

Peel Lodge

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

Just over 126 years ago some 50 men gathered at the centre of Caledon to form Peel Lodge. Imagine, five years before the Model T was sold in Canada that many men assembled in this small town for a common cause. This was not a Federal Election, not a National day of celebration, not a time of crisis, but a time to celebrate Masonry. This night we are celebrating Masonry in like manner: not for a new beginning, but for a celebration of an old beginning that has stood the test of time.

It's hard to imagine life so different – then and now. A world without cars, telephones or I phones, computers, and TVs, not even a radio. A time when Lodge night was held on the Tuesday closest to the full moon, because it was easier to travel at night with the light of the moon. Today our bulletins get distributed in a form that would have been considered magic in the days of our forefathers.

Everything has changed over the past 125 years. How many changes can we list? It seems that nothing has been left unaffected. What our children learn in school is no longer the 3 R's, but courses that deal with the environment, society, and nature.

Doctors no longer come to us, but we make an appointment to go to them – when they are available, or we go to the emergency room at the hospital. Our laws deal less about killings and people hurting others; but about where we can build and how many parking spaces the building will require. New rules dictate our social interactions so that we do not offend someone.

Is there anything that has not changed?

I checked in the oldest black book of the work that I have which dates from 1938. All the ritual is the same as that which we learn today. With all the technological changes we have experienced in our lives, isn't it amazing that our Masonic lessons and values have not changed.

Isn't it comforting to know that the teachings in our Masonic degrees haven't changed. Our basic values – man to man, and to society in general are all those virtues we learn and practice in Masonry, brotherly love, relief, and truth; something constant and everlasting.

*"Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists.
Herein lies the peace of God".
A Course in Miracles*