

# CLARION

WINTER 2024

Trumpeting the Impact of the Scottish Rite in Canada



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

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



Welcome to this year's edition of the *Clarion Magazine*. As you read the articles and view the many pictures, I am sure you will enjoy the content of the good work accomplished by our members nationwide

and appreciate the impact they have had within our *Valleys* and throughout our various communities.

During my visits, I have appreciated the opportunity to meet many of our members and the ladies. The ritual work has been exemplary, conveyed eloquently by skilled cast members, especially realizing the difficulties of recent inactivity since 2020. The efforts of the ritual casts are greatly appreciated by the classes in your respective *Valleys*. I am pleased to hear their admiration and desire that they too, in time, will be as effective in the communication of our beautiful, thought-provoking degrees. Further, I have been thrilled to receive their questions and expressions of gratitude for our charitable endeavours to conquer the *Puzzles of the Mind*.

My wife, Aurore, and I have been privileged to take part in many social/fundraising activities at the *Valley* level, witnessing the genuine efforts being made to celebrate our Rite with family and friends.

As we enter this year of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Supreme Council of Canada* (October 16, 2023 - October 16, 2024), may we continue to celebrate the vision and leadership of our forefathers. I look forward to receiving information as to how our 45 *Valleys* throughout Canada plan to partake in the celebrations and to personally participate in as many as possible.

We have a great deal to be thankful for. Moving forward let us embrace the opportunity to enrich ourselves by the lessons contained within our degrees, practice them in our daily lives, and reach out to our brethren, families, friends, and communities with hands of friendship and support.

*To coin a well-known phrase "The more we do for others, the better shape we are in!" ■*

Bienvenue dans l'édition de cette année du *magazine Clarion*. En lisant ses articles et en regardant ses nombreuses photos, je suis sûr que vous apprécierez l'ampleur de l'excellent travail accompli par nos membres à l'échelle nationale, et que vous apprécierez l'impact qu'ils ont eu dans nos *Vallées* et dans nos diverses communautés.

Lors de mes visites, j'ai eu la chance de rencontrer plusieurs de nos membres et leurs dames. Les rituels étaient accomplis de manière exemplaire, transmis avec éloquence par des acteurs compétents, conscients notamment des difficultés consécutives à l'inactivité récente depuis 2020. Les efforts des ritualistes sont très appréciés par les classes de vos *Vallées* respectives. Je suis heureux d'entendre leur admiration et leur désir qu'eux aussi, avec le temps, soient aussi efficaces dans la communication de nos beaux degrés qui suscitent la réflexion. De plus, j'ai été ravi de recevoir leurs questions et leurs expressions de gratitude pour nos efforts caritatifs visant à vaincre les *énigmes de l'esprit* engendrées par l'autisme et la dyslexie.

Mon épouse Aurore et moi avons eu le privilège de participer à de nombreuses activités sociales et de collectes de fonds au niveau des *Vallées*, témoignant des véritables efforts déployés pour célébrer notre Rite avec notre famille et nos amis.

Alors que nous entamons cette année le 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du *Suprême Conseil du Canada* (16 octobre 2023 – 16 octobre 2024), puissions-nous continuer de célébrer la vision et le leadership de nos ancêtres. J'ai hâte de recevoir des informations sur la manière dont nos 45 *Vallées* à travers le Canada envisagent de participer aux célébrations et d'y participer personnellement autant que possible.

Nous avons de nombreuses raisons d'être reconnaissants. À l'avenir, saisissons l'opportunité de nous enrichir des leçons contenues dans nos degrés, de les mettre en pratique dans notre vie quotidienne et de tendre la main à nos frères, familles, amis et communautés avec amitié et soutien.

*Pour reprendre une expression bien connue : « Plus nous faisons pour les autres, mieux nous nous portons ! » ■*





*It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.*

This quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson seems very appropriate for the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation (SRCF)* when

considering the Foundation's programs, that we hope one day will help solve the *Puzzles of the Mind*.

I am so very pleased that we are highlighting five of the *Provincial Deputy's Awards* made this year. The program is designed 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*.

As *Supreme Council* celebrates its *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, the *Learning Centre* in London just celebrated its *20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, while the *Learning Centre* in Edmonton celebrated its *10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. As seen in the accompanying articles, the impact of the *Learning Centre Program* cannot be overstated. The testimonials heard at the London *Learning Centre* graduation truly demonstrate the impact the program makes on the children. Congratulations to all the *Learning Centres* and the enormous contribution they are making to help children with dyslexia.

In September, four new major grants each worth \$120,000 over 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 covering a wide range of subjects. More information about the research that the *Foundation* supports can be found on the *Foundation* website at [srcf.ca/research](http://srcf.ca/research).

At this time, please consider making use of the *Blue Envelope* included in this issue of the *Clarion*. Your financial support truly makes a difference by helping scientists solve the *Puzzles of the Mind* through the *Research Grants* program, the *Provincial Deputy's Award* program and support of the *Learning Centres for Children with Dyslexia*.

*On behalf of the Directors of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, we wish you all the very best for the Holiday Season and for 2024. ■*

*C'est l'une des plus belles compensations de la vie qu'aucun homme ne puisse sincèrement essayer d'aider un autre sans s'aider lui-même.*

Cette citation de Ralph Waldo Emerson semble très adéquate pour la *Fondation caritative du Rite écossais (SRCF)* au regard des programmes de la *Fondation*, qui, nous l'espérons, aideront un jour à résoudre les *énigmes de l'esprit*, ces problèmes liés à la dyslexie et à l'autisme.

Je suis très heureux de souligner cinq des *prix décernés cette année par les Députés provinciaux du Suprême Conseil*. Le programme est conçu pour aider les personnes dans le processus d'acquisition ou d'utilisation de compétences qui profitent à la formation, à l'éducation ou au bien-être mental des enfants, aux institutions ou aux groupes de bénévoles qui servent les objectifs généraux de la *SRCF* consistant à aider à résoudre les *énigmes de l'esprit*.

Alors que le *Suprême Conseil* célèbre son *150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire*, le *Centre d'apprentissage* de London vient de célébrer son *20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire*, tandis que celui d'Edmonton a célébré son *10<sup>e</sup>*. Comme le montrent les articles ci-joints, l'impact du programme d'un *Centre d'apprentissage* ne peut être surestimé. Les témoignages entendus lors de la remise des diplômes du *Centre d'apprentissage* de London démontrent véritablement l'impact du programme sur les enfants. Félicitations à tous les *Centres d'apprentissage* et à l'énorme contribution qu'ils apportent pour aider les enfants dyslexiques !

