

Dear Brethren,

Enclosed please find the *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*, Volume Twenty, Issue 02 (Whole Number 197), Thursday, 01 October 2026.

This issue contains 48 pages.

The monthly calendar in *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter allows the Brethren to see, at a glance, the work being done in the District for that month. Thus, if you're interested in attending a particular Degree, look at page 07 to see where one is being conducted in the District.

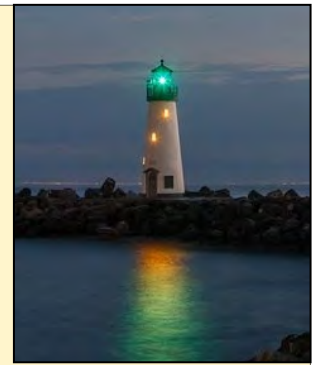
Each month also provides an inspirational message from the D.D.G.M. as well as the monthly *Communiqué* from the Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master.

Definitions of Masonic terms are also included in each issue along with various aphoristic * "*Masonic Points to Ponder*", designed to be used for that short piece of Masonic Education that should be a part of every Lodge meeting, a longer piece of Masonic Education, excerpts from Mackey's *Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry* and excerpts from Grand Lodge's publication by R.W. Bro. Wallace E. McLeod, *Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario: 1764 - 1980*.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

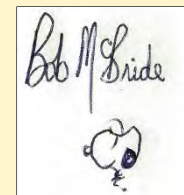
R.W. Bro. Bob McBride

[* An aphoristic style means a compact, condensed or epigrammatic
{ a concise, clever, and sometimes paradoxical statement
or line of verse } style of writing.]



R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]

- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master, 2007 - 2008
- Editor of the monthly electronic *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* 2007 - 2026
- Peterborough District Historian, 2001 - 2026
- Peterborough District Communications Chairman, 2002 - 2021
- Past Master, Keene Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 374 G.R.C., January 2002 - May 2004, May 2022 - April 2024
- Past Master, William James Dunlop Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 675 G.R.C., 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019
- Director, The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, 2009 - 2015
- Former Editor of the quarterly 60-page *Reflections: The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education*, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Member: July 2006 - July 2008, Editor: July 2008 - July 2010, Advisor: July 2010 - July 2011
- Past Editor of *The Ontario Mason Magazine*, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Member: July 2003 - July 2007, Assistant Editor: July 2008 - July 2010, Editor July 2010 - July 2011

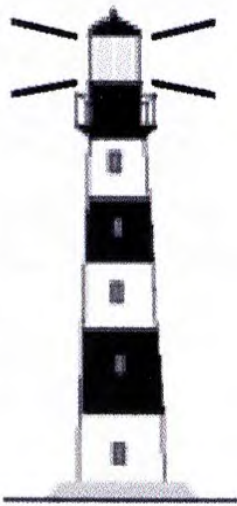


Because I Am A Freemason



· I believe that freedom of religion
is an inalienable right and tolerance
an indispensable trait of human character;
therefore, I will stand in my Lodge
with Brothers of all faiths and respect their beliefs
as they respect mine,
and I will demonstrate the spirit
of brotherhood in all aspects of my life.





The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!

Teamwork
Encourages
Active
Masons

Recipient of the Grand Lodge Award of Merit: 2012
Grand Lodge Award for the Best District Newsletter: 2009

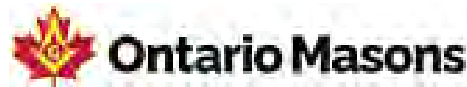
Began in September 1995 as the *Peterborough District Masonic Newsletter*
 with two hard-copy issues per year.

Editors: 1995 - 1998: R.W. Bro. Frank E. Lucas

1998 - 2001: V.W. Bro. Thomas J. King

2001 - present: R.W. Bro. Robert C. McBride

Recipient of the Grand Lodge Award: 2002, 2003, Award of Merit: 2004, 2005, 2006
 Became the *Peterborough District's*
Electronic Beacon in July 2007.



Volume Twenty, Issue 02, Whole Number 197

Thursday, 01 October 2026

Items In This Issue:

- Message from R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser, Peterborough D.D.G.M. 2026 – 2027
- 2026 / 2027 DISTRICT PROJECT: SKILLED TRADES STUDENT BURSARIES
- From The Editor
- District Calendar: **October 2026**
- Peterborough District 2026 - 2027
- Fun Facts about **October**
- Around and about Peterborough District and beyond: photos
- Passing of V.W. Bro. Peter William McGowan (26 April 1943 - 25 June 2026)
- Announcements
- Daily Smile: " **How do Freemasons stay so organized ???** "
- From Mackey's Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry: *Wardens, White Ball, Winding Stairs, Word*
- Index of Masonic Education within *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*
- " **A FOUNDATION STONE** "
- Excerpts from Whence Come We by R.W. Bro. Wallace E. McLeod
- " **MASONRY AND THE ART OF MEMORY** "
 - by V.W. Bro. Brendan Kyne, Secretary, The Victorian Lodge
 - Research No. 218, Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia
- " **MEN OF PROMISES** " Masonic poem from R.W. Bro. Robert Keay
- "Opportunities For Further Light" including
 - Correspondence Courses on Masonic Education
 - Heritage Lodge No. 730 A.F. & A.M., G.R.C.*
- Final Words: " *Happy To Meet Sorry To Part Happy To Meet Again* "

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R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser,
District Deputy Grand Master
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W. Bro. John Wilson,
District Secretary
1258 Mann Rd, Bridgenorth ON K0L 1H0
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Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario

Peterborough District

Brethren,

The first month of the Masonic season is almost in the books and it has been a pleasure to travel the District. Thank you for the warm welcome. It's wonderful to have been in the company of V.W. Bro. Dwight Gerow, Assistant Grand Chaplain and V.W. Bro. Brian Lalande, Grand Steward, along with your District Secretary W. Bro John Wilson.

"If every Member was just like you.....what would your Lodge look like?"

M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland, Immediate Past Grand Master,
from his Grand Master's Address, 2026 Grand Lodge Communication.

This is a very important and timely question.

Would your Lodge be more or less active?

Would newer members and rusty Masons have more or less mentoring?

Would your Lodge be a happier place or not so much?

We are all Brothers, and we have made certain commitments that are part of the privilege of being a Mason. We don't have to, and won't always agree with each other. However, it is our duty to set aside points where we don't agree and find topics upon which we do agree and then work together for the common good.

There are exceptions of course and we all know what they are.

Piques and Quarrels really have no place in Masonry. We all need to endeavour to eliminate them.

There was an important amendment to the Constitution at the July 2026 Communication, which every Mason should be aware of. It serves to expand our responsibility for our actions within and without the Lodge building. To make us aware that we are to conduct ourselves as Masons in every aspect of our life.

Please be aware of this Constitutional Amendment.

Masonic Conduct 409

- (a) A Member of the Masonic Order accepts the responsibility for maintaining a mode of life and conduct that is not only above reproach but is an example of good behaviour within the community.
- (b) Petty piques and quarrels have no place in Masonry, and all Masons must avoid any such behaviour because it violates Masonic landmarks, principles and obligations, causing division and disharmony. The Master of the Lodge, upon becoming aware thereof, shall forthwith use the best efforts to mediate, reconcile and adjust any such matter to assist the Brethren in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution without any further proceedings.

Let us always work together as Brothers, for the betterment of our Fraternity, our country and mankind.



**R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser
D.D.G.M., Peterborough District
2026 - 2027**

jcfraserddgm.ptbo.26.27@gmail.com

**W. Bro. John Wilson
District Secretary
2026 - 2027**

ptbo.secretary@gmail.com



Did you know ???



As District Deputy Grand Master, I would like to drive more use out of our District Website. To that end, I will have the Webmaster post my visitation schedule each month on the following page:

< Home/District Happenings/DDGM Events >



Our District Website can be found at:

< PDMA Peterborough Masonic Association >

To go straight to the DDGM Events Page follow this link and bookmark the page.

< DDGM Calendar of Events >

I would be grateful for as much company as is possible while visiting the District.

R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser

D.D.G.M., Peterborough District

2026 - 2027 jcfraserddgm.ptbo.26.27@gmail.com



2026 / 2027 DISTRICT PROJECT SKILLED TRADES STUDENT BURSARIES BUILDING ABILITIES FOR LIFE CONTINUED

PROJECT NUMBER 2615

Helping to provide education and training opportunities for the youth of today in developing the knowledge and skills necessary for a future in the trades of today and tomorrow.

Please include your donation in a cheque or reference it when doing an e-Transfer.

Please make cheques payable to:

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

Send e-Transfers to

< donations@tmfo.ca >

Don't forget to include your return address.



From The Editor:

The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!! newsletter is a means of communicating with Brethren who have e-mail addresses.

Please copy any information contained in this newsletter and forward it to Brethren who do not have access to e-mail. I look forward to receiving feedback about this form of communication. It does not replace any other forms of communication but, hopefully, will provide a forum for rapid communication.



If you know of other Brethren who would like to receive a copy, please let me know.

The first issue of *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way* newsletter was sent on 30 July 2007. A big thanks to everyone who contributes to this newsletter. Your continued input and feedback is most appreciated.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob].

