



Niagara 'B'



# *District Light*

Vol. 2, Issue 1 - October 2009

## William Mercer Wilson Recipient

The Grand Master **M. W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels** will be presenting the William Mercer Medal to **Bro. Arthur J. Horton** a member of Cope Stone Lodge No.373 for the past 60 years on **November 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm.**

**Bro. Horton** received his 60 yr. Mason Jewel last month along with 5 brethren from Cope Stone Lodge # 373



Left to Right: Bro. John Shantry (60 yrs), Bro. Arthur Horton (60yr), W.M. John K. Calver, Bro. Glenn Richardson on behalf of his father Bro. Richard Richardson (60yr), Bro. Ernie Christie (60yr), not able to attend were Bro. Earl Ort (60yr) & Bro. Peter Roth (50 yr) and R.W. Bro. Sean M. Fuller - DDGM Niagara B District

Request for Submissions - **YES FROM YOU!**  
Message from DDGM  
Thanks - V. W. Bro. Larry Peyton  
Masonic Youth Programs  
Lodge Resource Manual & Chairman Workshops  
Scottish Rite  
Cave Degree - Tennessee  
The Meridian  
Moment of Reflection  
Cornerstone Rededication  
The Measure of a Man  
Official Visits  
Old Masters Wages  
Rt. W. Bro. Richard Stokes  
Niagara Valley Officers & Meetings  
50 yr. Jewel Recipients

**Newsletter Articles, News or Event listings**

Your submissions for any upcoming newsletter is requested and desired. They will serve to make this publication better. Your articles might include, upcoming fellowship events, pictures of events or of brethren after receiving a degree, concordant body events open to all masons, history of your lodge, Masonic articles of interest. Note that any or all submissions may added to the district website. Forward all submissions to:

Bro. John Newton : [niabdistlight@gmail.com](mailto:niabdistlight@gmail.com) or  
: 42 Malkin Ave, Fort Erie ON L2A 5J1



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## Message from the District Deputy Grand Master Niagara B District

**R. W. Bro. Sean M. Fuller**

Brethren,

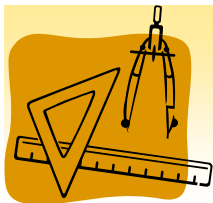
It is indeed a privilege to serve as District Deputy Grand Master of Niagara B District. I thank you for allowing me this honour and I will do my best to serve you and our great district. It was wonderful to see every lodge in the district represented at the first official visit.

This year's theme is unity and balance and the district project is the MasoniCHiP program. To learn more about the MasoniCHiP program and it's importance to the community, children and families, you can get information on the Grand Lodge website. The theme of unity and balance relates to masonry and our daily lives, how to live the lessons and ideals which we profess to hold so dear.

I encourage the brethren to make use of our new website ([www.niagarabmasons.ca](http://www.niagarabmasons.ca)) as Brother John Newton has put forth a great effort and the site looks excellent. Remember the more information we send in the better the site will be.

Just as a reminder the district resource team are there to assist you in the lodge, Please don't hesitate to contact either myself, the district secretary, or the district chairman themselves. We are here to serve you; thank you for that privilege.

R.W.Bro. Sean Fuller  
DDGM Niagara B District



*Masonic life is a measure to be filled,*

*not a cup to be drained.*

*W.Bro. Bill Hodwitz*



### **Thanks from V. W. Bro. Larry Peyton - MS Bike Tour**

V. W. Bro. Larry Peyton, Macnab Lodge #169, would like to sincerely thank the Masons who supported my 75 Km. M.S. Bike Tour on Aug. 23 to raise funds for M S Research.

75 @ 75 did complete the Bike Tour in 4 ½ hours, and did not get wet until driving home. The prediction was for 5 mm of rain but we got 5" or more that afternoon. With a goal of \$2,000, I raised \$2,490. Masons are charitable.

Next year at 76 I won't ride 76 Km because I might miss the massage after the Bike Tour. I do appreciate these volunteers!

Fraternally,  
V. W. Bro. Larry Peyton

## **Masonic Youth Programs**

Three distinct youth programs exist in Ontario which are affiliated with Freemasonry. They are Job's Daughters International, DeMolay and The International Order of the Rainbow Girls. The Masonic youth programs require our participation and financial support in order to remain active and grow.

In 2007, at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, M. W. Bro. Allan J. Petrisor, established a Youth Initiatives Committee to fully explore how Masons in the province could further provide support for the Masonic Youth Groups in Ontario, such as the Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters and DeMolay for boys.

