

# The District Light

The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District

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## A Look at the Glass

Is the glass half full or half empty?  
It depends on whether you are filling the  
glass or emptying it.

Since we, as masons, are constantly  
adding to our knowledge, we are always  
in the process of filling ourselves. It's a  
long-term project – a work in progress.

Let's continue the process with this bulletin  
which contains deep thoughts, helpful hints, and  
light fluff.

Be educated and entertained. Fill up.



## Coming Out

The term, "coming out" usually prompts us to  
expand it to "coming out of the closet".

This image suggests that there has  
been something hiding in the closet –  
something to be afraid or ashamed of.

Our society tends to be suspicious  
of anyone who maintains a private life  
style. Although some people are repelled  
when they hear the admission of  
alternate values, others are impressed  
by the courage shown by the person  
who declares himself.

Public taboos are eroding. Disabled people  
are asking to be recognized as worthy; people  
of a minority colour or religion are saying that  
they are equal members of society; people of  
unconventional gender identities are less intimidated  
by others' phobias.

Perhaps it is time for us to become more openly  
masonic. Our Order is at least as good as any other in  
existence.

Let's come out of the lodge room  
and declare ourselves.

Open up to your friends. Claim your  
right to be a mason.

We have a strong moral identity.



## Some Sources

It has been said, "When the student is ready,  
the teacher will appear". Are you ready?

Start with the books available from our  
Grand Lodge which can be purchased through  
your secretary.

The Niagara B District web site is developing  
into a wonderful resource. Explore it at  
<http://niagarabmasons.ca> where district and lodge  
events are posted.

You can immerse yourself for hours in back  
issues of The District Light or the publication,  
Protocol and Etiquette.

The symbolism that we use is explained at  
[http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/free  
mason-symbols.html](http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/free-mason-symbols.html)

Feed something and it will grow.

After you have learned something about  
masonry, pass it on. Share your interest and  
that will encourage others.

## In the Garden

Gardening is a fulfilling hobby. Here are  
some ideas about improving the product.

(If you are so inclined, you can make  
comparison to activities in your lodge.)

It's better for vegetable plants to be rotated  
to different soil each year (just like we rotate  
officers).

Fertilize selectively for the type of plant:  
When deciding on fertilizer, think, "Up, down,  
and all around".

The first number on a bag of fertilizer is for  
nitrogen (N), which promotes green growth. (Up)

The second number is for phosphorus (P),  
which promotes strong roots (Down) and later  
is responsible for flower and fruit production.

The third number is for potassium (K),  
which is important for the overall health of plants  
so that they can withstand various stresses, such  
as heat, cold, pests.

## Words

We communicate by gestures, tone, and words. Printed words have their own power by being permanent and by allowing us to pause in reading to appreciate and savour the message.

## Last Words

Let us consider the obituary. The information contained is someone else's review of your life experience, but it is seldom a true reflection of what was important to you – what mattered.

So consider yours. People reading about you would like to hear what *you* have to say about your life.

Who do you thank for their contribution to your life? What did you enjoy or appreciate? What life experiences did you value the most?

Think about the effect of having your words lasting after you have passed on.

Obituaries would be more meaningful if we could read quotes from the subject himself.

## Alternate Ending

A common slogan is "Hope for the best, but be prepared . . ."

Contingency plans (plan B or C) allow us to react meaningfully when 'the ship hits the sand'.

Governments are aware of this. Political figures have 'talking points' to rely on, and prepare themselves to answer questions that have not yet been asked.

An excellent example follows.



In 1969, the United States sent two men to the moon. Glowing speeches were made about the significance of the achievement. But what if something went wrong (as it has on other attempts). The administration had to be ready to respond effectively.

Here is a speech that was available to president Nixon should he need to address the nation in the event of a failure. They are words that evoke pride and appreciation in the wake of disaster.

## IN EVENT OF MOON DISASTER

Fate has ordained that the men who went to the moon to explore in peace will stay on the moon to rest in peace.

These brave men, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, know that there is no hope for their recovery. But they also know that there is hope for mankind in their sacrifice.

These two men are laying down their lives in mankind's most noble goal: the search for truth and understanding.

They will be mourned by their family and friends. They will be mourned by their nation; they will be mourned by the people of the world; they will be mourned by a Mother Earth that dared send two of her sons into the unknown.

In their exploration, they stirred the people of the world to feel as one; in their sacrifice, they bind more tightly the brotherhood of man.

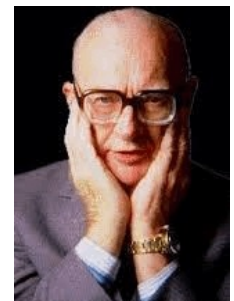
In ancient days men looked at stars and saw their heroes in the constellations. In modern times, we do much the same, but our heroes are epic men of flesh and blood.

## Other Words

"Sometimes I think we're alone in the universe, and sometimes I think we're not.

In either case the idea is quite staggering"

Arthur C. Clark



"I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb . . . and I also know that I'm not blonde"

Dolly Parton