



Perfection News

A publication of Perfection Lodge A F & A M No. 616

Volume 1, Issue 1, July 2013

Editor's Note

This is the first newsletter of Perfection Lodge No. 616 A.F. & A.M. I hope it will not be the last. Currently I plan on producing 3 newsletters for the first year hopefully progressing to quarterly and so on.

To do this I need your support. I will be looking for items and news stories to publish. These items can be upcoming events, stories, newsworthy items, recipes, masonic education and so on.

Grand Lodge Embraces Technology

Quietly, without fanfare, the Grand Lodge website rolled out its own version of social networking on July 11, 2013. It works much like the familiar 'facebook' but is restricted to masons.

Log in to the Grand Lodge website using your GL certificate number and password and then click on "My Grand Lodge". You can then create and edit your profile and interact with other masons across the Province.

There are discussion groups set up on a variety of subjects of interest to masons and while many of them are 'private' it is a simple matter to join the group. For example, the Reflections Newsletter Group is private but you simple have to request to join and you are accepted within a few minutes.



SPOTLIGHT on ...



W. Bro. Mark Molnar

Mark told the editor that he was born at a very young age and hasn't been the same since.

During high school he joined the Army Cadets and later the Reserves in the Lincoln & Welland Regiment. At the ripe old age of 18 he joined the Navy and moved to Halifax.

After leaving the Navy, Mark obtained a 1-year contract with a government works project that gave him a good foundation in computer repair and enabled him to move on to various retail, direct sales and retail management jobs. At the same time he started acting with some amateur productions and caught the acting bug. He decided to go to Brock University with an eye on a degree in Theatre Arts.

In his third year he realized that he had a choice to make – finish school or pay the rent. He started driving taxi at night and going to school during the day, and quickly realized that that wouldn't work, so he left Brock and drove cab full time.

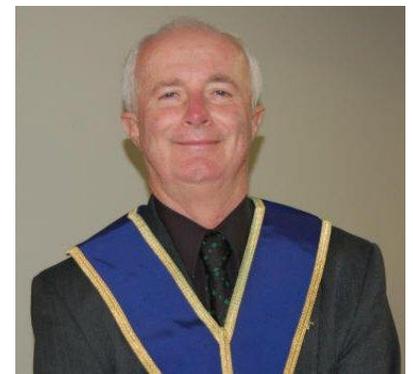
A few years later, he started working for a call centre downtown and became a supervisor. In 2004 the company began the first of many downsizings and he found himself back to driving cab and

acting. That same year he also became the Town Crier for the City of St. Catharines.

In 2007 he realized that so many of my friends were Masons, as were his grandfather and father, and he decided to look into masonry. He joined Perfection Lodge in September of that year and in 2008 his life became complete when he married Margaret.

He became Worshipful Master of Perfection Lodge in May 2013.

Introducing Our New DDGM



R.W. Bro. David Gillis
(St. George's No. 15)

The Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of Perfection Lodge congratulate R.W. Bro. David Gillis on his appointment as District Deputy Grand Master Niagara A District.

R.W. Bro. Dave Gillis was born in Windsor, Ontario on April 5, 1952. Raised in Amherstburg Ontario, Dave attended General Amherst High school and only had to look next door to meet the girl of his dreams. Dave and Sheila have two sons, Edward in New Westminster BC and Stephen in St

MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER No. 19

**Oktoberfest Dinner
Saturday, October 5, 2013
(see over for details)**

Catharines. Forty (40) years later their family has grown to include two beautiful Daughter-in-Laws and four grandchildren who bring them much joy.

A graduate of St Clair College as an Architectural Technologist, Dave worked for architects in Toronto and St Catharines and has had a hand in many award winning buildings in both cities. In 1981 Dave joined The Niagara Parks Commissions' Engineering Department where he studied during off hours to obtain his university equivalency and subsequently his professional planners designation. He continues to be employed by the NPC as their Senior Manager of Planning and Properties.

Dave was initiated into St George's Lodge A.F. & A.M No. 15 G.R.C. on April 27, 1993 under the watchful eye of Worshipful Master; R.W. Bro. Norm Rattew, his father in law. He was installed as Worshipful Master of St George's Lodge No. 15 in 1999 / 2000 and served a second term 2000 / 2001. Dave served as District Secretary in 2003 / 2004 and was awarded the title of Grand Steward in 2004. He served as Lodge secretary for six Masters between 2004 -2010. Dave is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, member of the Lodge of Perfection, Niagara Falls, Rose Croix and Moore Sovereign Consistory in Hamilton. In 2011 Dave was elected as President of the St Catharines and District Shrine Club.

Right Worshipful Brother Gillis wishes to express his thanks and gratitude to the Brethren of Niagara 'A' District and especially to St George's No. 15, for their support and confidence placed in him to serve as representative of the Grand Master of Canada in the Province of Ontario during St George's milestone, 200th anniversary.

