



## ARCHIVAL REPORT 2025-2026







***“The greatest strength of any lodge is not found in its walls, but in the brotherhood that binds its members together.”***



# Preface

This archival report for Ottawa District No. 1, covering the Masonic Year 2025–2026, is presented with a deep sense of responsibility and gratitude.

I was appointed District Historian by Right Worshipful Brother Abraham R. Garcia, District Deputy Grand Master, on April 28, 2026. Though appointed late in the term, I accepted the role with enthusiasm and a commitment to preserving the history of our District.

My objective has been to create a concise yet meaningful record of the people, events, and accomplishments that defined the year. Beyond simply documenting activities, this volume seeks to capture the spirit and character of Ottawa District No. 1 while providing a useful historical reference for future generations.

Drawing upon my professional background in publishing and design, I have also introduced a more contemporary approach to the presentation of this report, with the goal of making it both informative and visually engaging while maintaining the dignity and traditions of the Craft.

As with any publication of this scope, omissions are inevitable. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness; however, some information, photographs, biographies, and events may be absent due to late submissions, unavailable records, publication-quality limitations, editorial considerations, or simple human error. Such omissions should not be interpreted as a reflection of their importance, but rather as the practical realities of compiling a historical record from many sources within a limited timeframe.

It is my hope that this volume will serve as both a record of the year under review and a lasting contribution to the preservation of the history of Ottawa District No. 1.

Respectfully submitted,



Bro. Daniel J Duff  
District Historian  
Communications Chair  
Ottawa District I



## OTTAWA DISTRICT I MASONS ARCHIVAL REPORT 2025-2026

Written, Designed and Submitted by

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Ottawa District I 2025-2026

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Master of Ottawa District I*

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**Ontario Masons**



# Acknowledgements

The preparation, research, writing, design, and production of this Ottawa District No. 1 Historical Review has been, for the most part, a personal undertaking. While many Brethren contributed information, photographs, records, and assistance along the way, the responsibility for compiling, researching, editing, designing, and assembling this document has rested primarily with the District Historian.

I extend my sincere thanks to Right Worshipful Brother Abraham R. Garcia, District Deputy Grand Master, for his confidence, encouragement, and support throughout the year. I am also grateful to the District Secretary and the various District Chairmen who provided records, updates, photographs, and information when requested.

My thanks are also extended to the District Secretary, the District Chairmen, and the members of the District Photography Team, whose contributions of records, reports, photographs, and information helped ensure that many of the activities of the District were preserved within these pages.

Special appreciation is owed to the Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Historians, and members of the Lodges of Ottawa District No. 1 who submitted year-end reviews, photographs, biographies, historical records, and other materials for inclusion. The strength of any historical publication is directly tied to the information provided by those who participate in its creation.

Finally, I acknowledge Most Worshipful Brother Jamie R. Ireland, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and Right Worshipful Brother Arthur Michael Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master, for their leadership and stewardship of the Craft during the year under review.

To all who contributed, whether through the submission of information, the sharing of photographs, or the preservation of records, I offer my sincere thanks. It is through these collective efforts that the history of our District continues to be preserved for future generations.

Thank You.







This report is reverently dedicated to the memory of those Brethren who, during the past year, have laid down the working tools of this earthly life and been called to the Grand Lodge Above.

With gratitude, we remember their steady hands, their guiding words, and their quiet acts of kindness that strengthened our Craft and enriched our lives. Each Brother, in his own way, contributed to the light we continue to carry—through fellowship, charity, and an unwavering commitment to the principles of Freemasonry.

Though they are no longer present in our lodges, their legacy endures in the lessons they imparted, the friendships they forged, and the example they set for those who follow. May we honour their memory not only in reflection, but in our continued labour—striving always to build upon the foundation they helped lay.

Until we meet again, may they rest in peace, in the eternal presence of the Grand Architect of the Universe.



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# District Deputy Grand Master's Message

As the Masonic year draws to a close, it is both my duty and my privilege to reflect upon the labours, accomplishments, and spirit that have defined our District over the past twelve months.

This year has been marked not only by steady progress, but by a renewed sense of purpose within our Lodges. From well-attended regular meetings to meaningful degree work, the Craft has been alive and active in every corner of the District. It has been especially gratifying to witness the care and dignity with which our rituals have been conducted, reflecting a deep respect for our traditions and a commitment to excellence.

We have welcomed new Brethren into our ranks—men of integrity and promise—who now begin their own Masonic journeys. At the same time, we have been reminded of the importance of mentorship, as experienced members continue to guide and instruct with patience and wisdom. This harmony between generations is the very foundation upon which our future rests.

Our Lodges have also demonstrated commendable dedication to charity and community involvement. Whether through organized initiatives or quiet acts of kindness, the principles of relief and brotherly love have been put into action in ways that truly reflect the heart of Freemasonry. These efforts, often carried out without fanfare, speak volumes about the character of our members.

Travel throughout the District has afforded me the opportunity to experience firsthand the unique character of each Lodge, while also recognizing the shared values that unite us. I have been warmly received at every visit, and I extend my sincere thanks for the hospitality and fellowship shown to me throughout the year.

Of course, no year is without its challenges. Yet, it is in meeting these challenges with resolve and unity that we strengthen our bonds. The resilience shown by our Brethren is a testament to the enduring strength of our Institution.

I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to the Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and all Officers who have given so generously of their time and energy. Your leadership is the cornerstone of our success. Likewise, I thank every Brother who has contributed—whether through attendance, participation, or quiet support—for it is through collective effort that our District thrives.

As we look ahead to the coming year, let us carry forward the momentum we have built. Let us continue to strive for improvement, to support one another, and to uphold the principles that define us as Freemasons.

May harmony prevail, and may the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide and bless our labours.



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "R. Garcia".

R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia  
District Deputy Grand Master Ottawa District I





# District Secretary's Message

As we bring another Masonic year to its close, I am pleased to offer a brief reflection on the administrative labours and accomplishments within our District.

The past year has been a busy and productive one from a Secretariat perspective. The steady flow of correspondence, reports, and returns has required diligence and consistency, and I am grateful for the cooperation received from each Lodge. Your timely submissions and attention to detail have ensured that the business of the District and Grand Lodge has been conducted efficiently and in good order.

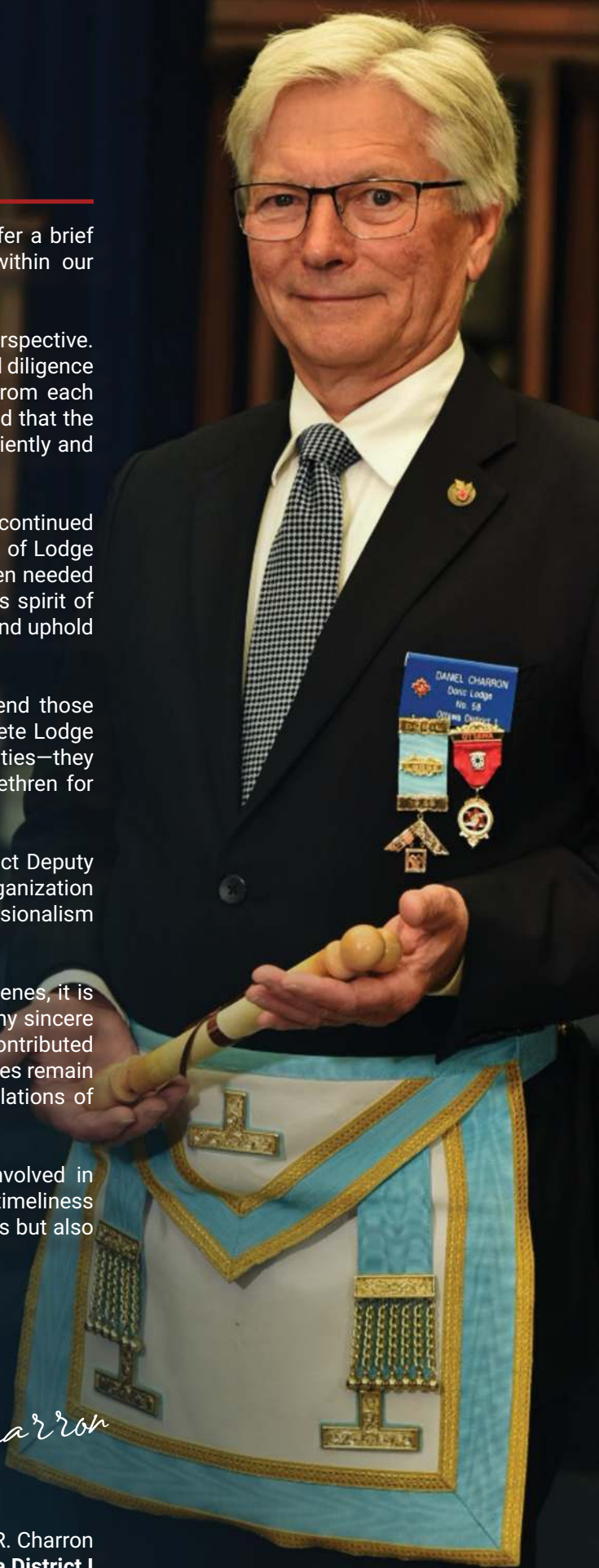
One of the most encouraging aspects of this year has been the continued improvement in communication across the District. The willingness of Lodge Secretaries to engage, share information, and seek clarification when needed has greatly enhanced our collective effectiveness. It is through this spirit of cooperation that we maintain the smooth operation of our Lodges and uphold the standards expected of us.

Record-keeping remains a cornerstone of our work, and I commend those who have taken particular care in maintaining accurate and complete Lodge documentation. These records are not merely administrative necessities—they are the living history of our Craft, preserving the legacy of our Brethren for generations to come.

I would also like to acknowledge the support provided to the District Deputy Grand Master throughout his official visits. The preparation and organization demonstrated at each Lodge have reflected a high standard of professionalism and respect for the office, and it has not gone unnoticed.

While much of the work of a Secretary is carried out behind the scenes, it is essential to the strength and continuity of our Institution. I extend my sincere thanks to all Lodge Secretaries, Treasurers, and Officers who have contributed their time and effort this year. Your dedication ensures that our Lodges remain well-governed and properly aligned with the Constitution and regulations of the Craft.

As we look toward the coming year, I encourage all Brethren involved in administrative roles to continue striving for clarity, accuracy, and timeliness in all matters. By doing so, we not only ease the burden of our duties but also strengthen the foundation upon which our District stands. Wishing you all a productive and harmonious year ahead.



*Daniel Charron*

W. Bro. Daniel R. Charron  
District Secretary Ottawa District I





# District Charity

## The Perley Health Centre

For the Masonic year 2025–2026, the District Charity, as thoughtfully selected by Abraham R. Garcia, is the Perley Health—an institution of remarkable significance within the Ottawa community and beyond.

Perley Health stands as a unique and forward-thinking community dedicated to empowering Seniors and Veterans to live their lives with dignity, purpose, and fulfillment. As one of the largest long-term care homes in Ontario, it is home to more than 600 residents, including both Seniors and Veterans, who reside within its long-term care facilities and independent living apartments. The organization has built a reputation not only for the quality of its care, but for its holistic approach to well-being—one that encompasses physical health, emotional support, and meaningful social engagement.

Beyond residential care, Perley Health provides a broad and continually expanding range of clinical, therapeutic, and recreational services. These programs extend not only to those who reside within its walls, but also to individuals and families across the wider region. This outreach reflects a deep commitment to community integration and ensures that its impact is felt far beyond its immediate population.

What distinguishes Perley Health as truly exceptional is its role as a centre for research, education, and clinical innovation. Through its Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care, the organization actively conducts and shares practical, evidence-based research aimed at improving the quality of care for aging populations. This work contributes meaningfully to the advancement of healthcare practices, both locally and nationally. In addition, Perley Health serves as a vital training ground for future caregivers, offering hands-on learning opportunities that prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals with the skills, compassion, and understanding required in this essential field.

The selection of Perley Health as this year's District Charity reflects the core values of Freemasonry: compassion, service, and a steadfast commitment to the well-being of others. By supporting an institution that so profoundly enhances the lives of Seniors and Veterans—many of whom have given greatly in service to their country—the Brethren of Ottawa District No. 1 reaffirm their dedication to making a meaningful and lasting difference within their community.

Throughout this masonic year the masons of **Ottawa District I have collectively raised over \$20,000.00** for The Perley Health Centre this year. (Including the 33% top up from the Masonic Foundation of Ontario)

Further information about the remarkable work of Perley Health can be found through their official website. [perleyhealth.ca](http://perleyhealth.ca).



**Perley  
Health**

Centre of Excellence  
in Frailty-Informed Care™





# Grand Lodge Officers 2025-2026





# M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland

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

Born and raised in the farming community near Strathroy, Ontario, M.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland developed a lifelong connection to agriculture at an early age, assisting his grandparents on the family farm. He graduated from Ridgetown Agricultural College in 1985 with a diploma in Field Crops and Livestock, later balancing his own farming career with 29 years of service as an Equipment Operator for the Township of Adelaide-Metcalf before returning to farming full time in 2016.

He married his high school sweetheart, Kelly, in 1988, and together they raised four sons: Matthew, Jesse, Benjamin, and Lucas.

Initiated into Ionic Lodge No. 328 in 1996, he shared the early part of his Masonic journey with his grandfather. He served as Worshipful Master in 2003 and was appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 2010. A deeply meaningful moment in his Masonic life was the initiation of his eldest son, Matthew, who sadly passed away in 2012.

M.W. Bro. Ireland has served extensively at the District and Grand Lodge levels, including roles on the Seminars and Workshops Committee, Cornerstone Committee (later as Team Leader), and the DDGM Orientation (Preparation) Committee. He also served as Lodge Secretary from 2015 to 2023.

His broader Masonic involvement includes membership in Mocha Temple, the Strathocha Shrine Club, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and the York Rite, where he was honoured as a Past First Principal.

Elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2017, he later served on its Management Committee, chairing both the Community Outreach and Masonic Education pillars. He became a Director of the MasoniChip Foundation of Ontario in 2020 and was elected Deputy Grand Master in 2022.

In 2024, he was elected and installed as the 85th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario and also serves as Vice President of the All Canada Conference of Canadian Grand Masters.

A proud grandfather of twins, Akira Marie and Marley Rae, he remains deeply committed to family, Freemasonry, and his passion for competitive plowing—regularly participating in the International Plowing Match with his 1947 McCormick Deering W4 tractor.





A portrait of R.W. Bro. Arthur Michael DiCecco, a middle-aged man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a dark tuxedo jacket over a white shirt and bow tie. He is adorned with a blue and gold Masonic collar and a large gold star pendant. He is also wearing a blue and gold Masonic apron with intricate embroidery. The background shows a bookshelf filled with books.

# R.W. Bro. Arthur Michael DiCecco

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

M.W. Bro. DiCecco and his wife, Nathalie, have been happily married for 35 years and reside in Etobicoke, Ontario. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Meaghan and Laura. Professionally, he is the Owner and CEO of a Project and Construction Management firm, with more than three decades of experience delivering complex projects across the financial, corporate, institutional, and retail sectors.

His Masonic journey is marked by dedicated service at the Lodge, District, and Grand Lodge levels. A member and Past Master (2010–2011) of Ionic Lodge No. 25, he has chaired and served on numerous Lodge and District committees. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for the Toronto Don Valley District in 2012–2013 and has held several leadership roles, including Chairman of the Grand Master's Reception Committee for the five Toronto and York Districts and Past President of both the Toronto Don Valley District Wardens' Association and the Grand Lodge Officers Association for the five Toronto and York Districts.

At the Grand Lodge level, M.W. Bro. DiCecco has contributed extensively through committee and governance work. He has served on the Brock University Partnership Committee and the Protocol and Etiquette Committee, later becoming Team Leader of both the Protocol and Etiquette and Cornerstone Committees. Elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2017, he served until 2024, including terms on the Management Committee. His leadership roles have included Chair of the Cornerstone Committee, Leadership Development Committee, Community Outreach Pillar, and Operations Pillar, as well as Vice President of the Board of General Purposes. He also serves as a Director of both the Masonic Foundation of Ontario and the MasoniChip Foundation of Ontario.

In 2024, he was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

M.W. Bro. DiCecco is active in several concordant bodies, including King Solomon's Chapter No. 8 (Royal Arch), Geoffrey de St. Aldemar Preceptory No. 2 (Knights Templar), and the Scottish Rite, Valley of Toronto, where he holds the 32°. He has also served as Most Wise Sovereign of the Toronto Sovereign Consistory.

Through his professional achievements and unwavering commitment to Freemasonry, M.W. Bro. DiCecco exemplifies leadership, service, and dedication to the Craft.



# R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia

## District Deputy Grand Master Ottawa District I

R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia was born in Manila, Philippines. His family immigrated to Canada, during his youth, in 1992, and they became Canadian citizens in 1995.

In his teens, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadets and finished his cadet career with the rank of Warrant Officer 1st Class and the title of Cadet Commanding Officer of 188 Cobra Squadron, Downsview. His family's old apartment in North York was just steps away from the Rameses Shrine Temple on Keele Street. Though he didn't know it at the time that he would be joining the Fraternity years later.

He studied at the University of Ottawa and graduated with the Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree with Specialization in Accounting. He worked for a number of private companies in the Greater Toronto Area before getting into the public sector and moving back to Ottawa in 2009, which he now calls home.

He is an advocate of volunteerism: he is very involved with his union - the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC). And every Spring, he helps prepare income tax returns for low-income families, and trains other volunteers as part of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP).

R.W. Bro. Garcia is affiliated with Temple Lodge No. 665 G.R.C. and has been a member since September 2016. He started his journey in Freemasonry by being initiated at Civil Service Lodge No. 148 on November 2012, was passed on January 2013 and was raised on March 2013. He served as the Worshipful Master of his mother lodge from May 2019 to June 2022.

He's been a part of various masonic committees including Ottawa Masonic Association, Valentine's Charity Ball, the District's Grand Lodge Programs, Fraternal Visitations, Masonic Education, the Grand Lodge's Worshipful Master Preparation Course and the Board of Ottawa Masonic Corporation.

He is a Past First Principal of the Ottawa Chapter Royal Arch Masons; a Knights Templar of the Ottawa Preceptory; a 32nd Degree of the Ottawa Valley Scottish Rite; a Noble of the Tunis Shriners; and a Cuzzin' of the Moonliter Hillbilly Clan – with which he can usually be seen parading in an outhouse every Summer.

R.W. Bro. Garcia has a passion for travelling and visiting brethren in different districts and jurisdictions. He has attended lodge meetings in Quebec, New York State, California, England, Spain, the Bahamas and the Philippines. But one aspect he is most passionate about are his family and friends, whom he keeps close to his heart. He is affectionately known to his nephews and nieces as "Tito", and to his siblings and cousins as "Kuya".





# V.W. Bro. Eustace “Sam” Roberts

## Board of General Purpose (Elected)

Born in St. John's, Antigua, to Eustace and Vivian Roberts, [Name] is the eldest of three siblings. He immigrated to Canada in 1970, settling in Toronto, and became a Canadian citizen in 1976. Over the years, he has lived across Canada and abroad, including in Sudbury, Etobicoke, Brampton, Mississauga, Ottawa, Victoria, and Nanaimo, while maintaining strong ties to Antigua.

Educated in Toronto and Cornwall, he holds a Diploma in Marine Engineering Technology, a Bachelor of Arts in Policing Science, and a Master of Arts in Emergency Management from Charles Sturt University. A highly active youth, he participated in sports and Air Cadets, earning both glider and private pilot licences and graduating as the top cadet of his squadron.

He began his career in the Royal Canadian Navy as a Marine Engineer, serving aboard several vessels including HMCS Athabasca and HMCS Ojibwa. He later transitioned to policing, serving with the Cornwall Police Service—where he was a founding member of the Emergency Response Team—and the Ottawa Police Service in a wide range of roles, including patrol, forensic investigations, aerial surveillance, and emergency management. He was involved in numerous major incidents, including the 1998 Ice Storm, the 1999 OC Transpo shooting, the 2014 Parliament Hill attack, and the COVID-19 pandemic response.

In addition to policing, he has worked as a commercial pilot with LIAT and Porter Airlines. Following his retirement from the Ottawa Police Service in 2023, he continues his professional work as a Senior Nuclear Analyst with Calian and through his own firm, specializing in emergency management, business continuity, and program development. He is also a published author, instructor at Algonquin College, and President of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

He is married to Heather, with whom he shares a blended family of three children and three grandchildren. An active Anglican, he enjoys tennis, golf, swimming, and skiing.

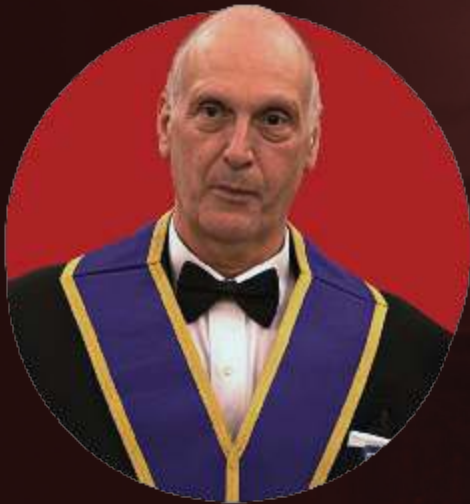
Initiated into Acacia Lodge No. 561 in 2010, [Name] quickly became an active Mason, serving as Worshipful Master in 2016–2017 and District Deputy Grand Master of Ottawa District One in 2024–2025. He has held numerous leadership roles, including Chair of Protocol and Etiquette, Masonic Education, Cornerstone, and Senior Wardens Mentoring. He is also active in the Shrine and Royal Arch. s “Kuya”.





# Appointed Grand Lodge Officers

The Appointed Officers of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario play an essential role in supporting the Grand Master and ensuring the effective administration of Freemasonry throughout the jurisdiction. Chosen for their dedication, experience, and service to the Craft, these Brethren carry out important ceremonial, administrative, and leadership responsibilities at the provincial level. Their appointments recognize not only past contributions but also their ongoing commitment to strengthening the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Through their work, Appointed Officers help maintain the traditions, standards, and unity of Freemasonry while providing guidance and support to Lodges across Ontario.



**Grand Stewart**

**V.W. Bro. Don Learning**

Carleton Lodge No. 465



**Grand Stewart**

**V.W. Bro. Wayne R. Guthrie**

Mississippi Lodge No. 147



**Grand Stewart**

**V.W. Bro. John R. Thomas**

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560



**Assistant Grand Chaplain**

**V.W. Bro. Neil Lillico**

Acacia Lodge No. 561







# District Chairmen And Final Reports



# District Chairmen



W. Bro. Rob Bryce  
By-Laws



W. Bro. Steve Young  
Chaplain



Bro. Duff Sullivan  
Charity



Bro. Brian Hay  
Benevolence



W. Bro. Matt Weedmark  
Degree Coordinator



W. Bro. Allan Statham  
Grand Lodge Programs



Bro. Daniel J Duff  
Historian



W. Bro. Daniel Gray  
Officer Mentoring



W. Bro. Paul Parent  
Education



W. Bro. Mike Cadotte  
Protocol & Ritual



W. Bro. Jace Baart  
Regalia Coordinator



W. Bro. Patrick Halcro  
Fraternal Visitation



W. Bro. Jesus Federico  
Information Technology



Bro. Daniel J Duff  
Communications



W. Bro. Andrew Valley  
Royal Arch Liaison



V.W. Bro. John Guinn  
Scottish Rite Liaison



R.W. Bro. Dennis Saikaley  
Tunis Shrine Liaison



R. W. Bro. Jim Bowman  
Prince Hall Liaison



W. Bro. Jim Kent  
Ottawa Masonic Corp. Liaison



W. Bro. Colin Mackenzie  
Events Coordinator



R.W. Bro. Al Wright  
Lead District Photographers



W. Bro. David Brown  
District Photographer



Bro. Joe Radmore  
District Photographer



Bro. Anthony Francisco  
District Photographer



W. Bro. Jordan McConnell  
District Piper



## Benevolence

This is one report where I am always happy that it is relatively short.  
From July 1, 2025 to April 24, 2026 there was only one request for Benevolence.

