

CLARION

WINTER 2023

Trumpeting the Impact of the Scottish Rite in Canada



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**YOUR SRCF
BLUE ENVELOPE**

The Mission Continues under New Leadership

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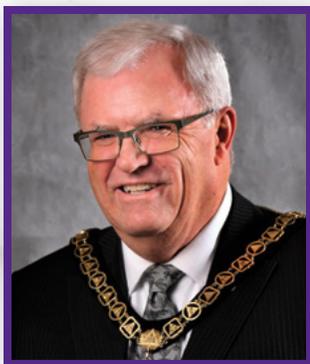
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A Joint Publication of the Supreme Council & the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation



I write this article deeply humbled to have been elected to, and entrusted with, the position of Sovereign Grand Commander. May I first express my sincere thanks to Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°. I value your friendship and that which has also been established with our

wives Aurore and Judi. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Rob during what has been an extremely difficult tenure. Our Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander rose to the challenge with dignity, patience and empathy, with unquestionable skill and ability. We as *Scottish Rite Freemasons* owe him a huge debt of gratitude for an outstanding job of tirelessly providing us with sage advice and outstanding leadership during the pandemic. Further, we will benefit from his implementation of the *Future Initiatives Committee* to honour our heritage and embrace the future. By exploring new ideas, we will enrich our *Scottish Rite* experience for our members moving forward.

My sincere congratulations to Saskatoon General Chair Ill. Bro. Rick Brunson, 33°, and his entire committee of Brethren and Ladies for ensuring the success of the *148th Annual Session of Supreme Council*. The team of volunteers went above and beyond creating lasting and treasured memories for all those in attendance!

To our new Honorary Inspectors-General, Active Members and those obtaining Past Active status, my congratulations; I look forward to working with each of you. As the author Anonymous quoted "*Look back with pride on all you've accomplished, look forward with excitement to all the adventures ahead and enjoy yourselves, you've earned it*".

Brethren, let's share our passion for the *Rite*, by the utilization of the tools at our disposal and by benefiting from the beautiful thought-provoking messages delivered in our degrees. To be happy and have fun learning, we will continue to experience the joy of being a member of such a fine fraternity. As we continue our *Masonic* journey may we constantly apply the lessons learned to benefit our lives and our communities, thus making a positive difference in the world.

Thank you all for your dedication to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada! ■

C'est en étant profondément touché d'avoir été élu à la fonction de Souverain Grand Commandeur que je vous écris. Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'exprimer mes sincères remerciements à l'Illustre Frère Robert S. Whitmore, 33° : J'apprécie votre amitié et celle qui s'est également établie entre nos épouses, Aurore et Judi. Ce fut un plaisir absolu de travailler avec Rob pendant ce qui fut un mandat extrêmement difficile. Notre Passé Souverain Grand Commandeur Immédiat a relevé le défi avec dignité, patience et empathie, avec une compétence et une capacité incontestables. En tant que *francs-maçons de Rite écossais*, nous lui devons une énorme gratitude pour son travail exceptionnel qui consistait à nous fournir sans relâche des conseils avisés et un leadership exceptionnel pendant la pandémie. De plus, nous bénéficierons de sa mise en place du *Comité des initiatives futures* pour honorer notre héritage et embrasser l'avenir. En explorant de nouvelles idées, nous enrichirons notre expérience du *Rite écossais* pour nos futurs membres.

Je présente mes sincères félicitations au président du comité d'organisation de la Communication bisannuelle qui s'est tenue à Saskatoon, l'Illustre Frère Rick Brunson, 33°, et à tous les membres de son comité, Frères et dames, qui ont assuré le succès de la *148^e session annuelle du Suprême Conseil*. Cette belle équipe de bénévoles est allée au-delà de la création de souvenirs précieux et durables pour tous les participants !

À nos nouveaux Inspecteurs-Général Honoraires, aux membres actifs et à ceux qui obtiennent le statut de Passé Actif, j'offre mes félicitations. J'ai hâte de travailler avec chacun de vous. Comme l'a dit un auteur anonyme : « *Regardez fièrement en arrière tout ce que vous avez accompli, attendez avec enthousiasme toutes les aventures à venir et amusez-vous, vous l'avez bien mérité.* »

Frères, partageons notre passion pour le *Rite* en utilisant les outils à notre disposition et en profitant des beaux messages stimulants véhiculés dans les représentations de nos degrés. Afin d'être heureux et d'apprendre en nous amusant, nous continuerons à éprouver la joie d'être membres d'une si belle fraternité. Alors que nous poursuivons notre voyage *maçonnique*, puissions-nous constamment appliquer les leçons apprises au profit de notre vie et de nos communautés, faisant ainsi une différence positive dans le monde.

Merci à tous pour votre dévouement au Rite écossais ancien et accepté de la Franc-Maçonnerie du Canada ! ■





Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.

This quote from Robert Louis Stevenson seems very appropriate for the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* whether you are considering research grants, the Provincial Deputy's

Awards, or *Learning Centres*, they all are programs that we hope one day will help solve the *Puzzles of the Mind*.

In September, four new major grants each worth almost \$40,000 per year for three years were awarded. These are in addition to the eight continuing grants with a similar value bringing the *Foundation's* Major Grant program funding to \$480,000 each year. These grants cover a wide range of topics and more information about the research that the *Foundation* supports can be found on the *Foundation* website at srcf.ca/research. As reported in the Summer Communique, two of the *Foundation's* recent Major Grantees were recognized as future leaders by Brain Canada in the area of Canadian Brain Research for 2021. They were Dr. Jasmin Lalonde, University of Guelph and Dr. Anne Wheeler, Hospital for Sick Children. In 2022, Dr. Annie Ciernia, University of British Columbia, was similarly recognized. Another example of how our programs are helping to build the scientific community in Canada.

