

St. Catharines, Ontario

The

Brock Broadcaster



A newsletter for the Brethren of Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745, Niagara "A" District, All Members of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and Beyond.

April 2021

VISITING AND FRIENDSHIP

In 1987, RW Bro. Robert W McGilvray (aka Bert), had a vision to encourage Entered Apprentice Masons to visit another Lodge as soon as possible following their initiation. Thus, he came up with the idea of the "Traveling Trowel", to be delivered by an Entered Apprentice and a senior Lodge officer to another Lodge in the district that was conducting a first degree at their meeting.



Again in 2001, RW Bro. Floyd G Brooks and VW Bro. Dan Vernal, in an effort to promote

visitation by Lodges at Official Visits, established an "Accompanying Lodge" schedule which is still in use to this day. Obviously, Mountain Lodge No. 221 has always been a Lodge keen on visiting and creating lasting friendships.

The secret of visiting is vaguely understood as a mythical, magical bond of friendship and fraternity binding the family of Masons together by invisible and powerful chains. Because Masons do not assemble out of necessity or fear, the strange, subtle alchemy is hard to comprehend. Visitors are at the heart of Masonry; many arrive as strangers but leave as friends. At the time speculative Masonry assumed predominance, visiting became philosophical and social in nature and an exchange of ideas and information rather than for any immediate practical reason. Such words and phrases, therefore, as friendship, good will, kindness, profit and pleasure, to be happy ourselves, and to communicate happiness leap from the pages of Masonic ritual and literature. The frequent repetition of such words and phrases opens up the danger of forgetting their intrinsic meaning. But, at many Masonic meetings, visitors have sensed those words come vividly to life when they have been greeted by a warm smile and the open hand of friendship.

Fraternity or friendship is the mortar that unites all Masonic activities and transforms work into pleasure. This is not merely superficial, but a genuine and sharing unity of loyal companions. There is no law that prevents a Lodge from failing, there is no fairy godmother to wave a wand and solve the Craft's problems. **It is the efforts of its members working in harmony and with fraternity that gets things done.**

Masonry is a philosophy of self improvement. The tools of the Mason's trade symbolize moral and ethical behaviour and a man's relationship to his fellow creatures. Masonry requires a member to use those tools to perfect his inner spirit and to convey that

beauty to others by example. This cannot be done in an atmosphere of enmity or antagonism. It is fostered simply by the aura of friendship, of companionship and of working together towards a goal.

If fraternity falters, Masonry is in danger of forgetting its roots. When a member of advanced age can be suspended of an inability to continue his dues, Masonry has lost its sense of direction and lost most of its idea of friendship and brotherly love. Under these conditions' members become like wanderers in the desert who have lost sight of their destination and who, in panic, choose any path regardless of its direction.

A candidate is at first sight a wonder to behold, someone to be guided and to be friends with. Some members consider the Master Mason's degree to be the pinnacle of a candidate's Masonic life and consequently overlook his future needs. Teaching and learning however must continue as a joint effort; members work, they learn, they understand Masonry and they share the beauty of Masonic knowledge with others. Masonry is in danger of becoming extinct, if members cannot do this, because only things which deserve to live, will live. Members must welcome debate, be open to fresh ideas, practice what they preach and tell people they care. All this is accomplished by the cardinal virtue which is at the sole of Masonry, friendship. This is the friendship of fraternal association, the friendship of brotherly love, relief and truth, which is never envious, never jealous, but is steady and reliable. It is the friendship that rejoices at another's success and responds with sympathy to another's defeat. It is difficult to accomplish anything when members are at odds with each other.

Masons are practical, sensible and intelligent men able to plan and think for themselves. If, however, this was incorrect, Masonry would be a moribund organization. Even though several grey areas of self-imposed tradition and the "we've never done it that way

before" syndrome still exists, the vitality of Masonry shines through and puts such thoughts to flight. There is a wonderful activity in Masonry. One can feel the pulse of Masonry quickening, feel the exhilaration and enthusiasm and the steady beating of the Masonic heart. Without any words a special bond exists between one Mason and another. As members they believe in the same things, charity, freedom, compassion, justice, co-operation, tolerance and a myriad of other truths. This is all observed in Masonic gatherings when friendship is seen in its most brilliant and vibrant colors. Those who do not visit do not experience the mythical warmth of the Masonic fraternity. The friendship exhibited by Masons is not to be restricted to Masonry but taken into the community in order to share the Masonic sense of purpose, sense of unity and sense of morality. The same friendship must include the family to allow them to be a part of the Masonic team and enjoy the magic, beauty and fragile loveliness of Masonry. For friendship to flourish, the challenge for each Mason is to be a friend and try Masonry.

