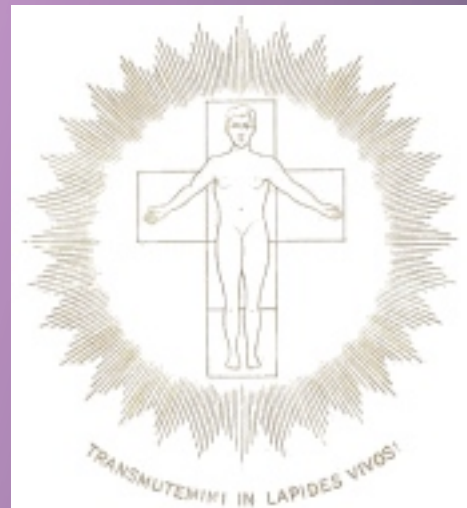




The *Nova Scotia* **FREEMASON**

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA

A Visit to the Lodge of Living Stones No 4957 in the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding



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The Nova Scotia Freemason

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167 Coronation Avenue
Halifax, NS, Canada B3N 2N2.

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From the Editor

First let me apologize for the lateness of this issue. I have just spent three months in the UK and of course, my laptop decided to give up the ghost and so the tardiness of this edition.

Having said that, I had a wonderful time and visited several of the magnificent cathedrals across the country and had the opportunity of visiting two UGLE lodges; Peveral Lodge No.7743, in Witham Essex, and The Lodge of Living Stones No.4957, in Leeds, Yorkshire.

On visiting London I took a tour of St.Paul's Cathedral. Sir Christopher Wren wanted his building to be clean and classical. Years of pollution darkened the insides of the cathedral and on a visit by Queen Victoria she stated that the ambience was dark, dismal and not conducive for worship. It being her Jubilee her subjects decided to improve the interior by creating mosaics on the ceiling east of the dome. On the north side can be seen Byzantine mosaics which include two large Square and Compasses surmounted by the All Seeing Eye, dated 1904.

-Barry Imber, Editor



VISIT TO THE LODGE OF LIVINGSTONES

“Oh to be in England now that Spring is there” was not the call this past March! Having left Nova Scotia in a snow storm I was looking forward to a warmer, wetter, but definitely not white, vacation in the UK. Travelling north from Essex towards Leeds in Yorkshire the weather forecast warned of more snow coming in from the West. Having spent the day visiting the Minster in York I ventured out to find the lodge hall on the outskirts of Leeds. I had been looking forward to visiting the lodge started by W.L. Wilmshurst in 1927. His name is probably known to most masons who have read any of the major books on masonry. His “Meaning of Masonry” was one of the first masonic books I read as a new mason.

In a letter, dated July 1923, W.L. Wilmshurst had written:

'I cannot...point to any lodge under our constitution where the esoteric side of Masonry receives prominence. The conditions under which Masonry is at present conducted and the virtually indiscriminate admission of new members make it almost impossible for a lodge to be carried on upon ideal lines.'

It would seem that nothing has changed in 100 years. Many of the Brothers in Nova Scotia have voiced similar views and with the establishment of Traditional Observance lodges in North America I was keen to see how this lodge functioned in an attempt to provide a venue for masons to explore the esoteric underpinning of the Craft.

The lodge was formed on 16th December 1927 with Wilmshurst as the first Master, with the following stated aim: *'This lodge has been formed to meet a demand that nowadays is increasingly heard in the Craft for a fuller understanding and realisation of the latent teachings of our Order than usually obtains. It is our design to try to meet the need of a growing minority of brethren who are not content with the routine formalities and social amenities of their lodges, but feel that the Craft was intended to mean more than this and who are eager to learn what that "more" is.'*

On my arrival I found that the members were already in the lodge room 15 minutes prior to the opening. I waited while the lodge was censed to dedicate the room before carrying out the sacred and solemn work which was to take place. The officers then withdrew from the room and were then conducted formally back into the lodge. As the

ranking guest I was escorted in with the WM and sat at his right hand in the East.

Suspended above the altar is the letter “G” and below it a central lamp from which the flame is taken to light the lesser lights *“at the pedestals of the three principal officers. In the Closing ceremony light returns again to the centre. This flame represents for us the Light of spiritual illumination and also the Lamp of knowledge.”* Prior to the opening of the lodge, the lights are dimmed and the members sit in silence in a period of contemplation before beginning its work. Wilmshurst also emphasised the importance of a three-minute silence at the conclusion of the main business, to allow brethren: *'to unite in realising the presence of the GAOTU and their unity in Him.'*

The business meeting was rapidly completed and then the main part of the meeting began. Each officer read from Wilmshurst’s book “The Perfect Lodge” which is an interpretation of the symbolic significance of each office.

