

# Around The Rite

"The Newsletter of the Valley of Ottawa AASR"



December 2015 Edition # 2

Produced 4 Times Annually

## RECOGNIZE A WORTHY BROTHER

Now in its 15th year, the John Ross Matheson Award recognizes Scottish Rite Masons who are heroes of our fraternity. It is the most prestigious award our Supreme Council can bestow on a brother to honour merit and ability, community spirit and a continued commitment to distinguished service to our community, country and mankind. A maximum of two awards can be given each year. Active and Past Active members are generally not eligible.

The new deadline for nominations for the John Ross Matheson Award is March 31st. Nomination forms are available on the website [www.scottishritecanada.ca](http://www.scottishritecanada.ca).

There are many Scottish Rite Masons who lead lives of integrity and service that bring honour to our Order. If you know one, you are strongly urged to nominate them so they can receive the recognition that is their due. We need to be proud of these men and proud that they are our brethren

## PRESENTERS WANTED

We keep hearing that our members want more Masonic education. If you are interested in making a brief presentation one evening when the degree work isn't too heavy, we would like to hear from you. Presentations should not run more than about 20 minutes.

Contact your Executive Secretary, your Active Member or the principle officer in Lodge, Chapter or Consistory



## *John Forester and candidate at Avonmore Lodge in Eastern District, Ingelside*



**LATEST VICTIM:** Ill Bro John Forester, who often does the dark work for our degree team, was in fine form on Monday, Oct. 5, when the team journeyed to Ingelside to show their prowess to Avonmore Lodge No. 452. More than 40 brethren filled the lodge room to see Bro. Abel Hazon become a Master Mason and hear a brief presentation on Scottish Rite Masonry. The meeting voted a donation of \$100 to the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation as a token of appreciation.

## Have you Seen Your Valley Website?

A lot of hard work has gone into the AASR website and it is being maintained so members of our Valley may keep current with what is happening around the Valley. Please take the opportunity to visit the site at

<http://ottawavalleyscottishrite.com/>

### **Mission Statement:**

The "***Around the Rite***" Newsletter will provide information to members of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Ottawa to educate, inform and inspire them to become more actively involved.

## DEGREE TEAM AT GOODWOOD



Left to Right: Illustrious Brother Barry Burchill, WM of the AASR MM Degree Team, Illustrious Brother Jordan McConnell, Piper, Member of the Robert Tate Class, Brother Chad Scarborough, the Candidate and Illustrious Brother Ken Burchill Registrar of the Murray Chapter of the Rose Croix who did the "Dark Work". Ill Bro. McConnell piped the team to their chairs during the ceremony. Goodwood Lodge donated \$100 to the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation in recognition of the team's efforts.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITOR COMING

Ill. Bro. Gareth Taylor 33°, the Deputy for Ontario responsible for the Valley of Ottawa, will be visiting us for the 14th degree on Jan. 25th. He will be our banquet speaker that evening and has agreed to meet informally in the lounge beforehand to talk to our members about Supreme Council and the state of the Rite.

Scottish Rite Masons should feel free to raise any questions or concerns. Ill. Bro. Taylor is quite approachable and anxious to hear from the grassroots membership.

We are not known for being shy in this area in any case. It was at a similar gathering with the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. Richard A. Brown 33°, last year that one of our number asked why York Rite Masons could wear a jewel in their craft lodges, but we in Scottish Rite did not have anything similar. The result of that question

is the new Scottish Rite jewel which was introduced in September.

## Upcoming Events

**Mon Dec 14** 7:00 pm Adv. Comm. Exec. Comm. Budget

**2016**

**Mon Jan 11** 7:30 pm Lodge 13° + Social

**Mon Jan 25** 5:30 pm Lodge Auxiliary Altars

6:30 pm Lodge Banquet / 7:30 pm Lodge 14°

**Mon Feb 8** 7:00 pm Adv. Comm / 7:45 pm Exec. Comm. Elections

**FEB 12** Annual Trip to Brockville – Valley of Kingston performs 12<sup>th</sup> Degree

**Mon Feb. 22** 7:30 pm Ballot, Chapter 15° + Soc.

**Mon Feb 29** 6:30 pm Soup'n Sand 7:30 pm Elec's, Chapter 17°

**Mon Mar 7** 7:30 pm Chapter 18° + Social

**Thur Mar 24** 6:30 pm Chapter Banquet Maundy Thursday

**Mon Mar 28** 7:15 pm Easter Relighting Cer.

## Do we have your email address?

If you have not already done so, **PLEASE** send an email to the Executive Secretary [ottawaexecsec@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaexecsec@gmail.com) so that he may add you to our email list. This will also ensure you get future copies of this Newsletter ☺ and save the Valley Money on mail outs.

## Are You Looking to Serve Your Valley

The valley of Ottawa has the following positions that are needing to be filled:

**Marshall**—Marshalling the Candidates to and from degrees.

**Staging**— This person would be responsible for keeping the area behind the stage clean and tidy and may be called upon for some repairs to the equipment if possible / needed.

### Newsletter Team:

Newsletter Editor – Ill Bro. Alan Arbuckle

Newsletter Photographer – Ill Bro. Ivan Harris

Newsletter Distributor – Ill Bro. Jeff Christie

Newsletter Layout & Design – Ill Bro. Ron Taylor

## Don Smallman and Peter Nonkoh



### **COMBINED WISDOM 26 years-- 1998 and**

**2006:** Our current Thrice Puissant Grand Master in the Lodge of Perfection, Ill Bro Don Smallman, and our current Grand Chaplin, Ill Bro Peter Nonkoh, have become the senior members among the officers in Lodge this year. Together, they represent more than 26 years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Photographer Ill Bro Ivan Harris snapped this shot Monday, Sept. 28 when the Lodge met to conduct a ballot on the first six members of this year's class.