Requested back on September 3rd, 2025. This application was submitted to Grand Lodge, but never actioned by them as the Lodges could not give firm numbers as to what would help. It was instead handled by two Lodges, one in Ottawa District 1 and the other in St. Lawrence District on an ad hoc basis. Benevolence included cash, grocery cards, and a few volunteers in helping the Brother relocate to a more permanent residence. The Brother is now settled in his new home with no further need for benevolence.

Replies from Grand Lodge regarding benevolence have improved over the past year. For a time, correspondence from them was extremely slow, likely due to former Grand Lodge Benevolence Committee Chairman, Iain Wates, passing away, and it took time to find a replacement.

I continue to remind the Lodges when I visit that Benevolence is available at the Lodge, District and Grand Lodge level, and ask that all Brethren remain vigilant and on the look out for any Brother in need of assistance.

Sincerely,  
W. Bro. Brian Hay  
Chairman of Benevolence, Ottawa District 1

## Events Coordinator

As District Events Coordinator, it has been my responsibility to support clear and consistent communication across the District with respect to DDGM Official Visits, Installations, and Lodge events, ensuring that Brethren are well informed of important dates and associated details.

Throughout the year, a structured monthly communication process has been maintained. Lodge Secretaries were contacted in advance to provide updates, additions, and corrections, which were compiled and reconciled with the District's online calendar and Lodge summons. A consolidated list of upcoming events was then prepared and distributed through the District Secretary at the beginning of each month. This process has supported the District calendar as a reliable and widely used central reference.

Particular emphasis has been placed on obtaining and communicating complete details for DDGM Official Visits and Installations, including tye times, festive board or reception arrangements, RSVP contacts, and, where available, the planned work for the evening. Providing this level of detail has assisted Brethren in planning their attendance and has contributed to well-attended and well-organized events across the District. Lodge event information has been consistently shared for inclusion on the District calendar, supporting strong alignment between Lodge communications and District-level information. The Travelling Gavel was monitored and highlighted through this same communication cycle, encouraging continued participation and visitation throughout the District.

In summary, the District Events function has provided consistent and reliable communication of event information, supporting the orderly conduct of Official Visits, Installations, and Lodge activities throughout the year.

I would like to thank R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia for the opportunity to serve as District Events Coordinator. It has been an honour to contribute to the work of the District in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Bro. Colin Mackenzie  
District Events Coordinator

## Grand Lodge Programs (Cornerstone)

Since my last report in January, I am pleased to report that of the fifteen lodges in Ottawa District 1, eleven are still currently participating in the Cornerstone Program as set out by Grand Lodge.

Three Lodges: Hazeldean Lodge 157, Edinburgh Defenders Lodge 590 and Doric Lodge 58 have completed the requirements for 2024-2026 certification. This information has been communicated to the Grand Lodge Cornerstone Committee Chairman R. W. Bro. Graham Tait and will be actioned during the Grand Lodge Communication in July.



I would be remiss however, to remind the various Lodge Cornerstone Representatives that it is their responsibility to send the Cornerstone Workbook to the District Cornerstone Representative for evaluation in a timely manner upon the completion of one or more elements of the requirements. This will make it easier for evaluation, and closer to the event if more information is required.

#### Summary

Acacia Lodge No. 561 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
Carleton Lodge No. 465 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
Civil Service Lodge No. 148 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
Doric Lodge No. 58 – Completed  
Edinburgh Defenders Lodge No. 590 – Completed  
Goodwood Lodge No. 159 – Not Participating  
Hazeldean Lodge No. 517 – Completed  
Lodge Of Fidelity No. 231 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
Mississippi Lodge No. 147 – Not Participating  
Prince Of Wales Lodge No. 371 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
Russell Lodge No. 479 – Not Participating  
Sidney Albert Luke Lodge No. 558 – Not Participating  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
St. John's Lodge No. 63 – Participating completion May 31 2027  
Temple Lodge No. 665 – Participating completion May 31 2027

One last thing, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to W. Bro. Steve Young of St. Andrew's Lodge #560, for writing a wonderful article on the value of Cornerstone. *The Cornerstone, Why Bother?* which was published in the Ontario Masons Magazine March 2026 issue. I encourage everyone to read it. The link is below.

<https://on.grandview.systems/s3/8353?token=5045b0a0-966f-4ac0-a664-66fc458fd4ce>

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Bro. Allan Statham  
District Cornerstone Representative, Ottawa District 1

## Officer Mentoring

This is my final report to you for Officer Mentorship as the District Chairman for Ottawa District One.

As you know this chairman's role promotes activity within the lodges that strengthens the entirety of a lodge and allows the brethren to work more closely together with each other. Following the intent of Officer Mentorship, is a good pathway and guide for succession planning in a lodge and will improve the strength of the lodge's officer lineup. Also, the more widely the Officer Mentorship is adopted, the stronger lodge management and ritual can become within Ottawa D1.

In my last report, I was happy to advise that I was able to develop a 'data base' of each lodge including officers ranking from Junior Deacon to the Worshipful Master, and I can assure you this data will grow. I also reported I was able to establish a schedule of monthly Mentorship sessions to address the challenges officers could come up against throughout the year, create a structured path of succession planning and prepare officers for the final journey through the chairs to become a strong Worshipful Master and arrange for periodic guest speakers to speak at these meetings.

At this point we have held an additional (3) regular meeting sessions with guest speakers and we are planning May social at Chucks Roadhouse in Ottawa. These meetings were held in January, February and March and I am happy to report that attendance has gotten a lot better during the second half of the year. I've been working on conveying to this group of S.W's the importance of their Mentoring to the rest of the newer lodge officers within Ottawa District One.

The second half of the year meetings have created a stronger bond within the group, built on Mentoring that prepares officers for their move through the chairs, and provides them with the tools and resources that will help them on a successful journey to the East.

It is a pleasure to serve as your District Chairman for Officer Mentoring and contribute to strengthening Ottawa District One within our Grand Jurisdiction.

Thank you,  
Daniel D. Gray  
Grand Lodge Officer Mentorship District Chairman



## Protocol and Ritual

Throughout the year, support was provided to Lodges across the District with a focus on strengthening Masonic protocol, ritual consistency, and ceremonial excellence. This has included and will continue to include assistance during Official Visits, Regular Lodge Meetings, Installations and other formal Lodge events.

### Key Contributions

Supported multiple Official Visits, ensuring proper protocol and flow of proceedings

Provided on-site and advisory assistance to Worshipful Masters and Officers regarding ritual delivery and etiquette

Offered informal coaching and guidance to Brethren seeking to improve floor work, confidence, and ceremonial consistency

Assisted Lodges in maintaining proper standards of decorum, salutes, and formal structure during proceedings

- Strong commitment across the District to improve ritual proficiency and understanding
- Growing appreciation for the importance of protocol and consistency in ceremonial work
- Continued opportunity for development in confidence, timing, and standardization across Lodges

It has been an honour to serve in this capacity and to support the Brethren of the District. I remain committed to assisting in any way that further strengthens the standards and unity of our Craft.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

W. Bro. Mike Cadotte

District Chairman – Protocol & Ritual Ottawa District 1

## Fraternal Visitation

As the Chairman for Fraternal Visitation of Ottawa 1, I was tasked by the D.D.G.M. to visit as many lodges in the district as possible with or without him. It was duty to announce his upcoming Fraternal and Official Visitations to the Brethren throughout the District.

While I may not have been able to make it out to each and every Lodge in the District, on either their Fraternal or Official Visits. However, I was able to attend each lodge on a regular meeting evening. If I did not attend, I sent regrets and ensured to remind the brethren of the upcoming F & O Visits.

While I have received copies from many Lodges' Legers, I'm still short on the raw data that I needed to complete the specific task I had aimed to do for the District. Once I receive all the data, I will be making a working document on yearly Visitations. This way the incoming chairman for fraternal visitation will be able to add and pass it along to his successor. So that we can see if there is a growing or diminishing trend, over the coming years. Hopefully to recognise issues or successes in our united efforts.

This year, from the data that I received, is shaping up to be a great year for visitation! If you have been out visiting, you've seen the numbers in attendance. Fantastic Job Ottawa District 1 you should all be proud of your efforts to visit sister lodges!

W. Bro. Patrick M. Halcro C.D.

District Chairman for Fraternal Visitation Ottawa District 1

## Royal Arch Liaison

I respectfully submit this end-of-year report in my capacity as Royal Arch Liaison for Ottawa District 1.

Throughout the year, Royal Arch education has been present within the District, including presentations delivered at various venues and at the Day of Masonry. While I did not play a direct role in organizing or presenting these sessions, their occurrence is encouraging and reflects a continued interest in Capitular Masonry among the Brethren.

Formal requests for assistance through the Liaison role were limited this year. This may be viewed positively, as it suggests that Royal Arch Masonry is accessible within the District, with Brethren comfortable seeking information and guidance through their own networks and personal connections.

In my role as a communication link with the Royal Arch Masons of District 12, I am pleased to report that communication



has been consistent and collegial. It has been a pleasure to maintain and support this connection, helping to ensure an open line of dialogue between Craft and Chapter.

While the role did not require significant direct intervention this year, it has remained an important point of contact for communication and support within the District. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this capacity and for the cooperation and collegiality experienced throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Bro. Andrew Valley  
Royal Arch Liaison Ottawa District 1

### Scottish Rite Liaison

Thank you for allowing me to represent the Scottish Rite to Ottawa District 1, it has been a rewarding experience enabling me to meet the brethren of the district and share with them the advantages and benefits of joining this arm of Masonry.

I am a member of an Ad Hoc Committee at Supreme Council and am always learning new ways to present the rite to our brethren and recently received a Power Point presentation which I have presented at our Day of Masonry with very positive results. Three members took away applications, and one has already been returned. I continue to visit all lodges in the district and offer information and answer questions with regards to membership. Requests have been received from some Lodges to present the power point during the next couple of months; this will give us additional opportunities to meet the brethren and perhaps gain additional members or at least offer the information for them to consider over the summer break.

It has been a pleasure to serve you and the District, I wish you well in all your future endeavours.

Respectfully Submitted,  
V.W. Bro John Guinn  
Scottish Rite Liaison.

### Tunis Shrine Liaison

It Is My Duty To Serve!

It gives me great pleasure to submit this report. With the exception of the year that I was Grand Registrar, I have held this office since it was created by RW Bro. Ivor Bayley the year he was DDGM.

We had our Installation in early January and Tunis members have been busy since.

Our Degree Team had a busy spring conducting several Master Mason Degrees for Lodges. There were a few stops in District One.

We recently had the annual trip to our Hospital in Montreal. There were almost two (2) bus loads. Participants saw first-hand, how we can positively impact lives.

The deadline for submitting applications to become a Shriner is Tuesday, May 5th at 12:00 noon. This year's Ceremonial will be held in Brockville, ON on the weekend of May 22-24. It will be a fun weekend starting with Eddie and the Stingrays performing for us in a private show on the Friday evening. The Ceremonial will be on Saturday morning with the banquet that evening. There are ladies events as well.

On Saturday, June 6th, we will have our annual Legion of Honour Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 2:00 p.m. This is an open event. We will have Carlotta, one of the Shrine International Patient Ambassadors with us. This will also be the weekend of our Potentate's Reception in Ottawa. Our Imperial Potentate is expected to be here as well. Please join in. Details for both the Ceremonial and Visitation weekends can be found on our website [tunisshriners.ca](http://tunisshriners.ca)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve again this year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
RW Bro. Dennis Saikaley  
Tunis Liaison to District 1

## Prince Hall Liaison

I present this report knowing that change has happened, and that more is to come. This is important for Freemasonry, as change and growth are always key.

Currently, there are four Liaison positions for Ottawa District 1 – that of a Tunis Shrine Liaison, a Scottish Rite Liaison, a Royal Arch Masons Liaison, and that of a Prince Hall Masons Liaison. In the case of the first three, these are liaisons to Masonic Orders wherein Craft Lodge Masons may join to expand their Masonic knowledge and experience.

Prince Hall Masons, however, is not another, or higher, Order wherein a Master Mason may join, but rather it is another branch of Freemasonry that operates on an equal level to ourselves. It is also a branch of Freemasonry wherein most of our membership would not be permitted to join or affiliate, but rather, be allowed to visit.

Currently, the situation of Solomon Lodge, Prince Hall Masonry, in Ottawa is that of a Lodge in a rebuilding phase. Solomon Lodge has an active membership of eight members. From a position of a Liaison to Prince Hall Masons, communication with the Master of the Lodge and the Secretary was very sporadic and ineffective. Long waits to emails, or often, no responses or follow-ups to emails, or communications, was a regular result. Many difficulties for my position as a Liaison grew out of this. Communication with me was circumvented to private communication with Brothers in Ottawa Districts 1 and 2.

That said, there were some successes this Masonic year between Prince Hall Freemasons and Masons of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario. On March 12, 2026 under the guidance of R.W. Bro. Garcia, approximately 33 Masons from Ottawa District 1 and 2 visited Solomon Lodge. The Masons of the two Ottawa Districts were received well and a good Festive Board was held after the meeting.

As mentioned, Masons from both Ottawa Districts visited Solomon Lodge. This was due to established communication and fraternal relationships between these Brothers and members of Solomon Lodge. This is a great thing to see, and these relationships are likely to continue growing in organic ways. As a Liaison for Ottawa District 1 to Prince Hall Masonry, my position as a channel for communications was circumvented by our membership, and the membership of Solomon Lodge. While this is frustrating to the position of a Liaison, calling to question the need for the position, the positive result is that fraternal relations are established between the two bodies, and likely to continue.

I recommend that the position of Prince Hall Liaison be discontinued in the future, as it is simply not necessary. It is no more needed than having a liaison to any other Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Jim Bowman, PDDGM 2022  
Prince Hall Liason Ottawa District 1

## IT Committee

I am pleased to report that the district website is up and running, stable, and fully updated with the information generated by and for the benefit of the district. Thanks to the excellent foundational work done by W. Bro. Collin Mackenzie, ongoing maintenance has been straightforward, and his continued contributions have ensured that the district calendar remains current and reflects relevant events as they take place throughout the district.

Currently, the Committee has not received any requests for technical assistance beyond routine updates to the website and calendar. That said, the offer remains open to all Lodges. Any Lodge requiring assistance in selecting tools or in developing or updating their website is encouraged to reach out to the IT Committee.

Overall, the District is in good shape in terms of its online presence. Of the 15 Lodges in the District, only 2 currently do not have a website, and one of those is already in the process of developing and launching one.

Regarding the initiatives established at the beginning of the year:

Infrastructure for website migration:

We have put in place the necessary infrastructure to support the migration of Lodge websites where needed. This will allow us to assist Lodges more efficiently in the future should they wish to modernize or relocate their online presence.

Improvements to the District website:

The plan to refresh and enhance the current District website remains in place. We are aiming to present visible results within



the next couple of months.

#### Grand Lodge Website Contest participation:

We have received the evaluation criteria for the Grand Lodge website contest. In terms of content, our District and Lodge websites already cover most of the suggested points. However, the criteria appear to place some emphasis on presentation and visual features, and this aspect is not yet entirely clear. A clearer interpretation of the criteria, along with a simple checklist, will be shared with the Lodges in the coming weeks to encourage and support their participation.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Bro. Jesus Federico  
Chairman, IT Committee Ottawa District 1

### District Piper

The primary responsibility of the District Piper is to provide bagpiping services at all official visits of the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM), as well as at any additional events requested by the DDGM or individual lodges within the district.

#### Official Visits Attended

Over the past year, I had the honour of piping at 14 of the 15 official visits conducted by the DDGM. Regrettably, I was unable to attend the official visit to Lodge of Fidelity No. 231 due to work commitments.

#### Special Events Attended

In addition to regular official visits, I had the privilege of supporting several special events, offering ceremonial music and contributing to the dignity of each occasion. These included:

The visit of R.W. Bro. Jamie Wark (letting his name stand for Deputy) to a Grand Lodge Appreciation Night hosted jointly by Ottawa Districts One and Two.

The visit of a distinguished delegation to Doric 58's Table Lodge.

Looking forward, I will be piping for the Eastern Tour visitations and for Grand Masters Reception. I will remain at the service of the District and will continue to support any lodge installations or special ceremonies as requested.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
W. Bro. Jordan McConnell  
District Piper

### District Charity

This year's OD1 District Charity, as selected by R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia, is the Perley Health Centre.

The Perley is home to more than 600 Seniors and Veterans in long-term care and independent apartments. The Perley provides clinical, therapeutic and recreational services to residents, tenants and other seniors across the region.

The Perley's "Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care" conducts and shares practical research needed to improve care for seniors and Veterans in our region and across Canada.

In response to the rapidly growing demand for long term care, the Perley plans to double its current capacity from 600 to over 1200 residence by 2035, which will include over 400 veterans.

This year's OD1 fundraising effort is focused on the Perley's new ground-breaking "Bridging Generations" initiative, which will see a purpose-built facility at the centre of the Perley campus where children, seniors, and veterans will meet, learn and thrive together.

The OD1 fundraising efforts have included a diverse range of activities across our 15 Lodges, including BBQs, pig roasts, golf tournaments, curling bonspiels, seasonal and theme dinners, raffles, pancake breakfasts, etc.

District-level signature events included the OD1 / OD2 Valentines Day Gala Ball and Silent Auction in February 2026 and

Carleton Lodge's hugely successful Arctic Char Dinner April 23, 2026, with over 230 in attendance.

Our final district-level signature fundraiser will be a River Boat Cruise under the International Fireworks on August 12th, 2026, after which event a final 2025-2026 fundraising total will be determined and then topped-up by 33% by the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

It is expected that a cheque presentation ceremony will be made by OD1 DDGM RW Bro Garcia to the Perley Foundation Board sometime in September 2026.

As a member of the Perley Foundation Board and Chairman of this year's OD1 District Charity, I had the privilege to attend several OD1 official visits and other special events where I spoke on the District Charity. I was most recently advised that the Perley Foundation continues to be most grateful to all the esteemed Brethren of Ottawa District One Masons who have championed the amazing fundraising efforts in support of Perley Health.

C.S. Duff Sullivan  
Chairman Ottawa District One Charity

## Regalia

We have had 4 occasions to repair aprons belonging to brethren of the district. Our on call seamstress, Tara Friel (249)877-6480 has provided excellent service with a quick turnaround time. There is still one apron to fix, and that will be accomplished once we have called off for the summer. If any other brethren have need of assistance, they may contact me directly and I will coordinate the repairs.

I have taken possession of three new pieces of regalia, and added them to our current list of items. See attached Blue Lodge Inventory.

We are currently holding several items not within our purview as they are for concordant bodies. I can reach out to the other bodies for a recipient, but my attempt to do this in 2022-23 resulted in a number of the items coming right back to our "stash". I look for direction on this matter, and the list is attached as Misc. Non-Blue Lodge Items.

Lastly, we continue to hold a variety of very old and decrepit regalia that has been gleaned from the district in various ways. The pile seems to grow every time I turn around, and while I have attempted to reach out to Grand Lodges of foreign countries to inquire as to their interest in the regalia, I have received no replies to date. While the brethren are loathe to simply destroy or throw out these regalia items, there does not appear to be any desire to make use of them by any Lodge of ANY district or Constitution.

I hereby make formal request that they be destroyed or thrown in the garbage forthwith. They serve no useful purpose and will only gather more dust if we do not address them accordingly. See attached list Recommend for Donation/Destruction.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
W.Bro. Jace Baart  
District Chair for Regalia

## Craft Lodge District I Inventory

- 1 set of gold wands (2 Deacon and 2 Stewards wands)
- 1 altar bible with dividers
- 1 heavy setting maul
- 3 gavels (one was engraved from a past master of Prince of Wales Lodge, given to Al Wright)
- 2 cast iron round wand stands
- 4 wooden wand stands
- 1 aluminum Jacob's Ladder, approx. 4' tall
- (Additional detailed lists of other items, recommended for donation/destruction, and misc. non-Craft Lodge items are included in the original document.)



## Communications

It has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as Communications Chair for Ottawa District 1. Over the course of my tenure, I've made a deliberate effort to support the District through consistent, professional, and policy-aligned communications—ranging from event posters and summons materials to digital assets designed to strengthen both engagement within the District and our public-facing presence.

I'm proud of the volume and quality of work delivered. Each piece was created with careful attention to Grand Lodge branding standards, with the goal of presenting a cohesive and recognizable identity. That consistency is not just about appearance—it shapes how we are perceived, both internally and externally.

That said, it would be incomplete not to acknowledge a recurring challenge. On multiple occasions, materials prepared in alignment with established policy were either set aside or revised due to inconsistent interpretations of those same policies. In some cases, direction reflected personal preference rather than documented standards.

The result has been last-minute redesigns, duplicated effort, and avoidable delays. More importantly, it creates uncertainty. When policy is applied inconsistently—or when informal expectations are treated as policy—it becomes difficult to execute effectively and confidently.

In today's fast-paced, digital environment, communication requires clarity, timeliness, and trust in process. To meet that standard, branding policies must not only be clear, but consistently applied. Where gaps exist—particularly in digital communications—there is a need for updated, practical guidance.

Equally important is respect for the role itself. The Communications Chair exists to provide expertise and execution within that policy framework. When that framework shifts or is overridden, it limits both effectiveness and contribution.

I remain genuinely proud to have served in this capacity, and I believe the work produced reflects a strong commitment to the District. At the same time, these challenges—if unaddressed—risk discouraging capable volunteers from contributing their skills and time.

If we want to continue attracting dedicated and skilled members, we must provide an environment that supports them—through clear expectations, consistent standards, and trust in those appointed to carry out the work.

I offer these reflections not as criticism, but in the spirit of strengthening how we work together. Because ultimately, the success of our fraternity depends on our ability to support one another—and to ensure our systems enable, rather than hinder, those who serve.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Bro. Daniel J Duff  
District Communications Chairman

## Chaplain

No report submitted.







# Lodges Of The District



Throughout the year, the Masonic Lodge continued to serve as the foundational heart of Freemasonry within our District — a place where tradition, fellowship, education, and charitable purpose converge. More than simply a meeting hall, the Lodge remains a living institution dedicated to the moral and intellectual improvement of its members while preserving the timeless customs and teachings of the Craft. Under the guidance of its officers and the collective efforts of the Brethren, the Lodge provided a space where men could meet upon the level, strengthen the bonds of fraternity, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Through ritual work, mentorship, charitable initiatives, and regular gatherings, the Lodge continued to uphold the enduring principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, reaffirming its vital role in both the Masonic journey and the wider community throughout the past year.



Doric Lodge No. 58



St. John's Lodge No. 63\*



Mississippi Lodge No. 147



Civil Service Lodge No. 148



Goodwood Lodge No. 159



Lodge of Fidelity No. 231



Prince of Wales No. 371



Carleton Lodge No. 465



Russell Lodge No. 47\*



Hazeldean Lodge No. 51



Sidney Albert Luke No. 558



St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560



Acacia Lodge No. 561



Edinburgh Defenders No. 590



Temple Lodge No. 665

\* Lodge Crest Not Submitted





# Worshipful Masters Of The District



The Worshipful Master's of the District stand as the guiding lights of their respective Lodges, entrusted with the solemn duty of preserving the traditions, dignity, and harmony of the Craft. Each Master, having progressed through the ranks by merit and dedication, brings a unique character to his Lodge while upholding the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry.

Collectively, they form a body of experienced leaders who foster unity, mentorship, and moral development among the Brethren. Through their commitment to service, ritual excellence, and charitable works, the Worshipful Masters ensure that the spirit of the Fraternity continues to flourish within the district and beyond.



W. Bro. Michael Cadotte  
Doric Lodge No. 58



W. Bro. Corey Snow  
St. John's Lodge No. 63



W. Bro. Gordon Echlin  
Mississippi Lodge No. 147



W. Bro. Adoni Farah  
Civil Service Lodge No. 14



W. Bro. Joseph Burchill  
Goodwood Lodge No. 159



W. Bro. Ronald Taylor  
Lodge of Fidelity No. 231



W. Bro. Robert Lauzon  
Prince of Wales No. 371



W. Bro. Jason Baart  
Carleton Lodge No. 465



W. Bro. Patrick Hall  
Russell Lodge No. 47



W. Bro. Ivan Harris  
Hazeldean Lodge No. 51



W. Bro. J.F. Plamondon  
Sidney Albert Luke No. 558



W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560



W. Bro. Derek Brook  
Acacia Lodge No. 561



W. Bro. David Wilson  
Edinburgh Defenders No. 590



W. Bro. Patrick Halcro  
Temple Lodge No. 665





# Doric Lodge No.58

SUBMITTED BY RONALD H. ASHWORTH PGS HISTORIAN DORIC LODGE



March 20, 2025 Doric Lodge celebrated 170 years of fellowship. The Lodge was opened in Due and Ancient Form, and after the business was concluded was closed accordingly. The Lodge then converted to an Open House and invited spouses, partners, friends and Masonic Visitors into the Lodge for several presentations and viewing of artifacts. Members of St Andrews Lodge and brethren of Civil Service Lodge and Russell Lodge joined us for presentations on the craft.