And finally, in his May 2000 message, MW Bro. Robert J McKibbin was appreciative of reading the monthly summons from Mountain Lodge.

"This month I received "A Lesson in Life" from the summons of Mountain Lodge No. 221 located in St. Catharines. I am not sure who wrote this message originally, but I thank the author and those who forwarded the same. The instruction is appreciated and hopefully will be assimilated in my life. I hope you will appreciate it also."

A LESSON IN LIFE

I've learned that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

I've learned that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I've learned that true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distances. Same goes for true love. I've learned that just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

I've learned that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and less to do with how many birthdays you have celebrated.

I've learned that some members of your family may not always be there for you. It may seem funny but people you aren't related to can take care of you and love you and teach you to trust again. Families aren't biological.

I've learned that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while, and you must forgive them for that.

I've learned that it isn't enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you are to learn to forgive yourself.

Thank you, Worshipful Master for the opportunity to speak openly and thank you Brethren for your time and attention this evening. Take care.

A talk given by RW Bro. Edward F Dunsmore on the occasion of his Official Visit to Mountain Lodge No. 221 on Thursday, February 21, 2019.

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"Through Freemasonry, however, I have had opportunity to break bread with good men of other than my own Christian faith. Freemasonry does not promote any one religious' creed. All Masons believe in the Deity without reservation. However, Masonry makes no demands as to how a member thinks of the Great Architect of the Universe. Freemasonry is, for all of its members, a supplement to good living that has enhanced the lives of millions who have entered its doors. Though it is not a religion, as such, it supplements faith in God the Creator. It is supporting of morality and virtue".

Bro. Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)

WILLIAM D FAIRBROTHER INVENTOR OF THE HOCKEY NET... AND A MASON

William D Fairbrother of Beamsville is known to have invented the first hockey net.



Culture Lincoln photo

Prior to his invention, each team would set up poles in the goal area of the rink. An official would have to watch to make sure that the puck went between the poles, often resulting in fights when the official's honesty was called into question.

Fairbrother was a goaltender in the late 1880's for Beamsville in the old Southern Ontario Hockey Association. Tired of fighting, he combined metal frames made by William Vosburgh, a blacksmith, and strung up fisherman's (Aaron Grubb) net between two posts, taking the question out of the accuracy of the goal. Players were immediately more satisfied with the new system. This idea was soon adopted by the Association and has been a part of hockey history since. The Ontario Hockey Association soon thereafter credited Fairbrother with the idea. Hockey Hall of Fame records indicate that Fairbrother's idea happened in 1897 or 1898. In February 1997, the Town of Lincoln designated Fairbrother's home a historical site. His moment of invention changed the course of the sport.

William Fairbrother became Clerk for the Village of Beamsville from 1914-1931 and Treasurer from 1922-1931 whereupon he

resigned from both positions to become the Lincoln County Registrar until his retirement in 1949.

William D Fairbrother was initiated into Masonry at Ivy Lodge No. 115 on February 10, 1903. He was the Worshipful Master for two consecutive terms in 1907 and 1908. He was the Lodge Secretary for thirty consecutive years from 1914-1943. In 1911 he was appointed Grand Sword Bearer and in 1940 was elected District Deputy Grand Master.

Fairbrother took an active part in public affairs but his first love was Ivy Lodge in particular, and Masonry in general. This is illustrated to some extent by the word "FINIS", in large letters at the conclusion of his final minutes December 7, 1943. The esteem in which he was held in Ivy Lodge and throughout the Masonic District is reflected in the attendance at his Official Visit to Ivy Lodge as DDGM. A footnote to the minutes of that meeting is the best testimonial. ***"This was the largest gathering ever held in Ivy Lodge. The Lodge room would not hold all the brethren at one time, members had to go out so others could get in. There must have been nearly fifty Past Grand Lodge officers in Gold Lace present. Estimated at least three hundred in attendance"***.