En septembre, quatre nouvelles subventions majeures, d'une valeur de 120 000 \$ chacune sur trois ans, ont été accordées. Ces subventions 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, couvrant un large éventail de sujets. De plus amples renseignements sur les recherches soutenues par la *Fondation* sont disponibles sur son site internet à l'adresse [srcf.ca/research](http://srcf.ca/research).

En ce moment, nous vous prions de bien vouloir utiliser *l'enveloppe bleue* incluse dans ce numéro du *Clarion*. Votre soutien financier fait vraiment une différence en aidant les scientifiques à résoudre les *énigmes de l'esprit* grâce au programme de subventions de recherche, au *programme de bourses du Député provincial* et au soutien des *Centres d'apprentissage* pour enfants dyslexiques.

*Au nom des directeurs de la Fondation caritative du Rite écossais, nous vous souhaitons tout le bonheur possible pour les fêtes de fin d'année et pour 2024. ■*





## London Scottish Rite Learning Centre 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ill. Bro. Ronald L. Findlater, 33°  
Vice President, London Learning Centre

This year, 2023, marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *London Scottish Rite Learning Centre (LSRLC)*, the first *Learning Centre* in Canada for children with dyslexia. But how did this come to be?

In 2001, Ill. Bro. Robert A. Barnett, 33°, a member of the *London Scottish Rite*, returned from a meeting in Texas of the *Southern Masonic Jurisdiction* of the *Scottish Rite*. He was reportedly *bursting with enthusiasm* to form a *Learning Centre* in London. He approached Ill. Bro. Douglas R. Banks, 33°, who was *Grand Secretary* of the *London Lodge of Perfection*. Doug had spent his professional career as a teacher, mostly at the secondary level, and at Althouse College of Education in London. Doug spoke to Ill. Bro. Donald R. Fick, 33°, who, in turn, spoke with Ill. Bro. Paul Hustler, 32°, both of whom were teachers at East Elgin High School in Aylmer and both of whom had special education certification.

Together, the four of them went on a road trip to Detroit to visit the *Learning Centre* and to meet with the Centre Director, Amy White. It did not take much effort on her part before the four of them were convinced they needed to pursue a *Centre* in London. By the time they reached home, the fundamentals were in place starting with the designation of officers for the project. Bob agreed to serve as Chairman, Doug as Secretary, Paul as Centre Director and Don as Executive Director. After a little more research, they developed a proposal that was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* Board of Directors.

Paul and his wife Fran completed the Orton-Gillingham Tutor Training Program in Michigan and took on the role of Co-Directors of the *Centre*. They proceeded to recruit tutors who were trained by Joy Graves from Michigan. Travelling across the border to *work* was no easy task from a Canadian immigration perspective, but Joy persevered. New members were added to the original group and together, they formed the initial steering committee that spent many long hours to revise both the American Handbook and the Tutor Handbook to Canadian versions. These two documents became the guidelines for subsequent *Learning Centres* across the country.

When the Official Opening took place on September 14, 2003, there were six tutors working with seven children in the *London Masonic Centre*, while another six tutors were undergoing the training component.

When Don announced his retirement from the position of Executive Director in 2009, then President of the *SRCF*, Allard B. Loopstra, 33°, said: *What has been accomplished by the Advisory Council has been truly remarkable. The Foundation and Valleys across Canada are indebted to all of you for 'blazing the trail' and establishing a very detailed handbook for subsequent Learning Centres. You made it possible for sustainable and organized growth. When I have had the pleasure of meeting graduates from our Learning Centres, it reinforces the value we bring to the child, family and society by providing this service.* At the same time, Past Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. Harold E. Crosby, 33°, wrote: *The establishment of the Program has been a very positive achievement of Scottish Rite and it is clearly making a positive change in the lives of those children that have the opportunity to participate in it.*



Graduates of 2020-2023 and Tutors from the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre.

In the intervening twenty years, approximately 130 students have participated in the program with the aid of 55 tutors. Many of these former students have gone on to experience educational success, not only at the secondary level but post-secondary as well. Recently, it was learned that two former students are entering their second year in university while a third is starting her Master's program. The creativity, the problem-solving ability, the energy and the intellectual ability of these students has not allowed dyslexia to be an obstacle to them, or to so many of the graduates, in their respective journeys.

*We owe those four men a most sincere vote of thanks. ■*





## Edmonton Learning Centre: 10 years of Building Better Futures

Leslie Pepler

Member of the Board of Directors

**T**he thigh bones are connected to the hip bone; the hip bones are connected to the backbone...and so goes that familiar children's song. While the brain masterminds human activity, it's the backbone...the spine...that disperses vital signals throughout the body to make miraculous things happen daily, said Dyslexia Edmonton Learning Centre director Patricia Cox recently.

Similarly, our tutors are the conduit that delivers the reading, writing and spelling skills of the Orton-Gillingham Approach to children. They are the backbone of our operations, Cox, who holds a degree in education, added. Without tutor commitment, these children would struggle with literacy throughout their school years running the risk of giving up on their education. Tutors' carefully planned and customized lessons, personal interactions, encouragement and support make miracles happen for them almost every day.

Cox, also a tutor, loves watching the transformation. Nothing compares to seeing the 'aha' moment when something makes sense; when the light goes on; when they proudly read a passage with less mistakes; when they start to like reading rather than dreading it.

Every tutor has a special moment that refreshes their commitment such as a 2019 graduate earned honours in Grade 11 this year, or a 2013 graduate received an Academic Merit Award on completing Grade 7, she added.

Tutor-trainer Ill. Bro. Allen Wingrave, 33°, treasures the photo a parent sent a few years after graduation, showing her daughter leaving the library with an armful of books.

Since the Centre opened in 2013, 18 tutors have worked to graduate more than 50 children. Nine remain active serving 13 young clients. With a waiting list of more than 30, finding more tutors is a priority.

Tutor training costs \$12,000, Cox said. The biggest roadblock is commitment. In addition to working with a child two hours twice weekly, the tutor undergoes a comprehensive 48-hour training program spanning two and one-half years that begins with an introduction to the Orton-Gillingham Approach to literacy remediation and a general look at the symptoms and impact of dyslexia

and expands to covering several resources on dyslexia including a textbook. Tutors write book reports and exams, develop practice lessons and complete 100 hours of instruction with 2 children. Each lesson is reviewed and monitored by the trainer.

