

# Hiram's Lighthouse

PROVIDING MASONIC LIGHT FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT  
(Grand Lodge Merit Award Winner for District Newsletter – 2008)

Grand Lodge Website: - [www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm)  
Lodges of the Greater Toronto Area: - [www.gtamasons.ca](http://www.gtamasons.ca)  
Toronto East District: - [www.torontoeastdistrict.com](http://www.torontoeastdistrict.com)  
D.D.G.M.: R.W. Bro. Dushan Surovy: - [dushan\\_surovy@hotmail.com](mailto:dushan_surovy@hotmail.com)  
District Secretary: W. Bro. Ron Scott: - [r.on.scott@sympatico.ca](mailto:r.on.scott@sympatico.ca)

December 1, 2008

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## *A CHARGE AT THE CLOSING OF A LODGE*

*Brethren, you are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated, and forcibly recommended in this Lodge. Be therefore, diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. And*



*around this solemnly*

*remember also, that altar you have and repeatedly unhesitating every Brother who promised to remind failings, and aid his wrongfully candid, favourable, conduct is justly*

*promised to befriend and relieve, with cordiality, so far as shall be in your power, shall need your assistance: That you have him, in the most tender manner, of his reformation: To vindicate his character when traduced; and to suggest in his behalf the most and palliating circumstances, even when his reprehended. That the world may observe how*

*Masons love one another.*

*And these generous principles are to extend farther. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. So that we enjoin it upon you to “to do good unto all”, while we recommend it more “especially to the household of the faithful”.*

*By diligence in the duties of your respective callings, by liberal benevolence, and diffusive charity, by constancy and fidelity in your friendships, by uniformly just, amiable, and virtuous deportment, discover the beneficial and happy effects of this ancient and honourable institution.*



*Let it not be supposed that you have here “Laboured in vain, and spent your strength for naught; for your work is with the Lord, and your recompense with your God.” (Isaiah 49:4)*

*Finally, Brethren, be ye all of one mind, live in peace, and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with, and to bless you.*

*- Bro. Thaddeus Mason Harris (1768-1842)*

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*From the desk of the D.D.G.M.,*

Brethren,

The year 2008 is almost in our history books. Our first snowfall quickly reminded us of winter fast approaching and with it, of course, our festive season, Christmas and a New Year. Even though our economy looks bleak, our 2009 Masonic year looks very promising. Lodges are enjoying an abundance of applications and some have made remarkable turn-around. We see less and less Past Masters in the Principal Chairs, a great indication of what is to come. Although my tenure as a DDGM has been relatively short thus far, I would like to share with you some of my observations.

It is apparent that Strong Lodges are the ones with many Social and Family functions. It is important that our family members feel as being part of our Masonic life, where our spouses interact with each other and look forward to each next gathering.

I would think that Officers in such a Lodge would encounter much less roadblocks in their Masonic career.

I would also like to stress the importance of Visitation by Senior Officers of the Lodges as it will help them tremendously at their own Installation or Investiture and to pay attention to detail how things are or should be done, as they will find themselves in that very scenario soon enough.



Presentation of Apron and the Gavel to Master-Elect, Motions by the Wardens for Work well done by the Installing Master and the Board, W. Masters own comments, Presentation of Past Master Jewel, order of Recognitions, and for the Out-going Master, the Reception of Grand Lodge Officers and Visitors. It helps seeing it done several times in other Lodges. Each Officer Coaching the Officer behind him is also very important and beneficial.

We see only a small number of Wardens travelling on regular bases, mostly the same ones. I think that Bros. Walter Drane and Wayne Nicholson have not missed one function and I congratulate them.

Our District recently hosted a Grand Lodge Workshop on Lodge Resources that covered every possible aspect of Lodge Management. Those present will agree with me that it was an excellent presentation on every important topic. A Lodge Resource Manual was distributed to all participating Lodges, however only 10 Lodges out of 21 were represented. Ones that need the implementation of those programs the most were missing.



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Blood Donor Clinic at St. Aidan's Church was again a success. We had 12 volunteers helping out and I thank each and every one. I would also like to report that our Co-chairman W. Bro. Doug Grey and R.W. Bro. Elroy MacKinnon were able to set up a new location in partnership with Canadian Blood Services at Ajax Masonic Temple (Doric). The first of four Clinics at that location is set up for Jan 13, 2009.

Being a Pickering location, it will give all those brethren in the area to take part in volunteering and donations as well. We now have our own Donation Number and all family members and friends donating blood will count as from our District.

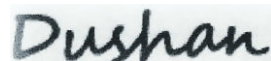
I would also encourage Brethren to participate in 2 upcoming events, the Computer Resources Workshop on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, in Scarborough Masonic Temple for Lodge Secretaries and any Brother interested or considering that Office.

The Habitat for Humanity Build Day is set for Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in taking part or sponsoring ones that do, please contact Bro. Royce Baker at 905.420.0081. Our goal is to raise at least \$1,500.00 as a District for this worthy cause.

This December we have five Installations coming up. Westhill - Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>; Scarboro - Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> (6:00pm banquet); Birch Cliff - Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> (Grand Master attending); Cathedral - Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>; and Doric Lodge - Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope for good attendance at them all.

