

The District Light

The information bulletin
of Niagara B District

June, 2014

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District Events

June 1. Macnab Lodge is hosting the 2nd Annual MasonCh.I.P. event that is being held in conjunction with YMCA's Healthy Kids Day. Location of the event is the Vale Centre YMCA in Port Colborne. Set up time is 10:00a.m. with the event start time at 11:00am. Any volunteers from any lodge are encouraged to come. A basic police clearance is needed. They are \$15 at any police station.

June 2: Adoniram Lodge will be visited by the their sister Lodge, Western Star of Buffalo.

At least 12 members will be coming, including the Deputy Grand Master of the State of New York, the Deputy Grand Marshall of the State of New York, the District Deputy Grand Master of the Second Erie District of the State of New York, The Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

All masons are encouraged to come to witness this special visitation.

June 9. Merritt Lodge's regular meeting on June 9th will be a modified one. The dress will be dress casual (no shorts, jeans, etc. but ties and jackets are not required; only regular regalia).

We expect the meeting to be about ½ hour long, followed by a salad and sausage B.B.Q. Home made sausages will be provided by the Jr. Warden, Bro. Dave Spano. There will be both 'regular' drinks, and beers from several local mini-breweries.

All Masons, wives, family and friends are invited to attend. The Jr. Warden's Fund will accept donations.

June 13, 14: Palmer Lodge will be hosting Fort Degrees and related events. See the poster on the last page of this publication or go to www.fortdegree.com.



June 18: King Edward VII will welcome families to their Strawberry Social on Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. in their lodge at 8020 Portage Road, Niagara Falls.

August 17: The annual Myrtle Lodge picnic will be held at the residence of W. Bro. George Sider at 114 South St. North in Port Robinson at 2 p.m.

This event is open to Brethren and families from all Lodges. The cost is \$15.00 per couple. Refreshments will be available.

Working in the Background

One group that strives to entertain and unite the members of the district is the Past Masters and Officers' Association.

The members come from all the lodges to organize two district dinners each year. The money raised is used for special needs. A few years ago the group purchased tables for Van Alstyne Place.

Each year the association asks for donations from each of the lodges to rent a room at the Royal York Hotel in July to serve as a hospitality suite during Grand Lodge.

What's That?

The hospitality suite is a place for members of Niagara B District to meet each other, to socialize, and to welcome new friends. Snacks are provided and drinks are available.

This year is particularly important because the Grand Master has affiliated with a lodge in Niagara Falls. He will certainly come to the room to meet with his brothers from our district.

The Grand Lodge experience includes the meeting of Grand Lodge plus the opportunities to attend masonic seminars, visit other hospitality suites, or purchase masonic jewelry and clothing.

Masons travel there by bus, train, or car pools. It is a pilgrimage all should do.

A Warden's Association

At the last meeting of the Past Masters and Officers' Association, a new organizations was discussed.

The intentions of any district association are:

- to have members meet masons from other lodges;
- to encourage inter-visitation;
- to develop leadership skills in the people of the executive;
- to spread news of upcoming events.

A Warden's Association would serve those intentions and could be much more.

If the Senior and Junior Wardens all belonged, they would meet and get to know each other. This would make inter-visitation more appealing, especially at Official Visits.

Their involvement with each other would be a forum for development of masonic interests.

They could become a strong central body which would have a broader view of masonry in our district. They would be representatives of the district in their lodges and be ambassadors of their lodges in the association.

As the Wardens advanced to the East, they would carry a more 'wholistic' view of the district.

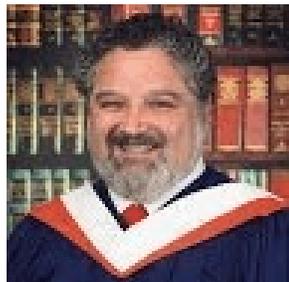
As Masters, they would more likely promote visitation to the lodges of their friends.

The district would certainly benefit from such a blending of the wardens of all the lodges.