*The way we were taught is not the way children with dyslexia need to be taught, Wingrave said, The training improved my own English skills. More importantly, it enabled me to see how helping others is one of the greatest things you can do.*

Prior exposure to dyslexia influences recruiting efforts, Wingrave said: *We have some success when the individual knows someone with dyslexia, but very little success recruiting people who have no ties. We are always looking for tutors and will target retirees who are more likely to have time to make the kind of commitment needed. With more tutors, we could reduce the wait list significantly.*

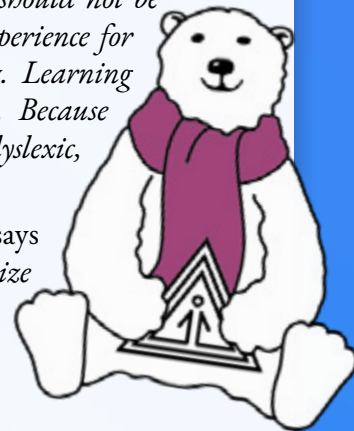
Parent Shannon Grabia became a tutor to pay it forward. Her son was diagnosed with several learning disorders in Grade 2. Because the education system didn't offer remediation for dyslexia, she looked elsewhere for help.

*In 2017, tutors cost \$60 an hour. I found the free Scottish Rite Learning Centre program. It has changed our lives. I am deeply grateful for how much my son advanced; he now easily reads chapter books.*

*Learning to read, write, and spell should not be a physically or mentally painful experience for any child, said tutor Chris Batty. Learning to read was a painful experience. Because my father, brother and I are dyslexic, I was eager to volunteer.*

Tutor-trainer Loraine Auger says *educators aren't trained to recognize symptoms in the 25% student population who present with dyslexia.* Although she often uses her specialized training in her Grade 2 classroom, there is no follow up in subsequent grades and the child's remediation stalls.

*You've heard the story of a person walking along the beach tossing dying starfish back into the ocean. I feel like that person. I'm happy to give the child the skills they need and send them back to the system from whence they came... one by one. ■*





## End of Year Celebration - Learning Centre for Hamilton

III. Bro. Michael Kirk, 32°  
Chair of the Board of Directors

As the 2022-2023 tutoring year closes, we thought about how to mark another successful year. In June of 2022, we ended the year with a ceremony of celebration marking our reaching the status of a mature *Learning Centre*, graduating our first children, and the certification of our first two tutors. The *Scottish Rite Cathedral* offered an awesome place to celebrate and celebrate we did.

Events like that are impossible to duplicate with the same impact. How were we going to top that in future years? The simple answer was that it was an impossibility, so we had to do something different.

Our plans for the *Learning Centre* had always included an end-of-year event, but the pandemic had prevented this from happening. Happily, in June of 2023, we were allowed to gather in person. Plans were made and invitations issued. We were looking forward to gathering on the lawns of the *Scottish Rite* to share food, drink, and fellowship. Then climate change and smoke from the raging forest fires intervened, forcing the event indoors. We moved the BBQ to the Grand Ballroom of the *Scottish Rite Cathedral*! Current children, past graduates, their families, our tutor trainer, volunteers, and Board members were treated to a delicious meal while they re-connected or met new people. You could just feel the positive energy in the room. The traditional formal remarks were kept to a minimum. The highlight of the evening was when a graduate stood at the podium, in front of dozens of people, and delivered a heartfelt and inspirational speech, without notes. The ovation was thunderous and long-lasting. Everyone in that room realized the struggles the child and family members had been through and learned about the positive impact the *Centre* had on them. This truly is what the *Learning Centre* is all about.

Events and celebrations are great, but one of the things we have come to appreciate is that sometimes simple and different are just as valuable. We try to foster the sense of family throughout the *Learning Centre* experience, so that everyone, children, their families, tutors, volunteers, donors, and Board members all feel that they are part of the same extended family in the support of our mission to make each child's life better.

With the loosening of restrictions imposed during the pandemic, the *Learning Centre* for Hamilton was back to in-person tutoring. During the last year, we made several changes in the *Centre*. The reception area was reorganized to make it more open and welcoming, to allow people to sit comfortably and chat while waiting for their child to finish their lesson. This was in great part accomplished by leveraging the donation of used reception room furnishings from a local lawyer's office. We learned,



quite by accident, that children were more comfortable in tutoring rooms with windows, so our two windowless rooms are now work areas for tutors and we are only using rooms with windows for tutoring. We learned, through various conversations, that certain shades of blue are more conducive to providing a calm environment. This past summer all our tutor rooms were repainted blue and are ready for the new tutoring year. At long last, the final item on the list from our originally planned renovations of the building, a window on the first floor has been installed and finished off, providing privacy to the first-floor tutoring rooms.

So where are we heading this year? Our family is growing. When we reopen, it will be four days a week instead of two. With both new and returning children and tutors, there is a need to involve more reception volunteers. We are also reopening with a brand-new accreditation from IMSLEC (International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council). The accreditation is greatly appreciated and to maintain it, we will work hard to uphold the high standards it demands of us, to continue to provide the best professional services to the children we serve. *We are ready and looking forward to this tutoring year and the opportunity to continue 'helping children with dyslexia to read'.* ■



# 150 Years of Vision and Leadership

## A Time to Celebrate – Update on Activities.

**Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33°**  
Grand Secretary-General

In this issue of the *Clarion*, we would like to share some highlights and activities planned for a year-long grand celebration covering 150 years of your *Supreme Council of Canada*, 1874 to 2024.

In late 2021, we formed a *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*, with the first meeting held on November 26, 2021. Meetings since then have been held monthly and these will continue up to the actual *Anniversary* in 2024.

The mandate and goal of the *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee* is to produce a series of first-class items and events to promote *Supreme Council's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, which will cumulate at the *Annual Session* to be held in Ottawa in September of 2024.

