River Park Lodge 356

Initiation, Passed, and Raised

As River Park Lodge prepares for its 150th anniversary early next year, let us take a gentle stroll through history around the time you began. That was the year the Canadian genius, Alexander Graham Bell made his first voice transfer electronically. Who'd have thought iPhones would transfer voice across the earth without wires, and information of every kind would be available to everyone worldwide because of that simple invention.

In 1876 Streetsville, Ontario was a thriving town centre along the Credit River. The Transcontinental Railway had just been completed across Canada connecting coast to coast. The First World Trade Exhibition in the United States was held in Philadelphia. The United States included 38 States, Canada was not even 10 years old and consisted of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. One rationale for the creation of Canada was the fear of expansion from the United States. Times haven't changed much.

One of my stated Goals as DDGM is to initiate a new Filipino centred Lodge within our District that does not draw members away from the existing Lodges. I think we can draw lessons from the creation of River Park Lodge.

At that time, 1876, 10 men assembled to form a Masonic Lodge in Streetsville. It was inaugurated a year later as River Park Lodge. River Park is rapidly approaching their sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary on March 27, 2027.

You must be proud and excited. There is probably a lot of planning going into the next 5 months. Please speak with our District Historian, W. Bro. Alberto Chiang-Wong, to give assistance to your Lodge Historian in the preparation of a more inclusion history of your Lodge for printing on the District and Grand Lodge Websites. It would be great to know the origin of the name: "River Park." There's got to be a story in that. Thank you.