

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
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## Well, It's Like . . .

Hunting season is here. Some people relish the hunt and some people are appalled by it. Most of us are in between.

Hunters know that there is so much more to hunting than the shooting, but people who hunt have difficulty explaining the value they get from the experience. They know the satisfaction of preparing for the outing, honing the skills, researching new ideas of attracting and preparing game, and of course, the 'being there'.



The woods are lovely, dark, and deep. Being there is a unique experience – something to be cherished but difficult to impart to others.

Similarly, we are proud of our masonic involvement and would like to have more men experience the benefits of membership in the Order. However, we are often insecure when we try to promote the concept. Masonry is too big to be encapsulated, and means different things to each individual. There is no one way to explain it.

But maybe it would work if we focused on the interests of the man we are talking with.

So a hunter could make comparisons of his passion with the enjoyment he gets from being a mason.

Sports also work as bases for comparison.

For example, although football is a team sport, the individual really plays his own game, trusting that it will fit into the overall scheme of the activity.



## So With Us



Masons know that they are individuals, each receiving personal benefits from his association with others in and out of the lodge. They know the preparation they went through to receive their degrees, and later to take a chair or to present a charge in lodge. They each get their own reward from 'being there'.

Anything which awakens us is good.

Masonry is good. Let us do more to express the goodness to others by drawing comparisons with whatever activity each man finds appealing.

When I suggested to Andrew Hodwitz that hunting and masonry could be compared, he expanded on the concept in his own way:

Taking the ethical question out of it and imagining that any hunter could just as easily be a photographer, the idea of hunting or fishing or photography or golf is all about a confluence of personal skill, patience, preparation, and tools culminating in ONE MOMENT.



That buck. That bass. That photo. That putt.

There is the stillness of being and thought, a flurry of movement in a single choice with precise focus, and then the denouement.

Even when enjoyed as a group or community, it is predominantly a solo experience and a deeply personal one. And whether solo or in group, even if the Moment does not yield fruit – a miss, catch and release, blur, over par – neither the individual nor the group would say the day was wasted.

In any endeavour, the majority of the time spent is in prep and anticipation, and then aftermath.

The Moment is fleeting, but the before and after linger.

## Beware of the Ya-Buts

In any committee meeting, when a proposal is presented, there is usually one member who counters it with, "Yeah, but . . ." followed with reasons to reject the idea:

- ⊗ It will cost too much.
- ⊗ Who will do the work?
- ⊗ We tried something like that once before.
- ⊗ They'll never go for it.



So many ideas die before they are explored because someone's immediate reaction is to dismiss the suggestion as unworkable or too ambitious.

It takes a strong will to pursue a concept, to explore the possibilities, and to examine the benefits before being ambushed by the nay-sayers.

Here are some motivational guides to bolster the positive among us:

- ☆ A goal should scare me a little and excite me a lot.
- ☆ I am not a product of my circumstances; I am a product of my decisions.
- ☆ I may never know what results will come from my action, but if I do nothing, there will be no result.
- ☆ Inaction breeds doubt and fear.  
Action breeds confidence and courage.  
If I want to conquer fear, I will not sit at home and think about it; I will go out and get busy.
- ☆ Life is created by the people who choose to take action.

On somewhat the same theme, the Buddha offered this:



There is nothing to say about life. It has no meaning. You make meaning. If you want a meaning in your life, find a meaning and bring it into your life, but life won't give you a meaning.

Meaning is a concept. It is a notion of an end toward which you are going.

The point of Buddhism is This Is It.

## Remembrance

Across Canada, people stop to reflect on the sacrifices made by our soldiers involved in wars.

On or about November 11, ceremonies honour those men and women.

When Masons attend those events, they are allowed to wear their regalia.

## The Cost

Besides the obvious cost in lives, there has always been a monetary cost to war.

During the first year of the Great War 1914-18 (World War One) it was estimated that the cost to kill one enemy soldier was \$25,000. This cost to kill one enemy soldier was obtained by dividing the total cost of the war by the number of enemy soldiers killed.

It cost \$21,000 to kill one soldier during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71.

The figures for the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-78 was an average of \$15,000 for every soldier killed.

It cost Russia \$1,200,000,000 to kill 58,600 Japanese soldiers during their War of 1905, making the cost to kill each soldier \$20,400.

[from: The Great War in Europe,  
T.H. Russell, 1914]

## In the District

Myrtle Lodge is holding a Ladies' Night attending a performance at the Garrison Little Theatre in Fort Erie on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Members of other lodges are welcome. Tickets are \$45.00 pp which includes the dinner and show. Contact Mike Dodds at [evilmonkeybrewing@gmail.com](mailto:evilmonkeybrewing@gmail.com) or Ken Halbert at 905 374-4246 or [kenhalbert@gmail.com](mailto:kenhalbert@gmail.com).

The Palmer Lodge Fellowcraft Club hosts a Sunday Football Fundraiser at the Palmer Masonic Temple Banquet Room on October 25. Doors open at noon. Big Screen, Food and Beverages. Cost: \$10.00. Open to members and friends.