The Committee is co-chaired by Ill. Bro. Steven E. Warren, 33°, *Supreme Council's* Chief Operating Officer, and myself. Due to the magnitude of the undertaking, the Planning Committee broke down into a number of sub-committees, each with specific duties and a sub-committee chairperson. These sub-committees and their chairpersons are as follows:

- **Promotions and Gifts:**  
Ill. Bro. Douglas G. Easton, 33°
- **Marketing and Communications:**  
Ill. Bro. Clive D. Stephenson, 33°
- **Historical Publications / Video Testimonials:**  
Ill. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor, 33°
- **First Meeting Re-enactment:**  
Ill. Bro. Thomas A. Wills, 33°
- **Ladies Gifts:**  
Leslie Drake
- **Gala Event/SGC Banquet:**  
Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33°
- **Tributes – Other Supreme Councils (Worldwide):**  
Ill. Bro. Steven E. Warren, 33°

- **Anniversary Financial Budget:**  
Ill. Bro. Alan J. Stoddart, 33°
- **Anniversary Painting by Artist Jack Lockhart:**  
Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°
- **Anniversary Time Capsule:**  
Ill. Bro. Douglas G. Easton, 33°

Look for regular communications as we make our time in history come alive. We encourage the *Valleys* of our *Rite* here in Canada to join in the celebration by holding social events and fundraisers. Some *Valleys* are already planning events! To stimulate ideas, may we suggest such events as: a Ladies Night, *Valley Dinners* with a scotch/wine tasting element or an interesting speaker presentation, or even a *Master Mason Night* with a focus on our extremely rich history. One thing we would ask, during your event, is please take pictures and forward them and associated stories to us so we can share the celebration with all of our members.

On closing, I thought I'd share a small piece of trivia, which seems to be particularly applicable in these times of rising costs of even the basics: *Did you know that in 1874, the fee to receive the 33° was \$50, which in today's money, would be the equivalent of \$1,233. Who says you cannot get value for money today?*

The value you place on membership in our *Scottish Rite* and for its *Supreme Council* can be found in looking in your heart. May you be a part of this historic celebration by contributing as you can to its observance over the coming year.

*Let's celebrate 150 years of success together!* ■



**Supreme Council 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Session**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

**September 11 – 14, 2024**

*Celebrating 150 Years of Vision & Leadership*



# Oral History Project Interviews

## Ill. Bro. Corey R. Turnbull, 32° Valley of Toronto

As part of the celebrations of the 150 years of *Supreme Council of Canada*, an Oral History Project is being undertaken under the guidance of Ill. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor, 33°, the purpose of which is to document some of the wisdom and accomplishments of all our living Past Sovereign Grand Commanders.



Ill. Bro. Corey R. Turnbull, 32°, interviewing Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°, PSGC

Ill. Bro. Milan Cobanov, 33°, and I have recently travelled to Hamilton, Ontario, where we interviewed Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33° and Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°; to Regina, Saskatchewan to interview Ill. Bro. Richard A.H. Brown, 33°; and to Fernie, British Columbia to interview Ill. Bro. Orlan J. Weber, 33°. The project is ongoing, and we have yet to interview our Sovereign Grand Commander.



Ill. Bro. Corey R. Turnbull, 32°, interviewing Ill. Bro. Richard A.H. Brown, 33°, PSGC

In the Winter 2022 edition of this magazine, our Sovereign Grand Commander wrote of the debt of gratitude that we as *Scottish Rite Freemasons* owe to our Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°, for his outstanding leadership and sage advice during the pandemic. Indeed, leadership and the diverse skill sets of our members seem to have been organizational strengths for the *Scottish Rite* for some

time now through planning and cultivation. Excellence is not accidental.



Ill. Bro. Corey R. Turnbull, 32°, interviewing Ill. Bro. Orlan J. Weber, 33°, PSGC

As themes emerge from the interviews, I too was struck by the debt of gratitude that we owe to these men for their many contributions to *Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Canada*. The interviews paint a picture of good men dedicated to the cause of *Freemasonry* who have committed many years and much talent in the service of the *Scottish Rite*. There is a true sense of a caretaking responsibility, of forward thinking, of collaboration...and in a word, leadership.



Ill. Bro. Corey R. Turnbull, 32°, interviewing Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33°, PSGC

Creating an accessible record of their perspectives, accomplishments, and anecdotes will likely do more than to simply preserve them for history, it may also offer a sense of the *Scottish Rite's* organizational spirit and serve as a source of inspiration to its membership. I hope that the brethren will enjoy watching the interviews as much as Milan and I have enjoyed recording them.

*While returning from the West, I thought of how our individual lives pass as seasons while Freemasonry remains seemingly timeless in comparison and about how in Masonry, it seems that one tends to develop or refine one's appreciation for long-term perspectives that value things greater than ourselves. ■*







## Ill. Bro. Thomas A. Wills, 33° Lieutenant Grand Commander

As a cost-efficient way to hold our annual *Supreme Council Sessions*, your *Supreme Council* has become proficient and comfortable with the use of the virtual meeting platform. It has saved a considerable amount of investment by holding our full *Sessions* in even years, and a virtual Executive Session in odd years. This year, the *149<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of Supreme Council* was held as an *Executive Session* using Zoom as the method to conduct the business of the meeting.

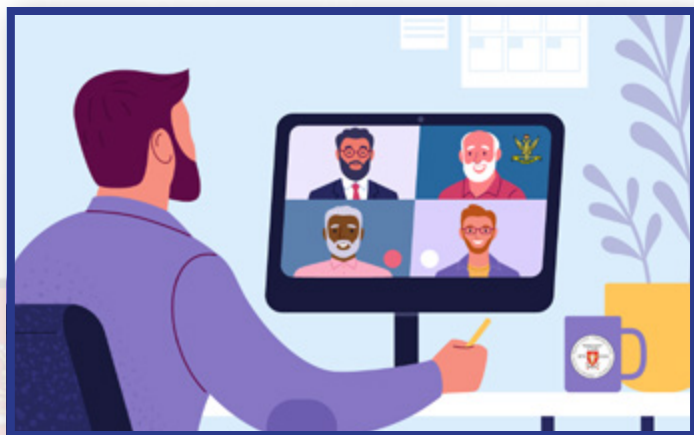
At the conclusion of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Annual General Meeting*, the Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC), Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, declared the *Executive Session* to order. He welcomed the *Active* and *Past Active* members of *Supreme Council* to the meeting and gave his opening remarks, and thanked all Committee Chairs and their members for the outstanding and dedicated work they do.

It is a tradition for our *Supreme Council* to recognize prominent individuals from other jurisdictions with Honorary Membership in our *Supreme Council*. This year it was our pleasure to bestow Honorary Membership on Ill. Bro. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander (IPSGC) of the *Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA*. Ill. Bro. Peter J. Samiec was SGC from 2021 to 2023.

Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°, Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander and the Chair of Fraternal Relations thanked Ill. Bro. Matthew F. Todd, 33°, on his retirement after many years of dedicated work as Chair of the Fraternal Relations Committee. Of note this year, fraternal recognition was extended to the United Supreme Council 33° AASR Prince Hall Affiliation Southern Jurisdiction, USA to the extent that local rules governing visitation and all membership activity shall be in accordance with rules established by the applicable Grand Lodge within each Province, State, or Territory.

