

CLARION

WINTER 2021

Trumpeting the Impact of the Scottish Rite in Canada

Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to Meet Again!



Masks created by Mrs. Ardyce Warren

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 6: The Masons between the Spanish Flu and the Coronavirus

PAGE 7: A Masonic Tale of Brotherly Love

PAGE 13: History of the Hamilton Scottish Rite Cathedral



A Joint Publication of the Supreme Council & the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation

From the Sovereign Grand Commander

III. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°



Who would have anticipated such a dramatic change in our world as has occurred since the publication of our previous *Clarion* issue? As I write these words, Canada recently celebrated Thanksgiving and now looks forward to the Christmas and Holiday Season. Instead of

our normal family celebrations and happy *Scottish Rite* get togethers, most of Canada continues to be gripped by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and, sadly, many of our Provinces are experiencing a *second wave* of this distressing virus.

As you all know, faced with this threat, unprecedented for most of us, I suspended indefinitely all in-person *Scottish Rite* activities as of March 13th, 2020. Although, at the time, I hoped that this suspension would be short lived, unfortunately that has not been the case and, as the pandemic persists, the protection of our *Brethren*, their families, and our communities continue to be paramount. While none of us can predict with certainty how long this will continue, in order to assist our *Valleys* and avoid needless planning and scheduling, I recently notified all *Valleys* that this suspension of in-person activities will extend at least until mid-January. What happens then remains to be seen but, unfortunately, many of our normal holiday, social, and *Masonic* activities between now and then will not take place.

Having said that, not everything is doom and gloom. This inability to meet in person has encouraged many of us to enhance our *virtual* skills. Across Canada, many *Valleys* have been conducting successful get togethers through the wonders of Zoom, Skype, and similar software platforms. While not the same as meeting face to face, they have provided opportunities for *Brethren* to see each other, to participate in discussions, and both to present and receive *Masonic* education. No longer are we required to travel distances or take time away from family- access is available from anywhere and all it takes is to log on when prompted. What a great way to meet *Brethren* far and wide!

Some *Valleys* have presented detailed and thoughtful educational presentations, some have organized strategic planning meetings; I have attended a virtual BBQ; and at least one *Valley* has supported our *Charitable Foundation*

with an *individual* walkathon. The possibilities are limited only by our imaginations and it has been encouraging for me to see the many and varied approaches adopted by our *Brethren* to overcome these present day limitations and continue to spread and enjoy the true brotherhood found within *Scottish Rite* in Canada. What better time than now to write that piece of *Masonic* education you have been pondering, to learn that piece of ritual you have been wanting to present, or simply to call up that *Brother* you haven't heard from and see how he is doing.

For me personally, it has been necessary to postpone several planned *Official Visits* to various *Valleys*. I want all of you to know how disappointing this has been for me and how much I appreciate the advance planning that had taken place but could not be executed. Once we are up and running again, these visits will be rescheduled, and I am looking forward with even more anticipation to joining with you all.

The necessary cancellation of our full *Annual Session of Supreme Council*, that had been scheduled for September in Hamilton, was heartbreaking. To those esteemed *Brethren* who were scheduled to receive their 33°, our plan, as soon as circumstances permit, is to schedule the conferral of this very special degree on a regional basis. We will be providing further details of this as soon as we are able to do so.

To all of you, I can assure you that the spirit that makes our *Scottish Rite* so special continues to be alive and well across our Country. The efforts of our dedicated members have ensured this, and continue to provide for its strength and endurance. Never has this been so important and never have our communities and our country needed to see our strong masonic principles openly and visibly in practice. Remember our fundamental belief in benevolence. Certainly, in these difficult times, financial need and wants are experienced by many among us; but, benevolence is more than mere finances, it extends to comfort, care, companionship, and friendship. Reach out to each other. Make sure that no one within your sphere is in want. Let us all do the best that we can to show that *Scottish Rite Masons* are special and that we do indeed care for others.

My *Brethren*, now as we lead up to the Christmas and Holiday Season and look forward to a new and better 2021, I wish each of you, your families and your friends the very best in Seasons Greetings and many safe, healthy, and happy days to come. ■



From the President of the SRCF

III. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor, 33°



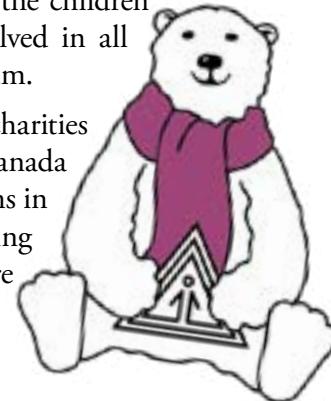
It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

This is the opening paragraph of Charles Dickens a *Tale of Two Cities*, written in 1859; yet somehow it resonates with the world that we now live in. COVID-19 has changed how each of us deals with family, friends and those we meet in everyday life. Masks and social distancing are the new normal.

In this edition of the *Clarion*, you will find some *Highlights* from both the *Foundation* and the *Learning Centres*. I was thinking how appropriate the use of the bear as a symbol of the *Learning Centres* is in these times. In the United States, where *Scottish Rite Masonic* bodies have successfully operated such *Learning Centres* for many years, their symbol is a teddy bear. Being Canadian, home of the north; when

the *Learning Centre* program started in 2003, we selected the polar bear holding the *Foundation* logo, a Triangle with a stylized figure in the centre. In the kingdom of spirit animals, the bear is emblematic of grounding forces and strength. The animal has been worshiped throughout time as a powerful totem, inspiring those who need it, the courage to stand up against adversity. These characteristics and attributes are so important for the children with dyslexia as well as those involved in all aspects of the *Learning Centre* program.

An advocacy group for Canadian charities and non-profits called Imagine Canada has reported that charitable donations in Canada have declined by 31% during COVID. This in a time when there are increased demands for the services and programs that are delivered by the charitable sector.



