

**GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
Ottawa District 2**

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**D.D.G.M.'s Monthly Message**

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Brethren, an email was recently circulated by the District Secretary that provided a link to a song called the Masonic Ring <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oFeKJKoaKc>. It reminded me of the theme "let your light so shine before men" that M.W.Bro. Donald H. Mumby instituted when he was Grand Master. Take a minute to listen to the song and think about that theme as both are designed to inspire a sense of pride within Masons.

Over the past years we have been encouraged more and more to stop thinking of ourselves as a Secret Society, to be more open about our membership in the Craft and demonstrate to others through our actions in our daily lives that we are Masons. I encourage all of you to wear Masonic jewellery such as rings or pins, in particular the Masonic Maple Leaf pin approved by our Grand Lodge, or display Masonic memorabilia in your home or workplace to demonstrate that you are a Mason and possibly lead non-Masons to ask about the Order.

Another of our Past Grand Masters, M.W.Bro. Howard Polk once stated that if we as Masons recognize that men can be improperly solicited to become members that there must be proper solicitation. To my thinking that is achieved by outwardly demonstrating that you are a Mason and being prepared to answer questions when asked. Brethren my planned talk for my official visit to Cobden Lodge N<sup>o</sup>, 459 on April 14<sup>th</sup> is entitled "What is Your Answer" that will hopefully give you some insight into how to answer the questions of what are Masons or what do Masons do.

Brethren, Masonry has been a cornerstone of society from time immemorial and it is up to us to maintain that status. The only way we can achieve that is by ensuring that our Order continues to thrive and be a viable, vibrant organization that men are keen to join and ready to actively participate in. Think about the charges that you have received as an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason and put them into practice to show the world the benefits of being a Mason.

In other words, let your lights so shine before men and display your Masonic membership with pride.

Until next month, yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W.Bro. Peter G. Harbert  
District Deputy Grand Master