



The Communiqué

June – July 2009

SUPREME COUNCIL SESSION SEPTEMBER 2009

Looking Forward to Seeing You Here

For those of us here in the Hamilton Valley, September 16 to 19th is approaching quickly and we are looking forward to this event with excitement and great anticipation. We hope you are too, and are making plans to join us in the events described below.

Although the highlight of the week will be the Coroneting of 54 new Honorary Inspectors General in the Norman E. Byrne Cathedral of our Scottish Rite, we feel we have planned a number of other events that our guests will find interesting and entertaining.

For those arriving early, we are offering a choice of two pre-session tours to take place on Wednesday afternoon – one to historic Niagara-on-the Lake which will include a winery tour and tasting. The second will take in local Hamilton sites such as Dundurn Castle and our beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens. The Wednesday will conclude with the gathering of everyone in the meet-and-greet in the Sheraton Ballroom.

The Ladies' Programme features boutique shopping in the Rite followed by a luncheon and fashion show in the banquet room of this wonderful facility.

To complete the Sovereign Grand Commander's Banquet in the Convention Centre, the Valley has planned a dance immediately following in the adjoining Ballroom.

The Saturday morning features the appointment of the new Actives as well as the Installation of our new Sovereign Grand Commander. This will be followed by a sumptuous brunch for those who are interested and the afternoon performance by Canada's finest Chamber Choir – the Elora Festival Singers who will be presenting a program of Broadway, Folk and fun.

We look forward to greeting you with a warm handshake and a friendly smile. We will do our utmost to ensure that you are well taken care of while visiting with us.

Victor Lepp, 33°

General Chair of the Arrangements Committee

The Convention Rate at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel is only available until August 1st. If you haven't registered, now's the time.

The Host Committee would appreciate whether you require accommodations or not, but plan to attend to complete the Registration Form and return.

Some Interesting News from Across the Country:

Valley of St. John's

OFFICIAL VISIT OF SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER ILL. BRO. C. ROBERT TOWNSHEND, 33°

June 5th, 2009

The SGC, Ill. Bro. C. Robert Townshend, 33°, made his Official Visit to the Valley of St. John's on June 5th, 2009. He was accompanied by the Deputy for NS, PEI, & NL, Ill. Bro. Robert L. Taylor, 33°.

As this was the first visit by the SGC to this recently opened home of NL Freemasonry, he and the Deputy were conducted on a detailed tour of the facilities by Ill. Bro. Kenneth J. Matthews, 32°, TPGM of Centennial Lodge of Perfection and also Chairman of the Freemasons' Hall Operations Committee.

Following this tour, the SGC and Deputy met with 17 Brethren of the Valley for an informal discussion of matters relevant to the Rite. There, the SGC was formally introduced to the gathering by the Ill. Deputy. The SGC discussed the Learning Centres which have now been established in Canada, and the excellent work they are doing in helping children overcome the debilitating effects of dyslexia.

Some time was also spent on Membership in the Rite, with an admission that it is falling. The SGC revealed that more and more emphasis is now being placed on **retention**, rather than **recruitment**. He used the analogy of a heart monitor, saying that we must not wait to see a ‘flat line’ in Masonry.

The Official Visit concluded later that evening with a dinner at the Battery Hotel & Suites, attended by many of the Brethren and their Ladies.



This information was provided by Clayton T. Handrigan, Grand Secretary/Registrar

The Valley of Halifax

An update from the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centres for Children – Halifax provided by Thelma Gegan, Centre Director

CELEBRATIONS!

June 4th was a spectacular and historic day in the life of our Learning Centre Community. It began with the Official Dedication of our Centre in the afternoon and concluded with a “Celebration of Achievement” in the evening where we recognized the first six children to complete their three year program at the Centre. This evening Celebration was held in conjunction with the Official Visit of the Sovereign Grand Commander of Scottish Rite, C. Robert Townshend, to the Valley of Halifax. Other Guests of Honour included: The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Roy E. Lively, Grand Master of Masons for Nova Scotia, Robert L. Taylor, Deputy for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Allard Loopstra, President, The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation.

It is still difficult for me to find the words to adequately convey how very extraordinary these two events were. It was marvelous to have our community so fully represented at the afternoon dedication: Children, Parents, Volunteers, Tutors, Board Members, Scottish Rite members and other Centre Friends filled our reception area and spilled into the hallway. Foundation President, Allard Loopstra, spoke prior to the Dedication Ceremony and powerfully affirmed the work that is being done, acknowledging the dedication of all who play a part in the life of the Centre.

From the Centre, we headed to the Harbourfront Marriott where we were joined by many Scottish Rite members and friends for a delicious meal. Following the dinner, Sovereign Grand Commander, Robert Townshend, shared his remarks with the audience, speaking particularly to the Children. He talked about what a difference a day can make and reflected on the day that each of them walked through the doors of the Learning Centre to begin their work here. It was special for me to be able to watch the faces of our children while he was speaking and to see them so completely engaged with his message. In the same way, Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, addressed her remarks to the children, congratulating them on the commitment they had made and the success that has come as a result. The evening concluded with singer/musician, Melanie Ross. She entertained with a wonderful variety of songs, perfectly complementing the theme of the Celebration.



Dedication Ceremony: Participants Ivan Gregan, Robert Taylor, Allard Loopstra, Matthew Todd, Robert Townshend and Harold Crosby.



Graduates: Back row: Kathryn Annett, Alex Dupuis, Threeca Cheikh, Heather Armstrong
Front row: Graeme Wach, The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, C. Robert Townshend, Brandon Mossman

Valley of Toronto

Master Mason Night

The Valley of Toronto held its 8th Annual Master Masons night on Thursday May 28th. The evening was a great success with a 105 Master Mason's present and over 120 members present. The evening provides the Master Masons with an introduction to the Scottish Rite and was highlighted with the portrayal of a modified version of the 21st Degree. Although the Valley of Toronto has performed the full 21st Degree for many years at Moore Sovereign Consistory, Hamilton and more recently at the Barrie Consistory, the degree had not been performed in Toronto.



Cast of the Valley of Toronto 21st Degree Team

Strawberry Festival – Oshawa Scottish Rite Club

On Wednesday June 25th, the Oshawa Scottish Rite Club held its annual Strawberry Festival. There were 154 in attendance, many travelling great distances to be present for the excellent meal followed by strawberries and cream. Congratulations to Ill. Bro. Ken Bromley 32^o and the Officers and Members of the Oshawa Scottish Rite Club for an excellent evening.

Our Sovereign Grand Commander's Itinerary for July to August

July 5 th to 9 th	Imperial Shrine Sessions, San Antonio, Texas
July 14 th to 16 th	Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Toronto
August 22 nd to 26 th	Annual Supreme Council Sessions, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Boston, Mass.

That is all for this edition of the Communiqué. If you have something that you would like to share with your Scottish Rite Brethren, please forward the information to me at sr_communique@rogers.com.

Fraternally,

Gareth Taylor