Please consider making use of the *Blue Envelope* included in this issue of the *Clarion*. The *Blue Envelope* changes lives by helping solve the *Puzzles of the Mind* through Research Grants and support of the *Learning Centres for Children with Dyslexia*.

Blue envelopes make a difference – all because of YOUR support.

On behalf of the Directors of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*, we wish you all the very best for the Holiday Season and for 2021. ■

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Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Highlights

Autistic Traits in Mice Associated with Blood Vessel Defects

A recent study by Dr. Baptiste Lacoste, funded in part by a major research grant from the Foundation, was published in the leading journal *Nature Neuroscience*. This was the first in-depth study of vasculature in the autistic brain which finds early deficits in brain blood vessel formation translate into autistic traits in mice. The study lays out several lines of novel evidence that strongly implicate defects in endothelial cells (the lining of blood vessels) in autism. Several news outlets covered this story and Dr. Lacoste was interviewed by CTV news.

New grants funded:

The Foundation Board of Directors approved 4 new major research grants at the September meeting. Each grant has a total value of \$120,000 over three years.

- Dr. Bénédicte Amilhon, Université Montreal - researching how prefrontal serotonergic alterations underlie cognitive deficits following perinatal asphyxia.
- Dr. Wei-Hsiang Huang, McGill University - investigating cognitive dysfunction caused by imbalanced excitation and inhibition in autism.
- Dr. Jasmin Lalonde, University of Guelph - elucidating synaptic protein organization differences in Schizophrenia with patient-derived models.
- Dr. Melissa Perrault, University of Guelph - studying the role of GSK-3 signalling in mediating sex differences in neural oscillatory signatures and behavior in autism spectrum disorders.



New Provincial Deputies program

At the September Foundation Board of Directors meeting, funding for the *Provincial Deputies Bursary Program* was increased from \$17,000 per year to \$40,000. This will allow the Provincial Deputies to make awards in all *Valleys* across Canada. This program supports the education and training of students and other worthwhile endeavours in local communities.

Learning Centre Highlights

Reopening of Learning Centres

On March 15th, the *Learning Centres* across Canada were closed due to COVID-19. In September, the *SRCF* Board

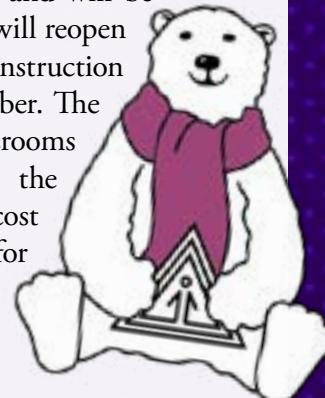
of Directors approved the reopening of the Halifax, Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton and Moncton *Learning Centres* with appropriate safety protocols in place. In addition, virtual tutoring was approved for Vancouver, London and Hamilton.

Moncton Learning Centre in the News

Moncton Learning Centre was featured on Global News as part of *Dyslexia Awareness Month* in October. The interview with Mark McConnell, a Board Member of the *Moncton Learning Centre* shares his personal experience after his son was diagnosed with Dyslexia: facebook.com/dyslexiacentremoncton.

Expansion of the Barrie Learning Centre

Ill. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°, *Deputy for Ontario*, reports that the *Valley of Barrie* has undertaken a significant renovation to the props/wardrobe area and an expansion of the *Learning Centre*. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, things have gone very well. The final piece of the renovations is the installation of a lift in the *Learning Centre* itself. This was mandated by the City of Barrie (the current ramp they have on hand no longer meets code). The lift has finally been delivered and will be installed in November. The *Centre* will reopen and begin tutoring once the construction has been completed in late November. The *Centre* now has 6 additional classrooms and washroom facilities right in the *Learning Centre*. The entire project cost in excess of \$350,000 and was paid for by the *Learning Centre*.



Bear Hug Event

On November 15th, the *Halifax Learning Centre* held its virtual *Bear Hug* event. Before the big shut down in March, the *Learning Centre* had been planning a fun, lively, in person Gala for May to celebrate its children, tutors, parents, friends and supporters. While not able to meet in person, there was still lots to celebrate but times have changed, so the May event was reconfigured to remain fun and lively, but not in-person. On November 15th, the *Centre* had its *Bear Hug* - a real time, virtual event that people could tune into via Facebook and enjoy safely and warmly at home in their bubble. Part talent show, part variety show, with star and student-studded performances, stories and messages of inspiration. There was also an online auction that ran from November 1st - 15th to raise funds for the *Learning Centre*. ■



Puzzles of the Mind – A Personal Perspective

III. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°
Deputy for Ontario

Generally, when one thinks of *Puzzles of the Mind*, Dementia and Alzheimer's top the list. But there are many other neurological diseases which are equally as devastating. Parkinson's, Autism, and Multiple Sclerosis (MS), among others, are all examples which fall into the category of *Puzzles of the Mind*—but the one that has impacted our lives is ALS.

Approximately 3,000 people in Canada have ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). It is a motor neuron disease, its cause is unknown, it is difficult to diagnose, and there is no cure. There are very few treatments that can help, and at this time, the condition is 100% terminal. In August of 2019, my wife Charlotte was diagnosed with this terrible disease. Symptoms first started presenting several years earlier, but numerous tests, MRIs (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), CT (Computed Tomography) Scans, and referrals to various doctors and specialists did not come up with any definitive answers. We knew something was going on; we just did not know what it was. The search for a diagnosis escalated when Charlotte's speech started to become affected in March of 2019. Ultimately, it was the worst-case scenario. Her formal diagnosis is Bulbar ALS, which affects speech, swallowing and breathing, and eventually weakness and paralysis of the arms and legs. The other more common type of ALS, Spinal ALS, affects the extremities (arms and legs) first. The average lifespan of someone with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

The ALS Society of Canada receives no government funding, so research is reliant on donations and fundraisers. The Walk to End ALS, held each June, is the major fundraiser we participate in.

