

CLARION

WINTER 2018

Trumpeting the Impact of the Scottish Rite in Canada



**CLARION
TURNS 10**

**INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:
YOUR 2018
BLUE ENVELOPE**

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Ill. Bro. Darian S.G. Bacon 32°
Editor-in-Chief

My Brethren, this is a year for **CELEBRATION!**

We mark the 300th anniversary of the formation of the first Grand Lodge, and many events and celebrations took place across our Jurisdiction to commemorate this. On page 12 you'll find a fantastic article by the Deputy for Ontario on the Open House that was held in his jurisdiction, which was attended by at least 300 non-Masons. *Fantastic work Peterborough!*

This edition also marks a Milestone for the *Clarion*; our 10th edition, which has undergone a bit of an

administrative change. I have been appointed to serve as your new Editor-in-Chief for our National magazine, and I could not be happier with the team that was already assembled. Without the members of your *Clarion* committee, this anticipated periodical would not be as professional and robust as you see it today in your hands. These Brothers operating behind the scenes all year long are what keep our long tradition of excellence moving forward.

We are in the process of streamlining our system with new administrative tools, and are planning on tying in more technology in the near future.

I would be remiss if I also did not thank our submitters, who keep us updated on Valley events across the country. We were blessed with over forty separate submissions this year; and although we could not print each one within our 16 pages, they will all hopefully be used either in *The Communique*, or on the *Scottish Rite* website. ■

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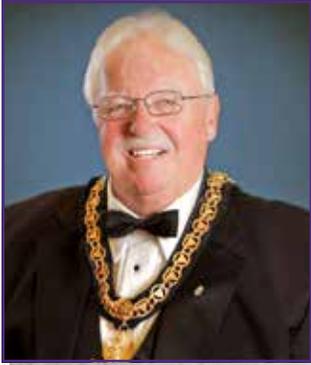
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Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Happy 10th Anniversary Clarion! Ten years of communicating to the entire *Scottish Rite* membership the good news stories from *Supreme Council*, the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* and the *Valleys* across Canada.

Let me first welcome Ill. Bro. Darian Bacon, our new Editor-in-Chief. Darian, a member of the Valley of Peterborough, brings a wealth of editorial and publishing experience, as you can see from this 10th anniversary edition.

As this is my last message to you through this medium, I want to thank the *Supreme Council* and *Valley Membership* for taking the time and energy to engage in improvements to the areas of *Communication*, *Leadership*, *Education* and *Enlightenment*, which will impact *Membership*. The Valley-driven leadership meetings during my Official visits have resulted in positive dialogue with a focus on getting better at what we do as *Scottish Rite Masons*.

I have enjoyed immensely meeting and chatting with the Brethren and their ladies, as well as the classes. The past year has taken me to the *Valleys of Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa, Quebec, Hamilton, Kingston, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Niagara*. I have also attended several *Learning Centre* graduations and had the opportunity to visit the *Learning Centre* in Edmonton for the first time. The work of the *Foundation* is a source of pride and gratification to *Supreme Council* and those who participate in its great work.

We still have some work to do before London September 2018, such as; the *Scottish Rite Library's* new location, Music for our Degrees being posted on our website, *Scottish Rite Membership* talks in Craft Lodges, *Grand Secretary/Registrar Orientation Program*, *Membership Tips*, creating a *By-law Template* and the design of phase 2 of the website www.scottishritecanada.ca.

As I conclude, it goes without saying that probably my greatest satisfaction as your *Sovereign Grand Commander* is derived from the spirit of fraternal relations and brotherly love which characterizes *Scottish Rite Freemasonry*. This is particularly demonstrated by the warm friendships and relations with the *Valleys* and the members across Canada and indeed the world.

If you really love it—then keep on doing it! That's how I feel about the *Scottish Rite* experience. How about you?

May you and your family have an enjoyable Holiday Season and a prosperous 2018 that brings joy and good health. ■



Ill. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor 33°
President of the S.R.C.F.

It is always surprising how quickly a year passes, but to think that this is the 10th Issue of the *Clarion* is truly remarkable. *Happy 10th Anniversary Clarion.*

The 8th Edition of the *Clarion* focused on the 50th Anniversary of the *Foundation* and in particular the amazingly successful 50th *Anniversary Capital Campaign*, which raised **\$1,610,177.65**. It is incredibly gratifying to be able to report that because of the tremendous support received, the *Foundation's Board of Directors* approved an increase in the annual value of each major research grant to a maximum of **\$40,000** from the current **\$35,000** per year, starting with the April 1, 2018 grant competition. This will raise the total value of a grant to **\$120,000** over 3 years. By 2020–2021 we will be distributing **\$480,000** to worthy researchers in Canada.

At our September Board meeting, we were able to approve 4 new major grants and continuing support for 8 other funded researchers. More information on these grants can be found at www.srcf.ca. The *Learning Centre* program continues to grow and have a tremendous impact on the children, their families and the communities in which they are operating.

Last year, our *Valley Liaison Committee* under the guidance of Ill. Bro. Ronald L.M. Findlater, undertook a program to provide more information about the *Foundation* to all Valleys. We hope that these short but informative pieces provided the Brethren with some additional information about the *Foundation's* programs. In addition, we posted two videos about the research funded by the *Foundation*. Please have a look and find out more about what we do. We look forward to expanding this initiative in the coming year.

I firmly believe that we can be truly proud of what *The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* accomplishes for others through its *Grants and Awards* and the *Learning Centre Programs* in our work to *Help Solve the Puzzles of the Mind*.

I wish you and your family a very joyous Holiday Season and hope that the New Year will bring health and happiness. ■

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Support of the Learning Centres

Halifax Learning Centre

Ill. Bro. Clayton T. Handrigan, Valley of St. John's

When the Host Committee for the Valley of St. John's began planning for the 142nd Annual Session of Supreme Council, one of its first decisions was that, if there was any money remaining after all expenses were paid, it would be donated to the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation's Halifax Learning Centre for Children*. To this end, several ideas were formulated as to how best to accomplish a positive result; i.e., "ending up in the black!" The Valley initiated several fundraisers to increase the hoped-for donation.

Often the *Supreme Council Sessions* have utilized a Silent Auction during the traditional Wednesday evening "Meet & Greet". The Host Committee was able to acquire several worthwhile donations for the auction table, and the support of the Session attendees and their wives enabled this event to be a great success.

