

The Chronicle



February 2026

Hamilton South District

Edition No. 6

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren

Having just attended the DDGM mid term meeting with the Grand Master, I can report that all the Districts in our jurisdiction appear to be doing well. Some of the District Deputy's reported on new and unique ideas that they are doing in their districts. One was a Masonic education competition and another was a regular district mentorship get together. These are just a couple of ideas that we might want to try in Hamilton South.



In our district we are about halfway through the installations with the balance planned for April May and June. We are not quite one third of the way through the Official Visit schedule. Unfortunately, due to weather we were forced to postpone the official visit to Union Lodge No. 7 which if you will mark your calendars has been rescheduled for April 9th. While we are updating calendars please also note that Past Master's Association meeting that is in the Trestle Board as March 14 is being rescheduled as March 7th due to a scheduling conflict at the Shrine Club.

As most of you know I have been advocating this year to have each of the temples hold an Open House event. If you are working on the Cornerstone project you will note that section 5.12 is to hold an Open House event. Why does your lodge want to hold one of these? It will raise awareness of Masonry in general. It help you on your path to achieving Cornerstone status which will help strengthen your lodge. It is an opportunity for your friends and family to see some of what you talk about when describe your night at lodge to them. And lastly the lodges may see some applications for membership form it. Please if you want help exploring running an event your lodge or group of lodges can reach out to Sebastian Morioupolis or myself, we are both prepared to help.

I am working with the District Deputies of Hamilton North and Toronto West to get a workshop together that covers the Ceremony of Installation. We have asked workshop committee to focus on helping the Installing Master prepare and plan for some of the pitfalls that as an installing master you will have to navigate. The other critical position at installation is the Director of Ceremonies so we have asked them to include some guidance for that position also. We are hoping that we can get this planned and executed for this spring.

Thank you to all the members of the District team that are out today and have been out many nights with me already. Thank you to the worshipful masters what are dedicating themselves to traveling with me it makes for a fulfilling evening when you and the members of your lodge are there to share and evening of masonry.

Thank you very much for your attention and I hope to see you out on the visitation trail.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
R. W. Bro. Cory Alexander McCarthy
District Deputy Grand Master,
Hamilton South District.

Grand Master January Communique

Brethren,
Happy New Year to you and your families, hopefully the holiday season was a welcome, and probably needed, break from the hustle and bustle of the work / life balance. Even though the winter weather



was somewhat trying by times, it was still a great time spent with family and friends. I hope everyone in this Grand Jurisdiction has a happy and prosperous, inspiring and positive New Year!!! I want to talk to you about some possible resolutions that you might be interested in for 2026:

•Resolve to be more inspirational.

At every opportunity, you can give the words and actions that would make your family, friends and Brethren feel good about themselves. It is in you to build up and support the people around you, so that you can make everyone feel like they want to do better.

•Resolve to conduct more interactive education.

Having group discussions about what Masonry (lectures, obligations, ritual), means to each and everyone of you. This can be done in all three degrees, depending on what degree / rank of member is attending the meeting. Have the members talk from the heart, openly and honestly, about what Masonry means to them or possibly how Masonry has made them a better person in some way. Grand Lodge has so much education available, in almost every form and format, do your best to research a topic of interest to your members and deliver it.

Another suggestion would be to have each member explain a little bit about themselves, maybe about their vocation, interests, hobbies or anything of their choosing. It would be a great way to gain some insight into your members.

•Resolve to Mentor more.

It's in all of us to Mentor more. There are so many ways to mentor and inspire, whether you help junior members to attend the Altar in the proper form, or you read and act properly according to the Protocol & Etiquette or just act like true and faithful Brothers. Mentoring is such a broad subject to explore, do your best to be the best, and to bring out the best in others. We are always being watched by someone, mentor in a positive way always, and remember to admonish with kindness, friendship and brotherly love. Positivity promotes people to learn, and negativity leads to

membership retention issues, we must remember that always.

•Resolve to improve engagement in your Lodge and / or District.

Do your best to be engaged, you can initiate ideas and actions that will help the Lodge/District to become more successful. You can propose ideas that you think will be better for the Craft in general or add to the longevity of your Lodge in particular.

If an idea is put forward, please examine the merits of it before it gets shot down. All ideas are an experiment to try to carry out, remember to encourage rather than disappoint the proposer, again it will help to enable better membership retention.

