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First Grand Master

TRUE MASONRY = FRATERNAL VISITATION²
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From the Editor
Brethren,

This marks the first issue of The Blueprint for the current Masonic year and it looks as though there will be some very exciting events in store for us as a District. I have also been given the honour and privilege to serve you as your District Secretary. Thank you to R.W. Bro. Kevin Furlong for placing your trust in my abilities to help you in your endeavours this year. I have learned so much already and there is still so much to do before the end of the term. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting those of you whom I have already crossed paths with, as well as working with the Masters, Secretaries and Treasurers of our Lodges. I look forward to continuing the Official Visits in the New Year.

I would like to thank those members who have contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Your efforts are much appreciated by members of the District who take the time to read and enjoy its content. I would like to thank in particular, W. Bro. Rob Lund who has made an effort to have an article included in every issue of The Blueprint since I became the editor in 2015. I have always received positive feedback from readers about his quality works and the publication wouldn’t be the same without him. He is truly an asset to our order and we are very fortunate to have him as a member of our District.

W. Bro. Bryce Graham, FCF
District Secretary/Editor
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Greetings Brethren,

First, let me tell you how genuinely humbled I am that you felt that I would make a good candidate for Toronto West to represent the interests of the Grand Master and be the conduit between the District and Grand Lodge. I feel honoured to be your servant and I promise to promote the agenda of the Grand Master by being your respectful emissary to support the Chairmen of the District while they promote the Lodges and events while conforming to the statutes and guidelines set out by our Constitution.

We as Masons have a duty to our family, our avocation, our community, each other, and more importantly to ourselves to continue to strive and reach for that pinnacle of enlightenment that allows us to teach effectively, mentor proactively to ensure that our subordinates receive the very best quality Masonic education so that they in turn will become the teacher to their apprentices to further propagate the continuing age of enlightenment. Our neighbours and communities are watching us carefully and we need to be mindful always that we collectively represent the Craft and its leadership, namely the Grand Master. Because when we get caught up in the stresses of day-to-day life, it is easy to forget that we represent the best that humanity can give birth to and easily exercise poor judgment that can reflect poorly on our fraternity and ourselves. In this day of declining membership, we all need to ask ourselves what would a stranger think of us if we did, in fact, act carelessly without thought and made a derogatory gesture or spoke an angry word even in the heat of the moment. That brief indiscretion cannot be deleted and we will carry the ramifications for the long haul and perhaps that man who was going to ask about membership will now look at Masonry completely differently.

We have been given a great opportunity by the GAOTU to show what mankind is capable of and to hone and perfect ourselves so that we can continually honour the great Masons of our past who have carved the way by preparing the great Masons of our future to achieve and promote humanity’s destiny.

We are living in a time of uncertainty, extreme cultural disparity amplified by a dire fear for the safety and wellbeing of our children and grandchildren that at first glance sounds bleak and foreboding. But this is also an opportune time to make a stand for humanity and rise up as proud Masons, to promote our philosophies, tenets and principles to show an indifferent world that we always have and still do care about humankind and the direction in which the world is headed. Masonry by itself is not the complete solution, but it is the start to a different way to view world issues. Because of our ecumenical philosophical way of understanding it, may perhaps start a movement that revitalizes critical thinking to build a foundation of mutual support and understanding to address world issues of systemic poverty, acute disease, inequality and cultural intolerance to collectively work toward positive resolution. This may perhaps sound unrealistic, but I believe that our Masonic teachings have given us an ethereal understanding to work towards finding this global harmony.

