

THE ASHLAR



THE MASONIC ASSOCIATION OF FRONTENAC DISTRICT, ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS, GRAND REGISTRY OF CANADA

A message from the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Wayne Martin



Brethren, I offer my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your support as the representative of our Grand Master in Frontenac District. M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels, who has challenged us to "Get Knowledge, get Wisdom, but with all thy getting, get Understanding." The Grand Master also challenges us "to raise the standard of excellence in the performance of our Ritual Work," to a level that will appeal to and excite the discerning new generation of applicants. As we start this new Masonic year, I ask you to join with me in promoting these noble objectives.

I would also like to thank the Officers and members of Royal Edward of Cataraqui Lodge No. 92, A.F. & A.M., G.R.C. for their support leading up to my election. It is an honour being a member of Royal Edward of Cataraqui Lodge.

Congratulations are in order for a number Frontenac District members who were elected

and appointed Grand Lodge Officers at the regular communication of Grand Lodge in July. R.W. Bro. Tom Hogeboom was elected to the office of Grand Treasurer. V.W. Bro. Doug Scott and V.W. Bro. Ernie Doughtey were appointed Grand Stewards, and V.W. Bro. Graeme MacDonald was appointed Grand Superintendent of Works.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Chairmen of the District Committees. Without the support of the many dedicated Brethren, some who are returning and some new, who make sure the Masonic Association of Frontenac District runs smoothly, without whom it would be very difficult to bring the Grand Lodge programs and District services to all of the Lodges in Frontenac District.

In addition to bringing the Grand Master's message to our District, I will also be promoting the theme of, "Get a Charge out of Masonry." As we grow throughout our District and welcome younger men into our fraternity, while maintaining and honouring the strengths of our past, it is vital that we remember that the new Mason of today is looking for the same things his father or grandfather before him looked for out of Masonry.

Our recent increase in membership should not cause us to conclude that our work is done, but to the contrary, to encourage us to increase our efforts to ensure that our new masons are well educated in the craft, welcome among us, and given the opportunity to participate in the Lodge to the best of their ability.

The District Project in 2010 – 2011 is to assist the Limestone District School Board in placing Automatic External Defibrillators in its schools. The District Project number is 2413.

Thank you again for your support, and as we work together this year let us look forward to a rewarding and exciting Masonic year together.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

R.W. Bro. Wayne Martin
D.D.G.M., Frontenac District

R.W. Bro. Wayne Martin's 2010 – 2011 Frontenac District Project — Project Number 2413

By David Chamberlain

A collaboration between the Frontenac District Masons and the Limestone District School Board has been created for the purpose of purchasing Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) for community use.

The Limestone District School Board

The Limestone District Schools Board covers an area north of Hwy. #7 up Plevna, west to Napanee, east to Hwy. #15 with a catchment close to Gananoque, and South to include many of the Islands. The Board proudly serve approximately 22,200 students at 55 elementary schools, 11 secondary schools, and Limestone Community Education Centres in the Townships of Central Frontenac, Addington Highlands, North Frontenac, South Frontenac, Loyalist and Stone Mills, as well as the Town of Greater Napanee, the City of Kingston and the Frontenac Islands.

The functions of schools have always held more than that of just teaching students throughout the school day. Many schools double as community centres, and as such host various events throughout the year, such as major sporting events, indoor walking routes to get members fit and out of the elements, churches, and polling stations to name just a few. Some schools also offer courses to seniors during the school year.

Automated External Defibrillators

AED use is not considered a medical procedure in Ontario, which means anyone may use the device for its life saving capabilities. Manufacturers are making the devices easier to

See **District Project** Pg. 2

EDITOR'S NOTE

by Doug Lawless

Brethren, the face of Frontenac District has undergone its annual molt, and R.W. Bro. Wayne Martin, District Deputy Grand Master of Frontenac District has been settling into his role. I want to draw your attention to not only his message, but specifically to the article which details with his District Project. This worthy project deserves our time and attention.

I have included the foreword to the first edition of the National Masonic Research Societies publication, *The Builder*. An unusual piece of Masonic documentation, it takes the form of a philosophy/education/snapshot in time/call to arms/retrospective/forward looking statement benchmark of the craft, with a broad sweeping voice about the craft. As typical of this type of document, the advice/museings/challenges that it speaks to seem as relevant today as the day it was published in 1915.

Finally Brethren, I still require your assistance in turning the tables on the Ashlar distribution model. We very quickly need to move from the bulk of the distribution being done physically, to as many as possible done electronically. I would respectfully ask everyone to be sure their Lodge Secretary has their most up to date e-mail, and they receive the Ashlar via the provided download link.

BUSINESS MANAGERS NOTE

by Gord Mylks

We are two editions into our new look and Editor, Doug Lawless, is working to ensure that all in the District are becoming comfortable with the electronic format. We will continue to print as many hard copies as are needed as the use of the electronic format increases.

There has been positive feedback on our look and content, and even Grand Lodge has expressed its opinion by awarding the Ashlar its *Merit Award* at Grand Lodge this past July.

The bus to Grand Lodge, which is subsidized by the Ashlar, continues to be well supported by our members and, if the interest is there, next July we will encourage members to bring wives/guests. A return trip and full day in Toronto for \$30, can't be beat.