Although a small lodge in numbers, some twenty plus full members and thirty associate members, the members travel many miles to attend. The WM travelled from Bristol and other members from Birmingham. The lodge meets four times a year formally but also every month except August to discuss matters, present papers and explore the inherent teachings of the Craft.

Contemplation, silence, solemnity and introspection were the obvious tenets practiced by the members. Acknowledgement of guests was kept to a minimum and I was given the opportunity to speak at the festive board and to bring greetings from the Jurisdiction. It was a very enjoyable visit and left me with a lot to think about.



FROM THE GRAND MASTER

My Brothers it is that time of year again when we have begun our Annual Installations. It is hard to believe time has moved so quickly. It is with that thought in mind that I decided to look at what the Installation really means to me.

May I congratulate the Masters and their Lodge Officers upon their installation into their respective Offices. By being elected and installed you have been given a TRUST by your Brothers. The Trust has many points to it and I will only touch upon a few so as to act as a catalyst for some thought.

The Master and his Officers have been given a TRUST to maintain and strengthen the main tenets of our great Fraternity; Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. You are to practise these, not only in the Lodge, but outside the Lodge so that the community knows we are a compassionate and caring organization composed of "good men who have been made better". You are to be Mentors and examples for all your Lodge Brothers and community to emulate, and in doing so, teach them the value of being a Mason. You are to practise Inclusiveness so that all Brothers feel they are an integral part of the Lodge from the first time they enter the door until they lay down their working tools of life. You are to be a Positive example and always seek out what is best for your Lodge through Discussion and Consensus, not by Dictatorship. You are to practise the simple art of Recognition of tasks well done by saying "THANK YOU" and giving credit where it is due. You are to practise the Positive by seeing the glass as half full, not half empty; and always look for the good in your Brothers and the positive in all situations. You are to teach that "it makes a difference" to Care, to Love, to Assist, and most importantly, to be your self and accept the Brothers for who they are and not for who you want them to be. You are responsible for passing your Lodge on to those following; Stronger and Better than you received it.

You are a TEAM and you should work as a Team for the betterment of your Lodge and Masonry. Every Brother has a contribution to make, and that does not necessarily mean holding an Office." Many hands make light work!" Are you going to work towards making your Lodge a Positive environment for all? Happiness is a CHOICE! Choose wisely.

My congratulations to all the Brothers who have taken on the responsibility of governing a Lodge. May your year be one filled with satisfaction and success in knowing you did your best for our Fraternity. It is a very rewarding experience.

Reo J. Matthews, MWTGM

V.M. Bro. Russ Orchard, Unity No.4

W.Bro. Dale Atkinson, Poyntz No.44

V.M.Bro. Kim Greer, King Edward No.86

Wor. Brother George "Donnie" Knickle, Acacia No.39

R.W.Bro. Kenneth MacDonald, The St. Andrew's Lodge No.7



May it be their portion to hear those words "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"

PEER SUPPORT: AN AGE-OLD CONCEPT FOR FREEMASONS

Recent studies into Canadian Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other Operational Stress Injuries (OSI) have shown the increasing benefit of Peer-Support as part of the treatment plan.

An Operational Stress Injury is any persistent psychological difficulty relating from military service and includes anxiety, depression, and PTSD as well as fatigue injury, grief injury and stress caused by a moral conflict or dilemma. If the injury and its impact are not addressed effectively a complex line of other difficulties may develop and expand over time.

Peer Support is one of the ways to facilitate the treatment of veterans or other victims of OSIs using the buddy-system and establishing a trust relationship. When two "peers" meet, the connection can happen in an instant and shared experience creates a common understanding. Then the support begins. Peer support means hours of conversation, listening and encouraging peers to connect with others.

"Peer Support is an umbrella term used to describe a sanctioned program where individuals receive appropriate training and supervision so that, formally and informally, they can directly and indirectly offer assistance to individuals who, based on their situational defined similarities, would refer to themselves as peers." –D.A. Rosenroll, *Toward an Operational Definition of Peer Helping*, Peer facilitator Quarterly, September 1994.

