

Around The Rite

"The Newsletter of the Valley of Ottawa AASR"



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From the Active Member

As we bring 2018 to a close I am reminded how fast this year has passed and that our Valley has lost Ill Bros. Alan Arbuckle and George Clauson who were important pillars in our AASR Community. We're initiating six new members whom we hope will help us to build a strong future. Ill Bro. John Forster is the new Director of the Foundation, we also have two new Honorary Inspectors General and I am proud to have been appointed as your new Active Member. Ill. Bro. Don Harrison has been selected to receive the highest award in the Scottish Rite – The John Ross Matheson award. This award given to an outstanding and eminent Mason who has always been quietly contributing to the good of the Rite and the betterment of their community

Working together we have presented the The 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th Degree for our newest candidates. This takes a LOT of work and dedication, learning long and difficult passages and complex floor work. I know that we all have a strong sense of pride in our Valley that cannot be matched. As our membership changes, many Brothers are stepping up to accept new roles in the Valley, in the Degrees, by taking the Directorship of a degree or by stepping forward to assist when called upon.

Being the brand new Active Member, I have an opportunity to see things from a slightly different perspective now and seeing the contributions being made at all levels ... people stepping up without being asked to do so It is this spirit and camaraderie that keeps this Valley alive and vibrant.

While there have been challenges, we have worked together as Masons to overcome them and we continue to make OUR Valley stronger for the future!



Your Active Member
Ron Taylor

Newest Members of the Scottish Rite



The new class of Scottish Rite Members as they get ready to participate in the 4th and 5th degrees. Our Valley has 6 new members in the Gary Shaver Class of 2018!

The Scottish Rite Degree Team continues to Impress

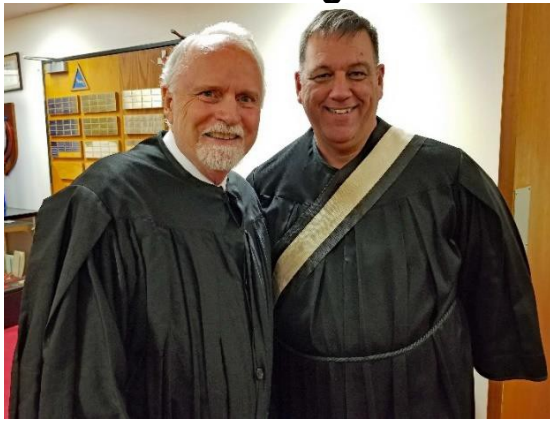


Our Scottish Rite Degree Team under the guidance of Ill Bro. Ivan Harris, at Harmony Lodge, performed a 3rd. Degree. We continue to hear comments after the degrees such as this "*the highlight of the year!*" Have you not seen the Team in action? You are welcome to join us and see a degree being put on by your Brethren.

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.

4th and 5th Degrees



Ill Bro. Michael Turnbull and Ill Bro. Jordie Yeo as they prepare to work in the 4th Degree.

Speaking of Volunteers

I am pleased to announce we have a new **Music Director** for the Valley in the person of Ill. Bro. Wayne Parker. Wayne along with Ill Bro. Ivan Harris took the initiative to work on putting our Music together for the Degrees 4 – 18 and to create copies of the DVDs along with scripts on how/when to play the pieces during the Degrees. Wayne will also be helping to correct some issues with our sound system to help make the Degrees that much more enjoyable. **Thank You Wayne for stepping up!**

X Marks the stone in 7th Degree



New Cast Members showing their character acting skills and put each other to the test! X marks the stone, and as evidenced in the degree we should all do our best as we work day in and day out in the quarries of our lives! The lessons and results are worth it to everyone!

Cast Members of the 9th Degree



Above we see a strong cast of Characters who are ready to remind us to be Vigilant against Ignorance! The degree shows us that we must use principles and control rather than emotions to guide our path and that God's punishments are much more severe than those of man.

King Maakah FINALLY gets his Leopard!



After many years by the campfire King Maakah has finally captured his Leopard and as you can see above is very gratified!

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Cast Members of the 10th Degree



The members of the 10th Degree are ready to show that Education and Enlightenment are the keys to winning the war against persecution!

