



May 2021



Brethren:

Brethren, as this Masonic year comes to an end, with no change in our lodge meeting status but at least hope for an improvement, it is important to remain strong and take part in the many opportunities to meet your brethren online. I have a fair bit of “Zoom” fatigue as I expect others may as well, but I have to say that the coffee meetings and educational presentations among others have been a welcome respite from the day to day routines of lockdown. As a gentle reminder for brethren who have not been keeping up their dues payments for one reason or another, please remember that your lodge still has hefty costs for Grand Lodge returns, utilities, taxes, and insurance, which continue regardless of physical attendance at the lodge and with no opportunity to raise funds or initiate candidates, your prompt dues payment is more important than ever. Please consider this and if you are experiencing financial difficulties, reach out to your lodge. They may be able to assist. To give up the craft now would be a shame.

As previously mentioned, we will vote online in June this year and I am excited to announce we have two worthy candidates registered to run for the office of DDGM in our district. W. Bro’s David Spencer and Lionel Rudd. I encourage you to register to vote when that process becomes available and show your support for these brethren. We will be available to answer any questions you have regarding this new method of election. As a supporter of this district voting at home, albeit for other reasons than a lockdown, I look forward to learning and adopting this possibly into the future. For those eligible to vote for Grand Lodge officers, once you have registered to vote for DDGM, you will be ready to go for those elections being held at the virtual Annual Communication in July.

Take care Brethren,

R.W. Bro. Robert J. Lipic
District Deputy Grand Master
Sudbury Manitoulin District



**REMARKS FROM OUR
DISTRICT CHAPLAIN**



**W. Bro. David Squarzolo
District Chaplain**

What is important in your life? If we surveyed all the brethren in our district, it is likely we would see common threads, along with answers unique to each brother. Family and friends being important would come as no surprise. There would also be other answers, too that are more diverse such as riding your motorcycle, tending your lawn and garden, playing your guitar, attending your annual fishing or hunting trip, and many more, each of them specific to the brother.

Over the past year, many of us have needed or been forced to revisit what is important. Health and staying healthy continues to be pushed daily and there is no escaping what is going on in our world today and how we are required to conduct ourselves. I would suggest that the past 12 months have caused many of us to stop and evaluate our priorities and what is important to us. Has anything changed for you? Have you reassigned your priorities or decided that something that you once thought terribly important has now been relegated in your personal standings?

Throughout the history of our Craft, there have been significant world events. Our ritual has evolved over time. The words and phrases used have been edited or changed. Something that was once said in our jurisdiction might only be heard elsewhere. Even some of the symbols used in our allegory have been substituted or reinterpreted. What has remained unchanged though and what binds us together as Masons is our shared attitude and belief that we can improve our world and improve ourselves when we follow the tenets and virtues embedded in the ritual of Freemasonry and informed by the teachings of the Great Architect. We need to allow these principles to permeate us to ensure that we continue to be true Masons, regardless if we are talking to a family member, commenting online in a news story, driving our car, or when the day comes, sitting in a Lodge meeting.

A global pandemic has changed a few things for us, but what it means to be a true Mason – well that hasn't changed at all. Our lessons are as important now as they were 300 years ago or even a year ago. May the Great Architect promote Masonic virtues in all our lives and help us strive toward becoming the Perfect Ashlar.

Fraternally,
W. Bro. David Squarzolo



***No Masonic, Concordant Body or Shrine
in-person meetings are presently scheduled
for May***

Please refer to your group for instructions



ILL OR IN DISTRESSED CIRCUMSTANCES

Lodge Secretaries are asked to forward this information, by the end of the month, to our District Chaplain for inclusion into the current Newsletter.

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above



Ill or in Distressed Circumstances

All Brethren who struggle through the hardship of the pandemic.



Did You Know?

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming

Protocol & Etiquette



Protocol: *The established rules of behaviour for formal occasions.*

Etiquette: *The customs or rules of behaviour regarded as correct in social life, or in professional interaction and official intercommunication.*

Manners: *Socially acceptable behaviour; courteous in manner and respectful in address; proper deportment. In short – what we say, how we act, what we wear, the way things are done, and how we proceed during a lodge meeting and a festive board.*