Finally my Brethren on behalf of our District Secretary W. Bro. Ron Scott and our families we thank you for all courtesies extended to us thus far and wish you a very enjoyable Festive Season, Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,



R.W. Bro. Dushan Surovy  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Toronto East District

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## TORONTO EAST DISTRICT EVENTS:

### December

Wednesday December 3, 2008

West Hill Lodge - **Installation**  
Visitors by 8 pm  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday December 6, 2008

Toronto East District - **Lodge Secretary and  
Computer Resources Seminars**  
Commencing at 9:00 am  
See notice below  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Monday December 8, 2008

Scarboro Lodge - **Installation**  
Visitors by 7:30 pm ←  
See notice below  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Tuesday December 9, 2008

**Masons Habitat for Humanity Day**  
See notice below  
Eastern Scarborough



Friday December 12, 2008

Birch Cliff Lodge - **Installation**  
Grand Master in attendance  
Visitors by 8 pm  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday December 13, 2008

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Masonic Toy Drive - Santa Arrives**  
See notice below  
Rameses Shrine Temple

Wednesday December 17, 2008

Cathedral Lodge – **Installation** – (Rescheduled)  
Banquet - 6:00 pm ←  
Visitors by 8 pm  
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Thursday December 18, 2008

Doric Lodge - **Installation**  
Visitors by 8 pm  
Ajax Masonic Temple

### January

Tuesday January 1, 2009

**New Year's Day**  
Be careful out there!  
The new year is a chance for a  
fresh start. See if you can do better  
this time!



Tuesday January 13, 2009

Toronto East District – **Blood Donor Clinic**  
See notice below  
Ajax Masonic Temple

Wednesday January 14, 2009

Friendship Lodge – **Installation**  
Visitors - 8:00 pm  
Doric Masonic Temple

Friday January 23, 2009

Toronto East District – **Blood Donor Clinic**  
See notice below  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church

Saturday January 24, 2009

The Heritage Lodge – **Black Tie Banquet**  
See notice below.  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Wednesday January 28, 2009

Doric Lodge – **Class Act Dinner Theatre**  
See notice below.  
Class Act Dinner Theatre



Sunday December 21, 2008  
**First Day of Winter**  
Winter Solstice

BRRRRrrrrr!



Sunday December 21, 2008  
**Hanukkah**

Our Jewish brethren start celebrating their 8-day Festival of Lights.



Thursday December 25, 2008

**Christmas Day** for our Christian brethren  
Have YOU got YOUR Christmas shopping done yet?



Have a **VERY MERRY!**

Saturday December 27, 2008

**St. John the Evangelist Day**

One of the two Holy Sts. John who were the original patron saints of Freemasonry and who are represented in much lodge symbolism.



## AROUND AND ABOUT:

### Toronto East District Charities

#### **Honouring Our Own**

The Widows and Senior Members of our fraternity who are unable to participate in our District activities. This initiative has been developed to extend the hand of fellowship and guidance to let them know that they are remembered and not forgotten, and that they still belong to our Masonic Family. Individually, as Masons, this project will enable us to demonstrate our fidelity to the obligation we took upon ourselves to help, aid and assist our Masonic Widows and Brethren. Co-chairmen, Todd Owens and Bill Utton will be contacting our Lodges to ascertain the number of widows and brethren in each Lodge and to familiarize the members with the project. Some Lodges already have a program for their widows.

Contact: Todd Owens @ [618@ypr.ca](mailto:618@ypr.ca) or 416.722.0843  
Bill Utton

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*A culture in which people openly contribute their ideas and thoughts does not happen automatically. Leaders need to take deliberate steps to create an environment where communication is expected, supported, clear, candid, and relevant. Otherwise, their organizations will become sluggish and dysfunctional.*

*- Successful Manager's Handbook: Develop Yourself, Coach Others-2004*

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### Blood Donor Clinics



Toronto East Masons are now officially a Partners For Life entity with the Canadian Blood Services. We just established some dates for future clinics at St. Aidan's Anglican Church and a preliminary clinic at Ajax Masonic Temple. Any brother in Toronto East District that may wish to assist, thus getting their Lodge "credits" for the amount of donation's make at the clinic may contact the brethren shown below.

Don't be concerned if you are unable to attend any of the indicated Blood Donor Clinics. If you wish to be a donor, find yourself a Blood Donor Clinic at the website indicated below and go and give blood. Take your family and friends. Be sure to let your lodge Blood Donor Chairman know that you have donated to get credits for your lodge.

Do your part and "Be an everyday hero today" by attending the clinics when they are announced.

#### Upcoming Blood Donor Clinics -

Tuesday January 13, 2009  
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
Ajax Masonic Temple  
457 Kingston Rd. W. (corner of Mill St.)  
905.683.0365



Friday January 23, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

Friday March 20, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

Friday May 22, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

Friday July 24, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

Friday September 25, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

Friday November 27, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

For information regarding the location of blood donor clinics in your area call 1.800.2DONATE or  
[//www.bloodservices.ca/centre\\*apps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm](http://www.bloodservices.ca/centre*apps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm)

Each Clinic requires two teams of 4 volunteers. First shift starts about ½ hour before the clinic opens to assist with set-up and the actual clinic. The second shift runs ½ hour after the clinic closes to assist with the actual clinic and the break down. Anyone interested in attending can contact the brethren shown below.

Contact: Fred Bryant @ [etd.blooddonors@gmail.com](mailto:etd.blooddonors@gmail.com) or 416.421.6762  
Doug Gray @ [dagmortgages@rogers.com](mailto:dagmortgages@rogers.com) or 416.266.0783  
Jim McKinnon Jr. @ [jmckinnonjr@gmail.com](mailto:jmckinnonjr@gmail.com) or 905.250.0190

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### **Motorized Scooter Available**

My nephew, who was a Mason, passed away a few years ago and my sister-in-law wishes to dispose of his scooter that has been sitting dormant for the past few years. It was purchased new for about \$3,000.00, used for approximately 2 years and right now the batteries are flat so I am in the process of determining whether they can be re-charged or need to be replaced after I pick it up to clean, check the tires and batteries etc. If you know of anyone IN NEED who could utilize this scooter my sister-in-law is willing to let it go for \$1,000 as is, or \$1,500 with new batteries. Please contact me as soon as possible as we will be advertising it or selling on eBay in December.