If an idea is proposed, try your best to get behind it, to make it work. If volunteers are needed, put up your hand to lend your talents to it if possible. This is much like a Lodge that is engaged in the Cornerstone program, it is up to the entire membership to make it successful. The likelihood of a successful event might be overwhelming for one person to take on, but when many are involved, it will be a great team success.

•Resolve to visit other Lodges more.

Visitation is such a wonderful way to meet new, soon to be friends. If it's possible and you have the time to visit more, do it, you won't be disappointed. Visitation is one of the best ways to see how other Lodges conduct their business, events and banquets. Maybe you could take your newfound knowledge and ideas back to your Lodge, in order to invoke further growth to proceed.

•Resolve to include family more in Lodge and District events.

Our families need a better understanding of what we do, and of what happens at our Lodges. The more we include the families, the more they support our activities and the more our Fraternity succeeds. Whether it's a delicious breakfast event, a float in a parade, or at a MasoniChip booth, the family can help and/or attend.

These are only a few New Year's Resolution ideas, where you can make a huge difference to your Lodge and to the way that business is done. Sometimes our meetings can get to be just a routine that we begrudgingly attend, let's make 2026 a year of doing better than before. Let us inspire everyone around us, where we can have incredibly engaging Lodge meetings. Great Ritual and Mentoring, along with more interactive education can lead to a higher level of member engagement. A higher level of membership engagement will ultimately lead to successful Lodges and Districts. And successful Lodges and Districts lead to a greater sense of belonging, with Peace and Harmony as the attainable goal to achieve.

Inspiration is a beautiful thing, let us carry on and conspire to inspire!!! We can all do better, let's do it as a team, where we can enjoy the heavy lifting together.

I just want to let this Grand Jurisdiction know that for my choice of charity for this Grand Master's two-year term, I have just presented cheques to the four regions of

Ronald McDonald House Charities, London, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa, in the amount of \$ 12 500.00 each for a total of \$ 50 000.00. I want to thank the Masonic Foundation of Ontario for your help and top up of funds, W. Bro. Korey Rorison for organizing the cheque presentations to each location and to our entire membership for making this wonderful amount possible. Also, I want to thank Ronald McDonald House for providing care and comfort to my family, as well as all the families of Ontario, when you are needed the most. We will be presenting cheques again in the second year of my term, to RMHC as well, please help me to raise funds, so that we can make a difference in the lives that need a helping hand at a most difficult time.

The charity number for the Masonic Foundation of Ontario is # 2477.

Thank you very much. Brethren, let's keep our penny shining brightly and our Lodges vibrant with life and purpose. This is our time to inspire. Let's commit to making a positive difference every single day, whether it's through a simple act of kindness or by embodying the principles of our Craft in all we do.

Let us remember that even on the cloudiest of days, the sun is still there. We, as Masons, are the light. Let's shine brightly for our families, our friends, our lodges, and ourselves.

Thank you, Brethren. Safe travels and God bless you and your families.

Jamie Ireland

Deputy Grand Master's January Message

Greetings Brethren,

As we embark on a new calendar year, I take this opportunity to wish all our brethren, friends and families the very best of the year ahead. May all your endeavours be conducted in harmony, and met with health, happiness and prosperity.

The past several years has seen a review and an overhaul of many of our Grand Lodge committees. Our focus has been to align and update our efforts within the parameters of our Grand Lodge mandate of Ritual, Education and Mentoring. One area of particular attention focuses on the benefits of Officer Progression.

Our original presentation and seminar for Officer Progression was well received from our brethren as our initial concentration was to outline the progressive skills required to discharge the duties of office, with a focus on the hard skills necessary to be an effective officer within your Lodge. The presentation points out that these fundamentals are outlined in the Book of the Work, the Red Book of Officer Mechanics, and the Installation Ceremony. And that when properly adhered to, the duties and responsibilities detailed within these publications are guidelines specifically designed to make one an effective officer. The Brethren are further reminded of other essential references including the

Masonic Manual, Meeting the Challenge, Towards the Square, Questions and Answers, and of course the P&E Essentials. All the resources noted above outline the duties and responsibilities that, when followed diligently, are intended to make an officer effective in their current role. They also serve to prepare the officer for future positions and encourage the practice of mentoring and preparing his successor.