He has appointed W. Bro. Richard Green as the District Secretary. Richard is a Past Master of St. George's Lodge and is well known throughout the District.

Editor's Note: St. George's Lodge No.15 celebrates its 200th. Anniversary

next year and I am advised by the District Secretary that there are many celebratory plans underway...stay tuned. Further I apologize that I did not have a photo of R.W. Bro. David Gillis with his correct collar.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER

Currently the arbitrary name of our newsletter is 'Perfection News' but I am sure there are more creative minds out there, so submit your choice of name for our publication and the members will vote for the winning name. If the name you selected is the winner and you were first to submit the name, you will receive a new copy of **"Meeting The Challenge"** donated by W. Bro. Mark Molnar.

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS IN NIAGARA A DISTRICT

Congratulations are heartily extended to V. W. Bro. Chris Wojtowicz on his Grand Lodge appointment as Grand Steward. He is a Past Master of Dufferin Lodge No. 338 and was the District Secretary for Niagara A District, a function he performed with excellence, and he has been a frequent visitor to our lodge.

Also to V. W. Bro. J. Jerome Boucher of Seymour Lodge No. 277 on his appointment as Grand Steward.



Members will recall that at a meeting earlier this year we decided to embark on the Grand Lodge program

known as "Cornerstone". In a thousand words or less, this is a form of accreditation where our Lodge meets specific operational standards for it to be known as a "Cornerstone Lodge". Within Niagara "A" District, Dufferin Lodge No. 338, under the stewardship of V.W. Bro. Chris Wojtowicz who was Worshipful Master at the time, became the first Lodge in our District to attain this recognition. Ivy Lodge No. 115 also has begun the process.

Our involvement in this project requires us to meet 1 of 3 MANDATORY standards, 5 of 11 MAJOR standards and 6 of 12 BASIC standards. As a consequence, this year will be a year of firsts for our Lodge as we initiate programs and/or activities to meet these required standards.

The first 'first' so to speak is this newsletter. Mandatory Standard #5 requires that our Lodge produce a minimum of 3 newsletters that are distributed to the entire membership.

The second 'first' will be a Christmas Dinner. In the past we have recognized widows of those members who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above by visiting them at Christmas with a fruit cake purchased by the Lodge. This year we will be recognizing them by holding a Christmas Dinner and inviting the widows to attend. You and your families will also be invited. This helps us comply with Basic Standard #2.

Later in the year we will be asking members and their families to join us in a visit to St. Thomas Anglican Church on Ontario St. St. Catharines for Sunday Worship. Canon Bro. Kevin Bothwell, a Perfection Lodge member, is the presiding Minister and he will provide us with a date (probably in September). It is anticipated that we will meet socially for coffee briefly following the service. More details will follow. This is the third 'first' and helps us comply with Basic Standard #7.

There will be many other firsts and we will keep you informed as plans develop.

The Officers and Members of Mount Moriah Chapter No. 19 of the Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario, invite you and your families to an



Dinner

Saturday, October 5, 2013

At the Doric Club, 8 Secord Drive,

St. Catharines,

6:00 pm. To ???.

Featuring the "Bavarian Dance Group" of Club Heidelberg.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person and are available from V. W. Bro. Larry Penton (905-937-5497) and W. Bro. Mike Locke (905-646-4789). There are only 120 tickets available, so get yours early to avoid disappointment.



MASONIC EDUCATION

At the Regular Meeting of Ivy Lodge No. 115 on October 1, 2013, the Grand Senior Warden, R. W. Bro. Dale Graham will present a reading of the Antient Charges, which is done by Candlelight. Brethren who have previously witnessed this, report that this presentation is like travelling back in time. W. Bro. Locke will be going to this meeting so if you would like to go and you need a ride please contact him at 905-646-4789.

If someone asks you how they can become a mason, do you know how to respond?

Information for those who are considering Masonry is readily available on various websites; The Grand Lodge website at <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca> and at the District website <http://www.niagaramasons.com> you will find a logo like this:



Simply click on the logo on the District web site to get more information. As well there are two pamphlets available published by Grand Lodge titled "Have You Ever Considered Becoming a Mason?" and "Freemasonry – Is It For Me?". Both of these pamphlets are available from the Secretary.

COLLEGE of FREEMASONRY

Niagara A District boasts one of the largest contingent of students per district. In our Lodge, W. Bro. Michael Locke became the first of our members to complete the full Arts and Science curriculum and W. Bro. Mark Molnar became the first to complete the Worshipful Masters curriculum in its new format. Mark is now continuing on to complete the full Arts and Science curriculum. There is also a Past Masters component to the courses and as a result of changes to the Constitution, Grand Lodge requires that all brethren nominated to District Deputy Grand Master must have successfully completed the Past Masters Course.