The bus trip to Toronto for Grand Lodge is possible because of the support of our advertisers, and that support costs \$90 per year for three Editions. Should you be looking for

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2010 – 2011 Frontenac District Project continued from Pg. 1

use and more and more fool proof, to ensure they are a safe addition to anyone's first aid equipment. However, proper training can greatly compliment the effectiveness of this tool.

Facts about CPR / AED use:

- Clinical death occurs when the heart stops. It is reversible.
- CPR keeps oxygen-rich blood circulating throughout the body.
- AED can deliver a shock to re-establish an effective rhythm. Quick defibrillation greatly increases chances of survival.
- Survival rate decreases 7% to 10% with each minute there is a delay.
- Defibrillation combined with CPR, is the key treatment in more than 80% of all sudden cardiac arrest victims.

Project Goal


Money raised from this district project will be used to purchase AEDs that can be used by all community groups in the school. The AEDs are to be installed in alarmed cabinets and placed in

central locations in individual schools. The hope is to have at least one AED in all high schools in the LDSB, and then move to elementary schools that are not centrally located, or close to emergency services. The benefit of having these units in the schools is that the Limestone District School Board holds regular training for employees of the Board in both First Aid and CPR / AED. Students in various programs in the Board also have an opportunity to be trained at no charge on how to operate these devices, but until now have never had the equipment available to use. This project will enable that training to be put to good use.

Please continue to refer to this site, as we strive to make available CPR/AED courses available to Lodge members to certify individuals and raise money for the district project. Feel free to leave a comment if you have an event that will benefit the district project.

Please view the Powerpoint presentation made during the Semi-Annual meeting at Albion Lodge on Oct., 26th 2010 at: <http://www.frontenacmasons.ca/district/district-project-2010-2011>.





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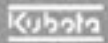
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CASE  

Two District Project presentations made at Hotel Dieu Hospital to their beneficiaries

Submitted by Marvin Switzer from Hotel Dieu's Newsletter



Kingston is steeped in rich Masonic traditions, which continue today. Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald, was a Freemason in Kingston, for instance. And just like Sir John A., the Masonic Association of Frontenac District has done some wonderful things for our community. On Tuesday, October 19, Hotel Dieu celebrated two gifts from the Masons of Frontenac District.

In 2008, District Deputy Grand Master, David Quinn spearheaded the Masons' fundraising toward purchasing equipment for the Cardiac Rehab Centre. As a graduate of the cardiac rehab program himself, David appreciated the care provided by the multi-disciplinary team, and knew first-hand how important the comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation program is to our community. Marvin presented a gift, (above) on David's

behalf, of \$5,000 to the Cardiac Rehab Centre.

In 2009, it was Hotel Dieu's Marvin Switzer who was the D.D.G.M. in charge of choosing a fundraising cause. Marvin, having worked with the staff of the Child Development Centre, saw their dedication and passion and recognized how well the centre's purpose aligned with the Masons' vision: leaving this world a better place than when we entered it by building strong character and values systems for its members. Those in attendance (below) celebrated a gift of \$11,000 to help refurbish a soft play room for the centre. Marvin's Mason brothers, Doug Scott, Wayne Martin (2010 District Deputy Grand Master), Mark Kennedy and Gord Mylks were also there to help celebrate the two gifts.

Top left: W. Bro. Doug Scott, Elizabeth Bardon, Chief of Public Relations & Community Engagement, Eyre Purkin Bien, Sr. Development Officer, Community Engagement, Karen Edgeworth, Program Manager, Clinics & Cardiac Rehab Centre, W. Bro. Wayne Martin, W. Bro. Gord Mylks, and R.W. Bro. Marvin Switzer pose for a photo during the presentation of a cheque on behalf of R.W. Bro. David Quinn, from his District project of 2008 – 2009. Bottom right: The Child Development Centre Staff gather with R.W. Bro. Marvin Switzer, W. Bro. Doug Scott, W. Bro. Gord Mylks, W. Bro. Mark Kennedy (behind Gord), W. Bro. Wayne Martin (2010 District Deputy Grand Master), and Vicki Johnston, Director of the Child Development Centre for a photo at the presentation of the proceeds of the 2009 – 2010 District project to the Child Development Centre.



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Masonic e-sources

by Graeme McDonald

Masonic World > www.masonicworld.com



Ranked #17 on Google's list of popular "Freemasonry" web sites, this is a solid repository of Masonic information. Straightforward navigation and simple HTML design provides easy access to a library of great articles and Masonic Education. It is clearly an American site, but with no particular allegiance to any one Grand Lodge so the information is well rounded representing a good cross section of Craft Masonry and a general North American perspective.

One of the things I like is the lack of pop ups or Google ads on this site. It is clearly sponsored by MasonicSoftware.com, but it's not done in an intrusive or annoying fashion, where like with other sites, you have to scroll down past a page of Google ads before you can find the article you expected to see when you hit the link for that page.

The other nice thing about this site is that there is no attempt to create tacky and unnecessary eye candy that slows down page loading, such as burning torches, revolving Square and Compasses or poorly rendered Masonic music that would no doubt have Bro. Mozart wishing he'd never written the piece in the first place.

Along with news articles, a downloadable graphics library and a dictionary of frequently encountered Masonic terminology, one can subscribe to their monthly newsletter which highlights upcoming events, new publications and news in the world of Freemasonry.

It's not exciting in it's presentation, but if straightforward and easy to access information is what you want, especially if you're on dial-up, then this site is for you!