The Special Awards Committee was pleased to announce the approval this year of the nominations of Ill. Bro. George Contaxakis, 33°, *Valley of Montreal*, and Ill. Bro. William Douglas Mitchell, 32°, *Valley of Niagara*, for the *John Ross Matheson Award*. We heard the impressive and extensive resumes of these worthy Brethren, and we heartily congratulate Ill. Bro. Contaxakis and Ill. Bro. Mitchell, men who are fine examples of hard-working *Masons* in their community, and their *Valleys*.

We are well into the year-long celebration of the *Supreme Council of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. This will culminate with the *150<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Sessions* in Ottawa in September of 2024. The *Valleys* in our jurisdiction have been asked to join your *Supreme Council* and celebrate locally and nationally with their own events. We look forward to a great year of celebration.



Sovereign Grand Commander Bennett presented his Allocation and gave an overview on rulings, permissions and dispensations given during the first year of his term. A highlight during his first year included presentations of *John Ross Matheson Awards* to Ill. Bro. Lester W. Bowering, 32°, *Valley of St. John's* and Ill. Bro. Edward H. Wagstaff, 32°, *Valley of Lethbridge*. The SGC was also present for many Official Visits and attended both virtual and in person events. It was exciting for our SGC to attend the *Supreme Council of Germany* in March to witness the Installation of Officers and welcome the new SGC Alexander Ludwig 33°, and offer congratulations to the IPSGC, Eberhard Desch, 33°, a good friend, and honorary member of this *Supreme Council*, on his retirement. SGC Bennett concluded his Allocation by thanking and offering appreciation to his wife Aureo, to the members of *Supreme Council*, to Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33°, Grand Secretary-General, Ill. Bro. Steven E. Warren, 33°, Chief Operating Officer and Miss Leslie Drake, Office and Finance Administrator for their contribution, friendship, and assistance in his first year of office.

*Supreme Council looks forward to our 150<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Sessions in Ottawa in September 2024 where we can renew old and make new friendships, and to welcome our new Honorary Inspectors-General, as we celebrate 150 wonderful years of leadership in Scottish Rite Masonry. ■*



# An Unforgettable Visit



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hochelaga Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix

Ill. Bro. Jacques G. Ruelland, 33°  
Deputy for Quebec

On October 23, 2023, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC) accompanied by Ill. Bro. Frank Groves 33°, of Peterborough, made his Official Visit to the *Valley of Montreal* on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Hochelaga Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix*, which coincides with the sesquicentenary of the *Supreme Council of Canada*.

The afternoon started with Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, attending a party that was hosted in his honour by M.W. Bro. Robert Dupel, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The SGC had an opportunity to meet with Grand Lodge Officers, Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General, Honorary Inspectors-General, and heads of the constituent Bodies of the *Valley* over cocktails and light refreshments. Accompanied by the SGIGs he took the time, in private, to perform a swearing-in ceremony for the new Active Member for Quebec, Ill. Bro. Fayez Oustwani, 33° whose full installation will take place in Ottawa in September 2024.



Attendees at the Official Visit of the Sovereign Grand Commander

The *Valley of Montreal* is unique in that it has six constituent Bodies, three English speaking, viz, the *Hochelaga Grand Lodge of Perfection*, *Hochelaga Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix* and, the *Montreal Sovereign Consistory*; and three French speaking Bodies viz, *Loge de Perfection Fleur de Lys*, *Chapitre de Rose-Croix du Mont Réal* and, *Consistoire du Phénix*.

The SGC was officially received on behalf of the *Valley of Montreal* by the *Hochelaga Grand Lodge of Perfection* in the person of Ill. Bro. Jack Sorin, 32°, TPGM who

was assisted by Ill. Bro. Adrian Cretu, 33°, TFPGM of the *Loge de Perfection Fleur de Lys*. Welcome remarks and introductions were done in both official languages. The harmony and cooperation between the six Bodies was on full display and was enhanced further by the presence of Ill. Bro. Gilles Chiniara, 33°, Grand Secretary of the *Valley of Quebec*.



Ill. Bro. Jacques G. Ruelland, 33°, Deputy for Quebec, Silvia Contaxakis, Ill. Bro. George Contaxakis, 33°, recipient of the John Ross Matheson Award, and our Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°

The work of the evening was the conferral of the 5° - Perfect Master, in English, by the *Hochelaga Lodge of Perfection*. There were 29 candidates in total: 16 from *Hochelaga* and 13 bilingual candidates from *Fleur de Lys*. Present that evening in the lodge room, were 79 brethren, including the Class, a truly well-attended event.

A formal banquet was held at a chic restaurant near the Masonic Temple, with 76 persons in attendance. The SGC presented the *John Ross Matheson Award* to Ill. Bro. George Contaxakis, 33°, who received it with much humility and emotion in the presence of his family.

The SGC's speech and comments were translated by the Deputy and sent to all French-speaking members.

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, the *Lodge of Perfection Fleur de Lys* conferred their scheduled 5° in French, for two Brothers who were not able to attend on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and six other bilingual candidates who wanted to re-live their Perfect Master degree in the other official language!

*Indeed, a memorable and historic event which was planned and executed within a very short time frame. Congratulations go to the organizing committee for their hard work and cooperation at all levels. A special vote of thanks goes to both Ill. Bros. Adrian Cretu, 33°, TFPGM and to Ill. Bro. Jack Sorin, 32°, TPGM for their leadership and hard work. Well done! ■*





## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner

Ill. Bro. Carl M. Ignatius, 32°

Chair 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

On May 14, 1873, 150 years ago, the *Supreme Council of England and Wales* issued the *Toronto Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix* with their warrant. In 1875, a mere two years after its establishment, the Chapter had 35 members. Presently, the *Chapter* boasts nearly 1,200 members.



In honour of the *Chapter's* 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, The Valley of Toronto hosted a grand celebration on May 26, 2023, at the prestigious Credit Valley Golf Course in Mississauga, Ontario. The evening's festivities included a wonderful dinner, speeches from the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, recognition of the Past Most Wise Sovereigns of the Chapter in attendance, and a brief account of the Chapter's history prepared by our Historian, Ill. Bro. Corey R. Turnbull, 32°. The presentation highlighted the significant progress made in the past 150 years and allowed for contemplation on the Chapter's prospects over the next 150.