Under the Leadership of R.W. Bro. Jeremy Fleming, our Officer Progression committee has been refining the presentation format and are well in the process of developing an official Lodge Officer Handbook, a culmination of various individual Lodge officer guidelines currently being used prominently by various lodges and district committees.

The continued development of our Officer Progression resource is to emphasize that the development of our Craftsmen progresses over time. That the journey and commitment of the line officer may stretch over several years. That simply put, you are now part of the executive of the lodge, and with it comes the responsibility of the office. You must be prepared to engage, to know well the role, responsibility and mechanics of your office, and most importantly, to set the positive example for others to follow. It also encourages one to look forward to the succession of the ensuing office as well as to engage the subtle practice of mentoring and preparing the officer who will succeed you.

As we move forward, the brethren are encouraged to reach out to our Grand Lodge committees. Our committee chairmen and Committee members are working hard to serve you and are always at the ready to assist and support our brethren, our Districts and our Lodges.

With my best fraternal regards.

R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master

M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND M.W. BRO. GEORGE CONTAXAKIS, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC ARE PLEASED TO INVITE ALL MASONS AND THEIR LADIES TO UNITE IN MASONRY

Ontario Masons

The Grand Masters Gala

Tickets \$130.00 EACH

MEN FORMAL ATTIRE
LADIES COCKTAIL DRESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026

1950 MONTREAL ROAD, CORNWALL, ON

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHARITIES OF THE GRAND MASTER'S

United in Masonry

CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR STAY

FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE: (613) 936-5800

TRADITIONAL ROOM WITH 1 QUEEN BED \$139.00-\$162.25
DELUXE SUITE WITH 2 QUEEN BEDS \$199.00-\$199.00
SUPERIOR SUITE \$169.00-\$209.75

BOOK EARLY - RELEASED THAN JANUARY 29, 2026

RATES PER NIGHT INCLUDES BREAKFAST, TAXES FEES

Event Reservations and Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grand-masters-gala-tickets-1636937467029>

Dates to Remember

February 2026

D.D.G.M. Official Visits

Electric Valley No. 100

Monday February 9th, 2026
Dinner 6:30 p.m., Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
MCH
Accompanying Lodge Battlefield No. 61

The Barton No. 6

Wednesday February 11th, 2026
Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
MCH
Accompanying Lodge Westmount No. 671

Landmarks Temple No. 324

Tuesday February 24th, 2026
Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to

Secretarylandmarkstemple@gmail.com

MCH

Accompanying Lodge Wentworth No. 166

March 2026

D.D.G.M. Official Visits

Beach No.475

Monday March 2nd, 2026
Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
MCH
Accompanying Lodge St. Andrews No. 593

Meridian No. 513


Wednesday March 11th, 2026
Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
Ancaster
Accompanying Lodge Hillcrest No. 594

Westmount No. 671

Tuesday March 24th, 2026
Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
Hillcrest
Accompanying Lodge Harmony No. 57


St. Andrews No. 593

Wednesday March 25th, 2026
Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m.
MCH
Accompanying Lodge Electric Valley No. 100

Brock University  **Ontario Masons**

Charles A. Sankey

Lecture in Masonic Studies





Lecturer:
Susan Mitchell Sommers
Professor of History, Emerita
Saint Vincent College
Lisette, PA

Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 3 p.m.
Sean O'Sullivan Theatre,
Brock University


**"Scenes from a Biography
of James Anderson:
Religion and Politics in
Early Eighteenth-Century
English Freemasonry"**

To attend in person at BrockU, please reserve your ticket(s) online by going to sankeylectures.ca and clicking on the **TICKETS** link. Tickets are free. There will also be a livestream for those who cannot attend. No tickets are required for the livestream. The livestream link is live.sankeylectures.ca.



Generously sponsored by


The frontispiece and title page of the Anderson Constitutions (1723)
(Source: United Grand Lodge of England)


 **Ontario Masons**

The Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts


You and your Lady are cordially invited
to the Hamilton Districts'
Reception and Dinner
in honour of

M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland

*Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M.
of Canada in the Province of Ontario*



To be held at the Hamilton Scottish Rite Club Banquet Room
4 Queen Street South, Hamilton, ON
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Reception & Refreshments 5:30 pm, Dinner 7:00 pm
Tickets \$90.00 per person. To Register:



Grand Master's Reception -
2026

<https://pm-abc.ca/grand-masters-reception/>

Installations



Seymour Lodge No. 272 Installation



W. Master Josh Bailey, and
RW. Bro. Cory McCarthy



W. Master Josh Bailey in
King Solomon's Chair

Robbie Burns Day: Celebrating the Legacy of Scotland's Beloved Bard

Every year on January 25th, people around the world gather to celebrate Robbie Burns Day, a festive occasion dedicated to honouring Scotland's national poet.