Ill health prevented RW Bro. Fairbrother from attending Lodge in his later years. It was, however, made possible for him to attend Lodge to receive his fifty-year jewel. On March 3, 1953 the Grand Secretary, RW Bro. EG Dixon, attended and presented him with his veteran's jewel. On January 2, 1956, RW Bro. Fairbrother was named an honorary member of Ivy Lodge in recognition of the valuable service he had rendered.

RW Bro. Fairbrother passed to the Grand lodge Above on November 11, 1956 in his eighty-third year.



Culture Lincoln photo

The Masonic Memorial Service was held November 12, 1956. The closing note in the minutes are *"May his memory ever remain fresh in our hearts"*.

<https://Lincoln.ca/heritage-culture>

Historical Notes of Ivy Lodge No. 115AF &AM 1859-1959 - page 10

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PROPER REFERENCE TO THE GRAND MASTER

When the Grand Master is to be presented in Lodge or introduced at a Masonic function (including virtual meetings), special protocol applies. His full title should be used, as he is the chief head and ruler of our institution, i.e.:

"Most Worshipful Brother David J Cameron, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario".

Please note that during a personal conversation with the Grand Master, proper protocol requires that you address him by his rank, (e.g., "Good evening Grand Master", or "Hello, Grand Master") and NEVER just by his first name.

Even during a private conversation, when no one else is present to overhear you, this protocol should continue to be observed.

Protocol & Etiquette Essentials – Issue 4 (update)

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VW Bro. David Kemp, Union Lodge No. 7, sent me this photo of the banner that was made for the Lodge's bi-centennial in 1999.



The banner was made by Alfreda (Bingle) Jefferies and her husband, Stuart. Ms. Jefferies was the great, great, great grand daughter of Maria Waddell Bingle, the second wife of Colonel Robert Nelles. Robert was the second son of Henry William Nelles. Nelles Sr. is believed to have been the first Mason to be initiated in Upper Canada in 1780. A story of the Nelles family and their affiliation to the Niagara area appeared in the December 2020 edition. Thank you for sharing.



Following an article in the February 2021 edition regarding the symbolism of the Tyler's sword, Bro. Danny MacLaughlin, Corinthian Lodge No. 101, sent me these pictures of his own personal Tyler's sword. It was gifted to him from a friend who purchased it while in England. One has to appreciate the time and labour put into the design, detail and craftsmanship of the hilts. Thank you for sharing.



The Grand Lodge Education Committee Presents:



MASONIC CIVILITY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Presented By:
M.W. Russ Charvonja, P. G. M. of the
Grand Lodge of California



**April 10th, 2021
7 pm EST**

To RSVP please contact
glcpoomasoniced@gmail.com

RITUAL...

EDUCATION...

MENTORING

Before we proceed with plans for the future...

We must first understand, learn and appreciate from events of the past.

NIAGARA MAROONS... MASONIC AMBASSADORS ON ICE

*By W Bro. Mark Anderson McGaw
Social and Public Relations Director-Niagara Maroons*

On December 14, 2014, the Niagara 'A' Maroons played their first home game against an Allstar team of Hamilton District players. While the record may show the visiting team victorious, it was the home team that stole the hearts of all those in attendance that night. Their "never quit" dedication to laughing and enjoying themselves has been evident ever since.

But to truly understand the Maroons you have to travel to a pub in Boston the previous year and a meeting between Bro. Mark McGaw, St. George's 15 and Bro. Jay Johnston of Mount Lebanon Lodge. During this casual encounter it was agreed upon that a friendly hockey match would commence within the next Masonic year with the Lodges of Boston proper hosting the visiting Niagara A District team.