In addition, after much careful thought and deliberation, it was decided to order a number of high quality polo shirts in the *Scottish Rite* purple colour, embroidered with the official *Scottish Rite of Canada* logo. A number of these were donated to members of the Host Committee, and were worn by volunteers throughout the Sessions for easy identification by Session attendees. The rest were offered for sale, and proved to be quite popular. The few which were left over were quickly bought up by Brethren of the *Valley of St. John's*.

When all was said and done, a donation totaling \$6,000 was forwarded to Halifax to help with the valuable work being done by the tutors, and to assist with the overall expenses of the *Learning Centre*. A more important and valuable receiver of the proceeds garnered from the 142nd *Supreme Council Sessions* could not be found in Atlantic Canada, and the *Valley of St. John's* is pleased to have been able to help in this way. ■

Hamilton Learning Centre

Ill. Bro. Dave Warrington, Valley of Hamilton

The *Learning Centre for Hamilton* is progressing at an alarming rate and that's a very good thing. We are still looking for financial support which can be acted upon through several sources, including the *Hamilton Valley Scottish Rite* (hamiltonvalleyscottishrite.com), *Dyslexia Centre Hamilton* (dyslexiahamilton.ca)

and *Canada Helps* (canadahelps.org) websites.

The new home for the children to be tutored in is undergoing a complete facelift on the outside. The inside will be started shortly, following the architect's plans to create ten tutor rooms, a library, Director's office, a reception area to entertain parents as they wait for their children and a common room for the tutors. Each tutor room as well as the library will acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors.

We would like to acknowledge the pouring out of affection and generosity from our community towards our efforts, to make this Learning Center successful for Hamilton and the surrounding community.

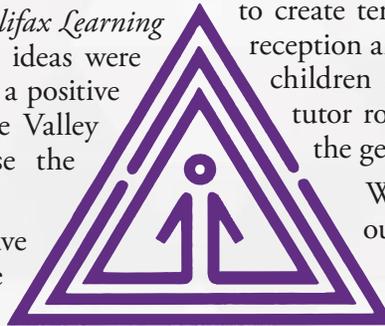
148 George St. will undoubtedly be remembered by many children, who will realize further on in their lives, the impact this program made to their becoming a valued contributor to society. We couldn't have done this without you and the children couldn't have done this without us. ■

B.C. Learning Centre

Ill. Bro. Josh Adelberg, Valley of Vancouver

With the *Vancouver Masonic Centre* currently under redevelopment, the *B.C. Learning Centre for Children with Dyslexia* has found a temporary home a quick drive away from our former building. Our new facility, leased to us by the *Anglican Diocese of New Westminster*, was formally a tutoring centre for children, and has the infrastructure necessary for the *B.C. Learning Centre* to maintain operations.

Under the leadership of our Director Wendy and the parents, we continue to inspire all those involved with the *B.C. Learning Centre* to renew their commitment to its work. ■



Support through the Bursary and Grants Program

On behalf of the Ill. Bro. David Bennett, 33°, Deputy for Ontario two *Provincial Bursary* cheques were presented to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The first was presented to Nicole Ouelette, a medical student enrolled in the Northern Ontario School of Medicine – Sudbury Campus.



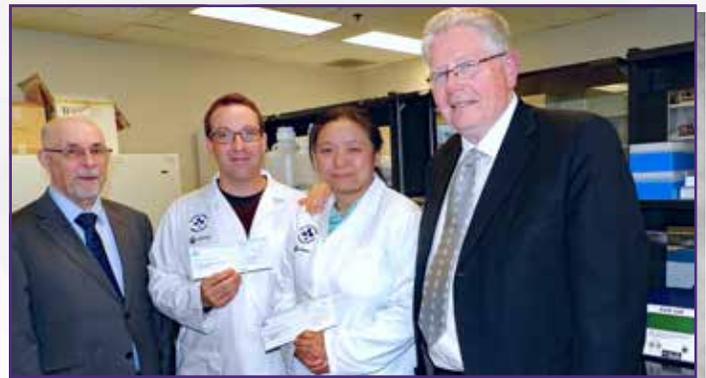
Ill. Bro. Ross Dixon, 33°, T.P.G.M. Sudbury L.O.P. Rejean Daigle, 32°, first year medical student bursary recipient Nicole Ouelette from North Bay; and S.R.C.F. Representative Don Rousell, 33°.

The second bursary will be given to Omar Daher a third year medical student at the Thunder Bay campus of the Northern Ontario Medical School. Omar is from Thunder Bay, and plans to practice in Northwestern Ontario. He has expressed interest in Family Medicine, Surgery, Oncology and Sports medicine. ■



Gail Brescia, Manager of Advancement for the Northern Ontario Medical School in Thunder Bay, accepts the S.R.C.F. Deputies Bursary cheque on behalf of 3rd year medical student Omar Daher. Also pictured are Superior Lodge of Perfection T.P.G.M. Austin Cawlishaw, 32° and Active Member Ill. Bro. Bill Davis, 33°.

Dr. Baptiste Lacoste and Dr. Jing Wang were each presented with cheques for **\$35,000** at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute as the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* continues to support research into the puzzles of the mind. Making the presentations October 30th were Ill. Bro. Stephen Thomson, 32°, Valley of Ottawa representative for the Foundation, and Ill. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, 33°, Deputy for Ontario.



Ill. Bro. Stephen Thomson, 32°, Dr. Baptiste Lacoste, Dr. Jing Wang, Ill. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, 33°, Deputy for Ontario

Dr. Wang's three-year project is investigating memory pathways in Alzheimer's disease while Dr. Lacoste's is looking at development of blood vessels in the brain as it relates to autism. ■

Members of the *Valley of Toronto* were pleased to present a cheque for **\$35,000** to support the work of Dr. Julie Lefebvre at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Dr. Lefebvre's research is focused on the roles of autism-associated protocadherin genes in inhibitory circuitry development and dysfunction.



Ill. Bro. Leo Smith, 33°, M.W.S., Dr. Julie Lefebvre, Ill. Bro. Raj Sircar, 33°. Photo courtesy of Ill. Bro. David Traves, 32°, T.P.G.M.