Contact: Thomas Norris @ [tom.norris@sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.norris@sympatico.ca)

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### **Visit to Cuba**

**Quinte St. Alban's Lodge #620 (Toronto Don Valley District)**  
Quinte St. Alban's Lodge #620 (Toronto Don Valley District) will be making a fraternal visit to Cuba during the last week of January 2009.

Bookings have already been made for a group of 30 people, 14 of whom are Masons. More can be added to the group. If you are interested, call the travel agent, V.W. Bro. Enoch Solomon of Gala Travels Inc. at 416.493.3114 for further information and current prices (the previously publicized price of \$1,300 per person in double occupancy may or may not be still available.)



The package includes:

- 1 week (January 24 - 31, 2009) at the All Inclusive Blau Costa Verde Resort near Holguin, in the eastern part of Cuba. Accommodation, meals, drinks, and use of the resort facilities, including a beach, pool, nightclub, and more, are all part of the package.
- Return airfare via Sunwing between Toronto and Holguin, and transport between the airport and the resort in Cuba.
- Coach transportation on two occasions between the resort and Lodge meetings in Holguin, one of which will include a tour of the city of Holguin and a supper. Non-Masonic members of the tour will be hosted at a cultural event while the brethren are in Lodge.
- At one of the Lodge meetings, we shall exemplify our E.A. Degree, and at the other, the Cuban Initiation Ceremony will be shown. Our Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Cuba have given the necessary permissions.
- Other trips for sight-seeing, swimming with dolphins, visiting a local school, a country doctor's clinic, historic sites and other places of interest, will be available at modest extra cost.

### ***PIPERS!***

Pipers are needed! Any piper who would be willing to accompany, please make contact.

Time is getting short. There are still some places left in the group. Children and non-Masonic family members and friends are more than welcome. If you want to be involved with this great opportunity, *do it now!*





### **Cuban Masonic Hurricane Relief**

Quinte St. Alban's Lodge has also set up a Cuban Masonic Hurricane Relief Fund. The east end of Cuba, where the province and city of Holguin are situated, was damaged by Hurricane Gustav, and then especially hard hit by Hurricane Ike. Although no Masonic families in that region suffered significant personal injury, the homes of many of them were damaged, and one of the Masonic buildings in Holguin lost part of its roof and suffered damage from the heavy rain. We are soliciting contributions for this Fund from other Lodges and individual Masons. Unfortunately, we cannot provide receipts for tax purposes, but all donations will be gratefully acknowledged. Funds should be sent payable to "Ian D. Nichols, in trust".

For further information contact -

Jean and Ian Nichols  
51 Lyall Ave.  
Toronto, ON  
M4E 1W1  
416.691.3075 or [jnich@rogers.com](mailto:jnich@rogers.com)

\*\*\* And don't forget to take some multi-vitamins, Aspirin, Advil, etc. for the Cuban brethren. \*\*\*

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### **Regalia for Cuban Masons**

As you can see from above, a group of brethren organised by some Toronto East Brethren will be travelling to Cuba on vacation on January 24<sup>th</sup>. While there, they intend to visit two Masonic lodges in the Holguin area, one of which was severely damaged in a recent hurricane. They intend to take along whatever Masonic gear they can get and donate it to our impoverished but worthy Cuban Brothers. Master Mason aprons would be most welcome, as they are unobtainable in Cuba. (I'm told some Masons must wear aprons made out of cardboard.)

As Scarboro Lodge #653 was the first to pledge a set of collars, I have somehow ended up as the collector for this project in Toronto East District.

So... please ask your members if they have any regalia they no longer need, particularly MM aprons. Please bundle them up and leave them in the boardroom of Scarborough Temple addressed to my attention, or please feel to call me to arrange some other form of delivery. The cut off date for donations is January 10, 2009.

I'm sure you'll agree this is a very worthy project to support, and I hope you will all present this information in your lodges and work to get it done as soon as possible.

Contact: Frank MacKay @ [frank\\_mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:frank_mackay@hotmail.com) or 416.283.3472

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### **Masonic Education:**

You are new to Freemasonry. Maybe you are not all that new to it, but what you know, or think you know is what someone has told you at lodge. You want to know a little more; to get a good general grounding in what this Freemasonry is all about.



Grand Lodge to the rescue!

The *College of Freemasonry* is open to all Master Masons.

[www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm)

follow the GL Education button on the left side and then follow the links.

This is what I know from taking the course.

No sitting in class when you'd rather be out there cleaning your eye troughs! If you're like me, do it some days, and then forget it for a week or so, it will take a while. To complete all four of the programs of the course can take between two and three years. You can certainly complete it in MUCH less time, maybe a year, if you maintain your focus and work on it a set number of hours every week. And for the most part, all of it will be enjoyable. There is no teacher breathing down your neck to get it done.

There are four programs.

- Masonry at Work
- History and Origin of Masonry
- Administration and Organization
- Preparing for Leadership

Although this course is not designed or aimed at lodge officers, any brother contemplating becoming a Worshipful Master could not help being much better prepared by taking the last two programs at the very least.

Each program will result in a certificate, personally presented by your DDGM, plus there is a certificate when all four programs are completed, giving a designation of **Fellow of the College of Freemasonry**. The cost is \$20 per program for a total cost of \$80. This is ridiculously cheap! There are very few similar courses in the world and they cost a minimum of \$150 per program.

