

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District

September, 2014

bhodwitz@gmail.com

## Revvng Up

In our district, lodges do not meet during July and August, but masons keep in contact and work another way with lunches, dinners, picnics, and yard sales.

September brings us together with formal meetings and informal practice nights. Let's try to begin again with a better focus and an improved attitude.

## Spaceship Earth

Taking a 'cosmic' view, our earth is a space ship and we are the passengers. The course is set and we can sit back and enjoy the ride.



But the reality of our position here is that we are not passengers on planet earth; we are the crew. We determine how well the voyage progresses.

Yes, there are automatic systems which set the weather, but man has shown that he can mess with the thermostat. We can be stewards of the available resources or plunder them for personal interests.

Lately the disruptions people have been causing leads to the choices: Co-existence or No existence.

As with starship earth, so with

masonry. The 'vehicle' has been in existence for a long time, and we must decide if we will be passengers or crew.

- Do we expect to be served or are we willing to work?
- Will we co-operate, correct, or criticize?



As one of the crew, we owe it to the whole group to make this a better place to be for the duration of the ride.

## Each is a Piece

Masonry is a world-wide order, but it exists and thrives because each of us adds his presence to the structure.

It exists because we do.



W.Bro. George Sider of Myrtle Lodge had this to say about the importance of the individual as contributing to the base of the institution.



"Every building is dependent on a foundation, usually of masonry and partly or wholly below the surface of the ground. It is easily forgotten because it is out of sight, but no structure could stand for long without it.

Anything without a sound foundation is destined to failure or total collapse.

"I see each and every one of us Masons as a block in the Foundation bound by the mortar of our principals practiced throughout the Craft to maintain our strength and integrity.

"Collectively, with each of the blocks (each of us) sharing the load we can support a tremendous weight.



So, with a new Masonic year ahead of us, let us be present to renew our friendships and add our support to our brothers, our lodge, and our Order.



**G.L. Recognition**

At the recent Regalia Presentation event for our district, an impressive number of men were wearing the collars and aprons which showed their status as Grand Lodge officers..

These honours are awarded to men who have served the order well. Some, like the District Deputy Grand Master, receive their titles on their election to their position. Most men are added to the ranks of Grand Lodge Officers when the lodge makes known that one of their members has been an exceptional participant.

For example, Macnab Lodge in Port Colborne recommended Bro. Barry Bitner to be rewarded for his service to masonry. He has now become V.W.Bro Bitner.

The following letter from the master of the lodge is a glowing testimonial to the kind of service that men do for their group.

Most Worshipful, I am writing this letter to accompany the attached petition in support of granting a Grand Lodge rank to W. Bro. Barry Bitner. Barry is an amazing man, husband, father, grandfather, friend and most of all, a Freemason by example.

If one were to take the definition of what it takes to be a Mason and live life by its precepts, you would have then discovered Barry.

His relentless devotion to our craft, our lodge, our district, and everything else that he does sets an example that others not only have noticed and admire, but strive to duplicate in their own lives.

When it comes to our lodge, words really cannot describe the dedication and compassion that Barry brings. Despite physical limitations the grass is cut, the tenants are minded, the work is done and, as a result, our lodge is alive!

Barry is involved with every aspect of the lodge from maintenance, to degree work, to mentorship. He is a perfectionist at heart so does not tolerate any variance from our written ritual.

In conclusion, there would be no better gift to Barry, MacNab lodge, Niagara B District, and to the craft as a whole than to grant this Grand Lodge rank, especially taking into consideration that the 2014-2015 Masonic year is also our 150th Anniversary. To have a current Grand Lodge Officer during our anniversary year would be extra special to all of us.

Sincerely & Fraternally,  
W.Bro. Brent Tarabalka  
Master of MacNab Lodge #169



R.W.Bro. David T. O’Neill, V.W.Bro. Barry Bitner, R.W.Bro. Trevor Beattie

**The Visits**

During the coming masonic year, our new D.D.G.M., R.W.Bro. Trevor Beattie, his secretary, W.Bro. Jim Fowler, and present and past Grand Lodge officers will be attending meetings of the lodges of the district.

Fraternal visits are friendly drop-ins, while official visits are more focused on the messages from the District Deputy and his team of resource chairmen.

Lodge members who go out to witness these events will meet many fine gentlemen, be entertained and educated, and enjoy a refreshing social hour.



**Our Present Grand Lodge Officers**



M.W. Master Donald A. Campbell with R.W. Bro. David G. Martin, recipient of the Grand Master's Meritorious Service Award, pictured below.



This space reserved, maybe for you.



V.W. Bro. John Calver, Grand Steward, member of Copestone Lodge and last year's District Secretary.



V.W. Bro. Arthur Gill, Grand Steward, of Myrtle Lodge in Port Robinson.



V.W. Bro. Richard Ennest, Grand Standard Bearer from King Edward VII lodge in Chippawa.



R.W. Bro. Trevor Beattie, District Deputy Grand Master, from Phoenix lodge in Fonthill.

**Still Rolling Along**

V.W.Bro. Larry Peyton, of Macnab Lodge, has been riding for a cause for many years. He says "One-hundred thousand Canadians live with MS at this time, and three more people are diagnosed every day. I want to do something for everyone who lives with MS."

I've registered as a participant for this year's MS Bike to help raise funds for Canadians living with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Please support me in the MS Bike by making a secure donation online or make a contribution to me in person...every little bit helps.

To find out more about the MS Bike, visit [www.msbike.ca](http://www.msbike.ca). Thank you in advance for your support.



The TV Crew for CHCH couldn't believe that an 80 year-old can still ride a bike, so they showed it on TV.

**Tempering our Spirit**

Masonry tries to make us better people. One way is by calming the destructive passions.

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.

Buddha

**A New Branch**

The local lodge is the base of the whole Order and every member is of equal status with every other mason. However, in seeking more light, involvement, and understanding, men may join concordant bodies of the two main branches beyond the lodge: Scottish Rite or Royal Arch.

Each builds on the foundation established in the lodge with rituals and teachings that expand on the instructions received in the first three degrees.

Explanations of the scope of each branch can be found among the members within your lodge.

The Royal Arch has about 18 bodies associated with it. It is establishing a new council called the Allied Masonic Degrees. This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> such council in the province.



The purpose of the Allied Masonic Degrees is to bring Freemasons together in small groups who, through the medium of study and research, prepare themselves to better serve the Craft as a whole. A primary focus of the Council is to have members prepare and present papers on aspects of all branches of the Craft that we may all profit and grow from the experience.

More information can be found at <http://amdcanda.ca/amd/>

Any Royal Arch member who is interested in joining may attend the inaugural meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 6 at the lodge hall in Dunneville, at 661 Lock Street West.

