

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District

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## Flag News

In 1965, Canada had its new flag officially accepted. February 15 was designated as Flag Day in Canada. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original Flag Day.



It is a time to show some pride in our flag and nation, however, Ontario and a few other provinces decided that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of February would be called Family Day. Although neither date is a statutory holiday, Family Day has overshadowed the importance of Flag Day.

Let's give some thought to our flag and learn about the masonic connections.

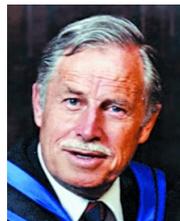
The following information is taken from an essay written by M.W.Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels, a past Grand Master.



In 1964, Lester B. Pearson was the Prime Minister and John .....Diefenbaker, a mason, was the leader of the opposition. They and the Parliamentary Secretary, John Ross Matheson, a mason, negotiated about the flag.



Bro. Matheson, over 70-years a mason, was the recipient of the William Mercer Wilson Medal for Meritorious Service, a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.



He has said, "Our symbolism must need affirm spiritual values. It conveys a message of noble expectations for humanity, of our Masonic hope for an even 'better country.' Each of us, like the Flag, represents Canada.

"This nation can be no worthier than what we imagine and will it to be."

## More Masonic Connection

When M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby was the Director of the R.C.M.P. Degree Team, this Charge to the Flag was given as part of the ceremony:



"I present our Flag, our symbol of Unity and Sovereignty. Between bars of red on a field of white, it blazons forth in its full Autumnal glory.

"The Canadian Maple Leaf, whose points represent the Provinces and Territories, comprise our great Dominion.

"To Freemasons, the red symbolizes the dauntless courage of our forefathers, which we strive to emulate, the white, that blameless purity of life and conduct to which we aspire, and the points, the eleven knightly virtues, of which Patriotism is the greatest and to which we are ever dedicated.

"And finally, it inspires in us a reverence to Him, to whom we fervently pray.

"God Save the Queen, and heaven bless the Maple Leaf forever."

## Praise From an Unexpected Source



"Masonic lodges are . . . associations of men who, closely bound together in a union employing symbolical usages, represent a supra-national spiritual movement, the ideal of humanity . . . a general association of mankind, without distinction of races, peoples, religions, social and political convictions."

Reinhard Heydrich (1904-1942),  
Gestapo Second in Command

## Our Mentoring Man



W. Bro. Nick Andras is the District Chairman for Mentoring.

“I have enjoyed mentoring in my lodge and now I am able to help brothers through the district learn and understand their required

material. I assist them with techniques and memory aids when they are studying.

I have also personally taken a few brothers aside and met with them and showed all that is needed to be done at each station.

Assisting a brother who is going through the degrees is always fun because his commitment level is at a high. His dedication is strong and he is willing to soak up all the info you give him.

The part of freemasonry which I enjoy is the ritual. I love a degree that goes flawlessly. This not only is a reflection of the lodge, but also is something memorable for the candidate.

We should make it something he will never forget.

Also what I love is the fraternal brotherhood. Meeting a new Mason is always exciting because I can see the excitement in his face.

## Initiation, Reconsidered

Masonry is a fraternity of action.

The candidate in the first degree is told that in order to join in the great and good work of Freemasonry, it is necessary for him to make a statement and promises of future actions as all Masons before him have also done.

In the obligation of the Masonic degrees there are things a Mason promises to do, and also what not to do.

Both actions are important. The *do's* guide us down a proper path of conduct while the *don'ts* prevent us from making grievous errors.

For our own enlightenment, each of us could review the obligations and maybe even the charges of the three degrees, just to refresh our memories about the *do's* and *don'ts* of Freemasonry.