Ill. Bro. Turnbull stated that: *Whether the year is 1873 or 2023, the fundamental questions for us remain the same. How do we connect with the world around us? How do we build a sense of community inside and outside of Masonry? How do we find time to slow down and connect with ourselves in a world that seems to be moving faster? And how do we contribute to the families, careers, and communities in ways that keep the values and lessons of Masonry, and of the Scottish Rite in particular, alive and well in the world today?*

Distinguished guests included our Most Wise Sovereign, Ill. Bro. Arthur Di Cecco, 32°, and Past Most Wise Sovereigns Ill. Bros. C. Bruce Stewart, 33° (2000), Terry A. McLean, 33° (2003), George B. Fairbairn, 33° (2010), Timothy Edwards, 33° (2013), D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, 33° (2015), Eugene P. Palacol, 33° (2018) and Carl M. Ignatius, 32° (2022).



We were honoured to welcome the following members of Supreme Council, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Bro. Thomas A. Wills, 33°, Lieutenant Grand Commander; Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33°, Grand Secretary-General; Ill. Bro. Jeffrey R. Dickson, 33°, Deputy for Ontario; Ill. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°, Deputy for Ontario; Ill. Bro. Ronald J. Taylor, 33°, Deputy for Ontario; Ill. Bro. Alan J. Stoddart, 33°, Grand Treasurer-General; Ill. Bro. Errol A. Stewart, 33°, Grand Master of Ceremonies; Ill. Bro. John E. Harrison, 33°, Grand Standard Bearer and Ill. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor, 33°, Grand Historian.

*The event concluded with a DJ, whose music got many out on the dance floor. ■*



# Provincial Deputy Awards

## Valley of Sudbury

Wendy Larouche

Resource Facilitator LDA Sudbury

The Learning Disabilities Association 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* is proud to announce Aven Moggy and Kenneth MacNeil as the winners of the 2023 Student Transition Scholarships. These two scholarships are awarded to students pursuing a full-time program in their final year. As recipients, they have each received a \$650 scholarship provided by the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada - Valley of Sudbury*, and the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada*.



Ill. Bro. Don Rousell, 33°, Kenneth MacNeil, Award Recipient, Aven Moggy, Award Recipient and Ill. Bro. Robert Lipic, 32°, TPGM of the Valley of Sudbury Lodge of Perfection

*Thank you to 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 we applaud Aven and Kenneth for their hard work in reaching this milestone of graduating and moving on to post-secondary, says Angelina Wiwczor, Chair, LDA Sudbury.*

Aven and Kenneth will both be heading to Cambrian College to begin their journey in post-secondary. We wish both great success in their future endeavours. Congratulations!

*To learn more about our organizations, please visit the LDAS website at [ldasudbury.ca](http://ldasudbury.ca) and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation at [srcf.ca](http://srcf.ca). ■*

## Central Alberta Valley

Ill. Bro. Gary Hiebert, 32°

Past TPGM

It was our pleasure to present the \$1,000 *Deputy Award* on behalf of Allan Long, 33°, Deputy for Alberta, to Janelle and Kent Robinson of Spirit's Respite Ranch, Stettler, Alberta.



Ill. Bro. Gary Hiebert, 32°, Janelle Robinson, Director, Spirit's Respite Ranch, Ill. Bro. Terry Skelton, 33°, Past-Grand Secretary of Central Valley.

Janelle and Kent started the ranch to give their autistic son a place to grow and develop, and they extended it to help others to do the same.

*Central Valley Scottish Rite felt that any support they could provide to help such a worthy endeavor was merited. We wish Janelle and her family much success with Spirit's Respite Ranch in the years to come. ■*



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# Provincial Deputy Awards

## Valley of Barrie

**Ill. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°**  
Deputy for Ontario

On May 3, 2023, at 99 Morrow Road, we had the opportunity to present Lakehead University student and *Barrie Learning Centre* graduate Madeline Fitzpatrick with a \$1,000 *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Deputy Award* to assist her in furthering her studies. Madeline has overcome numerous challenges, but is now flourishing at university. This *Deputy Award* was matched by our Valley Almoner, Ill. Bro. Cam Goodman, 33°.



Madeline's tutor during her time at the Learning Centre, Betty Borges; the Fitzpatrick family; Madeline accepting a cheque from our Valley Almoner, Ill. Bro. Cam Goodman, 33°; along with Active Member and Grand Standard Bearer, Ill. Bro. John Harrison, 33°; Valley Secretary/Registrar, Ill. Bro. Jim Anderson, 33°; and Deputy for Ontario, Ill. Bro. Bob Brethour, 33°

*Madeline Fitzpatrick - another success story from our Learning Centre! ■*

## Valley of Nanaimo

**Ill. Bro. L. Craig Wolverton, 32°**  
Immediate Past TPGM

On November 9, 2023, Ill. Bro. Craig Wolverton, 32°, on behalf of the *Valley of Nanaimo*, was pleased to present to the Pacific Rim School District 70, an award donation cheque in the amount of \$1,000 in the name of Bryden Arsenault. On behalf of the school district the donation was accepted by Trustee, Chris Washington. This donation was made possible by the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation's Provincial Deputy's Awards* program.

This award will allow Braydon's family to raise awareness within the community of Port Alberni, BC, of the effects mental illness and depression has on young people and for the Pacific Rim School District to be able to dispense funds to students in need of counselling and further assistance.



Ill. Bro. Mel Olson, 32°, Ill. Bro. Doug Easton, 33°, Active Member and Deputy for British Columbia and Yukon, Ill. Bro. Ken Meyer, 32°, TPGM, Colville Lodge of Perfection, Ill. Bro. Ralph Rayner, 32°, Grand Secretary and Ill. Bro. Craig Wolverton, 32°, IPTPGM



W. Bro. John McKay, WM of Barclay Lodge No.90, Ill. Bro. Craig Wolverton, 32°, Pacific Rim School District 70, Trustee, Chris Washington, Ill. Bro. Roy Buchanan, 32°, Bro. Wes Hewitt, 4°

*The Valley of Nanaimo is keenly aware of the impact and meaning to the community this Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation's Provincial Deputy's Award will have and looks forward to assisting in other community endeavours in the future. ■*



# Provincial Deputy Awards

## Helping the Community in North Bay

**Ill. Bro. Michael J.R. Millard, 33°**

Grand Secretary/Registrar - Valley of North Bay

On June 28, 2023, Ill. Bro. Burton Parks, 33° on behalf of the *Valley of North Bay*, was pleased to present Alyssa MacDonald with an award cheque for \$1,000. This was made possible by the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation's Provincial Deputy's Awards* program. Alyssa was a student at the *Laurentian Learning Centre* in North Bay.



