Here are 3 of the ones that made me smile, and they all seem to start with the same

question: "What do you miss the most?"

One of the first people admitted to the new Hospice shortly after the doors were opened was a woman who had played piano in choirs for most of her life. It was something that gave her great comfort, and she missed it dearly. The staff found an electric keyboard and brought it to her bedside. It was so much a part of her life, and being able to play it one last time for her family was something that made her so happy shortly before she died.

For another lady, it was enjoying a martini while having a bubble bath. Hospice has a fully stocked bar for just such occasions, and the bubble bath was so easy to arrange, as all rooms have a full bathroom. Something so simple brought so much joy to someone in their last days.

This last story, and trust me, there are many, many more, involves another lady who only had a day or two to live. When asked the question of what she missed the most, she told the nurse about how she used to have a "White Russian Party" every month with her girlfriends. After getting a list of their names, the next night she was surrounded by all her girlfriends, with White Russians in hand. They laughed and shared precious memories of days gone by. The next day, this lady died with a smile on her face. This is something that would NEVER

happen in a hospital, and if we were perfectly honest, wouldn't we all want to leave the world this way?

My journey with Hospice took an unexpected turn as I was nearing the end of my training. Expecting to be volunteering at the Hospice itself (since I had no clue about what I was facing and figured that the more people around me for support, the better), I was asked to visit someone in their home who was being monitored



on a weekly basis by visiting Hospice medical staff. This gentleman had stage 4 prostate cancer, but was still reasonably active. My visit, for a few hours once a week, would give his wife a few hours to get out of the house with her daughter, whether it be to go grocery shopping or just grab a coffee at the local cafe. It also gave the gentleman some time to talk about things he couldn't with his wife. Our friendship continued until he died at Hospice six months later, and at his funeral, I was shocked by the outpouring of thanks I received from his wife and children about how happy my visits had made him feel, and how well Hospice had treated the family in his last days.

After a long gap, on January 8th, 2024, I was again paired up with an elderly gentleman, and former Hospice volunteer, who loved reading, but whose eyesight had failed him. Even though, in his words, "I have so many serious things wrong with me that I'm living on borrowed time", the book he wanted me to read to him was an 800-page "Oprah's Pick for 2024" called "A Covenant of Water". At about 25 to 30 pages every Monday morning, it was a journey we both enjoyed. We finished the book the first week of September, exactly 2 weeks before my wife was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Over the next 4 weeks before she died at Hospice Peterborough, I was able to experience "first hand", the love and support Hospice gives, not only to the person dying, but to their family, and that support continues long after with Grief Recovery sessions and counselling for all members of the family, even their children.

The bottom line in all of this is that if there is a Hospice in your community, hopefully the local Masonic Lodge gives it all the support it can. When Hospice Peterborough was being built, the Masons in our local Lodges were generous in their donations. The fact that everything that Hospice does is funded, in part by the government, but mostly by donations from appreciative families and friends of people who have used their services and were not asked to pay even one cent towards the care their loved one received, explains why this is truly "a noble cause" deserving to be supported by every Mason and Lodge, to the best of their ability.

At your Initiation, on being presented with the Charity Plate, we were all asked, "Would you give if it were in your power?", to which we all answered, "I would". This is your chance to put your words into action, and anything you are able to give to this special cause will, I promise, "Be thankfully received, and faithfully applied."



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Ontario Masons



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HOSTED BY DJ TEMPTATION AND LIVE MUSIC FROM CALE CROW,
THE CARDINAL WINDS WITH FEATURE GUEST THE BOMB!