It is a progressive disease, but each case is unique so there is no way of determining how long Charlotte will live. It is a very frustrating situation to deal with, and it obviously turns your life upside down. Although she remains active physically, Charlotte is no longer able to speak. Thankfully, we have text to speech technology on her cell phone and iPad. More recently, she is now no longer able to swallow, so all food and drink are via a feeding tube. Although she continues to fight with dignity and determination, it is all somewhat overwhelming.

We face many challenges in the months to come and the disease impacts our entire lives. As the caregiver, you learn to adapt as necessary, and it certainly reinforces just how important research into puzzles of the mind are. There is a lot of research taking place worldwide into treatments and cures for ALS, and some promising clinical studies are in progress. Believe it or not, there are only two treatments for ALS in Canada. They supposedly slow the advance of the disease, but because every case is unique there is no way of determining whether or not they are doing anything.

While your donations to the *SRCF* may not go directly to the fight against ALS, they are much needed to assist in research into all puzzles of the mind, ALS included. Neurological disease of one type or another affects many of our members and their families. My case is just one example. The need is there, and your donations to the *SRCF* most certainly help. ■

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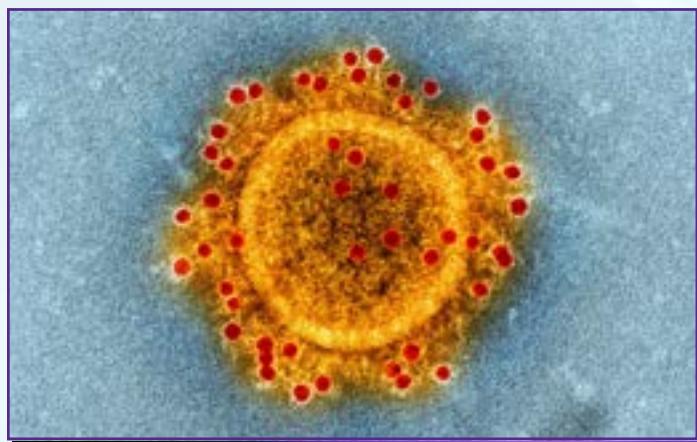
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The Masons between the Spanish Flu and the Coronavirus

III. Bro. Jacques G. Ruelland, 33°
Active Member - Valley of Montreal

Throughout 1918 and part of 1919, a severe *Spanish Flu* pandemic swept across the world. The First World War was drawing to the end in Europe, thanks to the intervention of British and American forces. The armistice was not signed until November 11, 1918, and the Treaty of Versailles, which put a definitive end—it was then believed—to Germany's warlike inclinations, did not come into force until June 28, 1919.



Throughout this period, the influenza pandemic was wreaking havoc, but little about it transpired in the newspapers. In wartime, the armies of all the belligerent countries kept—and still keep—secret all information on the loss of life so as not to alarm the civilian populations, discourage the soldiers, or avoid giving the enemy material for speculation on the forces present or to feed its propaganda.

In Europe, only Spain, which was not at war and therefore not bound by military secrecy, spoke openly about it, especially in its newspapers. It is for this reason that this flu pandemic is called *Spanish Flu* although it was evidently originally from China and transmitted by birds, which were the main vectors.

After the First World War, we learned that, despite its relatively low death rate (2 to 4% of the infected people died from it), the flu caused upwards of 50 Million deaths around the world, the contamination being facilitated by the movements of populations, the return of soldiers to home, reconstruction, the resumption of socio-economic activities and, of course, the lack of a vaccine.

Several *Brothers* asked me what had been the attitude of the *Grand Lodge of Quebec* and other *Masonic Bodies* during this pandemic, and how we could compare this

attitude to that of the same Bodies of today, in the face of the current coronavirus pandemic of COVID-19.

In the Proceedings of the *49th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Quebec*, held on February 12, 1919, we read the following short passage, written by M.W. Bro. W. W. Williamson in his Address to Members:

"As the years pass, and our membership increases, so must we expect the roll of our dead to increase, but the past year had been beyond all precedent and expectation, no less than 169 true and faithful Brethren having been called to eternal rest, or over 18 per thousand, which is partly due to the influenza epidemic of last autumn."

We notice the brevity of this mention due, not only to the lack of information, which stems from wartime military secrecy surrounding all the information deemed strategic, but also to the communication difficulties of the time, and to the lack of adequate remedies in view of developments in medical and pharmaceutical research at the start of the 20th century. On the other hand, the *Proceedings of GLQ*, both in 1919, 1920, and even in 1921, are full of praise for the *Brethren* who had fallen on the field of honour. Their names are mentioned, their feats of arms revealed, their exploits celebrated with great honour.

Behind these glorious and deserved tributes, the victims of the pandemic are hiding very modestly. The war stole everything from them, even their deaths. In the same *Proceedings* of 1919, the *Grand Secretary* mentions, without anything else, 169 Brothers recalled to the *Grand Lodge Above*. And the *Proceedings of the A&ASR of Canada* for the year 1919 follow the same model as those of the *GLQ*: They praise the supreme sacrifice of our *Brethren* felt under enemy fire, but it doesn't mention the victims of the *Spanish Flu*.

All this does not matter, as long as the sacrifices of our glorious soldiers are not forgotten, so that they illuminate the path we are now taking to defeat the current coronavirus pandemic. View it as a deadly enemy and to defeat it at the end of a singular combat thanks to the modern tools of science and human genius. Instantaneous information network, very advanced biomedical sciences, and means of social and political intervention, much more developed than at the beginning of the last century. If our ancestors did not give up hope on the battlefield and achieved a great victory, why should we not do it with means far better than theirs? Let us take their example from them: never be discouraged and keep hope alive. ■

A Masonic Tale of Brotherly Love

III. Bro. Robert J. Murdock, 32° Valley of Barrie

In the 1940's, a young man by the name of Donald S. Cody joined Harmony Lodge No. 438 GRC. Don became the W.M. in 1946 and served as Master again in 1973. The Brethren rewarded his service with a beautifully ornamented Past Master's Jewel.

