

District 'C' hronicle



February 2025

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.198

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings my brethren,

It is hard to believe that we are at the midway point of the Masonic year already. I have attended the DDGM mid term meeting with the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland and the District has held its Mid-Term Meeting.

The Grand Master is still reminding us to embrace the principles of R.E.M. (Ritual, Education, Mentoring). Without these, how can our lodges put their best foot forward? He informed us that at last year's Grand Lodge Communication, only 20% of eligible brethren voted. He wanted us to remind everyone to register in June, so that they can participate in July, in choosing our next batch of Grand Lodge Officers.

There was not much to discuss at the C District mid-term meeting on January 25th, which made for a quick session. Thank you to all those brethren who have volunteered to sit on the district team this year, your efforts are much appreciated. The District Secretaries did receive a package from Grand Lodge with information pertaining to the amalgamations of the 3 Hamilton Districts. Grand Lodge has provided a template for the structure of the new district guidelines. Any discussion on how to shape these guidelines will have to take place after the new district



is formed in July. It appears that there will be 2 candidates putting their names forth for the position of Hamilton South DDGM for July. I will have their names in my March message.

You'll be receiving a letter, in the near future, from our Blood Donor Chairman, Bro. James Zimmerman. He would like to see us organize a Masonic blood drive every month. The brethren of Hugh Murray Lodge No.602, man the recovery station, every Wednesday from 3 – 7 PM at Canadian Blood Services in Ancaster. Canadian Blood Services is always look for donations. We have somehow gotten away from running blood drives, it would be nice to see that return.

I would like to put together a list of all of the members of the District who perform the larger parts of the ritual in all 3 degrees. This idea originated with PDDGM William Walter Paul during his term of office and I would like to see it continue. As our ranks grow older, the members who do many of the larger parts, their ranks grow thinner. This list can be a great help and a reassurance for those lodges that need might need some assistance. Never be afraid to ask for help, that is what our fraternity is all about, giving aid when needed.

Mark down on your February calendars, Monday the 10th for my OV to Electric Valley Lodge No. 100, and Wednesday the 12th for my OV to Meridian Lodge No. 513. The brethren of those lodges, and myself, would love to see you there supporting them on their night.

Remember that the Travelling Gavel will be in play as well.



Fraternally,
R. W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF
District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton C District

Grand Master's January Communique

Brethren,

Happy New Year, I hope that the Holiday Season has treated you and your families very well. May this upcoming calendar year be the year that great things happen to you, your families, your communities and also to your Lodges. May this be the year that you inspire everyone that you encounter, to be happier and to try to do better. Brethren, this is the year for great things to happen, do your part, plant a seed of hope in the fertile minds around you and watch the ideas for success grow. Do your part to help your Lodge flourish and please continue to energize and engage the membership. Let this be the year that Ritual, Education and Mentoring propels you forward.

It's January already and I am left wondering, where is the time going. This Masonic year is now half over and there is so much left to do. A lot of Lodges have already conducted their Elections and Installations, while there are still many Lodges that are looking forward to the change of Lodge Officers as they progress through the Chairs. I have already wrote about my view on progressing through every Chair/ Office in the Lodge so no use covering that again.

Please Brethren, skipping Chairs is not a good idea, it doesn't benefit the Lodge or the individual, many lessons and experiences are missed.

Now that many of the Lodge Installations have once again been completed, I am asking the newly invested and installed Officers to look forward and check out the Cornerstone Program from Grand Lodge. Do all of it or just part of it, try it and see how it can help you. Look into the many Grand lodge virtual presentations that are available for your use, you might be surprised at the information that they can help you with. The Masonic Education Committee can help you make your meetings more enjoyable. They can also enroll you in the College of Freemasonry or they can offer the Speaker Series to you which is on the first Saturday of every month. Use our Ontario Masons Branding in your communities, approach like-minded men and engage them in conversation. Ritual, Education and Mentoring are your path forward to engagement and success. Why not learn what will make your Lodge more active and more vibrant. To the Brethren and Lodges that have embraced our Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M., I applaud you. To the Brethren and Lodges that are wondering what to do in order to have further successes, I encourage you to look into our Grand Lodge Committees and see what they can do for you. Please feel free to contact any Committee Chairmen for information, help and guidance. If you need any help, just take that first step and ask, you might be surprised at how easy it is to do better.