The Provincial Deputy's Award Program is to aid individuals in the process of gaining or utilizing skills that are of benefit to the training, education, or mental well-being of children or to institutions or volunteer groups that serve the overall goals of the *SRCF of Helping Solve the Puzzles of the Mind*. We are very pleased to have seen an increased participation in this program by *Scottish Rite Valleys* across the country. Several of the recipients are highlighted in this edition of the *Clarion*. The *Foundation* is pleased that *Valleys* are also supporting these worthwhile causes.

At this time, please consider making use of the Blue Envelope included in this issue of the *Clarion*. Your financial support makes a difference by helping scientists solve the *Puzzles of the Mind* through the Research Grants program and support of the *Learning Centres for Children with Dyslexia*. You will be helping to plant those seeds.

On behalf of the Directors of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, we wish you all the very best for the Holiday Season and for 2023. ■

Ne jugez pas chaque jour par la récolte que vous engrangez mais par les graines que vous plantez.

Cette citation de Robert Louis Stevenson semble très appropriée pour la *Fondation Caritative du Rite Écossais (FCRÉ / SRCF)*, que vous envisagiez des subventions de recherche, des prix du député provincial ou des centres d'apprentissage, ce sont tous des programmes qui, nous l'espérons, aideront un jour à résoudre les *énigmes de l'esprit*.

En septembre, quatre nouvelles subventions majeures d'une valeur de près de 40 000 \$ chacune par année pendant trois ans ont été accordées. Celles-ci s'ajoutent aux huit subventions continues d'une valeur similaire, ce qui porte le financement du programme de subventions majeures de la *Fondation* à 480 000 \$ chaque année. Ces subventions couvrent un large éventail de sujets ; de plus amples informations sur la recherche que la *Fondation* soutient peuvent être trouvées sur le site Internet de la *Fondation* à srcf.ca/research. Comme indiqué dans le communiqué d'été, deux des récentes grandes bénéficiaires de la *Fondation* ont été reconnues comme futures leaders par Brain Canada dans le domaine de la recherche canadienne sur le cerveau pour 2021. Il s'agit de la D^{re} Jasmin Lalonde, de l'Université de Guelph, et de la D^{re} Anne Wheeler, de l'Hôpital pour Enfants malades. En 2022, la D^{re} Annie Ciernia, de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique, a été également reconnue. Voilà un autre exemple de la façon dont nos programmes contribuent à bâtir la communauté scientifique au Canada.

Le programme de récompenses du député provincial vise à aider les personnes à acquérir ou à utiliser des compétences qui profitent à la formation, à l'éducation ou au bien-être mental des enfants ou aux institutions ou groupes de bénévoles qui servent les objectifs généraux de la *FCRÉ d'aider Résolvez les énigmes de l'esprit*. Nous sommes très heureux d'avoir constaté une participation accrue à ce programme par les *Vallées du Rite Écossais* à travers le pays. Plusieurs des récipiendaires sont mis en lumière dans cette édition du *Clarion*. La *Fondation* est heureuse que les *Vallées* soutiennent également ces bonnes causes.

À ce stade, veuillez envisager d'utiliser l'enveloppe bleue incluse dans ce numéro du *Clarion*. Votre soutien financier fait une différence en aidant les scientifiques à résoudre les *énigmes de l'esprit* grâce au programme de subventions de recherche et au soutien des *centres d'apprentissage pour enfants dyslexiques*. Vous aiderez à planter ces graines.

Au nom des administrateurs de la Fondation Caritative du Rite Écossais, nous vous souhaitons tout le meilleur pour la saison des fêtes et pour 2023. ■





Puzzles of the Mind

III. Bro. Dr. John M. Forster, 33°
Director, SRCF

The major purpose of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* is to provide funding into expanding knowledge of, provide treatment for and generally promote awareness of *Puzzles of the Mind*. But what are those puzzles? And what is the *mind*?

I write from the perspective of a retired academic family physician. In over forty-five years of practice I have seen many important and major changes in illnesses and their treatment. However, the greatest challenges have been in the area of psychological illness.

This article explores, in a very brief way, these questions. Hopefully, it will help the reader to appreciate why this topic is so important and in great need of research funding for which is generally less generous than for more *glamorous* disorders (heart, arthritis, diabetes, etc.) and often diverted to dubious benefits of drug therapies.

Think for a moment of what we mean by the word *mind*. What is that? Is it part of our body? Our brain? How, for instance do we *make up our mind*? How do we know when someone's mind is not functioning properly? Even normal functioning can appear strange in certain circumstances. (See video: youtu.be/vJG698U2Mvo)

And what is *consciousness*? Again, where does it reside? Is it part of the brain? If so, we don't really know where, and can only study, by disabling temporarily or permanently, part of the brain.

Why is it that we seem to know so little about the *mind* and *consciousness* or functions of the brain compared with our knowledge of the heart, kidney, pancreas, thyroid gland, etc.? These organs can be studied more fully because they can be sampled without harming them. Their effects can be studied with blood and other tests leading to a treatable diagnosis. Disorders of the mind can only be diagnosed by observation of behaviour. The comparatively recent advent of specialised imaging studies (M.R.I., P.E.T. and C.A.T) have allowed investigation of areas of the brain. Many more studies of the brain were and are performed on post mortem specimens.