The *Valley of Toronto* was also pleased to assist in the presentation of a cheque in the amount of **\$35,000** to Dr. Viviane Labrie at the Centre for Mental Health and Addiction (CAMH) for her work on DNA-epigenetic interactions in the mechanism underlying Alzheimer's disease. ■



New Lodge Room Floor, a Tribute to a Fallen Brother

Submitted by Ill. Bro. Clive D. Stephenson on behalf of the Brethren of the Valley of Sudbury, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and the Brethren of the Craft Lodges of the Sudbury-Manitoulin District.

Etymology the study of history, origin and form of words is likely not high on our list of priorities as Scottish Rite Freemason. Fortunately, the mystical history of the *Scottish Rite* is rife with language and symbolism rich in origin and form.



Ill. Bro. Jason Brandon Ashley, 33°, was called to the Grand Lodge Above on May 2, 2017 in his 43rd year, a victim of brain cancer and associated complications. He passed surrounded by his loving family and with the thoughts and prayers of many friends and colleagues and of his patients that he had donated his life to serving.

This article starts by painting a picture of how cruel life can be. Jason was a doctor and devoted his life to helping the sick and needy. At the time of his death he held the positions of Staff Resident at Health Sciences North in Sudbury and Regional Imaging Lead for Cancer Care Ontario. However, while his journey through life was relatively short, his legacy lives on and it is part of this legacy that this article is focused on.

Jason was initiated on May 11, 1995 into Cochrane Lodge No. 530 in Cochrane, Ontario. He was Passed on January 29, 1996 and Raised on September 28th of the same year. Later he affiliated with Algonquin Lodge No. 536 in Sudbury and served as its Worshipful Master in 2012–2013.

Ill. Bro. Ashley joined North Bay Lodge of Perfection on May 3, 1996; North Bay Chapter of Rose Croix on October 5, 1996, and received his 32° degree on April 10, 1997 from Moore Sovereign Consistory. He was coroneted an Honorary Inspector-General in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 13, 2012. Ill. Bro. Ashley also served as a Director of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*.

On July 21, 2016, Jason was Invested as District Deputy Grand Master, Sudbury-Manitoulin District of the *Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario*.

An impressive Masonic resume, but who was Ill. Bro. Jason Ashley, 33°? I was, as many were, fortunate enough to know

Jason, not as well as many, but still well enough to comment on his rather dry humour, and his generosity to all that knew him. He was a mountain of a man, and I am not just talking about his character; no one wanted to stand next to Jason during lodge photographs as his physical stature dwarfed many.

I can go into many details and tell many stories on behalf of those who knew him, regarding how good a man and a Mason he was, but I want to concentrate on something that came to light after his death and illustrates the purpose that governed Jason's life and exemplifies the generosity that made the man.

After his death the Brethren of the Sudbury-Manitoulin District learned of a bequest in his will to donate funds for a new Lodge room floor. The carpet was getting old and needed replacement; Jason had one stipulation, no carpet! He wanted a checker-board style tiled floor. This brought a smile to many that knew him, generosity, but clear on what he wanted. Something that spoke to the way the man lived.

The Temple Board of the district is to be commended on moving fast to turn Jason's wishes into reality, with the floor installed by the fall of 2017, and ready for the reopening of Masonic activities after the Summer call off. And what a floor! The pictures do not do the floor justice; and the look, the feel, and the acoustics of the Lodge are greatly improved.

I want to concentrate on something that came to light after his death and illustrates the purpose that governed Jason's life and exemplifies the generosity that made the man.

On November 14, 2017 the local Temple Board representatives held an informal dedication of the new Lodge room floor and among those present were Jason's wife Michelle and also his Father, Ill. Bro. Paul Ashley, 33°. The event proved to be very moving for all, but a positive air prevailed, safe in the knowledge that the new Lodge room floor would be a lasting legacy to Jason.



Jason did not make this bequest for self-aggrandisement, that would not be his way; but it was done to the benefit of the Brethren and to further Masonry in this district and beyond. A timeless legacy from a man who was a friend and an example to many. ■



“Scots Masons”: An Extraordinary Journey

Ill. Bro. Ron McMillan, Valley of Peterborough

In studying the history of Freemasonry, and even delving into that of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in particular, some of you may have come across the terms “*Scots, Scotch or Scottish Masonry*”. You may have wondered how these terms relate to each other and how they might relate to *Scottish Rite Freemasonry*, if at all.

If we wanted to study this question in depth, we would likely need a very large library or other similar source of *Masonic* history and a lot of time for this research.



Fortunately, we have such a researcher who has studied this topic extensively, in the person of Ill. Bro. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. He has a vast knowledge base available to him in the *Supreme Council Libraries* in Washington, and has looked at this and many other questions extensively.

Those members of our *Supreme Council* who were fortunate enough to attend the *Annual Session* in Montreal in September, 2017, were provided with some intriguing information which may answer the question regarding the connection between *Scots Masons* and our *Scottish Rite*.

The presentation from Ill. Bro. de Hoyos was very insightful and contained many compelling points of information that could enable you to draw a similar conclusion. The depth of information and the time period covered was considerable, considering the short time that was permitted for the presentation.

I would encourage every *Scottish Rite Mason* in Canada to go to the *Supreme Council* website and watch the video of this presentation and see where we ‘might’ have come from. You can watch the video at the *Scottish Rite of Canada* website at: scottishritecanada.ca/early-scots-masonry-scottish-rite-arturo-de-hoyos-33. ■

The Scottish Rite Membership Jewel

Ill. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, Valley of Peterborough

Our Rite came into existence in 1874, and it was not until recently that anyone gave thought to the possibility of creating a jewel by which a Brother could evidence his membership in the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada*. A chance question led to a concerted effort to create a membership jewel and an amendment to the *Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario* at its *July 2015 Annual Communication* permitted it to be worn at Craft Lodge meetings in Ontario.

Over 2,000 jewels have been purchased by members of the *Rite* since its creation. This expression of positive support and pride in our symbol of membership has led members throughout our national jurisdiction to acquire the jewel and wear it as approved by the *Rite* and otherwise where *Grand Lodges* in particular jurisdictions permit its use in *Craft Lodge* meetings. The *Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan* and the *Grand Lodge of Quebec* also took quick action to approve this by constitutional amendment. At its *Annual Communication* in October 2017, the *Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador* approved the wearing of the jewel in its *Craft Lodge* meetings.