I just want to mention that while I was on a trip recently to the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in Washington DC for their Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, I enjoyed myself very much. Although this was my forth time in the Capital, I continue to meet friends and leaders from around the world. Visitation around our District, our City or around this or any other Grand

Jurisdiction is such a mainstay of our Fraternity, please travel and visit if you are so inclined to do so. When I was away I met up with friends from previous visits and I was also able to greet many new friends. In this current office that I hold as Grand Master, I have been fortunate enough to meet Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers from all over this incredible world. What a treat and privilege it is, to be able to talk to and ask questions of these esteemed Brethren and then to listen to their advice, suggestions and experiences. We can learn so much from each other if we just take the time to inquire and then to listen to the answers. It's in each of us to want to learn from others. Brethren, from my many inquiries I have learned that Masonry in many Jurisdictions is in the same state that our own Grand Lodge is experiencing. There are many differences but the similarities are incredible once you start asking others. It's the same with our Lodges, there are many differences between them but also many things are the same. Why not take the initiative to visit and learn from others, you'll be amazed at the similarities that you encounter.

Our Grand Jurisdiction will be attending Lodge in the Detroit Masonic Building on February 8, 2025 in conjunction with the Grand Lodge of Michigan. They will be doing an American E.A. Degree and we will be conducting our F.C. Degree. The Custodian of the Work, M.W. Bro. Donald Campbell, has put our Degree Team together and it's going to be a great day of Masonic Education indeed. Please join with us if you are able. Our Grand Lodge will also be attending the North American Conference of Grand Masters in February and I'm looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones at that event again.

I also want to mention that the Midterm Meeting with all of the 40 District Deputy Grand Masters is on January 4th. It's a great meeting with my representatives from around this Jurisdiction and I can't wait to see them. There will also be the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and new for this year, we will be receiving a presentation from the Custodian. We are going to hear what is working in the Districts and what is not. I can also help the DD's with information that will help them to have a more successful year. Like I mentioned earlier, the Masonic year is half over and I want every District to move forward in a positive direction.

Brethren, once again, ask questions, listen for the answers and learn how to do better for yourselves, your families, your Lodges and your Grand Jurisdiction.

In conclusion, as always my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look ahead to this upcoming Masonic year with hope and determination and let us all inspire someone to do better !!! Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun isn't there.....let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren, safe travels and God Bless.
Jamie R. Ireland

Deputy Grand Master's January Communique

Greetings Brethren,

With the Holiday season already behind us, I trust that all our Brethren have had the opportunity to share this special time with family, friends, and all those near and dear to each of us. As we settle into our new calendar year, let us begin with a positive outlook on all our Masonic endeavors. One area in particular which has currently resurfaced as a regular topic of discussion is that of solicitation, or more specifically, improper solicitation.

Issue No. 37 of our P&E Essentials, addresses the concept by outlining that "Our ritual is very clear that IMPROPER solicitation is to be avoided. Indeed, one of the first things that a new candidate must affirm on his initial entry into the Lodge is that he has not been biased by such action." Nonetheless, as our ritual is clear that we are to avoid improper solicitation, the specific reference to "Improper" does not imply to "any" solicitation in general. If the intent is for solicitation to be completely forbidden, the term would have been clarified as "No Solicitation".

When we talk about "improper" solicitation, we refer to actions that pressure or coerce individuals to seek membership against their own free will and accord. To better understand what we mean by improper solicitation, let's consider some examples as outlined in our P&E Essentials Issue 37. Actions such as bribing someone, tricking them, intimidation, coercion, bullying, extortion, or persistent harassment, or any other behavior along these lines are all considered improper ways to recruit new members. These actions not only undermine the very principles and values of our Craft, but they also damage the reputation and trust associated with our organization.

In contrast, there are many ways to genuinely and positively engage a potential candidate. Through our own observation, there may be men within our own personal and vocational circles, that may find Freemasonry a proper fit in their life journey. As many of us have found great personal growth, friendships, and a deeper understanding of life through our own membership, we have within ourselves the best testimonial for any man. The sharing of personal experiences, and the virtues of Freemasonry can definitely spark a genuine interest. When we talk about these benefits with enthusiasm and authenticity, we're not soliciting in a manipulative way, we're simply sharing a positive experience.