During the 1950's, while working at AVRO, W. Bro. Cody (by now, Ill. Bro. Cody, 32°) had befriended a fellow employee by the name of Leonard Levy who was an active member of the *Lodge* and had served as W.M. In the late 1950's, two historic events took place almost simultaneously, and both had a *Masonic* connection.

The Right Hon. Bro. John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada halted production on the revolutionary fighter plane known as the AVRO *Arrow* putting many, including Don and Leonard, out of work. At this time, these two Masons were helping to form a historic *Lodge* which paid tribute to the two main theological branches of our Craft: Judaism and Christianity. On November 9, 1960, Lodge of the Pillars No. 703 GRC (now Mt. Sinai-Pillars No. 522 GRC) was formed in Toronto with W. Bro. Cody as Senior Warden and W. Bro. Levy as Chaplain. Both men were later recognized for their service to *Masonry* with appointments to *Grand Lodge*.

Our story is now about to take a historic twist, but the pathways will converge and come together in the end. V.W. Bro. Donald Cody was a descendant of proud United Empire Loyalists that came to Upper Canada settling in the Newmarket area after the American War of Independence. The Cody family were also followers of the Quaker faith, and the traditions of non-violence and universal brotherhood of mankind.

One of the sons of those first settlers, moved back to the USA following his faith and preaching a message of non-violence. Living in the Southern States and preaching anti-slavery, he soon attracted the ire of locals and was murdered, leaving his eleven year old son, W.F. Cody to fend for himself.

Young Cody began a career with the Pony Express and when the US Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the Union Army. Following the war, he became one of the Chief Scouts for the US Army. As you may have guessed, W.F. Cody was none other than William *Buffalo Bill* Cody. He was initiated in Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in

Nebraska and later a Knight Templar. In 1894, he received his 32° in *Scottish Rite*, the year before Harmony Lodge No. 438 was formed!

Fast forward our story to September 18, 1991, when I was installed in the chair of King Solomon in Harmony Lodge by M.W. Bro. Ronald E. Groshaw (PGM), 33°. That evening I learned V.W. Bro. Donald Cody had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. With the support of his son-in-law, the late R.W. Bro. Ted Burton, 33°, an Honours Night was organized for the much beloved *Brother*.



Many members of Don's family were present including a young teenage boy, David, his grandson and R.W. Bro. Burton's son. The night was a resounding, yet melancholy success. Don was literally speechless. His dear friend, V.W. Bro. Levy spoke fondly of their years together.

Soon after, my wife and I attended an intimate dinner with V.W. Bro. Cody and his family. At the end of the evening, I was stunned when he gave me his Past Master's Jewel. He told me that I was to wear it and consider it mine. I reminded him that the ribbon was dark blue (denoting Grand Lodge rank) and as such, I would be unable to wear it. He smiled and winked and told me that I would wear it soon enough. V.W. Bro. Donald S. Cody passed to the GLA a few short months later. In 1996, when elected DDGM of Toronto District 5 (now York District) I proudly wore the *Cody Jewel*.

While enjoying the pre-Lodge Banquet at Manitoba Lodge No. 236 GRC, Cookstown in 2018, I was seated with some young officers of this Lodge and was recounting the story of how I came to have the Past Master's Jewel belonging to the great grandnephew of Buffalo Bill Cody. I looked across at the *Brother* seated opposite me and tears were streaming down his cheek. It was David, now the Junior Warden elect of the *Lodge*!

(continued on Page 11)



Supreme Council Reference Library

III. Bro. H. Evan Woodhead, 33°
Chair - Supreme Council Library

The library has been a feature of this *Supreme Council* for a very long time. In March of 1883, Walter Murton informed the *Supreme Council* in England that Canada's *Supreme Council* wanted to start a *good Masonic library*. In response, Ill. Bro. Sandeman (the *Grand Secretary-General* in England) undertook to send Canada duplicate copies of books in their possession. Unfortunately, we don't know which specific volumes came to us by that route, but it does give us a clear indication of when our *Supreme Council* initiated its library.



The collection is housed in a secure room at the *Scottish Rite* building, in downtown Hamilton. It includes a comprehensive set of proceedings from Canada's *Annual Sessions*, as well as those of the *Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, U.S.A.* It also includes a number of old and uncommon books, some dating back into the 1700's. For example, we have a 1783 *Ahiman Rezon* from Pennsylvania which is leather bound but shows an extreme degree of wear and tear, and a 1797 edition of *The Freemason's Monitor*. There is a copy of *Illustrations of Masonry* by Thomas Smith Webb, which is in such excellent condition that it was obviously re-bound at some point in its history.

Many of the books were clearly donated by the earliest luminaries of *Scottish Rite Masonry* in Canada, namely T. Douglas Harington (our first *Sovereign Grand Commander*) and J. Walter Murton (our first *Grand Secretary-General*). We find their names written on the flyleaf of many volumes, with several inscriptions showing that the volumes were originally presented to them by friends and *Brothers* such as Enoch T. Carson, Albert Gallatin Mackey, Thomas Smith Webb, and Albert Pike.

The most unique and fascinating item in the collection is also perhaps the one in the worst condition. The diary

of Ill. Bro. Harington certainly shows the wear and tear it sustained as the working journal of the first *Sovereign Grand Commander*. In this volume, he maintained a detailed record of the travels, meetings, and decisions he undertook in fulfilling the duties of his office.

The items listed above are of course just a quick sample of what our collection contains. A catalog of all the books in the collection is available as a searchable pdf document in the members' area of the *Supreme Council* website (scottishritecanada.ca/library). Given the age and condition of some materials, the decision was made to operate as a reference library rather than a lending library. We are also striving to make the library a useful resource to *Scottish Rite* members across the whole country rather than serving only those who can physically visit us in Hamilton. This of course became all the more important with the emergence of COVID-19 and the need for social distancing. To achieve those objectives, the library committee's focus has shifted to the development of electronic content related to the library, which we can make available through the *Supreme Council* website.