Freemasonry in the Forces

Submitted by W. Bro. Ed Peters, F.C.F.

Following are a few excerpts from The Pocket History of Freemasonry which was written by Pick and Knight and published in 1953. This book is one of the recommended resource materials for anyone taking the course to become a Fellow of the College of Freemasonry (F.C.F.).

"Masonry hath always been injured by war, bloodshed and confusion", says the Second Charge in Anderson's Constitution of 1723, but we propose to shew how our Craft derived great, though indirect, benefits of the wars of the 18th century and how Freemasonry, in its turn, proved beneficial to many members of many armed forces.

Pre-Grand Lodge Days

The first Initiation in England of which we have any record was that of Sir Robert Moray, Quartermaster-General to the Army of Scotland, which took place in Newcastle in 1641, the Brethren concerned being members of the famous Edinburgh Lodge. In 1646 we have the Initiation of Elias Ashmole at Warrington, and, among those present, was his Father-in-law, Colonel Mainwaring. Thus of the three names just quoted we find a covenanter, a royalist and a parliamentarian. The earliest known Initiation of a naval officer is that of Admiral Robert Fairfax, admitted at York in 1713.

Early Grand Lodge Days

War was endemic during the 18th century but total war, as we know it only too well today, was yet unknown, so travel through enemy territory was by no means impossible and a certain amount of trade persisted. On the expansion of Freemasonry, the Craft came to the notice of many who followed the drum. The first noble Grant Master, the Duke of Montague, was Master-General of the Ordnance. His successor, the Duke of Wharton, the black sheep of the Craft, founded the first lodge in Spain, to appear on the Register of Grand Lodge and, very shortly afterwards, was found engaged in the siege of Gibraltar on the enemy side.

The first Military Lodge of which we know was established in Gibraltar in 1728 but this was a stationary body and not of the ambulatory type which later traveled from place to place with the Regiment to which it was attached. The first of these warrants was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland to the Lodge in the First Foot (Royal

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Scots) in 1732. By 1734, four further Lodges were warranted, in the 33rd Foot (now the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment), 27th (Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers) and 28th (the "Glorious Gloucesters.") In 1747 the Grand Lodge of Scotland issued a Warrant to a Lodge in the Duke of Norfolk's 12th Foot (now the Suffolk Regiment), and it was claimed in the Petition that this Lodge had been established about the same time as the formation of the Regiment in 1685.

England lagged behind in the issue of Military Warrants and by the time the first was issued Ireland had warranted 29 and Scotland 5 Military Lodges, a fact that had important bearing on the spread of influence of the Antients, as the working of Scotland and Ireland was more nearly akin to their working than to that of the Moderns.

To be continued in the Feb. Edition

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Grand Lodge Labours

by Tom Hogeboom

At our last Annual Communication in July, the Brethren assembled approved the 2010 – 2016 Strategic Plan of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. This plan aims to delineate an exciting vision for Freemasonry in Ontario. It defines a practical approach to managing current challenges while achieving Grand Lodge's long-range vision for Freemasonry in Ontario.

This document is the result of two years of work by Brethren from across the province and represents a critical link between Freemasonry's proud history and its vital future.

The Grand Lodge Vision Statement laid out in the 2010-2016 Strategy is:

"Ensuring the timeless vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario"

Grand Lodge believes that over the next 25 years we will be presented with some of the most exciting and challenging opportunities in our jurisdiction's history. As an institution, Freemasonry has remained fundamentally unchanged for hundreds of years, however the Craft's philosophy and core values may be more relevant today than at any other time in our history. We are the current custodians of a way of life that has inspired and helped to cast generations of great men and leaders both here in Ontario and around the world. The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario intends to embrace and exercise its mandate to protect and promote Freemasonry in Ontario, ensuring that Masonry's timeless philosophy and way of life continue to be vital to countless future generations of men in Ontario.

The Mission Statement of Grand Lodge has, at its core, the Masonic virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Our Mission describes the means by which Grand Lodge will achieve its Vision. The Grand Lodge Mission Statement for 2010-2016 is:

"Grand Lodge's mission is to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community and preserve the timeless Masonic initiatory system as a framework for all good men to transform their lives through the ancient and enduring tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth."

Each year, Freemasons in Ontario are proud to put Masonic values into practice by volunteering thousands of hours to the benefit of both their fellow Brethren and the numerous communities throughout Ontario in which they live. However, there is no activity more germane to Freemasonry's mission than the initiation of good men into the mysteries and privileges of our ancient fraternity, facilitating the transformation of lives by promoting the pursuit of knowledge, ethics, spirituality and moral leadership.

Of all the good works that Freemasonry accomplishes, the most enduring and indefatigable outcome of our labours is helping good men become better men.

The offering that Freemasonry renders to Ontario society equates to that of an essential service, and, as such, should be safeguarded for future generations.

Freemasonry's timeless message of freedom, ethics, tolerance and democracy furnish an enduring ideology during this historic period of global change. The Grand Lodge 2010-2016 Strategic Plan supports this core belief and mission – of which I am sure you will hear a lot of over the next few months.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the 2010 – 2016 Strategic Plan of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, please contact R.W. Bro. Tom Hogeboom via email at thogeboom@sympatico.ca

Foreword from the 1st Edition of the The National Masonic Research Society from 1915

By Joseph Fort Newton from The Builder Magazine, January, 1915, Volume 1, Number 1

Under the sign of the Square and Compasses — emblems as eloquent as they are ancient — “The Builder” takes up its labors for the advancement of Freemasonry, with malice toward no man, no party, no church, but with a sincere and hearty good will toward all its fellow-workers in the search for truth and the service of humanity. Obviously it is fitting, in this initial issue, that a statement be made as to the Society of which this journal is a spokesman, its purpose, its spirit, its ideals, and the designs on its Trestle-Board.