The first to present was R.W. Bro. Adam Thompson PDDGM, on the topic of "What is a Mason", followed by W. Bro. Steve Statham with a description of the Officers and the location of their stations (Chairs) and a partial description of their duties. Bro. Stephen Campbell presented a description of the "Masonic Aprons and the Officer Jewels" attached to their collars. W. Bro. Stephen Thomson presented and described the "Working Tools" and their allegorical significance. V.W. Bro. Ron Ashworth continued the presentations with a historical review of the "8 Mayors of Bytown/Ottawa" that were members of Doric Lodge including a Grand Master and other notable members. Wor. Bro. Allan Statham gave us an insight of other famous Masons around the world. The evening concluded with the final presentation by Rt. Wor. Bro. Sam Roberts, DDGM Ottawa District 1, speaking on "What it means to him to be a Mason". After the presentations were concluded everyone was invited upstairs to the lounge to partake in birthday cake and pizza. It was a memorable evening and enjoyed by everyone.

May 15, 2025 This installation represented the start of 170 years of Doric Masonry in Ottawa. Wor. Bro. Michael Cadotte agreed to be Master for a second consecutive term to assist the lodge due to unexpected withdrawals from offices. Rt. Wor. Bro. Richard Cadotte PGJW, Member - Board of General Purposes, installed his Brother for the second time. This was a historic event as it has never happened in the history of Doric Lodge. There were 57 masons in attendance including 21 Members from Doric Lodge, 34 visitors, the DDGM of Ottawa District 1, Rt. Wor. Bro. Sam Roberts and the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Arthur M. Di Cecco.

June 24, 2025 the annual Recognition Service at the Ottawa Masonic Burial Plot took place with many masons in attendance.

August 9, 2025 A Masonic Memorial Service was held in Lodge Room 1 of the Masonic Temple in Ottawa for our Brother Noel Clarke, Dec 17, 1932 to June 23, 2025, 71 years a mason. There were twelve Doric members present, 3 from other lodges in the district, five member wives and his wife Marcella and members and friends of the immediate family. Rt. Wor. Bro. Abraham Garcia DDGM Ottawa District 1 was in attendance. After the service a reception was held in the lounge. Marcella was presented with the Masonic Widow's pin much to her delight. Please refer to Bro. Noel's biography at the end of the historical record. Nine members of Doric Lodge attended his funeral at Arlington Woods Church on July 12 2025. Brother Noel's remains will be taken to Barbados for inurnment.

October 16-21 2025 saw four Bahamians from Lodge Claudius R Walker visit Doric Lodge and Russell Lodge to continue the fraternal visitation between the lodges.



## (ABOVE) TRAVELLING BRETHREN OF DORIC LODGE AT CIVIL SERVICE LODGE

November 20, 2025 VW Bro Ron Ashworth once again presented the Ceremonies of the Empty Chair and the Toast to the Fallen Comrades. This was the eight consecutive year of him presenting these ceremonies.

December 5 2025 at our emergent meeting in December, Bro Stephen Statham was invested with his name badge indicating Inner Guard Emeritus, Doric Lodge for his many years acting as Inner Guard of this lodge.

December 9, 2025 a delegation of Masons from Doric Lodge attended the Colonnade Restaurant for lunch and presented Bro. Kalil Dahdooh with his 50 year a mason Certificate and Grand Lodge pin.



# Doric Lodge No.58



March 5 2026 Emmanuel Domingo Jr. was initiated with his Father participating in the ceremony. Then his father Emmanuel Domingo Sr. presented him with his Lewis Jewel.

March 28, 2026, Wor. Bro. Michael Cadotte (Master of Doric Lodge) lead a delegation of Masons from Doric Lodge and from the two Ottawa Districts including Rt. Wor Bro Abraham Garcia DDGM Ottawa District 1 to Nassau The Bahamas for the annual visitation and to attend the Installation of Officers for Lodge Claudius R. Walker #1808 SC.

April 25, 2026, Wor. Bro. Michael Cadotte, Worshipful Master, hosted brethren from Ottawa Districts 1 & 2; Eastern District and the Ottawa District from Hull Que to the First Doric Lodge Formal Table Lodge. It was held to celebrate the culmination of our 170th anniversary year. 59 masons sat down to seven toasts, plenty of wine and a seven course meal consisting of Cream of Mushroom Soup, Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Vegetable Wellington, Beef Cannelloni with the main course being Prime Rib, then butter tart strudel for dessert and finally a cheese plate. No one left the table hungry. The meal was catered

by Peter Loan Catering and was a great success. During the Table Lodge fines were imposed for various offences with the Stewards of Fines ultimately collecting \$550.00 from the offenders. The night was such a success Doric Lodge was able to present a cheque to Rt. Wor Bro Abraham Garcia DDGM Ottawa District 1 for his District Charity, The Perley Health Foundation, in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Wor Bro Cadotte has been planning this event since being first elected Worshipful Master in May 2024.

His team was lead by Bro. Darryl Lim (Chairman) with the assistance from Rt. Wor Bro Brian Griffin (Master of Ceremonies), Rt Wor Bro Garry Perkins (Guest Speaker), V.W. Bro Ronald Ashworth (Ticket Sales and Accounting), Bro. Stephen Campbell (Sponsorships), Bro's Robert Spirito and Emmanuel Domingo Sr. (Stewards of Fines), Bro. Robert Moulton (Reception and Sales of Cannon Glasses). The Lodge is planning to have another one to celebrate its 175th anniversary in 4 years.

(BELOW) THE 2025 TRAVELLING GAVEL ARRIVES AT DORIC LODGE



**Worshipful Master** W.Bro. Mike Cadotte  
**Lodge Secretary** W. Bro. Daniel R. Charron

Meets the last Thursday of each month at  
Ottawa Masonic Centre 2140 Walkley Rd, Ottawa, ON

[doric58.ca](http://doric58.ca)



# Acacia Lodge No. 561

SUBMITTED BY V.W. BRO. NEIL LILICO HISTORIAN OF ACACIA LODGE



Acacia Lodge No. 561 enjoyed an active and constructive 2025–2026 Masonic year under the leadership of W. Bro. Derek Brook, who completed his third year in the East. The Lodge resumed after the summer recess with renewed energy and maintained a strong program of regular meetings, candidate work, Masonic education, fellowship, visitations, charitable giving, and district participation.

The year opened with a particularly significant September meeting. R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia made his first fraternal visit to Acacia Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master of Ottawa District 1, accompanied by Grand Lodge Officers. The Lodge recognized several brethren, including W. Bro. Chris Statham, who received his 25-Year Service Pin; Bro. Iain Reid and Bro. Mathew Van Seters, who received Grand Lodge Certificates; and V.W. Bro. Neil Lillico, who was invested as Assistant Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. V.W. Bro. Lillico, as outgoing District Historian, also presented V.W. Bro. Don Learning with a bound 2024–2025 District History in appreciation of his service as District Secretary.

Membership renewal was a major theme. Daniel Joseph David's application was received, investigated, balloted upon favourably, and he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Freemason in February. Bro. Nicholas LaBelle and Bro. Joel Porter continued their Masonic advancement, while Acacia welcomed W. Bro. Junior Benson Vergin of Utica Lodge No. 47, Grand Lodge of New York, as an affiliate member. The Lodge also received and advanced an affiliation application from Bro. Christian Sorbie of Connaught & Truth No. 521, UGLE.

Charitable and benevolent activity remained prominent. The Lodge supported the District Charity with a \$1,000 donation to The Perley Health Centre. Bro. Mathew Van Seters presented the Masonic CHiP Program, with the Worshipful Master expressing strong support for future Lodge involvement. Bro. Iain Reid sought assistance with the Cornerstone Project, W. Bro. Dave Archambault promoted Movember in support of prostate cancer research, and the Lodge continued its care for widows through the distribution of poinsettias and chocolates.

Fraternal visitation was another strength of the year. Acacia welcomed delegations from Grand Lodge, Ottawa District 1, Lodge of Fidelity No. 231, Russell Lodge No. 479,

and other sister Lodges. The Lodge participated actively in travelling-gavel activity, including the Golden Star Travelling Gavel and the District Travelling Gavel, which Acacia received from Russell Lodge and carried onward. The Worshipful Master noted that visitation was approaching pre-COVID levels, a positive sign of renewed district engagement.

The year also featured meaningful ceremonies, education, and fellowship. The Empty Chair Ceremony was conducted in November by W. Bro. Jack Earnshaw. Masonic Education included presentations on Irish Constitution Masonry, the early history of Acacia Lodge, the Forget-Me-Not emblem, and the principles of Freemasonry. Fellowship was strengthened through Members' Night, breakfasts, the Christmas Pot-Luck Supper, an Irish Stew Supper, dinner at Cabotto's, and plans for a summer BBQ.

The year concluded with elections, Step-Up Night, and the Installation and Investiture of Officers for 2026–2027. W. Bro. David Kidd was installed as Worshipful Master by R.W. Bro. Sam Roberts, with M.W. Bro. John C. Green proclaiming the officers duly installed and invested. W. Bro. Derek Brook was presented with a historic Past Master's Jewel associated with Acacia's earliest leadership. With new members, active officers, renewed visitation, charitable commitment, and strong district participation, Acacia Lodge closed the year with momentum, continuity, and confidence in the incoming leadership.

# Mississippi Lodge No. 147



SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. STUART MARSHALL, SECRETARY OF MISSISSIPPI LODGE

The 2025–2026 Masonic year proved to be one of steady growth, meaningful fellowship, and renewed tradition for Mississippi Lodge No. 147. Through degree work, charitable outreach, education, and fraternal visitation, the Lodge continued to exemplify the principles of Freemasonry while strengthening its place within both the district and the local community.

Throughout the year, the Lodge remained active in its core purpose of developing good men through the degrees of Masonry. Mississippi Lodge proudly conferred one initiation, one Fellowcraft degree, and two Master Mason degrees, while also welcoming one affiliated brother into the Lodge. These milestones reflect not only the continued health of the Lodge, but also its commitment to preserving and transmitting the traditions and teachings of the Craft to a new generation of brethren.

Several notable events marked the year. Very Worshipful Brother Wayne Guthrie was formally presented with his Grand Lodge regalia as Grand Steward by the District Deputy Grand Master of Ottawa District 1, Right Worshipful Brother Abraham Garcia, during a memorable ceremony. The Lodge also had the honour of hosting the DDGM on his Official Visit, highlighted by his formal entrance accompanied by the District Piper – a fitting display of dignity and tradition. Additional milestones included the presentation of Solomon's Gavel to the Lodge by Right Worshipful Brother Sam Roberts, as well as the installation of a new Lodge rug, commemorated through a special ceremony conducted by the Worshipful Master. The annual election, appointment, and installation of officers further ensured continuity and leadership for the ensuing Masonic year.

Masonic education remained a central pillar of Lodge activity. The Worshipful Master led discussions on the Kirkwall Scroll and its fascinating symbolic parallels to modern Freemasonry, while another evening explored the history and traditions surrounding Robbie Burns, culminating in a festive board complete with haggis and the traditional Address to the Haggis delivered by a Lodge brother. During the DDGM's Official Visit, the Worshipful Master guided the brethren through all three degrees, offering reflections on the symbolism and meaning contained within each. Educational presentations also emphasized the value

of individual contributions to Masonry and community life, reinforcing the principle that every brother's participation – regardless of scale – holds importance within the fraternity.

The Lodge also continued its strong tradition of fellowship and community engagement. The annual December festive board once again welcomed spouses and friends, creating an evening of warmth, camaraderie, and shared celebration that was exceptionally well attended. Brethren further represented the Lodge through participation in the Almonte Remembrance Day ceremony, where a wreath was laid in honour of those who served and sacrificed.

Charitable giving remained a defining feature of the year's activities. Mississippi Lodge presented a donation of \$1,200 to the Ottawa District 1 Charity Fund and continued its longstanding tradition of supporting local students through a \$750 bursary awarded to a deserving graduate of Almonte and District High School. Additional community support included a donation to assist a local festival participant and the continued success of Worshipful Brother Tom Adam's annual charitable fundraising event, which once again brought brethren together in support of worthy causes.

Fraternal visitation also remained strong throughout the year, with members regularly travelling throughout both Ottawa Districts to support degree work and strengthen ties among sister lodges. The Lodge was particularly honoured to welcome the District Deputy Grand Master of Ottawa District 2 on a fraternal visit, where he was received with the Grand Honours befitting his office.

As the year concludes, Mississippi Lodge No. 147 can reflect proudly upon a period marked by fellowship, education, charity, and tradition. The dedication of its officers and brethren continues to ensure that the Lodge remains not only active, but vibrant – preserving the values of Freemasonry while contributing meaningfully to its community and the wider Craft.

**Worshipful Master** V.W. Bro. Gord Echlin  
**Lodge Secretary** W. Bro. Stuart Marshall

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at  
**34 Mill Street, Almonte, Ontario**



# Sidney Albert Luke No. 558



SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. JESUS FEDERICO, IPM & SECRETARY, SIDNEY ALBERT LUKE

The 2025–2026 Masonic year was an active and meaningful one for St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560, marked by steady ritual work, strong fraternal fellowship, charitable service, historical reflection, and important administrative renewal. Under the leadership of W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah, the Lodge maintained a full program of regular and emergent meetings, including the conferral of degrees upon several candidates, the proving up of newer Brethren, and their continued advancement through mentoring, education, and Lodge participation. The Lodge conferred Entered Apprentice Degrees on Bros. Ronald Boland, Steven Lively, Zabiullah Tarshi, Frederick Kaszap, and Leonardo Camacho; Fellow Craft Degrees on Bros. Boland and Lively; and Master Mason Degrees on Bros. Omar Al-Janabi, Jason DeMille, and Joseph Sanchez Montenegro. During the year, Bros. Vance Brousseau, Mansour El-Kozah, and Jason DeMille also proved their proficiency to the satisfaction of the Lodge. These ceremonies and examinations were repeatedly noted for their dignity, precision, and strong teamwork among officers and Brethren.

Masonic education remained a central feature of the Lodge's work. Presentations and discussions included reflections on the Twenty-Four-Inch Gauge, the Rough and Perfect Ashlars, the history of Dalhousie Lodge No. 52 and its connection to St. Andrew's Lodge, the meaning of Freemasonry as expressed through a Lodge-wide "clipboard exercise," and a paper entitled Masonry and Masculinity. These evenings encouraged thoughtful discussion on personal growth, morality, brotherhood, purpose, and the application of Masonic principles in daily life. The Lodge also continued to preserve and promote its history, including the appointment and investiture of Bro. Morgan Bayliss as Lodge Historian and renewed attention to the preservation of stories, artifacts, regalia, and records. The Lodge participated actively in District and community life. St. Andrew's received the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia, on both fraternal and official visits, hosted delegations, participated in visitations, supported the Travelling Gavel, and maintained strong ties with sister Lodges throughout Ottawa District 1. The Lodge also hosted and supported significant events, including the Empty Chair Ceremony, the Candlelight Reading of the Old Charges, Robbie Burns Night, and social and family gatherings. The Reading of the Old Charges, presented by R.W. Bro. Angus Gillis during the DDGM's Official Visit, was

a highlight of the year and was received with deep appreciation by the Brethren and visitors present.

Charity and benevolence were also prominent throughout the year. The Lodge supported a Brother-in-Need initiative, raising approximately \$7,000 through the generosity of Brethren and friends of the Lodge. St. Andrew's also supported Remembrance Day observances at Veterans House Canada, where members attended in regalia by dispensation and helped cater for the event. Additional charitable and community-minded discussions included support for Veterans House, District charitable events, and the donation of surplus regalia to be forwarded for Masonic use in Ukraine. These efforts reflected the Lodge's ongoing commitment to relief, service, and practical brotherly care.

The year was also one of remembrance. The Lodge honoured the memory of W. Bro. Samih Moussa Khairallah and R.W. Bro. Michael John Moor through Sacred Roll observances, and later conducted a Masonic Memorial Service for R.W. Bro. Moor on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at Hulse, Playfair and McGarry Funeral Home. R.W. Bro. Moor's long Masonic life included service as Worshipful Master, affiliation with St. Andrew's Lodge in 1983, service as Grand Chaplain in 2003, and many years of dedication to the Craft. The Memorial Service was conducted by the Officers and Members of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560 and stood as a solemn tribute to a highly respected Brother.

Administratively, the Lodge completed several important steps toward long-term stability. The Lodge reviewed and modernized its By-Laws, including updates to meeting arrangements, governance provisions, committee structures, and administrative procedures. The Lodge also approved an adjustment to annual dues for the 2026–2027 Masonic year, accepted a Strategic Plan as a guiding document for future work, and elected its officers for 2026–2027, with W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah duly re-elected as Worshipful Master and accepting the office. These actions, together with ongoing work in mentoring, Cornerstone reporting, finance, membership, and succession planning, positioned St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560 for continued strength, continuity, and service to the Craft.

**Worshipful Master** W. Bro. Jean Francois Plamondon  
**Lodge Secretary** W. Bro. Robert Booth

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at  
**Ottawa Masonic Centre, 2140 Walkley Road, Ottawa, Ontario**



# Edinburgh Defenders No. 570



SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. DAVID WILSON, WORSHIPFUL MASTER, EDINBURGH DEFENDERS NO. 570

The Masonic year began with the installation of new officers on May 7th, 2025 with W.M. David Wilson assuming the chair of King Solomon, with W.Bro. Mony Hanna (SW), Bro. John Shatat (JW), R.W.Bro. Glen Simpson (Sec), Bro. David Harding (SD), Bro. Michael McIntyre (JD), Bro. Guiseppe Conde (IG), W. Bro. Rod Harasemchuk (OG), Bro. Evrard Konaté (SS), Bro. Philip Robino (JS), W. Bro. Brian Hay (DoC), and Bro. Timothy Campbell (Hist). Bro. Henry Patterson (Chap) and Bro. Matthew Crockford (Ass Sec) were later installed on September 3rd, 2025. An officer's retreat was held for the new officers at the Hometown Bar and Grill near Billing's Bridge with 14 brethren in attendance. Eight CGPs were held almost monthly (Aug 27th, Sept 24th, Oct 29th, Nov 26th, Jan 14th, Feb 25th, Mar 25th, and Apr 29th) due to the large number of items to address, and they were held in a hybrid fashion, proving valuable so that those who could not attend in person were able to do so remotely. Lodge dues were increased to \$285 per year to bring them more in-line with modern costs. Bro. Evrard Konaté was honoured for his work coordinating the lodge by successful achievement of Cornerstone status. The lodge tartan is a work in progress in order to create an amalgamated altar cloth, a lodge crest was created the previous year and much swag derived therefrom this year in the form of shirts, pins, cufflinks, and challenge coins, adding to the pride of the lodge brethren.

The 2025-26 year was a busy one for degree work. Bros. Adam McIlvenna and Jefferson Gaité were Initiated into the craft this year. Bro. Dave Chimura was Passed, and Bros. Colton Crawford and Tom Smyth were entirely Initiated, Passed, and Raised.

In 2026, DDGM R.W.Bro. Abraham R. Garcia made his official visit to the lodge on January 21st, with a large contingent of visitors. Visitation was also made by brethren to the local Prince Hall Lodge on March 12th. On May 12th, our Bro. Evrard Konaté was installed as JW at King Solomon Lodge in Aylmer, QC with our lodge brethren in presence for support. A monumental feat of attendance was attained with EDL590 brethren visiting all three Installations that occurred in Ottawa-area lodges on the same evening of May 13th.

Affiliations were successfully balloted-on for W.Bro. Doru Kaytar, and Bros. Noel Benigno Aquino and Daniel Gensens. Two Suspensions for non-payment of dues were given. Demits were received and accepted, with regret, from Bros. Ainslie Dunstone and Allan McDougall, W.Bro. Dave Wardle, We lost two brethren to the Grand Lodge Above, namely W. Bro. Ken Goudie (April 18th, aged 82), and Bro. Idris Ben-Tahir (May 2nd, aged 86).

A visitation highlight was a group trip to Hamilton on October 24th, where the brethren visited the Scottish Rite Temple and took in a CFL football game, as well as the Blue Jays World Series Game from the stadium. The next day, the brethren paid a fraternal visit to Seymour Lodge No. 272 in Ancaster, which is the mother lodge of our W.M. We were warmly invited and our W.M. delivered a new traveling gavel to Seymour's W.M. – W.Bro. James Panoff. Our Historian then gave a piece of education outlining the history of both Defenders and Edinburgh Lodge and the formation of the amalgamated Edinburgh Defenders Lodge No. 590.

The Travelling Gavel was received from Carleton Lodge No. 665 on October 1st and delivered to Goodwood Lodge No. 159



(ABOVE) MEMBERS OF EDINBURGH DEFENDERS ON THEIR FRATERNAL VISIT TO HAMILTON TO VISIT MY MOTHER LODGE SEYMOUR LODGE NO. 272.



# Edinburgh Defenders No. 570



SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. DAVID WILSON, WORSHIPFUL MASTER, EDINBURGH DEFENDERS NO. 570

on October 7th. The annual Ceremony of Remembrance was held on November 5th. The silver deacon and steward wands were gifted to Temple Lodge No. 665. For post-meeting Festive Boards, good food was always available with a couple standout meals involving a military-style Table Lodge held on November 19th and the annual Robert Burns' Supper was held on January 21st, which was well attended.

The Social Committee was active as usual, with the annual Man Night occurring on November 1st, during the final game of the World Series where the brethren gathered in strength to witness the unfortunate defeat of the Toronto Blue Jays. A social Xmas Mingle event was hosted at W.Bro. Rob Bryce's home on December 17th. Other social events included pub nights at Pub Italia or the Lieutenant's Pump, and the ladies' group, the Illumihotties, had regular meetups as well.

The OMA annual Trivia Night was held on January 30th at Westboro Masonic Hall. EL590 was well-represented and in the end it was won by our then-candidate Bro. Colton Crawford and his table.

A core group of brethren regularly attend a blood donor clinic, as over 30 donations of blood were given during the Masonic Year. Plans were made for an upcoming summer

Fireworks Boat Cruise on the Ottawa River, to be had with two Grand Masters expected to attend. Plans to organize a large inter-district charitable event, the Charity Charge, were also formulated and expected to be implemented in the upcoming 2026-27 Masonic Year.

EDL590 is very proud of our culture of visitation. From installation 2025 to installation 2026, 33 members reported having made 192 visitations on 65 separate occasions to 29 different lodges in 6 Ontario districts and 4 external jurisdictions.

To wrap up the year, on April 22nd, 2026, the outgoing officers gathered for a dinner again at the Hometown Bar and Grill where we had 20 brethren attend and it was a very good night. The masonic year closed out with the installation of new officers on May 6th, 2026 with W.M. Mony Hanna assuming the chair of King Solomon, with W.Bro. David Wilson (IPM/Treasurer), Bro. Jon Shatat (SW), Bro. Michael MacIntyre (JW), R.W. Bro. Glen Simpson (Sec), Bro. Evard Konaté (SD), Bro. Matthew Crockford (JD), Bro. Tom Smyth (IG), W. Bro. Rod Harasemchuk (OG), Bro. Peter Pau (JS), W. Bro. Brian Hay (DoC), Bro. Henry Patterson (Chap), and Bro. Timothy Campbell (Hist).



