

St. Catharines, Ontario

The

# Brock Broadcaster



*A newsletter for the Brethren of Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745, Niagara "A" District and all members of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.*

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**February 2020**  
**Winter Edition**

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of the 2020 *The Brock Broadcaster*. Although our Lodge has been in recess since the November 2019 regular meeting, our members have been visiting throughout the Grand Jurisdiction and have been busy staying active in their mother Lodges. We are looking forward to our Saturday morning reunions commencing in March and have an active, interesting and inspirational program of events planned for the year. We do hope you have an opportunity to join with us and take part in our proceedings. Brock Daylight Lodge meets on the second Saturday of every month from March through November and tyles at 10 am. A festive luncheon is served following the meeting. W. Bro. Colin Smagata, the officers and members of BDL look forward to seeing you

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## **Isaac Brock: Fallen Hero**

By James H Marsh

In the very early morning of October 13, 1812, Major General Isaac Brock was fast asleep in his bunk at Fort George, on the Niagara Frontier. About 4:00am he was awakened by the distant thud of cannon fire. He rose in a flash, dressed, mounted his horse, Alfred, and dashed through the fort gate towards the sound of the guns.

Brock knew that the Americans, who had declared war on Britain in June, would try to invade somewhere along the frontier. Former US president Thomas Jefferson told President James Madison that taking Canada would be a "mere matter of marching".

Brock rode on through the drizzling rain and pall of smoke to the hamlet of Queenston. He was annoyed that it had come to this. Earlier he had won a brilliant, and bloodless victory over superior forces at the siege of Detroit. He wanted to rout the Americans before they had time to organize but was shackled by the timid policy of Governor George Prevost. The delay had given the Americans time to regroup and now they were on Canadian soil.

Discovering a hidden path to the top of the escarpment, the Americans were able to seize a strategic "redan", an emplacement from which a cannon had been hampering the flow of reinforcements across the river. Brock spurred Alfred up the incline to the heights, from where he could see the battle unfolding.

He was forced by American fire to scuttle down the hillside and he took shelter at the end of town and considered what to do. For Brock, whoever controlled the heights would control Upper Canada; if it were lost, the province would be lost too. It would have been prudent to wait for reinforcements, but Brock preferred to dare. He decided to retake the redan. Brock rallied the

men from the 49<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment and the Canadian militia.

“Follow me Boys!”, he cried, and headed up the escarpment. On the point of collapse at the edge of the cliff, the Americans rallied and counterattacked. Brock, brilliant in his scarlet coat and plumed hat, his buttons gleaming, must have been unmistakable. (It was a time when the image of a leader was the great Horatio Nelson, standing on deck as the battle raged around him.) A sniper stepped out from behind a bush and fired a musket ball into Brock’s chest. Samuel Jarvis rushed over to him and implored, “Are you much hurt sir”?

Brock was dead.

After Brock’s aide-de-camp, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell, was mortally wounded in a similar vain assault, Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe arrived from Fort George with reinforcements. His men included about 100 Six Nations warriors and several escaped slaves who had volunteered at Newark.

Sheaffe had no intention of repeating Brock’s frontal assault. In a flanking movement, he led his men around the heights and up the escarpment out of sight of the Americans. The regular soldiers and militia formed a column and began marching towards the Americans, who were now trapped between them and the cliff, while the Six Nations warriors harassed them from the flanks. In a moment reminiscent of the Plains of Abraham, the British line lowered their muskets and fired a direct volley.

The Americans panicked but had nowhere to run. Behind them was the steep slope of the escarpment and below them the raging current of the Niagara River. Many fell or jumped, while others drowned.

The rest prudently surrendered. When the smoke had cleared, almost 500 Americans were dead and another 1000 were taken

prisoner. The victors suffered only 28 killed and 77 wounded-regular, militia and Six Nations.

The province was saved for the moment, but the loss of Brock was irreparable. He was a man of such energy and skill that the subsequent campaigns of war would have been very different. The citizens of Upper Canada considered his death a public calamity. They built him a grand monument and when it was destroyed by rebels in 1832, they erected an even more magnificent one, the most splendid in the world save for Christopher Wren’s pillar marking the great London fire.

The myth of Brock, the savior of Canada, was taught to every school child. The brave Brock saving Canada was a potent image in the fledgling nation. Canada owes its independence to the failure of that invasion in 1812.

[www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca)



This is an ongoing project of York District. To date they have produced thirty-six podcasts and are available for your listening pleasure. Simply google “The First Three Knocks”, to see the various ways you can hear them. All podcasts are informative and educational. Kudos to York District for their forward thinking on this initiative.

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Chuck Cossette photo

The 2019-2020 officers of Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745 have been installed, invested and are ready to serve. First row L. to R.: RW Bro. Floyd Brooks (Chap), RW Bro. Patrick McGrenere (IG), VW Bro. Glenn Dean (Sec), RW Bro. Carl Smith, W. Bro. Colin Smagata (WM), VW Bro. David McGilvray (SW), Bro. Jason Oram (JS), W. Bro. Robert Dixon (Treas.), VW Bro. George Gaines (JD). Back row: VW Bro. Archie Mclay, RW Bro. Bruce McLennan (D of C), RW Bro. Tom Wills (IPM), RW Bro. Robert Brooks (SD), VW Bro. Bernie Nehring (Org), Bro. Sheldon Kofsky (Hist) RW Bro. Ted Dunsmore (JW), W. Bro. Brad Kempston (SS).