The Department of National Defence (DND) in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) created a Peer Support program in 2001. It began as a discussion between soldiers in the waiting room of a clinic who felt that more could be done for those experiencing difficulties related to military services. This partnership is called the Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program (OSISS) and has been recognised both nationally and internationally as a program which embodies the 'best practices' in peer support. All Peer Support Workers in OSISS suffer or have suffered from an OSI. That's what makes them effective peers. OSISS has Peer Support Coordinators and Volunteer Peer Support Workers across Canada. Peer support workers do not replace the need for a clinician or therapist but, in fact, they augment and support the treatment of the individual. Indeed, in many cases, Peer Support Workers have facilitated individuals in seeking initial treatment. OSISS Peer Support Workers undergo a rigorous and comprehensive certification program and are bound

by the same codes of ethics as other mental health workers.

For Freemasons the concept of Peer Support may sound very familiar and almost second nature. We call it Brotherly Love and it has worked for centuries. Many Freemasons are themselves veterans and may suffer difficulties,



or know another brother who does. If you need to reach out or would like more information, there are two brothers in our jurisdiction who are Peer Support Workers and can put you in touch with the resources and support you, or a brother may need. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tim Elliott
Peer Support Coordinator, Nova Scotia
tim.elliott@osiss.ca (902)840-1643

Kel Hancock
Volunteer Peer Support Worker
kelwhancock@gmail.com (902) 472-2776

Toll free OSISS call line 1-800-883-6094
www.osiss.ca

Kel Hancock

TWO REMARKABLE ANNIVERSARIES



On March 3, 2013, Bro. Hubert Smart of Keith Lodge No. 17, Halifax, Nova Scotia turned 100 years young. Also, on March 7, 2013, Wor. Bro. Phil Beeler of Keith Lodge No. 17 turned 75 years young.

To celebrate both milestone birthdays, commemorative cakes were made and the following Keith Lodge No. 17 brothers gathered at the Camp Hill Vet Memorial Hospital (New Home of Bro. Hubert Smart, as of Nov 2012): Bro. Hubert Smart, Wor. Bro. Phil Beeler, VW Bro. Mayez Khoury and Wor. Bro. Ed Wood. Bro. Hubert Smart was taken by surprise at the celebration of his 100th birthday and expressed his deep appreciation.

Photographs rotating clockwise:(From left to right) Wor. Bro. Phil Beeler; Wor. Bro. Ed Wood, V.Wor. Bro. Mayez Khoury and Bro. Hubert Smart; Bro.Hubert Smart as a young soldier; Letter from Queen Elizabeth wishing Bro. Hubert Smart a Happy 100th Birthday; Bro. Hubert Smart and his 100th Birthday cake.

Ed Wood, Past Master of Keith Lodge No. 17.

2013 GRAND LODGE BROOM & GAVEL CURLING BONSPIEL

The Grand Lodge "Broom & Gavel" Curling Bonspiel was held at the Brookfield Curling Club on February 15th to 17th. Fifteen Teams coming from Amherst, Sheet Harbour, Timberlea, Truro, and the Halifax area, attended this years' edition of the long running event.

Two rounds of games were played on Friday evening, six rounds on Saturday, followed by five Championship Games played on Sunday. Each Team was guaranteed four games with a chance to advance into the finals for trophies and "bragging rights".

A "Players Banquet" was held Saturday evening for players and guests with a roast beef supper followed by a mini Auction for a few Sponsors' donations. The fifteen teams were then introduced and asked to proceed to the Prize Table to pick out a prize for their efforts. Many great prize donations were made this year by the ten participating Sponsors.

Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother George A. Grant threw out the first "Official Rock" on Saturday morning and curled a few ends with the brothers. He also attended the evening Banquet as guest speaker, bringing words of praise and encouragement for the Bonspiel and the fellowship he saw amongst the players.

This Masonic Bonspiel is annually participated in by Brethren of all curling abilities, to promote Fellowship within the Fraternity. Sponsors provide the great prizes awarded to all curling participants with 50/50 draws and an auction helping with the expenses.

The relaxed atmosphere and great camaraderie experienced at this Masonic event encourages all lodges and brethren to consider sending a team in 2014. Arrangements have already been started for next years' "Broom & Gavel, see you there.