[ABOVE] TWO WORTHY BRETHREN TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF A MASTER MASON ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 15TH, 2026. BROTHERS TOM SMYTH AND COLTON CRAWFORD MADE THEIR SPONSORS PROUD AS THEY PASSED THE PROVING IN WORD PERFECT FORM

**Worshipful Master** W. Bro. David Wilson  
**Lodge Secretary** R.W. Bro. Glen Simpson

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month  
Ottawa Masonic Centre 2140 Walkley Rd, Ottawa, ON  
[edl590.ca](http://edl590.ca)



# Goodwood Lodge No. 159



SUBMITTED BY W. BRO GREG SKELLY, SECRETARY, GOODWOOD 159

The past Masonic year has been a productive and rewarding one for Goodwood Lodge, marked by growth, education, fellowship, and a continued commitment to the principles and traditions of Freemasonry. Throughout the year, the Lodge remained active both within its own membership and across the wider district, demonstrating the strength and dedication of its Brethren.

One of the most significant highlights of the year was the continued growth of our membership. Goodwood Lodge was pleased to welcome two new members into our ranks, Bro. Gabriel Halfin and Bro. Andrew Wills. Their enthusiasm and commitment have already contributed positively to the Lodge, and we look forward to supporting them throughout their Masonic journeys. In addition, the Lodge celebrated important milestones in the advancement of our members. Bro. John Adibiyi and Bro. Tibet Akyurekli were both raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, while Bro. Andrew Wills was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft. These achievements reflect not only the dedication of the candidates themselves but also the collective efforts of the Brethren who continue to mentor and guide them through their progression.

Education remained a central focus throughout the year. The Lodge presented five educational pieces, providing members with opportunities to deepen their understanding of Freemasonry, its history, symbolism, and teachings. Complementing these educational efforts were five Brother-to-Brother social events, which strengthened the bonds of friendship and fellowship among the Brethren. These gatherings continue to play an important role in fostering the spirit of unity and camaraderie that defines Goodwood Lodge.

The Lodge also embraced modernization through the launch of an updated website. This initiative has enhanced communication with members and the public alike, providing a modern platform through which the Lodge can share information, promote events, and showcase the values and activities of Freemasonry within the community. Candidate development and mentorship remained a priority throughout the year. Building upon the longstanding efforts of V.W. Bro. Ivan Harris, the Lodge continued to invest time and energy into mentoring candidates and conducting regular practices to assist Brethren in preparing for their degree work. This commitment ensures that each candidate receives meaningful instruction and support

as they progress through their Masonic journey. During the summer recess, the Lodge further demonstrated its dedication to excellence by hosting an Officer Workshop Session, providing officers with an opportunity to refine their ritual work, strengthen leadership skills, and prepare for the coming year.

Goodwood Lodge also proudly maintained its cherished traditions. The annual November Empty Chair Ceremony once again provided a solemn opportunity to reflect upon and remember our absent Brethren. The December Christmas Dinner brought members, families, and friends together in celebration of the season, while Members Night offered an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions of the Brethren who make the Lodge successful.

Beyond the walls of the Lodge, Goodwood members continued to be active participants in district events. The Lodge maintained an exceptional level of representation, with members attending every District Deputy Grand Master's Official Visit throughout the year, as well as every major lodge social event within the district. This commitment to supporting our sister lodges and district activities demonstrates Goodwood Lodge's dedication to the broader Masonic family and reinforces the strong relationships that exist throughout the district.

As we reflect upon the past year, we can take pride in the many accomplishments of Goodwood Lodge. Through membership growth, educational excellence, meaningful fellowship, strong mentorship, and unwavering participation in district activities, the Lodge has continued to build upon its traditions while preparing confidently for the future. The year stands as a testament to the dedication of the Brethren and the enduring strength of Goodwood Lodge.



# Civil Service Lodge No. 148

SUBMITTED BY **W.BRO. ADONI FARAH, WORSHIPFUL MASTER, CIVIL SERVICE LODGE NO. 148**



The 2025-2026 Masonic year for Civil Service Lodge #148 began with great momentum on May 13th, 2025, with the installation of W.Bro. Adoni Farah. The ceremony, led by Installing Master V.W.Bro. George Chaiban, welcomed a packed room from the Eastern Tour, with notable attendance from M.W. Bro. John Green and Ottawa District 1 DDGM R.W.Bro. Sam Roberts. The very next day, a delegation of eight members showed our support by visiting Ionic Lodge for the installation of W.Bro. Chris Horsup.

Throughout the summer, the lodge remained highly active. We hosted a Master's Appreciation Night Dinner for W.Bro. Sam Himyary on July 23rd, followed by our annual summer BBQ for members and their families at the River Lounge Restaurant on August 10th. A week later, members attended Goodwood's Pig Roast on August 17th.

A significant milestone was achieved on October 14th when R.W.Bro. Sam Roberts and Ottawa District 1 DDGM R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia presented our lodge with its Cornerstone Certificate.

November was an especially busy month. On Remembrance Day, November 11th, we hosted the Tunis Shrine Degree team for Bro. Elias Ibrahim's third degree. That same evening, we also received a delegation from St. Andrew's Lodge to claim the travelling gavel. We then capped off the month by hosting our Annual Ladies Night at the River Lounge Restaurant on November 22nd.

The momentum continued into the new calendar year with active participation in the district. A strong delegation was present to deliver the travelling gavel to St. John's Lodge on January 14th. Our lodge put together two teams for the OMC Trivia Night on January 30th, and filled two tables at the District Charity Ball on February 7th.

Shortly after, on February 10th, we received the District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia on his Official Visit, during which we had the honor of presenting 60-year certificates and pins to R.W.Bro. Les Richardson and W.Bro. Stan Alward.

March was focused on membership and recognition. On March 10th, we presented a 25-year certificate and pin to W.Bro. Anwar Ibrahim and initiated Bro. Alexander Bird, followed by the initiation of Bro. Gregory Gougeon on March 24th.

In April, we rounded out our formal fraternal visits by sending a team to the Russell Lodge Curling Bonspiel on April 4th, four members to Doric Lodge's Table Lodge on April 25th, and four members to the Grand Master's Reception on April 30th. Finally, outside of our formal district and lodge duties, we consistently prioritized fellowship through our Brother to Brother events scattered throughout the year. These informal gatherings allowed members to connect, unwind, and build fraternal bonds. We started off with an excellent evening in box seats at an Atletico Ottawa soccer game on August 24th, 2025. We also enjoyed great nights of camaraderie playing pool together, first at Dooley's on September 22nd, 2025, and later at Tailgators on April 21st, 2026.

Ultimately, this year was incredibly productive. We grew together as a lodge, as well as individually. We have strengthened our fraternal bonds, and the future of Civil Service Lodge is bright.





# St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560

SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. JESUS FEDERICO, SECRETARY, ST. ANDREW'S LODGE NO. 560



The 2025–2026 Masonic year was an active and meaningful one for St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560, marked by steady ritual work, strong fraternal fellowship, charitable service, historical reflection, and important administrative renewal. Under the leadership of W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah, the Lodge maintained a full program of regular and emergent meetings, including the conferral of degrees upon several candidates, the proving up of newer Brethren, and their continued advancement through mentoring, education, and Lodge participation. The Lodge conferred Entered Apprentice Degrees on Bros. Ronald Boland, Steven Lively, Zabiullah Tarshi, Frederick Kaszap, and Leonardo Camacho; Fellow Craft Degrees on Bros. Boland and Lively; and Master Mason Degrees on Bros. Omar Al-Janabi, Jason DeMille, and Joseph Sanchez Montenegro. During the year, Bros. Vance Brousseau, Mansour El-Kozah, and Jason DeMille also proved their proficiency to the satisfaction of the Lodge. These ceremonies and examinations were repeatedly noted for their dignity, precision, and strong teamwork among officers and Brethren.

Masonic education remained a central feature of the Lodge's work. Presentations and discussions included reflections on the Twenty-Four-Inch Gauge, the Rough and Perfect Ashlars, the history of Dalhousie Lodge No. 52 and its connection to St. Andrew's Lodge, the meaning of Freemasonry as expressed through a Lodge-wide "clipboard exercise," and a paper entitled Masonry and Masculinity. These evenings encouraged thoughtful discussion on personal growth, morality, brotherhood, purpose, and the application of Masonic principles in daily life. The Lodge also continued to preserve and promote its history, including the appointment and investiture of Bro. Morgan Bayliss as Lodge Historian and renewed attention to the preservation of stories, artifacts, regalia, and records. The Lodge participated actively in District and community life. St. Andrew's received the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia, on both fraternal and official visits, hosted delegations, participated in visitations, supported the Travelling Gavel, and maintained strong ties with sister Lodges throughout Ottawa District 1. The Lodge also hosted and supported significant events, including the Empty Chair Ceremony, the Candlelight Reading of the Old Charges, Robbie Burns Night, and social and family gatherings. The Reading of the Old Charges, presented by R.W. Bro. Angus Gillis during the DDGM's Official Visit, was a highlight of the year and was received with deep appreciation by the Brethren and visitors present.

Charity and benevolence were also prominent throughout the year. The Lodge supported a Brother-in-Need initiative, raising approximately \$7,000 through the generosity of Brethren and friends of the Lodge. St. Andrew's also supported Remembrance Day observances at Veterans House Canada, where members attended in regalia by dispensation and helped cater for the event. Additional charitable and community-minded discussions included support for Veterans House, District charitable events, and the donation of surplus regalia to be forwarded for Masonic use in Ukraine. These efforts reflected the Lodge's ongoing commitment to relief, service, and practical brotherly care.

The year was also one of remembrance. The Lodge honoured the memory of W. Bro. Samih Moussa Khairallah and R.W. Bro. Michael John Moor through Sacred Roll observances, and later conducted a Masonic Memorial Service for R.W. Bro. Moor on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at Hulse, Playfair and McGarry Funeral Home. R.W. Bro. Moor's long Masonic life included service as Worshipful Master, affiliation with St. Andrew's Lodge in 1983, service as Grand Chaplain in 2003, and many years of dedication to the Craft. The Memorial Service was conducted by the Officers and Members of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560 and stood as a solemn tribute to a highly respected Brother.

Administratively, the Lodge completed several important steps toward long-term stability. The Lodge reviewed and modernized its By-Laws, including updates to meeting arrangements, governance provisions, committee structures, and administrative procedures. The Lodge also approved an adjustment to annual dues for the 2026–2027 Masonic year, accepted a Strategic Plan as a guiding document for future work, and elected its officers for 2026–2027, with W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah duly re-elected as Worshipful Master and accepting the office. These actions, together with ongoing work in mentoring, Cornerstone reporting, finance, membership, and succession planning, positioned St. Andrew's Lodge No. 560 for continued strength, continuity, and service to the Craft.



# Hazeldean Lodge No. 517

SUBMITTED BY BRO. IAN MACKENZIE HISTORIAN, HAZELDEAN LODGE NO. 517



The 2025–2026 Masonic Year marked another successful period of growth, fellowship, and community engagement for Hazeldean Lodge No. 517. Building upon the momentum of previous years, the Lodge continued to strengthen its membership, enhance the Masonic experience for its Brethren, and make a meaningful contribution to the wider community.

Hazeldean proudly maintained its status as a Certified Cornerstone Lodge, exceeding the requirements for re-certification while continuing to deliver a strong program of ritual, mentorship, and Masonic education. During the year, the Lodge initiated two new Brethren, passed two to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and raised four to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Three new members affiliated with the Lodge, while additional applications for both initiation and affiliation reflected the Lodge's continued vitality and appeal. Candidates benefited from Hazeldean's well-established mentorship program, and Masonic education remained a regular feature of every meeting. The Lodge also celebrated service and achievement through its annual Awards Evening, recognized Masonic Service Award recipients, and welcomed the acceptance of its updated By-Laws by Grand Lodge.

Fellowship remained at the heart of Lodge life. Members, families, and friends gathered throughout the year for a variety of social events including a summer picnic, monthly breakfasts, games nights, festive boards, and the annual Christmas Dinner honouring the Lodge Widows. Hazeldean continued its tradition of inter-lodge visitation through visits to Sussex Lodge, Goodwood Lodge, and the Lodge of Fidelity, where the Brethren proudly carried the Traveling Gavel. A highlight of the social calendar was the inaugural Kanata Karaoke Fun/Fundraiser, held in memory of Bro. Rob Blake, which brought together members and guests in support of both the Lodge and Temple Corporation.

Service to the community remained a cornerstone of Hazeldean's mission. The Lodge designated the Kanata Food Cupboard as its primary local charity, contributing food throughout the year while also raising more than \$900 in financial support, enhanced by matching assistance from the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. Members participated in the Kanata Legion Remembrance Day ceremonies, extended Christmas greetings to Lodge Widows, and continued to support charitable initiatives across the district, including the Ottawa Masonic Charity Ball and other benevolent causes.

As Hazeldean Lodge reflects on another productive and



rewarding year, it does so with gratitude for the dedication of its members, the support of their families, and the many friendships that continue to strengthen the Lodge. The year stands as a testament to the enduring principles of Freemasonry and the bright future that lies ahead for Hazeldean Lodge No. 517.



# Prince of Wales Lodge No. 371

SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. JESUS FEDERICO ,SECRETARY,ST. ANDREW'S LODGE NO.560



The 2025-2026 Masonic year proved to be an active and successful period for Prince of Wales Lodge No. 371, marked by degree work, membership growth, educational presentations, distinguished visitors, and strong fraternal engagement.

The Lodge commenced its year on September 26, 2025, with the Initiation of Mr. Johnson (John) Mehan into the First Degree. The occasion was made particularly memorable by the attendance of his uncle, Right Worshipful Brother Terry Pachal of Porcupine Lodge. At the opening of the session, the Worshipful Master noted that the Lodge Warrant remained draped in memory of Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Ronald Eric Groshaw, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario from 1983 to 1985.

In October, the Lodge welcomed Right Worshipful Brother Abe Garcia, District Deputy Grand Master of Ottawa District 1, for a fraternal visit. During his visit, Brother Reid Mulligan was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The Lodge was further honoured by the attendance of Right Worshipful Brother David Spencer, Grand Chaplain, and Very Worshipful Brother Don Learning, Grand Steward. Following the ceremony, the DDGM congratulated the Lodge on the excellent degree work and presented Entered Apprentice pins to Brothers Ertan Ocal and John Mehan.

November featured the successful reinstatement of Brother Asif Ijaz following a favourable report from a Board of Inquiry and a positive ballot of the Lodge. The Lodge also completed the Third Degree work for Brother Reid Mulligan through the presentation of the Apron Charge, which had been inadvertently omitted during the previous meeting. Masonic Education was highlighted by Worshipful Brother Grant Poulsen, who reflected on twenty years of Masonic service and shared lessons from his journey in the Craft. December saw the Lodge gather for its annual Memorial Service, attended by members, families, and friends, followed by a holiday celebration and fellowship event.

January brought continued growth through favourable ballots on the petition of Mr. Flavien Cyamweshi and the affiliation request of Brother Fritz Padong. During the same meeting, Brother Ertan Ocal was Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft. The Worshipful Master also encouraged the Brethren to review and consider the Cornerstone Standards and Guidance initiative as a framework for future Lodge development.

A major highlight of the year occurred in February with the Official Visit of Right Worshipful Brother Abe Garcia and a distinguished delegation of Grand Lodge Officers and Masters of the Year. The DDGM assumed the Chair in due form before returning it to the Worshipful Master. During



the meeting, affiliation proceedings were initiated for Worshipful Brother Jean-Francois Plamondon. The Lodge was also advised of upcoming participation in the District Travelling Gavel initiative.

The February meeting featured an exceptional evening of Masonic Education. Very Worshipful Brother Ian Hooker presented an engaging lecture on the history and symbolism of the Square and Compasses. Brother Miguel Wonham explored the symbolism of the Ceremony of Initiation and the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice, drawing connections to philosophy, scripture, and personal development. Worshipful Brother Mfana Cele delivered a presentation on Freemasonry and Music, highlighting the contributions of renowned Masonic composers and musicians throughout history.

March was marked by the arrival of the Ottawa District Travelling Gavel, presented by a distinguished delegation from Acacia Lodge No. 561. Prince of Wales Lodge subsequently accepted responsibility for conveying the Gavel to Temple Lodge. The Lodge also Initiated Brother Flavien Cyamweshi into the First Degree. During



# Prince of Wales Lodge No. 371



the meeting, Worshipful Brother Jean-Francois Plamondon withdrew his affiliation request, while discussions regarding the reinstatement of Brother Rolf Bauman commenced. The Worshipful Master was pleased to present the Lodge's Mason of the Year Award to Brother Brandon Northwood in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication.

During the April Lodge CGP meeting, discussion was held regarding Prince of Wales Lodge's future transition to the Cornerstone platform. While the majority of the implementation work will carry forward into the 2026–2027 Masonic year, preliminary planning commenced during this session. Worshipful Brother Rob Lauzon agreed to prepare a list of required duties and responsibilities and assign tasks to willing members. Very Worshipful Brother Ian Hooker accepted responsibility for documenting the process and serving as the Lodge's official recorder. Worshipful Brother Stephen Plummer was designated as project owner for the initiative.

The CGP meeting also saw renewed interest in strengthening mentorship opportunities for newer Brethren. Brother Chris Iles volunteered to investigate the development of a formal mentorship program and offered to serve on a Mentorship Committee. Brother Miguel Wonham also volunteered his assistance. The discussion generated considerable enthusiasm for the re-establishment of the Entered Apprentice School. Worshipful Brother Eric Owen generously offered to host the school and agreed to work with the Brethren to establish a suitable date for its return.

On April 10, 2026, Prince of Wales Lodge Emergent Night, held its signature fundraising event, the "Chuck Norris and Bacon" Evening and Silent Auction. While attendance and proceeds did not quite reach the exceptional levels achieved during the previous year, the event was nevertheless successful. Most importantly, the funds raised provided much-needed financial support and contributed significantly to maintaining the Lodge's fiscal stability and ongoing operations.

In April, Prince of Wales Lodge welcomed an international fraternal visitor, Brother Graeme P. Dunn, Inner Guard of Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge No. 4, whose visit further emphasized the universal nature of Freemasonry. The Lodge also expressed its support and condolences to Right Worshipful Brother Al Wright and his family upon the passing of his wife, Kathy Wright, a respected member of the Order of the Eastern Star. A moment of silence was observed, and members were encouraged to attend the memorial service.

April also featured the reception of affiliation and reinstatement requests from Mr. Farud Masud and Brother Rolf Bauman respectively. The annual election of officers was conducted, resulting in the election of Worshipful Brother Stephen Plummer as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Brother Reid Mulligan successfully proved his proficiency in the Third Degree, demonstrating his commitment to Masonic advancement.

An educational program on Concordant Bodies concluded the evening, with presentations by Worshipful Brother Steve Young on the York Rite, Very Worshipful Brother John Guinn on the Scottish Rite, and Right Worshipful Brother Dennis Saikley on the Shrine.

The Masonic year concluded in May with the successful Installation of Worshipful Brother Stephen Plummer as Worshipful Master of Prince of Wales Lodge No. 371.

Throughout the year, Prince of Wales Lodge demonstrated a strong commitment to candidate development, Masonic education, fraternal visitation, and community fellowship. The Lodge welcomed new members, advanced candidates through the degrees, reinstated former members, participated actively in District initiatives, and maintained a vibrant educational program. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of the Brethren and their continued commitment to the principles of Freemasonry.



# Lodge of Fidelity No. 231

SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. DAVID PEATE, SECRETARY LODGE OF FIDELITY NO.231



The 2025–26 Masonic year was marked by growth, education, charity, and fellowship. Lodge of Fidelity initiated six new members, advanced several brethren, strengthened fraternal bonds within the district, and maintained a vibrant social calendar. Through the dedication of its officers, the commitment of its members, and the steady leadership of V. W. Bro. Ron Taylor, the lodge enjoyed a year of harmony, progress, and renewed vitality.

## 2025: A Strong Start to the Year

In August, Lodge of Fidelity hosted a showing of the play *Five Alarm* at the Ottawa Little Theatre as a fund raiser. Our first meeting was an emergent on September 2, 2025 featuring an excellent presentation by Bro. Serge Larocque on “Meeting Places and Exoteric Interpretations.” The paper generated lively discussion and set a strong tone for the months ahead. Later in September, the lodge hosted a FriendtoFriend evening, welcoming seven nonMasons into the lodge room following the regular meeting. The event was well attended and contributed directly to the influx of petitions received that month. That September 16 meeting saw five applications for initiation. October brought a memorable evening as Lodge of Fidelity welcomed a delegation from Hazeldean Lodge No. 517, who delivered the Ottawa District 1 Traveling Gavel. The District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Abraham Garcia, made his fraternal visit, receiving Grand Honours and offering remarks on district activities. Bro. Larocque delivered a thoughtful lecture on symbolism at the altar, and the lodge invested him as Junior Deacon.

The November 18 meeting was one of the largest of the year, with 40 guests in attendance for the DDGM’s Official

Visit. Delegations from Acacia Lodge No. 561 and several Grand Lodge officers joined the brethren for an evening of ceremony, recognition, and fellowship. Two candidates—Denzil Wilson and Matthew Yung—were successfully balloted on, and two brethren, Bros. Gaudet and LaRusic, proved their proficiency in the Third Degree and were invested as Inner Guard and Junior Steward respectively. The December 16 meeting was brief but productive, with the lodge approving yearend finances and balloting favourably on three candidates: JeanBaptiste, McLellan, and Sheppard. The evening concluded with a wellattended Christmas dinner, supported by the efforts of many brethren and families.

## 2026: Following Through

The new calendar year began with an emergent meeting on January 6, 2026, where Bros. Wilson and Yung were initiated. On January 22, the lodge initiated Bros. JeanBaptiste and McLellan, balloted favourably on Mr. Gouled Omar. February continued the momentum. On February 4, Mr. Omar was initiated, followed by the initiation of Bro. Riley Sheppard on February 17—a particularly meaningful evening attended by his father and now Brother, Scott Sheppard, who expressed pride in his son’s advancement. Bro. Larocque presented a wellreceived educational piece on “The Apron.”

\ On February 24, the lodge held a special emergent meeting at the Perley Veterans Health Centre. With 19 guests present, the lodge honoured the long relationship between Masonry and the Perley, heard remarks from the DDGM, and enjoyed fellowship in the Perley bar. March 17 saw Bros. Yung and McLellan passed to the





# Lodge of Fidelity No. 231



Second Degree, assisted by visiting brethren. Bro. Larocque delivered another educational piece, "At the Door of the Lodge," and the lodge approved ByLaw amendments. The month also included a successful fundraising breakfast, raising \$1,730 supporting underprivileged children from Dr. F. J. McDonald Catholic School.

On April 7, Bro. JeanBaptiste proved his proficiency and was passed to the Second Degree. Later that month, on April 21, the lodge conducted its annual Memorial Service, honouring W. Bro. James Hatch and Bro. Allen Heffler. Elections were held, returning V. W. Bro. Taylor as Worshipful Master and filling all offices for the coming year. Service pins were presented to W. Bro. Peate, W. Bro. Yeo, and V. W. Bro. Taylor in recognition of 25 years of dedicated service. W. Bro. Roger Cook delivered an engaging lecture on the Masonic pavement and its symbolic connection to the Great Pyramid of Giza.

The May 19 meeting featured the Installation and Investiture of officers for the 2026–27 Masonic year. V. W. Bro. Taylor was installed for a second term, and the full slate of officers was invested in due form. The evening concluded with a strawberry social. An emergent meeting was also held on Saturday, May 30th when Brothers Riley Sheppard and Joseph Dubois were passed to the Second Degree.

*Several important events took place outside regular meetings and are noteworthy in this review:*

- Whisky Tasting Event: Held April 11, the tasting was well attended and enjoyed by brethren and guests alike. \$1,500 was raised for the DDGM's charity.

- March, 2026 – Donation to Canterbury High School: The Worshipful Master and Treasurer presented a \$1,500 check to Canterbury High School to support students who cannot afford the extra fees for their arts programs.

- May 4, 2026 – Fraternal Visit to Fidelity Lodge No. 650 (Toledo, Ontario): A delegation of Lodge of Fidelity brethren traveled to Toledo for a warm and memorable evening of fellowship. A letter of appreciation was later received from Fidelity Lodge No. 650. They have been invited for a reciprocal visit in October.

- June 3, 2026 – Lodge BBQ: Sydney Albert Luke Lodge joined Lodge of Fidelity for a successful outdoor BBQ, strengthening ties between the lodges.

- June 7, 2026 – Ottawa Little Theatre Outing: Members, families, and friends attended a performance at the Ottawa Little Theatre, continuing a longstanding tradition of cultural fellowship. \$850 was raised for the DDGM's charity.