### **Job's Daughters International**

Founded in Omaha, Nebraska in 1920, Job's Daughter's International is an Order whose purpose is to band together young girls with Masonic Relationship from ages 10-20 for character building through moral and spiritual development by teaching:

- A greater reverence for God
- Loyalty to the Flag and the Country for which it stands
- Respect for parents and guardians

There are currently Job's Daughter's Bethels in Canada, the United States, Australia, Brazil & the Philippines. The organization encourages its members to be a significant influence for good, and it is not only involved with charitable work, but also promotes education through scholarships, and social development.

### **Demolay (Ontario)**

Started in 1919, DeMolay is a fraternal organization for young men between the ages of 12 and 21. In order to join DeMolay, a young man must be at least 12 years old, be younger than 21, believe in God/a Supreme Being, and strive to be a good person.

*Comradeship*  
*Reverence for Sacred Things Fidelity (faithfulness)*  
*Courtesy Cleanness Patriotism*

Through two degrees, DeMolay teaches seven precepts or basic life principles upon which DeMolay members should base their lives :

*Love of Parents (Filial Love) Comradeship*  
*Reverence for Sacred Things Fidelity (faithfulness)*  
*Courtesy Cleanness Patriotism*

DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to lead successful, happy, and productive lives. Basing its approach on timeless principles and practical, hands-on experience, DeMolay opens its doors to young men aged 12 to 21 by developing civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today.

### **International Order of the Rainbow Girls**

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a fun and dynamic organization that embraces women between the ages 11-21, regardless of race or religious background. Rainbow motivates girls to achieve their life goals, build their self confidence and encourages them to 'make a difference' in their home and community.

Being a Rainbow Girl can open many doors. She will attend monthly meetings that are run by girls, attend fun events, enjoy many opportunities to travel and make friends from around the world. Membership in Rainbow develops confidence and strong leadership skills that will continue to guide her in her future. Rainbow encourages girls to practice many lessons in her everyday life. These lessons include, but are not limited to:

*Self Respect                      Loving Others                      Respect for religion & culture*  
*Caring for the environment    keeping her word*  
*Striving to be an active citizen who can make a difference in the community*

Fraternally,  
Bro. Sheldon Kofsky

Youth Initiative Committee Secretary  
mason@jmaks.ca  
905-562-8269

### **Committee Announces - Lodge Resources Manual & Chairman's Workshops**

This year the Lodge Resources Committee will again be rolling out the Lodge Resources Manual & its accompanying Chairman's Workshop with the objectives of the workshop being:

1. Train Lodge Resources Chairmen
2. Familiarize the participant with the scope and content of the Lodge Resources Manual
3. Provide an educational experience to the participants
4. Promote the philosophy that Knowledge + Confidence = Success

The following is an overview of the topics and material to be presented at the workshop:

- Review the structure of the Lodge Resources Committee; committee members, team leaders, regional liaison representatives and they serve your lodge.
- Provide an overview of the Lodge Resources Manual & the valuable material that is contained within it; with particular emphasis on the four Lodge Resources programs and the value added benefits that can be provided to your lodge.
- Your Role as the Lodge Resources Chairman will be discussed at length.
- Job description, duties and responsibilities.
- Emphasis will be place on plan development and the important role that surveys play in getting feedback from the members by providing them an opportunity to participate and express themselves.

### **Lodge Resources Committee 2009 - 2010**

Lodge Resources Committee Chair: R.W. Bro. David Dainard    [drd-dd98@rogers.com](mailto:drd-dd98@rogers.com)  
Reg. # 1 Liaison Rep: R.W. Bro. John Hiley                      [norfolkdr@aol.com](mailto:norfolkdr@aol.com)

Reg. # 2 Liaison Rep: R.W. Bro. Alan Donovan  
Reg. # 3 Liaison Rep: R.W. Bro. Bill Thompson  
Reg. # 4 Liaison Rep: R.W. Bro. Paul Farrell  
Reg. # 5 Liaison Rep: R.W. Bro. Leonard Feldt

[alan.donovan@sympatico.ca](mailto:alan.donovan@sympatico.ca)  
[gsw94@rogers.com](mailto:gsw94@rogers.com)  
[paulgarrell@hotmail.com](mailto:paulgarrell@hotmail.com)  
[lfmastere@hotmail.com](mailto:lfmastere@hotmail.com)

## **The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada**

The Scottish Rite holds that there are no degrees higher than that of a Master Mason. However, these first three degrees are but the wonderful entrance to the great temple of free masonry.

Our Mission is to teach, to train and to encourage Master Masons in search of opportunities to further enhance their knowledge and enjoyment of Masonry.