### **The Process**

When each program with its associated information is mailed out to you, the assignments are included. A suggested reading list is provided. You answer the questions; mail in your response; the answers are passed over to a 'mentor' who marks and comments on the assignment. The intention is aimed at the journey required to answer the questions rather than getting the perfect answer. The reading required can get quite extensive, depending on the interest of the student, but most of the information should be readily available from what you already know, your lodge library or brethren in your acquaintance.

If you love the Craft, learning about it is never a waste of time. I became more and more aware of what the Craft really stands for through this course.

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### ***Masons in the Palace***

***By Douglas Wight, 23/11/2008***

***ROYAL flunkeys have defied their bosses and set up a freemasons' lodge at Buckingham Palace. The branch of the controversial secret society was officially consecrated this week. It has male Palace servants and royal protection squad cops as members.***



*But the move will infuriate officials and senior royals, who blocked plans for a group called The Royal Household Lodge when it was first proposed earlier this year.*

*So the defiant masons simply changed the name to Mulberry Lodge - a reference to King James I who grew silkworms in a royal palace mulberry garden in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

#### *Police*

*A royal source revealed: "They won't be meeting on royal property because all masons have to meet in a Masonic hall. But the lodge will be open to male members of the royal household - not just Buckingham Palace, but every royal residence from Balmoral to Windsor and the Tower of London."*

*"It's all being driven by cops in the Metropolitan Police royal protection squad. The lodge has a cop as the grand master and another as the secretary."*

*Although the Queen's cousin the Duke of Kent is head of English freemasonry as its Grand Master, Palace officials had hoped plans for the lodge would be dropped. They felt a society whose members indulge in bizarre rituals was out of place.*

*And it is the last thing the Palace needs at a time when it is trying to be seen as more modern and open.*

*The Masons have long been accused of being of being a secret society that indulges in bizarre initiation ceremonies and traditions. They acknowledge each other through peculiar handshakes and wear aprons at meetings. And they have been accused of furthering each other's interests through the sect.*

*The founding of the lodge has alarmed some royal staff that fears they will be overlooked for promotions if they don't join.*

*Women staff are said to be angry because although there are freemasonry organisations for women, this branch is a men-only institution that will not admit them.*

[www.newsoftheworld.co.uk/news/81648/ROYAL-flunkeys-have-defied-their-bosses-and-set-up-a-freemasons-lodge-at-Buckingham-Palace.html](http://www.newsoftheworld.co.uk/news/81648/ROYAL-flunkeys-have-defied-their-bosses-and-set-up-a-freemasons-lodge-at-Buckingham-Palace.html)

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#### **Hockey Team Sponsorship:**

Acacia Lodge #430 unanimously agreed to sponsor an Atom Hockey Team at Ted Reeve Arena for the 2008-09 season. If you can make it out to watch them, they play their games between 1:40 pm and 3:30 pm each Saturday and would appreciate your support in the stands.

Another great way to spread the word about Freemasonry in our communities.

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*No man ever reached to excellence in any one art or profession without having passed through the slow and painful process of study and preparation.*

*- Horace [Quintus Horatius Flaccus] (65-8 BC)*

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**Saturday November 8 and Sunday November 9, 2008**  
**Markham and Scarborough Remembrance Services**



Scarborough Remembrance Service



Markham Remembrance Service

The gentleman in the wheelchair is R.W. Bro. William Reiach.

On a cool rainy November weekend the Masons of Toronto East District joined in the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Markham Veterans Hall and the Scarborough Civic Centre. The services at both locations gave all in attendance a time to remember, respect and thank those who gave their lives so that we can live the way we do in this great country.

The total attendance for the combined services was in the mid 40s and I would like to personally thank all those who attended. The Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> service was also attended by seven brethren from Markham Union Lodge #87, my thanks to them for joining us.

We were also privileged to have R.W. Bro. William Reiach PDDGM of Toronto District 4, with us, and although he is not in health, I know he was pleased to be with us. My thanks to his family and especially W. Bro. Lindsay Reiach his son and W. Bro. Earl Milley for bringing him to the service.

This year the recipient of the R.W. Bro. William Reiach Remembrance Day Award is Coronati Lodge #520 with a combined attendance of 14 brethren.

Brethren of Toronto East District my thanks to you for attending these very special ceremonies.



R.W. Bro. Bruce M. Grimbleby  
Remembrance Day Service - Chairman

*Lest We Forget*

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*Some people are making such thorough preparation for rainy days that they aren't enjoying today's sunshine.*

*- William Feather (1889-1981)*

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**Saturday December 6, 2008**

Toronto East District - Lodge Secretary and Computer Resources Seminars

The two seminars are:

1. Computer Resources  
Presenter: Brian E Bond, Member of the Board and Chairman of the Computer Resources Committee
2. Duties and Responsibilities of Lodge Secretaries  
Presenter: Terence Shand, PGM, Grand Secretary  
Changes to the Constitution  
Reporting  
Communicating with Grand Lodge  
Other relevant issues

Time: 8:30 am - registration and *coffee*

9:00 am - 12:30 pm - seminars

Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple

Contact: Robert Kliaman @ [rkliaman@cpa-ca.com](mailto:rkliaman@cpa-ca.com) or 905.707.6886 or  
Ron Scott @ [r.on.scott@sympatico.ca](mailto:r.on.scott@sympatico.ca) or 416.439.5715

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**Monday December 8, 2008**

**Scarboro Lodge - Installation**

Time: 6:00 pm - Lodge opens for Scarboro Members

6:00 pm - Social for visitors

6:30 pm - 7:20 pm - Banquet (featuring Schnitzel and Haggis)

7:30 pm - Visitors received into Lodge

Cost: no charge

Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple

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**Tuesday December 9, 2008**

**Toronto East District - Masons Habitat For Humanity Build Day**

After the successful day we had last time, another day is planned. Pre-registration of volunteers is required (see contact info below). We are limited to 30 volunteers, so get your name in quick. A complete information kit will be sent to participants including a pledge sheet and access to an on-line pledge management tool that prints instant tax receipts for those Masons who wish to use it.