Furthermore, it's perfectly acceptable to express to someone that you think they would enjoy being a Mason, and to suggest if they would be interested in joining. This kind of invitation can be done respectfully without any pressure. It's important that we maintain the principle that individuals should seek membership of their own free will and accord. A conversation about Freemasonry should feel inviting rather than intimidating.

Let's talk about the practical steps we can take to enhance our outreach without crossing into improper solicitation. Many lodges engage in community activities such as Remembrance ceremonies, open house events, Blood donor clinics, and Masonichip programs. These are opportunities for individuals to see Freemasonry in action, which may foster curiosity and encourage questions. Participating in these activities not only serves our community, but also provides a natural context for conversations about our values and what being a Mason entails.

Another important tool is the use of well-maintained websites or literature that informs the public about who we are, what we do, and requirements to join. Explicitly stating that membership requires personal interest, and, that it is initiated by the individual's own decision, helps demystify the process and reduces misconceptions.

Lastly, our approach to proper solicitation is to ease any controversy over what is proper and improper. It does not however, herald a relaxed attitude towards our West Gate. In fact, this is an area where we must be more mindful and vigilant to ensure that we continue to attract potential candidates who will truly appreciate the principles and values of our Craft.

With my best fraternal regards,

R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master

Brock University **Ontario Masons**

Charles A. Sankey

Lecture in Masonic Studies

DESCRIPTION

Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 3 p.m.
Sean O'Sullivan Theatre,
Brock University

"Freemasonry and Colonial Power in British India, 1730-1921"

Lecturer:
Dr. Simon Deschamps
Senior Lecturer
Centre for Anglophone Studies
Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès
France

To attend in person at BrockU, please reserve your ticket(s) online by going to sankeylectures.ca and clicking on the TICKETS link. Tickets are free. There will also be a livestream for those who cannot attend. No tickets are required for the livestream. The livestream link is live.sankeylectures.ca

Generously sponsored by

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

Lodge Harmony, Cawnpore (Kanpur), India (1920s).
Courtesy of the U.G.L.E. Library and Museum.

Dates to Remember

February 2025

Official Visit

The Electric Valley Lodge No. 100

Monday February 10, 2025
Dinner 6:30. Tyle 7:30 pm
MCH

Dinner RSVP required
dgabriel@brocku.ca
By February 6, 2025

Official Visit

Meridian Lodge No. 513

Wednesday February 12, 2025
Tyle 7:30 pm
Refreshments to follow
Ancaster Temple

March 2025

Official Visit

Westmount Lodge No. 513

Tuesday March 25, 2025
Dinner 6:15 Tyle 7:00 pm
Hillcrest



The Scottish Rite Club

[Valentine Dinner & Show](#)

[Featuring The REPEATLES](#)

[\(doors open @5:30pm](#)

[Dinner at 6:30pm and show to follow\)](#)

February 14, 2025

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

\$65.00 per person

[Banquet Room](#)

Use this Link to [Book Now!](#)

A promotional poster for a Super Bowl Sunday party. At the top left is the Ontario Masons logo. The main title is 'SUPERBOWL SUNDAY' in large, bold, red letters. Below it, the date 'February 9th, 2025' is written in yellow. The location is 'at the Scottish Rite Club of Hamilton, 4 Queen St. S. Hamilton, ON'. The poster features a large, stylized 'LVM' logo with a football helmet and a football. Text on the poster includes: 'Chili, Pizza, Meatballs, Snacks and finger foods will be served. Cash bar will be open & E-transfers can be made to treasurer@hughmurray602.ca', '\$20 per adult - Discounts for kids/families', 'For more information please contact W. Bro John Raso at worshipfulmaster@hughmurray602.ca', and a QR code. At the bottom, it says 'To register your attendance scan the QR Code or go to https://hughmurray602.ca/hml/notice/1st-annual-super-bowl-party-at-the-rite/'. The Hugh Murray Lodge logo and '103rd Anniversary 1922-2025' are also present.