### **Have a comment to share on the Newsletter**

[feedback@ottawavallevscottishrite.com](mailto:feedback@ottawavallevscottishrite.com)

### **Find replacement cast for your part**

There was some discussion on having Directors have **CAST MEMBERS** find their own replacements when you have taken on a Role but find you are not in a position to be able to perform for whatever reason

... try some of these possibilities for your replacement ...

1 Someone who has asked you about the part

2 A member who would be good or who needs encouragement to get started

3 Someone from the last few classes

4 Someone from your Lodge

5 Someone from another Degree that you're in

6 An Office for Lodge, Chapter or Consistory

7 The guy who did it before you

8 A Director of another Degree

9 One of the 33<sup>o</sup>'s

..... **then** .....

Contact your Director

Explain why you cannot participate this year

Tell him who you're contacted so far

Tell him who will be taking your part starting with the practices.



The Robert Tate class of incoming Scottish Rite Masons ready for the conferral of the 4th and 5th degrees. Joining our six initiates are two visitors from the Valley of Montreal, who needed to pick up these mandatory degrees and could not do it in their home valley. The evening was well attended, especially by our 33rd degree Masons.

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## SRCF EXCEEDS TARGET

While the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation exceeded its 50th anniversary target of raising \$1 million, the Valley of Ottawa fell short of its goal.

Across Canada, the campaign raised \$1,610,000 to be added to the capital fund, which is invested and the interested earned used to support research into the “puzzles of the mind”.

Scottish Rite Masons in our Valley were asked for \$28,800 but we only raised 48.4 per cent of that or \$13,926. And of that, \$5,000 came from the Tunis Shriners. Of the 17 valleys in Ontario, all but five managed to raise at least half of their target.

The most successful valleys nationally were Halifax and Vancouver, which each exceeded their targets by more than 1000 per cent.

Ill. Bro. Skip Whiteley 33° Campaign Chairman, said:

“As your Chairman, permit me once again this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation to each of you for your compassion, commitment, and dedication. Your assistance in our pursuit to ensure we achieved our undertaking is most gratifying.

“The realization that together we have been able to triumph in the SRCF 50th Anniversary \$1 Million Campaign is without question a very exciting time for all Scottish Rites, together will be able to continue our focus on support for research into “Helping Solve Puzzles of the Mind” and our “Learning Centres for Children” .

## On the Road to Renewal

Should we have a BBQ next September to kick off the Scottish Rite season?

Should we plan a fraternal visit to the Valley of Montreal to see a degree?

Where can we work some Masonic education into our schedule?

These are the kinds of questions that have a group of Scottish Rite Masons hard at work on behalf of the Valley of Ottawa and not enough of our members know about them.

The Valley Renewal Committee reports to the Executive Committee and is charged with finding ways to make our Valley healthier and more active. Really, generating ideas is the easy part. Finding willing hands to implement them is another matter.

We are a bit of a puzzle hereabouts. We have plenty of members on paper—more than 400 of them. And we are comfortably off for money. But too often, we are performing degrees to empty galleries and begging people to take offices or roles in casts.

That’s the story of Masonry all over, of course. We see the same things in Craft Lodges all the time. And we see the same faces participating while the majority of members ignore or neglect the institutions they vowed to support.

Our Renewal Committee is under no illusions that it can generate a magic answer to correct this situation. All it can do is try out ideas in hopes some will resonate with the membership and we can coax people away from their televisions and computers long enough to at least renew their friendships.

The committee is chaired by the Vice-chair of the Executive Committee, this year that’s Ill. Bro. Howard Brockwell, and made up of the three principle officers in each body, plus the Active/Past Active Members and the Executive Secretary. They keep plugging away, trying to keep our Valley active. It’s a task that never really ends, but it’s well worth the effort



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## Provost and Judge,

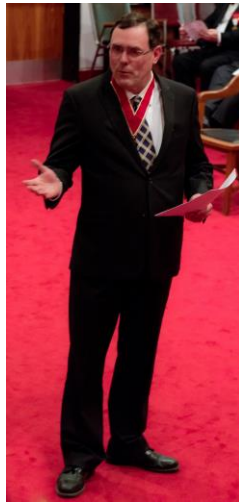
## MASONRY AND MUSIC



Is all about adding a new member to the panel of judges and then hearing the case of a Mason who pinched a piece of work completed by his colleague and claimed it as his own. Once the evidence was unraveled in court, the judges had to decide on the appropriate punishment since the injured Mason pleaded for mercy for his fellow workman. Here the cast are getting into costume. The degree was preceded by soup and sandwiches provided by Crescent Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Attendance was less than we expected so we had to pay for more food than we could eat, but those that did come did their best to clean their plates and sample the Leek and Potato, Squash and Pea soup on offer.



Ill. Bro. Mark Pogue shared some of his discoveries about Masonry and Music on Monday, Dec. 7. He started with the music of Sibelius (Finland early 1900's) which is used regularly in Lodge meetings there. The Masonic influence is also displayed in the mid-80's Pop (Dream Theatre), DMX Bluegrass on the 50's, as well as through Irving Berlin & Nat King Cole. Mark also played country music by Ray Stevens in 1980 "Shriner's Convention", and rounded-out the evening with a selection from Mozart's "Magic Flute".



Your Newsletter Staff wish all AASR Members in the Valley of Ottawa A Very Merry Christmas and A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2016!!

Ron Taylor 32°

Ivan Harris 32°

Jeff Christie 33°

Sam Kalinowsky 33°

Alan Arbuckle 33°

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