

### Objectives of the PMA

- To promote, develop and disseminate topics of interest to Freemasons in the Hamilton Districts;
- To foster and maintain social contact among Association members;
- To continue the growth and maintenance of our vibrant organization which has been in existence since 1902.

### Did You Know?

The Grand Lodges in France, England, and America have had numerous differences in practice and ritual over the centuries. The English and Americans regularly met in taverns and pubs. The French forbade that practice in 1777. That same year, the French began issuing new pass-words every six months. The English and Americans have maintained the ancient passwords without change for three centuries.

- from **Masonic Trivia, Amusements & Curiosities**

### P M eh!

Contributions and comments welcome!  
Contact the Editor, **Harley Auty**, at 289-239-9129 or harleyauty1944@gmail.com  
Website: [www.pma-abc.ca](http://www.pma-abc.ca)



# P M eh!

Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

January 2022 vol. 2.2

THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



## Greetings From The President

Brethren, it seems like deja vu all over again with the newest variant disrupting our plans to return to normal. We have adapted with much success in the past and we will do so again. With science working at breakneck speed for a solution, we can be assured that we will overcome this latest bump in the road. Please stay safe and follow all the public health regulations. Vaccination is still the best defense.



**President  
Alexander Mouriopoulos**

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the strategic planning session on December 4. This was an important event for the PMA as it provided us with the opportunity to find out who we are and what we stand for as an association. We had around 40 members on the Zoom call with all contributing to the discussion. There were many excellent comments and suggestions and we quickly formed a consensus on what our core values are and what our vision and mission statements should be going forward for our association. They will be presented to the directors for final touches and then given to the by-law committee for integration after their review of all bylaws. More specific polices and practices will be created to follow. All of this will be reported back to the members for approval.

I would like to thank our co-hosts and facilitators for the strategic planning session, especially our secretary, Tom Peddle, and our vice president, Michael Martin, for guiding us through the whole process to a successful conclusion.

Please join us for our regular meeting on January 15. Due to the pandemic, it will be on Zoom. The speaker will be Trevor Cole, author of *The Whisky King*, a fascinating local history of rum running and prohibition times in the City of Hamilton. Anyone who thought Hamilton had a dull history should think again after hearing about the larger than life cast of characters that controlled crime in our fair city in those times. The book is, apparently, a real eye opener.

I would like to also thank our newsletter editor, Harley Auty, for the great job he is doing in putting this newsletter together.

Wishing everyone Best Wishes to you and your families for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year. Enjoy the holidays and the time with family. May the G.A.O.T. U. Watch over everyone and keep you safe, especially those who are ill or shut in.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Alex

Alex

### Brainy Quotes — Match the quote with the famous person who made it

1. A day without laughter is a day wasted.
2. Yesterday is history, tomorrow's a mystery, today is God's gift, that is why we call it the present.
3. Live your life in such a way that you would not be afraid to sell your parrot to the town gossip.

Will Rogers \_\_\_\_ Joan Rivers \_\_\_\_ Charlie Chaplin \_\_\_\_

## Food For Thought..

Whatever you are,  
be a good one.

- Abraham Lincoln



# P M eh!

Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

January 2022 vol. 2.2

THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



## The Tracing Board



## ORIGIN OF THE TRACING BOARDS

At least from 1724 to 1782 the drawings needed to carry out a degree were laid down nightly by the Tyler. This duty was called Framing and Forming the Lodge. It was done with sand, chalk and charcoal. The Tyler used sand to form the lines and patterns. To this he added symbols by using chalk for the white and charcoal for the black. The Tyler was paid one shilling, six pence by the Lodge, each time this work was performed. In those days Lodge meetings were held in taverns or inns. So that the drawings on the floor would not be disturbed the Brethren would square the Lodge, a practice still carried out today. At the end of the night's proceedings the candidate was given a broom, a mop and a pail of water, with this he washed away all the designs and symbols. This was done as a lesson in labour and humility and of course to remove all secrets.

The next stage saw a change in the flooring, going from the tiled tavern floors to a more gracious wooden floor. Now the designs were set out with templates and stencils but washed away when the Lodge closed. By 1733 a floor sheet was used. When the Lodge was closed the sheet was rolled up and stored away, with time the sheets cracked and faded. Around 1760 the old floor symbols appeared on the wall and were the forerunners of the suspended tracing boards. Many Lodges today place the tracing board on a trestle, hence the old term of "trestle board".

By the early 1800's Freemasonry had become prosperous and Lodges soon acquired their own buildings. The interior of the Lodge rooms became more elegant with well-crafted furniture, a permanent altar and the tessellated Mosaic Pavement with the Star in the centre. At this time attempts were made to standardize the "wall boards". These wallboards are what we now call the tracing board.

In 1846 the Emulation Lodge of Improvement called for new Tracing Board designs and those sent in by John Harris were accepted. This set has since been used as the standard design for the Craft.

The information contained in this educational paper was taken from: **Masonic Bulletin British Columbia & Yukon** – April 1950. It was compiled and edited by V. Wor. Bro. Barry D. Thom, P.M., Lodge McLeod No. 27. **P M eh!** tip of the hat to W. Bro. Gary Magwood for submitting this article.

## Hospital and Visitation Committee

V.W. Bro. Dale Chapman has asked that if anyone knows of a Brother who is ill or shut in, please let him know and he will follow up. Dale can be reached at dale.e.chapman@gmail.com or at 647-299-3786.

## Happy New Year from the PMA Executive



May we continue to  
be safe and healthy in  
spite of these unpre-  
cedented times.

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING (ZOOM) Saturday January 15, 2022 at 10:00 am The Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts cordially invites our members to our Regular Meeting on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 10:00 am.



Trevor Cole

Our Keynote Speaker is **Mr. Trevor Cole**, whose latest book, **The Whisky King**, an epic non-fiction historical narrative that was nominated for the Speakers Book Award and the Heritage Toronto Award and won the 2018 Arthur Ellis Award for Canada's best nonfiction crime book. Please register in advance for this meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwudu6sqzsuHNOYz50vW-MTgkBRvwBPrM87> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.