- Editor, *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter,
- Peterborough District Historian,
- Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 - 2008).



**Masonic Licence Plates
Available now through
the Service Ontario office
- a Maple Leaf, Square and Compasses
graphic licence plate.**



Price: \$ 82.15 T.I.P. (Tax In Price)





Here are some Masonic
(in blue with white lettering)
and some non-Masonic
activities for you !!!



October marks
the deepening
of autumn, blending
seasonal change,
and a calendar
of notable holidays !!!



October 2026

October is dedicated
to celebrating and
increasing awareness
about the diverse cultures
that make up the world !!!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2 Jewish Shemini Atzeret begins	3 Jewish Simchat Torah begins
4	5 Teachers' Day !!!	6 Clementi 313 Proving Bro. Gyan in Third.	7 Percy 161 Masters' Degree Team Second Degree	8	9	10
11 	12 Thanks giving !!!	13 Golden Rule 126 Second Bro. Matthew Brown	14 Village 145 Official Visit Exemplify First	15	16 	17 Eradication of Poverty !!!
18	19	20 Peterborough 155 Travelling Square Scottish Rite 33rd Degree Team	21 Otonabee 101	22 PDMA Semi-Annual Exec Meeting	23	24
25 October Hunter's Moon	26 Havelock 435	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER 2026 MOON PHASES



R.E.M: Ritual, Education, Mentoring.



PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OFFICIAL VISITS

VILLAGE No. 145	Wed. Oct. 14, 2026	Millbrook
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Mon. Nov. 09, 2026	Campbellford
HAVELOCK No. 435	Mon. Nov. 23, 2026	Havelock
OTONABEE No. 101	Wed. Feb. 17, 2027	Peterborough
CLEMENTI No. 313	Tue. Mar. 02, 2027	Peterborough
PERCY No. 161	Wed. Apr. 07, 2027	Warkworth
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Tue. Mar. 16, 2027	Peterborough

When scheduled, banquets will begin at 6:30 pm.

INSTALLATIONS

CLEMENTI No. 313	Tue. Dec. 01, 2026	Peterborough
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Tue. Dec. 15, 2026	Peterborough
VILLAGE No. 145	Wed. May 12, 2027	Millbrook
OTONABEE No. 101	Wed. May 19, 2027	Peterborough
HAVELOCK No. 435	Mon. May 31, 2027	Havelock
PERCY No. 161	Wed. Jun. 02, 2027	Warkworth
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Mon. Jun. 14, 2027	Campbellford

When scheduled, banquets will begin at 6:30.

PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT LODGE MEETINGS

<i>Name of Lodge</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Regular Meetings</i>
OTONABEE No. 101	Peterborough	3rd Wednesday
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Campbellford	2nd Monday
VILLAGE No. 145	Millbrook	2nd Wednesday
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Peterborough	3rd Tuesday
PERCY No. 161	Warkworth	1st Wednesday
CLEMENTI No. 313	Peterborough	1st Tuesday
HAVELOCK No. 435	Havelock	4th Monday

(Meetings begin at 7:30 pm)

PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT LODGE GENERAL PURPOSES MEETINGS

<i>Name of Lodge</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>G.P. Meeting</i>
OTONABEE No. 101	Peterborough	2nd Tuesday
GOLDEN RULE No. 126	Campbellford	TBA
VILLAGE No. 145	"Wing House"	3rd Monday
PETERBOROUGH No. 155	Peterborough	1st Friday
PERCY No. 161	Warkworth	4th Wednesday
CLEMENTI No. 313	Peterborough	4th Tuesday

(Meetings begin at 7:00 pm)



PETERBOROUGH COFFEE CLUB

Lodge Building: 415 Rubidge St., Peterborough K9H 4E2

All Masons and guests are welcome to attend this opportunity for quality fraternity. Weekly, Wednesday morning 8:00 am to 11:00 am. EXCEPT the 3rd Wed. of July. Hosted by V.W. Bro. Roger Morton, W. Bro Stephen Hedgecock, W. Bro. John Muise and company since 2011.

DISTRICT LEADERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT PROJECT

R.W. Bro. Rob Kiff; rmkiff@gmail.com

GRAND MASTER'S PROJECT

R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini; bharatmaini2024@gmail.com

BENEVOLENCE - MASONIC BOARD OF RELIEF

R.W. Bro. Frank Groves; fwgroves@gmail.com

DISTRICT LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson; akhenderson@sympatico.ca

DISTRICT DIVINE MEMORIAL SERVICE

V.W. Bro. Walter Howell; whowell16@gmail.com

STRATEGIC PLANNING

R.W. Bro. Rob Kiff; rmkiff@gmail.com

CORNERSTONE

V.W. Bro. Walter Howell; whowell16@gmail.com

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

R.W. Bro. Bob Keay; bobkeay1@gmail.com

MENTORSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN

V.W. Bro. David Rosefield; drosefie@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

R.W. Bro. Alan Baswick; al.baswick@gmail.com

DISTRICT EVENTS RECORDER

Bro David Underhill; dunderhill1954@gmail.com

DISTRICT HISTORIAN

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride; ddgm2007@nexicom.net

NEW MEMBERS LIAISON

Bro Nathan Patrick; peterboroughdistrictintake@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION DISTRICT SECRETARY

W. Bro. John Wilson
(Otonabee Lodge No. 101)

BEACON (electronic newsletter)

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride; ddgm2007@nexicom.net
(Village Lodge No. 145/Otonabee Lodge No. 101)

WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Bro. Nick Burd
(Peterborough Lodge No. 155)
www.ptbomasonry.ca

DIGITAL ARCHIVIST / PHOTOGRAPHER

W. Bro Danny McLaughlin; dannyboymclaughlin71@gmail.com
(Otonabee Lodge No. 101)

TRESTLE BOARD

W. Bro. R. Leon Jongsma; wm2025clementi313@gmail.com
(Clementi Lodge No. 313)

WEBSITE LIASON

R.W. Bro. John Morton; peterboroughddgm1516@gmail.com
(Peterborough Lodge No. 155)

P.D.D.G.M. ADVISORS

R.W. Bro. Brian Gilkinson

R.W. Bro. Alan Baswick

R.W. Bro. Bharat Maini

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson

Past D.D.G.M.s of Peterborough District

PDMA MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday September 24th, 2026

SEMI-ANNUAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday October 22nd, 2026

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday April 22nd, 2027

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday May 27th, 2027

*** PETERBOROUGH TEMPLE ***

Meetings scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm at Campbellford Temple with the EXCEPTION of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (May 2027)

PDMA DEGREE TEAMS

MASTERS DEGREE TEAM

Wednesday October 7th, 2026
Percy Lodge No. 161
R.W. Bro James Dunn

SENIOR WARDENS DEGREE TEAM

Monday March 8th, 2027
Golden Rule Lodge No. 126
W. Bro. Ian Thompson

JUNIOR WARDENS DEGREE TEAM

Wednesday April 14th, 2027
Village Lodge No. 145
W. Bro. Jason Wraight

DISTRICT DIVINE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday January, 2027 - TBA

Northminster United Church

300 Sunset Blvd

Peterborough, ON. K9H 5L3

11:00 am

TRAVELLING SQUARE

Tuesday October 20th, 2026

Havelock Lodge No. 435 to Peterborough Lodge No. 155

Wednesday April 21st, 2027

Peterborough Lodge No. 155 to Otonabee Lodge No. 101



It might be time for a new apron and office to be added. As more Lodges try to navigate this new world of technology-based meetings, we may need the Tech Support apron.



P.D.M.A. EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN

W. Bro. Ian Thompson

1st VICE-CHARMAN

W. Bro Jason Wraight

2nd VICE-CHAIRMAN

W. Bro Chris Brady

SECRETARY

Bro. Ed Spence

TREASURER

W. Bro. Brian James

DISTRICT SECRETARY

W. Bro. John Wilson

HONORARY CHAIRMAN

R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser

MEMBER EX-OFFICIO

R.W. Bro. James Dunn

DDGM'S THEME

'Bind Practice to Precept.'

*As Masons, we need to deliberately demonstrate
the principles that the Order inculcates. As a
man, husband, father, colleague and citizen. In
action, words and deeds.*

DISTRICT PROJECT

'BUILDING ABILITIES FOR LIFE CONT.'

*Helping to provide education and training op-
portunities for the youth of today in developing
the knowledge and skills necessary for a future
in the trades of today and tomorrow.*

Peterborough District's TRAVELLING SQUARE

Created by R.W. Bro. W.R. Morris (DDGM 1927-1928), who wrote,
*“The purpose and significance of the Travelling Square is to promote
 and encourage fraternal visits among the Lodges in the District.”*

The wooden box was hand-made in 1994 by W. Bro. David Montgomery
 and W. Bro. Reg Nelson, Members of Norwood Lodge No. 223.

The visiting Worshipful Master will take with him a full complement
 of his Officers to perform the Degree work of the evening,
 planning the Masonic Work of the evening with the host Worshipful Master.

By continuing to choose the months of October and April
 (other than in the cases of Otonabee, Keene, and Havelock Lodges,
 who hold their Elections in April), good travelling weather should be assured.