The College of Freemasonry provides the Arts and Science curriculum in modular format (17 in total) at a cost of \$10.00 each or \$135.00 for all 17. This allows you to take the courses individually and on your own schedule and you will not pay more than \$135.00.

In our District, monthly study group meetings are held at Ivy Lodge in Beamsville moderated by Bro. Mark Kapitan. Bro. Kapitan is not only a graduate of the Arts & Science course but is also the Mentor Coordinator for the College of Freemasonry. The study group allows students to discuss the modules and exchange thoughts and ideas. The purpose of the course is to expand your masonic education through an understanding of the symbols and

allegory. In this manner you expand your understanding of yourself.

More information about the courses can be found on the Grand Lodge website or by contacting Mike Locke, Mark Molnar or Mark Kapitan.



1407...

...that's the number of years of collective masonic service in Perfection Lodge. These past few months six new members have commenced their masonic journey and it is incumbent on all to help these new mason's and ensure that they have an enriching experience and that we do not lose anybody along the way.

This amount of experience within our Lodge also brings to light another upcoming special meeting in the very near future. We have three members in our Lodge who have or will reach milestones in the Masonic Service.

Bro. Harry Artinian (also known as Sergeant Harry of Traffic Safety) has been a Mason for 50 years this year. His anniversary in masonry is shared with Bro. Sidney Todd who celebrates 60 years as a Mason and by Bro. Robert Bell celebrating his 70th. year as a Mason.

Keep reading your Lodge summons for details about a special night later this masonic year when we officially recognize these fine brethren.

THE FESTIVE BOARD

The festive board is the responsibility of the Junior Warden who oversees the provision of refreshments following our meetings. The Senior & Junior Stewards are to assist him, and as is often the case some wives come

out to each meeting to assist with the social hour.

Depending on the event, refreshments consist of hot and cold snacks right up to full meals. As can be appreciated this results in a lot of work being performed by the same few individuals each and every month.

These meals have to be prepared and cooked in advance by two or three of our wives as the cost of outside catering is too prohibitive for our Lodge to sustain.

This year we are going to try something new by asking our members to help out with some of the side dishes and accompaniments. The first test of this will be for the September meeting which is when the D.D.G.M. and his team make their official visit to our lodge. The Junior Warden has a lot of responsibility that night and by others looking after the meal he can concentrate on his other duty of overseeing the formal aspects of the refreshment hour.

In the near future the secretary will be sending out a list of items required which we are hopeful will be met with enthusiasm and support by the membership. A few of the member's wives are often seen at our meetings and we owe them our thanks for stepping up. I am talking of ladies like Anne, Deanna, Donna and Evelyn, one or more of whom were out at every meeting last year. Ladies we thank you.



About the Shriners

Shriners International is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, truth and relief.

Throughout history both the Freemasons and Shriners have had a

reputation for secrecy, but their mission is straightforward. Shriners are committed to:

- Being the premier fraternal organization for men of good character.
- Providing attractive, quality programs and services for its members, their families and their friends in a spirit of fun, fellowship and social camaraderie.
- Fostering self-improvement through leadership, education, the perpetuation of moral values and community involvement.
- Serving mankind through the resources of its philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children®.



Within Perfection Lodge we have several members of the Shrine including none other than R. W. Bro. George Mitchell who is the Past Imperial Potentate of Shriners International.

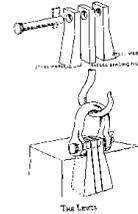
Have you thought about joining this fine fraternity that is known throughout the world for its Hospitals for Children? It used to be that you had to be a 32^o Mason to join. Now the Shrine is open to all Master Masons. The ceremony of initiation is held twice a year, spring and fall, at various locations throughout Ontario. The next ceremonial is in Toronto on November 16th. 2013.

Need more information? Please talk to R. W. Bro. George Mitchell or other Shriner in our lodge (There are many, so please contact the secretary for their names).

MASONIC TRIVIA

Q: What is a Lewis

A: In stonemasonry, a lewis is an iron cramp that is forced into a cavity of a stone to enable the lifting or lowering of that stone.



In freemasonry the Lewis Jewel is a pendant jewel commemorative of the strength of the Masonic bond between a father and son. The

father's name and date of initiation is engraved on the top-bar and the son's on the bottom. The father must be in good standing when the son is initiated.



Talk to R. W. Bro. Greavette who has a Lewis tool which he will be pleased to demonstrate. We have several members who wear their Lewis Jewels with pride.

Editor's Note: Send in your questions and we will publish the answer in future newsletters as a regular feature. Your name will not be used.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Success of this newsletter requires submissions. (I cannot provide all of the material). More submissions from more members means that we can publish a wide range of interests and points of view for all to enjoy. If you have an idea for a column or an article or event please e-mail it to the Editor at mjlocke@cogeco.ca with "Newsletter Submission" in the subject line.