A promotional poster for a pancake breakfast. At the top left is the Hugh Murray Lodge logo with '103rd Anniversary 1922-2025' and 'Making Good Men Better since 1922'. The Ontario Masons logo is at the top right. The main title is 'All you can eat PANCAKE BREAKFAST' in large, bold, red letters. Below it, the date 'Saturday March 15th, 2025' and time '9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the HILLCREST MASONIC TEMPLE' are listed. The location is '257 Mohawk Rd. Hamilton, ON'. The poster features a stack of pancakes topped with raspberries and blueberries. Text on the poster includes: 'Sausages, pancakes, juice, coffee, tea and more all included', 'Tickets \$20 per adult 18+', '\$15 Seniors 65+/Teens 13-18', '\$10 Kids 12 and under', 'This event is a fund raiser for our Lodge's events and charity work throughout the year.', and 'To book a table for your family, tickets or information Contact the Lodge Secretary at HMLSecretary602@outlook.com or 905-517-6728'.

A promotional poster for an Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast. The title is 'EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST' in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, the date 'Saturday April 19th, 2025' and time '9:00a.m. to 12:30p.m.' are listed. The location is '4 Queen Street South, Hamilton, ON'. The poster features several colorful Easter eggs. Text on the poster includes: '*Adults 18+ \$30 Youth/Kids 5-17/Seniors 65+ \$25 Children 4 and under \$20', '*Family/Group of 4 \$105 Table of 8 \$185', '(Plus HST - Registration Required - Every 2 Children/Kids 12 and under must be accompanied by at least 1 adult)', 'Featuring: > A delicious buffet breakfast', '> Easter themed crafts table', '> Easter Egg Hunt (Children 12 & Under)', '> Bring your own easter basket (or make your own paper plate basket at the craft table)', '> Meet the Easter Bunny & take pictures', '> Join a Tour of the Scottish Rite Club & Cathedral', '> Tickets online at http://.../... or Scan the QR Code above', and a QR code for tickets. The Scottish Rite Club logo and 'Inside of the Historic Scottish Rite Club' are also present.

Brethren. In coordination with the Scottish Rite Club, the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast for kids and families will be held Saturday, 19th of April 2025.

Around the District



Seymour Lodge No. 272 Installation of Officers



W.Bro. Ted Burns
R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger
W.Master Jim Panoff



R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger
Bro. Kingsley Audu
W.Master David Willett



Landmarks Temple Lodge No. 324 Official Visit



The DDGM with 5 of our District C W.Masters & R.W. Bro. David R.C. Humphrey, London West
Back Row: W.Bro. John Raso, W.Bro. Robin Colville
W. Bro. Jim Panoff, W.Bro. James Robinson, R.W. Bro. Steven Badger, W. Bro. David Willett, R.W. Bro. David Humphrey

District Charity



TEAD. (The Equestrian Association for the Disabled) is this year's District charity. I hope that we can give this deserving charity our fullest support. If anyone would like to volunteer, visit their website and fill out an application (<https://tead.on.ca>).

Please make all donations to the
Masonic Foundation # 2498.

Founded in 1978, TEAD is a registered charity that provides therapeutic riding lessons and other equine programming to children and adults with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities. TEAD facilitates many different types of equine programming for all age levels and abilities.

They also offer a limited number of recreational lessons to independent walk/trot and walk/trot/canter riders only at this time. As it is a therapeutic riding centre first and foremost, the majority of their programming is dedicated to their therapeutic participants.

Therapeutic riding is an equine assisted activity for the purpose of contributing positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well-being of individuals with disabilities. Riding has many benefits including but not limited to:

- Development and improvement of balance & coordination
- Mobilization of trunk and pelvis
- Improvement of muscle tone & strength
- Prevention of contractures
- Increased confidence & self-esteem
- Promotion of independence
- Increased concentration, motivation & patience
- Improved learning skills
- Improvement of social integration
- Access to recreation, sport and/or competition
- A sense of control that might not otherwise be felt in everyday life