YEAR	D.D.G.M	FROM	TO	DATE
2025 - 2026	James J.M. Dunn	Clementi	Percy	October 2025
		Percy	Havelock	April 2026
2026 - 2027	John C. Fraser	Havelock	Peterborough	October 2026
		Peterborough	Otonabee	April 2027
2027 - 2028		Otonabee	Golden Rule	October 2027
		Golden Rule	Village	April 2028
2028 - 2029		Village	Percy	October 2028
		Percy	Clementi	April 2029
2029 - 2030		Clementi	Havelock	October 2029
		Havelock	Peterborough	April 2030
2030 - 2031		Peterborough	Otonabee	October 2030
		Otonabee	Golden Rule	April 2031





Brethren

**As Chairman of the Lodge of Instruction Committee,
I would like the opportunity, if invited, to visit each Lodge
at their regular practice meeting(s), or at a regular Lodge meeting
if they are short of work.**

**My hope is that, in this way, I can be of service to more Brethren
of the District.**

**I look forward to working together with the Lodge Officers
and to provide some instruction and information in a framework
of fun and fellowship.**

S&F

R.W. Bro. Andy Henderson, Chairman, Lodge of Instruction

Is the District Deputy Grand Master automatically a Member of each Lodge in the District during his term of office?

The District Deputy Grand Master is authorized to preside, and only those with this authority are presented, received under the wands, accorded the Grand Honours and given the gavel. Each Lodge in the District is required to send a copy of every Summons to the District Deputy; however he is not a Member of every Lodge in the District, and is certainly not entitled to vote or ballot. (See the Book of Constitution Sec. 96, 239 and 344).

Book of Constitution-Sec. 96-*The District Deputy Grand Master shall have authority, unless the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master be present, to preside at any Lodge Meeting within his District and to direct the business thereof during his visit thereto.*

Book of Constitution-Sec. 239-*The Master shall cause the Secretary to send a copy of every Summons to the Members of the Lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which the Lodge is situated, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master.*

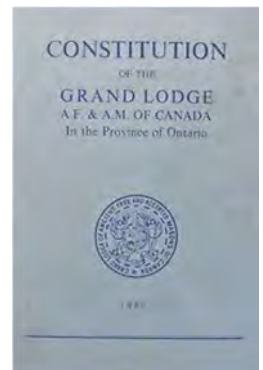
Book of Constitution-Sec. 344-*All Members of the Lodge present when the Ballot is taken must Ballot.*

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Book of Constitution-Sec. 96-*The District Deputy Grand Master shall have authority, unless the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master be present, to preside at any Lodge Meeting within his District and to direct the business thereof during his visit thereto.*

Book of Constitution-Sec. 239-*The Master shall cause the Secretary to send a copy of every Summons to the Members of the Lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which the Lodge is situated, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master.*

Book of Constitution-Sec. 344-*All Members of the Lodge present when the Ballot is taken must Ballot.*





PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT
R.W. Bro. Bob Keay, Education Chairman

R.W. Bro. Bob Keay,
as this year's District Education Chairman,
will include a short piece of Masonic Education
in each month's issue of *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*
newsletter.

As the District Education Chair I will try and bring some education
to *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* each month that is informative,
but not tedious to read.

MEN OF PROMISES

At the recent Supreme Council Annual Session of the Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite, held in Hamilton, September 16 – 20, 2026, we had the opportunity
to welcome Members, as well as guests from around the world.

This is an opportunity for other Jurisdictions to bring greetings
and to participate in our 33 Degree. This year we were fortunate
to have Sovereign Grand Commanders of both the Northern and
Southern Jurisdictions of the USA, in the persons of Walter F. Wheeler 33°
and James D. Cole 33° respectively.

The Southern Jurisdiction is historically considered
the "*Mother Supreme Council of the World*" and it was this Supreme Council
that founded the Supreme Council of the Rite for England and Wales,
who subsequently founded the AASR in Canada, with the Charter granted in 1874.

However, the practice of the Rite in Canada bears more similarity to the practices
of the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction, rather than that of the UK.
It is the largest single Appendant body in Canada !!!

In his welcoming address, Sovereign Grand Commander Cole often used the term
"*Men of Promises*".

This turn of phrase got me wondering what the origin of the words was
and what he meant by his use of them.

In an article on The Historical and Sociological Analyses of Fraternal Orders,
local Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies are described as gathering places
for middle-class "*Men of Promise*". Individuals seeking leadership,
community standing, and self-improvement.

But those were not the exact words used by him as he referred to Men of Promises !!!

More work needed, so further research led me to the following ideas.

***“Men of Promises”* (or more accurately, *“Men of Promise”*)**

is not an official, standardized, or ritualistic title within Freemasonry, but rather a thematic and colloquial expression used in Masonic Education, outreach, and literature.

When the phrase appears in a Masonic context, it typically refers to two distinct concepts:

1. The Presentation of Potential Candidates.

In the late 20th century, certain Grand Lodges utilized the phrase for public relations and Membership recruitment. Most notably, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania produced a widely distributed promotional video and slide presentation titled *“Men of Promise”*.

The campaign targeted upstanding, non-Masonic men in the community who showed leadership, intelligence, and moral integrity.

It was a public awareness and Membership campaign launched by the Grand Lodge beginning around December 1989

under the administration of Right Worshipful Grand Master W. Scott Stoner.

Built around the rallying phrase *“We Are Men of Promise,”* the Initiative focused on communicating the true values, history, and community contributions of Freemasonry across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A 12-minute multimedia production titled *“Men of Promise”* was created in both slide/tape and video formats and distributed to subordinate Lodges via District Deputy Grand Masters. The materials were specifically designed to be shared with non-Masons, including civic groups, service clubs, and church organizations, to improve public understanding of the Fraternity. In this context, *“men of promise”* means men of great potential who could benefit the Fraternity and, conversely, whose personal growth could be fostered by Masonic teachings.

“Masonry promises nothing to the world ... but if you become a ‘great’ Mason, then you become the promise of Freemasonry.”

In this literary context, a *“man of promise”* refers to an Initiate who fulfills the potential of the Craft by using its Symbolic Tools (like the Square and Compasses) to improve himself and his community.

2. Also, as Masons, we are literally “*Men of Promises*”

because the core of our Masonic experience relies heavily on taking an Obligation at each of our Degrees. That is true for all Masonic bodies. We witness that, when a Candidate is Initiated, Passed, or Raised, he kneels at the altar and makes a solemn promise on a Book of Sacred Scripture.

These promises are considered a supreme test of a man’s honour. A Mason is expected to be a man who keeps his word, acts with integrity, guards the traditional methods of recognition, and binds himself to a moral code of brotherhood and charity.

Men of Promises.

Commander Cole would, as a Freemason, as well as a Scottish Rite Freemason, be knowledgeable of this interpretation and might have based the term on his experiences through the Craft.

It is important however not to confuse Masonic references to “*men of promise*” with the “*Promise Keepers*”.

The Promise Keepers is an evangelical Christian men’s ministry founded in 1990. While anti-Masonic critics sometimes conflate the two groups due to the similar vocabulary regarding “*Vows*” and “*Brotherhood*”, they are completely unrelated organizations with entirely different origins.

In the USA Jurisdictions, “*Men of Promise*” task forces have occasionally held community or fellowship events inside local Scottish Rite Cathedrals (such as community prayer breakfasts or multi-organization civic meetings), but they operate entirely separate from Masonic Ritual.

It is highly likely that the term used by Commander Cole related to those events as he certainly appeared to me to be a man of deep faith and strong values.

But in retrospect, all the above examples of the use of the term “*Men Of Promises*” could have prompted Commander Cole to draw out the phrase for his address. I am thankful that he did however because it made for some very interesting reading and research, and I come away better for it.

I guess the only way to really know his thoughts will be to ask him the next time I am in his presence.





If you want to know more about our Masonic Ritual or any other educational topic of interest to you and your Lodge, please contact me.

As your District Education Chairman, I am charged with preparing and delivering presentations on a great many topics to help your Members gain more from their Masonic experience. I will come to your Lodge and deliver formal presentations in the Lodge Room, talks at the banquet hour,

or small group discussions on topics of your choosing.

All I ask is that you allow sufficient time for me to conduct research and be properly prepared to make the delivery fulfilling for you and your Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Bob Keay – Peterborough District Education Chairman

< bobkeay1@gmail.com > (705) 930-3476

“Freemasonry turns strangers into friends and friends into Brothers.”