So enthusiastic, so remarkable indeed has been the response from all over the country to the suggested organization of a National Masonic Research Society, that there is no longer any doubt that such a movement is needed and that it has a fruitful and far-reaching service to render to the Order. Surely he is a poor prophet, and no poet at all, who does not see that this Society, as now organized and working, can easily be made a factor of moment in the life and progress of Masonry in all its rites and activities, and if we give ourselves to it with earnestness, the day of its founding will be looked back upon as one of the significant dates in the recent history of the Craft.

Some things need to be set down plainly, by way of preface, in behalf of a frank and full understanding. Let it be said once for all that this movement has back of it no motive of personal aggrandizement, much less of pecuniary profit. Instead of trying to make money out of Masonry, the founders of this Society are putting time, money and energy into it, thinking little and caring less of any returns other than to find the truth and tell it. They have no axe to grind, no vanity to vent, no fad to air. Were it possible, they would prefer to remain unnamed, and be known only by their work — like the old cathedral builders, whose labors live but whose names are lost. Their solitary aim is to diffuse Masonic light and

understanding, and thus to extend the influence and power of this the greatest order of men upon earth.

That is to say, they refuse to think of Masonry as a mere collection of social and faintly beneficent clubs, and they regard such a view of it as a pitiful apostasy from the faith of our fathers. They believe that Masonry is a form of the Divine life upon earth, an order of men initiated, sworn and trained to make righteousness, sweet reasonableness and the will of God prevail. They see in it latent powers and possibilities as yet unguessed, still less realized — a great liberalizing and humanizing fraternity, whose mission it is to soften prejudice, to refine thought and sympathy and service, and so help to prepare the race for a nobler manhood and a juster and more merciful social order. Hence their honorable ambition for its service, not only by interpreting it to the world at large, but by broadening and deepening the interest of Masons themselves in the faith, philosophy, history and practical aims of the fraternity. Surely such a labor may well appeal to men who would fain serve their fellows, and do a little good before they die.

Instead of being a private enterprise, this movement has the official sanction and blessing of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and is in fact an outgrowth of the labors of that Grand body in training its young men to be intelligent and capable Masons. What the endorsement of such a plan by the Grand Lodge of Iowa means in the Masonic world, is at once evident, as witness these words by Sir Chetwode Crawley, of whose distinguished services to Masonic scholarship in England no student needs to be told:

“Let me begin by expressing my deep satisfaction that the Grand Lodge of Iowa has extended its sanction to Masonic Research by the appointment of so influential and capable a committee as that indicated in your letter. The adoption of such a plan by any Grand

Lodge would have secured warm approval from all Brethren concerned for the welfare of the Craft, but there is a peculiar fitness in its adoption by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. For more than a generation, we have been accustomed to see the Grand Lodge of Iowa leading the van in the cultivation of the literature of Freemasonry.”

Those words speak a high and sincere tribute, but it is richly deserved and abundantly justified by the record. Seventy-five years ago the Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa — perhaps the greatest of its kind in the world — was founded by the late Theodore Sutton Parvin, whose long and busy life was devoted, with an industry only equalled by his great ability, to the cause of Masonic light and learning. Today that noble library stands as his monument and memorial, its doors open and its fabulous treasures accessible to all who seek further light in Masonry. Having so splendid a tradition and so inspiring an example, it is only natural that Iowa Masons should make their library the center of enthusiasm and activity for the education of the Craft, whereof detailed report may be read in the proceedings of their Grand Lodge. More recently, by force of necessity, new emphasis has been added to the study side of Masonry, and the reason is not far to seek.

Time was, and not so long ago, when it required courage for a man to be a Mason. Feeling against the Order was intense, often fanatical, and its innocent secrets were imagined by the ignorant or malicious to hide some dark design. How different it is now, when the Order is everywhere held in honor, and justly so, for the benignity of its spirit and the nobility of its principles. No wonder its temple gates are thronged with elect young men, eager to enter its ancient fellowship. But those young men must know what Masonry is, whence it came, what it cost in the sacrifice of brave men, and

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what it is trying to do in the world. Otherwise they cannot realize in what a benign tradition they stand, much less be able to give a reason for their faith. Every argument in favor of any kind of education has equal force in behalf of the education of young Masons in the truths of Masonry. So and only so can they ever hope to know what the ritual really means, and what high and haunting beauties lie hidden in the of all emblems.

Finding in this necessity an open door of opportunity, the Grand Lodge of Iowa set about, through its Committee on Masonic Research, to work out a well-planned practical program of method, testing it by facts and results. By natural logic, the fruits of that labor suggested a National movement toward the same end, which has now taken form in this Society. While it thus had its origin in Iowa, as the result of actual experience, it is no longer confined to Iowa, but invites the interest and aid of every Grand Lodge in the country, and of Masonic students of every rank and rite, offering them in this journal a medium for closer fellowship and a forum of frank, free and fraternal discussion of every possible aspect of Masonry.

