

The District Light

The information bulletin
of Niagara B District

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November

Some appreciate it; some don't.

"I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all, autumn, because its tone is mellower, its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age.

It knows the limitations of life and its content."

Lin Yutang



"The melancholy days are come,
the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds, and naked woods,
and meadows brown and sear."

William Cullen Bryant

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member.
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!
November!

Thomas Hood

A Time to Remember

Each year on the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we observe Remembrance Day across Canada. Every year we gather to observe a moment of silence and to mark the sacrifice and honour of so many.

Let us recall those we have lost for they have given us our future. They have bought time for us.

Each November, Poppies blossom on lapels and collars. The Poppy Campaign, hosted by The Royal Canadian Legions, inspires Canadians to Remember.

In 2013, 18 million poppies were distributed and 12 million dollars were raised to support veterans and their families.



The Royal Canadian Legion

The Legion is one of Canada's largest community service organizations, funding bursaries, youth programs, senior housing, and local charities.

The Troop morale fund alone raised over \$800,000.

Like the Shrine, the Legion works independently, without any government support.



Canada at War

Some sobering statistics:

WORLD WAR I

628,736 Canadians served.
66,573 died and 138,166 were wounded.
2,818 were taken prisoner of war.
175 merchant seamen died by enemy action.

WORLD WAR II

1,031,902 male Canadians and
49,961 female Canadians served.
44,927 died and 51,145 were wounded.
8,271 were taken prisoner of war.
1,146 merchant seamen died by enemy action.

KOREA

26,791 Canadians served.
516 died and 1,558 were wounded.
33 were taken prisoner of war.

THE GULF WAR

3,817 male Canadians and
237 female Canadians served.
There were no Canadian casualties during the Gulf War.
No Canadians were taken prisoner during the Gulf War.



But Why War?



Is aggression innate or acquired?
We speak of peace but rely
on the fist or the finger to convey
our reaction to any stress.



I suspect that there is something relentlessly
seductive about conflict, but after all these
millennia, we still don't understand the nature
of the beast.

"It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers
are punished unless they kill in large numbers
and to the sound of trumpets."

Voltaire

"If it's natural to kill, how come men have
to go into training to learn how?"

Joan Baez

"I take no joy in killing, but I take pride
in doing it well."

James Bond

"I can blame a human for being a human,
but I'll never blame a dog for being a dog.

Only a human being would look at a
Rottweiler, Doberman, or Pit Bull and say,
"What a strong, beautiful, and loyal creature;
how can I make it kill something?"

Andrew Hodwitz

"Why does man kill? He kills for food.
And not only food: Frequently there must be
a beverage."

Woody Allen

What Can We Do?

Is there any hope for us?

Some people claim
that we are born with
the need to prevail;
to achieve status;
to be better than.

Others say that
we are on our way to
a global consciousness.

We can hope and perhaps act.



At Present

For the last century, the world has averaged
about three wars per year.

Every religion promotes the concept of peace,
but many wars have been founded on religious
differences.

From whence will come the better path?

Masonic Ideals

"By the very honour which Masonry pays
to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book
of faith ...joining hands with the man of Islam
as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the
Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon
the book that he loves best.

Masonry invites to its altar men of all faiths,
knowing that if they use different names for 'the
nameless one of a hundred names' they are yet
praying to the one God and Father of all;
knowing, also, that while they read different
volumes, they are in fact reading the same vast
Book of the Faith of Man as revealed in the
struggle and sorrow of the race in its quest of
God."

Brother Joseph Fort Newton

"Freemasonry represents the highest ideals
yet devised by man. Our Fraternity demonstrates
equal respect for all and supports the rights and
freedoms of all. Ours is an organization that is
dedicated to the good of mankind. We are
obligated to treat all people with equal dignity
and respect and to respect the rights and
freedoms of all. We must stand firm behind
these Masonic principles.

"As Masons, let us continue to enjoy
the rights and freedoms that still exist for us.

Let us continue to support
Brotherly Love, Relief and
Truth but let's extend those
feelings beyond our Masonic
boundaries. Let us continue
in an effort to make the world
a better place in which to live
and a better place for the generations to follow."

R.W. Bro. Cliff Farber



Does it Work?

Masons sense that they are better for belonging but often have difficulty voicing their appreciation for the values instilled by the craft.

We know that Masonry provides a structured framework for personal growth.

Masonry brings us fellowship with men from all strata of society, which frequently turns into lifelong friendships.

Masonry provides a chance to learn leadership skills.

Masonry gives us an avenue to give back to the world we live in.

In the profane world we often hear "Trust has to be earned!" Inside our Brotherhood it has to be "Trust is given as a leap of faith!" Rolf Keil

"Masonic Labour Is purely A Labour Of Love. He who seeks to draw wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another:

Sympathy begets Sympathy...

Kindness begets Kindness...

Helpfulness begets Helpfulness."

Bro. Benjamin Franklin



We all know the ideals to which we ascribe, but we also can 'lighten up' while believing:

My people skills are just fine.
It's my tolerance of idiots that needs working on.

I don't need anger management. I need people to stop irritating me!



District News

Phoenix is hosting a social gathering on November 7th at the lodge on 1394 Haist Street, Fonthill, starting at 3pm. Come out for some fellowship. There may be a euchre or cribbage tournament going, or perhaps a speaker. No charge for attending. Refreshments will be available.

This might become a monthly event.

Also they will be holding a pasta dinner and trivia night on November 21st at Phoenix Lodge. Tickets are \$15.00 each. The menu will include pasta, meatballs, cabbage rolls, and salads. Bring a partner or friend.

To reserve a place, contact Randy at 905-979-7880, or Trevor at 905-931-5711.

In our district, the position of District Deputy Grand Master has been filled from the membership of the individual lodges on a rotational basis. The Past Masters and Officers' Association is in the process of defining and clarifying the system so that all are aware of the process.

One rationale for the rotation system is to encourage lodges to participate in visiting others and to take an interest in proceedings beyond the walls of the individual lodges. Certainly, the lodge that provides a district deputy is obligated to attend the official visits and any other functions at which their representative is present.

Meanwhile, all members of all lodges are encouraged to attend the Official Visits. You will be applauded when you do.

Nov. 3: Palmer Lodge in Fort Erie

Nov. 10: Macnab Lodge in Port Colborne

Remembrance Services

In November, most communities hold services to honour our veterans past and present. When you attend, you may wear your apron, especially if there is a parade.