Our first foray into electronic content is a series of videos called *Ex Libris*. Each episode explores some aspect of the items in our collection, with a focus on showing the item(s) in question and explaining why they are of interest. The topics range widely, from quick peeks at intriguing oddities of publications from centuries past, to surveys of the work of important modern *Masonic* historians. Our intention with these videos is to support *Masonic Education* in general, with a special focus on helping people interested in *Masonic History* or other *Masonic* research find reliable sources and distinguish them from the vast body of published material about *Masonry* that is mythical, fallacious, misleading, or downright dishonest. We of course work in cooperation with the *Education and Enlightenment Committee* and are most appreciative of their support and encouragement. The video segments are generally 15 to 20 minutes in length and can be found in the open area of the *Supreme Council* website, so they are available to *Scottish Rite* bodies or *Craft Lodges* for *Masonic Education*, or for personal interest by any member of the *Rite*, the *Craft*, or even the public.

The first episode of *Ex Libris* went live on the website in late May of 2019, with a plan to release an additional episode approximately every 3 weeks.

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Scottish Rite Valley of Barrie Library Brethour Room

III. Bro. Garry S. Perkins, 32°

Committee Chair, Scottish Rite Library, Valley of Barrie

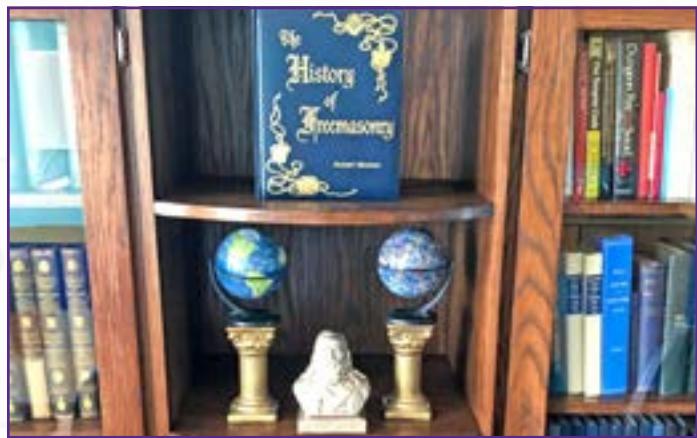
In the Summer of 2019, Ill. Bro. Robert Brethour, 33° from the *Valley of Barrie*, asked me to form a committee to develop a library in the *Masonic Temple* building at 99 Morrow Road in Barrie, Ontario. The idea of a *Valley Library* had been discussed informally for several years. In addition to *Masonic* and *Scottish Rite* related material already on hand, other books had also been donated to the *Valley of Barrie*. I was asked to Chair the committee and assembled a group of six dedicated *Masons* who volunteered to assist with this project in mid-summer 2019.



The mandate of the *Library Committee* was simple: to study all options, consider all aspects and make recommendations for the building, completion and dedication of a Library. We shared a common belief that a well setup library could be and should be the focal point of our *Temple* building. *Freemasonry* has a story to tell and by supplying a Library, rich with information, we would be doing our part in ensuring what the investiture of the Historian states, “*that the Brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past*”.

The items that the Committee needed to address in the beginning were location, approximate size, expansion considerations, the budget, a realistic target date for completion and a name. At our first meeting, we simply walked around the building and contemplated various locations where the library could be placed and built arguments for and against each place. We then sat down and developed a strategy for the committee moving forward which we divided into 5 phases being, Location and Design, Development and Construction, Completion, Library Content and finally Administration. We did this so that we could remain focused on one phase at a time without getting

ahead of ourselves. After selecting the boardroom as the location for the library, we started to look at shelving units, both new and used and also had to decide on wood or metal for material. We inquired into other *Masonic* temples that were closing and possibly donating their furniture but we could not find anything. We eventually met with a local Mason who works in the trades, Bro. Welby Coelho, and he helped us design new wooden cabinets. Bro. Welby was willing to build these beautiful oak and pine cabinets, complete with lockable glass doors and a centre display unit for the cost of the materials. We decided to make the units approximately 3½ feet wide and 6 ft high and ordered 4 of them to start. In preparation for the installation of the library cabinets in late August 2020, a few of the committee members also repainted our board room in *Masonic Craft Lodge* colours. To cover the cost of the cabinets we had the *Craft Lodges*, the *Scottish Rite Club* of Barrie and a few individuals sponsor each of the four cabinets. While the cabinets were being constructed, we collected books from southern Ontario's various concordant bodies by using *Masonic* social media websites.



We have collected between 350-450 books. As we enter into the last phase, Administration, we have been in communication with the *Grand Librarian of Manitoba* who wrote a book on *Masonic Library* cataloguing. We will soon be seeking assistance from various resources to help set up a program enabling us to administer the library properly. Our book categories thus far are *Craft Lodge*, *Scottish Rite*, *Chapter*, *DeMolay*, *Eastern Star*, *Esoteric*, *World Masonry* and *Masonic* novels. We have assigned a librarian who will administer the books, help to catalogue them, accept donations and assist *Brethren* from around the District who wish to borrow books. It is our hope that this will be a useful addition to our building for all *Brethren* in the District to use while they make their daily advancement in *Masonic* knowledge. ■

Highlights of Supreme Council's 2020 Executive Session

III. Bro. David A. Bennett 33°
Lieutenant Grand Commander

COVID-19 struck again with yet another cancellation. What promised to be an exciting 146th *Supreme Council Session* in Hamilton, Ontario (scheduled for September 16th-19th) was replaced with an unexpected teleconference to conduct the business of the *Executive Session*.

First may I take a moment on behalf of all members of the *Supreme Council* to sincerely thank Chairman III. Bro. Steve Warren, 33°, Deputy Chairman III. Bro. Lou Domjan, 33° and their entire committee of *Brethren* and Ladies, for their hard work and dedication in preparing for what we know would have been an excellent event in Hamilton. We echo the sentiments of our *Sovereign Grand Commander* III. Bro. Robert Whitmore, 33° and his wife Judi, of our sincere disappointment not to be able to meet in person, and to welcome our newest *Honorary Inspectors-General* 33°. Regional conferrals are planned for the latter once permissible.



