

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District

March, 2015

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## From Our DDGM

Brethren,

We are already past the halfway stage of my term as the DDGM of Niagara B.

I must say that it has been a wonderful experience for me and I would like to thank the brethren who have come out and supported me throughout the year so far including the current Grand Lodge Officers, the District Secretary and the District Team Chairmen.

I am hoping that the snowbirds will be back in Canada soon to help swell the numbers, not only for the Official Visits but also in their own Lodges.

Unfortunately, three past DDGM's were called to the GLA: R.W. Bro Don Dixon, R.W. Bro. Barry Douglas and R.W. Bro Ric Shular. These three Brethren were a wealth of Masonic knowledge and in their own right, contributed so very much to the betterment of Masonry in Niagara B and to Masonry in general. I feel blessed to have known them.

We will cherish their memory in our hearts.

## Charity Choice

As you are aware, I chose to support the Grand Master's charity for Prostate Cancer Research. My idea of supporting this very worthwhile charity, by placing a "dime a day" in a Mason jar, was to have a two-fold effect.

Firstly, it was to raise a good sum of money that Niagara B could present to the Masonic Foundation on behalf of the Grand Master.

Secondly, it was to give encouragement to the Master and Wardens of each Lodge to get out and visit those Brethren who can't or don't make it



out to lodge for some reason, to ask them to participate in the Dime a Day charity but also to take this opportunity to find out why these Brethren aren't coming out to Lodge. We need to know why! If we know why, we might be able to assist our Brethren in becoming active in our fraternity once more.

Lots of our Brethren are loyal to our fraternity and maintain their membership by paying their annual dues. We are doing them an injustice by not asking them "Can we help"?

## Focus on Attendance

The average attendance of members on Lodge nights is between 20-25%. This means there are 75-80% of members not attending.

Masters and Wardens, I challenge you to try to get the number to 30% attendance. This might just take as little as 2 or 3 non attending members to attend to reach your goal.

On my visits to the Lodges, whether fraternal or official, I have noticed that lodges that hold practices and are fluent in their ritual, seem to be better attended and have a more joyful atmosphere. Perhaps there is a lesson here!

It saddens me to see a lodge that was once vibrant with thirty plus members regularly in attendance, struggling to fill the chairs to hold a lodge meeting.

## How can we help?

The D.A.R.T. program for the district (District Assistance Response Team) is a way to provide knowledgeable brethren at fairly short notice, who come to your lodge and assist with degree ritual.

It is far better to have a candidate receive his degree by efficient brethren than to have it be delivered poorly.

(Continued)

I can remember being in awe at my first degree, when the JW lecture was given. I didn't remember much about the lecture, just the fact that this brother was doing this all from memory.

What an experience that was, it has stayed with me ever since.

Coming up

Brethren, I look forward to seeing as many of you on my visits to the various lodges around the district, whether fraternal or official, or even at some of the several functions that are arranged.

For example, The Grand Masters reception is being held February 28th at Club Roma on Vansickle Drive in St. Catharines.

Remember Brethren, our Grand Master is from Niagara and it could be quite a while before there is another from this region, so please support him as he has supported Niagara extremely well.

I would especially like your attendance at the inter-district visit on April 9th at 7:30 pm at Copestone Lodge in Fonthill and also the District Divine Service on April 26th at 2 pm at St David's Anglican Church on Thorold Road in Welland.

These events are extremely important to the betterment of Masonry.

I hope to see you there.

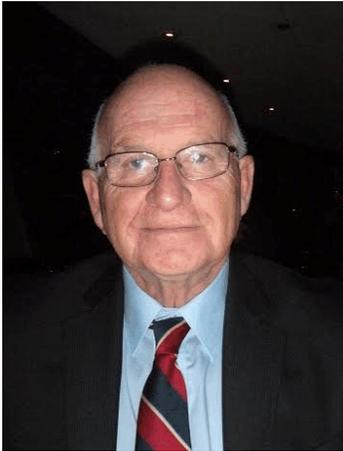
Fraternally yours,  
Trevor Beattie  
DDGM Niagara B District



Together at a special medal presentation:

R.W.Bro. Trevor Beattie, DDGM of Niagara B,  
M.W.Bro. Donald A. Campbell, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario,  
Bro. Albert Walz of St. George's Lodge, the recipient of the William Mercer Wilson  
Medal, given for distinguished service to the craft,  
R.W.Bro. Norman E. McLean, DDGM of Niagara A.

### Meet Aubrey



Aubrey Foley has been a member of Macnab Lodge for 15 years.

“I originally joined knowing of the excellent work that masons do through their hospital foundation, helping those who need it most.