It's been 300 years since it was discovered that the heart was a pump! In the last 50 years, we have learned how to repair it surgically or indeed replace it with a transplant or even an artificial device. (The same can be said for diseased joints, kidneys, cornea, cochlea, etc.). This certainly can NOT

be said of the brain. We do know that the brain can adapt itself to other tasks after damage.

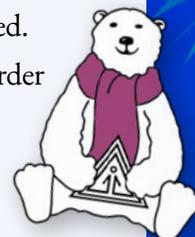
Over the centuries, mental disorders have been *treated* in many ways. Many of these are now considered barbaric or dangerous. A short list includes:

- Removal from society in an asylum
- Exposure to excessive heat or cold
- Electrical shock treatment
- Surgery (removal of parts of the brain)
- Drugs

Most of these are no longer used. Consider however where most schizophrenics are housed. In 1900, most were in asylums. Today, in the United States, most are housed in penitentiaries or are homeless. ECT (Electro-Convulsive therapy) for depressive illness still has its advocates. So called conversion therapy is the subject of Parliamentary debate! There are many drugs used in mental illness therapy. Some are lifesaving. Many more have serious side effects capable of making treatment worse than the disease.

Over the years, psychological illness has had many names and today are numbered in their hundreds. Some represent new names for old (e.g., *shell shock* has become Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)). A short sample below gives a sketch of how illnesses' names have evolved.

- Lunacy
- Madness
- Shell Shock
- Hysteria
- Personality Disorder
- Bipolar disorder
- Panic disorder
- PTSD



These and hundreds of others are described in the Diagnostic Criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition*. The DSM-5 lists the symptoms of mental illnesses and provides criteria for diagnosis. With very few exceptions, diagnoses are made without any corroborating laboratory tests and rely on observed signs and stated symptoms. That makes for many puzzles.

Two *puzzles* are of particular importance. Dyslexia in children can have a lifelong learning inability if not recognised early and special training instituted. Inability to read will compromise the child and prevent learning in the most intelligent person. Dementia of the Alzheimer type causes severe disruption in individuals and their families and is becoming much more common as the number of elderly in the population rises.

The work of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation is of huge importance in our understanding and management of these puzzles of the mind. ■





Hamilton Learning Centre Milestones

Lee Gowers

Publications and Branding Volunteer,
Hamilton Learning Centre

At a ceremony hosted by the *Learning Centre for Hamilton* on June 5, 2022, three significant milestones in its development were celebrated: the dedication of the *Learning Centre*, the graduation of the first children from the tutoring program, and the certification of two tutors. This triple header was made more impressive by the venue in which the event was held; the *Scottish Rite Cathedral* provided a beautiful setting for this auspicious occasion.

The moving and poignant Ceremony of Dedication was conducted by Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, assisted by the Deputy for Ontario, Ill. Bro. Ronald J.G. Taylor, 33°, the Active Member for Hamilton, Ill. Bro. Thomas A. Wills, 33° (and now our Lieutenant Grand Commander) and the Grand Prior, Ill. Bro. Gordon R. Maitland, 33°. Remarks were then made by Ill. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor, 33°, President of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation. The dedication marked the culmination of a process which began in 2013 when the concept of a *Learning Centre for Hamilton* was first introduced as a worthy goal. Through that process and the commitment and perseverance of many, it has moved from being a mere idea to becoming a plan and then a reality. The original steering committee morphed into an organizing committee which became an incorporated entity in June, 2016.

It took time to reach the goal of dedication. The *Learning Centre* opened its doors to its first children in 2018. The journey from then to the first graduation included a global pandemic which forced us to pause for a few months, then make a hard shift to on-line tutoring in September, 2020, and a trip back to in-person tutoring in September, 2021. Thanks to the children, their families, and all the volunteers at the *Learning Centre* for soldiering through and continuing to fulfill the vision of the *Learning Centre for Hamilton helping children with dyslexia to read*.

The second, and arguably most important, milestone celebrated during the June ceremony was the graduation of the first eight children to have completed the Orton-Gillingham program. The ceremony of graduation was moving for all in attendance, and we hope marked a

significant personal achievement for each child. The heartfelt testimonials offered by the children and their family members bore witness as to just how impactful the work of the *Learning Centre* and its dedicated volunteer tutors has been in their lives. One child graduate stated, "*Because of this program, for the first time in my life I feel normal*".



First graduating class of the Hamilton Learning Centre, 2022

The third milestone celebrated was the presentation of tutor certifications to our first two tutors certified as Orton-Gillingham tutors, Barbara and Michael Baxter. The process of earning this credential is long and onerous and requires great commitment. It speaks to the dedication of each tutor who reaches this point to commit themselves to the betterment of each child they tutor.

The success of the *Learning Centre for Hamilton*, as witnessed by the dedication and graduation ceremonies, is a result of many things: the vision of the original steering committee, the commitment of *Scottish Rite* bodies from across Ontario and particularly from the *Valleys of Niagara and Hamilton*, the dedication of those who filled various committees and the Board of Directors, the generosity of individuals who support the *Learning Centre* with donations, and the good heartedness of those who generously offer their time as volunteers.

All of this would have been for naught without the commitment and perseverance of the children we serve and their families. Their individual commitment to overcome dyslexia is nothing short of astounding. No less remarkable is the support of their families in making that happen.

In June, 2022 we celebrated individual successes, and, in those successes, we find validation of our continuing efforts. Thanks to many for the success of the Learning Centre for Hamilton. ■





Halifax Learning Centre Partners with Mount Saint Vincent University

Heather Hollis, PhD and
Mary Jane Harkins, PhD, MSVU

In 2021, the *Scottish Rite Learning Centre in Halifax* partnered with researchers from Mount Saint Vincent University and received a Change Lab Action Research Initiative grant focused on developing concrete recommendations that will help children and youth to become proficient readers and writers. The right to read is a global issue. In Nova Scotia, where this research took place, standardised testing demonstrated that approximately 30 percent of students are not meeting the outcomes for reading in either of grades 3 or 6.