Source: vibesayings.com/masonic-quotes/

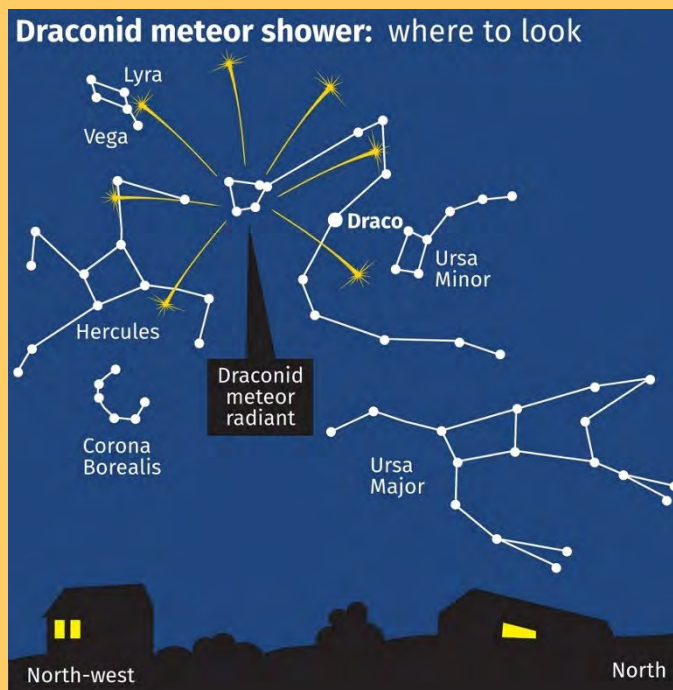
FUN FACTS ABOUT OCTOBER:



October is a rather beautiful time of year when the colour of leaves begins to change into a magnificent array of hues.



The Draconid Meteor Shower can best be seen on Sunday, 08 October early in the evening. It contains a single comet that is visible exclusively in the northern hemisphere.



It wouldn't be October without Halloween, which is celebrated on October 31st. The celebration's origins go all the way back to the Gaelic people of modern-day England, Scotland, and Ireland, who celebrated the festival of Samhain. Among other activities, the original celebrants of Samhain would dress in costumes or disguises and go door-to-door receiving gifts of food, much like how today's children dress up and receive treats!

AROUND AND ABOUT PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT:



On Saturday, 22 August, Harley Farms in Otonabee Township, organized by Bro. James Harley, Member of Havelock Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 435, and Bro. Trevor Donnelley, Member of Golden Rule Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 126 G.R.C., hosted a family barbeque and farm tour charity fund raiser for the Peterborough District Fund Raiser, 2026 - 2027.



**Bro. James Harley,
Member of Havelock Lodge
No. 435, indicated:**

***“V.W. Bro. Dwight Gerow
brought his musical group
to the Harley Farms,
where the children
played various games,
had farm tours, and
we raised \$650.00
for this year’s***

***Peterborough District Fund Raising Campaign, 2026 - 2027.
Two Masons from Trinidad joined us as well for this event.”***

On Tuesday, 01 September 2026, Clementi Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 313 G.R.C.
Raised Bro. Addison Gyan to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.



Photo by W. Bro. Danny McLaughlin, Peterborough District Photographer, 2026 - 2027.

Then, on Wednesday, 02 September 2026, Percy Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 161 G.R.C.
Invested V.W. Bro. Brian Lalande with his Grand Steward's Masonic Regalia.
A "fun" fact: V.W. Bro. Lalande had his regalia presented to him by his son,
W. Bro. Chris Lalande, Immediate Past Master, Percy Lodge No. 161.



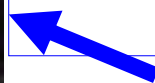
Photo from
R.W. Bro. James J.M. Dunn,
Director of Ceremonies,
Percy Lodge No. 161.



Tuesday,
01 September,
Clementi
Lodge.



Wednesday,
02 September,
Percy Lodge.



On 09 September, Village Lodge A.F. & A.M. No 145 G.R.C. met in Millbrook where a *Moment of Silence* was held, followed by the reading of the *Sacred Scroll*, for V.W. Bro. Peter William McGowan, Bros. Alan and Bradley Clarke Proved Themselves in the Third Degree, W. Bro. Jason Burnett was Invested as the Immediate Past Master for 2026 - 2027, and there was a piece of Masonic Education by R.W. Bro. Bob McBride, entitled “*Are You Considering a Masonic Memorial Service*”.



Photo by V.W. Bro. Alex White, Clementi Lodge No. 313.

W. Bro. Joe Watson at the presentation and ceremony of his 60-years-a-Mason at the 14 September meeting by Lodge Master, W. Bro. John Van Allen and R.W. Bro. John C. Frazer.

Photo from V.W. Bro. Bill Osborne, Golden Rule A.F. & A.M. No. 126 G.R.C



Bro. Mark Prada received his Fellow Craft Degree at Golden Rule Lodge No. 126 on 14 September.



Photo from V.W. Bro. Bill Osborne, Golden Rule A.F. & A.M. No. 126 G.R.C

On Tuesday, 15 September, Peterborough Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 155 met in the Peterborough Temple.



Then on Wednesday, 16 September, Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C. met in the Peterborough Temple where Junior Warden, W. Bro. John Wilson, provided a piece of Masonic Education about *The First Degree*.



Photo by W. Bro. Ron Vance, Otonabee Lodge No. 101.

On Thursday, 17 September, W. Bro. James Rees, Member of Peterborough Lodge No. 155, gave his 200th Blood Donation at the newly-opened *Canadian Blood Services Donor Centre* in Lansdowne Place.



R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser, Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master 2026 - 2027, visited Gothic Lodge No. 608 in Omemee on Monday, 21 September 2026.



**Left to right: R.W. Bro. Robert O. Woodhouse, DDGM Georgian North
R.W. Bro. James A. Lee, DDGM Victoria
R.W. Bro. Sidney (Ray) Steenburg, DDGM Ontario
R.W. Bro. John C. Fraser, DDGM Peterborough**



**V.W. Bro. Peter McGowan
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above
on Thursday, 25 June 2026.
Age: 83 years, 2 months.**

**A Moment of Silence, followed by the reading of the
Sacred Scroll, V.W. Bro. Peter William McGowan
was held at Village Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 145 G.R.C.
11 King St. East, Millbrook, ON,
on Wednesday, 09 September at 7:30 p.m.**

**As well Masonic Memorial Service
for V.W. Bro. Peter William McGowan
was held on Saturday, 19 September, at 3:00 p.m.
in the Peterborough Masonic Temple,
415 Rubidge Steet, Peterborough ON.**

**Over 45 Masons from across Ontario and beyond
attended the *Masonic Memorial Service*
along with 23 Members and Friends of Peter's family.**



Until We Meet Again, Good Friend and Brother !!!

W. Bro. Tim Lucas, Secretary of Village Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 145 G.R.C. sent this message:

Brethren, Sisters and Brothers:

Come on out and join us for our monthly social gathering at "*The Wing House*" at Peterborough Square, 320 Water St., Peterborough, every third Monday at 7:30 pm. Kind of like the Wednesday Coffee Club but with optional wings and beer. A great time to meet people. Area Masons, spouses, friends and just plain people are invited. Come on out!



“Education lays hold of what is best in a person, but character lays hold of what is worse.

***It takes hold of a failing
and by very skillful manipulation
and training
turns it into a perfection.”***

Source: www.azquotes.com/quote/1385024



**The Peterborough District Masonic Association
is looking for
any Grand Lodge regalia
from Past Grand Lodge Officers
to refurbish and present to incoming
Peterborough District Deputy Grand Masters
and Peterborough District Grand Stewards.**

**If you have any of this regalia,
or know of any individuals who have some,
and would like to donate the regalia,**

Please contact

**Peterborough District
Masonic Association Chairman**

**W. Bro. Iain Thompson
(Golden Rule No. 126)**

**Do you need a walker,
wheel chair, crutches ???**

**If so, contact
V.W. Bro. John Hewitt
705-742-8067**

E-mail: bjhewitt@sympatico.ca



**John can get these items
for you or your spouse,
free of charge,
from the
London Scottish Rite.**



**Defend
the poor and
fatherless:
do justice
to the afflicted
and needy.**



**BECAUSE I HAVE A
BROTHER
I ALWAYS HAVE A
FRIEND**



Scottish Rite Valley of Peterborough

The Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada
represents a fulfilling and comprehensive
system of further instruction



for Master Masons seeking further Masonic light.

Each of its thirty-two degrees features explanations in addition to dramatic ritual
which make a meaningful impact upon the observer.



The Peterborough Valley of the Scottish Rite affords an opportunity
for those Master Masons in the Masonic Districts of Ontario,
Victoria, Prince Edward and Peterborough to take advantage
of the opportunity to further a life-long advancement
in Masonic knowledge.

The Valley conducts spring and fall reunions
in both its Lodge of Perfection and Chapter of Rose Croix.

The www.scottishritecanada.ca website provides
the interested person with very useful information,
including a membership video and instructions on how to apply
to join the Scottish Rite. In addition, the Peterborough Valley
can be contacted by emailing peterboroughvalley@gmail.com
or by calling (705)-879-8658.



Lodge of Perfection



This Body confers the Degrees from 4th to 14th. They exemplify
the legend of the Master Mason Degree and the story of the building
of King Solomon's Temple. These Degrees are designed to build
on the teachings of the first Three Degrees given in the Craft Lodge.
Unlike the Craft Lodge, Candidates are not required to do memory work
in any of the Scottish Rite Degrees.

Upon completion of the 14th Degree, the new Scottish Rite Member is entitled to wear
the distinguished Scottish Rite ring that has retained its design for over 200 years.
An inscription inside the ring reads: "*Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit*" that is to say,
"*Virtue has joined, death shall not separate*", or "*Whom virtue unites, death will not separate*".