Thanks to our Chief Operating Officer III. Bro. Steve Warren, 33°, we were able to use Adobe Connect platform to ensure all Active/Past Active members of the *Supreme Council* had the ability to participate in the call from the comfort of their homes and offices on September 16, 2020.

Prior to the Executive Session, the annual meeting of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*, under the chairmanship of President III. Bro. Gareth Taylor, 33° was conducted. During this meeting we were pleased to hear a report from the *Learning Centre* Executive Director III. Bro. Matthew Todd, 33° that the majority of the *Centres* will open soon following all Provincial regulations and established protocols are in place.

Following the *SRCF* meeting, the *Sovereign Grand Commander* declared the Executive Session to order

in accordance with Article 5(c) of the *Statutes and Regulations*. The regular business and presentation of committee reports were conducted in a timely and efficient manner. During the course of the meeting it was announced three *Brethren* will be retiring to Past Active status: Ill. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, 33° (by age) Deputy for British Columbia & Yukon; Ill. Bro. Tom Lewis, 33° (by age) Grand Treasurer-General, Valley of Niagara and Ill. Bro. John Trousdale, 33° (by request), Valley of Kingston. Five new Active members were elected. They are: Ill. Bro. Doug Easton, 33°; Ill. Bro. Stephen Hannah, 33°; Ill. Bro. Brent Julian, 33°; Ill. Bro. Jacques Ruelland 33° and Ill. Bro. Steve Warren, 33°. In addition, four new Officers were elected: Ill. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, 33° (Grand Chancellor); Ill. Bro. Ron Taylor, 33° (Deputy for Ontario); Ill. Bro. Doug Easton 33°, (Deputy for British Columbia & Yukon) and Ill. Bro. Alan Stoddart, 33° (Grand Treasurer-General). Travel arrangements will be made (when permitted due to the pandemic) to facilitate the crowning ceremonies under the direction of the *SGC*.

The *Special Awards* committee brought forward the names of two *Brethren* to receive the prestigious John Ross Matheson Award. The nominations of Ill. Bro. Douglas Charles Collins, 32° (Valley of Kamloops) and Ill. Bro. Douglas Robert Sowden, 33° (Valley of Nanaimo) were duly approved to receive their awards in their local *Valleys* as soon as circumstances permit.

We were pleased to bestow Honorary Memberships in our *Supreme Council* to three prominent members from other jurisdictions. They are: Ill. Bro. James D. Cole, 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.; Ill. Bro. Alan J. Englefield, 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for England and Wales and Ill. Bro. J.M. Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet, 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for Scotland.

Before the conclusion of the sessions, *Sovereign Grand Commander* Whitmore presented his *Allocution*. Ill. Bro. Whitmore provided those present on the call with a summary of rulings, permissions and dispensations granted, important acts done during the year and recommendations for the continued welfare of the *Rite*. Disappointed not to be able to hold our full *Annual Session* in Hamilton, he eloquently spoke of the rich history of the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* in his hometown, Hamilton.

(continued on next page)

Continuation of articles

While his schedule was disrupted by the global pandemic, our *Sovereign Grand Commander* was able to attend a number of official visits (9) and functions. Among them were: attending a new initiative: the video shoot of the 8th degree; the *150th Anniversary Celebration* of the *Scottish Rite* in Canada - Hamilton; as a Principal Guest of the Supreme Council for Scotland in Edinburgh; the Supreme Council of Germany in Berlin; conducting the Supreme Council Investitures of Ill. Bro. Duncan Skinner, 33° (Grand Captain of the Guard), Ill. Bro. Opkar Sandhu, 33° (Deputy for Quebec), and presenting the prestigious John Ross Matheson Awards to Ill. Bro. Neville Sheppard, 32° and Ill. Bro. Eric Magill, 32°. These duties, along with a healthy diet of teleconferences and *zoom calls* throughout Canada and beyond, has allowed our *Sovereign Grand Commander* to keep in touch and informed on the continuing efforts of our *Brethren* to weather the storm during these unprecedented times. He thanked all members of the *Supreme Council* "especially during these strange and unusual times", and concluded by saying "*Like you, I look forward to getting back to normal and in the meantime, your extra efforts in keeping us all focused and working with all the Brethren in new and imaginative ways continue to be an inspiration to me*".

In 2021, the 147th *Supreme Council Executive Sessions* will once again be conducted via teleconference followed by the next *Annual Session* hosted by the *Valley of Saskatoon* in 2022. ■

Supreme Council Reference Library (continued from Page 8)

We have prepared seventeen video segments so far and hope to produce a dozen more over the next year or so. The *Library Committee* has also prepared an e-Library with over 1000 public-domain books, proceedings and magazines of *Masonic* interest on a USB drive. A copy of this drive is available for \$25 by contacting the *Supreme Council* office. We hope to further expand the electronic offerings of the library to a variety of content including book reports, summaries, and reading lists.

If you haven't seen them already, we invite you to access the *Ex Libris* episodes on the *Supreme Council* website at scottishritecanada.ca/library and we hope you enjoy them. ■

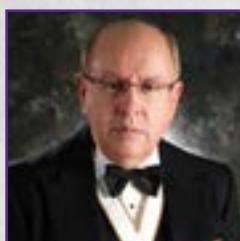
A Masonic Tale of Brotherly Love (continued from Page 7)

It remains to be said, that I have made a pact with young Bro. David that following completion of his year in the East, hopefully in 2022, I will re-furbish his Grandfather's jewel and present it to him.

Needless to say, a new generation of the *Cody clan* is now in my Masonic life. I am sure my old friend Donald Cody is looking down and smiling. Good rest, my brother, until we meet again. ■

Editor's Note: This article was abridged due to space constraints.