**Worshipful Master** V.W. Bro. Ron Taylor  
**Lodge Secretary** W. Bro. David Peate

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month  
**Ottawa Masonic Centre 2140 Walkley Rd, Ottawa, ON**

[lodgeoffidelity.com](http://lodgeoffidelity.com)

# Russell Masonic Lodge No. 479

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SUBMITTED BY **BRO. MITCH TAYLOR, SECRETARY RUSSELL LODGE #479**

Under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Pat Hall, Russell Masonic Lodge No. 479 enjoyed a productive and successful Masonic year marked by growth in membership, strong fraternal fellowship, and meaningful community engagement.

The year began in September 2025 with the Lodge opening in the Third Degree, where Brother James McCooye demonstrated his proficiency in the Craft. October featured a fraternal visit from Right Worshipful Brother Abe Garcia and the raising of Brother Julian Taborda to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The Lodge also hosted its annual Pig Roast on October 25, which was another highly successful community event.

Membership growth continued throughout the year. Mr. John Lennox was initiated into Masonry in November, followed by the successful balloting of Right Worshipful Brother Robert Ducharme for affiliation and Mr. Scott Villeneuve as a candidate in December. In January, an emergent meeting was held to initiate both Mr. Jason Gaines and Mr. Scott Villeneuve. February saw the Lodge receive the Travelling Gavel from Sidney Albert Luke Lodge and conduct a successful ballot for Mr. Charles Dentelbeck. Brother Julian Taborda proved his proficiency in March, while April included the passing of Brother John Lennox to the Second Degree and a successful ballot for Mr. Dani Ismail. In May, Mr. Charles Dentelbeck was initiated into Masonry, continuing a year of remarkable growth and engagement.

The Lodge remained active in the community through several well-supported events. December's participation in the annual Russell Santa Claus Parade included the distribution of BeaverTails and hot chocolate to parade-goers, with donations benefiting Naomi House in Winchester. The Christmas Potluck Dinner once again brought together Masons and their spouses for an evening of fellowship. April's annual Curling Bonspiel at the Russell Curling Club was sold out and raised \$1,000 for the District Deputy Grand Master's Charity. In May, the Lodge hosted a highly successful Trivia Night fundraiser, raising \$6,300 for the Lodge through the efforts of the Russell Trivia team.

A highlight of the year was the Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master in April, which drew a large attendance of Brethren and included the reinstatement of a suspended Brother. The year concluded with the election of officers for

the 2026–2027 Masonic year, positioning the Lodge for continued success.

Russell Masonic Lodge No. 479 can look back on a year characterized by growth, charitable service, active participation, and strong fraternal bonds. The dedication of its members has ensured that the Lodge remains a vibrant and valued presence within both the Masonic fraternity and the Russell community.



# Temple Lodge No. 665

SUBMITTED BY W.BRO. PATRICK HALCRO, WORSHIPFUL MASTER, TEMPLE LODGE NO. 665



The 2025–2026 Masonic year was one of renewed energy, fellowship, and achievement for Temple Lodge No. 665. As the Lodge celebrated its 75th Anniversary, the Brethren reflected upon three-quarters of a century of Masonic service while continuing to build upon the strong foundation laid by those who came before them. Through the dedication of its members and a shared commitment to strengthening the Lodge, Temple experienced a year marked by meaningful milestones, successful fundraising efforts, and increased member engagement.

The year began with the reinstatement of the Lodge's Annual Lobster Fundraiser Dinner. The event proved to be an overwhelming success, selling out completely and demonstrating what can be accomplished when Brethren unite behind a common goal. This success set a positive tone for the year ahead and reaffirmed the strength of our Lodge when working together.

In October, Temple Lodge welcomed the Shrine Degree Team, who assisted in conferring the Sublime Degree of Master Mason upon Brother Jeff Campeau. During the same meeting, the previous District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Sam Roberts, presented the Lodge with its Cornerstone Project Certificate, recognizing the Lodge's commitment to charitable and community service initiatives.

November saw the Lodge observe its annual Remembrance Day ceremonies, highlighted by a thoughtful presentation from Very Worshipful Brother Ron Ashworth, who served as our special guest speaker.

December was another busy and rewarding month. Brother Ken Duguay was Initiated into the Craft, while the Lodge successfully revived its Roast Beef Fundraiser, which was met with enthusiastic support. The month concluded with our Members and Family Christmas Potluck Dinner, providing an opportunity for fellowship and celebration during the holiday season.

The momentum continued into the new year with the Initiation of Brother Vincent Gobuyan in January. In February, Temple Lodge was honoured to host the District Deputy Grand Master during his Official Visit and welcomed a delegation from Goodwood Lodge on their annual fraternal visit. During this meeting, the Lodge recognized two long-serving Brethren with 50-Year Masonic Service Pins and

Certificates: Brother William "Bill" Ranger and Brother James "Jim" Birtch. Brother Daniel Duff also successfully proved his proficiency in the Third Degree.

March featured a strong fraternal presence as a sizable contingent from Temple Lodge visited Goodwood Lodge. The Lodge also had the pleasure of presenting the Travelling Gavel to Doric Lodge, further strengthening the bonds of friendship among our neighbouring Lodges.

In April, Temple Lodge held its annual elections and welcomed a distinguished delegation from Prince of Wales Lodge, who visited to present the Travelling Gavel. Brother Jeff Campeau further advanced in his Masonic journey by successfully proving his proficiency in the Third Degree.

May marked the Installation of Officers and the conclusion of another productive year. The Lodge recognized Worshipful Brother Ken Roy with his 25-Year Masonic Service Pin and Certificate, while Very Worshipful Brothers Joe Bamton and Russ Williams were honoured for 25 years as Past Masters. The year concluded with yet another successful Lobster Fundraiser, reaffirming the event as a cornerstone of the Lodge's fundraising efforts. As Temple Lodge celebrates its 75th Anniversary, it does so with much to be proud of. The past year demonstrated the enduring strength of the Lodge and the commitment of its members to preserving its traditions while embracing new opportunities for growth. Members returned to Lodge activities in greater numbers, strengthening both attendance and fellowship. While the year presented occasional challenges, those experiences ultimately brought the Brethren closer together and reinforced the resilience of the Lodge. Seventy-five years after its founding, Temple Lodge No. 665 remains vibrant, active, and firmly positioned for a bright and promising future.

# St. John's Lodge No. 63

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SUBMITTED BY W. BRO. ANDREW VALLEY, SECRETARY, ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 63

The 2025–2026 Masonic year at St. John's Lodge No. 63 was one of perseverance, fellowship, and steady labour. St. John's faced its share of challenges during the year, but the brethren responded with harmony, commitment, and a willingness to support one another. With Past Masters, officers, and members all lending their efforts where needed, the work of the Lodge continued in good order and in the spirit of brotherly cooperation.

The year began socially with a well-attended Lodge barbecue in August, helping set a tone of fellowship before the return to regular meetings. In September, the Lodge received R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia, District Deputy Grand Master of Ottawa District 1, on his first fraternal visit to St. John's. That evening also saw applications for affiliation read for R.W. Bro. Sam Roberts and W. Bro. Phillip Tanner, both of whom would become valued additions to the Lodge. Bros. Duncan and Braden Rogers were passed to the Fellowcraft Degree, and the Lodge received a Cornerstone Certificate signed by M.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland.

In October, St. John's welcomed R.W. Bro. Abraham Garcia on his Official Visit. The evening was very well attended, with current and past Grand Lodge Officers, Masters of the year, and forty-one visitors received. A meaningful presentation was also made in honour of W. Bro. David Taggart, a long-time Tyler of St. John's Lodge. His family was welcomed into the lodge room as a plaque acknowledging his membership, service, and memory was presented. The plaque was placed on the Tyler's chair in the anteroom, a fitting tribute to a brother whose station at the door was such an important part of his Masonic life. The evening also included Masonic education titled "Guardian at the Gate," presented by V.W. Bro. Gord Echlin and written by W. Bro. Andrew Valley.

December brought a successful Christmas Dinner with many families in attendance, followed later in the month by the passing of Bro. Ryan Colclough to the Fellowcraft Degree. In January, Civil Service Lodge No. 148 delivered the Ottawa District 1 Travelling Gavel to St. John's Lodge with a perfect number of brethren. St. John's later carried the gavel forward to Mississippi Lodge No. 147 in Almonte, where the Lodge was represented by a very good turnout of brethren. January also saw Bro. Alec Simpson raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, and Bro. Alan Gshwind proved his proficiency in the Master Mason's Degree. Charity and community support remained important parts

of the year. St. John's continued its support of the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation through the Masonic Foundation matching program. The Lodge and its members contributed \$2,300, which, with the Masonic Foundation top-up, brought the total donation to \$3,059.

In February, the Lodge enjoyed its first "Not a Cookoff" Chili Cookoff festive board, a warm and well-received evening of food and fellowship. The work of the Lodge continued with Bro. Cyrille Lombardo being passed to the Fellowcraft Degree. Although the March meeting was lost to a winter ice storm, the Lodge returned strongly in April. Annual elections were held, with Bro. Wesley Thompson elected Worshipful Master. That same evening, the Tunis Shrine Degree Team, led by R.W. Bro. Sam Roberts, conducted the Third Degree, raising Bros. Duncan and Braden Rogers to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Braden Rogers, being a Lewis, was also presented with his Lewis Jewel by Bro. Greg Forsyth.

The year concluded with the Installation and Investiture of Officers, as W. Bro. Wesley Thompson was installed in the Chair of King Solomon.

After a year that asked much of its officers and brethren, St. John's Lodge enters the next Masonic year with gratitude for the perseverance shown, pride in the work accomplished, and confidence that a strong and promising year lies ahead.



**The Following Lodge's did not submit a year end report**

Carleton Lodge No. 465  
St. John's Lodge No. 63





# District Meetings



# District Meetings

## Meeting Summary

### Summer Meeting

August 21, 2025  
Ottawa Masonic Centre  
2140 Walkley Rd Ottawa

#### Agenda

##### **6:00 PM Photos of Worshipful Masters and District Chairmen in Lodge Room 1**

(Masters: Tuxedos and Regalia / Chairmen: Dark Business Suit)

7:30 PM Call to Order – Upstairs Banquet Room

Invocation

Opening Remarks - DDGM

Minutes of previous District Meeting (29 Apr 2025) - Secretary

#### **Old Business**

- Financial Reviewer's Report
- Last Year's Financials

#### **New Business**

- Budget
- Trestle Board
- Revisions
- Introduction of District officers and Committee chairmen

#### **District Events**

- District BBQ
- District Divine Service, GLAN, Lodge of Instruction
- Remembrance Day Ceremony at Perley
- Charity (Project No. 2543)

#### **Closing Remarks – DDGM**

9:00 PM Adjournment & Refreshment

The meeting was **opened by R.W. Bro. Abe Garcia at 19:31** hrs with 60 brethren in attendance; regrets were recorded.

The invocation was delivered by W. Bro. Steve Young.

In his opening remarks, R.W. Bro. Garcia expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him as District Deputy Grand Master and acknowledged past DDGMs for their service. He also thanked committee chairmen for their support.

The minutes of the previous meeting (29 April 2025) were approved without discussion.

#### **Financial Report:**

The financial review was presented and accepted as amended. A discrepancy in balances was explained as a prior regalia expense. Due to rising costs and declining membership, the per capita was increased, ultimately approved at a higher rate to avoid a zero year-end balance. The 2025–26 budget was adopted.

#### **Trestle Board & Events:**

The District Trestle Board was presented, including the Travelling Gavel schedule. Key upcoming events include: District BBQ (August 23) Divine Service (October 19) Grand Lodge Appreciation Night (September 29) Lodge of Instruction (October 28) Remembrance Day at Perley Health (November 11)

Additional lodge events and invitations were announced. Coordination of lodge schedules with official visits was emphasized.

Committee chairmen were introduced, with W. Bro. Jace Baart assuming the Regalia role. Updates were provided on Grand Lodge's database transition. A photography team was introduced, with opt-out available.

#### **District Charity:**

This year's charity is Perley Health Centre. A presentation was given, and a groundbreaking event announced. A donation was received from Lodge of Fidelity. It was also noted that \$45,000 was raised in the previous year for the Royal Ottawa Hospital.

A proposal for district-branded polo shirts was introduced and well received.

#### **Closing Remarks:**

R.W. Bro. Garcia announced the district theme, "Inspiration through Service," encouraging participation and engagement across lodges.

The meeting was **closed at 20:37** hrs in peace and harmony.



# District Meetings

## Meeting Summary

### Winter Meeting

January 27, 2026  
Ottawa Masonic Centre  
2140 Walkley Rd Ottawa

#### Agenda

7:30PM Call to Order – Upstairs Banquet Room

Invocation

Opening Remarks - DDGM

Minutes of previous District Meeting (August 2025)

**Grand Lodge DDGM Midterm Meeting Update**

#### Old Business

- Mid-year Reports – Chairmen (1-3 min. summary)
- District Charity Update – Bro. Duff Sullivan (3 min. update)
- Philanthropy Strategy – W.Bro. Rob Bryce (10 min. presentation)

#### Upcoming Events

- Official Visits
- Valentine's Charity Ball
- Day of Masonry
- Grand Master's Reception
- Commemorative Service at Beechwood Cemetery
- Boat Cruise in August

#### New Business

Closing Remarks – DDGM

9:00 PM Adjournment & Refreshment

The meeting was opened by **R.W. Bro. Abe Garcia** at 19:31

Brethren, 50 counted not all names are recorded.

Regrets: R.W. Bros. Barry Burchill, Gary Gossling, Jim Bowman, Trevor Hemmerling, Don Healey, Sam Roberts, V.W. Bros. Doug Robar, Ivan Harris, Blake Farmer, Doug Dockrill, W. Bros. Don Campbell, Jim Kent, David Peate, Bros. Daniel Duff and Jeff Campeau.

Invocation in the absence of the District Chaplain, R.W. Bro. Dennis Saikaley recited the invocation.

#### Opening Remarks- DDGM

R.W. Bro. Abe Garcia thanked the brethren for attending this night's district meeting. He particularly acknowledged the Past DDGMs, beginning with R.W. Bro. Kosta Hatzis, R.W. Bro. Al Wright, R.W. Bro. Brian Adams, R.W. Bro. Adam Thompson, R.W. Bro. Jeff Christie, R.W. Bro. Glen Simpson.

Minutes of the previous District Meeting, 21 August 2025 were distributed electronically to the brethren. Bearing no discussion, R.W. Bro. Garcia asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Moved by R.W. Bro. Dennis Saikaley, seconded by V.W. Bro. John Guinn. Accepted

A point of contention raised by R.W. Bro. Dennis Saikaley is the disregard of officers of certain lodges in not participating at Official Visits of the DDGM, and/or are holding lodge meetings either CGP or Emergent Meeting during these Official Visits. R.W. Bro. Saikaley pointed out that this practice does not foster brotherhood within the fraternity and should not be encouraged to continue.

And, R.W. Bro. Saikaley thanked the brethren who had acquired the district golf shirts. They have all been distributed and were well received. It is always possible to have a second order of the golf shirts should there be a demand.

#### Grand Lodge DDGM mid term report

R.W. Bro Garcia attended the DDGMs mid-term conference in Ajax on January and reported to the pleasure of the Grand Master on the progress of the lodges of Ottawa District 1. One of the main concerns raised by R.W. Bro Garcia was the lack of responses from the Grand Secretary regarding issues raised with the new data base "Grand View." Also, many of the lodges submitting issues do not receive acknowledgement or an update of the issues submitted; an on-going consternation with the secretaries.

#### Old Business Mid-Term Chairmen reports

The following Chairman reported on their progress and their reports are attached for further review:

- a. Benevolence, W. Bro. Brian Hay, nothing to report.





- b. Degree Coordinator, W. Bro. Matt Weedmark, main objective is to stream line the info and make it readily available to the brethren. Ongoing.
- c. Events Coordinator, W. Bro. Colin Mackenzie, continues to receive the latest updates from the secretaries and produces a great monthly summary for distribution.
- d. Grand Lodge Programs, W. Bro. Allan Statham, stated 11 of 15 lodges are participating. It produces a great roadmap for incoming Worshipful Masters to follow. Main point is that the GL Cornerstone Committee is managing the program once more.
- e. Officer Mentoring, W. Bro. Dan Gray, stated because of PMs seating once more as WM's, participation has been minimal. He therefore encourages Deacons and JW's to attend the presentations. Next one is Thursday, 29 January at Westboro.
- f. Protocol and Ritual, W. Bro. Mike Cadotte mentioned that any differences in protocol interpretations should always be referred to what the Constitution states. V.W. Bro. Ron Taylor stated that certain issues of the P&Es are outdated and should be amended accordingly. R.W. Bro. Garcia will raise the needed updates to the attention of G.L.
- g. Fraternal Visitation, W. Bro. Pat Halcro reported visitations are part of the Masonic Fraternity however, visitors should be exempt from contributing to the JW's fund. It becomes expensive over time for the brethren. However, cost of festive boards is always an issue and cannot be borne by the lodge alone. Solution, continue to visit but limit your participation to the festive boards.
- h. Royal Arch Liaison, In the absence of W. Bro. Andrew Valley, V.W. Bro. Wil Paul stated that the RA is actively seeking memberships and encourages the RA Masons to promote the RA in their respective lodges.
- i. Scottish Rite Liaison, V.W. Bro. John Guinn stated that he has a Power Point presentation that is readily available to present at any lodge meeting. This year there will be two occasions for acceptance of applications; April and September.
- j. Tunis Shrine Liaison, R. W. Bro. Dennis Saikaley stated the 3rd degree team is readily available to perform at any lodge upon request.
- k. Prince Hall Liaison, in the absence of R.W. Bro. Jim Bowman, R.W. Bro. Garcia stated that a visitation is scheduled for Thursday, 12 March, Rosemount Ave. Ottawa. Details to follow.
- l. IT Committee, W. Bro. Jesus Frederico stated he is readily available to help the lodges with their web site design and thanked W. Bro. Colin Mackenzie for his help with the district monthly updates.

m. Regalia, W. Bro. Jace Bart stated that he has access to a great seamstress to repair aprons and regalia. Regalia that is not in use can be donated to him for central keeping and thus be recycled.

n. Photography, R.W. Bro. Wright stated that he is putting the final touches to the collage of the district photos of the Worshipful Masters. The final product will be available to the brethren at no cost – his contribution to the district.

#### **District Charity update:**

Bro. Duff Sullivan thanked the brethren for a great start to the fund-raising activities for the district charity by the lodges. At present we have accumulated over \$7,500 and just beginning. Bro. Duff Sullivan encouraged all to attend the Valentine Charity Ball on Saturday, 7 February. He introduced W. Bro. Rob Bryce with the next great fund-raising event; i.e. the Boat Cruise in August.

#### **Philanthropy Strategy:**

W. Bro. Rob Bryce gave a presentation on the soon to be signature event for fund raising for Ottawa District 1; the boat cruise during the fireworks of Lac Leamy in August. Info slide attached for reference.

Upcoming Events: Official visits

Temple Lodge – 3 February 2026  
 Civil Service – 10 February 2026  
 Hazeldean Lodge – 18 February 2026  
 POW Lodge – 27 February 2026  
 Goodwood Lodge – 3 March 2026  
 Mississippi Lodge – 19 March 2026  
 Russell Lodge – 20 April 2026

**Charity Ball** - 7 February 2026 at Saint Elias Banquet Centre, 750 Ridgewood Ave. R.W. Bro. Adam Thompson stressed that reservations and money must be sent by closing day Friday, 30 January 2026.

Day of Masonry – 14 March 2026. Tickets must be purchased for the noon meal. Otherwise, there is no cost for the event. Subs will be provided by Fire House Subs.

**Grand Master's reception**, scheduled for 30 April 2026 at Marconi Centre, 1026 Baseline. Formal, mixed event, cost \$75 per. This year an added feature is "Meet the Candidate" in anticipation of the elections at the Annual Communiication in July. Participation is encouraged. Details/Poster forthcoming.

Commemorative Service at Beechwood Cemetery – 21 June 2026

R.W. Bro. Kosta Hatzis reminded the brethren of this special event at Beechwood that was resurrected by R.W. Bro. Al Wright. This year the brethren will gather at 14:00 hrs. and march to the Masonic Cenotaph. It is a solemn occasion and he encourages the brethren to participate in great numbers and pay our respects to the brethren who have



laid the foundations for us to continue. The ceremony is not onerous as it lasts at most 60 minutes.

### New Business

V.W. Bro Ron Taylor stated that again this year the Lodge of Fidelity will be holding its February Regular Meeting at the Perley Health Centre. Details and timings are forthcoming.

Bro. Duff Sullivan, added that the Pub at the Perley will be opened after the meeting enabling the brethren to fraternize with the residents.

V.W. Bro. John Guinn reminded the brethren of an initiative to restart the Masonic Choir. At present 10 -12 brethren have shown an interest. Practices will soon start. More to follow.



### Closing remarks

R.W. Bro. Abe Garcia again thanked the brethren for their participation at his official visits. He has completed 8 of the 15 official visits, has completed 14 of 15 fraternal visits and has visited lodges in the St Laurence District, St Thomas and Toronto and will be visiting Claudius Walker in Nassau, Bahamas shortly. Someone asked him if he was enjoying himself - more than ever. He is very pleased with the health and progress of the lodges in the district.

Thank you....

Motion to close the meeting. Moved by W. Bro. Pat Halcro, seconded by W. Bro. Matt Weedmark.

The meeting was **closed in peace and harmony at 20:37 hrs.**





# District Meetings

## Spring Meeting

April 28 2026  
Ottawa Masonic Centre  
2140 Walkley Rd Ottawa

### Agenda

7:30 PM Call to Order – Upstairs Banquet Room

#### Invocation

#### Opening Remarks

Minutes of previous District Meeting (27 Jan 2026)

#### Old Business

- District Chairmen year-end reports (1-3 min. summaries)
- Degree Proficient Masons Database presentation (5 min.)
- Charity Update (Project No. 2543) (1-3 min.)

#### Upcoming Events

- Grand Master's Reception
- Installations and Eastern Tour
- Commemoration Service at Beechwood
- Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- Fireworks Boat Cruise

#### New Business

- District Historian for 2025-26: Bro. Daniel Duff
- Financial Examiners: R.W. Bros. S. Roberts & D. Healey
- Nominations for 2026-27 DDGM
- Closing Remarks

9:00 PM Adjournment & Refreshments

## Meeting Summary

The meeting was opened at 19:29 by R.W. Bro. Abe Garcia, who acknowledged several Past DDGMs in attendance and expressed appreciation for the strong turnout (approximately 80+ brethren). The invocation was delivered by W. Bro. Steven Young. Minutes from the January 27, 2026 meeting were accepted without amendment.

#### Reports & Old Business:

Various committee chairmen presented reports, which were received for information. Highlights included:

A demonstration of a new Masonic database by W. Bro. Matt Weedmark to assist lodges with ritual work.

A regalia update suggesting a future "garage sale" for usable items and disposal of unsalvageable pieces.

District charity efforts have raised approximately \$21,000 to date, with strong lodge participation.

#### Events & Announcements:

The Ottawa District 1 Fireworks Cruise is scheduled for August 12, 2026.

The Grand Master's Reception (April 30, 2026) has strong registration and is notable as Ottawa is hosting.

Upcoming Eastern Tour (May 19–21), Beechwood Cemetery Commemorative Service (June 21), and Grand Lodge Annual Communication were highlighted, with emphasis on attendance and decorum.

A "Masonic Family Big Tent Event" is planned for the Carp Fair (Sept 24–27, 2026).

#### New Business:

Bro. Daniel Duff was appointed District Historian.

R.W. Bros. Sam Roberts and Don Healey will serve as Financial Examiners.

#### DDGM Nominations (2026–27):

Five brethren were nominated. After confirmations, **V.W. Bro. John Guinn and W. Bro. Matt Weedmark accepted nomination. Elections will take place in June.**

#### Closing:

R.W. Bro. Garcia delivered heartfelt closing remarks, expressing gratitude for his term as DDGM.