There is no need that any one make argument to prove that such a movement as this is Masonic; it is in accord with the oldest traditions of the Order we turn to the "Old Charges" — the title deeds of Masonry, and a part of its earliest ritual — we learn that the Craft-lodges of the olden time were in fact schools, in which young men studied not only the technical laws of building, but the Seven Sciences and the history and symbolism of the Order as well. Apprentices were selected as much for their mental capacity as for bodily agility, and such as betrayed no aptitude for the intellectual aims of the Craft were allowed to go back to the Guilds and work as "rough masons." No young man, during his term as an Apprentice, was permitted to keep late hours, unless he did so in study, "which shall be deemed a sufficient excuse," as an old Charge relates.

Truth to tell, we have much yet to learn from the old Craft-masonry, and especially in the matter of training young Masons. For one thing, they recited a brief history of the Craft to the candidate at the time of his initiation as an Entered Apprentice, not leaving him bewildered, as we too often do, knowing nothing of a truly great and heroic history. No doubt the history so recited — as we have it in the "Old Charges" was sometimes fantastic and far from the fact. None the less, the principle was right, and had that wise custom been continued there would have been less occasion for Gould to say, what is only too true, that Masons know less about the history of their own order than the men of any other fraternity. Harking back to that old and wise custom, the Grand Lodge of Iowa has had a brief story and interpretation of Masonry written, a copy of which is to be given to each of its initiates on the night of his raising.

Masonic research, as we now use the phrase, may almost be said to have begun with Findel, albeit good work had been done before his day. Still, his *History of Masonry* was one of the very first books of the right kind, and it did much to put the Craft in the path of authentic learning. Others followed, both abroad and in this country — Pike, Fort, Mackey, Drummond, Parvin, to name but a few among us — and their work, which met with little response, was nobly prophetic. An example in point was the brief but brilliant career of the *American Review of Freemasonry*, edited by Mackey. It began in 1858, ran two years, and died for lack of adequate support. In his valedictory, Dr. Mackey said:

"It was an experiment, commenced with a view of ascertaining how far a Masonic magazine of a very elevated character would be sustained by the craft in this country. For two years this experiment has been made, and it is plain that the 'Quarterly' was in advance of the Masonic age. Doubtless it was supported better than such a work

would have been twenty years ago, but not so well as a similar one will be ten years hence, for the literary character of the order is improving. The editor feels some satisfaction in believing that the work, during its brief existence, has done no little in hastening that improvement."

Truly that was a brave optimism, as befitted a pioneer, and its vision has been fulfilled by the facts. By the same token, we who live in a day made better by the labors of such men dare not be less courageous, lest we be found unworthy of our fathers. The men who wrote for the *Review* have now passed to where, beyond these voices, there is peace, but their work remains. One has only to open its yellow pages to read the articles of Pike on the Mysteries, and the essays of Mackey on Symbolism — which afterwards formed the chapters of his book in exposition of the *Symbolism of Freemasonry* — written in style which may well be a model of lucidity. Those men did not fail; they were sowers who did their work and trusted the far off harvest of years. Remembering their faith, their sacrifice, their high devotion, we would build on their foundations, linking the past with a greater tomorrow.

We inherit the past; we create the future. Since the days of the *Review* much has been done, especially by the great Research Lodges of England, and most of all by the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of London, to whose labors we owe an incalculable debt. As in religious scholarship, so in Masonry, the Higher Criticism has come and done its much needed work, testing documents, sifting evidence, unearthing buried treasure, and applying to Masonry the approved methods of historical study. Of necessity, the voluminous processes of this long investigation are known only to the diligent student who has had the time and taste to follow its revealing labors — just as in the field of

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Lodge News — What's Been Happening in Frontenac District

Templum Fidelis Lodge No. 746

The Bath Masonic Hall is home to two Lodges, Maple Leaf Lodge No. 119 and Templum Fidelis Lodge No. 746.

The Brethren of Templum Fidelis, meeting in the Bath Masonic Hall, continue their expression and presentation of Traditional Observance Masonry, and will have a second degree at their regular meeting in September.

Once again, Templum Fidelis has arranged for an excellent guest speaker at our agape following Lodge and in September we welcome noted author, W. Bro. Mark Tabbert of Washington D.C., who currently is the director of collections for the George Washington memorial.

— *Fraternally, Gord Mylks*

Maple Leaf Lodge No. 119

The Bath Masonic Hall is home to two Lodges, Maple Leaf Lodge No. 119 and Templum Fidelis Lodge No. 746.

Our building was restored in time to be an authentic venue for the 150th Anniversary celebrations of Maple Leaf which began in June 2009 and finished this year when our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Raymond Daniels and the Officers of Heritage Lodge, visited on June 26th.

Once again, the Brethren of Maple Leaf participated in the Canada Day Celebrations in Bath, and after travelling through town on their float, hosted a fish fry for all comers.

We are proud of our newest Grand Lodge Officer as W. Bro Graeme McDonald was appointed Superintendent of the Works at Grand Lodge in July, and he will be presented in his lodge as V.W. Bro. McDonald at our regular

September meeting.

V.W. Bro. McDonald was also confirmed as the Vice-President of Masonic Association of Frontenac District, and will convene the Grand Junior Wardens Degree Team at the Bath Masonic Hall on November 8th, 2010.