Final Team Standings:

Division "A" Winners: Fellowship # 112, Runner-up: John Albro #122, Team 1

Division "B" Winners: Acacia #8, Runner-up: John Albro #122, Team 2

Division "C" Winners: Elm # 115, Runner-up: Royal Sussex #6

Division "D" Winners: CW Saunders #125, Team 2, Runner-up: Truro #43

Division "E" Winners: CW Saunders #125, Team 1 Runner-up: Wentworth #108

*Phillip M. Randall,
Curling Chairman,*





MASONIC LODGE HALLS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Charity No.69, Mahone Bay

With this issue we are beginning a series on the lodge halls in the Jurisdiction. Each Lodge has its own personality and for many of the brethren they will not have an opportunity of visiting the various localities to see for themselves. Through this series we hope to show some of the artifacts held in these buildings and the varied interiors of the lodge halls. The lodges have been chosen at random and we begin with Charity Lodge No.69 in Mahone Bay.

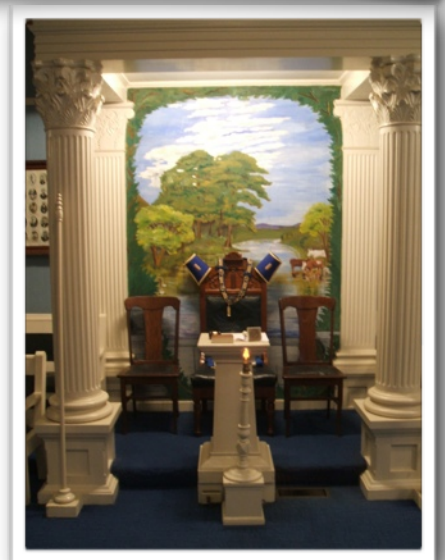
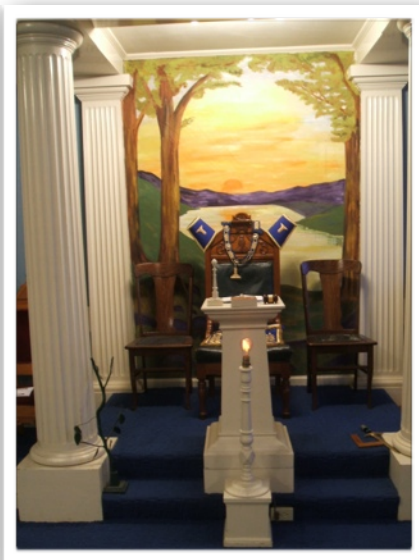
Charity Lodge is located in Mahone Bay, on the beautiful South Shore of Nova Scotia. The Lodge received its Warrant on 28 December 1874 and has operated continuously since that time. It meets on the third Tuesday of the month, except for July and August. The building that houses Charity Lodge was purchased in the early 1920s,

originally being an oil skin factory supplying the fishing industry. The Rev. Canon Harris, a member of the Lodge, was its chief architect and through a labour of love created what is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful Lodges in Nova Scotia, and possibly the whole country. Situated north, east, south and west are finely carved columns depicting the various forms of Greek architecture, and there are floor to ceiling murals at each of those points, depicting Masonic and pastoral scenes.

Visitors are most welcome to view the Lodge interior, and arrangements can be made by contacting any member of Charity Lodge or the Worshipful Master. Contact information can be obtained through the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia website.



Exterior view; views to the East, West, North and South.



BUILDING 21ST CENTURY MASONS

“Freemasonry is not about how good a man you are... It’s about how good a man you want to be.” – WBro. Robert Herd

In Freemasonry we are taught the duties we owe to others, we are taught the obligations we owe to our Brothers, our families, our community and our country. If we all do our duty, all will profit.

The main principles of Freemasonry insist that each member show tolerance, respect and kindness in his actions toward others; practices charity and care for the community as a whole; and strives to achieve high moral standards in his own personal life. Honour and integrity are at the core of the Masonic belief system. These principles have stood for, for ages. Not because they are dogmatic, but because they are the rules for ethic and righteous conduct, aligned with the principles obeyed in any harmonious and balanced society.

The well-being of every nation, like that of every individual, is threefold – physical, moral and intellectual. The happiness and prosperity of a people consist in advancing on each of the three lines, physical, moral and intellectual, at once. But when a society fails to advance or regresses in one of these areas then social difficulties and unrest will arise.