**The meeting adjourned at 20:40 in peace and harmony.**







# Official District Events





**KEY-NOTE ADDRESS**  
**RW BRO JAMES O WARK**  
BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES &  
MEMBERSHIP PILLAR CHAIRMAN

**+PLUS**  
**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**  
BY W BRO. SAM SAYED  
DMA VICE-PRESIDENT  
**"THE DIGITAL  
MASON"**

# Grand Lodge Appreciation Night

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

**Westboro Masonic Centre**  
**430 Churchill Avenue Ottawa**

**SOCIAL 6:00PM | DINNER 7:00PM**

**DRESS: CURRENT GL OFFICERS PER PROTOCOL | ALL OTHERS: BUSINESS ATTIRE**

**TICKETS \$40 IN ADVANCE**  
**E-TRANSFER | [GMATREASURER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GMATREASURER@GMAIL.COM)**

**RESERVE BY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH.**

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Ottawa District # 22 Masons Present

# Masonic Remembrance Day Ceremony



Tuesday | November 11

Service | 11:00 am | Full Regalia

Perley | Health Centre

1750 Russett Rd, Ottawa



**Ontario Masons**



Ottawa 1 and 2 Districts Present

**OPEN TO ALL  
MASON'S  
AND THEIR  
PARTNERS**

M.W. BRO. JAIMIE A. IRELAND  
**GRAND MASTER**



**TICKETS**  
**\$75<sup>EA</sup>**

OR VISIT THE WEBSITE  
<https://bit.ly/4qLOE2t>

# Grand Master's **RECEPTION** OTTAWA

**THURSDAY APRIL 30, 2026**  
**VILLA MARCONI**  
**1026 BASELINE ROAD, OTTAWA ON**

**6:00PM - COCKTAILS AND SOCIAL | 7:00PM - DINNER WITH GRAND MASTER**

**IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO  
THE GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY, RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**



**Ontario Masons**

PRESENTED BY OTTAWA MASONS DISTRICTS 1 & 2

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF  
MASONIC EDUCATION  
GUEST SPEAKER  
WORKSHOPS & LECTURES  
LUNCH SUPPLIED  
By Fire House Subs

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
R.W.Bro. Art M. Di Cecco  
Deputy Grand Master of the  
Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province  
of Ontario

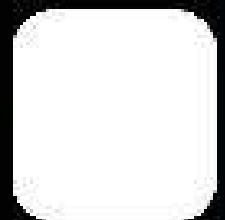
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

REGISTRATION | 9:00AM    EVENT START | 9:30AM

# DAY<sup>OF</sup> MASONRY

**Ottawa Masonic Centre**  
2140 Walkley Road Ottawa

For Tickets (\$20) and Event Information Scan The QR Code



**Ontario Masons**



**SATURDAY AUGUST 23**

**BRETHREN GATHER FROM 2PM-5PM**

BE ADVISED  
THE PARKING LOT  
IS OFF LIMITS

# OTTAWA DISTRICT ONE

HAMBURGERS  
HOTDOGS  
SOFT DRINKS



  
WILL  
BE  
PROVIDED

# BARBEQUE

**2140 WALKLEY ROAD, OTTAWA ON**

**OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE**

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM THE OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE  
PLEASE BRING SALAD OR DESSERT THAT YOU WISH TO SHARE AS WELL AS LAWN CHAIRS



**Ontario Masons**

PRESENTED BY  
FREEMASONS OF OTTAWA DISTRICT 1 AND 2

19TH ANNUAL  
**OTTAWA MASONIC**  
*charity ball*

**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2026**  
JACKET/TIE REQUIRED

**COCKTAILS 6PM**  
**DINNER 7PM**  
BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

SAINT ELIAS BANQUET CENTRE  
750 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE, OTTAWA

**TICKETS \$80**

GROUP TABLES AVAILABLE

**TICKETS: [ottawavcb@gmail.com](mailto:ottawavcb@gmail.com)**

(INCLUDE NAME, PHONE NUMBER, MEAL CHOICE, DIETARY  
RESTRICTIONS, SEATING PREFERENCE • DEADLINE JANUARY 28, 2026)

**SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS: [charityball.ottawamasons.ca](http://charityball.ottawamasons.ca)**

**SUPPORTING: THE PERLEY HEALTH CENTRE "BRIDGING  
GENERATIONS" AND HARVEST HOUSE MINISTRIES**



**Ontario Masons**

[charityball.ottawamasons.ca](http://charityball.ottawamasons.ca)



OTTAWA DISTRICTS 1 & 2 PRESENT

**Sunday October 19, 2025**

**GATHER 8:45AM | SERVICE 9:00AM SHARP**



# District Divine Service

**St. Paul's Anglican Church**  
**20 Young Rd, Kanata ON**

DRESS IS DARK BUSINESS SUIT AND REGALIA | WMS MAY WEAR THEIR COLLARS  
COFFEE AND LIGHT SNACK AFTER THE SERVICE.



**Ontario Masons**

OTTAWA DISTRICT 1 PRESENTS

**Sunday June 21, 2026**

**GATHER 1:30PM | SERVICE 2:00PM**

**FRIENDS & FAMILY  
WELCOME TO ATTEND**



**Beechwood  
Divine Service  
2026**

**Beechwood Cemetery  
MASONIC BURIAL PLOT  
280 Beechwood Ave. Vanier, ON**

**DRESS IS DARK BUSINESS SUIT AND REGALIA | WMS MAY WEAR THEIR COLLARS**



**Ontario Masons**





# Fraternal Traditions

NE VARIETUR

"We do hereby certify that our worthy Brother [Name] has written his name on the rock NE VARIETUR, is a regularly initiated and an ENTERED APPRENTICE, passed to the Degree of FELLOWcraft and raised to the sublime Degree of MASTER MASON and is a member of the [Name] Lodge, No. [Number] of the [Name] District, and we recommend him to all brothers and fellows wherever dispersed."

Sec.



# Travelling Gavel 2025-2026



Among the many traditions that distinguish Freemasonry in Ottawa District 1, few are as spirited—or as unifying—as the Travelling Gavel. More than a symbolic object, it serves as a catalyst for fellowship, encouraging Brethren to step beyond the walls of their mother lodge and experience the broader tapestry of Masonry within the District.

At its core, the Travelling Gavel is rooted in one of the essential duties of the District's fraternal visitation efforts: to promote regular inter-lodge visiting and strengthen the bonds between Brethren. Each time the gavel changes hands, it represents not only a successful visitation, but a renewed commitment to unity, participation, and shared Masonic experience.

The process is simple in concept, yet powerful in practice. A lodge holding the gavel is challenged—sometimes playfully, sometimes competitively—by another lodge that arrives with a larger delegation. When successful, the visiting lodge carries the gavel back to its own meeting, continuing its journey across the District. Over the course of a Masonic year, the gavel may pass through many lodges, each transfer marked by strong attendance, warm hospitality, and vibrant lodge rooms.

Historically, the Travelling Gavel has proven to be a reliable measure of engagement. Records from past years show impressive turnouts, with dozens of Brethren traveling to support their lodges and claim the prize. These evenings often become highlights of the Masonic calendar—nights where the spirit of the Craft is not only practiced, but truly felt.

Yet beyond the numbers and friendly rivalry lies the true value of the Travelling Gavel: connection. It strengthens friendships, fosters mentorship, and reminds us that while we may belong to different lodges, we are all part of one greater fraternity.

In an age where time is scarce and commitments are many, the Travelling Gavel continues to call us back to what matters most—showing up, supporting one another, and keeping the light of Masonry burning brightly across Ottawa District 1.

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
|  | CARLETON No. 465            |
|  | Starting Location           |
|  | EDINBURGH DEFENDERS No. 590 |
|  | October 1, 2025             |
|  | GOODWOOD No. 159            |
|  | October 7, 2025             |
|  | HAZELDEAN No. 517           |
|  | October 15, 2025            |
|  | LODGE OF FIDELITY No. 231   |
|  | October 21, 2025            |
|  | ST. ANDREW'S No. 560        |
|  | November 6, 2025            |
|  | CIVIL SERVICE No. 148       |
|  | November 11, 2025           |
|  | ST. JOHN'S No. 63           |
|  | December 10, 2025           |
|  | MISSISSIPPI No. 147         |
|  | January 15, 2026            |
|  | SIDNEY ALBERT LUKE No. 558  |
|  | February 11, 2026           |
|  | RUSSELL No. 479             |
|  | February 16, 2026           |
|  | ACACIA No. 561              |
|  | March 17, 2026              |
|  | PRINCE OF WALES No. 371     |
|  | March 27, 2026              |
|  | TEMPLE No. 665              |
|  | April 7, 2026               |
|  | DORIC No. 58                |
|  | April 16, 2025              |





# Fraternal Traditions:



Doric Lodge N° 58 (Ottawa)  
Lodge Claudius R. Walker N° 1808 (Nassau)

In a striking display of international brotherhood and Masonic unity, a distinguished delegation of Brethren from the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario (Ottawa District 1) and the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon recently journeyed south to Nassau, Bahamas, to attend the Installation Ceremony of Lodge Claudius R. Walker No. 1808, under the Scottish Constitution.

Set against the warm Caribbean backdrop, the occasion was far more than a formal installation—it was a vivid reminder of the universality of Freemasonry. Despite differences in geography, climate, and jurisdictional customs, the core tenets of the Craft—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—were on full display, binding all present in a shared purpose.

The visiting Canadian Brethren were received with exceptional hospitality, embodying the spirit for which Bahamian Freemasonry is well known. From the moment of arrival, it was evident that this was not merely a ceremonial visit, but a meaningful exchange between jurisdictions, reinforcing long-standing ties and forging new connections.

The Installation Ceremony itself was conducted with dignity, precision, and a distinct Scottish Constitution flavour. The ritual work, rich in tradition and symbolism, left a lasting impression on the visiting delegation. Observing the unique customs and nuances of another Constitution served as both an educational and inspiring experience, underscoring the diversity within the global Masonic family.

Of particular note was the seamless fellowship that followed the formal proceedings. Laughter, shared stories, and the warm exchange of ideas filled the festive board, as



Brethren from different corners of the Masonic world found common ground. Rank and title were set aside in favour of genuine camaraderie—an enduring hallmark of the Craft at its best.

The presence of representatives from two Canadian jurisdictions at this significant Bahamian event speaks volumes about the strength of inter-jurisdictional relations. Such visits not only honour the host Lodge but also reaffirm a commitment to unity that transcends borders. In an increasingly divided world, Freemasonry continues to stand as a quiet yet powerful example of harmony among men of goodwill.

For Lodge Claudius R. Walker No. 1808, the Installation marked the beginning of a new chapter of leadership. For their Canadian guests, it was an unforgettable experience—one that will no doubt be recounted in Lodge rooms back home, inspiring others to seek out similar opportunities for fraternal travel and connection.

As the delegation returned to Canada, they carried with them more than memories; they brought back a renewed appreciation for the universality of the Craft and the enduring strength of its bonds. Though separated by miles of ocean, the Brethren of Ottawa District 1, British Columbia and Yukon, and Nassau stand united—proving once again that Freemasonry knows no borders, only Brothers.





# Fraternal Traditions:

Ottawa District I  
Solomon Lodge No.26 (Prince Hall)

In a meaningful and long-anticipated return, a delegation of thirty Brethren from Ottawa Districts 1 and 2 recently visited Solomon Lodge No. 26 under the banner of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ontario and Jurisdiction. The visit marked a significant moment of reconnection, as it has been seven years since Ottawa District 1 last had the opportunity to attend in fraternal unity.



The delegation arrived not only in strong numbers but with symbols of deep Masonic tradition and respect. Carried with pride were the Brass Gavel of Lodge No. 484 G.R.C. and the Silver Trowel of District 1—emblems representing leadership, labour, and the enduring work of the Craft. Their presence added both ceremonial significance and a tangible link between past and present, reminding all in attendance of the continuity of Masonic fellowship.

The evening was defined by warmth, hospitality, and a shared commitment to the principles that unite all Masons. For many, the visit was more than a formal occasion; it was a heartfelt opportunity to renew friendships, strengthen inter-jurisdictional ties, and celebrate the common ground shared between mainstream and Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Reacquainting with their Prince Hall Brethren after



several years underscored the importance of maintaining these vital relationships. Conversations flowed easily, laughter was abundant, and the spirit of Brotherly Love was evident throughout the gathering. The passage of time had done little to diminish the bond—if anything, it served to deepen the appreciation for such moments of reunion.

This visit stands as a testament to the ongoing efforts to foster unity, mutual respect, and collaboration across Masonic jurisdictions. In an era where connection is more important than ever, the gathering at Solomon Lodge No. 26 demonstrated that the ties of Freemasonry remain strong, resilient, and ever enduring.

As the Brethren of Ottawa Districts 1 and 2 returned home, they carried with them not only the satisfaction of a successful visit, but also a renewed sense of purpose—to continue building bridges, honouring tradition, and strengthening the universal Brotherhood that defines the Craft.





# Fraternal Traditions:

Doric Lodge No. 58  
170th Anniversary Table Lodge

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, Doric Lodge No. 58 G.R.C. proudly hosted its highly anticipated 170th Anniversary Table Lodge at the Ottawa Masonic Centre – an evening that will long be remembered as one of the most distinguished and successful gatherings in the Lodge's modern history.

Rooted in one of Freemasonry's oldest and most revered traditions, the Table Lodge brought together Brethren, dignitaries, and guests from throughout Ottawa District 1 and beyond for a night defined by fellowship, reflection, ceremony, and celebration. From the moment attendees arrived in formal black-tie attire, the atmosphere carried a profound sense of occasion. The evening was not simply a dinner, but a living expression of Masonic heritage and continuity. The festivities began with a cocktail reception



Dinner commenced promptly at 5:00 PM and featured an exceptional seven-course banquet highlighted by a prime rib dinner that was met with overwhelming praise from attendees. The evening's service and presentation reflected the high standards and meticulous preparation undertaken by the organizing committee and volunteers. Every detail – from the ceremonial arrangement of the hall to the pacing of the evening's program – contributed to an experience that was immersive, dignified, and memorable.

Throughout the banquet, traditional Masonic toasts were conducted with precision and enthusiasm, preserving customs that have echoed through Lodge halls for centuries. These moments of ceremonial instruction and reflection served as a powerful reminder of the timeless character of the Craft and the importance of preserving its traditions for future generations. The Table Lodge format created an atmosphere unlike any ordinary banquet, blending solemnity, celebration, education, and fellowship into a singular experience.



at 4:00 PM, where Brethren had the opportunity to reconnect in an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie. Conversations filled the halls as members from numerous Lodges gathered together in the spirit of unity and brotherhood. For many in attendance, the event served as both a reunion and a rare opportunity to experience the unique traditions of a formal Table Lodge in such a grand setting.





A highlight of the evening was the address delivered by the distinguished guest speaker from Grand Lodge. His remarks spoke eloquently on the enduring principles of Freemasonry, the responsibility of modern Masons to safeguard the traditions of the Craft, and the significance of Doric Lodge's remarkable 170-year legacy. His message resonated deeply with those present and added a meaningful layer of inspiration to an already exceptional evening.

The commemorative elements of the event were also very well received. Each attendee received a formal event program and a customized commemorative shot glass, serving as lasting reminders of a truly historic occasion in the life of the Lodge. These keepsakes reflected the care and pride invested into the celebration and further elevated the experience for all in attendance.

Beyond the fellowship and ceremony, the event also carried a charitable purpose, with a portion of proceeds directed toward Ottawa District 1 charitable initiatives. This commitment to charity and community service reinforced the foundational Masonic principle of relief and demonstrated that the Lodge's legacy is measured not only by its history, but also by its continued service to others.

The success of the evening was made possible through the extraordinary dedication of the organizing committee, Lodge officers, volunteers, kitchen staff, and supporters whose countless hours of preparation ensured the event exceeded expectations in every regard. Their professionalism, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence were evident throughout the entire evening and were widely acknowledged and appreciated by those in attendance.

Most importantly, the 170th Anniversary Table Lodge succeeded in what every great Masonic gathering aspires to achieve: it strengthened the bonds of brotherhood. Brethren departed the evening uplifted, inspired, and reminded of the enduring value of fellowship, tradition, and shared purpose within the Craft.

As Doric Lodge No. 58 G.R.C. reflects upon 170 years of Masonic history, this celebration stood not merely as a commemoration of the past, but as a confident declaration of the Lodge's vitality and future. The evening honoured those who came before, celebrated the Brethren of today, and reaffirmed the enduring strength of Freemasonry for generations yet to come.





# Lectures Of The The District Deputy Grand Master

## Foregiveness

Read at Hazeldean Lodge No. 517 | February 18, 2026

### First Lesson Of Icarus

Read at Edinburgh Defenders Lodge No. 590 | January 21, 2026

### Second Lesson Of Icarus

Read at Temple Lodge No. 665 | February 3, 2026

### A Secret To A Green Lawn

Read at Doric Lodge No. 58 | October 16, 2025

## Selected Lectures Given on Official Visits

R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia  
District Deputy Grand Master, Ottawa District 1



# Forgiveness

Read at Hazeldean Lodge No. 517 | February 18, 2026

Brethren, tonight I want to take a moment to reflect on a theme that is both timeless and essential to our bond as brothers and friends. I want to talk about forgiveness—specifically, as it relates to our journey in Freemasonry and our lives beyond these sacred walls.

Freemasonry teaches us many important virtues. We learn about integrity, charity, and brotherly love. But one of the most profound lessons we can learn and should embrace is that of forgiveness. In a world where misunderstandings and grievances can arise, it is vital that we cultivate a spirit of forgiveness.

You will notice that forgiveness is not mentioned in our ritual, but we do teach it.

At the North East angle, we were taught: Charity “like its sister Mercy, blesses him who gives as well as him who receives”. During the charge on the first degree: you are told how to treat a neighbour or a brother “by rendering to him every kind office which justice and mercy may require”. And finally on the charge relating to fellows: you are “to judge with candor, admonish with friendship and reprehend with mercy.”

Imagine for a moment that a Masonic lodge is like a family. In every family, we share love, laughter, and support—but we also have our disagreements and conflicts. It is in these moments of tension that our character is truly tested. How we respond to one another can either strengthen our bond or drive us apart. Forgiveness is the bridge that can carry us over the troubled waters of discord.

In Freemasonry, we learn to practice tolerance and to cultivate understanding. Each of us comes from different backgrounds, bringing unique perspectives and experiences to the table. Sometimes, this diversity can lead to friction. However, if we can embrace the principle of forgiveness, we can transcend these differences. Forgiveness allows us to release the burdens of anger and resentment, freeing not only ourselves but also our brothers and friends. It creates space for healing, growth, and deeper connections.

Weakness; it's an act of strength. It takes great courage to look someone in the eye, acknowledge past grievances, and choose to move forward with an open heart. It is this courage that builds resilience in our relationships, allowing us to confront challenges with optimism and hope.

As we reflect on your years in masonry, I encourage each of you to think about the relationships that matter most in your life—both within our Masonic community and beyond. Are there any unresolved issues, any old wounds that you could heal by extending the olive branch? Are there friendships that could blossom anew if we could find it in our hearts to forgive?

Proceeding onward, let us commit to practicing forgiveness not just as a concept, but as a daily action. Let's remind ourselves that every time we choose compassion over

conflict, every time we extend grace to others, we are embodying the very principles that Freemasonry stands for.

Forgiveness is a journey, not a destination. It requires patience and practice, not just with others, but also with ourselves. So let's support each other in this endeavor. Let's share forgiveness and healing, inspiring one another to become the best versions of ourselves.

In closing, as we move forward into another year of brotherhood, let us carry the torch of forgiveness. Let it illuminate our paths, foster deeper connections, and create an atmosphere of understanding. Together, let's build a legacy of compassion that reflects the true spirit of Freemasonry.

nk about the great lessons we receive through our rituals. They teach us the importance of reflection and self-improvement. When we forgive, we are not merely excusing the actions of others; we are recognizing our own humanity and our shared

imperfections. We are acknowledging that we are all on a journey of growth, and sometimes we stumble along the way.

Let's also remember that forgiveness is not a sign of weakness; it's an act of strength. It takes great courage to look someone in the eye, acknowledge past grievances, and choose to move forward with an open heart. It is this courage that builds resilience in our relationships, allowing us to confront challenges with optimism and hope.

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(Left) Bro. Anthony Francisco of Doric Lodge No.57 and (Right) W. Bro. Colin Mackenzie of Edinburgh Defenders No.590 outside the lodge room at the Walkley Road Masonic Centre



# First Lesson Of Icarus

Read at Edinburgh Defenders Lodge No. 590 | January 21, 2026

Brethren in my bio, mentioned that I was once an Air Cadet and in one of my speech, I've informed you that I once had a pilot license. So this story is particularly meaningful to me. Tonight, I invite you to join me in reflecting upon an ancient story — the tale of Icarus, whose flight toward the sun has echoed through the centuries as both a warning and a mirror for the human spirit.

Most of us know the myth. Icarus, the son of Daedalus, was imprisoned with his father on the island of Crete. To escape, Daedalus — the master craftsman — fashioned wings made of feathers and wax. Before they took flight, he warned his son: "Fly not too low, lest the sea dampen your wings; and fly not too high, lest the sun melt them." But overcome by the exhilaration of flight, Icarus soared ever upward. The sun's heat melted the wax, his wings came apart, and he fell into the sea and drowned.

It is a story most of us first heard as children — a cautionary tale about pride, or hubris, that dangerous excess of ambition which blinds us to the boundaries of nature and wisdom. Yet as Masons, we are taught that every symbol, every story, conceals within it a deeper lesson. Let us therefore approach this myth not merely as moralists condemning pride, but as craftsmen seeking meaning — hewing away at the rough stone until the truth within it is revealed.

Brethren, the first lesson of Icarus is not his fall — it is his flight.

In our Masonic teachings, we are encouraged to seek light, to ascend from ignorance to knowledge, from chaos to order, from the rough ashlar to the perfect one. Icarus and his father were imprisoned, bound by limitation, and their creation — wings — represents the liberating power of human ingenuity and aspiration.

This, in itself, is noble. Ambition is not a sin; it is the spark that has built temples, discovered truths, and advanced civilization. Without that same spark, none of us would have sought the light of Masonry, nor endeavored to improve ourselves as men and brothers.

But aspiration, without temperance and humility, becomes something else — it becomes hubris.

Hubris is not merely pride — it is pride untempered by wisdom. It is when the voice that whispers "you can rise" drowns out the voice that cautions "remember your limits."

Icarus was not punished for flying; he was undone because he forgot. He forgot his father's instruction — he forgot prudence.

In our own lives, how often do we, too, soar too close to our personal suns? Whether it be the sun of ambition, power, wealth, or recognition — there are times when we let the warmth of success blind us to the disciplines that first lifted

us. In Masonry, we are taught that the tools of the Craft — the square, the level, the plumb — are not only instruments of building, but reminders of balance. They temper our passion with restraint, our confidence with humility. Icarus forgot his tools. He forgot the lessons of proportion. And as Masons, we are reminded that to forget balance is to risk falling from the heights we have so carefully built.

In this story, let us not forget Daedalus, the father — the builder. He represents the wise craftsman, the Master Mason, who understands both the power and peril of creation. His warning was not born of fear, but of experience. How often, Brethren, does the younger craftsman — full of zeal and talent — chafe under the cautions of the elder? And yet, wisdom is not the restraint of progress, but its foundation. As in the Lodge, so in life: the wisdom of the Master must guide the enthusiasm of the Fellowcraft. The craft advances when the lessons of experience temper the energy of ambition.

When Icarus fell, his fall was tragic — but not meaningless. His descent reminds us that even in failure, there is instruction. Even the fall becomes part of the human story, reminding every generation that the path of enlightenment is not without danger, and that wisdom is bought with humility. As Masons, we too must fall and rise again — in our labors, in our moral struggles, in our search for truth. Each error, each excess, teaches us the value of moderation and self-knowledge.

Brethren, every one of us has been given wings — the capacity to rise above the ordinary, to build, to learn, to serve, and to perfect the temple within. But the story of Icarus bids us remember: the higher we ascend, the more essential it is to remain grounded in humility.

*Let us then take to heart the dual lesson of this ancient myth:*

- To aspire boldly, like Icarus, for the light of truth;
- And to act wisely, like Daedalus, using our tools with prudence and respect for the laws that govern both matter and spirit.