— *Fraternally, Gord Mylks*

Albion Lodge No. 109

$9 + 6 + 2 = 17$

No. 109

Being good Masons, many of us are familiar with “3’s” and “7’s”, but certain other larger numbers figured more prominently in the past Masonic year at Albion No. 109.

The Lodge presided over, or conferred 9 First Degrees, 6 Second Degrees and 2 Third Degrees. “Seven” members may make a Lodge perfect, but “17” degrees is close to sublime. The experience of V.W. Bro. David Shanas in the East was an asset matched only by the willingness of his degree teams and the kindness of sister Lodges who filled in the breach when Albion simply ran out of available nights.

A special Albion thank you goes to Frontenac Lodge No. 621, Queen’s Lodge No. 578, Minden Lodge No. 253 and Victoria Lodge No. 299 for passing and raising 9 of our new Brethren and for keeping the Masonic progression of our members on course.

Simple math will tell you that we have another busy year underway raising Fellowcraft, and indeed initiations have begun again in September.

The number “3” properly enumerates the number of social and family events that Albion organized this past summer beginning with the

Kids Fishing Day in July and followed closely by the return of the Albion Fish Fry later in the month. Trust me, the catch from the former made no contribution to the menu of the latter!



Nathand and Zach Willard with their catch from the Albion Kids Fishing Day. “Really Dad, it was this big!”



W.B. Dan Rickards, Bro. Matt Willard, Lynda and Kathleen Rickards enjoy the Kids Fishing Day.

In August a most excellent Family Barbeque feeding several generations of Masons and

See **Lodge News** Pg. 9

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“Since 1926, three generations of service”

their families took place – all in all injecting a good measure of life into the old No. 109 architecture.

The enthusiasm of youth is contagious and members of all ages are energized by the past year. We are reminded of the working tools phrase “from the common gavel we learn that skill without exertion is of little avail, that labour is the lot of man... etc. And from the chisel, “perseverance is necessary to establish perfection”. Let it be known that at Albion Lodge we mastered exertion, improved skill, we proved our lot is labour, we persevered, but perfection may require a little more time!

— *Fraternally, Gord Taylor*

Rideau Lodge No. 460

Excitement just didn't describe the feeling prior to our September D.D.G.M. meeting! Several of the hard working Brethren had made sure that we would be able to meet in our own Lodge Room.

Railings were in place, the Lodge painted, the ceiling tiles installed, the A/C was running, furniture retrieved from storage, furnishings retrieved from the United Church Hall and our Electrical Contractor ensured that we had appropriate lighting. Our Lodge Room was properly appointed! Yes, there is more to be done but we will work away at as we have been all along.

Our target date for completion is drawing ever nearer for the Dedication of the Lodge and Laying of the Cornerstone by M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels on Friday, April 8, 2011. There will be a Reception at 5:00 p.m. and then Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Seeley's Bay Firehall.

Tickets for the dinner are now available. Contact W. Bro. Jake Hofstee for details.

We have been working hard not only on the building but in activities to raise the funds to complete the work.

In July and August our meetings were more casual given that in June we had a Barbecue prior to our meeting and in August, a fish-fry. Given the heat of the summer being casual was an extra benefit.

We enjoyed the food, the company and participation of our visitors as well as excellent presentations by R.W. Bro. Cliff Farber in July and R.W. Bro. Marvin Switzer in August.

Every Lodge should have a Brother like W. Bro. Keith Perry (3rd from the left). Keith has been active in his time at the District level but has always been particularly active in the community for anything that involves Rideau Lodge. If we have a fund raising event, Keith is there and is the most productive of anyone.

He is a true people person. He and R.W. Bro. Laurie Langille spearhead the collection of aluminium cans, crushing them and selling them when enough have been collected. Keith has been instrumental in getting donations of items to be raffled off.

If there is work being done at the Lodge building, Keith is there pitching in. Even when nobody-else is there, Keith can be found chipping away at the work to be done.

The picture shows Keith accepting a donation of \$2,700.00 from Worthy Matron Hilda Simpson; a donation dedicated toward the kitchen of the Rideau Masonic Hall.

(L – R) W. Bro. Maurice Hebert, President, Rideau Masonic Hall Inc.; Worthy Matron Hilda Simpson,




Order of the Eastern Star; W. Bro. Keith Perry; W. Bro. Paul Belshaw; W. M. of Rideau Lodge.

Community involvement is one of the hallmarks of Rideau Lodge. This is epitomized no better than by V.W. Bro. Glenn Morris. Glenn has been involved with the Old Time Fiddlers for seven years as President, entertainer and host. The first Sunday of the month the Seeley's Bay Legion Branch has a fund raiser where Glenn not only an entertainer but often co-hosts. He attends dinners and events that the community puts on as well as entertaining at Nursing Homes. There is usually not an event going on in Seeley's Bay where Glenn and his family are there. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 491 nominated Glenn for their Friendship award.



Glenn is shown accepting the Friendship Award.

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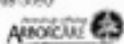
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The Worshipful Master

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The Senior Warden

Leaps short buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a goods train, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on the water if the sea is calm, talks with God.

The Junior Warden

Leaps short buildings with a running start and a favourable wind, is almost as powerful as a goods train, is faster than a speeding airgun pellet, walks on water of a swimming pool, talks with God if special dispensation is given.

The Senior Deacon

Barely clears a garden hut, loses a tug-of-war with a train, can fire a speeding bullet, swims well, is occasionally addressed by God.

