

The District Light

**The information bulletin
of Niagara B District**

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Here We Go Again

Our summer has been warm and mostly rain-free. Let us appreciate the coming cooling and the opportunities we will have to meet our friends again.

Why Gather?

Within the masonic community, we feel the satisfaction of being with friends, sharing common values, and being part of something truly good.

Within the lodge, we will witness and participate in meetings. These will include business considerations and ritual performance. Let's look more closely at the latter.

Ritual Society or Fraternity?

Ritual is a well-defined sequence of words and actions designed to focus attention, establish significance, and achieve a beneficial result. The work, to be satisfying, must be presented with intensity and dignity, and be clearly understood by the participants. Ritual is a central theme in our lodges.

But we are more than a ritual society.

We are a brotherhood. This encompasses the social and spiritual aspects of sharing core values.

The distinction between our fraternity and any other form of social organization is the implication that we freely associate as equals for a mutually beneficial purpose rather than because of a religious, governmental, commercial, or familial bond.

Ritual illustrates specific principals, but we communicate our values and appreciations through our behaviour. Our actions speak louder than any words. We value each other and extend friendship and respect to the outside community.

Let us enter the new masonic year with the intention of being more 'masonic' to each other and within our social network.

What is This Thing?

There can be no doubt that being made a mason changes us, but we may have difficulty explaining how. One change is a shift in perception; we see things differently. For example, we recognize the humanity in others and so are more comfortable with people we meet. We internalize the 'fellowship' theme and carry it with us as we interact with others.

The expression, "Once a mason, always a mason" applies. Once you acclimatize to the precepts and attitudes, you cannot be as you were.

It's something like experiencing an optical illusion – once you 'see' the hidden image, you cannot not see it. Consider this image> It might take a while to arrange the light and dark areas to see a recognizable image. (Do this before reading further.)



In time you will see the head of a cowboy wearing a large cowboy hat. He is lit from the left, with his right half in shadow.

Once you do envision the picture, you will be forever indoctrinated into the reality of the image.

Masonry is like that.

Not only will you be 'adjusted' in your perceptions and outlooks, but you will appreciate masonic qualities in others, even if they are not members of the order.

Just for fun, here is another illusion. Look 'beyond' or 'through' the face until you see that it is composed of a word written in cursive form.



The Value of Masonry

[from The Daily Mason]

I often hear the relevancy of our Brotherhood called into question. People wonder how we, as such an ancient organization, can keep up. Well my Brothers, our organization promotes things that transcend the boundaries of time. Things such as Faith, Hope, Charity, Community, Unity, Brotherhood, and Tolerance never cease to be of the utmost importance for humanity as a whole.

The world today is becoming a place full of division, and hate is spreading among those with darkness in their hearts. Our craft serves to unite in morality. We serve to shine light on the shadows that creep over minds and consciousness, twisting and distorting actions and views. Each of us, my Brothers, are called to dispel this and replace it with love and tolerance. We are to stand as pillars, supporting those around us with a strong moral compass. That is one of the infinite beauties of our Order.

Remember my Brothers, the long road is never easy, and an easy road isn't always right. It is seemingly less and less popular to have a view in which we should all be united, but we are called to do what is right, not what is popular.



In and Out of the Lodge

Our lodge rooms are precious spaces within which we can feel comfortable and also connected to a glorious historical past. The warmth of the meeting rooms is seductive. The programs should be informative and inspirational.



The mundane world may display lethargy, apathy, and complacency, but we trust and expect our leaders to foster excitement, optimism, and enthusiasm.

We, too, have a part to play. Let us resolve to bring energy and animation to our meetings.

Getting Out

Throughout the year we are presented with many opportunities to stretch our involvement. Masons and their family and friends can meet for events such as:

A regalia presentation on Monday, Sept. 12 at Merritt Lodge in Port Colborne at 7:30;

Lunch on Thursday, Sept. 15 at Green Acres in Fort Erie at 1554 Garrison Rd.;

Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the Shrine Club in Niagara Falls. 5621 North Street.

And, of course, you would be welcome. visiting any of the district lodges. Form a group. Is this a great organization or what?



Official Visits

The District Deputy Grand Master and his team of Committee Chairmen visit the lodges to witness the work and to present masonic information and education to the brethren.

These visits start in October. Your secretary can give you more information about the dates and locations.

Each lodge should encourage its members to attend these events. The brethren are assured of a good meeting and will build new ties during the social hour. We will be reminded of the scope of masonry within our district.



Attendance is taken so it is good for each lodge to have representation at the Official Visits.

Last year the four top attendees were: Macnab with 59 members present, Merritt with 45, King Edward VII with 33, and Myrtle with 26.

From the Blood Donor Chairman:



Brethren,

Last year was a successful blood donation year for Niagara B under the direction of RW Bro. Faraday. We were credited for 57 donations. Even though this is a relatively low number, we still surpassed the previous year.

This year, under the supervision of RW Bro. Andras, I will be promoting a new goal for donations. I believe we should have no problem reaching 100 donations. If we all work together and understand how to register ourselves as a fraternal donor, we can achieve this goal.

MASO008778 - this is Niagara B's fraternal code to get credit for donations. It can be used by you, your family, or anyone you share it with.

If you feel you can't donate - get your wife, your kids, grand kids, or friends to donate on your behalf.

According to studies, donating blood makes us 80% less likely to suffer from a stroke or heart attack.

Giving blood forces our body to generate newer, stronger red blood cells. It's a healthy thing to do.

So let's all get healthy and save lives at the same time.

Clinic dates can be found [here](#) or at the district web site [here](#). Or to call me directly with any question you may have.

I look forward to seeing each of you this year.

Fraternally and Respectfully,
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There will be a Child Identification Program on Saturday, Sept. 10 in Fort Erie at the Leisureplex, 3 Municipal Centre Dr., from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Visit the site to say hello and to see how the system works.