Chapter Rose Croix

After completion of the 14th Degree, the Masonic educational journey continues
with the Degrees of the Rose Croix. The 15th and 16th Degrees related
to the rebuilding of the Second Temple by Zerubbabel. The Second Temple
Degrees portray the never-ending struggle against the adversaries of Truth
and Light: a struggle that is still going on today.

In these Degrees important moral and spiritual precepts of value to Masons
of all ages are proclaimed.

The 17th Degree is an approach to, and the 18th Degree a recognition of,
the religious ethics in universal terms: thus assisting in the building
in our hearts of the Third Temple not made with hands. The 18th Degree
culminates with the Degree of the Knight Rose Croix.



Coffee Club

MORNING COFFEE CLUB

Downstairs Wednesday mornings

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

at the Peterborough Masonic Temple

on Rubidge Street, Peterborough.

Come on out !!!

Bring your non-Masonic friends and relatives.

**Coffee and donuts will be served,
casual dress.**

**Donations will be accepted
and applied to the District Project
as well as to supply
the Lodges in the Peterborough Temple
with pop, water
and other items as needed.**



Founders: Steve Hedgcock,
Mike Gallimore, Roger Morton



You deserve good things.



At the Peterborough District's
Wednesday Morning Coffee Club
in the Peterborough Temple
on 29 November, Coffee Manager,
V.W. Bro. Roger Morton,
and W. Bro. John Muise,
prepared the morning's coffee
and treats for visitors.

Photo by Peterborough District
Digital Archivist / Photographer,
Bro. Danny McLaughlin.





Dear Sir and R.W. Bro. Bob McBride:

I am the local Secretary for Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle (QCCC) for Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, the premier Research Lodge in the world.

We have put together a one-page advertisement with the sole purpose of informing the membership in Ontario of the benefits to joining QCCC, that are as follows:

Correspondence Circle members enjoy the following benefits:

1. To receive on joining a complimentary copy of a recent volume of AQC.
2. To receive annually the latest volume of AQC.
3. To receive a newsletter with Masonic information including the activities of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. This will usually include a "questions and answers" section largely inspired by queries that have been sent in by Circle members;
4. On payment of a small fee, to receive in advance, in .pdf format, only a copy of the paper due to be read in Lodge, and to comment upon it in writing;
5. (If qualified by membership of a Lodge under the UGLE or under a Grand Lodge recognized by the UGLE) to attend all meetings of Quatuor Coronati Lodge; to participate personally in the discussion of papers after their delivery; and to dine with members of the Lodge after the meeting [see note on dining arrangements below].
6. To attend public presentations of papers delivered under the auspices of the Lodge, and to dine with members of the Lodge after the meeting [see note on dining arrangements below].
7. To submit to the Editor
 - (a) comments on papers published in AQC and
 - (b) questions relating to Freemasonry
(to which considered answers will be given as speedily as possible
- an important and rare service, drawing upon extensive scholarship).
8. To offer letters, reviews, information, photographs, and works of original research for possible publication within AQC;

For other elements of Masonic advantage, please consult www.quatuorcoronati.com.

Dining

Notice of intention to dine must be given to the office of Q.C. Correspondence Circle Limited at least 48 hours prior to the date of the meeting. Correspondence Circle members and other visitors are asked to help defray the cost of the meal, and their contribution will be collected at the table.

Corporate Membership

The Secretary of the Lodge (or the equivalent) receives only one copy of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* per year and one copy of each newsletter. The volume circulates but slowly, if at all.

It can thus be seen that there are weighty advantages of individual membership in the Correspondence Circle.

Material for Lodge Meetings

There are now more than one hundred and thirty volumes of the Lodge's transactions, AQC, both printed and on CD, and in them can be found papers, notes, answers to questions, etc., that can be read at Lodge meetings.

The Editor will be happy to assist a Lodge for which such a meeting is being planned.

How to Join the Correspondence Circle

Download the application from < www.quatuorcoronati.com >.

Thank you !!!

Sincerely & Fraternally,



R.W. Bro. Robert Kliaman, P.G.S.W. (Hon.),
Canada Lodge No. 532

Tel: (905) 707-6886

Fax: (905) 707-6884

Email: rkliaman@cpa-ca.com

*The Brotherhood of Man
begins with
the Manhood of the Brother.*



Quatuor Coronati Lodge - 'QC', the world's premier research lodge, shares its research publications and provides support to Masonic scholars and researchers nationally and internationally through 'QCCC' - the QC Correspondence Circle.

And they have access to research support and online reference material at quatuorcoronati.com



YOU HAVE THE **POWER**
TO GIVE LIFE

Donate blood and join the movement today.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Tuesday 3pm-7pm
Wednesday 10am-2pm
Thursday 3pm-7pm
Friday 8am-12noon
2nd & 4th Saturday

Canadian Blood Service Partner for Life

Please sign up to donate blood and enroll as a member of the Masonic Lodge
Peterborough District ID **MAS0011039**



Would you give if it were in your power?

Plant a kindness-seed,
Listen to a troubled friend,
Help someone in need.

People with which blood type
tend to misspell things?

Here is a short story about blood type: TypO

I knew a lady who had lost her husband, and she told me her sad story ... *"Well, he needed a blood transfusion, but his blood type was not on record, so the doctors asked me if I knew what it was, as they urgently needed to know, in order to save my Norman's life."*

"Tragically, I've never known his blood type, so I could only sit by his side and say goodbye. I'll never forget how supportive my Norman was. Even as he was fading away, he kept on whispering to me, 'Be positive, be positive !!!' That was my Norman! Always encouraging others !!!"



Sow a word of praise today,



THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR DONORS

There is an immediate need for donors from all communities to keep appointments and help restore the low supply of blood for patients. Inventory of several blood types are at concerning levels. Right now, patients across Canada need donors more than ever. Please, only cancel your appointment if necessary.



Brethren:

I forward this notice to you in hopes that as many of you as possible will “*tune in*” to this virtual session, which I have been told is an excellent presentation, worthy of all Members of the Masonic Fraternity. See the information below on the presentation and the link to Register.
Ron

Ronald W. McMillan, 33°
Grand Secretary/Registrar
Valley of Peterborough



Supreme Council
Ancient & Accepted
Scottish Rite

Education and
Enlightenment Committee

WEBINAR

KNOWLEDGE INSPIRES.
LIGHT ENLIGHTENS.

Join us for an evening of
insight and inspiration.

FEATURING
LINDA PATCH
Director of Marketing/Communications,
Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

*From I to We:
Freemasonry and the Next Civic Upswing*

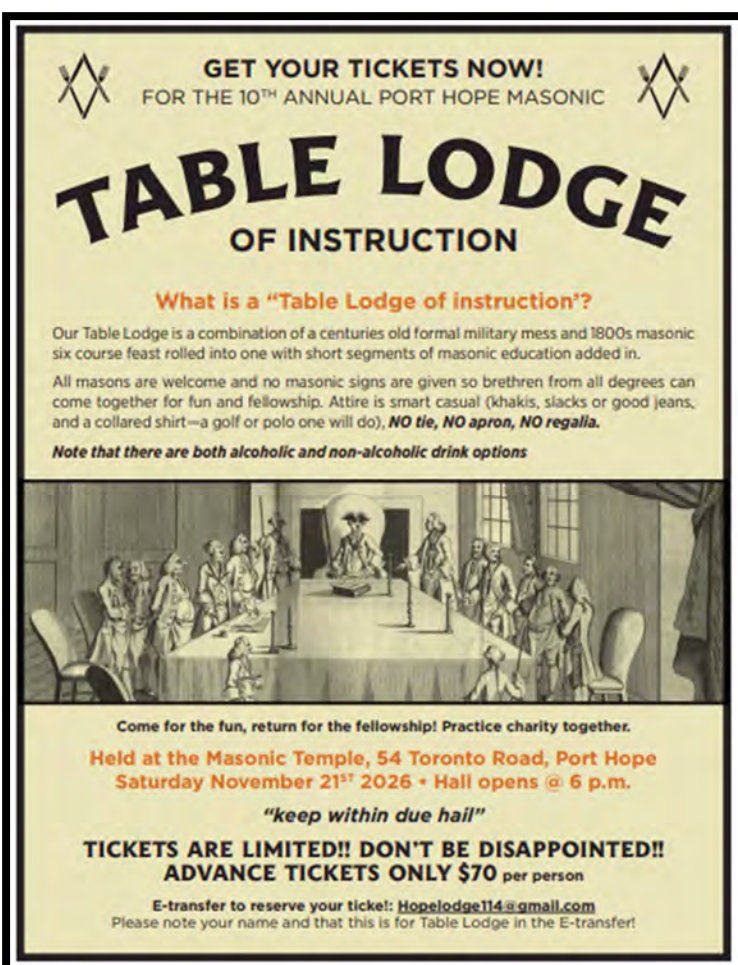
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2026

STARTING AT
7:00 PM EDT

VIRTUAL MEETING
Join from anywhere

REGISTER TODAY!
Scan the QR code or use the link below.

EDUCATE • ENLIGHTEN • EMPOWER • ELEVATE
Scottish Rite: Building Better Men



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL PORT HOPE MASONIC

**TABLE LODGE
OF INSTRUCTION**

What is a “Table Lodge of instruction”?