The Deacons

Makes high marks on the wall when trying to leap buildings, is run over by trains, can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury, doggie paddles, talks with the animals.

The Stewards

Falls over doorsteps when trying to enter buildings, says "Look at the choo choo's", wets himself with a water pistol, plays in mud puddles, mumbles to himself.

The Inner Guard

Runs into buildings, recognizes trains two out of three times, is not issued ammunition, can stay afloat with a life vest, talks to walls.

The Secretary

Lifts buildings and walks under them, kicks trains off the tracks, catches speeding bullets in his mouth and eats them, freezes water with a single glance, He is God!

Simpson Masonic Lodge hands out 2010 Awards

by Doug Bond

For well over a century, Simpson Masonic Lodge of Newboro has been an integral part of our community here in the Keystone of the Rideau. And for over a quarter century, we have presented scholarships to worthy students graduating from Rideau District High School, our community high school. Our major awards are the Myers Scholarships and the A. and R. Simmons Award. The Myers Scholarships are granted annually to deserving Rideau graduates who are pursuing further studies at university, agricultural and community college. The A. and R. Simmons Award is granted each year to a worthy student who is embarking on studies in Health Sciences.

On the evening of August 18th, Diane Haskins presented the A. and R. Simmons Award with a cheque for \$750.00 to Shannon Timpson to assist her toward her Degree in Nursing at Queen's University. We are most confident that Shannon will devote her enthusiasm and talents to assist others to good health as this award will assist toward her understanding of human nature.

This year's Myers Awards were presented to Sara Hamilton of Lyndhurst who is embarking on her studies of Biological Sciences at the University of Guelph; to Michael O'Meara of Elgin who is pursuing his interest in Kinesiology at Queen's University and to Nathan Mallett

of Portland who is directing his post-grad studies towards a career in Fish and Wildlife Management at Fleming College. These awards were presented by Harry Seeley, Peter Clarke, Ron Pollard, Norm Lapointe and Peter Myers. The officers and members of Simpson Lodge sincerely hope that our awards will encourage and assist these fine young people in their pursuit of excellence in education and fulfillment in life. This will be a tribute to the Simmons and the Myers families that have so generously made these awards possible. Since the inception of the Myers Award in 1982, we have provided financial encouragement to over 90 Rideau graduates. We are honoured to have been in some way instrumental in their many and varied accomplishments.

In addition, at the recent graduation ceremony at Rideau District High School, we presented a number of awards to very deserving students of the Technical Studies program. This year's Simpson Masonic Lodge Awards were granted to Adam Raison for exemplary work in Construction, William Neff for his fine results in Communication Technology, Ken Beaubiah for commendable efforts in Automotive Tech. and Terry Perrin for worthy success in Co-op Education.

We wish all of these students the very best in their continued studies.



Left to right: Nathan Mallett, Michael O'Meara, Shannon Timpson and Sara Hamilton

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Biblical Criticism the real results achieved are locked up, for the most part, in huge volumes read by only a few.

Here the National Research Society may render a vital service to the Order, not only by encouraging further original investigation, but also, and not one whit less important, by interpreting to the Craft at large the net results of Masonic scholarship. What Renan called “the grand curiosity” must never be allowed to sleep, and this Society will do all within its power to extend the area of knowledge, bringing new facts to light wherever they are to be found. The field is rich. The labor is fascinating. What has been done only reveals how much remains to be done, while it shows us how to go about it. At the same time, the humblest member of the craft, toiling in office and shop, at the forge and on the farm, is entitled to know the best that has been thought and the latest fact discovered by the greatest Masonic scholar. Therefore, this Society seeks to unite the work of the investigator with that of the interpreter, and to that end it proposes:

First, the publication of a journal devoted to the study and interpretation of the history, philosophy, symbolism and purposes of the various rites, orders and degrees of Freemasonry.

Second, the publication, from time to time, of books, pamphlets and lectures on Masonic subjects, and the collection, preservation and indexing of all material of value to Masonic students.

Third, the arrangement and publication of courses of Masonic study for lodges, or groups of students; the promotion and supervision, when it is desired, of meetings of Masons for Masonic study and discussion; and, ultimately, the foundation and maintenance of a bureau of Masonic lectures.

Fourth, the compilation of lists of names of Masonic students interested in different lines of Masonic study or activity, for the stimulation and guidance of Masonic intercourse — and, it may be added, for the aid of Masonic journals when special articles are desired.

Fifth, the collection and circulation of data bearing upon distinct Masonic activities, such as plans and specifications for different kinds of Masonic buildings; systems for financing of Masonic projects; the results of practical experience upon various phases of Masonic charity, and the like.

Sixth, the foundation and management of funds for the financial aid of Masonic students

in special fields of Masonic research; in the form of a Fellowship, it may be, whereby a young man — say, of the Acacia Fraternity — trained for such studies in a university, may be set at work on some period or problem in Masonic history, and thus render a permanent service to the Craft. By endowing a Fellowship in the Society, a man of wealth, who has long had it in mind to do something for Masonry, can leave a living legacy which will go on doing good after he has passed away.

Having thus indicated in what ways the Society seeks to serve Freemasonry, it may not be amiss to point out how the Order can make the Society effective for the high end for which it was founded. First of all, every Mason who becomes a member of the Society adds, by so much, to its usefulness and power. The time has come when every Grand Lodge should have a Committee on Masonic Research — or Masonic Education, if they choose so to name it — and such committees. By co-operating with this Society, may have access to every resource at its command. Also, the various groups of Masonic students, of which there are many in different parts of the country, ought by all means to work with the Society, making use of its journal not only for mutual instruction and inspiration, but the better to share the results of their researches with all the Craft.