Our first Masonic Grand Master, M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson, set out to change not only the course of our Canadian legacy as a sovereign nation but also to take our Craft and present it to our Mother Grand Lodge, the United Grand Lodge of England, to win not only our independence as a separate self-governing Grand Lodge but also to be recognized as a legal Masonic entity in the eyes of the world. He never gave up even in the face of insurmountable odds. His persistence, coupled with a loyal dedication to Masonry, probably fueled by his days as a legal litigator as well as being a soldier during the Canadian rebellion of 1837, armed him with a firestorm that the English Masons could not extinguish. We owe him a great deal to this day for giving everything he had to ensure that our Craft endures. So, let’s get together to collectively work toward keeping our fraternity a jewel that men covet and envy, not discard like refuse or something not worthy of being an integral part of one’s life, so that we actively attract men who are worthy of this noble Order and will forever shine from this worldly realm of existence until time shall be no more...SMIB!

Once again, I thank you for putting your faith in me as your DDGM and may the GAOTU bless you and your family.

R. W. Bro. Kevin J. Furlong

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GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TORONTO WEST

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District Deputy Grand Master 2018/2019
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GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TORONTO WEST

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A BRAMPTON MAYOR'S REGALIA RETURNED

Bro. James Archdekin was a member of Ionic Lodge No. 229 in Brampton, having been initiated, passed and raised in 1950. He joined the Lodge at the age of 23 and his occupation was listed as a Clerk. Bro. Archdekin went onto become the Mayor of the City of Brampton and served the City from 1970 until his untimely death on September 17, 1982 while still in office. Bro. Archdekin was held in very high regard and has a street and recreation complex named after him in the City of Brampton. Bro. Archdekin was also very actively involved in Royal Arch Masonry (RAM), rising to the rank of Right Excellent Companion and eventually he became the Grand Registrar of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Upon his passing his RAM regalia was passed onto his son Richard Archdekin, who is not a member of the craft.

Richard eventually moved to Wasaga Beach. Through a chance encounter Richard eventually moved to Wasaga Beach. Through a chance encounter he met Bro. Hogan Courier at his place of business in Wasaga Beach. Bro. Courier is a member of Madoc Marmora Tweed Lodge No. 48 and had moved to Wasaga Beach where he runs a computer repair business. Bro. Courier has a Masonic Certificate displayed in his place of business which caught Richard's eye. Not really knowing the significance of his father's regalia, Richard brought it to Bro. Courier's shop and expressed his desire to have the regalia returned to his father's Lodge in Brampton. Bro. Courier, in turn contacted Ionic Lodge No. 229 and myself and it was arranged to have the regalia repatriated to the brethren of Ionic Lodge at our October meeting. At the presentation Richard and Charlie, the sons of James, both told of their Father's love for Masonry and that when they were growing up, it seemed like all of their parent's friends were Masons.

W. Bro. Reynaldo Faraon the I.P.M. of Ionic Lodge told of Bro. Archdekin's contributions to the craft and the citizens of Brampton. After the presentations, we returned to Labour and it was an honour to have the Brethren from Ionic Lodge join us as we passed Bro. Andrew Robert to the second degree. The attached picture shows in front row from left to right: Richard Archdekin; Charles Archdekin; W. Bro. John Thomas, Master, Ionic Lodge No. 229; Joe Belanger, Councillor Town of Wasaga Beach; W. Bro. Reynaldo Faraon, I.P.M., Ionic Lodge No. 229; Bro. Mehdi Pakzad, J.D. Ionic Lodge No.229; Nancy Archdekin; and Megan Harris. Back row: W. Bro. Ray Easby, I.P.M. Coronation Lodge No. 466; W. Bro. Michael Wheeler, Master, Coronation Lodge No. 466; and R.W. Bro. V.P. James Stiles, District Deputy Grand Master, Georgian North District.

Story: V.W. Bro. David Don
Photo: W. Bro. John Thomas, W.M, Ionic Lodge, No.229
On September 12, 2018, the WM, Officers and members of West Gate Lodge No. 734 led by R.W. Bro. Charles A. Woods, Member of the Board honoured their new DDGM for Toronto West, R.W. Bro. Kevin J. Furlong.