As *Freemasons*, we well know the value of symbols and the impact they can have in demonstrating our principles and in encouraging constructive action. The *Scottish Rite* membership

jewel is a significant factor instilling pride in *Rite* membership and in further cementing relations between *Grand Lodges* that permit its use and the *Scottish Rite*. *Scottish Rite Masons* are often among the leaders in their *Craft Lodges*. We are used to working hand in hand with non-*Scottish Rite* brethren to pursue mutual goals that strengthen *Freemasonry's* foundations. All members are encouraged to wear the jewel with pride whether at our assemblies, during our *Master Masons* events as permitted by *Supreme Council* and at *Craft Lodge* meetings with the approval of the applicable *Grand Lodge*. The jewel may be the first evidence to the non-member that there is something of value in the *Scottish Rite* they may wish to consider. It may be the catalyst to a conversation that could in turn lead to an application for the degrees.

Its cost is a small price to pay to encourage pride in our existing membership and to create an interest for the *Scottish Rite* in those who contemplate taking further steps in their *Masonic* journeys. Please contact the *Supreme Council Office* to obtain a jewel, either for yourself or as a token of congratulations to new members and others we hold dear. ■



The Supreme Council Advisory Council

Ill. Bro. Alan Arbuckle, Valley of Ottawa

It's not surprising there is an aura of mystery surrounding our governing body. After all, most members of the *Order* can't even attend its meetings.

There is an important, if little understood part of our organization that rates a mere five lines in the *Statutes and Regulations*.

It is the *Supreme Council's Advisory Council* and it is safe to say that no major decisions about the *Scottish Rite in Canada* are taken without the *Advisory Council* at least being consulted.

Ill. Bro. Richard Brown, 33°, Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander, said the *Council* serves as a sounding board for the current Sovereign Grand Commander. As the *Statutes and Regulations* put it, the *Council* meets a minimum of twice per year to “consider matters of interest to this *Supreme Council* and advise the Sovereign Grand Commander thereon.”

It also specifies the membership of the *Council* as: The Sovereign Grand Commander, past Sovereign Grand Commanders, the Lieutenant Grand Commander, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Secretary–General and the Grand Treasurer–General. By special motion, the Chief Operating Officer of the *Supreme Council*, Ill. Bro. Steve Warren, 33°, is also included, unless the topic is sensitive and confidential. The same faces tend to serve for many years, ensuring strong continuity.

Meetings have been held at the *Scottish Rite Cathedral* in Hamilton, but increasingly they are handled by conference calls rather than face-to-face gatherings to reduce costs.

“Right now the intent is not to meet face-to-face at all. . . It is a sounding board and sometimes there will be new initiatives discussed. . . that may be developed by the Sovereign Grand Commander,” Bro. Brown said in a telephone interview from his Regina home, over his morning pot of tea.

As the current Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. Terry McLean, 33°, described it, “As the Sovereign Grand Commander, I have the ability to grow through Members' experiences.” He relies on the experience of the *Advisory Council* and sees its value as a sounding board as he plans and executes initiatives for his triennium and the betterment of the *Rite*.

Rather than words such as “mysterious” and “powerful”, Ill. Bro. Brown said a more accurate description of the *Council* is “influential”. He joined the *Council* in 2009 as Lieutenant Grand Commander and “I really knew nothing about it at that point.”

The current Sovereign Grand Commander serves as chairman and sets the agenda, which includes routine consideration of the *Rite's* financial situation, any feedback from member surveys, committee reports and anything else the Sovereign Grand Commander wants input on. Minutes are kept by the Grand Secretary–General, but not made public beyond the *Council*.

Minutes, agendas and committee reports, such as the committee that studied moving *Supreme Council* sessions to every second year on a trial basis, are sent out in advance. “Very seldom is there anything of major substance that just sort of injects itself into a meeting.”

Ultimately, it is the Sovereign Grand Commander who determines the issues he wishes to pursue. “The *Advisory Council* is there really to try to give advice to the Sovereign Grand Commander.”

“There is nothing that the *Council* says or does that is binding. It is up to the Sovereign Grand Commander to decide if he wants to take that advice or not.”

“Really, it's the collection of advice . . . that depends on leadership style; some people are more autocratic than others and others are consensus builders.”

“It's an opportunity in the Statutes for some structured consultation.”

Ill. Bro. Brown said when he was Sovereign Grand Commander, he wanted the Lieutenant Grand Commander to assume a greater role in the leadership of *Supreme Council*.

“One of the things I wanted to do as Sovereign Grand Commander was to involve Terry (Terry McLean, current Sovereign Grand Commander) much more than I had been.” That meant many long phone calls between himself, Terry McLean and Brian Gilkinson, the Grand Secretary–General of the day.

Discussion at the *Advisory Council* can lead to new initiatives being taken at *Supreme Council*. Ill. Bro. Brown points to the new section in *Statutes and Regulations* on discipline. That, he said, resulted from a study by an *Advisory Council* committee. Another example was abandoning the formula for *Valley* entitlement to nominate Honorary Inspectors–General—that change too emerged from *Advisory Council* discussions.

Ill. Bro. Brown noted that the *Order* is gathering more systematic membership feedback through surveys and that is having a strong influence on the direction *Supreme Council* takes. “That information is looked at in quite some depth at *Advisory Council* meetings and it influences subsequent planning sessions.” ■



Education and Enlightenment – The S.G.C.’s Initiative

Ill. Bro. R.D. Brethour, Valley of Barrie

Education. *What does it mean to you?* While most would agree on its importance in all aspects of life, ultimately it means different things to different people. There is no *one size fits all* type of education—and when it comes to *Scottish Rite* education, it is a wide variety of stimulating educational material, distributed by various means and through various sources, that will provide the information and enlightenment our members are seeking. That’s what the *Special Committee of Education & Enlightenment*, created by the Sovereign Grand Commander in 2015, has been assigned to address.

The committee has already implemented a number of programs and initiatives in an effort to enhance the Scottish Rite experience for our members—and there is a lot more to come!

In survey after survey, increased education has repeatedly been identified as a priority by our membership, and Supreme Council is listening and working hard to respond to this challenge. The need to make information and educational material available, and to distribute and share that information throughout our jurisdiction, has become a prime focus of your *Supreme Council*. Working closely with the other special initiatives of *Communication, Leadership, and Membership*, the *Education & Enlightenment Committee* is attempting to target an area in which we needed to improve—the engagement of our membership through the use of educational material. The efforts of the committee to date have been well received, but we’ve only just scratched the surface of the potential of the program.