The research on reading ability acquisition has overwhelmingly shown that children benefit from an explicit, systematic, structured approach, such as the Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach, which is employed by tutors at the *Scottish Rite Learning Centre in Halifax*. Despite the evidence that this instruction is vital to students in the early grades, it is often not implemented in the classroom. Evidence suggests that one reason is some teachers are not adequately prepared through their teacher education or on-going professional development to teach reading in a structured, systematic way. Parents of children who struggle to read often look to outside tutoring programs to help their children with their reading skills thereby creating a dilemma. Private tutoring that is offered outside of regular school hours can be difficult for parents and guardians to access, both in terms of time and money. Not only do families need to pay the tutoring costs, but they may also have to manage transportation, childcare for other children, time off from work, and other responsibilities.

This study was structured on Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner's theory of bio-ecological systems (as referenced in *Guy-Evans, O. (2020, Nov 09). Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory. Simply Psychology. simplypsychology.org/Bronfenbrenner.html*) This means we are looking at the influences the outside world brings upon the child in terms of their ability to learn to read. Bronfenbrenner's theory views child development as a complex system of relationships involving immediate and extended family, the geographical area where the child lives, the school they attend, and larger global issues that may affect the child's everyday life.



Thelma Gregan, Executive Director, Halifax Learning Centre (HLC); Dan Campbell, Board Member HLC; Mary Jane Harkins, Ph. D. MSVU; Ill. Bro. Steve Warnell, 32^o, Board Member HLC; Jackie Coady, Board Member HLC; Nicole Johnston, Tutor HLC; Fran Selig, Tutor HLC; and Cathy Rissanen, Board Member HLC

The Centre Director and 9 tutors or tutors-in-training volunteered to take part in this research project. They were all interviewed through an on-line video platform with the researcher using guided questions to gain information.

The overarching feeling conveyed by the participants was that they felt they were having a profound and positive effect on the students they tutored. One research participant acknowledged that she has confidence in the OG program because she has seen it work time and time again for her students. She shared a story about a conversation she had with a student who was just starting the OG program with her.

I asked one child if he had ever had tutors before. He replied, *"Mom has tried so many tutors and none of them worked"*. And I said, *"This will"*. And you could just see the relief on his face, and it has worked for him. So, it's lovely.

When asked why they chose to invest the time (approximately 3 years) and effort necessary to become certified Orton-Gillingham tutors, the consensus was that they gained confidence and strength watching their students become readers and gain self-confidence in their own abilities. *"I feel so energized after I've had lessons with them. It just gives me such hope"*. Many of the participants said learning the OG approach helped them develop confidence in their ability to teach all children to read. One research participant said that before starting the OG training, she lacked faith in her ability to teach struggling readers. Every year in her classroom there were always students she felt she just couldn't help.

One of the reasons given by the participants for not knowing how to help their struggling readers was, they themselves were never explicitly taught how to teach reading. Interviewees

(cont'd on next page)





agreed that the OG approach should be implemented in the general classroom as soon as students start public school. Sadly, several participants said that they had discovered that using a structured approach to teach reading in the general public-school classroom was still frowned upon, and that they often had to do it *on the sly* so that they wouldn't get reprimanded by senior administrators.

One interviewee told a story about bringing the Centre Director into her public school on a professional development day to discuss the OG approach. This was such a success that staff requested a further session. Unfortunately, when the district office heard that this had taken place, they stopped any further training in this area. In follow-up questions, the research participants overwhelmingly recommended that Schools of Education be required to prepare new teachers to teach reading in a way that involves an understanding of the science behind

how we learn to read. New teachers in both elementary and secondary education programs would then be taught how to teach reading using a structured approach to literacy, such as OG. This baseline of instruction could then be followed with regular professional development opportunities from the employer. Knowing how to support all students is essential, to developing their literacy skills enabling them to excel in other subject areas as well.

The Centre Director says that in the end, it all comes down to teaching students to read and write in the earliest grades, based on the Science of Reading. The goal, she states, is to identify children with reading difficulties early and then start helping them right away. If this is done, teachers can change the trajectory of a child's life and open them up to a world of possibilities that become available thanks to their ability to read. ■

John Ross Matheson Awards

Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

The *John Ross Matheson Award* is designed to honour those *Scottish Rite Masons* among us who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, to recognize their community spirit and to reward their merit and ability. The award is named after an eminent *Freemason* and *Scottish Rite Freemason* who had an illustrious career in the military and in law and politics. Among his several accomplishments, John Ross Matheson, was on the committee under Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, charged with selecting our new Canadian Flag and played an important role in the formation of the Order of Canada. An Order he himself was appointed to as an Officer in 1993.



It was an honour and privilege to bestow the award on Ill. Bro. Lester W. Bowering, 32° in St. John's, Newfoundland. While he was unable to attend the meeting held in his honour due to a medical situation, I was able to meet this outstanding gentleman in his hospital room to present him with his award as shown in the photograph.



Further, I am looking forward to travelling to Lethbridge, Alberta in the near future to present the *John Ross Matheson Award* to another worthy recipient, the forty-fourth such award, to Ill. Bro. Edward H. Wagstaff, 32°, shown here while serving as Most Wise Sovereign of the *Valley of Lethbridge*.