On Thursday November 28, 2019, eight brethren from Niagara "A" traveled to Wellington District



Robert Brooks photo

for the Official Visit of RW Bro. B. Roy Clarke to Royal City Lodge No. 742, Guelph. It was a great morning of Masonry with a scrumptious hot turkey dinner following the meeting, thanks to RW Bro. Don Hamilton.

## PURPOSE OF CRAFT LODGES

The original purposes of lodges of non operative Masons were to offer support and encouragement in times of difficulty, to provide a vehicle for charity, and to dispense financial help where needed, to encourage good principles, and to meet the need of all men for congenial society. I do not think the purpose are any different today.

There are many reasons why different men join, or remain in lodge, but I think there are several which all of us will recognize.

For most, the ritual is a continual source of joy. It is generally good, and sometimes superb prose, something that today we are starved for. The Church no longer supplies it, radio sometimes, and television and modern literature never. Yet the appeal of good writing is revealed at any meeting in the breathless hush when one of the great charges is well delivered, or the injunction of charity, or the address to the Master at the Installation (as examples).

Where, today, does the average man receive any instruction in ethics and good conduct? From the church sometimes, but from television and modern literature, with their emphasis on evil, degradation, lust and violence, almost never. Contrary on what we are led to believe in the press, television or literature, the majority prefer good to evil, seek to do the best they can, enjoy the beauty of the world, weep when they must, and laugh when they can. Yet virtue does not spring full armed in the soul of man. It is learned, as the prophet tells us, precept upon precept, line unto line, here a little and there a little, and in that way, Masonry leaves its imprint on the souls of the men who listen to, and try to observe its precepts.

Another need for most is the opportunity to do something for others. I believe that lodges should be putting more

emphasis than they do on the charitable work of the Craft.

We have not kept pace with the times, and much of the apathy that exists in lodges is quite simply because we have drifted, and have not presented worthwhile challenges to our brethren.

Like the societies from which we have sprang, we should be careful to offer comfort and support to our brethren and their families in time of trouble and affliction. This is not the duty of the Almoner, in exoneration of the rest of us, but a duty imposed by our membership in the Craft. Each of us should make sure that we are aware of the troubles of our fellows, and ever ready to pour the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the afflicted, and to drop a tear of sympathy over the failings of a brother.

At a different level, Masonry is a means of self improvement. Most of us are orators, and all will remember the trepidation when we raised our voices at instruction. To learn to speak so that we are heard, to think on our feet, and not be paralyzed by nerves when called upon to say a few words is surely a worthwhile use of time.

Finally, all men need relaxation and social life. Why did Masonry prosper in the fifties and sixties? Surely because men enjoyed their Masonry, and spoke enthusiastically about it so others wanted to join. Let us bring the fun back into Masonry. Let us enjoy the present time, without looking over our shoulders at a vanished past, or dreading a future which may never come. If we learn to make our gatherings pleasant and enjoyable social occasions, which we remember and talk about with pleasure, it is just possible that the world will once more seek to join us, **because it is a good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity.**

*Author unknown*

## DIVINE SERVICES



Sunday, April 19, 2020

Niagara "A" and "B"

Annual District Divine Service  
Royal Canadian Legion  
John St., Niagara on the Lake  
10:00 am

Regalia to be worn

Bro. Sheldon M. Kofsky, WMWM  
*This is a combined service with the  
Royal Canadian Legion*

Family and friends are welcomed  
To attend

Sunday, June 9, 2020

Garden City Lodge No. 616 along with  
Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745  
Divine Service

St. Thomas Anglican Church  
99 Church St., St. Catharines  
10:00 am

Regalia to be worn

Bro. Kevin Bothwell presiding  
Family and friends welcomed

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***Are we in Niagara "A" District  
focusing our efforts and achieving success in  
each of the four basic functions of Masonry?  
My answer is YES, we are, and we should be  
very proud of it! Could we do more---most  
certainly! But let's not hide our candle  
behind or under a bushel basket...Let it  
shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

## LODGE OF INSTRUCTION



Niagara "A" and "B" Districts  
Saturday, February 8, 2020  
St. Catharines Masonic Building  
23 Center Street

8:00am...Registration/Meet and Greet

9:00 am...Lodge of Instruction with  
Question and Answer time

Review of the three Degrees

Review of the Memorial Service

Mock Memorial Service conducted

Lunch to follow

Dress Code is Smart Casual





Chuck Cossette photo

On Thursday, January 2, 2020 the brethren from Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745 attended the regular meeting of Adanac Lodge No. 614 to take part and extend best wishes to VW Bro. George Dauphney on achieving fifty years of membership in Masonry. Family members and friends of VW Bro. Dauphney were also in attendance for the presentation of his fifty-year members pin. Congratulations George.



Chuck Cossette photo



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