# CLARION

**WINTER 2020** 

Trumpeting the Impact of the Scottish Rite in Canada

# JOHN ROSS MATHESON AWARD



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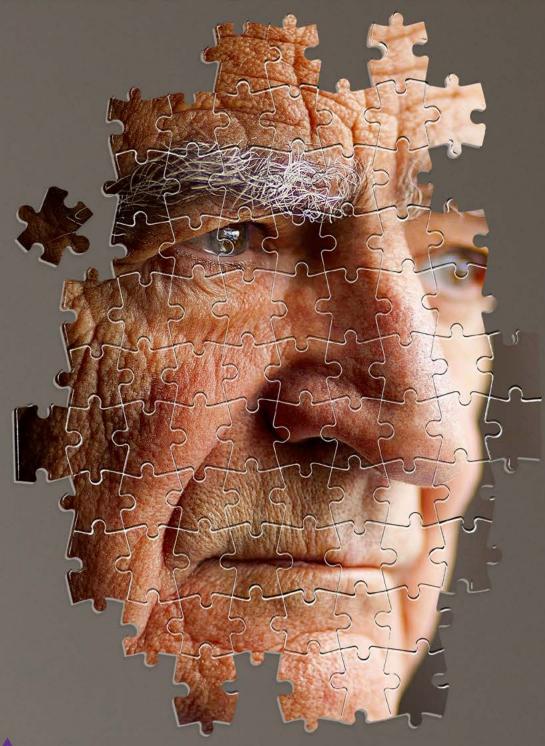
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# HELPING SOLVE THE PUZZLES OF THE MIND



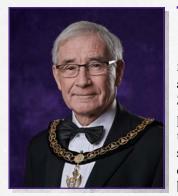


The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation

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#### From the Sovereign Grand Commander

III. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°



elcome to winter in Canada! As I compose this message, I look out at snow and ice—an early gift to Southern Ontario, but a picture-perfect introduction to the upcoming holiday season. As residents of this country of Canada we are blessed with the changing

seasons, varying landscapes ranging from wide open prairie farmland, majestic mountains, isolated, small villages, to busy urban centres. But, no matter where in our country or our world we may find ourselves, each of us share in those common and unifying high minded principles which form the fundamental tenets and lessons of *Freemasonry* and the joy found by all in our Scottish Rite.

Serving as your Sovereign Grand Commander constantly brings me a joy above anything that I can express in words. Wherever I travel, whomever I meet, I am consistently impressed by the visible expressions of *Masonic* virtues, the many examples of brotherly compassion, and the practical application of those lessons found in and taught to us by our ritual. Everywhere, I see the enthusiasm of our members, both young and not so young; the dedication of so many devoted officers and cast members; the quiet acts of benevolence, the good works done through our Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation and the promise of a future as we help to unlock the abilities of the students in our Learning Centres. Above all else, I see, over and over, those bonds and ties of brotherly love as Masons meet and greet each other and their families, time and again, wherever they may meet.

Scottish Rite Masons are good men. We do good work and we enjoy doing it. The principles to which we aspire are lofty indeed but by striving to fulfill our purpose and by living and practising our commitments, we do most certainly make a positive difference to the world today-a world so very much in need of goodness.

To be a Scottish Rite Mason is indeed to be blessed and I wish each of you the very best both now and throughout the year to come. We are lofty indeed but by striving to fulfill our purpose and by living and practising our commitments, we do most certainly make a positive difference to the world today—a world so very much in need of goodness.

#### From the President of the SRCF

III. Bro. Gareth R. Taylor, 33°



s we come to the end of another decade (my how time flies), it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the successes Foundation. In the this time, we have funded new investigators in the amount of \$4.175M. The truly overwhelming response to our  $50^{th}$ 

Anniversary Capital Campaign in 2016 allowed us to increase the funding to our grants program. Through these efforts, we in the Scottish Rite can be justly proud that our fraternity actively helps to expand the research community who are Helping to Solve the Puzzles of the Mind.

The Learning Centre Program has now grown to 9 Centres across the country with a satellite site in Bracebridge, Ontario. Ill. Bro. Matthew F. Todd, 33°, Executive Director, Learning Centre reported that there are over 130 tutors with 158 children being tutored at this time. This requires over 9,500 hours of tutoring. This is well over the equivalent of 395 days of tutoring 24/7. It is quite amazing how far this *Program* has come in the last 10 years.