(Right) W. Bro. Len Goins of Hazeldean Lodge No. 51 outside the lodge room at the Walkley Road Masonic Centre





# Second Lesson Of Icarus

Read at Temple Lodge No. 665 | February 3, 2026

In my last Official Visit, I introduced the lesson learned from the story of Icarus. We all know the story of Icarus — the young man who flew too close to the sun, his wings melting, his body plunging into the sea. For centuries, we have told that story as a warning against pride — against hubris, ambition, and the folly of reaching too high.

But there is another warning within that myth — one that is too often forgotten, though it may be even more relevant to us as Masons and as men. When Daedalus gave his son the wings, he said: “Fly not too high, lest the sun melt the wax... and fly not too low, lest the sea dampen your feathers.” Most people remember only the first part. But Daedalus warned of two dangers — and one of them was the danger of flying too low.

Brethren, what does it mean to fly too low?

It means to settle for comfort when we are capable of greatness. It means to silence our inner calling for fear of failure. It means to live safely within the limits of our own convenience — never daring to test the strength of the wings that the Great Architect has given us. In every man’s life, there is a temptation to drift — to take the easy course, to avoid the winds of challenge, to tell ourselves that “this is enough.” But as Masons, we are taught that life is a journey of self-improvement, a constant labor upon the rough ashlar of our character. To fly low is to neglect that labor — to remain close to the ground, where the air is thick, where the view is narrow, and where we can see only what lies immediately before us.

To fly low is to refuse the light we are sworn to seek.

Then we were initiated, we were brought from darkness to light — a symbol of awakening, of elevation. We were taught to work upon ourselves and to seek knowledge, virtue, and truth. This is not the work of one night or one degree. It is the labor of a lifetime. And yet, how many of us, at times, choose to fly low — to coast through our duties, to attend the Lodge in body but not in spirit, to accept the status quo rather than strive for the better? Flying too low can be as dangerous as soaring too high, because it dulls the soul. It is a slow descent, not into the sea of recklessness, but into the sea of mediocrity. The Masonic journey calls us upward — not arrogantly, but faithfully. We are not called to be perfect men, but to be better men — ever building, ever improving, ever seeking more light.

In the myth, Daedalus gave Icarus wings — a gift of astonishing potential. Each of us, too, has been given wings: the capacity for reason, for love, for service, for moral courage, for wisdom.

Yet gifts unused are gifts wasted.

How many talents lie dormant within us because we fear to stretch them? How many opportunities for good have we passed by because we were too cautious, too weary, too self-doubting to rise? To fly low is not humility — it is self-limitation. It is the mistaken belief that playing small is somehow virtuous. But humility is not the denial of our gifts

— it is the understanding that our gifts are meant to be used in the service of others and in the glory of the Great Architect.

As Brother Albert Pike wrote, “What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” To fly low is to neglect that immortal work.

Now, it is true that the myth warns against extremes — against flying too high or too low. But balance does not mean mediocrity. It means harmony — the wise use of power, intellect, and will.

To fly in balance is to find the altitude at which our wings are both tested and sustained — where the winds of challenge strengthen us, and the light of the sun guides us. If flying too high represents arrogance, then flying too low represents fear. Both are forms of imbalance; both are betrayals of the purpose for which the wings were made. The Mason’s task, then, is to learn to fly well — to rise with courage, guided by the square of virtue and the compasses of restraint, to maintain both aspiration and prudence in perfect proportion.

Brethren, when we dare to rise, when we climb above the comfort of the ordinary, something remarkable happens: our vision expands. From the higher vantage, we see more clearly the pattern of the world below — how all things connect, how our individual efforts contribute to the larger plan of the Great Architect.

In the Lodge, this is what we mean by seeking light — to see the pattern in the plan, to perceive truth where once there was confusion. If we fly too low, we see only fragments — our own needs, our own fears, our own limitations. But when we ascend, when we rise in understanding and moral strength, we begin to glimpse the grand design. And that, Brethren, is when the work of Masonry truly begins.

The tragedy of Icarus was not only that he flew too high — it was that the world remembered only that part of the story. The greater tragedy, perhaps, would be if we, too, never dared to rise at all.

So, Brethren, let us remember both warnings of Daedalus:

- Do not fly so high that pride consumes you,
- But do not fly so low that fear restrains you.

Between those two dangers lies the noble path — the steady ascent of the craftsman who labors faithfully, guided by light, strengthened by virtue, and balanced by wisdom. Let us, then, not waste our wings.

Let us rise to the full measure of our potential — as men, as Masons, and as builders in the Temple of Humanity.





(Left) V.W. Bro. Wib Paul Carleton Lodge No. 465, (Centre) W. Bro. Dan Charron Doric Lodge, (Right) W. Bro. Dan Gray Carleton Lodge No. 465 W. Bro Allan Statham Doric Lodge No.58 (back is on the camera) inside the lodge room at the Walkley Road Masonic Centre





# A Secret To A Green Lawn

Read at Doric Lodge No. 58 | October 16, 2025

Several summers ago, when I had just purchased my home in Ottawa, I stepped into the backyard, full of anticipation and excitement. I imagined lush green grass, a peaceful place to relax, maybe even host friends and family. But what I saw was disappointing: yellowing grass, bare patches of dirt, and a lawn that looked tired and neglected.

Determined to fix it, I ordered 25 cubic yards of topsoil—more than enough to cover the entire backyard. I seeded it, watered it a little, and waited eagerly for the transformation. The next summer, I checked again, hoping for that green carpet. But the result was... underwhelming. Still patchy. Still dry. Still far from what I had envisioned.

Not knowing what else to do, I sought wisdom—not from Google, but from someone whose experience I trusted deeply. A mentor. A Past District Deputy Grand Master – R.W.Bro. Gary Gossling. A man whose lawn is the envy of his neighbourhood. I asked him, “What’s your secret?”

He smiled at me, as if I had just asked him to reveal an ancient truth, and said:

“Abe, the secret to a green lawn...” (pause) “...is water.” Just water.

He explained that twice a week, he lets the sprinkler run for a couple of hours—especially in dry weather. The key, he said, wasn’t just watering, but deep watering. Allowing the moisture to soak through the soil, nourishing the roots, encouraging them to grow deeper and stronger. And that depth, that’s what makes the lawn resilient. Thick. Green. Alive. I was stunned by the simplicity. It wasn’t fancy fertilizer or complicated techniques. It was just consistent care—just water.

Brethren, that advice stuck with me not just as a homeowner, but as a Mason. Because isn’t that the story of our lodges? We look around and see yellow patches—empty seats, disengaged members, new initiates who disappear after a few months. And we ask ourselves, “What went wrong?”

We sometimes panic, and we reach for complex solutions—grand strategies, structural reforms, marketing campaigns. And while those have their place, we might be overlooking the simple answer. Water.

What does “water” look like in Freemasonry? It’s a smile at the door. A handshake that says, “You belong here.” A quiet conversation during refreshment that shows genuine interest in a Brother’s life.

It’s remembering his name. Asking how his family is. Inviting him to take part in a small role in a degree, or to join a committee. These are simple gestures—but they nourish the soul of the Lodge. We talk often about membership and

retention as though they’re business problems. But the truth is, they’re relationship problems.

Freemasonry is not meant to be a spectator sport. It is a living, breathing brotherhood. It requires effort—not just in our rituals, but in our relationships. And just like a lawn, you don’t get results overnight. You need consistency. You need patience. You need the willingness to show up—not once, but again and again. To nurture. To listen. To care.

Now brethren, let me be clear: not all of our problems have simple solutions. Some challenges in the Craft do require long-term vision, innovation, and adaptation. But sometimes, in our rush to be strategic and efficient, we forget the basics. Freemasonry is not sustained by policies.

It is sustained by people. By brothers. By you and me. We are the gardeners of this sacred space.

And if we want our Lodge—our district, our jurisdiction—to thrive, we need to water the roots.

So tonight, I leave you with a simple challenge: before the next meeting, call a Brother you haven’t seen in a while. Invite him for coffee. Or simply ask how he’s doing. At your next gathering, seek out the new face in the room and make him feel like he’s the most important person there. At the next festive board, sit with someone you don’t usually talk to. These are small acts. But they create lasting bonds.

That, brethren, is our water. And if we all commit to that simple act of care—again and again—then I believe we will see something beautiful grow: A Lodge that is green, vibrant, and deeply rooted in brotherhood.







(Left) W. Bro. Adoni Farah passes the torch (and gavel) to newly Installed Worshipful Master (Right) Todd Hockey, both of Civil Service Lodge No. 148, inside the lodge room at the Walkley Road Masonic Centre







(Left) W. Bro. Jason Waara Prince Of Wales Lodge No. 371 and (Right) Bro. Marcelo Sala, Prince Of Wales Lodge No. 371. Review their notes ahead of the DDGM'S Official visit, inside the lodge room at the Walkley Road Masonic Centre



(Left) Bro. James Gammie, Hazeldean Lodge No. 517 (Right) Bro. Greg Crane, Sussex Lodge No. 5, enjoy libations post Lodge at the bar in Ball Room at the Westboro Masonic Centre







# The District Online

NE VARIETUR

This is to certify that our worthy Brother  
has written his name on the rock NE VARIETUR  
and is regularly initiated as an ENTERED APPRENTICE  
passed to the Degree of FELLOWcraft and raised to  
the sublime Degree of MASTER MASON and is a member  
of  
and we recommend him to all Brothers and Fellow  
wherever dispersed

Sec





Official Avatar of R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia used for various social media communications throughout the year



## District Deputy Grand Master Official Visits

ST. JOHN'S NO. 63  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

DORIC NO. 58  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

CARLETON NO. 465  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

SIDNEY ALBERT LUKE NO. 558  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

LODGE OF FIDELITY NO. 231  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

ST. ANDREW'S NO. 560  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

ACACIA NO. 561  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

EDINBURGH DEFENDERS NO. 590  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

TEMPLE NO. 665  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

CIVIL SERVICE NO. 148  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

HAZELDEAN NO. 517  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

PRINCE OF WALES NO. 371  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

GOODWOOD NO. 159  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

MISSISSIPPI NO. 147  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

RUSSELL NO. 479  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

## Subscribe

Subscribe to the District Calendar for iPhone or  
Google Calendar to add an event:

event\_coordinator@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca  
&  
district\_secretary@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

## District Meetings

AUTUMN  
THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2025  
WINTER  
TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2026  
SPRING  
TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2026

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 7:30 PM  
OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE  
210 WALKLEY RD, OTTAWA

## District Events

DISTRICT I BARBEQUE  
SATURDAY AUGUST 23, 2025  
OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE  
GRAND LODGE APPRECIATION NIGHT  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2025  
WESTBORO MASONIC CENTRE  
DISTRICT DIVINE SERVICE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025  
ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
LODGE OF INSTRUCTION  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2025  
OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE  
REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2025  
PERLEY HEALTH CENTRE  
MASONIC CHARITY BALL  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026  
ST. ELIAS BANQUET CENTRE  
GRAND MASTERS RECEPTION  
THURSDAY APRIL 30, 2026  
VENUE TBD  
DAY OF MASONRY  
SPRING 2026 (DATE TBD)  
OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE  
BEECHWOOD DIVINE SERVICE\*  
SUNDAY JUNE 21  
MASONIC PLOT, BEECHWOOD CEMETERY

\*REGALIA WORN

\*follow official District email and social media  
communications for additional or  
changes to existing official dates

## District Lodge Activities

All District Lodge activities will be listed on the  
District Calendar, which is easily accessible through  
the official District website.

To support efficient, timely and comprehensive  
communication across the Ottawa District I, the  
Communications Chair will circulate a monthly  
District Lodge Activities document on social media.

ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

## Installations & Inbestrures

TEMPLE NO. 665  
TUESDAY MAY 5, 2026  
CHURCHILL AVE

EDINBURGH DEFENDERS NO. 590  
WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

CIVIL SERVICE NO. 148  
TUESDAY MAY 12, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

ST. JOHN'S NO. 63  
WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026  
CARLETON PLACE

SIDNEY ALBERT LUKE NO. 558  
WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

ACACIA NO. 561  
TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026  
RICHMOND

LODGE OF FIDELITY NO. 231  
TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

HAZELDEAN NO. 517  
WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2026  
KANATA

DORIC NO. 58  
THURSDAY MAY 21, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

MISSISSIPPI NO. 147  
THURSDAY MAY 21, 2026  
ALMONTE

PRINCE OF WALES NO. 371  
FRIDAY MAY 22, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

GOODWOOD NO. 159  
TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2026  
RICHMOND

ST. ANDREW'S NO. 560  
THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2026  
WALKLEY RD

RUSSELL NO. 479  
MONDAY JUNE 15, 2026  
RUSSELL

CARLETON NO. 465  
THURSDAY JUNE 25, 2026  
CARP

## Past District Deputy Grand Masters OTTAWA DISTRICT I

1982-83 R. K. Campbell ..... St. Andrew's  
1983-84 O. J. Osborne \* ..... Mississippi  
1984-85 G. E. Thomas \* ..... Prince of Wales  
1985-86 W. R. Falconer \*\* ..... Hazeldean  
1986-87 A. B. B. Sewell \* ..... Acacia  
1987-88 G. B. Bowman \* ..... Russell  
1988-89 E. J. Hare \* ..... Doric  
1989-90 C. U. Everson \* ..... Corinthian  
1990-91 R. M. Boone \* ..... Sidney Albert Luke  
1991-92 R. W. Grant \* ..... Carleton  
1992-93 W. D. Burns \* ..... St. Andrew's  
1993-94 E. T. Vos \*\* ..... Hazeldean  
1994-95 E. B. Williams \* ..... Edinburgh  
1995-96 R. H. Hyland \* ..... Goodwood  
1996-97 D. C. Gossling ..... Civil Service  
1997-98 G.W. McKay \* ..... Mississippi  
1998-99 G.R. Clauson \* ..... Lodge of Fidelity  
1999-00 P. E. Todd ..... St. John's  
2000-01 H. D. Good \* ..... Temple  
2001-02 B. L. Dorling \* ..... Hazeldean  
2002-03 D. Franklin ..... St. Andrew's  
2003-04 R. Bouchard \* ..... Carleton  
2004-05 N.G. Allingham ..... Prince of Wales  
2005-06 K. Sharp ..... Russell  
2006-07 B. F. Burchill ..... Acacia  
2007-08 D. Healey ..... Goodwood  
2008-09 D. Canderton ..... Edinburgh  
2009-10 I. Bayley ..... St. John's  
2010-11 L. R. Richardson ..... Civil Service  
2011-12 A. C. St. Dennis ..... Mississippi  
2012-13 B. W. Griffin ..... Doric  
2013-14 D. N. Mancuso ..... Hazeldean  
2014-15 A. B. Wright ..... Prince of Wales  
2015-16 A. C. Gillis ..... St. Andrew's  
2016-17 T. L. Hemmerling ..... Temple  
2017-18 B. P. Adams ..... Carleton  
2018-19 A. E. Thompson ..... Doric  
2019-21 J. Christie ..... Sidney Albert Luke  
2021-22 G.A. Simpson ..... Edinburgh  
2022-23 J. Bowman ..... Russell  
2023-24 K. Hatzis ..... Prince of Wales  
2024-25 S. Roberts ..... Acacia

\*DECEASED \*\*DEMITTED

## Travelling Gavel

CARLETON No. 465  
Starting Location  
October 1, 2025

EDINBURGH DEFENDERS No. 590  
October 1, 2025

GOODWOOD No. 159  
October 7, 2025

HAZELDEAN No. 517  
October 15, 2025

LODGE OF FIDELITY No. 231  
October 21, 2025

ST. ANDREW'S No. 560  
November 6, 2025

CIVIL SERVICE No. 148  
November 11, 2025

ST. JOHN'S No. 63  
December 10, 2025

MISSISSIPPI No. 147  
January 15, 2026

SIDNEY ALBERT LUKE No. 558  
February 11, 2026

RUSSELL No. 479  
February 16, 2026

ACACIA No. 561  
March 17, 2026

PRINCE OF WALES No. 371  
March 27, 2026

TEMPLE No. 665  
April 7, 2026

DORIC No. 58  
April 16, 2026

## District Liaison Officers

ROYAL ARCH LIAISON  
W. Bro. Andrew Valley  
royalarch@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

SCOTTISH RITE LIAISON  
V.W. Bro. John Guinn  
scottishrite@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

LUNA'S SHIRINE LIAISON  
R.W. Bro. Dennis Siskaley  
shrine@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

PRINCE HALL LIAISON  
R.W. Bro. Jim Bowman  
princehall@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

OTTAWA MASONIC CORPORATION LIAISON  
W. Bro. Jim Kent  
cmc@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

WESTBORO MASONIC TEMPLE LIAISON  
Bro. Joe Carboni  
westboro@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

## District Officers & Chairmen

BENEVOLENCE  
W. Bro. Brian Hay  
benevolence@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

BY-LAWS  
W. Bro. Rob Bryce  
bylaws@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

CHAPLAIN  
W. Bro. Steve Young  
chaplain@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

CHARITY  
Bro. Duff Sullivan  
charity@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

DEGREE COORDINATOR  
W. Bro. Matt Weedmark  
degreecoordinator@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

EVENTS COORDINATOR  
W. Bro. Colin Mackenzie  
events@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

GRAND LODGE PROGRAMS  
W. Bro. Allan Statham  
glprograms@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

HISTORIAN  
W. Bro. Stuart Marshall  
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OFFICER MENTORSHIP  
W. Bro. Dan Cray  
officer-mentorship@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

EDUCATION  
W. Bro. Paul Parent  
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PROTOCOL & RITUAL  
W. Bro. Mike Cadotte  
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REGALIA COORDINATOR  
Jace Bart  
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FRATERNAL VISITATION  
vacant  
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COMMUNICATIONS  
Bro. Daniel Duff  
communications@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
W. Bro. Jesus Federico  
info-tech@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHERS  
R.W. Bro. Al Wright  
W. Bro. David Brown  
Bro. Emmanuel Domingo  
Bro. Joe Radmore  
Bro. Anthony Francisco  
photos@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

DISTRICT PIPER  
W. Bro. Jordan McConnell  
piper@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

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



Ottawa District One  
TRESTLE BOARD  
2025-2026

Grand Master  
M.W. Bro. Jamie R. Ireland

Deputy Grand Master  
R.W. Bro. Arthur M. Di Cecco

Grand Secretary  
R.W. Bro. Louis M. Domjan

363 King St. W  
Hamilton ON L8P 1B4  
(905) 528-8644  
office@grandlodge.on.ca | ontariomasons.ca

District Deputy Grand Master  
R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia  
ddgm@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

District Secretary  
W. Bro. Daniel R. Charron  
district\_secretary@ottawadistrictlmasons.ca

ottawadistrictlmasons.ca  
@ottawadistrictone

Ontario Masons

## Masonic Lodges of Ottawa District One

DORIC NO. 58  
3RD THU WALKLEY RD  
doric58.ca

ST. JOHN'S NO. 63  
2ND WED CARLETON PLACE  
stjohns63.ca

MISSISSIPPI NO. 147  
3RD THU ALMONTE

CIVIL SERVICE NO. 148  
2ND TUE WALKLEY RD  
cs148.ca

GOODWOOD NO. 159  
1ST TUE RICHMOND  
goodwood159.ca

LODGE OF FIDELITY NO. 231  
3RD TUE WALKLEY RD  
lodgeoffidelity.com

PRINCE OF WALES NO. 371  
4TH FRI WALKLEY RD  
pow371.ca

CARLETON NO. 465  
4TH THU CARP

RUSSELL NO. 479  
3RD MON RUSSELL  
russellodge.ca

HAZELDEAN NO. 517  
3RD WED KANATA  
hazeldeanlodge.ca

SIDNEY ALBERT LUKE NO. 558  
2ND WED WALKLEY RD

ST. ANDREW'S NO. 560  
1ST THU WALKLEY RD  
standrews560.com

ACACIA NO. 561  
3RD TUE RICHMOND  
acacialodge.ca

EDINBURGH DEFENDERS NO. 590  
1ST WED WALKLEY RD  
edinburghlodge738.com

TEMPLE NO. 665  
1ST TUE CHURCHILL AVE  
templelodge665.com

District Deputy Grand Master's  
Charity  
2025-2026

PERLEY HEALTH CENTRE  
ottawadistrictlmasons.ca/district/charity

Grand Master's Charity  
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE  
masonicfoundation.on.ca



## District Deputy Grand Master Official Visits

**St. John's No. 63**  
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

**Doric No. 58**  
Thursday, October 16, 2025

**Carleton No. 465**  
Thursday, October 23, 2025

**Sidney Albert Luke No. 558**  
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**Lodge of Fidelity No. 231**  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025

**St. Andrew's No. 560**  
Thursday, December 4, 2025

**Acacia No. 561**  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

**Edinburgh Defenders No. 590**  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**Temple No. 665**  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

**Civil Service No. 148**  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**Hazeldean No. 517**  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

**Prince of Wales No. 371**  
Friday, February 27, 2026

**Goodwood No. 159**  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026

**Mississippi No. 147**  
Thursday, March 19, 2026

**Russell No. 479**  
Monday, April 20, 2026

**District Deputy Grand Master**  
R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Corio

 **Ontario Masons**

## District Deputy Grand Master Fraternal Visits

**Goodwood No. 159**  
September 2, 2025

**Edinburgh Defenders No. 590**  
September 3, 2025

**St. Andrew's No. 560**  
September 7, 2025

**Civil Service No. 148**  
September 9, 2025

**St. John's No. 63**  
September 10, 2025

**Russell No. 479**  
September 15, 2025

**Acacia No. 561**  
September 16, 2025

**Hazeldean No. 517**  
September 17, 2025

**Mississippi No. 147**  
September 18, 2025

**Temple No. 665**  
October 7, 2025

**Lodge of Fidelity No. 231**  
October 21, 2025

**Prince of Wales No. 371**  
October 24, 2025

**Doric No. 58**  
November 20, 2025

**Sidney Albert Luke No. 558**  
December 10, 2025

**Carleton Lodge**  
February 26, 2026

PLEASE VISIT THE  
O.M. FOR THE LATEST  
VISIT THE O.M. FOR THE  
MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION

**District Deputy Grand Master**  
R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Corio

 **Ontario Masons**



# Ottawa District I DDGM Magazine Feature

Ontario Masons Magazine | May Issue, 2026

Freemasonry has long been defined not only by its traditions, but by the men who quietly uphold them through service, leadership, and example. In every district, there are individuals whose dedication helps shape the character and continuity of the Craft—often without fanfare, but always with purpose.

As another Masonic year draws toward its close, it offers a natural moment for reflection: on the work accomplished, the challenges faced, and the steady leadership that guides our Lodges forward. Among those who have carried this responsibility with distinction in Ottawa District I is R.W. Bro. Abraham R. Garcia, whose term as District Deputy Grand Master has been marked by commitment, humility, and a clear vision for the future.

**In the following pages, take from the May 2026 Edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine,** Bro. Daniel J. Duff, Communications Chair and Historian for Ottawa District I, presents a thoughtful and engaging conversation with R.W. Bro. Garcia. This interview explores not only the responsibilities of his office, but also the deeper principles that continue to animate Freemasonry in a modern age—offering readers insight into leadership, fraternity, and the enduring light of the Craft.

Ontario Masons Magazine for 2025-26'  
features Cover Art and design layouts  
by Ottawa District I, Historian and  
Communications Chairmen  
Bro. Daniel J Duff





# A Year of Steady Light:

## An Interview with R.W Bro. Abraham R. Garcia

BY BRO. DANIEL J DUFF

COMMUNICATIONS/HISTORIAN  
OTTAWA DISTRICT I

As Communications Chair for Ottawa District I, I felt it both fitting and meaningful to sit down for a conversation with a man I am proud to call not only a colleague in the Craft, but a Brother and a friend—R.W Bro. Abraham R. Garcia.

Having almost completed his year of service as District Deputy Grand Master, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the experiences, challenges, and accomplishments that have defined his term.

The role of District Deputy Grand Master is one of quiet but profound influence. It demands not only administrative oversight, but a steady presence—one that offers guidance, encouragement, and continuity across the Lodges of the district. Over the past year, RW Bro. Abraham R. Garcia has carried these responsibilities with dedication, humility, and a clear sense of purpose.

This interview is intended not simply as a retrospective, but as a window into the character of leadership within Freemasonry today. Through his reflections, I hope to gain insight into the evolving nature of the Craft, the enduring importance of its principles, and the personal commitment required to uphold them.