Pictured is Ill. Bro. Burton Parks, 33° with the Award recipient, Alyssa MacDonald.

The *Laurentian Learning Centre* is a smaller education center for students whose specific needs are unable to be met in larger Secondary schools. This award will allow Alyssa to further her education and we wish her well in her future endeavours. The *Valley* would like to thank the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* for this initiative

which allows our *Valley* to support individuals and groups within the North Bay Community.



Ill. Bro. Burton Parks, 33° and Kathrine Strang, Development Officer of One Kids Place.

On July 7, 2023, Ill. Bro. Burton Parks, 33° made a second presentation of a cheque for \$1,000 to Katherine Strang, Development Officer for One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre. This donation was on behalf of the *Valley of North Bay* to assist One Kids Place with their programs that assist children and youth with physical, communicative, and developmental needs. The *Valley of North Bay* has supported One Kids Place for several years and we are happy to see our support successfully assisting our local children and youth.

*The Valley of North Bay looks forward to supporting our community again in the future through the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Deputy Award program and with charitable awards from the Valley itself. ■*

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# SGC OV to Valley of Niagara and John Ross Matheson Award

**Ill. Bro. D. Brent Julian, 33°**  
Active Member of Supreme Council

On Thursday, November 2, 2023, the brethren of *Niagara Valley* hosted our Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, on the occasion of his Official Visit to the *Valley*. It was also an opportunity for our Sovereign Grand Commander to present the prestigious *John Ross Matheson Award* to one of this year's recipients, *Niagara Valley's* very own, Ill. Bro. W. Douglas Mitchell, 32°.



Members of Supreme Council and Niagara Valley Officers



Ill. Bro. Jeffrey R. Dickson, 33°, Deputy for Ontario; Sovereign Grand Commander  
Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°; Ill. Bro. W. Douglas Mitchell, 32°, JRM Recipient;  
Ill. Bro. D. Brent Julian, 33°, Active Member of Supreme Council

Rev. Mitchell has a long history of service to the community, as well as to *Freemasonry* and to our *Scottish Rite*. He has shown leadership in several community organizations including Scout's Canada, Rotary, Meals on Wheels, Walk Against Violence, Offshore Worker Outreach, The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, among other worthy causes.

When asked how he thought about his award he quoted; *I was deeply humbled to be considered worthy to receive the John Ross Matheson Award. I'm thankful to be a member of Niagara Valley, AASR, and thank them for their support and look forward to continuing my journey in Scottish Rite Freemasonry.*

The evening was attended by sixty-three members and visitors. Accompanying our Sovereign Grand Commander were ten Active and Past Active Members of *Supreme Council* including Past Sovereign Grand Commanders, the Lieutenant Grand Commander, and Deputies for Ontario.

*This was also an opportunity for eight of Ill. Bro. Mitchell's family to witness the presentation of the Award by our Sovereign Grand Commander. A truly moving Masonic and family moment. ■*



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# Bourbon Whisky

## III. Bro. John G.I. Lark, 33°

Valley of Ottawa

Like Scotch and Canadian whisky, bourbon is a unique style of whisky with its own history and rules. The first American reference to whisky and to stills was in a will dated June, 1790.

Indigenous peoples had been planting and harvesting corn, in what became Kentucky, for over 6,000 years. Corn was abundant and early settlers harvested 40 bushels per acre. Immigrants from England, Germany and Ireland brought their distilling equipment and traditions with them along with barley and wheat seeds.

What follows here is a brief review of whisky making. Seeds (corn, barley, wheat or oats) are soaked in water, so that they sprout, processes called steeping and germinating, collectively known as malting. The mix of grains is called the *mash bill*. The malted grains contain enzymes that convert the starch from the seeds into sugar and then yeast converts these sugars to alcohol. The mash is fermented to make a beer that is 7% to 12% alcohol by volume (ABV) and this is distilled, producing a liquid that is about 30% alcohol, which is distilled once more making a spirit that is 70% to 95% ABV. This spirit is matured in oak barrels which is where most of the flavour and colour comes from.

The early distillers in Kentucky made a spirit that wasn't aged in barrels and was like today's vodka although the corn imparted a sweetness that is still a core characteristic of bourbon.

As society evolved, so did the Kentucky spirits. Soon recipes for the mash were common and techniques were written and shared. Corn has lots of sugar, but few naturally occurring enzymes so early bourbon distillers took to keeping some of the mash from a distillation in a cool place and used it to increase the acidity to *start* the next mash. This technique, called *sour mash* distilling, describes a process that has no influence on flavour, it simply describes bourbons that don't add enzymes or malted barley to the mash. Since malted barley has many enzymes, current mash bills for bourbon are 70% corn, 15% barley and 15% wheat. The barley and wheat add flavour as well as critical enzymes, the corn adds the characteristic sweetness.

There are three important events for the bourbon industry. The first was in 1909 when American President Taft enabled legislation that defined *whisky* as made with corn and bottled at 100 proof (50% ABV).

The second event was in 1920 when the Volstead Act started Prohibition in the United States. Hundreds of distilleries were shut down and only six companies were permitted to sell whisky *for medicinal purposes*. Canadian Sam Bronfman of Seagram's became an important supplier to the United States, which ensured that Americans developed a taste for Canadian whisky which continues today where Canadian whisky accounts for more than half of total whisky sales in the US.



The third event was when Prohibition ended in 1933. By then, there were only four companies selling whisky, two American companies, National and Schenley and two Canadian companies, Hiram Walker and Seagram. Also in 1933, the US federal government introduced several new laws for Bourbon, two important ones are:

- Each aging barrel may only be used once (to prop up the US Lumber industry which was in a slump in 1933), and
- Bourbon must use at least 51% corn.

In 1976, there was a major shift in alcohol consumption away from whisky to clear spirits, vodka, gin and white rum. This began a 30-year decline in bourbon sales that resulted in reducing the number of active bourbon distilleries and, by the early 2000s, fewer than 20 bourbon distilleries survived. In 2010, Bourbon distillers followed Scotch distillers and began to produce single cask and small batch expressions, which finally moved bourbon into the premium spirits category.