One of the first initiatives of the *Education & Enlightenment Committee* was to utilize the website of *Supreme Council* as a vehicle for educational material. The *Education & Enlightenment* section of the website contains a selection of papers and articles organized under the topics of: *Addresses and Speeches; Contemplations; Governance; History; Symbolism; and Resources*. Contained in this material is a wide range of information and viewpoints from many different sources. The committee is committed to adding new material on the website on a continuing basis, and we are always looking for new and interesting educational papers on a variety of topics. Based on the submissions published to date, there is a tremendous amount of talent out there—and we encourage you to share those papers, articles and speeches. They can be forwarded to Chairman Robert Brethour (rbrethour@supreme33.ca) where they will be reviewed, and if approved by the committee, published on the website.

Another primary initiative of the *Education & Enlightenment Committee* was the creation and distribution of pre- and post-degree explanations. These brief

explanations summarize the lessons and symbols of each degree and can be utilized in a variety of ways by individual *Valleys*. Some *Valleys* distribute them as a hard copy takeaway as a point of reference and review for candidates; other *Valleys* present one or more of the explanations in conjunction with the conferring of degrees; still others use them as a point of reference in investigating the meaning and symbolism in study groups. Regardless of how they are utilized, they are a tool to assist in the education of candidate and member alike. They are designed to provide additional information to enable our membership a better understanding of the degree. They have been distributed to all Valley Secretaries for use at the *Valley* level, and they have also been translated into French.

In addition to the programs already in place, several other initiatives are in the planning stages—to be rolled out as they are completed. They include:

The creation of a Playbill for each degree. The Playbill idea is in use in several *Valleys* and has been well received. The Playbills will consist of colourful artwork associated with each degree, illustrating the regalia and symbols of the degree. The inside of the Playbills will be available to insert cast lists or perhaps the pre- and post-degree explanation—or some additional information of interest and importance;

A Power Point presentation suitable for use in *Craft Lodges*. Several *Valleys* make use of these types of presentations to attract members, and the committee plans to create a blueprint which would be suitable for use anywhere. These presentations are very effective in explaining *Scottish Rite* and creating interest among prospective candidates;

And the creation of Degree Discoveries. These will be a series of research questions specific to each degree for those interested in a more ‘in depth’ study of the ritual. This particular program will certainly appeal to those members interested in the symbolism of our ritual.

All of these initiatives are works in progress which will become a reality. Your suggestions and feedback are most welcomed—after all, it is a program for each of you!

As we move forward, the *Education & Enlightenment Committee* has many ideas for future educational initiatives and programs. Our commitment will be to ensure new papers and articles are published on the website on a regular basis. We also plan, in the near future, to add an additional professional recording of some degrees; a question section for the candidates to answer about the degrees they have just witnessed is being created; the creation of ‘playbill covers’ for all degrees is being undertaken; and the improvement of lines of communication between individual *Valleys* and this committee is a priority.

If you have an interest in these areas, or if perhaps you have professional technical capabilities which could assist us achieve these goals, we’d love to hear from you! ■



143rd Session of Supreme Council

Ill. Bro. Opkar S. Sandhu, Valley of Montreal



The 143rd Annual Session of the Supreme Council 33^o was held in Montreal, Quebec, from September 13th to 16th, 2017 at the Montreal Marriott Chateau Champlain. Having previously hosted the Annual Session in 1998, the Valley of Montreal was pleased to once again have the opportunity to welcome the Supreme Council delegates to this year's event.

All activities, save the Saturday Valley Event, were held at the Chateau Champlain where the magnificent rooms, food, general facilities and the friendly staff lived up to the reputation of this well-renowned hotel.

stars of the Red Green Show, Mr. Patrick McKenna whose personal insight into the challenges faced by those living with dyslexia was both informative and hilariously entertaining.

During the General Sessions on Friday morning, Ill. Bro. Arturo de Hoyos 33^o, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the Southern Jurisdiction, USA delivered an interesting talk on 'Early Scots Masonry and the Scottish Rite', followed by a short Q&A session. His impressive lecture about the early ritual history of Scottish Rite and its development was well received by the attendees, who showed their esteem and respect for this preeminent Mason, author, and historian with sustained applause and many accolades. The Sovereign Grand Commander's Banquet held that evening was yet another gala event filled with pomp and pageantry. The pipers ushered in the Class of 2017 and their spouses, followed by the Executive Members and their spouses and guests. Introductions of the new Honorary Inspectors-General were followed by short presentations and acknowledgements.

While the activities of the Annual Sessions were progressing on auto-pilot, the Ladies kept themselves busy with ample shopping opportunities and visits to the Hospitality Suite. The Ladies Programme was held on Friday morning at Le Caf'Conc'. Reports would indicate that they were suitably entertained by Bowser and Blue, while enjoying an extensive brunch.

The week's events concluded with the Saturday Valley Event that took the attendees by bus to the new Montreal Shriners Hospital for Kids for a guided tour. They were then bussed to the Montreal Masonic Memorial Temple, the last of its kind in Canada. After a guided tour of the Temple, they were treated to a festive board of exquisite delicacies including Montreal style smoked meat sandwiches prepared on site to their liking.

Despite a jungle of orange cones strewn all over the city, with detours and road closures, this was a week of great weather. The temperatures were in low twenties, and with no rain and lots of sunshine, it was a perfect week to visit Montreal.

The Host Committee worked hard to raise the bar to a new level of excellence and, we feel satisfied with the overall quality and success of the week-long event. We are especially proud that two of our own; Ill. Bro. Kaled Almadini and Ill. Fr. Jean-Ronald George were coroneted Honorary Inspectors-General 33^o. **Bravo!**

The Committee is grateful to the Executive Members and Staff at Supreme Council and wants to acknowledge their help at every step of the way. Your guidance and advance preparations made our life easy; you have made us look good and, we thank you. At the same time the Committee takes this opportunity to extend a special thank you to the 45 to 50 volunteers who made this event a success. Your efforts on behalf of the Valley are very much appreciated. ■



Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
of Freemasonry of Canada
Supreme Council 33^o Class of 2017
Montreal, Quebec

The Sessions started on the Tuesday with a working session of the directors of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation (S.R.C.F.), followed by a dinner for the Active and Past Active members. Wednesday was packed with meetings of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Provincial Deputies Meeting, S.R.C.F. Annual General Meeting and Executive Sessions. The evening saw the Get Acquainted Night, where the candidates got a chance to mingle with the Thirty-thirds.