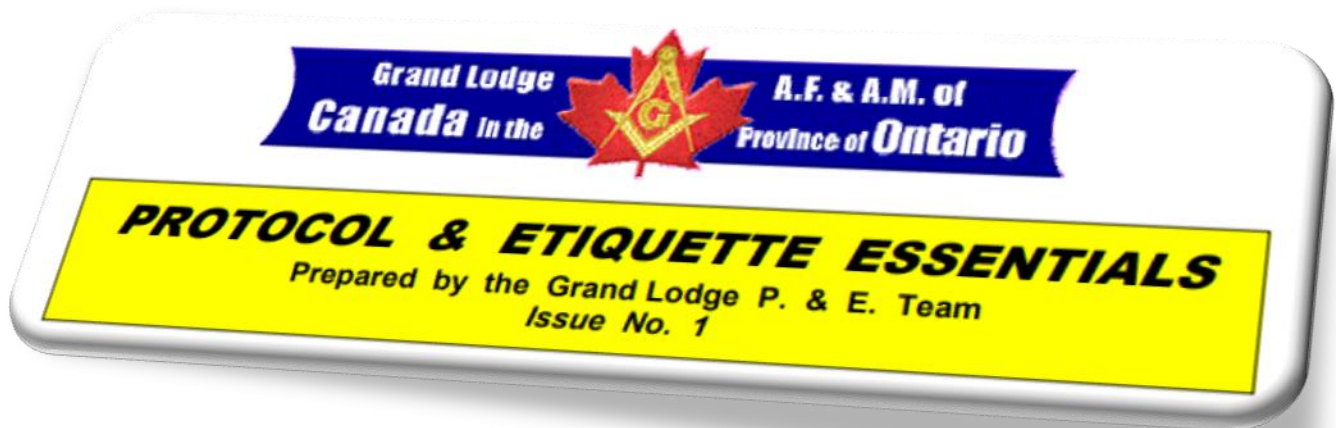
What then is the whole purpose and object of protocol? It is to set some simple rules “rules of the game” based on common courtesy, common custom, and, above all common sense. When all the players know and play by the same basic rules, the game can be enjoyed and everyone wins. Protocol and etiquette enable us to feel comfortable on formal occasions because we know how to act without hesitancy, awkwardness or self-consciousness. In consequence, we will be more confident, and our meetings will be more enjoyable.

Credit: M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels, PGM.



It has been said that: Masonic etiquette belongs to the empire of good manners, together with certain additional concepts peculiar to Freemasonry. We study it because we are convinced of its power to help maintain harmony. It is a form of courtesy to the individual and a manifestation of respect to the Craft. Every aspect of the entire Masonic system promotes an attitude of reverence and respect in order to sustain unity and harmony. Harmony is the first law of the Lodge. Where discord enters, Freemasonry leaves. For one man to live in unity with another is the very essence of the Craft. Etiquette helps schisms and discord from arising.

Credit: G. L. of New York, Protocol and Etiquette Review.





Paavo's Pulchritudinous Poetry

(R.W. Bro. P. Liukko)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a German Poet, novelist, statesman and scientist i.e. a renaissance man. He was born in Frankfurt in 1749 and initiated into Amalia Lodge in Weimar in 1780. Amalia lodge worked under the Rite of strict observance which based its origins in the Knights Templar. The lodge went dark in 1782 and remained so until 1808 when it reopened having renounced its ties to Templarism. Amalia Lodge continues today. Goethe never held office in the lodge but exerted a strong influence on freemasonry throughout his life. He died in 1832.

The Masonic Lodge

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**The Mason's ways are A Type of Existence
And his persistence Is as the days are
Of men in this world. The future hides it**

**Gladness and Sorrow, We press still thorow, *
Naught that abides in it Daunting us - onward.
And Solemn before us Veiled, the dark portal,**

**Goal of all mortal; Stars are silent o'er us
Graves under us silent. While earnest thou gazest
Comes boding of terror, Comes phantasm and error**

**Perplexes the bravest With doubt and misgiving.
But heard are the voices - Heard are the Sages,
The Worlds and the Ages; "Choose well; your choice is**

**"Brief and yet endless; "Here eyes do regard you
"In eternity's stillness; "Here is all fullness,
"Ye have to reward you, "Work, and despair not."**

***An ancient form of through**



Mentor's Minute

W. Bro. Robert Tailleir

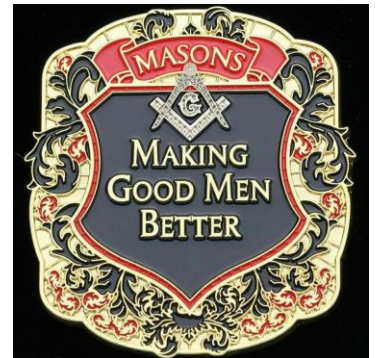
Mentor / Education Lead

Phase 3 is where the transition from a “good man” to a “better man” takes place.