Knowledge of building construction is not required, just the willingness to help. All tools and boots, gloves and safety equipment are supplied. Participants will be expected to submit pledges for at least \$50 in support of this worthy cause. Habitat For Humanity will provide tax receipts for individual pledges from \$20. Lunch and a T-shirt are provided if our group achieves our fund raising objective of \$50 per participant.



Volunteers can join the team on-line by going to <http://torontohabitat.on.ca>. Scroll down on the Home Page to Adopt-a-day Fundraisings Challenge near the bottom left hand side. Click on the "Click Here". Then, click on the <To find a team or individual Click Here>

Enter "Masons" in the Team Namebox and click <Search>. Masons Toronto District East will appear. Follow the instructions to Join the Team. I will be notified by Habitat's email service that a new volunteer has joined the team.

Thank you for your assistance and support in making a difference to families in need.

Note that there has been a site change. The Hainsford site will not break ground on time for our December 9<sup>th</sup> build day. **We will therefore, be relocated to 350 Danforth Rd. (not Ave.) in Scarborough.** We will all meet there at 8:30 am on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Royce Baker for a map showing the exact location.

Royce worked on this house earlier this month. It is nearing completion so he would expect we will be doing finishing work and maybe some dry walling in the basement area. It is a three level (plus basement) semi-detached. The house is completely closed in and most likely heated by now, but be prepared for winter working conditions anyway.

Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Location: **Site Change** - 350 Danforth Rd. (not Ave. - formerly Pilkington)  
Contact: Royce Baker @ [royce.baker@rogers.com](mailto:royce.baker@rogers.com) or 905.391.3809

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### The New Bar In Town

In a small mid western conservative town, a new bar/tavern started a building to open up their business. The local church started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayers. Work progressed however, right up until the week before opening, when a lightning strike hit the bar and the building burned to the ground.

The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means.



The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise in its reply to the court.



As the case made it's way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork at the hearing and commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner that believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not!"

- Cinosam, Nov. 2008

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### **Saturday December 13, 2008**

#### **SANTA Arrives for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Masonic Toy Drive**

Santa will be giving out presents to the needy children of the GTA. Food and refreshments will be available. Bring your kids and grandkids.

Assistance from the Brethren is needed on the day to distribute toys to more than 2,500 children who are needy.

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Location: Rameses Shrine Temple – Keele St.  
Contact: David Dainard @ [drd-dd98@rogers.com](mailto:drd-dd98@rogers.com) or 905.839.7342  
Thom Warner @ [thomwarner@sympatico.ca](mailto:thomwarner@sympatico.ca) or 905.985.2121

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### **Saturday December 13, 2008**

#### **Peterborough District Charity Project Presentation.**

M.W. Bro. Allan J. Petrisor, and his wife Mary, along with R.W. Bro. Sam Kalinowsky, President of the Masonic Foundation, will be in attendance for a presentation of \$14,510.91 to *Victoria's Quilts*, the Peterborough District Project 2007 - 2008.

*Victoria's Quilts Canada - Comforting People with Cancer* is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide hand-made 100% cotton quilts, free of charge, to those undergoing cancer treatment. Established in 2000, it is a registered Canadian charity. The local Peterborough chapter was set up in June 2006 and, within the first six months, one hundred and ninety-five cancer patients within our local area received a warm and comforting quilt, personally delivered by a member of *Victoria's Quilts*. It is the policy of *Victoria's Quilts* that the names of quilt recipients shall not be made public. Anyone may request a quilt from *Victoria's Quilts* for a person undergoing cancer treatment. Approximately one hundred local volunteers give their time and talent to create these beautiful quilts. All monies raised in this community are directed towards the costs associated with the construction of these quilts for the Peterborough area.

All Masons are invited to attend with their family and friends to be part of this presentation. Masons are asked to dress in business suit with their regalia for the presentation. Light refreshments will be served in the banquet room immediately following the presentation.

Time: 2:00 pm  
Location: Peterborough Masonic Temple  
Contact: Bob McBride @ [ddgm2007@nexicom.net](mailto:ddgm2007@nexicom.net) or 1.705.295.4556

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## **Saturday December 13, 2008**

### **Templum Fidelis Lodge UD – Regular Meeting**

**Templum Fidelis** is the newest Masonic Lodge operating in the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and having recently received permission from our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Allan Petrisor, to begin meeting Under Dispensation, you can imagine the excitement and anticipation we are feeling about the prospects that lay ahead for us in our new Templum Fidelis Lodge!

We are looking for an experience where the focus is on the Work, protocol and the candidate. We envision quality as far more important than quantity, only one voice in the lodge room - the Master and only anyone he has given the floor too - no side bars, no private meetings, no cell phones or electronic planners - that carries on into the banquet room (agape). We envision candidates that learn more about Masonry as they go along, who will not only prove themselves before advancing, but also present a paper on their experiences and significance of the former Degree before they advance much like the European model. We envision a lodge where the focus is on candidate development rather than a Mason-making-machine - expecting the average period between candidates Degrees to be a year. We envision tuxedos, white gloves, candles and solemnity that will make a lasting impression on the candidate and our members.

<http://www.templumfidelis.com/>

Time: please make contact  
Location: Bath Masonic Hall  
Contact: Lodge Secretary @ [secretary@templumfidelis.com](mailto:secretary@templumfidelis.com)

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## **Tuesday December 16, 2008**

### **Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons talking Masonry**

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Please **reserve** to give an idea of the number of meals.

Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie.**

Topic: Sacred Geometry  
Tim Richardson will be discussing Sacred Geometry by doing a graphic presentation in which several geometric shapes and designs will be drawn with the square and compasses in front of the audience. Richardson's presentation will draw on discussions from the book "The Secrets of Solomon's Temple" by Kevin Gest (a book discussed a couple of months ago at one of our meetings), the book "The Tomb of God" by Richard Andrews and Paul Schelenberger and a little bit from the book "Atlantis and the Kingdom of the Neanderthals" by Colin Wilson. Handouts will be provided. The discussion may be interesting to brethren who are interested in the operative side of Masonry and how specific techniques were used to create particular shapes, designs and communicate spatial orientation and distance measurements and principles of geometry, physics and astronomy. It is expected that a number of brethren in attendance will also have experiences and knowledge to contribute, which should make for interesting and informative discussion.

Speaker: Tim Richardson  
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM  
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute  
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)





Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)  
Contact: Pat Piccione @ [pat\\_piccione@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_piccione@hotmail.com) or 416.341.7938

**NOTE:** If you are interested in sharing a Masonic subject at one of the luncheons, please contact Pat.

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**Wednesday December 24, 2008**  
**Christmas Eve**

*'Twas the Night before Christmas,  
And down at the lodge  
Not a gavel was stirring,  
And in the hodgepodge  
Of aprons and jewels  
And chairs East and West  
You could savour the silence,  
Most gladly divest*

*All metal and mineral,  
It mattered not,  
Since Christmas was nigh  
And the coals were still hot  
In the hearth of your home place,  
All Masons abed,  
As visions of trestleboards  
Danced in their head;*

*When up on the roof there arose such a clatter  
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!  
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,  
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered "What for?"*

*He answered the knocking with raps of his own,  
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan  
Of delight, it was Santa, all jolly and red  
Except for one notable feature instead!*

*Upon his large finger he wore what we knew  
Was compass and square on a background of blue!  
"Why Santa!" he shouted and lowered his blade,  
"I see you're a Mason!" the Tyler relayed.*

*He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair  
And said, voice near trembling, "Most Worshipful there  
Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!"  
The Master replied, "Let's allow him - but wait!"*



*You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see  
His apron beneath that red suit. Can it be  
Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?  
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?"*

*"I do beg your pardon," ol' Santa said quick  
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick  
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear  
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!*

*Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign  
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!  
"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,  
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,*

*For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen  
For many a century - there in between  
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar  
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!*

*"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess  
Are actually images brought from the West  
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"  
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled*

*An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,  
"My friend I have plenty. Tonight we will feast  
On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"  
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,*

*As presents and promises flew from his sack!  
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack  
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,  
And soon even Deacons were laughing. They'd seen*

*On this very night only happiness reigned!  
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained  
That only a Mason could be so inclined  
To make all kids happy, make all people find*

*A Christmas so special. Yes, Santa was right!  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

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*Who controls the British crown?  
Who keeps the metric system down?  
We do! We do!*



*Who leaves Atlantis off the maps?  
Who keeps the Martians under wraps?  
We do! We do!  
Who holds back the electric car?  
Who makes Steve Guttenberg a star?  
We do! We do!  
Who robs the cavefish of their sight?  
Who rigs every Oscar's night?  
We do! We do!  
- Homer Simpson, Stonecutter Song, The Simpsons*

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### **Saturday January 17, 2009**

#### **Templum Fidelis Lodge UD - Installation**

**Templum Fidelis** is the newest Masonic Lodge operating in the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and having recently received permission from our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Allan Petrisor, to begin meeting Under Dispensation, you can imagine the excitement and anticipation we are feeling about the prospects that lay ahead for us in our new Templum Fidelis Lodge!

We are looking for an experience where the focus is on the Work, protocol and the candidate. We envision quality as far more important than quantity, only one voice in the lodge room - the Master and only anyone he has given the floor too - no side bars, no private meetings, no cell phones or electronic planners - that carries on into the banquet room (agape). We envision candidates that learn more about Masonry as they go along, who will not only prove themselves before advancing, but also present a paper on their experiences and significance of the former Degree before they advance much like the European model. We envision a lodge where the focus is on candidate development rather than a Mason-making-machine - expecting the average period between candidates Degrees to be a year. We envision tuxedos, white gloves, candles and solemnity that will make a lasting impression on the candidate and our members.

<http://www.templumfidelis.com/>

Time: please make contact  
Location: Bath Masonic Hall  
Contact: Lodge Secretary @ [secretary@templumfidelis.com](mailto:secretary@templumfidelis.com)

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### **Tuesday January 20, 2008**

#### **Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons talking Masonry**

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Please **reserve** to give an idea of the number of meals.  
Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie.**

Topic: tba  
Speaker: tba  
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM  
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute  
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)  
Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)



Contact: Pat Piccione @ [pat\\_piccione@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_piccione@hotmail.com) or 416.341.7938

**NOTE:** If you are interested in sharing a Masonic subject at one of the luncheons, please contact Pat.

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**Wednesday January 21, 2008**

**Rainbow Girls – Pledge Group**

Toronto Assembly #2 has re-opened their pledge group for girls between the ages of 7 and 11. The pledge group gets the girls ready to join the Rainbow Girls when they turn 11 years old. The group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. There is no cost. The first meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Please contact Catherine Benoit at [benoithome@sympatico.ca](mailto:benoithome@sympatico.ca) for further information.

Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple  
Cost: \$0  
Contact: Catherine Benoit a@ [benoithome@sympatico.ca](mailto:benoithome@sympatico.ca)

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**Saturday January 24, 2009**

**The Heritage Lodge – 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Tie Banquet**

Open to Masons and non-Masons alike. Dress is Black Tie preferred or Dark Business Suit, NO white tie or tails PLEASE!

Topic: Kipling's Gavel, an adventure in Masonic research  
Speaker: David J. Cameron, Chairman of Masonic Education  
Time: 4:30 pm - Social  
6:00 pm - Banquet  
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple  
Cost: \$25  
Contact: Lou Lombardi @ [loulombardi@sympatico.ca](mailto:loulombardi@sympatico.ca) or 416.518.2242 or any The Heritage Lodge officer

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**Wednesday January 28, 2009**

**Doric Lodge – Class Act Dinner Theatre**

The brethren of Doric Lodge invite you, your family and friends to an evening of food, fun and social mirth to help raise funds to host the next fraternal visit by the brethren and their ladies of Hamilton Lodge #1440, Spanish Town, Jamaica in July 2009.

A portion of the proceeds from all fundraising activities for this visit will be donated to selected local charities at the completion of the visit. Several local charities have benefited from our many fundraisers since these exchanges began in 1987.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the Class Act Dinner Theatre to enjoy their production of “**Sex Please, We’re 60**”. Class Act offers a unique combination of professional theatre and a superb five-course buffet dinner.



We plan to hold a Silent Auction and you can view items when the doors open at 5:45 pm.

Tickets are \$60 each and include all taxes and gratuities. No tickets will be available at the door.  
***Purchase tickets soon if you want tickets as Christmas gifts.***

NOTE: There is a deadline for ticket purchase of Monday January 19, 2009. Tickets are limited!

Time: 5:45 pm - Social  
6:00 pm - Dinner  
7:45 pm – Show starts  
10:00 pm – Show ends (approximately - depending on how much you laugh!) ☺

Location: Class Act Dinner Theatre  
104 Consumers Dr. Whitby (between Brock St. and Thickson Rd., west of Hopkins Rd.)

Cost: \$60

Deadline: Monday January 19, 2009

Contact: Bruce Palanik @ [bruce@thepalanikgroup.com](mailto:bruce@thepalanikgroup.com) or 905.839.7342

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## ... by the Lighthouse Beam

### Masonic Traditions For the Twenty-First Century

Considering the Craft's current decline in most English-speaking jurisdictions, it is important to consider what is at stake if the organization is to be preserved in its original form and its traditions are to continue to have a meaningful impact on the lives of its members.

Masons should be able to answer three questions if Masonry is to be successful. What is Freemasonry? What is its historical purpose? And what makes it different from other fraternal organizations?

The answer to the first question is that Freemasonry is a traditional, initiatic order.

While it has taken its modern form during the Enlightenment, its traditions, symbols and lessons, reach back to pre-modern times. If we closely investigate the lives of the individuals who were active in shaping speculative Freemasonry out of its operative roots, and particularly examine their connections to older occult societies and traditions, it becomes clear that speculative Freemasonry was designed to be foremost an initiatic institution through which men could recognize their true spiritual potential.

The courtly philosophical climate of sixteenth and seventeenth century Britain, where it did not follow strictly Puritan or Anglican trends, was strongly influenced by the underground tradition sometimes referred to as Arcadia, which encompassed within its philosophy elements of Gnostic, Neo-Platonic, Hermetic, and Kabalistic thought. As Rosicrucianism surfaced in the early seventeenth century it also showed an affinity to the Arcadian stream of thought.

A close study of the literary works produced during this period reveals a distinct current of symbolism embedded inside seemingly mainstream publications. And to those well versed in Masonic symbolism, the central themes of the initiatic tradition become quickly evident upon examination of this literature.

It was precisely out of this philosophical climate, united through organizations such as the Royal Society, and through extensive correspondence that is now well documented, that the most well known proponents of seventeenth and early eighteenth century Freemasonry emerged from. Men like Sir Robert Moray, Elias Ashmole, Jean Desaguliers, James Anderson, and their numerous friends and counterparts from all across Europe. Even if some of their writings regarding the history of the Craft may appear questionable to us in light of the evidence now available, it is clear that they viewed Speculative Masonry as a custodian of the initiatic traditions of the past, charged with their propagation and preservation.

The general work associated with the initiatic tradition, and the purpose of Freemasonry, put simply, is to provide an environment where good men can unite together to assist one another in self-improvement



and the realization of their true potential. One of the underlying tenets of this initiatic tradition is the belief that if even one individual becomes a better person, the entire world profits thereby.

Being part of the initiatic tradition is what distinguishes Freemasonry from purely social or philanthropic organizations. While there are many different organizations that contribute large sums of money to charity, offer fellowship with like minded men or provide education, Freemasonry is unique, in that it embodies all these things, but is actually focused on offering men a traditional initiation into the mysteries of life and death. The initiatic tradition is the core, defining characteristic of Freemasonry, without which, there would be nothing to differentiate Masonry from other social or philanthropic organizations.

Attempts to make Freemasonry as accessible as other organizations by reducing or eliminating the initiatic elements are likely to bring ruin to the Craft. One could call the new organization that would emerge from such a process anything one likes, but it would no longer be Masonic.

Much of our dilemma arises from the fact that too many men that join are not properly educated about the fraternity. Rather than coming to an understanding of the Craft based on diligent study and thinking, new candidates tend to form their opinions based on the behaviour of fellow Masons, who are themselves too often poorly educated about the fraternity's history and philosophy. A disproportionately small number of serious and scholarly men within the organization has led to a general decline over the last several decades.