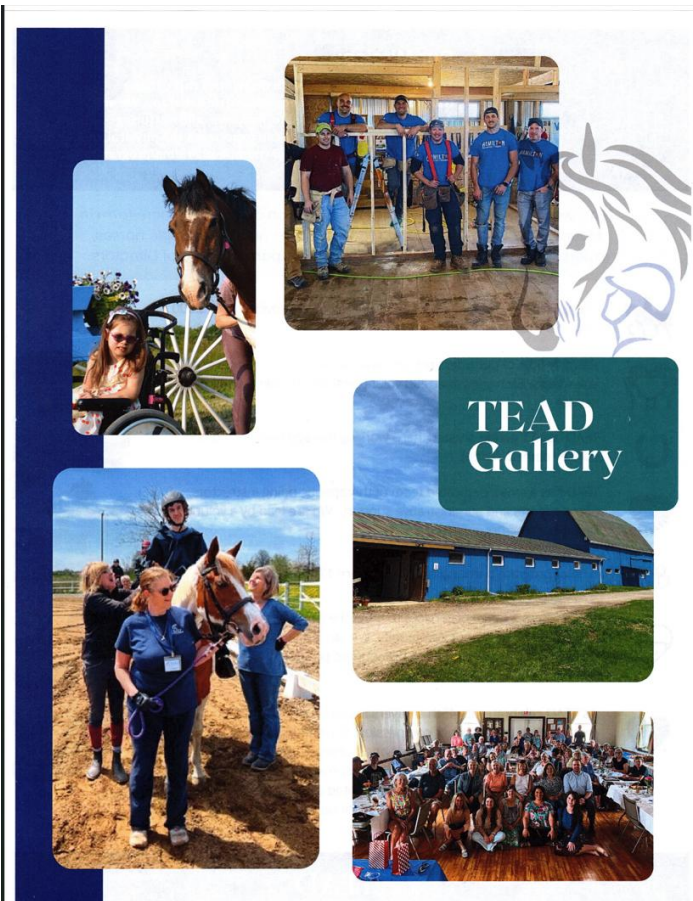
TEAD offers therapeutic riding lessons mornings, afternoons and evenings, 6 days a week, all year long. All of their instructors are nationally certified, and their horses have been chosen for their temperament and suitability to therapeutic work.



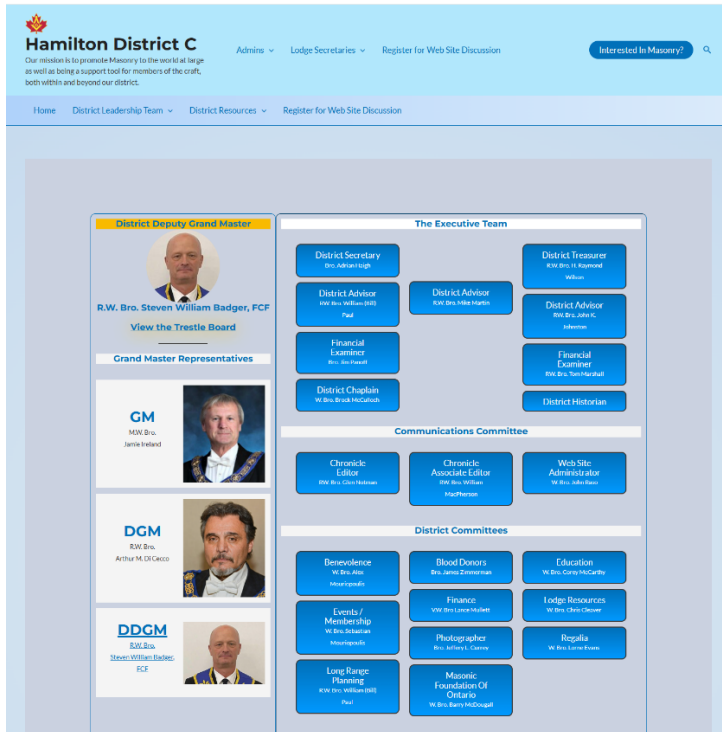
Proceeds from the Robbie Burns Night hosted by the Electric Valley Lodge being presented to our DDGM for our District Charity TEAD.

OUR MISSION & VALUES

TEAD Values:	
Commitment to Safety	We strive to create a safe, healthy and inclusive environment in which our community and equine partners can thrive.
Integrity	We adhere to the highest standard of professional and ethical behaviour, value transparency in our communications, relationships and actions.
Collaboration	We embrace teamwork and partnership - Our greatest achievements come when we combine our strengths and work together.
Respect	We ensure all individuals are treated fairly and equally, and feel listened to.



Masonic Education Website Under Development!



