

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District

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## Masonry Around Us

In Ontario last year, 1500 men became masons. In our own district, there are initiations almost every month. We hope that these newest members remain with us.

Retaining and Renewing are two of the objectives of Both Grand Lodge and our own membership. We must ensure that men are continually engaged in the craft and we must bring absent brethren back into the spirit of masonry.



Entered Apprentices get much attention in their first months in the lodge but more could be done to enhance the instruction. Some lodges gather their newest-made masons for sessions that explain the offices in the lodge and the meanings associated with the symbolism of the first degree.

On a one-to-one basis, mentorship is very effective in keeping the candidates engaged.

The Mentorship Chairman of the District Resource Team is Nick Andras. He is keen to promote the activity in the lodges. Reach him for ideas at [gotghostnicka@yahoo.ca](mailto:gotghostnicka@yahoo.ca) or 905-356-5433.

Bringing back members to the lodge can be rewarding. Hosting a Rusty Masons meeting can remind long-absent brothers what the steps and signs are and can reawaken them to the spirit of the organization.



Two masons who can give information of what they did at their revival meetings are W.Bro. Ric Harry of Copestone Lodge or W.Bro. David Woehl of Palmer Lodge. (Contact information is available on the chart, *District Lodges and Officers*. For the most recent version, email [bhodwitz@gmail.com](mailto:bhodwitz@gmail.com).)

## Getting Together

Gathering in Lodge is pleasant but there is a larger community out there that we should be aware of. Meeting other masons reminds us of the scope of the Order and reinforces the idea that we are part of something great.

Whenever other brothers visit our lodge, we realize there is a brotherhood out there.

What we need to remember is that there are many opportunities to meet others both formally and socially.

Official visits of the District Deputy and his Resource Team are both informative and entertaining, but visiting on regular meeting nights should also be encouraged within the district. Being in another lodge room allows you to bear witness as well as to show brotherhood. The first validates the work done there and the second strengthen the bond.

Many newly installed masters state that they will visit and encourage their members to go too. That resolution needs to be revisited.

Social events are many. There are district lunches, fish fries, picnics, golf tournaments, chili cook-offs, scotch tastings, strawberry socials, ladies' nights.

Most of those are lodge-sponsored, but one club was established to do district functions.

The *Past Masters and Officers' Association* arranges two dinner-meetings each year. The meal is good and the speaker is topical. They give us an opportunity to meet masons from across the district (a lengthy social hour) and to relax in the warm fellowship of your brothers. The next one will be held on April 17, a while away, but an event worth promoting.

Two attendance cups are awarded: one for total members present and one for greatest percentage of lodge membership.

## Your Next Chance to Visit

Wouldn't it be good to see the masters and some of their officers at the next Official Visit?

Merritt Lodge will be the destination on Monday, March 12, at 422 King St., Port Colborne. They would be pleased to welcome you.

## Further Afield

Once the benefits of visiting become clear, you might want to extend your range.

- Brock Daylight Lodge meets on Saturday mornings in St. Catharines.
- Go to websites such as [www.niagarabmasons.ca](http://www.niagarabmasons.ca) for information about lodges in our district or to [www.niagaramason.com](http://www.niagaramason.com) for District 'A' lodges.
- Our Grand Lodge has a new website for our use. <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca> will open the home page, which is easy to navigate. Then Masonic Links will get you information on district lodges and other bodies.

## Further Still

Wherever you go, you can likely find a lodge, and you will be welcome in every one.

There are over 4 million masons in the world and 150 Grand Lodges. Ontario has 46 thousand members in 560 lodges.

Each lodge is special but some are quite unique.

Golden Rule Lodge #5 in Stanstead, Quebec, is bisected by the Canada-US border. It has a door on the Quebec side and one on the Vermont side.

[this information was presented by Andrew Sinclair]

The lodge building at Black Creek Pioneer Village is open to the public and has done much to spread the good news of masonry.

## Concordant Bodies

For anyone desiring more light in masonry, there are many choices.

Historical appeal is found in Heritage Lodge, which meets throughout southern Ontario.

Both Scottish Rite and York Rite are established in our area. Ask within your lodge about these.

The Shrine is a good choice for fun and involvement in community service.

## Brock University and Masonry

A partnership has been formed between our Grand Lodge and Brock University.

Much of the public's perception of masonry comes from fiction and 'revealing' documentaries. The partnership with Brock will encourage professional historians and sociologists to study the positive impact that Freemasonry has made on the history of this country over the last three centuries.

The *Sankey Centre for Masonic Studies* has a large library of relevant texts accessible to both Canadians and Americans.

Each year a noted expert is invited to talk about masonry. On May 6, 2012, the speaker will be Dr. Steven C. Bullock, author of the book, *Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order 1730-1840*.

Attendance is free, but tickets must be reserved. More information can be had at <http://www.sankeylectures.ca/tickets.html>. (Tickets will be available soon.)

## The Junior Warden's Toast

As mentioned before, a toast is a speech made in praise or appreciation. It ends with the group acknowledging the recipient(s) by saying his name or identifying the group.

The Junior Warden's Toast as we tend to use it is really the final acclamation, not a toast. It is chanted as a motto of our Order, but it can be part of a toast if it follows a declaration of friendship.

Here is one way to make it into a toast:

Dear brethren of the Mystic Tie  
 The night is waning fast.  
 Our work is done, our feast is o'er;  
 These words must be the last.  
 Goodnight, goodnight,  
 Repeat that old refrain:  
 "Happy to meet,  
 Sorry to part,  
 Happy to meet again."