The Executive Sessions took up all of Thursday morning. A well-attended Vesper Service was held in the afternoon at St. George's Anglican Church, situated less than a two minute walk from the hotel. The weather was great and the attendees enjoyed the afternoon sun as they took the short walk to the Church. Following the Vesper Service, the Formal Opening and Conferral of the 33^o took up the rest of the afternoon. The S.R.C.F. Banquet was held that evening in the main Ballroom, where the attendees were entertained by one of the

Committed to the Flames: The History and Rituals of a Secret Masonic Rite

Arturo De Hoyos and S. Brent Morris, 2008, ISBN (10) 085318 293 0; 290 pages (\$36.95 US)

This book was a “bonus book” sent to each member of the *Scottish Rite Research Society* a couple years ago. The *Society* publishes *Heredom*, the annual transactions of the Society; *Plumblin*e, a short collection of articles several times a year; and a “bonus book” each year.

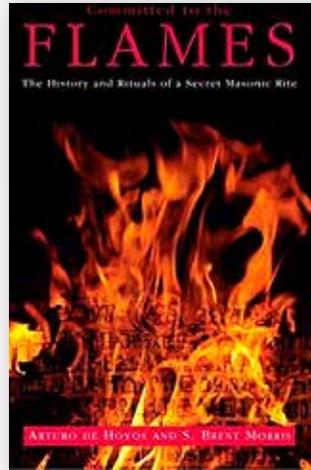
Committed to the Flame opens with a brief history of the state of Freemasonry in New York state and city and Robert Folger’s place in the Freemasonry of New York, where Folger lived.

In 1826, Robert B. Folger, a new *Master Mason*, filled a book with the enciphered *Craft* rituals of the *Rectified Scottish Rite*, or *Knights Beneficent of the Holy City*. This was a high-grade revision of the *Rite of Strict Observance*, a form of *Masonry* which was well known in Europe, but unknown in the United States. Folger placed in the introduction of his book instructions that the rituals be “committed to the flames” upon his death; hence, the title of the book.

The state of *Freemasonry* in New York in the middle of the nineteenth century was described by the authors as “Byzantine”. Some detail from the book illustrates that point. While the earliest record of *Freemasonry* in the United States is recorded in Philadelphia on June 24, 1731, Daniel Coxe is identified as the Provincial Grand Master for New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania on June 5, 1730. Coxe apparently did little. The first reference to *Freemasonry* operating in New York City appeared in 1737–1738. However the first formal chartering of a New York City Lodge did not occur until December 7, 1757. In 1791 the *Royal Arch Degrees* were introduced including the *Cryptic Rite* and *Knights Templar*.

Matters were not so clear with regards to the *Scottish Rite* either. The *Scottish Rite* in the United States started in Charleston, South Carolina, in an attempt to bring order to high-degree *Masonry*; unfortunately, this was not a complete success as the “*Constitution of 1786*” allowed for two Supreme Councils in the United States. The Charleston body was eager to divide the territory between itself and another *Supreme Council* in the United States. Sometimes one needs to be careful as to what they wish for.

In 1806, Antoine Bideaud, a member of the Supreme Council of the “*French West India Islands*”, visited New York City, and earned some extra money by conferring the *Scottish Rite* degrees on J.J.J. Gourgas and four other



Frenchmen for \$46 each. He then created a “*Sublime Grand Consistory 30°-32°*”. This action was beyond Bideaud’s jurisdiction, as New York was still under the jurisdiction of the Charleston group.

In 1807, Joseph Cerneau, a jeweller from Cuba, constituted a “*Sovereign Grand Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret 30°-32°*” in New York City. Cerneau’s authority was

even less than Bideaud’s. Now there were two competing *Grand Consistories*. In 1813 de la Motta, Grand Treasurer of the Mother Supreme Council traveled to NYC. After examining what each *Grand Consistory* was doing, de la Motta deemed Bideaud’s organization legitimate. Cerneau’s group ignored de la Motta’s actions. The situation was confusing as to which group one should join. It also suggests that the situation was fluid enough that numerous rituals from several competing groups might be in circulation.

With this introduction, the book next examines the Folger manuscripts. Folger Manuscript 1 (FM1) contains the rituals for the “*Blue Degrees of Disciple, Fellow, and Master Mason*”. These rituals, the author’s claim, are a good interpretation of the first three Degrees of the *Rectified Scottish Rite (R&R)*. FM1 is the earliest evidence of the *R&R* in the United States. Two other Folger Manuscripts outline other rituals.

The authors provide a biography of Folger, a physician, and active *Freemason*. Folger is an interesting figure as he was twice expelled from *Masonry* by the *Grand Lodge of New York* and participated in at least six clandestine *Supreme Councils*, but died a *Master Mason* in good standing. This is quite the story in itself.

The remainder of the book tells of how the cipher used by Folger was broken, as well as a translation of all three Folger manuscripts. The authors also discuss how the rituals fit into the evolution of high degree *Freemasonry*.

The book is very interesting. Anyone wishing to learn more about the development of high degree *Masonry* will find the book fascinating. Those interested in early *Freemasonry* in the United States will find the story more complex than what might be expected. Those that enjoy comparing current rituals with much older alternate versions will also find the book highly informative. ■



Valley of Peterborough

Ill. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, Valley of Peterborough

In 2016, the *Sovereign Grand Commander* volunteered the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite* to assist Grand Lodges in celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the formation of the first *Grand Lodge* in 1717. This was accomplished in Ontario by the request of the *Grand Master* to have all Lodges in the jurisdiction conduct open houses in their area to educate the public about *Freemasonry*.

In Peterborough, the open house with which I am most familiar, success was achieved in every sense of the word. One of our volunteers counted over 40 working *Masons* on site during his assigned hour of duties (there were about 60 total volunteers). Many more than that attended and worked in erecting the *Shrine* tent, setting up impressive displays, tables and chairs, providing a coordinated tour of all areas of our *Masonic* building, providing security for the event and other duties as well. You know who you are and it took only a brief glimpse of the people streaming through the building, asking questions and making positive comments about the experience to know how valuable your contribution was. For some, the day commenced before 9 a.m. and ended after 5 p.m.

This event received great support during its preparation stages. Planning commenced in February and monthly meetings continued into May. The numbers attending our organizational meetings created an enthusiasm that was appreciated as members volunteered eagerly to look after publicity and promotion, security, food and equipment service, display planning, distinguishing



apparel, volunteer management, entertainment, building enhancement, information sessions, and photography.

