

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District

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## Pleasant Reading

No editorial in this issue – just nice stories and personal testimonials.

## Reflections

R.W.Bro. David T. O’Neil comments on his year:

2013-2014 has truly been a Great Year for me as your DDGM. Not only have I rekindled old friendships, I also made many new ones.

M.W.Bro. Donald Campbell is truly dedicated to the Craft, and I was honoured to be one of his District Deputies.

Masonry as we know it has existed for hundreds of years under the same set of rules; yet there are still brethren out there who are relentless to change these rules. No one said that being a Mason is easy. It does take work and commitment. That’s what separates us from all other Fraternities.

We as Brothers can lean on each other for education and support. By staying true to these ancient customs, “Which we all swore to uphold in our Obligations”, we will be the best men that we can be. Looking for the easy way out is not always the answer.

I look forward to many more years of Brotherly Love, Relief, & Truth in my quest to being the best that I can be!

## Giving to the Community



W. Bro. Paul Thomas is the master of St. Mark’s Lodge in Niagara Falls.

Here he is shown presenting a cheque to the Salvation Army soup truck on behalf of the Lodge.



## Snippets from the Summonses

Often, the masters’ messages are valuable for their information or insight. Here are two:

**W. Bro. Paul Thomas** of St. Mark’s Lodge:

My Masonic experience was enhanced by a specific event this past summer . . . that of attending the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in Toronto at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Having never attended this event in the past I didn’t really know what to expect.

Being escorted into the Grand Hall with all the other current Worshipful Masters in this Grand Jurisdiction was a special experience that I will always cherish.

I was amazed at the number of brethren that had gathered from different lodges not only throughout our Province, but from around the world.

But probably the most memorable moment was when the Grand Master awarded R.W. Bro. David Martin with the Grand Master’s Meritorious Service Award.

**W. Bro. Dave Kaufman** of Merritt Lodge

As you may be aware, Merritt Lodge #168 was instituted on November 14, 1864 and Macnab Lodge #169 on the following day.

For this year, our two lodges have agreed to have a combined 150th Anniversary celebration. It will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 starting at 1:00 p.m., with the Grand Master and other dignitaries in attendance.

Although it will be Macnab’s regular December meeting, Merritt Lodge will be an integral part of the meeting and fully incorporated into it.



## **W.Bro. Dave Kaufman (continued)**

Both sets of Officers will be participating, and we have a 60-year pin to present to one of our members. So please mark this special date on your calendar and make every possible effort to attend.

A reception will be held after the lodge meeting to which wives and families are invited.

More information will come in the next two summonses.

## **The Last Farewell**

A masonic service is a tribute paid to a brother who has passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

Recently over 60 masons gathered for the service held for R.W.Bro. Donald Dixon of Fonthill.

This poem came to mind at that time:

The Working Tools have fallen  
from his grasp  
His journey in this world has ended  
Death holds his tired hands in gentle clasp  
His work is done; his temple complete  
May our Brother rest in peace.

Many families have been impressed with the number of masons who attend a masonic service. It is a simple but moving ceremony.

But let us remember the purpose of our being there and to act with reserve and respect.

While we may be socializing, the family is grieving.

## **Palmer Lodge Renewed**

The members of Palmer Lodge in Fort Erie are proud of the renovations made to their building. They invite you to come to inspect their work (and to praise their efforts).

## **Masonic CHiP**

Myrtle Lodge did child identification during the recent Welland Fair. You will be hearing about that at the coming Official Visits.

Your lodge summons has the schedule.

## **The Joy of Visiting**

Scott Dehaan is a member of St. George's lodge. He had the opportunity to experience one of the benefits of masonic membership on a recent trip to Australia. This is his story:



Visiting is one of the finest gifts this fraternity has to offer us. It affords us the opportunity to go out almost any night of any week, see old and new faces alike, and join together in Brotherly Love as we assist each other in the building of our Spiritual Temples.

The warmest feeling I have ever felt inside my heart was while visiting Melbourne, Australia.

It was the middle of December. I didn't know a single soul in the large city about the size of Vancouver. I called up a local Lodge Secretary and said that I was a young Mason, traveling his country and was very interested in visiting his Lodge.

Immediately, over the phone, the Brother, whom I had never spoken to previously, welcomed me, gave me information about his Lodge, offered me a ride to and from Lodge and even invited me to his FAMILY Christmas dinner!

On my arrival to the Lodge, I was greeted by the rest of the Brethren with extended hands and warm smiles. They treated me like ROYALTY!

I was truly humbled. I had never felt so special in my entire life!

This is a feeling that I would like to pay forward someday if I can

## **A Story**

The following story is taken from a Masonic Service Association Short Talk Bulletin of November 1963.

Enjoy.

## You Never Know

A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The money lender was standing in front of his shop, and the young man noted that he was wearing a large and beautiful Masonic emblem.

After going on a whole block, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker, and addressed him: "I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too.

"It happens that I'm desperately in need of \$25.00 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me, but I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note."

The pawnbroker mentally appraised the young man who was clean-cut, neat and well-dressed.

After a moment's thought, he agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man's being a Freemason. The two went into the pawn shop where the young man signed a note and received the \$25.00, then went his way. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed, and that ended the transaction.

About four months later the young man was in a lodge room receiving the Entered Apprentice degree. He had not really been a Mason when he borrowed \$25.00 from the pawnbroker.

After he had been allowed to sit in the body of the lodge, the young man looked across the room and noted, sitting there, the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed \$25.00 several months before on the strength of his having said that he was a Freemason.

His face turned crimson and he became nervous and jittery. He recollected the admonition that he had just received from the Master, and he was bothered. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker.

He decided to leave at the first opportunity and avoid his benefactor. The next lecture and charge probably were lost on him.

As soon as the lodge was closed, he moved quickly for the door of the Tyler's room, but the pawnbroker had recognized the young man, headed him off west of the altar and, to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and outstretched hand.

"Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25.00," the pawnbroker commented.

The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, "No, I wasn't, but I wish you'd let me explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a Brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day, I didn't need that \$25.00. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing, I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true.

"You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that what I had heard about the Masons was true, that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress.

"That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that, with this explanation, you will forgive me for having lied to you."

The pawnbroker responded, "Don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the strength of my being a Freemason.

"When you asked for that \$25.00, I remembered that I had heard that Masons were honest, upright, and took care of their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25.00 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard about Freemasons was really true, so I lent you the money and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard was true, so I presented my petition to this Lodge.

"I was the candidate just ahead of you."