Through the succession of ages, man has developed the means to increase our food supply, provide shelter from the elements, conquer many diseases, and solve many of the problems concerning the practical things of life. Yet with all this progress in technology we have to ask, has man’s moral progress kept pace? I think not. All around us, we hear demands for “rights” of one kind or another. How often do we hear of duties or obligations?

As we look around at today’s society, we find frustrated individuals and unhappy people. Everyone demanding more rights, more security and a desire for more material things. Our community problems such as drugs, gangs and corruption appear to be increasing. In this age of instant gratification people accepting personal responsibility for their actions has become the exception not the rule. “*What does Freemasonry Offer the World?*” Let us rephrase that question and

ask “*What can we learn from Freemasonry which will help our modern world?*”

Each candidate receives this philosophy of life in a most impressive manner. This “*way of life*” contains all the lessons or rules adopted and practices by all good men. It covers the Golden Rule.

One of the most often quoted definitions of Freemasonry is “The Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.” Freemasonry uses building tools to teach basic moral truths, impressing on the minds of its members the cardinal virtues of Brotherly love, Relief and Truth and teaching them to apply these virtues in their everyday activities. If this description seems rather trite, maybe out of place in this cynical world of today, we must remember that there is a real need for what are somewhat scornfully called “The old fashioned, out-of-date, virtues”.

So how do we build 21st Century Freemasons? The same way they have always been made. Starting with the cornerstone of a good man wanting to be better, guiding him to perfect his symbolic stones; integrity, respect, tolerance, kindness and charity. Always leading by example, correcting him when he errs and providing strength and compassion when he stumbles.

*Bro. James Forrest
Albion Lodge No. 5*



GRAND MASTER'S LEVEE MARCH 23 2013

Again this year the Grand Master held his Annual Levee in March. As we celebrate the 275th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Canada a special group of masons were in attendance. Major Erasmus Phillips accompanied by some fellow soldiers of the Phillip's Foot brought greetings to the assembled Craft.

Phillips' Address

Written by Bro. Kel Hancock

Presented by WBro. James MacKay

as

"MWBro. Major E.J. Phillips"

My Friends and Brethren

What a wondrous occasion it is for us to gather here today in the spirit of fellowship and brotherhood.

And what a great and singular honour it is for me to address such a worthy and worshipful fraternity as that which is called the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

275 years ago I had but one desire with respect to our Antient and Noble Craft, and that was to see it flourish. And flourish it has my brethren; through your own labours and of those brethren and fellows who travelled before you.

The Spirit of Freemasonry and the Divine Presence of the Great Architect of the Universe continue to dwell amongst you every bit as much as they were manifest in that first humble lodge convened by my brethren in Annapolis Royal so many years past.

Since that time, we have always been with you. We have watched from that Sublime Lodge above whilst you laboured, builded and practised our Royal Art with the greatest care and devotion.

Like the Overseers at the quarries we have inspected your work and have ever found it to be

Good, Square and True; well suited for the building of the Temple.

The stones you've dressed have no match. The ashlar's you have worked to perfection, well deserve your Mark.

The blocks which you have sent from your quarries, the wood you have hewn from your forests, and the adornments which you have cast in



your fires have stood the test of the ages and continue to bring profit and pleasure to that great universal fraternity that we call Freemasonry.

I cannot express the great pride and adoration that I feel today as I realize the great works which you have done.

From our humble beginnings you have taken the seeds of brotherly love and spread them amongst the most worthy of men.

You have nourished them and cultivated a great garden of goodness that spread throughout the

lands which you now call Canada and indeed throughout an entire Empire and beyond.

Throughout trials, tribulations and all manner of adversity you have stayed your course and not let the Temple fall to disrepair or ruin.

Through a Revolution that pitted brother against brother you continued to keep faith and show the noblest examples of those truly commendable virtues; brotherly love, relief and truth.

Through a war that challenged the sovereignty of your own lands you maintained the most valuable tenets of Freemasonry, which are Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love.

Further on as you established your identity as a province and then a nation you never faltered but continued to provide society with the very best of good men to do the work of nation building.

When rifts appeared in the Fraternity you took the enlightened path.

And with logic, reason and a huge helping of Charity managed to mend separations and find the best way to work and agree.

Your superior reasoning and great love for mankind led you to navigate a succession of Grand Lodges and finally unite all Masons under the grand body that now governs the Craft in your province.

You went to sea.

You went to war.

You travelled and worked throughout an empire and indeed throughout the globe.