Other districts which have such associations could offer their insights as to how to manage and promote a closer brotherhood.

From Another District

W. Bro. Kevin A. Proulx recently joined Merritt Lodge. He had this to say about the involvement of the masons of his previous district:



I have moved here from Cornwall, Ontario. The Masonic Association of Eastern District sets rules and regulations outlining such things as officers' duties, meeting agenda, rotation of prospective DDGM candidates.

The DDGM's Team

I was impressed with the men who travelled with the District Deputy. There was a chairman for everything a Lodge could be involved in.

For example, the District Blood Donor representative would discuss all pending donor drives and offer support in the form of suggested and proven methods for making the drives successful, advertising to other lodges the upcoming events, offering one-on-one mentorship, and whatever other forms of assistance and encouragement that could be provided.

During fellowship time after Lodge, Team members would address further questions and comments as they worked to promote participation not only in their own chosen or appointed arena but at any capacity that would support the Lodge or the District.

The Wardens

The Wardens are particularly encouraged to participate in the district, especially during official visits of the DDGM. This provides a great opportunity for Wardens to become better acquainted regarding their future roles and creates another network of support.

Instilling this degree of participation by the Wardens of Niagara B may require a few years to establish, but it would strengthen our district.

The entire approach of the Masonic Association of Eastern District was to improve the functionality of individual Masons and Lodges, and to foster interest in the District thereby increasing the effectiveness of the District Association.

All of this was performed by providing each Mason with another opportunity to recollect that as a Mason in the Entered Apprentice Degree you were charged "to exert those talents wherewith God has blessed you, as well to His glory as to the welfare of your fellow creatures."

Giving an Opinion

Mark Twain stated, "I am not one of those who, in expressing opinions, confine himself to the fact



FORT DEGREE 2014

Friday, June 13 & Saturday June 14

Please join us for the activities listed below. Two events are open to **Masons only**.

Friday, June 13th at the Palmer Masonic Temple, 203 Jarvis St., Fort Erie
: **6:30 P.M.** doors open to all for meet and greet, public invited
: **7:30 P.M.** for **Masons only** in the lodge room, the Valley of Buffalo Colonial Degree Team will exemplify a degree. Refreshments in the banquet room for all following the degree. \$5.00 per person, **only 80 tickets available**

Saturday, June 14th at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 32 Idylewylde St., Fort Erie
: **9:30 A.M.** Continental breakfast followed at **10:30** by guest speaker Bro. Joseph Curry, Lieutenant, Canadian Armed Forces, founding member of Canada Lodge UD, GRC, a military lodge in Kandahar. "Traveling Lodges and Masonry in Niagara, Specifically Around the War of 1812". \$10.00 per person, proceeds to Military Families Resource Centre.
Only 200 tickets available and is open to the public

: **Noon** at the Palmer Masonic Temple. Light Lunch and Open House with Lodge room tours and an educational presentation.

Open to the public – no cost but please let us know if you plan on attending.

: **5:30 P.M.** - Gates open at Old Fort Erie. **6 P.M.** - Opening ceremonies.

: **7:30 P.M.** - Harmonie Lodge 699 of 1st Erie District, Buffalo, New York will exemplify part of the First Degree – **open to Masons only**. The public will be escorted to the Old Fort Erie Welcome Centre for the presentation of a movie, after which they will be joined by those who witnessed the degree for fellowship and refreshments. \$10.00 per person to cover expenses

Hotels: **Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre**, 1485 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie, ON
Call: 905-871-8333

Comfort Inn, 1 Hospitality Dr., Fort Erie, ON
Call: 905-871-8500

For tickets: Email: fortdegree@gmail.com or through
Contact page on www.fortdegree.com
Telephone: 289 271-8958

Attire: Masons – Regalia Friday and Saturday degrees, suit Friday night. Casual dress all other events. NOTE: Bring a lawn chair to the Fort Saturday night for the opening ceremonies and the degree; **bring jacket, sweater, etc.** as the evening gets cool....**and don't forget the lawn chair.**