

The District Light

**The information bulletin
of Niagara B District**

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bhodwitz@gmail.com

A Time To . . .

A new year is upon us. When we are not shoveling or complaining, we might take time to contemplate what masonry is and could and should be. This would not be idle speculation – we would be renewing our appreciation of the ideals that we were so glad to accept.

Starting at the Top

The structure of each Grand Lodge places one man in the position of Head. We have had a long succession of Grand Masters who have been very accessible to us; very much one of us.

The current M.W.Bro. Donald A. Campbell has been a frequent visitor to Niagara B District. In his regalia, he presents an impressive image.

Here he is less resplendent as he experiences an ice bucket challenge while still in his day job as a police officer.



His Words

“I am convinced the world today needs Freemasonry, its philosophy, and its fundamental principles of brotherly love, relief and truth,”

Moreover, Bro. Campbell has said, “It’s not what you are that’s important; the issue is what you are willing to become.”

“As Masons we are the ones who can make a change. We can influence society and point it in the right direction in a positive way. Masonic wisdom encourages us to judge our performance in every aspect of our lives against certain standards.

“We insist that our members respect and honour both the spirit and the letter of the law of the country in which we live and also to encourage all brethren to fulfill their personal responsibilities, both private and public. We ought to be the examples of good order and regularity because it is only by own conduct that we can reasonably expect compliance from others.”

Other Words

Joseph Fort Newton, in 1923, had this to say:

“The whole principle of Freemasonry is that Brotherhood of Man begins with the Manhood of the Brother. It seeks to build men, and then to make them Brothers and Builders.

“We welcome young men into our lodges with their youth, their energy, their enthusiasm; but we want them to be Masons, not merely members. We want them to know something about Masonry; not only its ritual, but what the ritual means, and what Masonry can do and ought to do in the World.

“The lodge that simply makes Masons, and does not teach Masonry, does only half its work, or does its work only half way. If our lodges become simply mills grinding out degrees, our freemasonry will sink to the level of a club – useful as such but in no way unique – losing its original purpose and power, and its great opportunity.”

The Tyler’s Tool

The Outer Guard is armed with a drawn sword. The Inner Guard, the door warden, used to be armed with a pointed trowel, until 1813 when the English ritual was revised and the trowel was dropped from the English craft Masonry altogether and is now completely obsolete in the system.



A Neglected Tool

The Trowel was still being used in England in the 18th Century, when Masonry was being spread abroad. Today, in many parts of the world, the Trowel is an important symbol and working tool in Craft Masonry, although it has become obsolete in England and in those rituals based on English workings.

To quote Mackey’s Encyclopedia:

The trowel is considered the appropriate Working Tool of a Master Mason because, in operative Masonry, while the Apprentice is engaged in preparing the rude materials which require only the gauge and gavel to give them their proper shape, the Fellow Craft places them into their proper position by means of the plumb, level, and square; but the Master Mason alone, having examined their correctness and proved them true and trusty, secures them permanently in their place by spreading, with the Trowel, the cement that irrevocably binds them together.

So, as the operative Brother mason uses the trowel to spread cement which unites the building into one common mass, the Freemason uses the Trowel emblematically for the noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection; that cement which unites the members of the fraternity into



one sacred band or society of Brothers among whom no contention should ever exist.

In U.S. Lodges, and, in those Canadian Lodges which have taken their ritual and form from the various American states, the Trowel is the only Working Tool used in the Third Degree.

The Trowel is a respected Working Tool in the Craft throughout much of the world and, even though we may not use it ourselves, it may still provide us with much symbolism on which to moralize.



For Your Consideration



(A message from W.Bro. David Plyley, chairman of Masonic foundation. Niagara B District.)

Greetings Brethren!
As I sit at my desk, staring at the pile of letters from the charities asking for

support, I am torn between giving you guys a break, and hoping you will add ‘our charitable organization’ to you donations list.

This is the 50th anniversary year of The Masonic Foundation, and on behalf of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario I thank you for your support over the past years.

This year’s project, Prostate Cancer Research, follows the lead of our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Donald Campbell (a former Niagara Falls resident, affiliated with King Edward VII Lodge), and all funds collected from our District Project will be presented to him at year’s end.



Let’s show him our support!

Masonic Foundation (continued)



Our District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Trevor Beattie, is working hard to promote ‘The Dime a Day Campaign’ to communicate the message that a large enough number of very small ‘drops in the bucket’ can do a world of good.

Let’s add our support, following his direction.

In effect, we will be helping ourselves.

The successes achieved by Prostate Cancer Research benefits us! Most men will have an enlarged prostate during their lives. Some will develop cancer of the prostate. This form of cancer is very inconsistent from one case to the next. Some are slow growing, and may never produce symptoms in the life of the patient. Others are quite aggressive, and can have a terrible effect if not promptly treated.

The PSA test is a useful tool. Lately, prostate cancer tests are being criticized, since a positive blood test can sometimes lead to unnecessary treatment. But not being tested can be fatal.

We need more research, and research is expensive!

Brethren, let’s help ourselves and support this cause! If you are making a donation to The Masonic Foundation please include our Project Number 2583 together with ‘Prostate Cancer Research’ on the memo line, and keep adding to your ‘Mason Jar’.

Thank you Brethren, and remember (in the words of our D.D.G.M.'s Mom), “A giving hand never wants!”

If anyone has any questions, please contact me at the email or phone information on your Tressel Board.

Merry Christmas to you, and yours, and a happy and prosperous New Year.



David Plyley

Beneath the Golden Boy

In Winnipeg, Manitoba, there is an iconic figure on the dome on the Legislative Building. The statue is that of a naked young man, posed as a runner, carrying a sheaf of wheat and a torch, facing due north.



The building itself is impressive, but more so now that research has revealed that it is more like a secret temple alluding to ancient Greece, freemasonry, and even human sacrifice.

Structurally, there are interesting features: each marble staircase has 13 steps, each hallway is illuminated with 13 lights, and the lobby is a perfect square measuring 66.6 feet on a side.

A 90-minute tour, called the Hermetic Code Tour, points out masonic images and details about the sphinxes and other aspects ‘hidden in plain view’. For example, the Golden Boy is actually Hermes and Hermetic teachings are a part of Rosicrucian and Masonic lore.

Diversions

And now for something completely different, the internet can offer amusing distractions.

- A girl sees that her father is using the iPad she gave him for his birthday.
www.snotr.com/embed/8965
- The good old western bar-room scene . . . revisited.
www.youtube.com/v/mYP-2UCS5nY
- For daily mailings, here are two sites which can be subscribed to.
(If you can’t keep up, the links can be saved in folders. Each can be unsubscribed.)
- For general interest offerings:
www.ba-bamail.com
- For a masculine perspective:
www.artofmanliness.com