Ill. Bro. R. Neil Matheson, 33°, who was nominated in 2021, received the *John Ross Matheson Award* from Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33° prior to commencement of the *Supreme Council Sessions* in Saskatoon. In Ill. Bro. Neil's own words, "*This event was the highlight of my Masonic Journey!*" ■



An Interview with the New Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill. Bro. Clive D. Stephenson, 33°
Editor in Chief, Clarion Magazine

II. Bro. Bennett was born with Right Side Hemiplegia Paralysis. Having limited use of his right arm and weakness in his right leg, he is unable to do many of the things we take for granted. However, these challenges have never slowed his resolve for being actively involved in his areas of interest. Dave stated *"My involvement may have been different living in a large population centre, but as fate would have it, I was born and raised in a small town (Huntsville), a community steeped in rich sports traditions such as hockey, lacrosse & fastball. Unable to skate, I was encouraged at a very young age to apply my energy to coaching and sports administration"*. He began his career at the age of 11, coaching minor hockey until he left for college. With the encouragement of friends and family, in addition to executive positions in all three of the above-mentioned sports, he also played lacrosse and fastball. With the patience of a gentleman whom he was caddying for, he began a lifetime love of golfing when he was 12 years old. Dave is a member of Para Golf Ontario. He speaks of his inspiration while playing with individuals despite their loss of limbs, eyesight or physical difficulties to enjoy the game to the fullest, many playing to a low handicap. Dave's involvement in sports would not be complete without referring to his involvement with curling. Taking up the sport while living in Timmins, he has made lifelong friends, competing successfully in many bonspiels and applying his skills to co-chairing several major events in Timmins and North Bay.

It wasn't surprising for me to learn that, with his love of hockey, he enrolled into the radio and television broadcasting course at Canadore. Dave tells me he wanted to be the next Foster Hewitt. That of course didn't materialize, but he

went on to have a 40-year career in the media business. It was amazing to learn that beginning as a radio DJ, Dave was able to spin records (yes vinyl), hit the toggle switch to bring up the music and turn on his microphone all with the use of one hand! While spending the bulk of his career as an Account Executive with CTV Northern Ontario, he never gave up his joy of broadcasting. I imagine, it may have been his empathy for individuals with difficulties, that he served as co-host for several Easter Seals and Christmas Telethons.



Masonically speaking, Ill. Bro. Bennett informed me his fate may have been sealed at a very young age. Dave said *"My Aunt told me of times when I was 2 or 3 that I would dress up after supper. When asked why; I would reply that I'm going to lodge with Dad"*. Joining Unity Lodge No.

376 GRC in Huntsville at the age of 24, his one regret is that his Dad had passed three years previously. He served as Master of Golden Beaver Lodge No. 528 GRC in Timmins and later affiliated with Nipissing Lodge No. 420 GRC in North Bay, where he is the current Director of Ceremonies. Ill. Bro. Bennett is a strong proponent of masonic visitation and while on a fraternal visit to Iroquois Falls, he was approached to join the AASR in the Valley of North Bay. He looks forward to his term as our Sovereign Grand Commander, visiting and exchanging ideas with members and families throughout Canada and elsewhere.

As famed broadcaster Paul Harvey would say "Now you know the rest of the story!" ■



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4 Queen Street South, Hamilton, ON L8P 3R3 Tel: 905-522-0033 Fax: 905-522-3716

Editor-in-Chief: Clive D. Stephenson E-mail: clarion@supreme33.ca

scottishritecanada.ca • srcf.ca

Editorial Board: Clive D. Stephenson, David A. Bennett, Gareth R. Taylor, Richard E. Jones, Alan J. Stoddart

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The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Supreme Council, or the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, or the Clarion Editorial Committee.





III. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander

Members of the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Canada*, ladies and guests (390 in total) were welcomed to the host hotel, Delta Saskatoon. Following a well-attended *Get Acquainted Evening* with our incoming Class of Honorary Inspectors-General (79 and ladies) on Wednesday evening, the following day Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°, declared the Executive Sessions to order in accordance with *Article 5(c)* of the *Statutes and Regulations*. Welcoming the Actives and Past Actives to the meeting, he expressed his gratitude to all for their undertakings on behalf of our Rite during the last two years since we were unable to meet in person.



The Installation of Officers took place on Saturday morning

During the course of the meeting, it was announced that Ill. Bros. Loren W. Kline, 33°, Allan J.L. Hadley, 33°, James C. Sutherland, 33°, William N. Atkinson, 33°, Opkar S. Sandhu, 33°, Miles R. Graham, 33° (by request) and James G. Finch, 33° (by request) will be retiring to Past Active status. Thank-you for your service, we look forward to your continuing support! The following seven brethren were elected as Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General - Active Members of *Supreme Council*. They are: Ill. Bros. N. Kent Clarke, 33°, *Valley of Halifax*, W. Harold Welke, 33°, *Valley of Edmonton*, Clive D. Stephenson, 33°, *Valley of Sudbury*, A. Bruce Taylor, 33°, *Valley of Winnipeg*, John C. Revell, 33°, *Valley of Windsor*, Richard E. Jones, 33°, *Valley of London* and Joel F. MacDonald, 33°, *Valley of Fredericton*. The Crowning Ceremony of these brethren took place during the Executive Session on Saturday morning.