And wheresoever you went and whilsoever you tarried, you took and planted the seeds of brotherly love amongst the men you met there.

You built a home.

You forged a nation.

You contributed to every aspect of a good and moral society.

And as you did, once again, you spread the Light of Masonry in your example to others.

You did this Brethren!

And of these accomplishments you deserve to be proud.

You deserve to be congratulated.

Brethren please be upstanding!

Now turn to the brother next to you.

Grasp his hand in that loving grip of our Craft and say "Congratulations Brother!"

as I, this day congratulate you all.

My brethren, when someday as our ritual observes, we will all stand before He who sitteth as the Judge Supreme, you will deservedly hear the welcome words, "Well done, thou good and Faithful servant" and know that through your labours, you have earned it.

Brethren! Three Cheers for the Craft in Nova Scotia!!!

Hip Hip
Hooray!

Hip Hip
Hooray!

Hip Hip
Hooray!

To see a video of this speech click the tag below. [Ed Tag Video](#)





SACKVILLE NO.137 ABOARD HMCS PRESERVER

In celebration of the 275th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Canada, the Brothers of Sackville Lodge held an Emergent Meeting aboard HMCS PRESERVER on Saturday, 16 March 2013.

Conceived by Bro. David Gosse, a member of PRESERVER's crew, the idea seemed a natural fit. "I am very proud of my ship, and I wanted to arrange something significant for the members of the Lodge," said Bro. Gosse. I consulted with the Worshipful Master and Wardens, and the entire event easily fell into place once appropriate approvals were received by the chain of command.

Wor. Bro. Tom Wallace, Master of Sackville #137, echoed the sentiment. "The 275th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Canada is a significant milestone in the Fraternity. The connections between the Craft and the military run deeply. Opening Lodge on HMCS PRESERVER for the dual purposes of education and fellowship was an experience that I wanted for the members of the Lodge."

The Lodge opened on the 2nd Degree in order accommodate the most junior Brother in attendance, with 18 members and 7 visitors. The

hangar deck of the ship was converted for the purposes of a Lodge, and the Lodge was tyled by Brothers in the Canadian Forces.

The WM prepared a lecture on special and beneficial relationship between the growth of the Fraternity and expansion of the British Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries. He closed with a Masonic anecdote attributed to 2nd Lieutenant Provo Wallis, a native Haligonian, who, at the age of 19, took command of the captured the American flagship, USS CHESAPEAKE off Boston in June 1813. Bro. Provo Wallis would end his military career as Admiral of the Fleet. Indeed, the street adjacent HMCS PRESERVER is named in honour of this distinguished Brother.

R.W. Bro. Robert Fraser, DDGM of Halifax District 2, brought greetings on behalf of the M.W. the Grand Master and his officers. Greetings and respects were also communicated by visiting Brothers from Kentville #58, Cornwallis #95, Wentworth #108, John Albro #122 and Loge La France #138.

All in all, it was a fantastic day for the Brothers who participated. Fellowship and a tour of the ship followed the meeting.



IN AND AROUND THE JURISDICTION



King George Lodge # 123 has installed a chair in the North East Corner of our lodge which is decorated with a collar without jewel, a white leathern apron, a sprig of acacia, and some working tools. The purpose of this chair is to establish a visual reminder to all brothers, of our brothers who have passed to the Grand Lodge above. They have also developed a "Empty Chair Ceremony" which will be performed each time that a brother passes.



RWBro. Darrell Thurber was well supported at the Halifax District 1 Meeting hosted by Keith Lodge No.17 at Freemasons' Hall. The DDGM, RWBro. George Grant and JGW, RWBro. Peter Ponsford were in attendance as well as other Grand Lodge officers. The meeting included a lecture on one Mason's Travels across the country.

The Master Masons Apron Lecture delivered by Rt. Wor. Bro. Rudy Knoester PDDGM Pictou Dist. assisted by Rt. Wor. Bro. Donald Grant DDGM Ant-Guys. to newly raised Brother matt Schumacher of Sunrise 116.

A very happy Master Mason, Bro. Matt Schumacher of Sunrise 116.



Master and Wardens of Welsford Lodge No 26 with a thank-you gift from the newly chartered Northport Lodge on the Grand Registry of Florida, in appreciation of the altar cloth and VSL markers that the Brethren of Welsford sent to them via our Junior Warden, a charter member of Northport Lodge.