For information concerning the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite please contact:

- ⇒ W. Bro. John Perham at (905) 894 - 1831
- ⇒ W. Bro. Brent Julian at (905) 641 - 3410
- ⇒ V.W. Bro. Larry Stewart at (905) 295 - 6707

Please be advised that our Niagara Valley Scottish Rite Degree Team would be honoured to assist your lodge with degree work. We provide a team for the First, Second and Third Degrees.

For information concerning the degree team & possible bookings, please contact V.W. Bro. Larry H. Stewart, Director at (905) 295 - 6707.

## **The Cave Degree - Tennessee**

In August of 2006, an intrepid band of brothers from Palmer Lodge, set off on a road trip to Kingston Tennessee to take part in the annual Cave Degree hosted by Union Lodge #38. We had no expectations other than a weekend away and the curiosity of seeing just what was going to happen in a cave.



Leaving on Thursday evening we arrived for the meet and greet on Friday. We were all surprised and pleased by our first taste of Southern hospitality which included the difference between “Ya all and All ya’all”.

We were also shocked to find that the degree team and candidate had flown from California for this event. There were 201 Masons representing 90 Lodges, 17 States and 2 countries in attendance.

As we were the first Canadian delegation to attend this event in its 35 year history, we were given the freedom of the Lodge to present the Grand Master and the Master several gifts, which included maple syrup and a tall-boy

can of good Canadian lager.

Friday evening we bonded with the California brothers. They touted the great wines they had brought with them and we quietly destroyed them with the ‘barley sandwich’.

The Cave Degree on Saturday afternoon was awesome. There were over 185 Masons representing 17 states and 68 Lodges. The cave is located in a very rural area on Elbans farm. Union Lodge has the field adjacent to the cave mowed for parking and a culvert pipe installed to allow access. We were told to bring warm clothes and our own chairs which we were very glad to have done.

All in all, it was a great trip and we have since gone back twice. Each year the numbers grow, each year we make new friends and see how other jurisdictions present their work. Each year the Grand Master of the state learns the meaning of the secret Canadian word “Eh” and is treated to maple syrup and a taste of our brewing expertise. This year there were over 200 brethren on Friday and over 300 in attendance at the cave.

During our visits, a great deal of curiosity has grown among our Southern brothers as to how our work is done. So much so that Palmer Lodge has been invited to exemplify a first degree at the 2010 Friday night meeting. Our Grand Lodge and the Grand Master did not hesitate in granting dispensation for this event. This is a first for Canada and for our District. Our Southern brethren are very excited. The secretary of Union Lodge, RW. Bro. Tom Boduch, will be installed as Grand Master of the state of Tennessee and the Saturday cave degree is being done by a re-enactor team from Tennessee. The expectation is that this the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the Cave Degree will be the biggest ever.

## The Meridian

A Masonic "Sign, Token or Word" Brings Comfort after a Tragedy.

We learn of certain "signs, tokens and words, whereby one Mason may know another in the darkness as well as at noonday". But what about a sign from beyond.... from the eternal Lodge above... that all is OK?

On Monday, January 31, 2000, Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashed into the Santa Barbara Channel off the California coast. On board that flight were two couples from Poulsbo, Washington. The men, Bob Williams and Bob Thorgrimson, were friends and Brothers. Both were Past Masters of Warren G. Harding Lodge. A tragic crash, the plane broken into bits, and its precious contents scattered to the four winds of heaven. Most plane pieces settled into the sea in water 700 feet deep. Other pieces, like the seat cushions, floated to the surface, there to be picked up by fishermen and others providing assistance after the crash.

Two fishermen on a small boat, the Meridian, worked for hours hauling wreckage and personal effects on board. They dutifully turned everything over to the Coast Guard, as evidence to help reconstruct the crash and determine its cause.

Or at least they thought everything had been turned over to the authorities. On the day after the crash, two squid fishermen were washing their boat of the jet fuel that contaminated the debris picked up the day before. Stuck in a recess under the handle of the deck hatch, was a gold and red Masonic ring. Word got out that the fishermen had this Masonic ring.

The local Sheriff came to the house of one of the fishermen demanding the ring be turned over to him as evidence. The fisherman's wife was threatened with arrest. **She refused!** The ring was going to be returned to the family of its owner. *"She wasn't giving it up -- she was that strong in her convictions"*

The two fishermen, one a native of Poulsbo, spent twenty hours contacting Masonic Lodges trying to identify to whom the beautiful ring belonged. They finally determined that the ring belonged to Wor. Bob Williams, given to him by his wife Patty. The ring, worn by the passenger flying thousands of feet above the ocean, in a plane that falls to the ocean's depths; the ring that mysteriously appeared within hours of the crash on the deck of a boat being worked by a fisherman hailing from that small fishing town of Poulsbo, 1100 miles from the crash site.