Further, the following Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General were elected to the following offices:

- *Sovereign Grand Commander, David A. Bennett, 33°*
- *Lieutenant Grand Commander, Thomas A. Wills, 33°*
- *Grand Chancellor, Brian W. Gilkinson, 33°*
- *Deputy for Ontario, Robert D. Brethour, 33°*
- *Deputy for Ontario, Ronald J.G. Taylor, 33°*
- *Deputy for Ontario, Jeffrey R. Dickson, 33°*
- *Deputy for Ontario, Richard E. Jones, 33°*
- *Deputy for Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Owen T. Devereaux, 33°*
- *Deputy for New Brunswick, Graham A. Fraser, 33°*
- *Deputy for Quebec, Jacques G. Ruelland, 33°*
- *Deputy for Manitoba & Nunavut Territory, Gordon L. Greasley, 33°*
- *Deputy for British Columbia & Yukon Territory, Douglas G. Easton, 33°*
- *Deputy for Alberta & Northwest Territories, Allan L. Long, 33°*
- *Deputy for Saskatchewan, William C. Fitzsimmons, 33°*
- *Grand Secretary-General, Terry A. McLean, 33°*
- *Grand Treasurer-General, Alan J. Stoddart, 33°*
- *Grand Prior, Gordon R. Maitland, 33°*
- *Grand Master of Ceremonies, Errol A. Stewart, 33°*
- *Grand Marshall, Paul E. Frank, 33°*
- *Grand Standard Bearer, John E. Harrison, 33°*
- *Grand Captain of the Guard, Bruce M. Jardine, 33°*
- *Grand Sword Bearer, John "Jack" L. Barr, 33°*



The Class photo of Honorary Inspectors-General, 2022

Ill. Bro. Owen T. Devereaux, 33°, Chair of the Special Awards committee brought forward the names of two brethren to receive the prestigious *John Ross Matheson Award*. The nominations of Ill. Bro. Lester W. Bowering, 32°, *Valley of St. John's*, and Ill. Bro. Edward H. Wagstaff, 32°, *Valley of Lethbridge*, were duly approved. Letters of congratulations will be sent to these worthy brethren followed by official presentations by the Sovereign Grand Commander.

(cont'd on next page)



Supreme Council's 148th Annual Session



Due to the restrictions imposed on us due to COVID, Sovereign Grand Commander Whitmore finally had the pleasure of presenting the *John Ross Matheson Awards* to Ill. Bro. Robert A. Ough, 33°, *Valley of Peterborough*, at the *Annual Peterborough Valley Golf Tournament* in support of the Barrie Learning Centre on August 5th and to Ill. Bro. R. Neil Matheson, 33°, *Valley of Saskatoon*, during a reception at the Saskatoon Masonic Centre on September 13th.

We were grateful to listen to the thoughtful, inspiring Allocation address by Sovereign Grand Commander Whitmore summarizing the events, unique circumstances, rulings, permissions and dispensations granted during the last year.

Following his installation as Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, on behalf of Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33° Grand Secretary-General, Ill. Bro. Alan J. Stoddart, 33°, Grand Treasurer-General and Ill. Bro. Steven E. Warren, 33°, Chief Operating Officer, presented Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°, Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander, who is an avid canoeist, with a canoe paddle to recognize his success in *Steering Our Course* during the Pandemic.

In September of 2023, the 149th Supreme Council Annual Session will be held as an Executive Session via Zoom. ■



Ill. Bro. Robert Whitmore 33° pictured at his home with the paddle recognizing his efforts for successfully steering our course during the pandemic.



Supreme Council 150th Annual Session

Ottawa, Ontario

September 11 – 14, 2024

“Celebrating 150 Years of Vision & Leadership”

Join us as we share our Scottish Rite memories, experiences, and future initiatives with our brethren and ladies. This is an event not to be missed.

Stay tuned, more details to come for this memorable occasion.



XX World Conference of Supreme Councils

III. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°
Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander

As your Sovereign Grand Commander, it was my privilege to attend and participate in the *XX World Conference of Supreme Councils* during the last week of this past July. This Conference was held in the City of Asunción, in the Republic of Paraguay.

Normally held only once every five years, this year's Conference originally had been scheduled for 2020. However, due to restrictions resulting from the COVID pandemic, it was postponed during these past two years. Some of our members may recall that the *XVIII World Conference* was hosted by Canada in Toronto back in 2010 and the *XVII World Conference* in 2015 took place in Lisbon, Portugal.

Travelling from Toronto to Asunción involves a long flight with a layover of several hours in the airport at Sao Paulo, Brazil. Thanks to the good graces within Air Canada, I was pleasantly surprised, on boarding in Toronto, to find that my seat had been upgraded and then, after settling in, but before takeoff, I was invited by the pilot to come to the flight deck where he introduced me to the crew, gave me a tour, and even shared his seat and pilot's hat with me for a photo op! As a result, what was to be a long and tedious journey, turned into a very enjoyable adventure. Many thanks to my friends at Air Canada for making this happen.

Hosted by the Supreme Council of Paraguay, the Conference was indeed, memorable. Asunción is an interesting city with a population of about 3.4 million and it clearly has a rich but complicated history. It is the capital of the Republic of Paraguay which is a landlocked country bordered by Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. Most of our Conference events were held in the lovely Bourbon Hotel in Asunción, but we also were taken to a very interesting historic masonic lodge building for a meeting and to some of the impressive local, public buildings for some entertaining programmes.

The overall theme of the Conference was a reflection on the social and ethical challenges facing the development of

technology as posed by artificial intelligence, the internet, nanotechnology, etc. With this lofty and theoretical focus, a few very thoughtful and interesting papers were presented to us by some of the attendees. These presentations clearly had involved much research and preparation work by these brethren and it was interesting to hear their thoughts on these somewhat abstract topics.