On October 10, 2018 the WM, Officers and members of West Gate Lodge No. 734 honoured one of their own in true West Gate Fashion. With much well deserved pomp and ceremony our V.W. Bro. Frank Franklin, Grand Steward was made honorary wizard for the day and presented with the cape, sceptre and magical hat befiting his appointment to Grand Lodge by the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Paul E. Todd. "long live Gandolf"

Unity Lodge hosted a reception for the immediate past District Secretary, V.W. Bro. Matwinder Phull, Grand Steward. Seen here accompanied by his family and friends. The Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. David Cameron was on hand to present him with his new regalia. It was a well attended event and a great banquet ensued.

Congratulations to all our new representatives of Grand Lodge in our District this year.
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Almost thirty Masons came out including current and PGLO’s in Streetsville to honour our vets and remember those lost in armed conflict over the past century since the cessation of hostilities when the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918, Versailles, France.

Five Lodges were represented with the WM’s of West Gate 734, Unity 710 and Rehoboam 65 attending along with the DDGM for Toronto West R.W. Bro. Kevin J. Furlong accompanied by the District Secretary W. Bro. Bryce Graham.

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Toronto West District Blood Donor Clinic

Heartland Town Centre
765 Britannia Rd. W #2,
Mississauga

Saturday January 19, 2019 - 11am - 1pm
Saturday April 13, 2019 - 11am - 1pm
Saturday July 6, 2019 - 11am - 1pm

Contact Blood Donor Chairman for more info.
Bro. Dorko Zdovic - zdovicft@gmail.com
The Chisel

Reminders of our mortality and our immortality

W. Bro. Rob Lund

In one of our rituals, a part of Ecclesiastes 12 is included from the King James Version Bible:

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low: Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourner go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Some Masons may have given thought to this passage to try and understand it. To others, it may be too cryptic. It is a poem that is about realizing that we will all grow old, and we will all die.

I provide below my own interpretation.

Give thought to the Creator now, while you’re young. Don’t wait until bad times or until you grow old; when you have no pleasure in life anymore, when your sight starts failing and you cannot distinguish the sun from the moon or blue skies from grey; when your hands tremble from weakness or are bowed with infirmity, and you cannot chew because you’ve lost your teeth; when you cannot see out the window; when your neighbours don’t want your company anymore; when you don’t sleep for long; when you grow deaf and cannot hear music anymore; when you are afraid of height, or obstacles; when the hair turns white, and when food has little taste; when you cannot carry the lightest objects; when you have no libido; and your friends and neighbours have been buried; or you lose your mind or the brain doesn’t work anymore; or the heart starts to fail. Then, the spirit is released from its bodily vehicle, and the body becomes dust and is returned to the earth again, and the spirit returns to where it came from.

This is to remind us of our mortality, and informs us that we should be contemplating “that most important of all human studies, the knowledge of yourself”

In some American workings, Ecclesiastes 12 is replaced by Psalm 23, which, I think, is even more appropriate. The following is from the King James Version bible:

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Let us translate this from an esoteric viewpoint and make it relevant as a deeper meaning to the Third Degree:

My vital and Immortal Principle is all I need to guide me to the path back to the Creator.

It has enabled me, through self-discipline, meditation, and humility, to gain spiritual sustenance and tranquility. It is strengthening my soul and leading me to a moral and righteous path.

Even though I face physical death and Spiritual dangers, I will be confident that what I have learned will protect and guide me.

It has provided me with the means of overcoming and defeating my inner enemies and weaknesses; it has given me wisdom and an abundance of new light and consciousness.

I will find divine Love and Truth at my unerring centre throughout my physical life, and I will remain a spiritual temple forever.

This psalm is a pattern for leading a spiritual life.