Robert Burns, also known as Rabbie Burns, was a Scottish poet born on January 25, 1759, in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland. With his insightful verses and passionate embrace of Scottish culture and identity, Burns became an iconic figure in the literary world. His poems, such as "Auld Lang Syne" and "To a Mouse," continue to be cherished worldwide, making him a revered national symbol in Scotland to this day.

Robbie Burns Day is not just about honouring a poet; it is also a celebration of Scottish culture, heritage, and national identity. Scots and individuals of Scottish descent use this occasion to connect with their roots, paying homage to their rich history and expressing pride in their shared traditions. From poetry readings to traditional Scottish music and dance performances, the festivities foster a sense of belonging and cultural unity.

One cannot discuss Robbie Burns Day without mentioning the immortal medleys of Burns himself. His poetry is marked by a deep appreciation for love, nature, and social commentary. From addressing societal inequalities to capturing the sheer beauty and rhythm of everyday life, Burns left behind a treasure trove of lyrical brilliance that continues to captivate generations, transcending boundaries of time and geography.



At the heart of Robbie Burns Day celebrations are the famous Burns Suppers. These gatherings bring together friends, family, and even strangers to commemorate the poet's life and works. Attendees indulge in a feast fit for a king, complete with haggis (a traditional Scottish dish), neeps and tatties (turnips and potatoes), and Scotch whisky. The meal is accompanied by recitations of Burns' poems, lively speeches, and a toast to the "immortal memory" of Rabbie Burns.

Robbie Burns Day is not confined to the borders of Scotland alone. This vibrant celebration has reached far and wide, spreading its influence across the globe. This global celebration serves as a reminder of the poet's profound impact on literature and his ability to touch the hearts and souls of people across different cultures.

Robbie Burns Day is a tribute to the indelible mark that Robert Burns left on the world of literature and the celebration of a nation's heritage. By celebrating his life and works, we not only honour his legacy but also cherish the universal themes he explored and the values he held dear. So, on January 25th, let us raise a glass to the immortal memory of Robbie Burns and revel in the poetic genius that continues to inspire us all.



**Electric Valley Lodge presenting
RW. Bro. Cory McCarthy with the proceeds
from their Robbie Burns Event.
With M.W. Bro. David Cameron in attendance**

Robbie Burns Celebrations

Dancing, Pipes and a Scottish Third Degree, from the Barton, Hugh Murray and Battlefield Lodge events

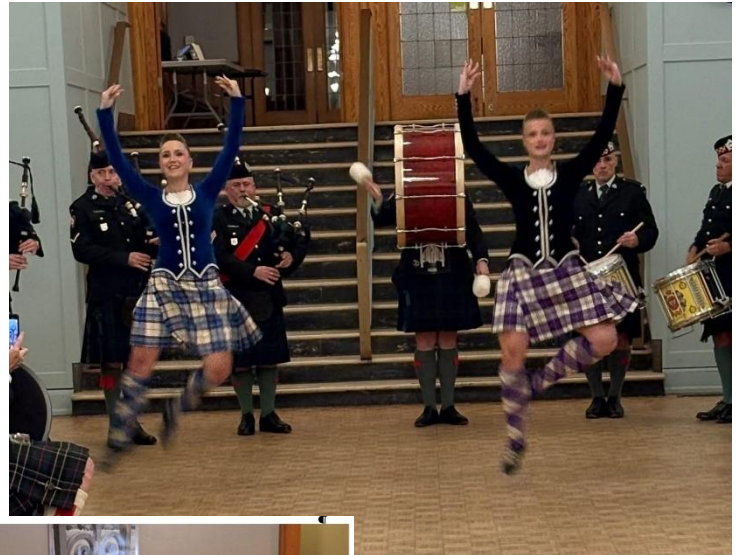



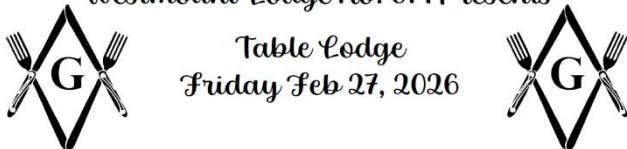
Table Lodge

Some notes on this Masonic event.