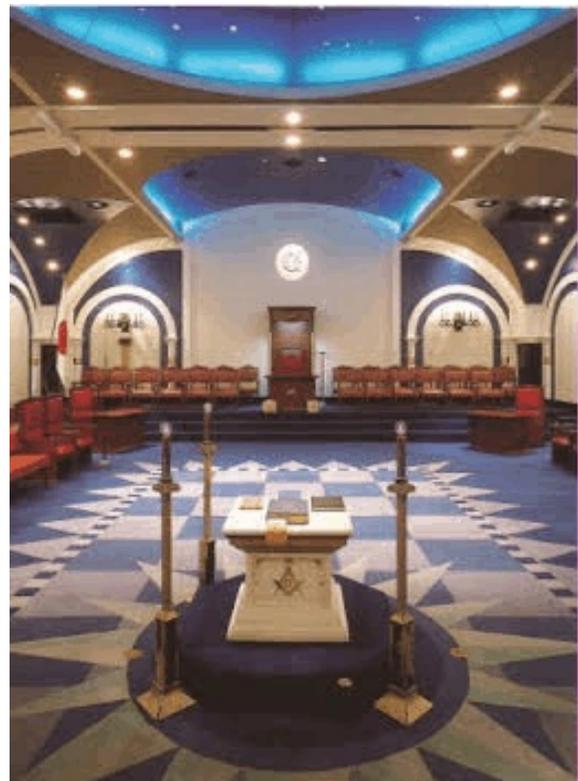
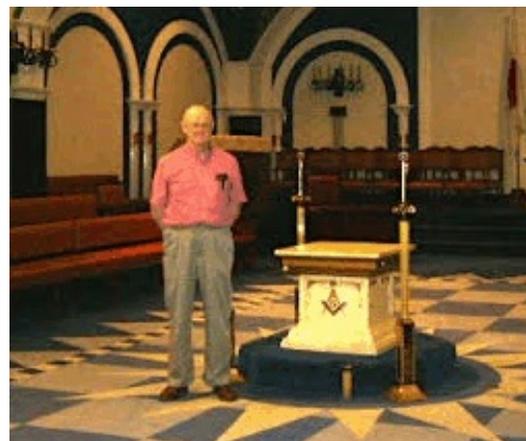
## On Foreign Soil

In November, McAllister Horne and his wife visited Japan. He had wanted to attend the Grand Lodge there but had a commitment to meet friends the evening of the meeting.

When Mac's wife mentioned to their host that Mac was interested in visiting the lodge, the man, who had been a friend for 50 years, revealed that he was a mason, too.

Mac Horne got to see the lodge.

“The building was magnificent and the lodge rooms were stunning.”



## In the Grand Lodge of Japan



The entrance way with two stained-glass windows



Bas-relief of Time and the broken columns

## Other Lodges

Masons who travel to other jurisdictions have the opportunity to visit lodges in the area.

Sometimes the lodge rooms are converted classrooms, and sometimes the lodge building takes up an entire city block.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the Grand Lodge of Michigan in Detroit are two very impressive structures.

Virtual tours are available on line.

## We Belong

Most men who join masonry do so for life.

In one sense, masonry is a community – an association of people with similar interests. But masons realize that they are part of something stronger; something more like a tribe.

## Relating to Each Other

A psychiatrist lecturing on the mind-body connection said that one of the best things that a man could do for his health is to be married to a woman whereas for a woman, one of the best things she could do for her health was to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends. He was serious.

Women connect with each other differently and provide support systems that help each other to deal with stress and difficult life experiences, creating a general feeling of well-being.

Women share feelings whereas men often form relationships around activities such as sports – watching or playing.

He said that spending time with a friend is just as important to our general health as jogging or working out at a gym.

In fact, he said that failure to create and maintain quality personal relationships with other humans is as dangerous to our physical health as is smoking!

## Within the Tribe

One of the real benefits of masonic association is the time we spend together.

Within the lodge we share the experience, and then we socialize and share each other.

We all value the acceptance we feel and the opportunities we have to open ourselves to our friends.

Real friendship is possible when there exists between people a genuine capacity for loyalty,  
for trust,  
for generosity,  
and the baring  
of one soul  
to another.

In masonry we have the fertile soil of friendship.