VISIT WWW.ROCKTHEHALL.CA FOR MORE INFO

**SATURDAY
MAY 2, 2026
6:00PM**

NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY HALL
20 KING AVE W, NEWCASTLE
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM! - \$40 PER PERSON

SCAN ME





Ontario Masons

The Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

You, and your guests are cordially invited to the Hamilton Districts' Grand Master's Reception and Dinner in Honour of:

M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland

Grand Master

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

To be held at:

**The Hamilton Scottish Rite Club
Banquet Room**

4 Queen Street South,
Hamilton, ON



Saturday, April 18th, 2026

Reception & Refreshments 5:30 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$90.00 per person



*Register by scanning QR code or at:
<https://pm-abc.ca/grand-masters-reception>
For more information or assistance with
registration call Geoffrey Allan 905-339-7724*



Presented by Ottawa 1 & 2 Districts

Fireworks Boat Cruise

Special Guest

R.W. Bro. Art M. Di Cecco

Deputy Grand Master

August 12, 2026

6:30pm – 10:30pm

160 Laurier, Gatineau QC

\$95/person

18+, Appetizers, Cash Bar



<https://tinyurl.com/FWBC2026>

Info: robebryce@gmail.com



Ontario Masons



Ottawa Reception for

M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND GRAND MASTER

All Masons and their Ladies
Are Invited to attend
Please join us

Thursday April 30th,
Cocktails at 6:00,
Dinner at 7:00 pm
Villa Marconi
1026 Baseline Road
\$75.00

Pay by Interac Transfer or
Cheque Before April 23



<https://bit.ly/4qLOE2t>

Contact: 613 769 0240



Ontario Masons



Ontario Masons

Hornepayne Lodge No. 636

100 Years Anniversary

100th Anniversary Silver to Gold Ceremony

Hornepayne Masonic Lodge No 636 – 63 Front St. Hornepayne, ON
Saturday, June 20th 2026 at 2:00pm

Guest of Honour

M.W. Bro. Jamie R Ireland
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons
of Canada in the Province of Ontario

Banquet

Venue – Legion Hall – 48 Sixth Ave, Hornepayne, ON

Doors open at 5:00 PM – Social Hour at 5:00 PM – Dinner at 6:00 PM

At the conclusion of the formal festivities you are invited to remain for some social time

Dress Code: Formal – Dark Suit

\$90.00 per person - \$170.00 per couple

Maximum 100 Tickets

No tickets will be available at the door

Please purchase tickets by sending etransfer to:

sgtmgrlou@outlook.com

The last day to purchase tickets is April 31 2026

Please include Grand Lodge titles for introductions

**A block of rooms have been set aside at the Studio 6 Hotel, 25 Becker Rd
Hornepayne ON, Phone 877-264-4498**

**We would suggest to book early, but do not book until your
attendance has been confirmed with the Anniversary Committee.**

**Due to a limited capacity of the Lodge room attendance
will be on a first come first serve basis**

**The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of Hornepayne Lodge 636
await the opportunity to host you and your Lady on this memorable occasion.**

Sincerley and fraternally,

**R.W. Bro. Stephen (Dan) Moore, Chair
100th Anniversary Committee
email: mooresd1@hotmail.com**



**ALDWORTH LODGE
NO. 235
BBQ**

THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2026

6 PM | \$30 PER PERSON

AT THE HOME OF IAN & WENDY CUMMING

592 Sideroad 18 & 19 Port Elgin

Spouses / Partners Welcome!

Call Ian for directions 519-373-3115



Ontario Masons



Stay Connected With The District Website Directory

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

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





Ontario Masons

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ONTARIO MASONS MAGAZINE ?

2025-26 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ALL Images must be clearly labelled and must be 300dpi in .PNG .SVG OR .JPG File format

ALL Written Materials must be in a separate folder clearly labelled. All Written content must include sources and Authorship credits.

.PDF file format is preferred

ALL Articles containing Images please write at the top of your submitted article the photo file names associated with your submitted piece.

Have a **Clearly marked folder** with your submission title and a sub folder for your images and written content.

Send All submissions to
The Ontario Masons Magazine
should be submitted to:
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**All submissions and feedback
The Ontario Masons Magazine
should be submitted to:
OntarioMasonsMagazine@gmail.com**

The factual accuracy of all content is the Writer/Contributor's responsibility.

The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, or those of the Ontario Masons Team.

ontariomasons.ca

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