Sovereign Grand Commander at the controls

As is often the case in such Conferences, much informal but valuable networking and interaction took place among the 41 different *Supreme Councils* in attendance. Speaking with Sovereign Grand Commanders and representatives from around the world, I could not help but to realize the universality of our *Scottish Rite* and the fact that, while each jurisdiction may face its own challenges, overall, we all do share and respect our common beliefs and principles. Above all else, for me, it was these personal interactions, the sharing of ideas, the affirmation of masonic bonds, and the realization that among our *Scottish Rite* world, the *Supreme Council of Canada* really does enjoy a highly respected and esteemed position that made the event worthwhile.

Representing our Supreme Council made me proud. The organizing committee in Asunción did a fantastic job with planning a series of enjoyable events. Reverting back to the five-year schedule, the next such Conference will be held in 2025 in Romania and I have no doubt that it too will serve to unify and reaffirm our universal Scottish Rite family. ■

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Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation
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National Survey Said and Your Supreme Council Reacted

III. Bro. Terry McLean, 33° Grand Secretary-General

In 2015, *Supreme Council* conducted a National Membership Opinion Survey. The objective of the survey was to get your opinion, from your *Valley* and *Supreme Council* perspective, of what is working well, what can be improved and how can things be improved? The result of your feedback and what you felt was important resulted in the establishment of four Sovereign Grand Commander Initiatives under the headings of Membership, Leadership, Communication, and Education and Enlightenment. Since then, *Supreme Council* and the *Valley's* improvement plans have focused solely on projects that come under these four initiatives.

✓ **Membership:** This initiative is ongoing and has been assigned to the Grand Secretary-General. Even though many suggestions could be managed at the local *Valley* level, a power point presentation entitled *Welcome to Scottish Rite Freemasonry* and a video *The Journey Continues* were created to be used in *Craft Lodges* with permission. These presentations can be found on the *Supreme Council* website under the Members section. The *Scottish Rite Membership Jewel* was also created and approved to be worn in craft lodge after being approved by their Provincial Grand Lodge.

✓ **Leadership:** This initiative is ongoing and has been assigned to the Lieutenant Grand Commander. A Manual for Deputies and one for Officers have been created to educate leaders as to their roles. A *Degrees in the 21st Century* committee was established to gather feedback from a cross section of focus groups. Think-tanks comprising *Valley* Actives, Secretaries and Treasurers are also being utilized by some *Valleys*. Succession planning for leadership by recognizing and involving younger potential leaders is in place. Annual reporting by the Deputies on the State of the *Rite* in their *Valleys* is also in place.

✓ **Communication:** A National Special Committee was created, composed of representatives from across Canada, under the Chairman Ill. Bro. Milan Cobanov, 33°. *Supreme Council* and *Valley* websites have been created and linked where members can access current developments and news stories. *Valley* phone committees are in place to connect with the membership, remember we are a *Fraternity*. This committee is keeping up to date with current communication technologies to maximize two-way communications and contact information with *Supreme Council*, the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*

and *Valley* membership. The *Clarion* and *Communique* publications have proven to be excellent communication tools. Branding is a new project this committee is exploring.

✓ **Education and Enlightenment:** A second National Special Committee was created, composed of representatives from across Canada, under the Chairman Ill. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, 33°. The implementation of *Degree Explanations* and *Playbills* where every *Valley* receives an explanation of the Degrees for use at assemblies and reunions has been created. Monthly *Valley* zoom seminars, focussing on a variety of educational topics, was established.

The *Supreme Council Library* under the leadership of Ill. Bro. Evan Woodhead, 33°, has raised the profile and electronic usage of what is available in terms of historical and educational books and ex libris series, for those wishing to expand their *Masonic* knowledge.



Your *Supreme Council* thanks all who participated and brought forward what you felt was important to enhance your *Scottish Rite* experience. This survey was, however, conducted seven years ago and today, opinions may have changed as we have new members, new leadership, modern technologies, a COVID Pandemic and education via in-person websites and zoom meetings. Therefore, we intend to ask for your opinions again in the near future. Your opinions matter, are valued and are acted upon for the betterment of your *Scottish Rite*.

A new added initiative executed by the previous and now the current Sovereign Grand Commander is called *Future Initiatives*, and we will be looking for your thoughts on this.

You said continued good Fellowship, good Education, good Ritual, good Communications, good Harmony are the key measures of success. ■



Provincial Deputy Awards Program

Valley of Sudbury

Gale Wiseman

Vice-Chair of The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

The Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of Sudbury along with the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada, Valley of Sudbury*, and the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada* are proud to announce that Nicholas de la Morandiere and Tate Turnbull as the winners of the 2022 Student Transition Scholarships.



Ill. Bro. Tom King, 32°, TPGM of the Sudbury and District Lodge of Perfection, Valley of Sudbury poses with the Scholarship recipients; Tate Turnbull and Nicholas de la Morandiere.

The two scholarships are awarded to students pursuing a full-time program in the fall of their graduating year at an accredited post-secondary institution. As winners, they have each received a \$625 scholarship provided by the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada*.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is a charitable non-profit organization dedicated to supporting all individuals with learning disabilities in reaching their potential within a community that values their unique abilities and contributions.

"I would like to thank the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada, Valley of Sudbury and The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada for their generosity and I applaud Nicholas and Tate for all their hard work thus far, and look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the years to come", said Gale Wiseman, Vice Chair, LDA Sudbury.

Nicholas will be heading to Cambrian College in the fall and Tate will be studying at Laurentian University. Congratulations to both recipients. ■

Valley of North Bay

Ill. Bro. Michael Millard, 33°

Grand Secretary/Registrar

On June 26, 2022, Ill. Bro. Ray Meadows, 33°, presented a cheque for \$500 to Brittany Richer of the Laurentian Learning Centre. Laurentian Learning Centre, a smaller alternative education school operated by the Near North District School Board (NNDSB) in North Bay, serves students for whom a larger secondary school is not a good fit. This bursary will aid Brittany in furthering her future education.