Our Table Lodge is a combination of a centuries old formal military mess and 1800s masonic six course feast rolled into one with short segments of masonic education added in.

All masons are welcome and no masonic signs are given so brethren from all degrees can come together for fun and fellowship. Attire is smart casual (khakis, slacks or good jeans, and a collared shirt—a golf or polo one will do), **NO tie, NO apron, NO regalia.**

Note that there are both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink options

Come for the fun, return for the fellowship! Practice charity together.

Held at the Masonic Temple, 54 Toronto Road, Port Hope
Saturday November 21ST 2026 • Hall opens @ 6 p.m.

“keep within due hail”

TICKETS ARE LIMITED!! DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!!
ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY \$70 per person

E-transfer to reserve your ticket: Hopedlodge114@gmail.com
Please note your name and that this is for Table Lodge in the E-transfer!



Enjoy this *Monthly Smile*.

FREEMASONS !!!

**How do Freemasons
stay so organized ???**

They keep everything in perfect order, just like their rituals !!!

White Ball

In Freemasonry, equivalent to a favourable or affirmative vote. The custom of using white and black balls was derived from the Romans who used white and black balls in their judicial trials.

- source: Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences, Comprising The Whole Range of Arts, Sciences and Literature as connected with The Institution, (London: The Masonic History Company), 1924, p. 848.

Winding Stairs

The Candidate in the Second Degree of Freemasonry represents a man starting forth on the journey of life, with the great task before him of self-improvement. [snip] we are able to comprehend the true symbolism of the winding stairs. They represent the progress of an inquiring mind with the toils and labours of intellectual cultivation and the study, with the preparatory acquisition of all human science as a preliminary step to the attainment of Divine truth which, it must be remembered is always symbolized in Masonry by the WORD.

- source: Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences, Comprising The Whole Range of Arts, Sciences and Literature as connected with The Institution, (London: The Masonic History Company), 1924, pp. 851 - 852.

Word

[snip] So viewed, the WORD becomes the symbol of Divine Truth [snip]

- source: Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences, Comprising The Whole Range of Arts, Sciences and Literature as connected with The Institution, (London: The Masonic History Company), 1924, p 856.



Masonic Education:

Index of Masonic Education within
The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!

If you are interested
in obtaining articles from past issues
of *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*,
please contact this Editor, R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob],
who will gladly send them to you.

I can be reached at:

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]
Maple Grove Farms,
2260 North Esson Line,
Indian River, Ontario, Canada.
K0L 2B0

E-mail: ddgm2007@nexicom.net.



*“There are parts of a ship
that taken by themselves
would sink.*

*The engine would sink.
The propeller would sink.*



*But when
the parts
of a ship
are built together, they float.”*

65-famous-masonic-sayings-quotes/

Masonic Education:

Index of Masonic Education within

The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!

(continued):



Date	Volume	Issue Number	Number of Pages	Masonic Education
01-09-25	Nineteen	01	152	"The Talk" by Bro. Trevor Donnelly, a new Member of Golden Rule Campbellford / Hastings Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 126 G.R.C.
01-10-25		02	95	"Freemasonry & Tubalcain" by Bro. Nathan Patrick, Junior Deacon, Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C.
01-11-25		03	115	"Hebrew Letters Represented by the Letter G: the Shem haMephorash" by Bro. Nathan Patrick, Junior Deacon, Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C.
01-12-25		04	145	"Exploring One's Past" by Bro. Robert J. (Bob) Docherty, Senior Steward, Otonabee Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 101 G.R.C.
01-01-26		05	130	"Personal Note to a Potential Candidate from an Old Past Master" by M.W. Bro. Raymond (Ray) S.J. Daniels, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario
01-02-26		06	146	"The Sublime Degree: Freemasonry, Moral Confrontation, and The Architect of the Inner Temple" by Bro. Peter J. Anderson, Axixic Lodge No. 31, York Grand Lodge of Mexico.
01-03-26		07	128	"The Broken Column and Its Deeper Meaning" by W. Bro. Daniel Genchi, Gila Valley No. 9 F. & A.M. Masonic Lodge, Florence, Arizona
01-04-26		08	132	"Five Miles of Bad Road" by W. Bro. Daniel Boyco, Exemplar Lodge No. 175, Edmonton, Alberta
01-05-26		09	178	"The Real Masonic Treasure" by W. Bro. Daniel Boyco, Exemplar Lodge No. 175, Edmonton, Alberta
01-06-26		10	168	"The Wednesday Morning Coffee Club" by W. Bro. John Muise, Peterborough Lodge No. 155 & Peterborough District Project 2025 - 2026

What do Masons do when they are not working ???

They quarry around !!!

Source: laughlore.com/mason-jokes/



Masonic Education:

Index of Masonic Education within

The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!
(continued):



Date	Volume	Issue Number	Number of Pages	Masonic Education
01-09-26	Twenty	01	102	<i>"Are You Considering A Masonic Funeral?"</i> By Lewisville Lodge No. 201 A.F. & A.M. Funeral Committee, November 2007, Lewisville, Texas
01-10-26		02	48	<i>"A FOUNDATION STONE "</i> From a pamphlet published by the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Illinois, entitled, <i>"What Can a Mason tell a Non-Mason About Freemasonry."</i>

A FOUNDATION STONE

The ancient traditions of Freemasonry permit you to influence your qualified sons, friends and co workers to petition for the Degrees. There is absolutely no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, there can be no objection to his being reminded once that the approach was made. The potential Candidate should then be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will.

One of the most misunderstood of the laws of Freemasonry is the rule that prohibits the solicitation of a Candidate by any Mason. Every man who enters the portals of a Masonic Lodge must come of his own free will and accord but he can only come if he knows of the opportunity.

So far ingrained in our Masonic law is the rule against solicitation that it has unquestionably caused most Masons to refrain completely from discussing Freemasonry with friends and acquaintances who are not Masons. Don't let that happen to you.

The failure of the Masonic institution to make known to the public, that is to non-masons, its principles and its purposes has, in the past, resulted in both suspicion and antagonism toward Masonry. People are naturally inclined to be suspicious or fearful of those things of which they are ignorant.

Freemasonry is not a secret society, but is rather a society which possesses certain secrets. A really secret society is one in which the membership is not known. Freemasonry is quite well known to the uninitiated. We do not attempt to hide our Membership. A large percentage of our Membership wears pins or rings bearing well-known emblems of the Craft. We do not meet in secret places. We meet in Temples which are well marked as Masonic often times with neon signs bearing the square and compasses and we meet at meetings which are quite well advertised.

What is actually supposed to be secret about the institution of Freemasonry is its ritual. Dr. Mackey's 23rd Landmark, "*The secrecy of the Institution*," embraces nothing more than its ritual, which we must conceal and never reveal. The fundamental principles of Masonry which are taught by that ritual, however, are, or could be, well known, and most of them are not even principles peculiar to the Masonic institution. The Candidate for the mysteries of Masonry must always come to us of his own free will and accord, unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, and he must so formally declare before he enters a Lodge room. It must be his own personal desire which has brought him to the point of petitioning for the Degrees of Masonry. An explanation of the charitable and character building attributes of Freemasonry to a worthy and well-qualified person is not solicitation.

Probably the first question that would come to the mind of the un-initiated would be "*What is Freemasonry?*" We define it as a "*progressive moral science divided into different Degrees*." This definition probably would not satisfy and would mean practically nothing to the Non-Mason. Freemasonry might be defined to such a person as a fraternal society which is based on certain moral and religious doctrines; the moral doctrines including Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth; Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice; and the religious doctrines comprising a belief in god and a future existence; sometimes shortened to the statement of a belief in the fatherhood of god and the brotherhood of man. There is no reason at all why this subject should not be discussed quite freely with a non-Mason. The fact of the matter is that the philosophy of Masonry is freely discussed in thousands of printed volumes available to Masons and non-Masons alike.

One question which often comes from non-masons is this: "*How does one become a Member?*" "*Why have I not been asked to join?*" In any such discussion, of course, the non-Mason should be told that, unlike the members of other fraternal organizations, Masons are forbidden to solicit any one to become a Member, and that any prospective Member must apply of his own free will and accord; and further, that he must pass a unanimous ballot for admission. It must be free will and accord on both sides.

One question which any non-Mason might ask, and which can be freely discussed with him, is the relationship of Masonry to religion and to the churches of any denomination.

Masonry has two fundamental religious tenets: a belief in God and a belief in a future existence, or, as it is phrased in Mackey's Landmarks, *"a belief in the resurrection to a future life."* The inquirer should be told that Masonry is not a religion in any sense of the word; but it is religious, and that no atheist can ever be made a Mason.

As the Old Charges, approved in 1723, put it, *"If he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine."* In those charges, under the heading of *"Concerning God and Religion"* it was said: *"But though in ancient times Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves; that is, to be good men and true, or men of honour and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the centre of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons who must else have remained at a perpetual distance."*

Masonry does not require membership in any church as a condition of Membership in a Lodge. On the other hand, membership in any church is no bar to admission to Masonry.