Fittingly enough, we had about one member of the public for each year we were celebrating. Approximately 300 members of the public attended, receiving information concerning *Freemasonry* in general and each concordant body specifically. There were video presentations, tours, and a BBQ compliments of the *Shrine*. Local entertainers including musicians and clowns were on hand to provide some enjoyable accompaniment to our informative talks. Even though recruitment was not the main objective of this event, several young men tendered applications to initiate into *Freemasonry* as a result of attending.

Working in conjunction with several craft *Lodges* and other concordant bodies allowed us to deepen the bonds of our fraternity between all of the organizations. Rarely do we have an opportunity to come together on mass for a single purpose; but this day was momentous in that regard. ■

Valley of Niagara

Ill. Bro. Tom Lewis, Valley of Niagara

After meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario for nearly one hundred years, it became necessary for the Niagara Valley to relocate, given the fact that the Masonic Temple in Niagara Falls was sold and the Craft Lodges and Concordant bodies had to find alternate accommodations.

The former Grace Anglican Church property at 238 Geneva Street, St. Catharines became available and negotiations took place to relocate there effective July 1, 2017. The property is adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Highway (QEW) and central for the brethren from around the Niagara Peninsula, with ample parking, meeting and banquet facilities.

Renovations to the *Lodge* room proper, ante-room and storage facilities were completed over the summer and finished in time for the start-up of the Fall meetings in late September of this year. Refurbishing of the banquet hall and smaller meeting rooms downstairs is slated for early in 2018.

In closing, on behalf of *Elgin Lodge of Perfection* and *The Niagara Chapter of Rose Croix*, we would extend a cordial invitation to all brethren to attend any of our meetings or arrange for a visit to tour the *Niagara Valley Scottish Rite Centre*.

Anyone that is interested should contact either Ill. Bro. Ron Muha, 33°, ron.muha@sympatico.ca or Ill. Bro. Jerome Boucher, 33°, 905-934-7558 to make the necessary arrangements. ■



Valley of St. John's

Ill. Bro. Clayton Handrigan, Valley of St. John's

How many years must an event occur in order to be called “*traditional*”? We, here in the “*far east*” of the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada*—the *Valley of St. John's*—feel that our annual “*walkathon*” in support of the work of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*, has now achieved that status. Records indicate that 2017 was probably the eighth; but it could be more!

This year's event was blessed with reasonable weather—a rarity, for sure! It was also blessed by having its largest turn-out by far. The *Valley's* new *S.R.C.F.* Representative, Ill. Bro. James Rowsell, 33°, reports that 30 Brethren, family, and friends actually walked the 2.7 km course around Neil's Pondma—inlanders would call it a “*lake*”—in beautiful Paradise, NL.

Ill. Bro. Rowsell put a great deal of effort into organizing this year's walk, and his efforts paid off in a big way. It is worth noting that one Brother who received unexpected family visitors at his home on the day of the walk, and was therefore unable to drive some 100 km to participate as he had planned, took his whole family and actually walked the same distance in his hometown! *How's that for dedication and support?*

Although all the Pledge Sheets have not yet been returned, Ill. Bro. Rowsell reported at the recent meeting of *Centennial Lodge of Perfection*, that some **\$2,680** had already been received. The *Valley of St. John's* is very pleased and proud to be able to support the *S.R.C.F.* in this manner each and every year. ■

John Ross Matheson Award: FOR THE BEST OF THE BEST

Each year, *Scottish Rite in Canada* awards up to two *John Ross Matheson* medals to its most deserving members. These are *Masons* who have given exemplary service to their fraternity, their community and to God. *It is the most prestigious award the Scottish Rite has to give.*

Consider nominating someone in your *Valley* who meets the criteria. The process, along with the nomination form, is available on the website scottishritecanada.ca. The deadline to receive nominations is March 31st, 2018. ■

Valley of Victoria

Ill. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, Valley of Victoria

Each and every Monday morning (including holidays) *Freemasons*, friends and seekers gather for fraternal comradeship and coffee in Central Saanich, a bedroom community of Victoria.

On the morning of Monday, October 30th, 2017 at Mt. Newton Lodge Hall, 51 members of several *Lodges*, seekers and Masonic friends were hosted by United Peninsula Lodge No. 24.

The *Scottish Rite* Deputy for B.C. & Yukon, Ill. Bro. Stephen Godfrey 33°, addressed the gathering (photo below) with inspiring letters written by students and grateful parents, which have had the benefit of attending our learning centre in Vancouver.



Ill. Bro. Godfrey 33° explained the working of the centre and how it was part of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation's* work which we carry on throughout the year.

The group donated over **\$800** to our cause several cheques were brought in the following Monday as some didn't have cash or cheques on them the previous week.

United Peninsula Lodge No. 24 is a shining example of *Masonry* in action. The dollars donated is what is left over after expenses from “*The Coffee Club*”.

Each quarter of every year a charity is singled out to receive the profits of their endeavours. These people “*Walk The Talk*”. ■

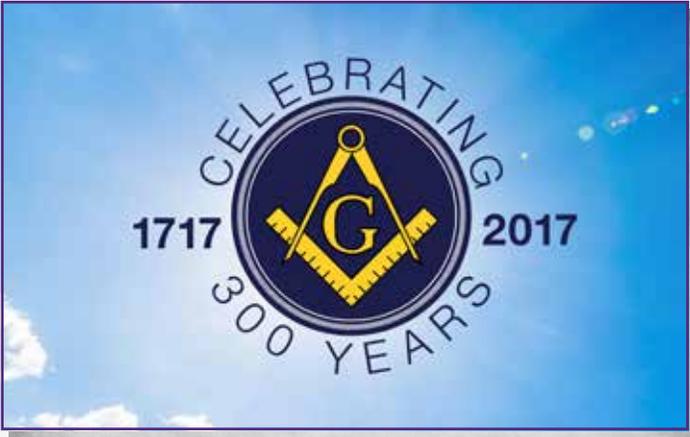
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The 21st century has turned out to be an Era of colossal changes. Globalization, artificial intelligence, space exploration, social media, and the expansion of private enterprise have all seen growth of unprecedented proportions. In spite of all of these great advancements, the new millennium has also presented us with an escalating number of challenges. Social divide, terrorist attacks, political unrest, and an alarming increase in the frequency of natural disasters. These events have all had a radically transformative effect on the economic, political and ecological systems on a Global scale. We are living in the midst of a rapidly changing World.