We hope that you enjoy the articles in this edition of *Clarion* on the work of Dr. Joel Watts from the *University* of Toronto as well as the success stories of the Barrie and Edmonton Learning Centres.

I believe that we can be truly proud of what *The Scottish* Rite Charitable Foundation accomplishes for others through its Grants and Awards and the Learning Centre Programs in our work to Help Solve the

Puzzles of the Mind.

I would like to leave you with this quote from Benjamin Franklin - "The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all others, charity".

I wish you and your family a very joyous Holiday Season and hope that the New Year will bring health and happiness.



Z

#### Four John Ross Matheson Award Recipients

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

Since our last edition was published, our Supreme Council has recognized four outstanding Brethren with the prestigious John Ross Matheson award. We are honoured to not only have these talented men in our ranks, but to have our Sovereign Grand Commander personally author their stories for us! Congratulations to you all!



#### Ill. Bro. Donald Ferdinand Harrison, 33°

busy, active, and much-loved member of the Ottawa Valley; Ill. Bro. Donald Ferdinand Harrison, 33° was presented with the John Ross Matheson Award by Sovereign Grand Commander in Ottawa on January 21, 2019. A committed Mason since 1970, Donald has served as Master of Defenders Lodge No. 590, Ottawa District 2 and was Grand Tyler in the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario in 2011–2012. A fully involved member of the three Scottish Rite bodies in Ottawa since 1984, Donald was Commander-in-Chief of Ottawa Consistory in 1996. He also has provided loyal and helpful support to the Capital Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of De Molay, and his church. Moreover, for 34 years he has served as Manager of the Scottish Rite Wardrobe and Makeup Team in Ottawa. Truly a worthy

recipient, the *Award* was presented to Donald in the company of his wife, Margaret, several family members, and a large group of very appreciative members of the *Ottawa Valley*. Well done, Donald. Your *Award* is well deserved.



#### Ill. Bro. Eric Magill, 32°

n Friday, October 25, 2019 at the North Bay Rorab Shrine Club, Ill. Bro. Eric Magill, 32° was presented with the John Ross Matheson Award by our Sovereign Grand Commander. Over 90 family members, friends, and brethren attended the ceremony to celebrate the occasion with Eric and his lovely wife Joy. Eric was initiated into Nipissing Lodge No. 420 in 1986. Affiliating with Mattawa Lodge No. 405, he served as their Master in 2015. He is a proud member of the North Bay Lodge of Perfection and the Chapter of Rose Croix, invested as Most Wise Sovereign in 2000. Eric is the Valley Registrar during reunions and acts as the official photographer. Eric is also an active member of the Rorab Shrine Club and the Order of the Eastern Star Fidelis Chapter No. 99, holding the position of Worthy Patron in 2003/2004. Actively involved in the community of North Bay he has volunteered with many organizations; the Nipissing TB Lung Association, the North Bay Metro Band, Near North Crime Stoppers, Ontario Crime Stoppers, a founding member of the North Bay Tourism Ambassadors program, a rector and peoples warden at Christ Church, and a delegate to the Algoma Anglican Diocese Synod. In 2007, Eric was recognized for his extensive community involvement by receiving the Paul Harris Award.



#### Four John Ross Matheson Award Recipients

Ill. Bro. Norman Rudolf Pohl, 33°



n January 10, 2019, at a reception held at Breezy Bend Country Club in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ill. Bro. Norman Rudolf Pohl, 33° was presented with the John Ross Matheson Award by our Sovereign Grand Commander. Norman has served, and continues to serve, our Scottish Rite and all of Freemasonry with dedication and zeal. Active in his Craft Lodge, fully involved in the three Scottish Rite Bodies in Winnipeg, and having served as Grand Chaplain both in his Grand Lodge and the Royal Order of Scotland, Norman's dedication is obvious. In recognition of his service, the rank of Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba was bestowed on him in 2016. It was a memorable evening with Norman's wife, Edna, and many family members present. The large number of Masons in attendance left no doubt that Norman is indeed a much loved and cherished member of our Scottish Rite Family and clearly deserving of this presentation.