Joining the Rite Timing and expense

Each year we encourage Brethren to submit Applications to join our Valley and the Applicants will have questions. We the Members of The Valley can help Candidates to understand, and help to answer these questions. Help them understand that they need five Members as Sponsors. Three of those act as the Investigation Committee and so it's important to know the Applicant before you sign.

Acting as a Sponsor means certifying that you know the man and vouch for his suitability. Applicants will need time to secure those five Sponsors – this will likely be a problem if he waits until the last minute to start the process. He has a year to be ready for September 31.

The cost of joining is the Initiation Fee, which consists of \$200 for Lodge, \$150 for Chapter, \$200 for Consistory – then you must add annual Dues (\$90 for each body). The total for all three bodies is similar to the cost of joining the York Rite to the comparable level.

What the Applicant may not understand is that he needn't join all three bodies in the same year. He can proceed over several years if he wishes – that happens most years. Then he may only face Lodge costs in year one (\$200 Initiation plus \$90 Dues). We Members are the way to make the timing of the expenses clear to Applicants. Let's talk it up. And let's get those applications completed and in by September 31.

Jeff Christie 33°
Executive Secretary

Sovereign Grand Commander



Ill. Bro. Robert Stuart Whitmore, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Biography

Ill. Bro. Robert Stuart Whitmore, 33°, was born in Hamilton, Ontario on March 27, 1949 and continues to live in Hamilton. After graduating from McMaster University, he attended Osgoode Hall Law School at York University and obtained his LL.B. He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 1975 and has practised law in Hamilton since that time. His legal practice is primarily in the field of civil litigation and currently he is Counsel in the law firm of McHugh Whitmore LLP, having retired as a partner of that firm in 2018.

Within his profession, he served for seven years as a Trustee of the Hamilton Law Association and was elected and served as President of that Association in 1995 and 1996. He also has been active in several other professional organizations including the Ontario Bar Association.

In 1973, Bro. Whitmore married Judith Honsberger in St. Catharines, Ontario and they have two daughters, Erin and Jillian and one son, Scott as well as three grandchildren. Over the years, Rob served as Rector's Warden and as Chairman of the Parish Council of St. John's Anglican Church in Ancaster. In the community, he was proud to be a member of the Board of Directors of The Hamilton Community Foundation for five years.

He was initiated into Temple Lodge No. 324, in Hamilton in 1975, and is the third generation of his family to have belonged to that lodge. He served as Worshipful Master in 1982. In 1991-92, he served as Grand Director of Ceremonies and, in 1998, he was appointed to the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. During his several years as a member of the Board, he was Chairman of the Discipline Committee.

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Bro. Whitmore joined Murton Lodge of Perfection on November 1, 1976, and received his 14° on November 2, served as TPGM in 1994 and 1995 and, for nineteen years he was Grand Secretary for Murton. He received his 18° on April 7, 1977 in Hamilton Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix; and his 32° on May 10, 1980 in Moore Sovereign Consistory.

On September 8, 1994, Ill. Bro. Whitmore was coroneted an Honorary Inspector-General at Halifax, Nova Scotia and on September 16, 2000 he was crowned a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General in Winnipeg, Manitoba. On September 15, 2018 he was installed as Sovereign Grand Commander in London, Ontario.

He has been a member of the Royal Order of Scotland since April 24, 1999 and was Provincial Grand Master from 2012 to 2017.

Renewal Committee

“My very best wishes to all of my Scottish Rite Brethren. Your Renewal committee is working hard on several fronts to make 2019 a year where we turn a corner. More members. More members participating and a greater awareness of Scottish Rite within the wider Masonic community.

Everyone is invited to participate in this renewal. I'd love to hear from you with your ideas and feedback.

2018 has NOT been a banner year. We lost three well beloved and active individuals who had been, and were still, taking a huge part in our activities. Ill Bros. Alan Arbuckle, George Clauson and Bill Burns are sorely missed. They have left a legacy of hard work and dedication, which I hope will inspire other Brothers to step forward and take on new roles.

Brethren we can, and must, work together to follow their example and lead our beloved organization into a bright and prosperous future.

My best wishes for the Festive season and for a brilliant New Year ahead.

John Forster 33°
Chairman: Renewal Committee.