Who can possibly explain how something so small would curiously be found by these two fishermen who would make every effort possible to see that the ring would bring peace and light, after death, to the loved ones of the deceased?

Bob Williams' daughter feels she knows the answer. Tracy Wnizek struggled to accept the death of her parents, but the Masonic ring was a sign from her father. The father and his small daughter had long ago made a pact that the first to die would send a signal to the other that all was well in the hereafter. Only a year before the accident, after her grandfather died, she reminded her father of their old pact. A message would be sent from beyond "*to let the other person know if it's OK, like we think it's going to be*".

The Masonic ring was her signal...a message from her father. The "Meridian" truly was a divine ark, sailing in the tempestuous sea of troubles off the coast of California last January. Bob William's Masonic ring was a sign to a troubled daughter that her parents had found rest in the Lodge not built with hands, eternal in the heavens.

On February 13, 2000, more than 300 people gathered at the Bremerton Masonic Temple in memory of their four friends and Masonic Brethren. The Bremerton Scottish Rite and Warren G. Harding Lodge conducted memorial services. Hearts were feeling the loss of loved ones and a few minds had to be wondering, that the Grand Architect of the Universe used a Masonic ring as a sign to a grieving daughter, in the darkness of her grief, that her parents were in a far better place and wanted her to know that "*all is OK*"?

Heartfelt thoughts and prayers are extended to the families of these two couples and to the Brethren of Warren G. Harding Lodge.

*Let's Dance*

*Life may not be the party we expected, but while we are here*

*We might just as well dance!*

### A Moment of Reflection

I woke up early Sunday morning and decided I would go for a walk in the cemetery. I was feeling a little depressed and sad due to my financial situation and other problems people dwell on each day and I wanted to clear my head and get some fresh air.

I walked in a portion of the cemetery I would not usually see which was off the trail and actually between the gravestones. I stumbled upon a gravestone that had the name BLACK and had a Scottish Rite symbol and the number 33. I had a coffee with me and decided to sit down. It was quite a

moment I had then because I started thinking about this Brother I had been sitting beside, who didn't have a date or anything else written on the stone. I knew one thing that we had in common was that we had been through all the same things together in Lodge.

I started telling him all about me and my problems and I felt very comfortable talking to him, I even recited some of the charges I was learning. I unveiled a lot to this gravestone and felt very relieved doing so, just by knowing he was a Brother. I felt at peace and very honoured to be speaking to a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason as well.

While explaining my problems to him I began to weep. It was really weird and I don't know why but I felt that by talking to him a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. I never knew this man, his age, his first name or what Lodge he hailed from but I knew he was a Brother.

The next few months I went back to the cemetery and shared a coffee with Brother Black and enjoyed the time I spent with him. I also visited a few other Brethren since passed on and introduced myself and told them what Lodge I belonged to. At each Brother's gravestone I took the time to say "*May you rest in peace with The Great Architect of the Universe. So mote it be.*" I wanted to, but refrained from giving the penal sign but I offered the first regular step.

I recommend any Brother who feels overwhelmed with anything and stressed out to go for a walk like I did, you'll feel much better afterwards.

Brother Nick Andras  
Senior Deacon  
Adoniram Lodge 573

### Cornerstone rededication Peterborough Sunday Nov. 1

The Grand Master will be attending a ceremony for the rededication of a cornerstone for the centenary of All Saints Anglican Church, Peterborough. This ceremony will take place on **Sunday November 1** and all Masons are requested to meet at the Church Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. with Regalia.

The address of the Church is 235 Rubidge St. Peterborough, ON, K9J 3N9. The best directions to get there is to go to Google Map and put in the address.

There will be a Church Service at 10:00 a.m. and Masons present will parade in for the service and then the Ceremony of Rededication will take place after the service. A finger lunch will be served in the Parish Hall beside the church hosted by W.J. Dunlop Lodge and other District lodges.

Masons are asked to park at the public parking lots north of the Church or at the Peterborough Temple parking lot and walk to the Church due to limited parking at the Church.

For further information, please contact Keith Buchanan:  
kbuhanan@personainternet.com

## The Measure of a Man

**Not** – How did he die? **But** – How did he live?  
**Not** – What did he gain? **But** – What did he give?  
These are the units to measure the worth  
Of a man, as a MAN, regardless of birth.

**Not** – What was his station? **But** – Had he a heart?  
And how did he play his God-given part?  
Was he always ready with a word of good cheer  
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

**Not** – What was his Church? **Not** – What was his creed?  
**But** – Had he befriended those really in need?  
**Not** – What did the sketch in the newspaper say?  
**But** – How many were sorry when he passed away?