There is nothing in the requirements of Masonry to prevent a Roman Catholic, a Mohammedan, a Buddhist, a Mormon, a Protestant, or a member of any religious sect from becoming a Mason. Any bar is one prescribed by the church to which he may belong. For instance, while Masonry is not anti-Catholic, nevertheless, until recently, the Roman church had itself set up the ban of excommunication of any of its members becoming Masons, which edict had been repeated by the Popes since the year 1738. There is nothing wrong in telling a non-Mason that, or telling him that the discussion of sectarian religion is prohibited in every Masonic Lodge.

One might also ask whether Masonry is a political organization. He should be told that no political discussion would be permitted in any Masonic Lodge.

Here again we might refer to the Old Charges, where we are told:
*“A Mason is to be a peaceful subject to the civil powers,
wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots
and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation,
nor to behave himself undutiful to inferior magistrates;
for as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed and confusion,
so ancient kings and princes have been much disposed to encourage
the Craftsmen because of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby
they practically answered the cavils of their adversaries
and promoted the honour of the fraternity, which ever flourished
in times of peace.”*

In our jurisdiction, the rule that the discussion of politics and religion in Lodges is to be avoided, has the force of an Ancient Landmark.

Another question a non-Mason might ask is whether Masonry is a benefit society, like the many fraternal societies offering insurance and death benefits. This is something which can and certainly ought to be discussed, to avoid any misunderstanding by a prospective Candidate.

The inquirer should be told that we have no insurance benefits, and that, while Masons are second to none in their charitable endeavours, as is evidenced by our Homes for the Aged and for Children, nevertheless it would be financially impossible for the Fraternity to care for all of its Members.

Another subject which could certainly be discussed with a non-Mason is the history of the Masonic society and its evolution from the Operatives, the builders of the Middle Ages, who created the great Gothic cathedrals, churches and other structures in the British Isles and on the continent of Europe. There are many interesting topics of Masonic history which are perfectly proper to be discussed and might possibly excite the interest of serious-minded listeners who are not Masons. The history of our Craft in North America and the part which Masons played in the early history of our country is something of which we should all be justly proud. It is no secret and no Mason is prohibited from discussing it.

You should not discuss the ritual. Part of the fun of Freemasonry is the excitement and adventure of the Ritual. You can explain that it is based in part upon the Holy Bible and that the ceremonies of Masonry are of a serious and dignified nature, without levity or horseplay. Certainly every Candidate should be told this, and should be asked not to listen to the remarks of unthinking Brethren about “*riding the goat*” and similar intimations that the Candidate is entering into something like a high school fraternity.

Such intimations are unworthy and untrue.

Explain that Freemasonry is divided into three Degrees and what is required to progress.

Explain about the catechism, questions and answers, and what is expected: 6,000,000 Masons learned and be sure they know they can.

All they need do is ask to start their travel from friend to Brother.

We are proud of our fraternity and want you proudly to explain Freemasonry to the worthy and well-qualified people in your sphere of influence.



WHAT MADE YOU PETITION FREEMASONRY?

What made you petition Freemasonry?

You may not have been able to say what it was. Most men cannot. It came out as curiosity, or a friend who asked, or a grandfather's apron in a drawer.

Underneath that was something else, and you knew roughly what it was even without words for it.

Then you were Initiated, Passed and Raised, and the thing became a calendar. Meetings. Subscriptions. Who is doing the catering.

Whether the Summons went out.

Most men stop looking somewhere around the second year.

Not from disappointment.

The Lodge is pleasant, the Brothers are decent, nothing has gone wrong. The looking just stops.

September is when Lodges around the world return to labour.

Rooms that sat empty since June opened again this month.

It is the one point in the year when the whole thing starts over, and the only month where picking it back up feels natural rather than arbitrary. What you came for is still there...

Lodges come out of the dark every September.

Source: Masonic Find.



Excerpts from Whence Come We:

Editor's Note: Beginning with Volume Two, Issue, 1, September 2008, *The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* has provided you with excerpts from the Grand Lodge's publication, **Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario: 1764 - 1980**, Edited by The Special Committee on the History, Wallace E. McLeod, Chairman (Hamilton: Masonic Holdings), 1980.



Here's this month's excerpt:

Editor's Note: Prior to 1763, what we today think of as Ontario was part of *New France*. Between 1774 and 1791 it was part of what was known as *Quebec*. Between 1791 and 1841 it was known as *Upper Canada*, between 1841 and 1867, as *Canada West* and in 1867 became known as *Ontario*.

CHAPTER 8: THE SECOND HALF CENTURY

Events of 1946 - 1955:

After the War.

By 1946, the war was over, and Grand Lodge was free to give more attention to matters that had been postponed during the hostilities. The British War Relief was closed out in February 1946 and the \$30,000 remaining in it was sent to the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland.

- Source: Wallace E. McLeod, ed.,

Whence Come We ? Freemasonry in Ontario: 1764 - 1980, (Hamilton: Masonic Holdings), 1980, p. 153.

Next month:

Events of 1946 - 1955

After the War. (continued)

The real need of British Masons and their families was not money in these post-war years, but rather ...

POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE

Some delineations of the symbol have letter B on the right side and E on the left. The Point within a circle in Freemasonry is linked to St. John the Baptist (B) and St. John the Evangelist (E). The two are essential Masonic saints.

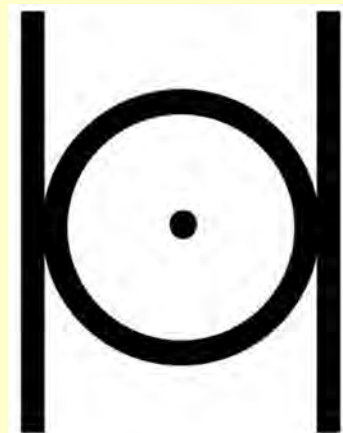
In Freemasonry, the Point, black dot in the middle of the circle, symbolizes an individual Mason.

The circumscribed circle stands for the boundary between a Brother's obligation to God and men.

A Mason should be restricted within the circle.

He shouldn't let personal desires, passion, interests, or anything else lead him astray.

Source: masonicfind.com/masonic-symbols



On 24 March 2025, I reconnected with V.W. Bro. Brendan Kyne, Secretary, The Victorian Lodge of Research No. 218, United Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia, author of *Thoughts For The Enquiring Mason* since 2012.



He kindly sent me articles from this publication, saying that I could publish any of them in my newsletter for your reading interest.

The introductory page states:

A HISTORY OF THE THOUGHTS FOR THE ENQUIRING MASON

In August 1987, a pillar of the Lodge, the late V.W. Bro. Graeme Love, published the first monthly "*Thoughts For The Enquiring Mason*" (TFTEM).

This one-page TFTEM has continued to be sent out every month the Lodge is in session, included with the Summons Notice and Minutes, to all Lodge and Correspondence Circle members.

Over the decades, the TFTEMs have covered a wide variety of Masonic related topics, from symbolism, history, philosophy, principles, famous Freemasons, other Masonic Orders and other bits that fall through the cracks.

The Victorian Lodge of Research hopes you enjoy this selection of TFTEM from 2012 to 2018.

The opinions expressed in these transactions are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of either The Victorian Lodge of Research or of its Members.

ISSN 2653-3804

Published by The Victorian Lodge of Research, No. 218
on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient,
Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria.

Kind regards,

Brendan Kyne

Sec. The Victorian Lodge of Research
TFTEM author since 2012

Here's another one from V.W. Bro. Brendan Kyne:

MASONRY AND THE ART OF MEMORY



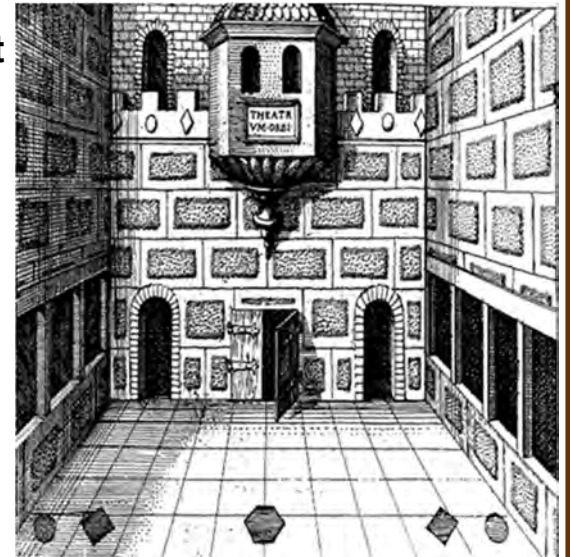
The Art of Memory was a traditional technique that developed as a means to remember long speeches, a series of events or philosophical ideas and concepts. This mnemonic system was reputed to have been developed in Ancient Greece, perhaps amongst Pythagoras' followers, although some suggest that, without much evidence, this technique originated in Ancient Egypt. Aristotle wrote extensively on the subject of memory, and mentions the technique of the placement of images to lend order to memory. Irrespective of the origins of the Art of Memory it became famous during the height of the Roman Empire with Cicero and Quintilian being the most celebrated exponents of this technique.