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson

Westmount Lodge No. 671 Presents

Table Lodge
Friday Feb 27, 2026



Hillcrest Temple 257 Mohawk Rd West, Hamilton Ontario L9C 1W2
Social Hour: 6PM-7PM
Portion of the proceeds in support of **Dystonia Research Foundation**

A special ceremony with ritual incorporating terminology from centuries ago.
Celebrate with toasts and a great evening of fellowship and revelry!

In Loving Memory of:
R.W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson &
R.W. Bro. Dave Midgley

\$60.00 Per Ticket
Call W.M. Karlous 289-682-7982, J.W. Alex 905-541-3360
S.D. Mike 905-515-7211
Includes 3 Course Dinner
Personal Souvenir "Firing Cannon" used in Toasting Ritual.

A Table Lodge is a ceremonial Masonic dinner passed down through the ages and is a great opportunity for Brothers to share a delicious meal and some historical Masonic ceremony with other members

Back when Table Lodges were first introduced, many members of the lodge were currently or had previously been serving in the military. Because of this, military words and phrases are used to describe different objects and actions during the ceremony. Instead of simply pouring wine into a glass, the person is "charging the cannon" and after giving a ceremonial toast to the group, a person "takes fire" by drinking the wine from their "cannon" or glass. There is also clapping to emulate the sound of cannon fire.

A table lodge is not to be construed as part of our ritual,

The tables are set up in the shape of a horseshoe, or inverted U. The Worshipful Master is placed in the East, facing the middle of the table, with the Chaplain at his right hand and the Wardens at the two ends of the tables in the West. The table lodge should be held in the banquet hall and should be tyled as securely as the lodge room. The Worshipful Master and Wardens should have their gavels and columns.

All that constitutes the table service should be set in three parallel lines. The plates, knives, forks, spoons,

and napkins form the first line. The fruit juice, water glass, coffee cup and firing glass for each person should form the second line. The third line might be composed of such items as individual fruit cocktail and salad dishes, candles, salt and pepper shakers, etc.

The Stewards of the lodge (with helpers) are responsible for charging the cannons prior to each toast and the wind or beverage containers are not to be left on the tables between toasts.

A full course meal is to be served with this table lodge.

A toast at the festive board of an English Lodge can take many forms. It can be short, long, poetic, or prosaic, humorous or serious--but always in good taste. When a toast is to be proposed, the gavels in the East, West and South will sound to alarm the Brethren, and you will act accordingly. At the appropriate time, you will unite with the one proposing the toast in the proper prescribed manner. Inter-spaced between the various toast will be responses and/or short talks, and close attention is requested. Between each of the toasts will be one course of the meal

TRADITIONAL VOCABULARY OF TABLE LODGES:

Glasses are called **CANNONS**
Knives are called **SWORDS**
Wine--**STRONG POWDER**
Forks--**PICKAXES**
Coffee--**BLACK POWDER**
Spoons--**TROWLES**
Water--**WEAK POWDER**
Salt--**WHITE SAND**
Bread--**ROUGH ASHLER**
Pepper--**BLACK SAND**
Plates are called **TILES**

THE CEREMONY OF THE SEVEN TOASTS

RIGHT HAND TO ARMS. (The right hand to the glass)

READY. (The glass is raised breast high, arm extended)

AIM. (The glass is brought to the lips)

FIRE, GOOD FIRE, FIRE ALL. (All Drink)

PRESENT ARMS. (The glass is brought to the second position in unison with the Worshipful Master, the glass is brought to the left breast, then to the right breast, then again to the second position so that the movement makes a triangle. This triangle is made three times: then the glass is brought to the table in three moves- it is first carried a little to the left, then to the right, and finally forcibly in unison to the table.)

THE BATTERY, THREE TIMES THREE (Done)

ALL: VIVAT. VIVAT. VIVAT (Right hand thrust upward with each VIVAT)

ADVANCE SWORDS. (Knife is raised breast high, arm extended forward)

POISE SWORDS. (Knife blade is elevated slightly - about 45 degrees)

SALUTE WITH SWORDS. (Knife handle is brought to within a few inches of the chin with the blade elevated about 45 degrees)

SWORDS AT REST. (Knife handles are carried in unison forcibly to the table preferably in a flat position to prevent table damage.)