After you have, in phase 1, “moved the mountain”...one stone at a time and have served your brethren in phase 2, by delivering the work and perfecting that delivery, you can realize phase 3...living by the precepts of Freemasonry.

The craft is unique among institutions because it espouses lofty ideals forgotten by most other organizations. Ideals such as:

1. Striving for perfection; the two ashlar
2. Humility as we enter the craft and proceed through its degrees
3. Trust in our brethren and in the Great Architect
4. Honour as we take the oaths of admittance and the various offices
5. The natural equality of all men as sons of Adam
6. Charity
7. Mercy
8. Justice
9. Benevolence
10. Duty
11. Fidelity
12. Obedience
13. Virtue both public and private
14. Reverence
15. Gratitude



This is only a partial list however it is our ideals that distinguish our Brotherhood from all other organizations and it is in phase 3...living these ideals in our daily and Masonic lives that we raise ourselves from being “good men” to that of being “better men.”

As a humorous aside: my humility is something I am most proud of.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

W. Bro. Tailleir



For your browsing pleasure....

Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario Website

<https://grandlodge.on.ca>

Sudbury – Manitoulin District Website

<http://www.smmasons.com>

Sudbury – Manitoulin District Blog

<http://sudburymanitoulinmasons.blogspot.com>

Nickel Lodge Website

<http://www.nickellodge.ca>

Sudbury Shrine Club Blog

<http://sudburyshriners.blogspot.com>

Ontario Freemasons Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioMasons/about>





The District & Beyond

Brethren, this is the spot reserved for pictures and commentaries on what's happening in the District.

Why not send a picture of you and, if you'd like, friends or Family etc. etc. etc.??



Editor's note: *Brother Cotton is a Master Mason and a member of Nickel Lodge No. 427 G.R.C.*

Sergeant Ghislain Cotton, CD

In June 2019, Sergeant Ghislain Cotton humbly and proudly represented First Nations, Métis and Inuit CAF members as Eagle Staff bearer. As he did, his two oldest sons are following in his father's and his maternal grandfather's boots of military service. They are carrying on this family tradition. Sgt Cotton recently accepted the Eagle Staff bearer role for the 75th anniversary of the Italian Campaign.





Sergeant Ghislain Cotton was born on 9 February 1970 in Loretteville, Quebec. His father, Jean-Charles Cotton is Scottish/Irish and his mother, Micheline Bond, is First Nations of Atikamekw/Wendat ancestry. His family lived across Canada and in Europe. His father enlisted in 1964 and served first as an infantryman with the Royal 22^e Régiment. He took a brief break from the military to help his family as a fisherman in Rivière-au-Renard. In the early 1970s, he rejoined the forces to pursue his passion as an Intelligence Operator.

“I suspect my father had our family as his ‘cover’ to gather intelligence, as obscure backgrounds, such as communications antennae, appear in some photos.”

From left to right: Warrant Officer Jean-Charles Cotton presents his son, Private Ghislain Cotton, with his Basic Military Qualification certificate in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, November 1989. (Photo: Garrison St-Jean, Imagery Section)

Sgt Cotton spent his best childhood years in Lahr, Germany. During his 5-year posting there, his father took many family photos of their mini “vacations” in Europe. Sgt Cotton says now, “I suspect my father had our family as his ‘cover’ to gather intelligence, as obscure backgrounds, such as communications antennae, appear in some photos.”

Growing up, his mother shared few stories about her father, Irené Bond, who served in the Merchant Marine in the Second World War.





He sailed on ships taking munition and supplies from Québec City to Halifax, and crossed the Atlantic a few times to the United Kingdom. "I know little about my grandfather's service as my mother grew up in a convent with little contact with him," explains Sgt Cotton. "He died when I was a teenager." His mother drew on her Indigenous traditions and teachings when he and his brothers were sick. "Rather than telling stories," he says, "she always sourced ingredients in the forest to make natural remedies for us."

Sgt Cotton joined the CAF on 31 Aug 1989 in Chicoutimi. He completed the QL5 Photo Technician training in Halifax. He shot events, incidents or investigative photography on many ships including a submarine (ironically, the HMCS Ojibwa). He continued his public relations and photography career across Canada. He filmed the 1996 Saguenay floods in Quebec from a Griffon helicopter and took investigative photos of the CF18 crash in Iqualuit in 1998. Sgt Cotton worked to produce, print, retouch process and do digital imagery in the CAF Photo Unit in Ottawa. He deployed to National Defence Headquarters after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in 2001.