New Officers and Active Members of Supreme Council



From Left to Right:

Ill. Bro. Brian W. Gilkinson, 33°
Grand Chancellor

Ill. Bro. Ronald J. G. Taylor, 33°
Deputy for Ontario

Ill. Bro. Douglas G. Easton 33°
Deputy for British Columbia and Yukon Territory

Ill. Bro. Alan J. Stoddart 33°
Grand Treasurer-General

Ill. Bro. Stephen G. Hannah, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector-General

Ill. Bro. D. Brent Julian, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector-General

Ill. Bro. Jacques G.H. Ruelland, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector-General

Ill. Bro. Steven E. Warren, 33°,
Sovereign Grand Inspector-General



Valley of St. John's Walk-A-Thon

III. Bro. James H. Rowsell, 33°
SRCF Representative

The year 2020 brought with it changes which have literally turned our entire world upside-down. Cancellations, brought about by the current world pandemic, caused our previous *Masonic* year to be put on hold, and the current one (which should have begun in September) is yet to start—and there is no clear timeline as to when it will commence. Though we have not been able to meet as we usually do, we did find a way to serve certain aspects of *Scottish Rite* while observing the required social distancing.



Each October, the *Valley of St. John's* holds a *Valley Walk-A-Thon* in aid of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* (pictured above is our 2017 *Walk-A-Thon*, held at Neil's Pond in Paradise). *Brethren* canvas their family and friends for pledges, and then meet at a predetermined location for a walk (always rain or shine). The walk is followed by a social gathering, which is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



This year social gatherings were not possible. It was decided that we could still canvas for donations, and hold *individual* walks on our chosen date of October 25th. *Brethren* were encouraged to take a picture to mark the day, and some of those are included in this article.

For obvious reasons, our usual social time could not happen, but all in all, everyone who participated enjoyed the day, and felt that even though we were separated by circumstance, we were, nevertheless, together in purpose. Donations were down a bit this year, however we have still managed to raise an average of over \$2,000.00 a year, over the past 5 years that I have had the pleasure to serve as Valley Representative for the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* here in Newfoundland. I hope that our walks will continue well into the future of the *Valley of St. John's*.



Pictured above is Ill. Bro. Cec Murdoch, 32°, at Kent's Pond, St. John's. Ill. Bro. Dave Mercer, 32° walked around Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's. Pictured below are Ill. Bro. James Finch, 33°, Ill. Bro. Allan Neil, 32°, and Ill. Bro. Charles Parsons, 32°, who used their *bubble* situation to stroll around Brandscombs Pond, St. John's,



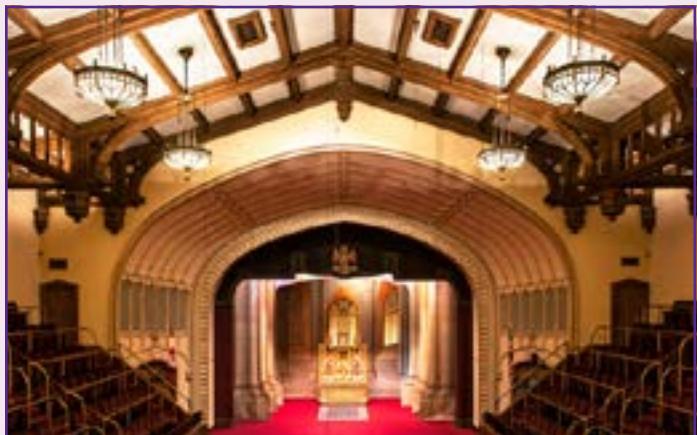
while Ill. Bro. James Rowsell, 33°, was joined by family members for a walk at Three Island Pond, Paradise (pictured left).

Finally, Ill. Bro. Owen Devereaux, 33°, and his wife Ros completed a 6 km walk (in the fog) at their summer place in Nine Island Pond. He reported that the weather was such that at the end of the walk, a 'small' fire helped to warm things up! ■

History of the Hamilton Scottish Rite Cathedral

III. Bro. Kenneth C. Adamson, 33°
Valley of Hamilton

Many readers may be familiar with the magnificent *Scottish Rite* facilities in Hamilton, Ontario. The property on which the building sits has figured prominently in the history of Hamilton since the early 19th century. It was purchased by the *Scottish Rite* in 1920. The magnificent theatre in the round or *Cathedral* of the building was added over the winter of 1922 - 1923 and has remained largely unchanged over the last hundred years.



This section of the building was specifically designed to facilitate the best possible portrayal of our *Scottish Rite* degrees. The newer portion of the building was designed by Osgoode and Osgoode of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sidney and Eugene Osgoode were a father and son team of architects who designed a number of famous *Masonic* properties in the United States. Anyone who has seen the unique portrayal of the drama of the 32nd Degree in the *Valley of Hamilton* will know the special significance of the *father and son* team to our *Valley*. The new portion of the building was built by the W.H. Cooper Construction Company. William Cooper was a prominent builder in the Hamilton area as well as a very active *Scottish Rite Mason*. There is a twin to the Hamilton facility, also designed by Osgoode and Osgoode, in Bay City, Michigan.

The eight beautiful glass and bronze fixtures that illuminate the thrust stage and floor area are one of the most fascinating features of our *Cathedral*. These fixtures are original, having been installed in 1923. The chandeliers and many other fixtures in the building were designed and built by the Tallman Bronze Company of Hamilton. Addison H. Tallman, the owner of this company, was a member of the first class of *Moore Sovereign Consistory* to use the facility

in May of 1923. *Have you ever wondered how the bulbs in these fixtures are replaced when they burn out?* Believe it or not, each fixture can be lowered down to floor level with a special hoist that can be moved from fixture to fixture. The ceiling that you see in the *Cathedral* is false with catwalks below the roof that allow the light fixtures and various other devices and systems to be serviced.

Undoubtedly, we have all noticed the gargoyles that are carved into the ends of the hammer trusses on the ceiling on each side of the *Cathedral*. When fixtures are lowered to the floor (every ten years) you will clearly see the small gargoyles that are cast into the circumference of the fixture. Each one is cast into the bronze and has an inlaid porcelain face. They are just one more small but outstanding feature of our unique building.