THE BATTERY, THREE TIMES THREE (Done)

ALL. VIVAT. VIVAT. VIVAT. (Right are thrust forward with each VIVAT)

The foregoing should be done with the exactness and evenness so that everyone will execute all movements in unison and the firing glasses and knives shall strike the table simultaneously!

FIRST TOAST: TO THE COUNTRY – Head of State

SECOND TOAST -- TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER AND MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE

THIRD TOAST - To the Worshipful Master (by the S. & J.W.)

FOURTH TOAST -- TO THE WARDENS

FIFTH TOAST –TO OUR PAST MASTERS

SIXTH TOAST – TO THE NEW INITIATES AND VISITING BRETHREN

SEVENTH TOAST –TO ALL MASONS WHERESOEVER SPREAD OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

Enjoy

Scottish Rite Club Events




[Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance \\$150/couple - Doors open at 5:30pm Dinner at 6:30pm Entertainment to follow. - Scottish Rite Club](#)

Saturday Feb 14th

Treat your sweetheart to an unforgettable evening of gourmet dining and live music. Enjoy a curated four-course meal followed by a night on the dance floor

Entertainment by "Joel and Adam"
Dance the night away with these talented musicians.



 <p>Portion of Proceeds going to Dystonia Research Foundation</p>	<p><i>Westmount Lodge#671 Presents Table Lodge in memory of R.W. Bro. D. Wayne Robinson & V.W. Bro. Dave Midgley</i></p> <p><i>Friday February 27, 2026 Door open at 6:00 PM Lodge starts at 7:30PM Hillcrest Masonic Temple 257 Mohawk Rd W, Hamilton</i></p>	
	<p>072 \$60.00 072</p> <p><i>Meal, Cannon, door prize, raffles.</i></p>	

\$60.00 Per Ticket
Call W.M. Karlous 289-682-7982,
J.W. Alex 905-541-3360
S.D. Mike 905-515-7211
Includes 3 Course Dinner
Personal Souvenir "Firing Cannon"
used in Toasting Ritual

Save the Date

26th Al McIntyre Scotch Tasting Event



May 1, 2026, 7pm
\$85 a ticket
Selection of scotches
Cigars Courtesy of Hannah Khoury
Hor D'oeuvres
Prize Bottle

Black Tie Event or Dark Suit
For Event Ticket Purchase contact:
Steve Thiede : 905-389-0261 sthiede@sympatico.ca
Gary Magwood : 905-517-6091 garymagwood@gmail.com
Chris Cleaver : 289-308-7186 ccleaver2@gmail.com

Masonic Education Don't Be Scammed

<https://www.freemason.com/how-to-avoid-email-scammer/>

How to Avoid an Email Scammer

The infographic is titled "Phishing" in large blue letters. Below it, "WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW" is written in white on a teal background. A central box titled "SCAMMERS ARE AFTER YOUR" contains four icons: a padlock for "Passwords", a piggy bank for "Financial Info", a person with a list for "Identity", and a money bag for "Money". Below this, "WHY DO WE FALL FOR THESE SCAMS?" lists "Urgency", "Desire to please", "Greed", "Curiosity", "Complacency", and "Fear" next to a computer monitor icon. A row of ten human icons shows one person being targeted by a blue arrow. Below that, it states "PROBABILITY THAT A PHISHING MESSAGE SUCCEEDS 1 out of 10!". At the bottom, two boxes list "WATCH OUT FOR" (Spelling & Grammar Errors, Sender Address, Things That Sound Too Good to be True) and "BEWARE OF UNSOLICITED MESSAGES" (Attachments, Links, Login Pages).

A few tips for how to catch an email scammer. In today's world we live with a digital presence at every turn. Our personal information and our data lives on a computer, a phone, or a tablet. While modern technology offers many benefits, it's imperative to be aware of the common threats that accompany it. One of these threats involves, "internet pirates" or scammers who try to steal personal information like account numbers and passwords, or will attempt to solicit money via email. These scammers can do damage to your finances and personal accounts, but if you understand how to protect yourself you can stop the crime before it happens. To help, we've created an easy guide on [how to prioritize your online safety](#) below.