Sales of premium bourbons grew from 1.4 million cases in 2015 to 4.1 million in 2020. This 122 percent growth energized the bourbon industry, which is now producing limited releases including the Woodford Reserve Baccarat Edition which sells for \$2,700 a bottle at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario outlets.

*Please remember to drink what you enjoy; whisky offers a huge range of flavours and flavour is far more important than the brand or the price. ■*





# Your Footprints in Life

## III. Bro. Neil R. Westmacott, 33°

Valley of Nanaimo

Early in our lives we begin to leave footprints. Like footprints in newly fallen snow. Some are crisp and clean, others not so. That is normal on our journey. Different circumstances, interactions and experiences impact us and affect our behaviour both positively and negatively. Our challenge is to learn from our missteps, enshrine positive actions and behaviour, and endeavour to leave better footprints as we move forward. This recalls a Sioux proverb:

### ***“We will be known forever by the tracks we leave”***

The process is simple. If we always strive to do the right thing, our legacy will reflect this. The problem is we often allow ego, short-sightedness, personal beliefs and ambition to interfere with our better judgement and what is the right course to follow. The consequences often result in conflict, frustration and lack of mindfulness.

### ***“Mindfulness”***

I cannot tell you what mindfulness may mean to you. It is up to each of us to be self-aware and incorporate mindfulness into our lives. Mindfulness tells us to *respond rather than react*. These are very powerful words. The footprints *you* leave in your life will also be powerful, resulting in a legacy of success.

Some years ago, a Buddhist principle was related to me.

### ***“We choose our parents before we are born for the things they will teach us, both the good and the bad”***

It is incumbent for us to embrace the positive experiences, both they and others teach us through life. Let the negative actions or behaviors be the impetus to learn and build stronger character in ourselves. Reinforce the good and use the bad to create good habits.

Our *Masonic* rituals and teachings are full of the keys to leading a positive and beneficial life. When one listens to it, or presents it, it seems quite simple to adopt and put into practice. Unfortunately, challenges often interfere causing us to deviate from a positive path. We must learn to be ever mindful of the lessons we have been taught. The lessons are endless if you study the ritual. It is also why learning and practicing the ritual is so important. It is a guide to living our lives well.

### ***The Address to the Brethren lays it out clearly***

*If you meet a man who quietly and modestly moves through the sphere of his life. Who, without blemish fulfills his duty*

*as a man, subject, husband, and a father. Who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and aids his fellow man without self-interest. Whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open to licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune is presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger.*

*The man who, without courting applause, is loved by all noble-minded men. Respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates. The man who never proclaims what he has done, can do or will do, but where need is will lay hold with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution and indefatigable exertion and a rare power of mind, and who will not cease until he has accomplished his work, and who then without pretention, will retire into the multitude because he did the good act, not for himself but for the cause of good.*

### ***True ideals to adopt and live by***

Let me leave you with some keys to be leaving better footprints in your life:

- Be tolerant and practice tolerance.
- Allow all to be heard and encourage all to be heard.
- Open your mind to others' perspectives.
- Reconcile challenges from one's past. Embrace the good and find good in the bad.
- Always strive to do good.
- Adopt a positive attitude.
- Find the good in others.
- Support and reinforce positive actions.
- Be grateful for the blessings of life.
- Embrace our Masonic teaching into your daily actions.
- Be proud to be a Freemason.
- Find the good in people and in yourself.
- Give freely of yourself.
- Emulate the fine characteristics you see in others.

I close with my favorite quotation which I live by:

*A pat on the back, though only a few vertebrae from a kick in the pants is miles ahead in results ~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox, American Author and Poet. ■*



# 2023 Valley of Barrie Pig and Corn Roast



**Ill. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33°**  
Deputy for Ontario

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the *Valley of Barrie* once again hosted our long-standing tradition – a summer pig and corn roast.

This event dates to 1997, and it is a dedicated fundraiser for our Props and Regalia Departments. The funds raised over the past 26 years have allowed us to maintain and upgrade our extensive wardrobe collection, to improve upon our various props, and to help with major undertakings such as the installation of a projection system in the Greer Room.



Participants enjoy a delicious meal in the banquet room

Short on formalities and long on fun, the pig roast is a purely social event for members, friends, and family. All are welcome to attend, and we had guests from near and far.



Brethren hard at work, but having fun: Ill. Bro. Steve Martin, 33°, Ticket Chairman and Ill. Bro. Terry Anderson, 32°

The afternoon consists of some light entertainment in the lounge area, followed by the main show in the Greer Room, and capped off with a delicious meal. With over 200 in attendance, it is a big undertaking. *Chair Ill. Bro. Ken Pratt, 33° and his team did a marvelous job in organizing the event, and it was once again a huge success. It was so nice to be back enjoying each other's company after a long layoff. ■*

## Our Newest Active Member of Supreme Council



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

On Monday, October 23, 2023, on my Official Visit to the *Valley of Montreal*, I was pleased to proclaim Ill. Bro. Fayez Oustwani, 33°, a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General and Active Member of the *Supreme Council of Canada*.

Ill. Bro. Oustwani has served as the Thrice Puissant Grand Master of *Hochelaga Grand Lodge of Perfection* in 2010 and the Commander-in-Chief of *Montreal Sovereign Consistory* from 2015-2018, and was coroneted an Honorary Inspector-General, 33°, at the 142<sup>nd</sup> *Annual Session of Supreme Council* in St. John's, Newfoundland on September 15, 2016.

He will be fully invested as an Active Member of *Supreme Council* in Ottawa in September. ■



Ill. Bro. Fayez Oustwani, 33°, flanked on the left by Provincial Deputy, Ill. Bro. Jacques Ruelland, 33°, and on the right by the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. David Bennett, 33°.



# Intimate Secretary, 6<sup>th</sup> Degree Video Production



Ill. Bro. Terry A. McLean, 33°  
Degrees in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee

The Degrees in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee, along with the cast and stage crew from the Valleys of Hamilton and Woodstock and the video production crew headed by Ill. Bro. Milan Cobanov, 33°, are pleased to deliver a video of the 6<sup>th</sup> Degree, Intimate Secretary.

The video production was shot on November 18, 2023, and hopefully will be available for your Valley in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024. You may recall that several years ago, we produced an 8<sup>th</sup> Degree video.

*We hope your members enjoy the new production and find it useful in your Valley. ■*



Video production crew capturing a scene from the 6<sup>th</sup> Degree



The Valley of Hamilton Cast of the 6<sup>th</sup> Degree with Members of the Degrees in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee



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