<https://johnraso.com/HamDistrictC/>

Use this link to check out the progress to date

W. Bro. John Raso is hard at work building out a new website for the future. *Volunteers are needed to assist with the landing page and the overall look and feel.*

He is inviting all members to take a look and provide feedback. **"I am willing to accept ALL feedback, 👍 and 👎."**

As part of the plan for the design, John is looking to host a Teams meeting to provide a walkthrough, get feedback and answer questions. Looking for interested members, Lodge Secretaries and Senior Lodge Officers to get involved and be part of the new design.

They can register using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iX7SPxLHzc>

or the provided QR code to register for the discussion.

If members register on the site and they provide their email or mobile number John can communicate with them directly. He will also update the web site with a link to the meeting as well as a calendar link that they can import to their personal calendar.

Submitted by W. Bro. John Raso, Webmaster

Register for Hamilton District C Website Discussion



Sunday Breakfast Club !



The stalwart Breakfast Gang celebrating Robbie Burns at "Butties" in Ancaster with chef Lee (centre).

" The young masons breakfast meeting"

W. Master. Dave Willet, Bro. Macneal Lashley, Bro. Jeff Currey, Chef Lee, Bro. Tim McLelland, W. Bro. Lorne Evans & W. Bro. Sebastian Mouriopoulos

Contact Sebastian at s.mouriop@live.ca if you want to join them at a Sunday Breakfast

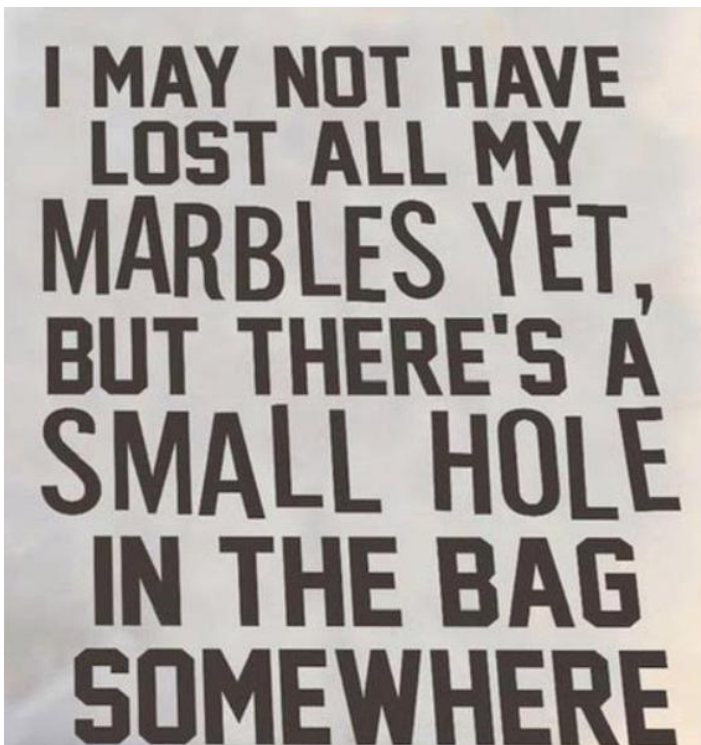
Editor's Page

50 Years a Mason



W.Bro. T. Steven Stewart
R.W. Bro. Steven Badger
W.Master David Willett

Congratulations to W.Bro. Steven Stewart on receiving his 50 Years as a Mason pin from our DDGM at his Official Visit to Landmarks Temple No.324.



IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Jack Ford

Buchanan Lodge No.550

Initiated – June 4 , 1959

Passed – September 17, 1959

Raised – October 22, 1959

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above January 6, 2025



In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We will cherish him in our hearts forever.

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The definition of a Chronicle.

Noun: A factual written account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence:

We have again successfully for another year e-published your monthly District newsletter in which we have incorporated when supplied items from Grand Lodge, our District leadership team, lodge events, various items of masonic education, an obit for District members, and on occasion some lighter items which might be amusing.

The Chronicle is on the verge of releasing our 200th edition providing a narrative and reference points for all things related to Hamilton C District and its members for over 17 years. Until the end of this Masonic year we will focus on and continue to catalogue the goings on of our lodges.

Bill and I would like to thank those lodges and brethren who have supplied us with copy articles, pictures etc., and await direction and wishes from Hamilton South District members on our future endeavours.

Be well, and feel free to send me your feedback.

Glen, gnotman@hotmail.com



Ontario Masons

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