Such is the spirit and ideal of this Society, and if to realize it all at once is denied us, surely it means much to set it before us, working the while to make it come true. Manifestly, here is a practical program which, if worked out, will mean a new era in the history of Freemasonry, opening avenues of opportunity and enterprise to which no one can set a limit. It differs from other undertakings of a like kind chiefly in that, instead of being confined to a few, it seeks to enlist the whole fraternity, uniting scattered efforts in behalf of Masonic education into a magnificent movement for the advance of the Order which has no other purpose than the present and future upbuilding of humanity.

Finally, it only remains for ye editor to state, from his point of view, what the spirit and policy of *The Builder* should be. As its name indicates, this journal for the Masonic student — like the Society which it represents — is by its very genius constructive, and in no sense iconoclastic, its sole object being to build up, never to tear down. Anybody can destroy. Even a cow can trample a lily which the warm earth, the fertilizing sun, and the soft witchery of

summer air have united to grow. Speaking for himself, the editor holds it to be self-evident that the only way to overthrow error and unreason is to tell the simple truth — tell it simply, vividly, without fear and without resting, in love of God and love of man. Other way to victory there is none, and there never will be.

Masonry is Friendship, and if its benign influence is to prevail upon earth, it must labor in a spirit of will toward all men, seeking not to destroy its enemies, but to win them to the light and dignity of the truth. Nothing is gained by denunciation. Everything is ruined by hate. Love is the one mighty Builder, and they toil in vain who build upon any other foundation. Our task is to let in the light, let in all the light, let the light all the way in, assured that when the light of Truth shines darkness will disappear — and with it, all the vile and slimy things that hide within its shadows. There is no might like the might of Truth, and once the temple of Masonry is made to stand in the sunlight where all men can see its beauty, it will command the homage of all who love their race.

Therefore, *The Builder* will be positive, but not dogmatic; open minded, but never indifferent; considerate of all, but absolutely uncompromising in respect of the principles of Freemasonry — seeking the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Critical it must be, since criticism, as Arnold defined it, is appreciation, estimate, “co-operation in the search for truth.” Those who write for these pages may expect to have their theories put to the test of reason and fact in the open forum of debate, which is what the seeker after truth most desires. Let the discussion be frank, free and thorough; all that the editor asks is that it be fraternal in spirit, each one keeping an open mind and a kind heart toward all his comrades in the great quest.

For the rest, the editor asks pardon for having taken so much time and space, but it seemed appropriate to exhibit in some detail the designs of the Society, the faith in which it is founded, and the spirit in which it works. Hereafter, his duty will be much like that of a toastmaster — presiding over the feast, introducing the speakers, with occasional interludes of comment— his one desire being to encourage a spirit of fraternal fellowship and intellectual hospitality, of genial, joyous good will which, since the far off days of the old “Regius Poem,” has been the reigning genius wherever Masons meet.

The Annual Pilgrimage to Grand Lodge was Grand!



Left: Outgoing D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Marvin J. Switzer poses for a fraternal photo with W. Bro. Doug Scott, at the completion of their term at Grand Lodge this summer. Top: R.W. Bro. Marvin J. Switzer exchanging highly classified material with R.W. Bro David Wood. It was rumored W. Bro. Gord Mylks overheard an exchange to the tune of "I'll give you 2 Wood D.D.G.M Collector Cards for 1 Switzer?" Bottom: Brethren of Frontenac begin to fill the room in anticipation of the new D.D.G.M. of Frontenac District, Wayne Martin being invested.

OLD, OLD, OLD... LODGE BUILDING — LODGE ELGIN AND BRUCE NO. 1077



Submitted by Carman Sararas While browsing through the Scots Magazine, on-line, I came across this interesting old building. Apparently it dates from the 14th Century and is the home of Lodge Elgin and Bruce No. 1077 on the Grand Register of Scotland. The Building is known as the King's Cellar and was originally a storehouse for the Palace of Dunfermline; the seat of Royalty before Stirling or Edinburgh. This brief caption accompanied the photos; Lodge Elgin and Bruce Masonic Hall, King's Cellar, Academy Square, Limekilns, Dunfermline, Scotland. Although this is not the oldest Lodge in Scotland, it may be one of the oldest Lodge buildings.

Notes continued from Pg. 2

a place to put your advertising dollar, and like the look and events sponsored by the Ashlar, send your business card copy to Doug Lawless. It would be money well spent to support your award winning newsletter.

As a last item, the Ashlar is pleased to welcome Bro. Chris Burns, Albion Lodge No 109, to our Board. Chris is replacing W. Bro. Joe Percy who is stepping down after many years of service on the ashlar board.

THE ASHLAR

We welcome Brethren from outside Frontenac District to subscribe to the Ashlar. Send an e-mail with the subject line "Frontenac District Ashlar please!" to: doug.lawless@cogeco.ca, and be put on our e-mail distribution list.

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22 Apr. for the May issue
23 Sept. for the Oct.. issue.

Submissions: Submissions for consideration and publication range from newsworthy items to articles of philosophy, contemplation education and history. E-mail submissions to: doug.lawless@cogeco.ca

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