W. Bro. Rob Lund
First Grand Master

As DDGM I have had the honour of presenting copies of "The First Grand Master" to candidates advancing in their Masonic degrees at our Official Visits. I have also visited the town of Simcoe, in the County of Norfolk to gaze upon the final resting place of our own very first Grand Master, M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson who paved the way for Masonry in Canada and established the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

called in Hamilton, with representation from forty-one lodges, from Montreal to Windsor, where it was decided that an Independent Grand Lodge of Canada was to be formed, with or without permission from England. William Mercer Wilson was elected Grand master, however, friction still existed within the territory due to the fact that several independent Grand Lodges had been formed. William used all the diplomacy and wisdom available to him and finally succeeded in establishing one, unified Grand Lodge, to which he was unanimously elected the Grand Master, a position he filled for an incredible ten years. His first term as Grand Master saw him lay several cornerstones, constitute a total of twenty-one new lodges, and visit several American Grand Lodges, to give our newly formed Grand Lodge much needed credibility. During this time, he was also serving as Master of Norfolk Lodge No. 10, Reeve of Norfolk County, and Chairman of the Board of Education. As befits someone who brought so many Masons together under one banner, it was fitting that M.W. Bro. Wilson was also the Grand Master the year our country became unified, in 1867. He was also instrumental in helping establish the Grand Lodge of Quebec. In 1874, he constituted a further nine lodges, laid several more cornerstones, and visited nearly every lodge in the jurisdiction. Finally, the pace of his public and Masonic careers took their toll, and on January 16, 1875, at sixty-two years of age, William Mercer Wilson passed to the Grand Lodge above, with over 1,000 brethren attending the funeral services. He was laid to rest in St. John's Anglican Church cemetery, south of Simcoe, and in June, 1922 our Grand Lodge erected a monument over the grave of our First Grand Master. In June of each year, a Masonic pilgrimage is held to his gravesite, to pay honor and respect to one of the most outstanding Masons in Canadian history. I invite each of you to join me in representing Brant District as part of this year's pilgrimage.

Story Submitted by: R.W. Bro. Kevin Furlong
Photos: Google Images


"Masonically speaking, our First Grand Master was initiated in 1840, in St. John's Lodge in Simcoe, which would later become Norfolk Lodge No. 10. Before the year was over, he was Junior Warden of the lodge, no small feat considering St. John's Lodge was one of the most respected lodges in all of Ontario. From this time on, Masonry would be the focal point of William Mercer Wilson's life. Within two years of his joining, he would become Master, an office he would hold at various times for twelve years. During this period, Canada was slowly creating an identity of her own, and it was no different in Masonic circles. A petition was adopted, seeking to allow the Masons of this jurisdiction to govern themselves instead of being under the banner of the Grand Lodge of England. The brethren waited three years for an answer from England, which never came. In 1855, a meeting was
70 and 60 Year Masons

King Hiram Lodge No. 566 honoured three of their own with a combined collective Masonic service of one hundred seventy years. W. Bro. Alex Adams the Worshipful Master together with officers, members and family presented these fine Masons with decorations, Masonic pins and certificates to mark their milestone careers in our beloved Craft. V. W. Bro. Sam Wright was presented with the Masonic Veterans Jubilee Medal for 70 years of continuous work in the quarry of life. W. Bro.'s Cliff Wooder and Graham French respectively were honoured as each contributed 50 years to Masonic service. M.W. Bro. Terrance Shand and R.W. Bro. Kevin J. Furlong were also pleased to congratulate these long serving veterans of our time honoured fraternity.


60 Years a Mason


Submitted by: R.W. Bro. Andres R. Penaflor

Bowl for Kids Sake

At our first meeting on September 6th 2018. Our DDGM accepted the trophy on behalf of Toronto West District from Tim Hortons Bowl for Kids Sake, for raising the most money for Big Brothers Big Sisters for the 7th year now. In the photo from left to right is W. Bro. Hansel Marcey, Worshipful Master of Mississauga Lodge, R.W. Bro. Kevin Furlong, DDGM, W.Bro. Diony Garcia, Chairman of the Bowl For Kids event.

Also this night, Mississauga Lodge opened back from summer break with a second degree put on by the Ramese Shriner’s Drum Corp. This was followed by a live drum performance put on within the lodge that was met with great applause by all in attendance.

Bro. Vinesh Lala

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