When Bro. McGaw arrived back in Canada, he realized he would need help on two fronts. The first order of business was to ensure that all rules and regulations with regards to Grand Lodge were followed. For this matter he entrusted RW Bro. David E Gillis, who just so happened to be the DDGM of Niagara A. Later on, Gillis would join RW Bro. Joseph Zoccoli as the team coaches. The second order of business was to find help organizing the hockey program. For this he turned to former Grimsby Peach Kings powerhouse, Bro. Kevin Haner of Ivy Lodge 115.

With the Maroons management team settled it was time to find a local club to play before they traveled the I-90 East. With the help of W Bro. Matt Taggart, Union Lodge 7, an all-star team of Hamilton District players was quickly organized, and a date was set for the first game ever between the two clubs. While Hamilton was awarded with the win, it was evident there was something bigger than the game set in motion for Niagara.

With over sixty fans in the stands that night, it was decided it would be appropriate to invite any Brother who wished to travel with the team to Massachusetts. It was a pleasant surprise when ten Brethren joined the team to fill the bus.



The trip to Boston started out a bit rocky with the bus heating system failing. Not ideal for a February road trip to the New England seaboard during a blizzard. But everyone settled in and made the most of the bus trip watching several movies that would become the staple for all future road games: Goon, Slap Shot and one about a saddle that was blazing!

Upon arriving in Boston, the team checked into the hotel and headed straight to the host Lodge stated meeting. They were treated like kings and a special festive board was organized after the meeting. The following day the brethren visited several historical sites, such as the Bull and Finch Pub (Cheers), Faneuil Hall and the Boston Commons. However, the highlight was yet to come, with a personal tour of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Later that night a very tired team took to the ice at Agganis Arena, home of Boston University.

While chapters could be written about the adventures of the Maroons, this author is forced to only highlight several due to space. The team traveled to Sudbury, Ontario the following year and lost to an extraordinarily strong Northern Ontario team. However, it was more shocking that no one was seriously hurt trying to climb the rock face at the Big Nickel for a photo opportunity.



Then in 2016, the team traveled to Montreal where the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, MW Bro. James Ross, greeted us on the level after being piped in.



MW Bro. James Ross, GM, GLQ and Bro. Marc David, Grand Director of Ceremonies. MW Bro. David is the current GM of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

The most recent road trip was to Philadelphia, PA, where the team received a police escort from the city limit to the Lodge. It was also the first time an extra day was added so the Brethren could explore the area in more depth. This game almost did not happen due to a storm that knocked out power for more than eight hours.



Observing the playing of the National Anthems in Philadelphia, PA.

The District has hosted Masonic teams from Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal. The latter bringing former NHL Bro. George Laraque. These home and away games are not just about hockey, but about giving the Brethren a unique way to meet others from various Districts. In most cases, the hockey is secondary to the interaction before and after the games. Be it a Lodge meeting, Festive Board or a “quiet” pint and conversation at a local establishment.

The team continues to be open to all Brethren from Niagara ‘A’ District and on occasion they have been blessed with visitors from other Districts when they scrimmage at their home rink at Ridley College. The skill and age vary greatly, but what is constant is the respect for one another and the stories that come from their shared experiences.

Prior to the pandemic the team along with their fans were scheduled to travel to Detroit/Windsor for a weekend. Other future plans in the works include Kingston, ON and Washington, DC. There has also been a movement to form a more competitive team to enter in local senior men’s tournaments.

It should also be noted that as of last year, every Lodge in the District was represented on the team and/or fan club and the team has been showcased locally by playing an annual match against the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. Another fun, and not to be overlooked function of the team, is the Annual Family Skate prior to the final game of the season.



This event allows the District to bring family and friends out for an hour skate followed by hot chocolate and Timbits at no cost to the District.

And who won that famous game in Boston? It was a well fought out draw between two great Masonic clubs, 4-4.

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WHATEVER ROUTE YOUR TRAVELS
TAKE YOU...
YOU ARE NEVER FAR FROM
THE SQUARE AND THE COMPASSES



Centre and Metcalf Street, Oshawa



Dundas and Brock Street, Woodstock



Highway 21, Ravenwood



Old Brock Road, Claremount



Durham Concession 12, Cannington

Do hope you enjoyed the read. Take care and stay safe.

RW Bro. Edward J Dunsmore...aka "Ted"