1. **Never provide your personal information in response to an unsolicited request**, over email. Emails created by phishers (fakers) may look exactly like the real thing. If you did not initiate the communication, you should not provide any information. Remember, scammers can get your email

address or other contact information from a variety of online sources, so make sure you're particularly careful with which websites you're sharing this information.

2. **If you believe the contact may be legitimate, contact the institution yourself.** For example, if you believe that an email request is not a scammer, submit an inquiry to the Grand Lodge of Ohio at MemberResources@freemason.com to confirm. Until you've heard back, hold off on continuing any conversations or providing any information.

3. **Never provide your password over email or in response to an unsolicited request.** The Grand Lodge of Ohio would never ask you to verify your bank account information online or solicit money from you via email. Thieves armed with this information and your account number can help themselves to your savings.

As many have already experienced there is a rash of scammers emailing our Brothers using the Grand Master as "Click Bait." Most of them are asking that you only contact them via email and want you to send them gift cards for him to disperse. Here are a few additional best practices when looking at an email.

1. Check the email address that is sending it to you. If it is coming from the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge of Ohio Office the email will almost always end in one of these two ways "@freemason.com" or "@gloho.com".
2. The Grand Master will never start an email with "Hi." If you were receiving an email from MWB Grindle he would start it with "Good afternoon Brother" or "Brother XX,"
3. The Grand Master will also have an email footer at the end of his email with his name and title.

If by chance you do fall victim to a scammer:

1. Contact your financial institution and the Grand Lodge of Ohio immediately and alert it to the situation.
2. If you have disclosed sensitive information in a phishing attack, you should also contact one of the three major credit bureaus and discuss whether you need to place a fraud alert on your file, which will help prevent thieves from opening a new account in your name.

Share this blog with your Lodge Secretary as a resource for further discussion during your next stated Lodge meeting.

Editor's Page

From The District Secretary's Desk - Preparing for Your Official Visit

If you've ever wondered what the District Secretary is checking during an Official Visit, here's a quick look behind the scenes at the administrative review.

Each visit includes a brief but important examination of a Lodge's records and required documents to ensure everything is in good order and up to date.

Below is a checklist that is reviewed in advance to help the administrative portion proceed efficiently:

- Membership Register/Roll Book
- The Secretary Minute Book
- Secretary's Cash Book (Petty Cash) - if any
- Auditor's Report
- The Building Compliance Form, properly signed
- The Lodge's Insurance Certificate, properly signed
- The Lodge's current insurance policy (if separate from the certificate), properly signed
- A copy of the Treasurer's Report together with the Financial Review Letter
- The current Grand Lodge officer list should be present in the register

In addition, we look over the following materials, which the Secretary should have available at any meeting:

- The Book of By-Laws
- The Book of the Work
- The Book of the Constitution
- The Book of the Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers
- The Book of the Mechanics (Red)

Additional information may be requested or discussed during the administrative portion of the visit, but having these items organized beforehand makes the process much easier for everyone involved.

January often feels like a natural reset for many of us, and it provides an ideal opportunity for Lodges to ensure their records and materials are in good order before the official visit.

With five visits already completed, one thing has become clear: a bit of preparation ahead of time goes a long way in helping the evening run smoothly and without unnecessary delays.

If you have any questions about your upcoming Official Visit or would like clarification on any of the items listed above, please feel welcome to reach out at distsec.south@hamiltonmasons.ca

Fraternally,
W. Bro. Marius Tokaci
District Secretary, Hamilton South District, 2025/2026

IN MEMORIAM

Nothing reported



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We will cherish him in our hearts forever!**

Editors Note

Dear Readers,

Central to this month is following up with pictures of all the Robbie Burns events from January. Looking at the shared images, we have such an active District.

This month has more timely internet assistance, I shared a blog from the Grand Lodge of Ohio that was the basis for some masonic education I delivered in Landmarks Temple Lodge this month. We also added some more Robbie Burns content and typical Table Lodge celebrations.

A valentines Dance, multiple Official Visits, A Grand Master Gala in Cornwall this month and Hamilton in April. It's a busy 2026, and I encourage everyone to send along their idea, photos and submissions.

Happy Groundhog Day, and don't forget Valentine's!!

S&F

Glen
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Ontario Masons

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