After enduring 300 years of time has *Freemasonry* evolved enough to make it relevant to a new generation of young men in 2017?



The answer to this question lays beyond the deceptive veil impressed upon our senses by the wonders of this fast changing information age. In order to gain an appropriate degree of perspective, it is necessary to delve into a deeper source by exploring the very essence of human nature.

Emotional needs are inherent in all humans beings . In order for a man to achieve a degree of self actualization, his emotional needs, those that are a part of his essence, must be satisfied first. It is due in part to *Masonry's* proven ability to fulfill the finer needs of man, which has enabled its resilience to the passing of time, ultimately cementing its staying power.

Freemasonry is a selective institution where not everyone is accepted; unless of course the applicant is willing to prove himself as a man under the tongue of good report. Once he's received, the new member is granted access to a world-wide fraternity which honours the *Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God*. It is this noteworthy aspect of membership which fulfills a young man's intrinsic need to belong; particularly to something that's important and worthwhile.

Freemasonry provides a young man with the opportunity to establish long lasting friendships with like minded individuals. Having this type of bond with fellow members reassures the new mason that should he ever feel the need to turn to someone for advice, he can do so at anytime by confiding in one of his *Brethren*. It is this aspect of membership which fulfills some of the other innate desires in man, namely: the need to be sociable, while experiencing a feeling of safety in his environment.

Just as importantly, *Freemasonry* equips a young man with the necessary tools to improve all aspects of his character. The masonic system enables the member to rid himself of some of

his less favorable traits by improving his weaknesses; and it also facilitates a deeper understanding of who he is by refining his strengths. The process is both transformational and enlightening; conducive to a journey towards self-actualization, which gradually becomes a mason's ultimate destination. These are only a few of several transcendent and unconditional qualities which set the institution of *Freemasonry* apart from the rest.

Some people may say "*All of this sounds very appealing but... What type of specific knowledge can a young man expect to obtain from Masonry which makes it strictly unique, and could not be found anywhere else?*"

By becoming a *Mason* a young man can expect to have access to a type of knowledge that is unaffected by the passing of time.

He may expect to learn that...

A young man may also expect to learn that...

Masonry is Educational...

One of *Masonry's* principal facets is the applicability of its wise philosophies to everyday life. The *Craft* inculcates morality by encouraging its members to be ethical in all their undertakings. It instills charity by emphasizing the existing interdependence and common ground of all mankind. The lessons are imparted in their purest form, proclaimed unpretentiously, and demonstrated with candor. The charges and lectures are sources of great inspiration, motivating each initiate to furnish favorable contributions toward society; making it a better place for every one to live in. *Freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and freedom of thought* are the three timeless precepts which rest on the cornerstone of the *Masonic* foundation; ever ready to obliterate the imminent threat from humanity's three principal enemies, namely: *ignorance, fanaticism and tyranny*. Its rituals are the channel which transmits this timeless knowledge, making the essence discernable. Such rituals play a fundamental role in keeping the flame alive. The masonic system of communication is expressed through symbols, an idiom that is comprehensible in all of the world's languages, and decipherable by all initiates; enabling each mason to derive benefits from the teachings in proportion to his own individual capacity.

Since the inception of *The Grand Lodge of England*, *Freemasonry* has progressively become an organized, policy making body. The essence infused the substance giving it identity, the spirit acquired form making itself intelligible, and the foundation which had been laid in centuries gone by gave rise to a superstructure. For three hundred years the *Craft* has disseminated its ancient wisdom the world over. This perennial knowledge has been transmitted from the homely repose of its temples of instruction, those distinctive dwellings we commonly refer to as "the lodge." It is at the lodge where each mason is extended the inestimable privilege to partake of its mysteries, and it is there where he learns that such invaluable ancient knowledge truly is time transcendent.

Since time immemorial the essence of *Masonry* has lived and breathed in the heart of man. From that defining, enlightening moment when man first became aware of his own consciousness and developed a sense of Self, the torch of *Masonry* rose and soared; emerging as an inextinguishable beacon of light for all! Seekers of truth to revere and follow. ■

Scottish Rite Milestones



During an Official Visit of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick to his Craft Lodge, Ill. Bro. Robert Forbes, 32° received his life membership. Left to right are: Ill. Bro. Len Bishop, 33°, Assistant to Deputy; Ill. Bro. Larry Brown, 33°; Ill. Bro. Robert Forbes, 32°; Ill. Bro. Darrell Munn, 33°; and Ill. Bro. Joel MacDonald, 32°, current TPGM of Maxwell Lodge, Valley of Fredericton.



Ill. Bro. Layton McClare, 33° (right) presents Ill. Bro. John Swanton, 32° with his 50 year Certificate and Pin for exemplary service to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Brother Swanton lives in the Veterans Health Unit in Fredericton, New Brunswick and just celebrated in late winter, his 96th Birthday. Bro Swanton still enjoys outings with his military friends at the Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B. and enjoys talking and communicating with his special friends and comrades.



In June 2017 Ill. Bro. Dave Bennett, 33°, Deputy for Ontario, accompanied by six members of the Valley of North Bay presented a 50 year Scottish Rite pin and certificate to Alfred "Harold" Everest in Powassan, Ontario. He was truly pleased and appreciated the visit. Pictured from left to right: Harold Toswell; Bill South; Ill. Bro. Dave Bennett, 33°, Deputy for Ontario; Harold Everest; Matt Plant, D.D.G.M. Nipissing Muskoka ; Colin Clark and Dave Plant. Sadly Harold passed away a month later. We cherish his memory in our hearts.



The Sudbury Valley Lodge of Perfection Installation was held on Friday, October 20, 2017. Following the Installation, a 60 Scottish Rite pin and certificate from the Supreme Council was presented to Ill. Bro. Grant Boyce, 32°. Pictured from the left are Ill. Bro. Dave Bennett, 33° Deputy for Ontario; Sam Koury, T.P.G.M.; Grant Boyce and Rejean Daigle, I.P. T.P.G.M.



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR
SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICE STAFF

*May Love, Peace and Happiness
be yours throughout 2018*


Steven Warren


Leslie Drake


Bob Brethour



144th Supreme Council Session at London, ON

September 13 – 16, 2018

Hosted by the Valley of London

For more information please visit:

scottishritecanada.ca/info/sc-sessions

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