Attendance Numbers

Date	33rds	Other	TOTAL
Mon., Sept 17-Install-Lodge	18	24	42
-Chapter	18	17	35
-Consistory	14	14	28
Mon., Sept 24-Exec Committee	14	8	22
Mon., Oct 22-4th and 5th Degrees	11	28	39
Mon., Nov 26- 6th and 7th Degrees	16	29	45
Mon., Dec 3-Executive Committee	8	8	16
Mon., Dec 10-9th and 10th Degrees	15	19	34

**Note that "Gary Shaver" Class members(6) did not sign the register

Almoner

As Almoner, I am humbled by the honour of serving in a position that answers to no one but my conscience in the distribution of benevolence to those of our brothers who are suffering financial hardship. At this time of year financial hardship dims the prospect of a joyous Christmas when the warmth of friends and family relive the birth of Christ and the joy of giving.

I have taken on another role as Almoner and that is to reach out to our brethren when they suffer illness or distress through health issues or the loss of a family member. When these brethren are brought to my attention I try to send a card on behalf of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Ottawa. It is only a card, but its intention is to send the message of brotherly love at a time when health or emotional issues tend to overshadow the brother's life. If a situation of this nature comes to your attention please send me an email at; djolm@live.com or by telephone at; 613-739-9809 with as much information as possible. I'll take it from there.

Finally, this is a time when some of our elderly brothers are in retirement homes with limited family contact. If you are aware of such a situation, please take an hour for a visit. An hour of your time is not a great deal of time in the scheme of things but it can mean so much to a brother who has limited contact with his brothers due to the infirmity of age.

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To all of you who are reading this message, may the Great Architect of the Universe watch over you and your family this holiday season, and bring you peace and happiness in the New Year.

Dale Olm,
Almoner

From the Executive Chairman:

Illustrious Sirs ;

As we near the midway journey of our calendar year, I respectfully ask that you take a moment to stop and reflect on the many joyous occasions you have experienced and shared with the Brethren of the Scottish Rite of the Valley of Ottawa, then take an extra moment to realize how those joyous occasions came to fruition through the dedication and devotion of others. Next, ask yourself: "How can I make sure that others will continue to experience the enjoyment that I have?" The answer is very simple Brethren, don't be bashful or hesitant, step up to the challenge and share with someone that you would like to act as a cast member, a director, a Marshal or whatever has peaked your interest in the Scottish Rite so that the Valley of Ottawa will remain vibrant for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and remember that Tomorrow begins Today, take that first step today.

Giles Loshaw
Chairman of the Executive Committee

From Behind the Scenes:

The wonderful lessons from the Scottish Rite are brought to life through the presentation of degrees that subtly present important morals and values as each degree unfolds.

These stories are made real by the powerful presentation of the scripts, the imaginative staging and the presentation of the roles, dressed as the characters, from kings to paupers, Knights to workmen. This final piece of the story comes from the large and diverse wardrobe which our Valley owns and cares for. Ill. Bro. Don Harrison has for many years curated the wardrobe and we should all be very grateful to

Ill Brother John Guinn. He has worked with Don Harrison to arrange for the cleaning and repair of many of these old and unique costumes. Don has found capable seamstresses to repair and replace many of these garments through the years, some costing over \$3,000 to replace.

One challenge we have is that many of the garments are becoming more fragile and in many cases are too small for the cast members. As we don't have "dress rehearsals" it is only just before the degree that we learn that an alternative costume is required. Where we have a photo, in the book so capably prepared by Ill Bro Brian Irvine in 1995, we seek to create a costume that is similar, if not the same as the one that just won't fit. Please be patient as this process unfolds.

The wardrobe area has a system, sadly not one that is written down. It would be a big help to have one or two Brothers make a commitment to assist on an ongoing basis. Don has looked after this for many years, and as he is slowly having muscles repaired and joints replaced it is clear that more help is needed for wardrobe. Agreeing to help for one of the bodies (Lodge of Perfection, Rose Croix or the Consistory) will limit your commitment but still allow us to overcome the inevitable absences due to illness and travel.

We will do all we can to help you to make the degree a magical recreation of a powerful story by providing costumes, wigs, and makeup as well as swords, spears, helmets and sandals. Please help if you can.

John Lark
Assistant Under Secretary for Wardrobe

Volunteers Needed by YOUR Valley:

Sick and Visiting Committee Chair
Staging
Marshal for Candidates

Remember everywhere the lessons here learned



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