The beautiful Casavant Frères pipe organ in the *Cathedral* was installed in 1923. This instrument has approximately 2900 pipes and is still used on a regular basis. It carries Casavant builder's number 972. Casavant is still one of the most prominent builders in the world, headquartered in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec.

There is a set of 55 drops or *flies* in the stage area which were custom made by Volland Studios in St. Louis, Missouri. They are controlled by an elaborate counterweighted drop system which was largely created for *Scottish Rite* facilities. Ill. Bro. Albert Pike, 33° was heavily involved in their design.

The *Cathedral* seats approximately 550 people. The framing of the beautiful plush seating is mostly original and were re-upholstered approximately thirty years ago. This was a massive undertaking both financially and physically. The fundraising campaign was led by our late Ill. Bro. John I. Carrick, 33°. Indeed, one of the major challenges of receiving one's *Scottish Rite* degrees in the Valley of Hamilton was surviving the seats. The original horsehair padding became *impossibly* compacted and hard after a very short period of time.

The original heating system installed in 1923 by Sheldon's Limited of Galt, (Cambridge) Ontario is still in place. The *Cathedral* is not air conditioned but massive hidden ventilating fans were installed about fifty years ago.

The Hamilton *Cathedral* is an integral part of the history and heritage of *Scottish Rite Masonry* in the *Valley of Hamilton* and indeed in all of Canada. We are so lucky to still have it for our use. Indeed, we have been charged by our forefathers to preserve it for future generations of *Scottish Rite Masons*. ■

SRCF Presentation

III. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33° Deputy for Ontario

Traditionally in Northern Ontario, a SRCF Provincial Charitable Donation of \$1500 is shared by the Northern School of Medicine's Thunder Bay and Sudbury locations. This charitable donation is meant for the support of educational training or specific organizations within the community dedicated to helping those in need—preferably young people.

Pictured below in Sudbury presenting a cheque for \$750 are: Ill. Bro. Don Rousell, 33°, Bro. Ryan Lipic, 18° - TPGM, and Ill. Bro. Ross Dixon, 33° of the *Valley of Sudbury* with award recipient Jenny Thomas and Julie Houle of the Northern School of Medicine.



In addition, the *Valley of Sault Ste. Marie* was selected to distribute an award in their area. Pictured below from the *Valley* are Ill. Bros. Bruce Pearce, 33°, David Dawe, 33°, Larry Weeks, 33°, David Jones, 33°, Pat Gillespie, 32° - TPGM and Bro. Robert Chiarello, 18°, making a presentation of \$1000 to representatives of THRIVE Child Development Centre. ■



In Thunder Bay (pictured top right) presenting a cheque for \$750 are: Ill. Bro. Bill Davis, 33° - Active Member; award recipient Katie Biasiol; Ill. Bro. Bob Mounstephen, 32° - TPGM.; and Julie Houle of the School of Medicine.



60 Year Membership Jewel

III. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, 33° SRCF Representative

Bro. G. Leighton Lovitt, 14°, at a young 99 years, receives his 60 year jewel from Ill. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, 33°, Deputy for British Columbia and Yukon, assisted by Ill. Bro. Carl Bolger, 33°, and Ill. Bro. Don Campbell, 33°.

Bros. Lovitt, Bolger and Campbell are members of the same *Craft Lodge*, Camosun Lodge No. 60. Sadly, Bro. Lovitt passed away in October 2020, one month shy of his 100th birthday. ■



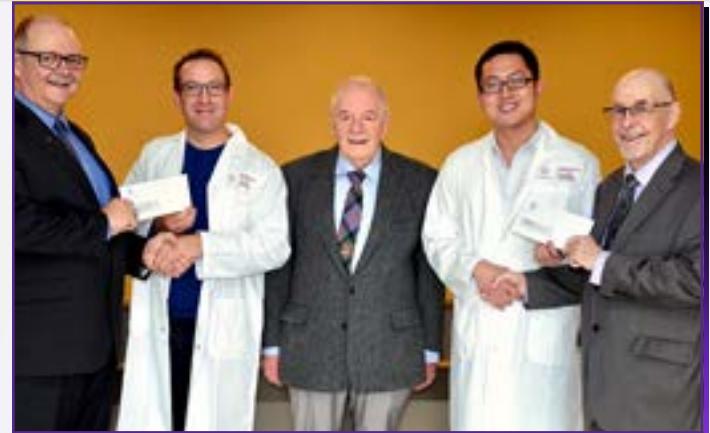
Grant Presentations - Valley of Ottawa

III. Bro. Stephen D. Thomson, 32°
Valley of Ottawa Foundation Representative

On October 30th 2019, members of the *Valley of Ottawa* once again presented Dr. Baptise Lacoste with a cheque for \$35,000. This is the third year that Dr. Lacoste has received a grant from the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*, totalling \$105,000. He expressed his gratitude for the support that the *Foundation* has given him in his research into the development of blood vessels in the brain, as it relates to autism. Dr. Lacoste will be presenting his findings later this year.

Our second presentation was to Dr. Simon Chen with a grant of \$40,000. Dr. Chen is investigating circuit dysfunctions underlying delayed motor learning in the deletion model of autism. This is Dr. Chen's first year of receiving a grant from the *Foundation* and we are looking forward to his presentation update next year.

We are proud on behalf of the *Foundation* to have helped Dr. Lacoste in his three years of research, into a subject that is dear to the *Foundation's* objective. Dr. Chen is equally enthusiastic about his work into autism.



Making the presentation on behalf of the *Foundation* are (pictured left to right) Ill. Bro. Ron Taylor, 33°, Active Member, Dr. Baptiste Lacoste, Ill. Bro. John Forster, 33°, member of the Board of Directors for the *Foundation*. Dr. Simon Chen, and Ill. Bro. Steve Thomson, 32° *Valley of Ottawa Foundation* representative.

Photo by Ms. Kate Jaimet, Senior Writer at the University of Ottawa. ■



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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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