“As a mason I believe every one of us need to challenge ourselves daily and dig just a little bit deeper to ensure we’ve done some type of a good deed by the end of each day.”

### The Project

Aubrey has a workshop in his garage where he repairs bicycles. He calls his shop The Broken Spoke. Although there is a little income from that, his passion is giving bicycles away. He estimates that in the past year he has gifted about 300 bicycles.

He gives bikes to kids or exchanges bikes that kids have outgrown. But the really interesting project is sending bikes to Cuba. Right now he has 20 bikes reserved for Cuba. When he has enough to fill a container, the lot will be sent off.

“If I could, before I leave this earth, I’d like to know that I’ve given a bicycle to every child in Cuba who can’t afford to have one.”

Aubrey will also give a bike to any traveler going to Cuba. They would pay \$34 to the airline for the cargo but they would have a bicycle to use while there and could give it to anyone in need.

### As a Mason

“As a mason I believe the type of project I’m currently doing, providing rebuilt bicycles to those less fortunate within my community and in other countries, is just one part of the oath I swore to when I became a mason.”

### Can We Help?

“The help other masons could provide is donating any bicycles, all sizes including parts that they no longer need. Drop them off at my shop at 255 Knoll in St. Port Colborne. My phone number is 905-834-1250”

### A Masonic Exchange

Masons are helpers. We support each other. We give of our time and resources to assist another brother. We share.

One way to provide for another’s needs is to pass on information or items that could be out to good use by someone else.

Consider the collection of books and supplies that you have. If you have duplicates or things that you no longer use, perhaps they could be re-gifted.

This newsletter is a place to let others know what you are willing to pass on.

For example, the following things are available to any interested person. Contact Bill Hodwitz at [bhodwitz@gmail.com](mailto:bhodwitz@gmail.com) or call 905-295-3098.

- A History of the Grand Lodge of Canada, 1855-1955. 380 pages.
- Mackey’s Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, in two volumes, 1155 pages.
- Ontario’s Niagara Parks, A History, 350 pgs.
- Two white cups imprinted with the Eastern Star emblem.

This from Arnold steed:

“I have a brochure from a lodge in Norway I obtained when visiting the lodge years ago. If you know of anyone interested who is fluent in Norwegian I would be glad to pass it on.

Contact Arnold at [alsteed@becon.org](mailto:alsteed@becon.org) He could deliver the publication to the next Scottish Rite meeting.

To list your treasures here, send the details to [bhodwitz@gmail.com](mailto:bhodwitz@gmail.com).

**Masonry Visible**

Although we are a ‘secret’ society, there are masonic images in the public eye.

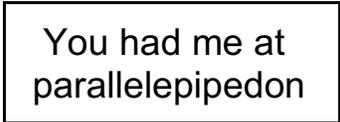


A lady I know has her keys on this ring and symbol. When I asked her about it, she said, “Well look – it’s a T and an H. It’s a Tommy Hillfinger piece.”

A palmer lodge member has this on his license plate:



One lodge had T-shirts made up with this inscription on the back:



A mason

who is also a barber created this tattoo for himself.



There are a lot of clever tattoos out there.

If you have one, take a picture and send it in.

**Coming Events**

Mar. 22: Sanke Lecture at Brock University.

Mar. 28: Palmer Chili Cook-Off

In Fort Erie. Doors open at 2:00. Tasting starts at 3:00. \$5.00 for a spoon and bowl.



And, of course, there are the regularly scheduled masonic events listed on your Trestle Board.

**A Pilgrimage**

Our Ancient Brethren were Pilgrims as well as Builders; and so are we. The idea of life as a journey runs all through the symbolism of Freemasonry, and to forget that truth is to lose half its beauty. Initiation itself is a journey from the west to the east in quest of that which was lost.

The reason why a man becomes a Master Mason is that he may travel in foreign countries, to work and receive the wages of a Master.

What is symbolism with us was the actual life of Masons in days of old. An Apprentice presented his Masterpiece, and if it was approved, he was made a Master and Fellow. He could then take his kit of tools and journey wherever his work called him, a Freemason.

Like our Brethren in the olden times, we too are pilgrims – life is a journey; man is a traveler.

**Other Thoughts**

What does the world need?  
What would make it better?

First ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go and do that, because what the world needs is people who come alive.

Howard Thurman

"Away with funeral music;  
Set the pipe to powerful lips.  
The cup of life's for him that drinks,  
and not for him that sips."

Author unknown

You have brains in your head;  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
in any direction you choose.  
You're on your own  
and you know what you know.  
And you are the guy  
who'll decide where to go.

Dr. Seuss