\* *this poem used to be posted just outside the Lodge entry door at Stamford Lodge of Niagara Falls.*

### Ancient Definition

*In The Farmers Almanac for 1823 published at Andover, Mass., the following was printed under the heading, "Character of a Freemason":*

The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct.

Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world.

- ^ A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator.
- ^ In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same.
- ^ He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection.
- ^ He venerates the good men of all religions.
- ^ He disturbs not the religion of others.
- ^ He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbour or himself.
- ^ He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended.
- ^ He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principal.

## "The Old Masters Wages"

I met a dear old man today Who wore a Masonic pin,  
It was old and faded like the man Its edges were worn quite thin  
I approached the park bench where he sat  
To give the old brother his do I said,  
"I see you've traveled east  
He said, "I have, have you"  
I said, I have and in my day  
Before the all seeing sun I played in the rubble with Jubala Jubilo, and Jubalum.  
He shouted, don't laugh at the work my son  
It's good and sweet and true  
And if you've traveled as you said  
You should give these things a due.  
The word, the sign, the token, The sweet Masonic prayer,  
The vow that all have taken Who have climbed the inner stair.  
The wages of a Mason are never paid in gold but the gain comes from  
contentment when you're weak and growing old.  
You see I've carried my obligations For almost fifty years  
It has helped me through the hardships and the failures full of tears.  
Now I'm losing my mind and my body Death is near  
but I don't despair  
I've lived my life upon the level And I'm dying upon the square.  
Sometimes the greatest lessons Are those that are learned anew  
And the old man in the park today has changed my point of view.  
To all Masonic brothers The only secret is to care  
May you live upon the level.  
May you part upon the square.

Rt. W. Bro. Richard Stokes

On Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Hamilton and before over 500 Scottish Ritters and their ladies, The Supreme Council 33<sup>o</sup> of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada has awarded the John Ross Matheson Award to Ill Bro. Richard Malcolm Stokes 32<sup>o</sup> of which there were only two awards given for all of Canada this year.

This award was named after Ill Bro. John Ross Matheson QC and Order of Canada and is awarded to someone in the community who displayed a continued commitment to his community, country and mankind.

Ill Bro. Stokes in his own quiet manner meets every criteria and in every way. He has been and continues to be involved in many aspects of the community such as churches, volunteer associations, masonic organizations, such as the Shriners and their projects involving and concerning children and the scouts who will be the beneficiary of a \$1500 Bursary.

For these unselfish sacrifices of time and effort he has received many recognitions and awards of these of which are too numerous to mention.

He makes himself available when he can and determines in his own mind what needs are top priority now and looks with anticipation for what needs to be done in the future.

Congratulations are in order on receiving this most prestigious award.  
Respectfully submitted,

David Martin

### THE NIAGARA VALLEY of the SCOTTISH RITE OFFICERS & MEETINGS

#### Presiding Officers:

^ Thrice Puissant Grand Master of Elgin Lodge of Perfection

Ill. Bro. Kevin Lockey 32° Tel. 905-354-2738 klockey@sympatico.ca

^ Most Wise Sovereign of Niagara Chapter of Rose Croix

Ill. Bro. Mac Horne 32° Tel. 905-938-3396 clackmannan2001@yahoo.com

^ Our Grand Secretary/Registrar for Niagara Valley

Ill. Bro. Harold Mustard 33° Tel. 905-892-5652 Fax 905-892-0291 harlenmus@sympatico.ca

#### FALL SCHEDULE FOR ELGIN LODGE

October 1 7:30 p.m. Balloting

October 15 7:30 p.m. 4° conferral

October 29 7:30 p.m. 5° conferral

November 12 7:30 p.m. 7° conferral

December 10 7:30 p.m. 6° and 8° conferrals

#### FALL SCHEDULE FOR ROSE CROIX

October 1 7:30 p.m. Balloting

November 19 Reunion Dinner 5:30 p.m. Symposium

6:15 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Conferral of 15°

All meetings are at Van Alstyne Place in Niagara Falls. We have two great classes again this Fall. Scottish Ritters are urged to support both classes, their Officers, and the Degree Teams.

## 50 yr. Mason Jewel recipients



Rt. W. Bro. John Plyley of Dominion # 615 with son Bro. David Plyley on the evening of receiving his 50 yr a Mason Jewel.



W. Bro. F.W. Nick Ross was honoured with a 50 yr. pin on September 1, 2009 at Palmer Lodge first meeting of the year. On hand for the presentation District Deputy Grand Master of Niagara B District - R. W. Bro. Sean Fuller.