Promoted in 2003, Master Corporal Cotton taught at the CAF photo school in Borden and at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in St Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec, in 2010. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2016 and since then, is posted at the CAF recruiting detachment in Sudbury, Ontario.

"I'd say [it's] more than an honour, as it is also a privilege and...oh so humbling...to represent all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people of the CAF."

He is very involved with the Ojibwe First Nation community in Sudbury. "It feels really good for my family and I to reconnect and learn my Indigenous roots," he says. This spring, he was speechless when offered the role of Eagle Staff bearer for official events commemorating the 75th anniversary of D Day and the Battle of Normandy overseas. "I'd say [it's] more than an honour, as it is also a privilege and...oh so humbling...to represent all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people of the CAF," he explains. Sgt Cotton recently accepted to once again take on this role for the 75th anniversary of the Italian Campaign.



From left to right: Sgt Cotton with his wife, Darlene Jeffreys and son Pierre-Alexandre at Atikameksheng Pow-wow, summer 2019. (Photo: Ghislain Cotton)

“Without my wife, Darlene, I would never have become who I am today. Every soldier needs people for support. The real heroes are our partners who stand behind us.”

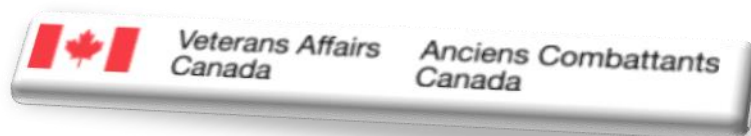
Of his 30-year military service, Sgt Cotton's trip as Eagle Staff bearer stands out the most. But his years in uniform are peppered by good and bad memories. “People expect only those who serve outside Canada to live atrocities. We live them here too and those memories keep coming back—which is why I keep thinking of the good ones. It helps,” he says. “Without my wife, Darlene, I would never have become who I am today. Every soldier needs people for support. The real heroes are our partners who stand behind us.”



His sons continue the family tradition of military service. Pierre Alexandre, a retired infantry officer with the 6th Battalion R22R, will study international political science and may become an Intelligence Officer. This summer, Sylvain completed the first CAF Aboriginal Grey Wolf basic training program as a supply tech. He plans to train “as a regular forces construction tech and go to war torn countries to help rebuild their hospitals and schools.” Anthony, his third son, wishes to become a teacher.

In honour of Veterans’ Week, Sgt Cotton represents his family and ancestors as a Face of Freedom. “I really appreciate this week as it honours those who served or are currently serving” he says. “It is very important everyone knows what was done for them in the past so future generations have a good place to live.”

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Submitted by V.W. Bro. Merv Lees

LONELY EMBER STORY

Author Unknown

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously had been attending Meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The Master found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his Master's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The Master made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.



Just before the Master was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the Master reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery masonic education. I shall be back in Lodge next Month."





Editor's Note:

Article submissions, pictures and ideas for content are always welcomed. Thank you to this month's contributors

Please submit your article in Word format if possible.

Submissions should be sent to:

robfanfleming@sympatico.ca

I endeavour to publish at the first of each month.

Thank you



**THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF
ONTARIO**

**R. W. Bro. R. J Lipic's
2019 – 2020 District Charity
is the Neo Kids Foundation
located at Health Sciences
North serving the Region**

Please contact W. Bro. John Mischczak
Masonic Foundation Representative
for information.
cell (705) 507-6969
email jm.mischczak@hotmail.ca.



**Sudbury and Manitoulin
District
DDGM Charity 2019-2020
No. 2679**

WHY DONATE

Your donations to NEO Kids Foundation directly contribute to existing programs and services currently provided by NEO Kids. Your donation will also help us in achieving our ultimate goal, of building a bigger home to accommodate the growing needs for the children in Northeastern Ontario.

Children are not small adults. Just like them, their health care needs are unique. Your donation will help to purchase vital pieces of equipment, conduct life-changing research and increase awareness for children's health needs.

For Masons giving to a cause.

**We request your donation to this
worthy charity supporting our
DDGM.**

Please make cheques payable to:
"The Masonic Foundation of Ontario"
Memo section: DDGM Project No. 2679