In efforts to arrest the decline in numbers, many jurisdictions in North America have sought to make Masons faster and to make it easier for them to join by reducing the requirements for membership. Unfortunately, in order to appeal to the greatest amount of people possible things must generally be reduced to the lowest common denominator. It must be considered, however, that Freemasonry is designed to appeal to what might be called the highest common denominator, that is, good men seeking to improve themselves. Selling ourselves cheap is a sad sign of a desperate organization. If an organization is vibrant and has a strong sense of purpose it will attract good men naturally. Based on the facts, we know this to be the case in most Continental European and South American countries, where Freemasonry does not advertise itself to the public yet its membership continues to grow or remains stable.

This is one of the Masonic traditions that must be considered - Masonry works best when lodges are smaller. Granted, for smaller lodges to be viable economically, they must adopt higher dues, but if quality is to be had, it must be paid for and men should not be afraid to show that the fraternity is important to them.

Unfortunately, North American Freemasonry has taken a different route for most of the twentieth-century. When it swung its doors wide open, the organization quickly swelled, but it was filled with men that had not taken the time to learn about the real purpose of Freemasonry. Nor could they have as there was no way the lodges could have so quickly incorporated so many men into the Masonic culture. This is one of the keys to understanding our dilemma - the number of men that any given lodge can effectively initiate and educate is naturally limited.

Initiation is a slow and sensitive process and requires great effort on behalf of both the candidate and the existing members of the lodge. For initiation and Masonic growth to be meaningful and enriching, great



care and attention must be afforded to each individual candidate. He must understand that the organization is highly selective, allowing him to feel self-worth and leading him to respect the high standards of the Order. Great time must be spent to educate him about the history, symbolism and philosophy of the Craft if he is to become a Freemason worthy of the title.

Therefore, another tradition that we seem to have lost, that should be emphasized, is the thorough investigation of candidates and meaningful preparatory period. Indeed, this is a demanding tradition that limits the number of candidates that any given lodge can initiate successfully. Doing otherwise, that is, filling up the fraternity with members who have not been properly educated about the purpose and history of the Craft seems only to have led to the deterioration of Masonic traditions and values.

This, along with the rise of popular culture and high-technology, left Freemasonry in North America unprepared to respond appropriately to the social changes that were quickly coming upon the institution. Nor could there have been a proper response as much of the leadership, poorly versed in Masonic history and the initiatic tradition, could not understand what it was that it should be endeavouring to preserve. Even now, much of what is introduced with the best intentions seems too often to result in further deterioration. The monitors warn us against innovations with good reason.

The facts tell us that we are going to become a much smaller organization over the next decade. But rather than accepting this inevitable fact and making preparations for Masonry to succeed with a smaller membership, it seems that we are too eager to adopt anything that could possibly delay the inevitable, that is, anything that has the potential to bring in members in large numbers. In a sense, this is a kind of denial, and unless it is shaken off soon it is likely to leave North American Masonry unprepared once more for the challenges of the future. But if the right preparatory steps are taken, as Masonry becomes a much smaller organization, it can also become a much stronger organization.

One important thing to understand is that simply adopting one traditional practice here and another there is not going to turn the whole organization around. What is necessary is an all-encompassing approach to the way our lodges can be improved. We know that European Masonry has been very successful in working as small lodges. And we know, whether we like it or not, that our own lodges are also going to become relatively small in the near future.

While it is true that we can consolidate lodges as a means of keeping the dues low, this approach is only going to work for a limited time and does not address the more fundamental problem of having lost our focus and traditions. If we want Masonic traditions to continue to have an impact on the lives of Masons, we need to focus on quality and working out viable models for smaller lodges.

We need higher dues and dress codes as a means of returning dignity to the institution. We need festive boards and more engaging Masonic programs in order to provide higher quality fellowship. And we need more thorough investigations and more meaningful preparatory periods for candidates if we are to rediscover our original purpose, uniting good men in the pursuit of virtue. We cannot afford to forget that the initiatic tradition is what defines us as Masons.

Keeping these things in mind, Masonry will doubtless overcome its future challenges and survive for many years to come. But the North American Masonic experience of the last century must teach us that Masonry cannot go wholesale - that the number of men entering the fraternity must be limited to how





many men can effectively be initiated and educated. We must learn and understand that Freemasonry, if it is to be true to its designs, does not lower its standards but demands that individuals raise theirs.

Author: Dennis V. Chornenky  
President, Masonic Restoration Foundation  
Publisher: Masonic Research Foundation  
[www.masonicrestoration.com](http://www.masonicrestoration.com)

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## ADMINISTRATION:

**Hiram's Lighthouse** is published on the last day of every month. It is your newsletter. If **Hiram's Lighthouse** does not have the content you would prefer, it is because the editor does not have that content available. With 21 lodges currently in the district, including grip and grin pictures of the Official Visit, Installation and Ladies Night of each lodge would dominate the content. If you want something more, please submit it. Please feel free to offer suggestions, submissions for ... **by the Lighthouse Beam**, book and film reviews, and topics of Masonic interest.

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send us a message @ [tsmartin@rogers.com](mailto:tsmartin@rogers.com) with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past.

We also ask all Secretaries and W. Masters to inform their members of the existence of the newsletter and how to subscribe to it.

Anyone wishing to get on the subscription list, please send a message to [tsmartin@rogers.com](mailto:tsmartin@rogers.com) including your full name, with a subject of Newsletter.

Moving? Changing ISPs? Remember to send in your new snail-mail address and e-mail address to both your lodge secretary and **Hiram's Lighthouse** – [tsmartin@rogers.com](mailto:tsmartin@rogers.com)

FYI – there are currently 191 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

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Terry Spalding-Martin *F.C.F.*  
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