Ill. Bro. Neville Gordon Sheppard, 32°



Ctober 1, 2019 was a very happy evening in St. John's, Newfoundland. On that occasion, Ill Bro. Neville Gordon Sheppard, 32° was presented with the John Ross Matheson Award by the Sovereign Grand Commander, Robert S. Whitmore, 33°. Neville was initiated into Lodge Harbour Grace, No. 476 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1978. Not only did he serve as Master of that Lodge, he also held several offices in the District Grand Lodge of Scotland, and was commissioned as a Substitute District Grand Master from 2011–2015. He now holds the Honorary Rank of Grand Marshall from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Serving as presiding officer in all three of his Scottish Rite Bodies, Neville is a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and an active supporter of our Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation. In his community he serves the Lions Club, the Fire Brigade, Orange Lodge, Sea Cadets, and his church. It was wonderful to see Neville, accompanied by his wife Eileen and so many friends and brethren, receive this well-deserved award. He is truly a man who regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty.



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The factual accuracy of an article is the contributor's responsibility.

The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Supreme Council, or the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, or the Clarion Editorial Committee.



#### Spotlight on the Edmonton Learning Centre



III. Bro. Wade Cox, 33°

In 2013, several years after fundraising began, the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation for Edmonton began operating our Learning Centre in Edmonton. We have been applauding the successes of the children who have learned to read in our Learning Centre ever since.

ur operations began with three tutor trainees including our *Centre Director*, who were tutoring one child each. Those same three tutors are still giving their time to children in our *Learning Centre*. Currently, they alone are tutoring eleven different children and one other certified tutor is handling multiple children as well.



Five years in, on May 3, 2019, seven more young people joined the ranks of those who have finished the *Orton-Gillingham* system that we offer them. We have now celebrated the accomplishments of 29 children, which is indeed something to celebrate, as we all realize that it takes over two years for a child to complete the program.

Our *Centre's* 39 volunteers have grown to include a tutor trainer trainee, 12 tutors and 10 monitors, with 4 new trainees currently in the system, who will be ready to start tutoring a child on our waiting list this fall. Even though children are now being tutored within our system, we regret that our waiting list of approved children expecting a tutor has now expanded to over 30.

As is the case with each of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centres* across North America, we cannot say enough about the amazing efforts of our dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and energy so that children can be shown that they are both valued by, and valuable to our society. A tutor gives many hours every week to a child, and their efforts go far beyond the two hours of actual tutoring for each child per week. Imagine, if you will, what a child experiences when they come to the Centre and discover that they merely think differently, and aren't "dumb", as many of these children are told. They discover that they can learn just as well as anyone else, and that they are indeed clever and capable.

We recently experienced such a case in Edmonton. Eileen started with us in November of 2013. She was a grade six student at the time, who was reading at the level of a secondgrader. She graduated from our Centre in November of 2015, at that point reading at a grade six level. In June of 2019, Eileen invited her former tutor to her Grade Twelve Graduation ceremony. At the ceremony Eileen gave a heart-warming commendation to her tutor in which she thanked that individual for the self-confidence gained and the positive impact her experience at our Centre has had on her life. The tutor was very proud to attend Eileen's graduation ceremony and noted Eileen took only one year to complete grade twelve, an accomplishment that takes many students two or even three years to complete. She now has her own bookshelf with a growing number of books that she has read. That might not seem like much to most of us, but to a girl who was told by her teachers that she would never receive a high school diploma, it is a very big deal indeed. Eileen is now enrolled in university.

The biggest reward for our volunteers is to see the development of a child that they have tutored. To watch them rapidly progress from a "slow learner"; whose reading skills (and therefore their learning skills) trail their expected grade level by two or three years or more, into an honours student, reading books that they never imagined they'd be capable of even glossing over. That is the only gratification that each tutor receives. It takes a special person to be satisfied with such, knowing that they helped to bring to light what was within the child all along.

We in Edmonton wish to congratulate each and every tutor across Canada celebrating with a child who has learned to read, aided by our volunteers. Congratulations to you all!



#### Celebrating 10 years at the Barrie Learning Centre

III. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33° Deputy for Ontario

Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> marked a significant milestone event for the Barrie Learning Centre: its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration!

fficially opened in September of 2009, and with a satellite location in Bracebridge opening in 2015; the *Learning Centre* has been helping young people overcome the challenges of dyslexia.