What follows is a candid and thoughtful discussion on his journey, his philosophy of leadership, and his vision for the future of Freemasonry within Ottawa District I and beyond.

In this candid and thoughtful conversation, R.W Bro. Abe Garcia reflects on his journey into Freemasonry, the responsibilities of leadership, and his vision for the future of the Craft.





The Following is an Interview conducted April 13, 2026 with R.W Bro. Abraham R. Garcia.

**Q: What first inspired your journey into Freemasonry, and how has your understanding of the Craft evolved over time?**

Garcia:

What inspired me initially was curiosity. I first learned about Freemasonry from my Dad's cousin—who actually isn't even a Mason—so what I heard at first were more along the lines of conspiracy theories.

But I thought to myself, "if these men were founders of nations and innovators, they couldn't be bad people." That led me to seek them out and join their ranks.

Now that I'm a member, my understanding has deepened. Whether those men were inspired by the fraternity to become men of action, or whether they already possessed those qualities before joining, it is good to be associated with them. I hope that I too can leave a legacy much like theirs.

**Q: As District Deputy Grand Master, how do you view your role in supporting and strengthening the Lodges within your district?**

Garcia:

I view my role as an encourager and an inspirer. I try to follow the example set by my predecessors—to be available to the Lodges when they need assistance and to provide guidance on the issues they face.

**Q: What are the most pressing challenges facing Freemasonry today, and how can Lodges meaningfully address them?**

Garcia:

Relevance in modern society, and maintaining high

standards, are among the foremost concerns. Addressing these requires both fidelity to tradition and thoughtful adaptation.

**Q: In your experience, what distinguishes a thriving Lodge from one that is struggling?**

Garcia:

Membership participation and a genuine sense of fraternity often define success. Where those are present, Lodges tend to thrive. Where enthusiasm and purpose begin to wane, stagnation often follows.

**Q: Freemasonry is often described as a system of moral instruction veiled in allegory—how do you see that philosophy resonating with modern candidates?**

Garcia:

While the language may be traditional, the lessons are timeless. They offer guidance that remains profoundly relevant in contemporary life.

**Q: What importance do you place on ritual excellence, and how can Lodges work toward improving their degree work?**

Garcia:

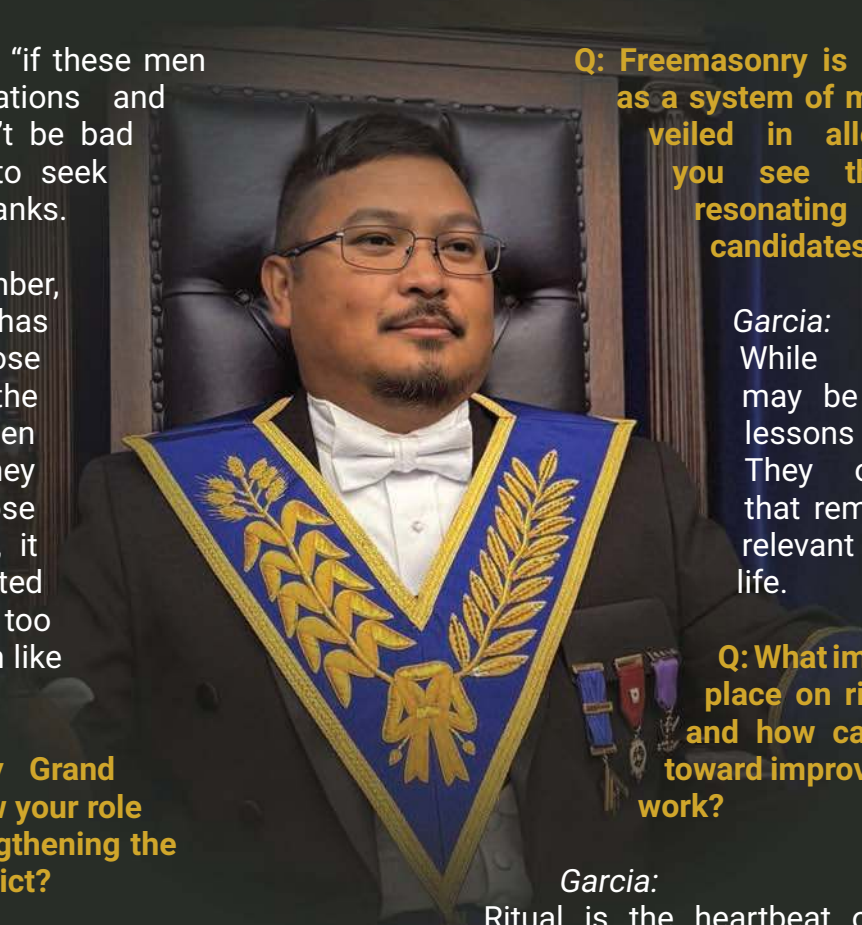
Ritual is the heartbeat of Freemasonry. Excellence in its delivery enhances both dignity and impact. It requires dedication, rehearsal, and a real sense of pride in the work.

**Q: How can Freemasonry maintain its traditions while still adapting to the expectations of contemporary society?**

Garcia:

Balance is essential—preserving what is sacred while embracing thoughtful innovation where appropriate.

**Q: What advice would you offer to Worshipful**





**Masters seeking to leave a lasting and positive impact during their year in the Chair?**

Garcia:

Lead with purpose, plan with intention, and cultivate harmony. A successful year isn't measured only by the number of events, but by the strength and unity of the Brethren.

**Q: Looking ahead, what is your vision for the future of the Craft within your district and beyond?**

Garcia:

A renewed emphasis on education, engagement, and visibility is central to that vision—ensuring Freemasonry remains vibrant for generations to come.

**Further Reflections**

**Q: How has your experience in progressive offices prepared you for this role?**

Garcia:

Each office contributes to a broader understanding of leadership, patience, and service—qualities that are essential for effective oversight.

**Q: What role do mentorship and Masonic education play in shaping the long-term vitality of our Lodges?**

Garcia:

They are indispensable. Without them, continuity falters; with them, the Craft flourishes.

**Q: How can Lodges better balance their charitable efforts with the internal development of their members?**

Garcia:

Charity must extend both outward and inward—supporting the community while also nurturing the individual Mason.

**Q: In your travels throughout the district, have you encountered any particularly inspiring practices?**

Garcia:

Absolutely. From innovative education nights to revitalized festive boards, there's a great deal of creativity and dedication throughout the district.

**Q: What personal legacy do you hope to leave during your term?**

Garcia:

A district marked by unity, renewed purpose, and a strengthened commitment to the principles of Freemasonry.





# A Year In Review

## 2025-2026

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The 2025–2026 Masonic year in Ottawa District 1 may be best described not simply as active, but as intentional. It was a year in which tradition and momentum worked in harmony—where the enduring structure of Freemasonry was not merely preserved, but meaningfully animated by the efforts of its members. Across the District, there was a clear sense that participation mattered, that presence carried weight, and that the work being done—both within and beyond the lodge room—was part of something larger than any one individual lodge.

From the outset in September 2025, the District demonstrated that it was prepared to set a strong tone. The Grand Lodge Appreciation Night served as a fitting opening to the year, drawing together brethren from across jurisdictions in recognition of service at the highest levels. While ceremonial in nature, the evening carried deeper significance. It reinforced the continuity between local lodges and the Grand Lodge structure, reminding members that their efforts are part of a broader system of governance, tradition, and shared purpose. Events such as this are not simply acknowledgments—they are anchors, grounding the District in its place within the wider Masonic framework.

As autumn unfolded, the rhythm of the Masonic year took hold. October brought with it both reflection and instruction, beginning with the District Divine Service. This annual observance provided an opportunity for brethren to step outside the procedural aspects of Masonry and engage with its spiritual dimensions. In a fraternity often defined by ritual precision and structured progression, moments like these serve to recalibrate focus—to remind members that Freemasonry is, at its core, a moral and philosophical system.

This emphasis on learning and refinement continued through the Lodge of Instruction, where brethren gathered to hone ritual work and deepen their understanding of the Craft. The importance of such gatherings cannot be overstated. Ritual is the language of Freemasonry, and its careful preservation ensures that each generation receives the teachings of the Order with clarity and integrity. What was particularly notable this year, however, was the level of engagement. Attendance and participation reflected a renewed commitment to excellence—an understanding that ritual proficiency is not the responsibility of a few, but of all.

Running parallel to these District-wide events were the District Deputy Grand Master's official visits, which form the backbone of the Masonic year. Beginning in October and continuing steadily through the spring, these visits brought the DDGM into each of the District's lodges, creating opportunities for direct engagement, assessment, and encouragement. While administrative in purpose, these evenings carry significant symbolic and practical





weight. They serve as a reminder that no lodge operates in isolation—that each is part of a cohesive District working toward shared goals.

What stood out during this cycle of visits was not only the consistency with which they were executed, but the atmosphere that accompanied them. There was a sense of pride within each lodge—pride in their work, their candidates, and their ability to contribute meaningfully to the District as a whole. These visits became more than checkpoints; they were celebrations of identity and progress.

November introduced a more reflective tone, beginning with the District's observance of Remembrance Day. Participation in this solemn occasion underscored Freemasonry's longstanding connection to service, sacrifice, and civic responsibility. Many brethren have personal or familial ties to military service, and the act of remembrance carries both collective and deeply individual meaning. It is in these moments that the values of the Craft—duty, honour, and respect—find expression beyond the lodge room.

Later in the month, the District shifted into a more celebratory mode with its Ladies Night. This event, while social in nature, represents an essential acknowledgment of the role that families and partners play in the Masonic journey. Freemasonry does not exist in isolation from the lives of its members; it is supported, sustained, and enriched by those who stand alongside them. Recognizing that support is not only appropriate—it is necessary.



The closing weeks of November and the onset of December brought a renewed focus on the intellectual and symbolic dimensions of Masonry. The Emulation of the Master Mason's Degree provided a powerful educational experience, offering brethren the opportunity to observe ritual performed at a high level of proficiency. For many, it served as both inspiration and instruction—a reminder of what is possible when dedication and discipline are applied to the work.

Equally impactful was the Candlelight Reading of the Ancient Charges. In an age defined by speed and distraction, this event offered something rare: stillness. By returning to the foundational texts of the Craft in a setting defined by simplicity and reverence, brethren were able to reconnect with the moral framework that underpins all Masonic activity. It is one thing to perform ritual; it is another to reflect upon its meaning. This event provided space for the latter.

With the arrival of 2026, the District maintained its forward momentum. The Winter District Meeting in January served as a critical point of alignment, bringing together leadership and membership to review progress and set priorities for the months ahead. These meetings, though administrative in structure, are essential to the health of the District. They ensure that communication flows effectively, that concerns are addressed, and that successes are shared.

February stood out as a highlight of the year, particularly through the Masonic Charity Ball. This event encapsulated many of the principles that define Freemasonry: fellowship, generosity, and engagement with the wider community. Beyond its social appeal, the Ball served as a significant fundraising initiative, supporting charitable causes and reinforcing the District's commitment to relief. It also demonstrated the ability of the District to present itself outwardly—to welcome non-Masons into its orbit and to showcase the positive impact of its work. In March, the Day of Masonry offered a different kind of engagement—one focused on learning and inspiration. Featuring a guest speaker from Grand Lodge, the event provided brethren with new perspectives and insights, encouraging them to think more deeply about their role within the Craft. Education has always been a cornerstone of Freemasonry, and events such as this ensure that it remains so.

April, as is often the case, represented both culmination and transition. The Doric Table Lodge brought brethren together in a setting that blended tradition with conviviality, celebrating the social aspects of Masonry that are so often intertwined with its formal practices. There is a unique power in shared meals and informal fellowship—an ability to strengthen bonds in ways that ritual alone cannot.

The Spring District Meeting followed, providing a final opportunity for alignment before the close of the year. By this point, much had been





accomplished, and there was a palpable sense of progress. Lodges had advanced candidates, hosted events, and contributed to the broader life of the District. The meeting served as both a checkpoint and a moment of recognition.

The Grand Master's Reception at the end of April stood as a fitting capstone. Bringing together members and their partners, it was an evening of celebration, reflection, and anticipation. It acknowledged the work that had been done while looking ahead to the future—a future built upon the foundation of the year just completed.

Yet even as the formal calendar drew to a close, the work of the District continued. The Beechwood Divine Service in June offered a moment of remembrance and respect for departed brethren, reinforcing the idea that membership in the Craft extends beyond the boundaries of active participation. The bonds formed in Masonry are enduring, and this service stands as a testament to that continuity.

The introduction of the Fireworks Boat Cruise in August added a new dimension to the District's activities. As an inaugural event, it demonstrated a willingness to innovate—to explore new ways of fostering fellowship and supporting charitable initiatives. Its success suggests that the District is not only rooted in tradition, but open to evolution.

Looking back on the year as a whole, several key themes emerge. The first is engagement. Across the District, there was a noticeable increase in participation—not only in attendance, but in active involvement. Members stepped forward, took on responsibilities, and contributed to the success of events and initiatives. This level of engagement is both a cause and a consequence of a healthy District. The second theme is communication. The effective use of modern tools and platforms allowed the District to share information more widely and efficiently than ever before. The event calendar served not just as a schedule, but as a unifying document—one that kept members informed and connected. The positive reception of communications efforts suggests that this is an area of continued strength.





Finally, there is the theme of balance. Throughout the year, Ottawa District 1 demonstrated an ability to balance tradition with innovation, formality with fellowship, and internal focus with external engagement. This balance is not easily achieved, yet it is essential to the long-term vitality of the Craft.

If one were to identify the defining characteristic of the 2025–2026 Masonic year in Ottawa District 1, it would not simply be activity, nor even engagement—it would be purpose expressed through action. The events of the year, as outlined in the District calendar, were not isolated occasions, but rather interconnected expressions of a living system—one that binds fellowship, ritual, charity, and community into a cohesive whole.

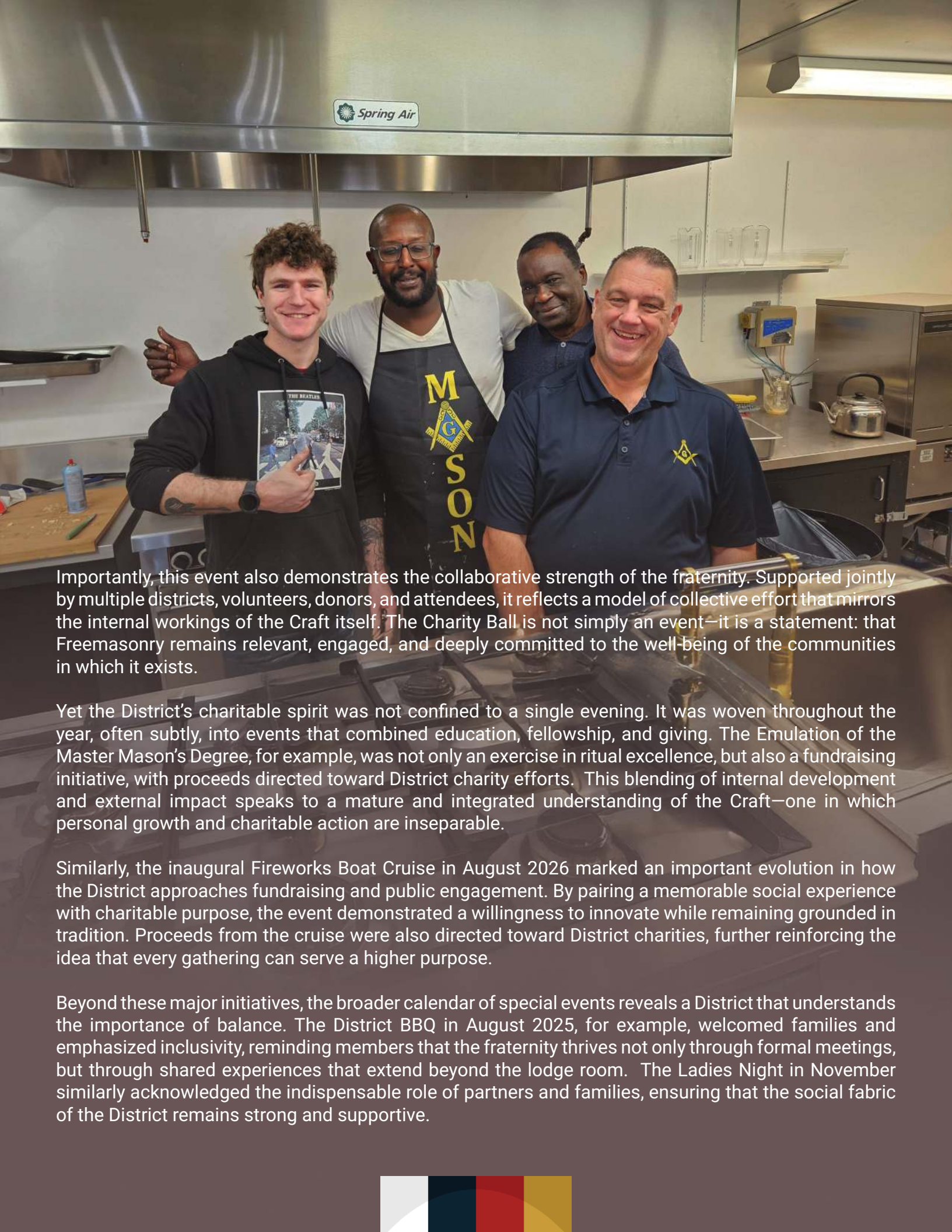
Nowhere is this more evident than in the District's charitable efforts, which stand as the clearest outward expression of Masonic principles. Freemasonry has long taught that relief is not an abstract virtue, but a practical obligation. In Ottawa District 1, this obligation was not only acknowledged—it was fulfilled with consistency, creativity, and impact.

At the centre of this charitable work was the annual Masonic Charity Ball, held in February 2026. This event represents far more than a social highlight; it is the District's flagship expression of service to the wider community. Drawing hundreds of attendees, the evening combined fellowship with fundraising, featuring a formal dinner, entertainment, and a robust silent auction supported by contributions from within and beyond the fraternity.

The significance of the Charity Ball lies not only in its immediate success, but in its cumulative impact. Over the years, this initiative has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of organizations such as healthcare institutions, youth programs, and community services throughout the Ottawa region. In 2026, proceeds were directed toward causes including the Perley Health Centre's "Bridging Generations" campaign and Harvest House Ministries—organizations that embody care, dignity, and support for vulnerable populations.







Importantly, this event also demonstrates the collaborative strength of the fraternity. Supported jointly by multiple districts, volunteers, donors, and attendees, it reflects a model of collective effort that mirrors the internal workings of the Craft itself. The Charity Ball is not simply an event—it is a statement: that Freemasonry remains relevant, engaged, and deeply committed to the well-being of the communities in which it exists.

Yet the District's charitable spirit was not confined to a single evening. It was woven throughout the year, often subtly, into events that combined education, fellowship, and giving. The Emulation of the Master Mason's Degree, for example, was not only an exercise in ritual excellence, but also a fundraising initiative, with proceeds directed toward District charity efforts. This blending of internal development and external impact speaks to a mature and integrated understanding of the Craft—one in which personal growth and charitable action are inseparable.

Similarly, the inaugural Fireworks Boat Cruise in August 2026 marked an important evolution in how the District approaches fundraising and public engagement. By pairing a memorable social experience with charitable purpose, the event demonstrated a willingness to innovate while remaining grounded in tradition. Proceeds from the cruise were also directed toward District charities, further reinforcing the idea that every gathering can serve a higher purpose.

Beyond these major initiatives, the broader calendar of special events reveals a District that understands the importance of balance. The District BBQ in August 2025, for example, welcomed families and emphasized inclusivity, reminding members that the fraternity thrives not only through formal meetings, but through shared experiences that extend beyond the lodge room. The Ladies Night in November similarly acknowledged the indispensable role of partners and families, ensuring that the social fabric of the District remains strong and supportive.



The Day of Masonry in March 2026 and the Lodge of Instruction earlier in the year reinforced the District's commitment to education, providing opportunities for members to deepen their understanding and refine their work. These events highlight an essential truth: that a strong charitable foundation must be supported by knowledgeable and engaged members. Charity without understanding risks becoming transactional; education ensures it remains meaningful.

Equally important were the moments of reflection embedded within the calendar. The District Divine Service and the Beechwood Divine Service offered opportunities for spiritual contemplation and remembrance, grounding the District in a sense of continuity that transcends the present moment. These events remind us that Freemasonry is not only about what is built, but about what is preserved—values, traditions, and bonds that endure across generations.

The Remembrance Day Ceremony further reinforced this connection to history and service, situating the work of the Craft within a broader civic and national context. In honouring those who served, the District reaffirmed its alignment with principles of duty, sacrifice, and collective responsibility.

Taken together, these events form a mosaic—each piece distinct, yet contributing to a larger picture. That picture is one of a District that is not only active, but aligned; not only busy, but purposeful. It is a District that understands that the strength of Freemasonry lies not in any single event or initiative, but in the consistent application of its principles across all aspects of its work.





This dual focus is critical. A fraternity that looks only inward risks stagnation; one that looks only outward risks losing its identity. Ottawa District 1 demonstrated a commendable ability to maintain this balance, ensuring that its internal work remains strong while its external impact continues to expand.

As the year draws to a close, it is worth reflecting not only on what was accomplished, but on what it represents. The success of the District is not measured solely in attendance numbers or funds raised—though both were significant—but in the strength of the relationships built, the knowledge shared, and the lives impacted.

The charitable contributions made throughout the year will have tangible effects—supporting healthcare, providing services, and improving quality of life for individuals and families across the region. Yet the intangible effects may be even more important. Through their actions, the members of Ottawa District 1 have demonstrated that Freemasonry remains a force for good—relevant, responsive, and rooted in values that continue to resonate in a modern world.

Looking ahead, the District is well-positioned to build upon this foundation. The introduction of new events, the continued success of established traditions, and the evident commitment of its members all suggest a trajectory of sustained growth and impact. There is a sense that the work being done is not only maintaining the Craft, but actively shaping its future.

In closing, the 2025–2026 Masonic year in Ottawa District 1 can be understood as a year in which principle met practice. The teachings of Freemasonry were not confined to ritual or discourse—they were lived, expressed through action, and made visible in the community. Through charity, fellowship, education, and reflection, the District has affirmed its role as both a guardian of tradition and an agent of positive change.



# Final Words



As I fade back into the multitude, I would like to thank the brethren once again for the faith and trust you have bestowed upon me as your representative in Grand Lodge and likewise the Grand Master's representative in this District.

One day my friends when we all have passed on, our life will be summarized into one singular symbol - a dash. It all boils down to a dash. Atop our burial site will sit a tombstone or a plaque. This marker will contain two dates: the day we were born and the day we pass away. And in between those two dates is a dash. A dash will summarize all our hopes and dreams, our struggles and our achievements, our good times and our bad ones.

But what truly gives that dash meaning is not how long it is — it is how we choose to live it.

That dash represents every moment we were given: every kindness we offered, every challenge we faced, every time we chose courage instead of fear. It represents the people we lifted up, the love we shared, and the difference we made in the lives of others. No one will measure that dash by the number of titles we held, the money we earned, or the things we owned. Instead, it will be remembered through the lives we touched and the legacy we left behind.

So the question is not how many years we are given — none of us control that. The real question is what we will do with the time that sits between those two dates. Will we spend it worrying about things that do not matter? Or will we spend it building, serving, loving, and becoming the best version of ourselves?

Each morning we wake up is another chance to add meaning to our dash. Another chance to forgive someone, to encourage someone, to chase a dream, to stand up for what is right, or simply to be present for the people who need us most.

One day the dates on our stone will be fixed. But until that day comes, the dash is still being written. And every decision we make adds another line to the story of our lives. So live your dash with purpose. Live it with courage. Live it with kindness. Because in the end, that small line between those two dates will tell the story of who we truly were.

It is an honour and privilege to have served you brethren under this role of leadership

I am grateful to the brethren who have gone before me - from them I drew my inspiration to run for this office and to serve. And I would like to commend the brethren of the future who aspires to this role, may you carry the torch of honour and service to be passed on from generation to generation.

So Mote it be.



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## **OTTAWA DISTRICT I MASONS ARCHIVAL REPORT 2025-2026**

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**Ottawa District I 2025-2026**

**SUBMITTED  
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