At its simplest form, the Art of Memory involved constructing a mental image and positioning the concepts, words or ideas in that virtual space, so that they could be easily retrieved when required. The traditional concept involved creating a mental “house” and positioning the thoughts or ideas within the mental house structure so that they can be recalled as you mentally walk through the house of the mind.

The Art of Memory reached a peak of refinement and complexity during the Renaissance, as a means of structuring thoughts, organising knowledge, and solving philosophical questions.

At the same time the Art of Memory was imbued with occult significance by Hermetic philosophers, such as Giordano Bruno, who saw it as a means of inculcating the knowledge of the world, and then using such knowledge to attain a higher level of consciousness and the ability to magically influence world events.

In 1598 and 1599, the Scottish King's Master of Works, William Schaw, drew-up a set of statutes to regulate the stonemason's craft and their lodges.



Today these statutes are known as the 1st and 2nd Schaw Statutes, and in the second Schaw Statute there is a curious reference to the “Art of Memory”

“Item It is ordanit be ye generall warden, That ye warden of ye lug of Kilwynning, being the secund lug in Scotland, tak tryall of ye airt of memorie and science yrof, of everie fellowe of craft and everie prenteiss according to ayr of yr vocations; and in cais yat yai haue lost ony point yrof dvied to thame.”

A somewhat unusual reference to the Art of memory in a document supposedly only dealing with the management of the stonemason’s lodges, but perhaps Schaw was devising a means by which the masons could preserve their secrets, and so throughout the year the stonemasons had to memorise something and once a year they were tested in lodge.

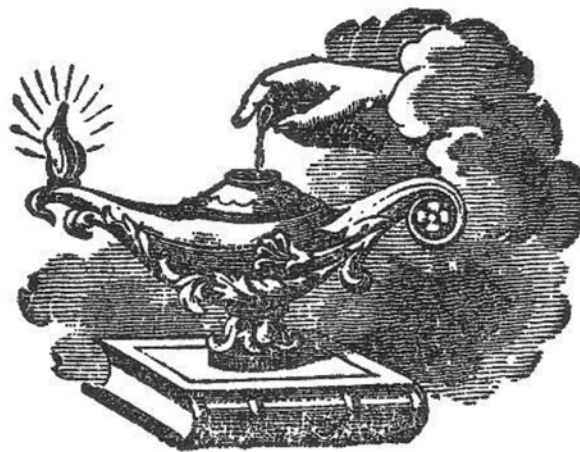
In short, we have here a reference to an ancient intellectual tradition that is entirely based upon imagination. Possibly the Art of memory was used in Lodge in order to memorise the ritual.

Obviously, there was something within the stonemason’s lodges that was worth preserving, and for William Schaw to have thought the ritual of the stonemasons was worth preserving suggests that he was a member of a stonemason’s lodge.

However, would not the Art of Memory have allowed these stonemasons to construct within themselves a temple and that, by going around their temple in recalling their ritual, they would have made an internal journey?

William Schaw thus encouraged the Scottish stonemasons to develop their own personalities – to know themselves.

Thoughts For The Enquiring Mason
October 2016





Our resident poet laureate,
R.W. Bro. Robert A. Keay,
Past District Deputy Grand Master
of Peterborough District, 2014 - 2015,
continues to share some of his poetry
with me that I know
you will enjoy reading !!!



He writes: *“As we each age, and I witness and experience personal health becoming more of a struggle among us, we must remember never to lose sight of why we joined the Craft. And while we are able, we must continue to work on that great undertaking we set out to complete; the evolution of becoming a better person. We were never told that it would be easy, or that there wouldn’t be hardships along the way, but we were assured that there would be plenty of help; and that help is provided by each of you.”*

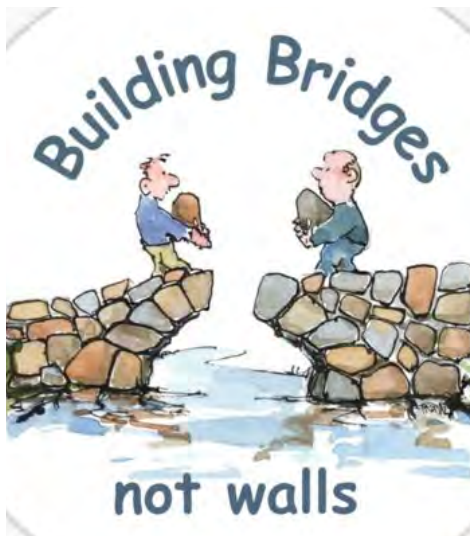
MEN OF PROMISES

Within the Lodge where Brothers meet,
Beneath the stars, on sacred ground,
The silent vows of men are sweet,
In bonds of truth and trust profound.
With compass, square, and hearts sincere,
They pledge their word through every year.



Men of Promises, standing tall,
Bound by the light of ancient ways,
They answer when their Brothers call,
And walk with honour all their days.
No hollow words, no fleeting fame,
But deeds that give their promise name.

Through trials dark and paths unknown,
The Brother's foot shall not depart,
For every man who stands alone
May find a home within the heart.
The lessons taught by stone and flame
Remind them why they took the name.



They build not walls of pride or gold,
But bridges strong from soul to soul,
Their charity, both warm and bold,
Helps wounded hearts and makes them whole.
With wisdom as their guiding light,
They serve the good and stand for right.

A promise made beneath the sky,
Is more than words the lips impart;
It is the courage to stand by
The truth engraved upon the heart.
When time has tested every claim,
Let faithful deeds uphold their name.



So let the Brothers journey on,
With faith and hope their guiding flame,
Until the darkness turns to dawn,
And honour crowns their lasting name.
Men of Promises, strong and true,
May every vow be lived anew.

R.W. Bro. Bob Keay
Otonabee Lodge No. 101.



"Opportunities For Further Light"

DID YOU KNOW ???

The Grand Lodge College of Freemasonry offers interesting Correspondence Courses on Masonic Education throughout this Jurisdiction which is comprised

of nineteen different modules. Any Master Mason may take any module individually for \$10.00 each or they may wish to complete a course of study for a set fee. If a Brother takes an individual module today, and decides to complete a course of study later in time, he will be accredited with the module he has completed prior. In other words, he does not have to pay for or rewrite what he has already completed in the past. There are four courses of study offered by the College of Freemasonry:

1. "The Masonic Arts and Sciences course".
2. The "Past Master's course".
3. The "Worshipful Master course"
4. The "District Secretary's course".

Any Brother looking to run for the office of D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar is required to have in their possession a certificate of qualification from Grand Lodge. In July 2018 a constitutional change was approved by the membership, and Section 50 (b) now reads ... *A candidate for office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession of a qualifying certificate as offered by our Grand Lodge, on or before June 15 of the year seeking office.* (2018). A copy of the revised 2018 Book of Constitution is on the Grand Lodge website. It can be found under the Recent documents tab.

What this change means is that there are now two paths available to receive a qualifying certificate for this running for D.D.G.M. or Grand Registrar. One remains the Past Masters Course and the other is to participate in any number of the day-long enhanced D.D.G.M. Preparation workshops that are conducted around the jurisdiction.

For a Past Master that is looking to run for the Board of General Purposes, the certificate of qualification remains the same under Section 38 (b), and that is the "Past Master's Course" offered by the College of Freemasonry.

For those who wish to pay for the College course you can do so by cheque, please send it to W. Bro. George Warner, 4010 Chadburn Crescent, Mississauga, ON, L5L 3X2. For those who wish to pay

via credit card, just fill in the application form and send it to <masonic.college "at" gmail.com>, and the Brother will be e-mailed payment instructions through PayPal (an account is not necessary). If any Brother has any questions, they may e-mail R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, FCF, Administrator, College of Freemasonry, <masonic.college "at" gmail.com>. You may also get information by going to the Grand Lodge Website. Sign in, click "Education", then "College of Freemasonry". We also have many electronic books and other resources here. Check it out!



The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!! newsletter is circulated via e-mail to all Brethren who are interested in keeping abreast of events, announcements within the Peterborough District and items of Masonic Education. Please feel free to copy these newsletters and circulate them among the Brethren who do not have e-mail access.

If you would like to have any Masonic announcements included in future issues of this electronic newsletter, please contact me at the address below.

Please pass these electronic newsletters on to others who may be interested. We welcome new subscribers, be they Masonic Brethren or friends.

If you have received this directly from me, then you are subscribed. Otherwise, if you would like to subscribe to “*The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*” newsletter, please send me a note.

If you have received this issue of “*The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!*” newsletter and would NOT like to receive any further e-mails from me, please let me know and I will immediately remove you from my distribution list.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob],

The Electronic Beacon: Lighting the Way !!! and Peterborough District Historian.
Past Peterborough District Deputy Grand Master (2007 – 2008)



Masonry aims at the promotion of morality
and higher living
by the cultivation of the social side of man,
the rousing in him of the instincts
of charity and love of his kind.
It rests surely on the foundation
of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.

To have a Notice placed
in *The Beacon: Lighting the Way !!!* newsletter
please send it to
R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride [Bob]
(ddgm2007@nexicom.net)
at least a couple of weeks prior to the event.
It will be run in each issue until the event is over.



Happy to Meet. Sorry to Part. Happy to Meet Again.