Ill. Bro. Ray Meadows, 33° and Brittany Richer during the award presentation.

On September 16, 2022, Ill. Bro. Meadows, 33°, presented a cheque for \$500 to Katherine Strang, Development Officer for One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre. One Kids Place offers outpatient rehabilitation services with a wide range of programs and services to children and youth with physical, communicative, and developmental needs. The *Valley of North Bay* supported One Kids Place financially last year and was happy to do so again to aid them in their important work with children and youth.

The *Valley of North Bay* is grateful to the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* and Ill. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°, Deputy for Ontario, for allowing us to support these worthy recipients and we look forward to being able to assist others in the future. ■

Valley of Barrie

Ill. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°

Deputy for Ontario

The *Valley of Barrie* selected the ALS Society of Canada as the recipient of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation's Provincial Deputy Award

(cont'd on next page)



Provincial Deputy Awards Program

for 2022. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a puzzle of the mind affecting approximately 3,000 people in Canada at any given time. It is a degenerative terminal disease with no cure and very few treatments. The funds raised by the ALS Society go towards research into the disease as well as assistance to those suffering from ALS.



Ill. Bro. Ken Pratt, 33° (SRCF Valley Liaison); Ill. Bro. Sid Woods, 33° (Valley Treasurer); Sarah McGuire (ALS Society); Ill. Bro. Cam Goodman, 33° (Valley Almoner); and Ill. Bro. Robert Brethour, 33° (Deputy for Ontario).

ALS Society Senior Manager Sarah McGuire accepted a \$1,000 Provincial Deputy's Award which was matched by a further \$1,000 donation by the *Valley of Barrie* through the Valley Almoner. In attendance at the presentation were: Ill. Bro. Ken Pratt, 33°, SRCF Valley Liaison; Ill. Bro. Sid Woods, 33°, Valley Treasurer; Sarah McGuire; Ill. Bro. Cam Goodman, 33°, Valley Almoner; and Ill. Bro. Robert Brethour, 33°, Deputy for Ontario. Valley Secretary Ill. Bro. Jim Anderson, 33°, was also in attendance and was kind enough to take the photo of the presentation. ■

Valley of Fredericton

Ill. Bro. Larry Brown, 33°

Valley of Fredericton

Allya Bishop attends the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton. She is in her second year of studies, working towards her teaching degree to fulfill her life's ambition of being a Kindergarten teacher.

Melanie Morehouse has completed her first year of the Science program at UNB with a planned major in Biology and is looking forward to beginning her second year in the fall. Melanie's plans are to finish with a Master's Degree in Biology and to pursue a career in the field of research.



Ill. Bro. Laurie M. Bishop, 33°, his niece Allya Bishop, and Melanie Morehouse with her uncle, Ill. Bro. Joel F. MacDonald, 33°. They presented Allya and Melanie with their *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Deputy Bursary Awards*. This picture is taken at the local Kent store where Melanie works. ■



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Valley of St. John's - Sovereign Grand Commander's Official Visit

Ill. Bro. Clayton T. Handrigan, 33°

Valley of St. John's

On October 19, 2022, our *Valley* was very pleased and honoured to host the Official Visit of our new Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°. The occasion was a double pleasure because Ill. Bro. Bennett was accompanied by our newly-minted Deputy for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland; our very own Ill. Bro. Owen T. Devereaux, 33°. A Special Meeting of the *Centennial Lodge of Perfection* was convened in order to welcome our distinguished visitors.

This special meeting of the *Lodge* was cause for even more celebration, because not only were we treated with a stirring address from Ill. Bro. Bennett; but he, as Sovereign Grand Commander, also brought wonderful news along with a special presentation. Our Sovereign Grand Commander used the occasion of his Official Visit to our *Valley* to announce and present a John Ross Matheson Award to one of our members. The recipient was Ill. Bro. Lester W. Bowering, 32°, a long-time active member of the *Valley of St. John's* and well-known and respected *Mason* in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ill. Bro. Bowering has been a *Mason* for many years, is a Past Master of his Mother Lodge, St. Andrew, No. 1139, Grand Lodge of Scotland, and served for five years as the

District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge in Newfoundland of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He is also a Past Potentate of Mazol Shrine, and presently serves as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland. His zeal, enthusiasm, and love for the Craft have not wavered since he was an Entered Apprentice, and this is still evident for all to see.

Unfortunately, Ill. Bro. Bowering, suffers from health issues which periodically cause him to be absent from meetings of the various *Masonic* bodies to which he belongs. Such was the case on October 19th. Ill. Bro. Bennett made an official presentation of the *John Ross Matheson Award* during the meeting, with the *Lodge* closed at the time to allow spouses and partners to attend and be witnesses. This also allowed Mrs. Eileen Sheppard to be present, and witness her husband, Ill. Bro. Neville Sheppard, 32°, being recognized as a former recipient of the *John Ross Matheson Award*. The presentation of Ill. Bro. Bowering's award was recorded by video by Mrs. Rosalind Devereaux, so that Ill. Bro. Bowering's could view it at a later date. Following the meeting, Ill. Bro. Bennett was able to make a visit to Ill. Bro. Bowering in hospital and personally presented him with his award. Following the ceremonies, those present adjourned to the Banquet Room for light refreshments and fellowship.

We trust that Ill. Bro. Bennett, as an official Honorary Newfoundlander, will add this Official Visit to his many memories of our Province and our Valley. ■

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