A special celebration of this milestone event was held at the *Masonic Temple* at 99 Morrow Road in Barrie with over 150 people in attendance. The afternoon featured an *Anniversary Celebration* followed by a *Ceremony* for this year's 6 graduates of the program. Friends, family, supporters and numerous dignitaries from *Supreme Council* and the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation* enjoyed a moving testimony on the positive impact of the *Learning Centre* program in this area.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration was led off with words of welcome and congratulations from Ill. Bro. Robert Whitmore, our Sovereign Grand Commander, and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation President Gareth Taylor, followed by a 'trip down memory lane' by Centre Director Ross Martin, Assistant Director Elizabeth Rebelo, and Certified Tutor Trainer Betty Borges. There was a 'then and now' display of all of our graduates, with an update on their progress, a celebration of the success of the program; and an inspiring speech by one of our

first graduates—Ashley Merker. The Graduation Ceremony was led off by National Learning Centre Executive Director Matthew Todd with words of welcome and congratulations. Tutor Katie Desroches was presented with a certificate as a Certified Tutor; and Betty Borges and Elizabeth Rebelo were presented with certificates as Certified Tutor Trainers.



Congratulations to all! Having two additional Tutor Trainers will allow a great deal of flexibility in the training of new tutors in the future.

These presentations were followed by the introduction of the 2019 Graduates of the *Learning Centre* program: Andrea Bianchi; Lisa Ann Borne; Kendhal Colwell; Carson Foster; Eva Foss; and Abbey Mills. This brings the total number of graduates to 39, including 2 graduates from our satellite location in Bracebridge. That's 39 young people who have been provided with the tools to succeed and thrive, thanks to the support of the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*.

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre program is an unqualified success as we expand our efforts to help solve the puzzles of the mind. Congratulations to the Barrie Learning Centre, and keep up the good work!

Remember that your
Blue Envelope contributions
help to fund important work
like this. Every penny helps to
unlock the

Puzzles of the Mind



#### The 8th Degree, Now on Film!

PRODUCTION

SCENE TAKE ROLL

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

On an early Sunday morning in September, a bus from Bracebridge, Ontario rolled into the Scottish Rite parking lot in Hamilton.

ven earlier that same morning an SUV had arrived from Toronto. The SUV was loaded to the roof with four men, cameras, microphones, lighting, cables and all sorts of other film-making equipment. These four men included Ill. Bro. Milan Cobanov, 33° together with his crew from Mindpress. Two other members of the crew were also Masons. The bus contained a contingent of Scottish Rite Masons from the Valley of Barrie, most of whom hailed from the town of Bracebridge within that Valley. As a group, they formed the cast for the 8th Degree—Intendant of the Building as portrayed within the Valley of Barrie.

Shortly thereafter, men who make up the stage, robing, and the make-up crews in the *Valley of Hamilton* arrived and readied themselves for a full day of work. Milan and his crew went directly into high gear setting up all of their equipment in the *Norman E. Byrne Cathedral* Room within the *Hamilton Scottish Rite Building*. The cast from Bracebridge donned costumes, grew beards, put on wigs and generally transformed themselves into a group of workers from the days of *King Solomon*.

It was a fun day; a long day, but a productive day. Our intention is to follow this with future productions showing other degrees, as we continue to strive to enhance the Scottish Rite experience for all of our members.

Finally, the equipment was in place and the stage was set. What followed for the rest of the day of hard work, was good fellowship, and true cooperation; all with the goal of producing a high quality video of the Scottish Rite's 8th Degree, with the exception of the Obligation, Signs, Tokens, and Words.

The reasoning for creating this masterpiece, is the understanding that not all *Valleys* have the resources, manpower, or the equipment to present every one of our beautifully detailed degrees. The result is that there are several non-obligatory degrees that many candidates and members never see.

By producing this video, Supreme Council aims to address this issue by making video productions of various degrees available for all of our Valleys. Any Valley then can present these videos showcasing the drama portion of the degree presented in full costume, set before impressive backdrops, and performed by polished cast members. The Valley itself would then integrate this resource with the personal and private communication to candidates of the Obligation, Signs, Tokens, and Words of the degree.



By day's end, Milan and his crew along with degree directors Ill. Bro. Ken Veitch, 33°, Ill. Bro. Steve McIntyre, 33°, and Ill. Bro. Henry Castella, 32°, met their goal, and once all of the editing work is completed, we will have a high–quality production available for use throughout all of Canada!

It was a fun day; a long day, but a productive day. Our intention is to follow this with future productions showing other degrees, as we continue to strive to enhance the *Scottish Rite* experience for all of our members.

Many thanks to all of those who worked so hard on that September Sunday! ■



## From Puzzles to Prions—A SRCF Story

III. Bro. Darian S. G. Bacon, 32° Editor-in-Chief

As Scottish Rite Masons, we are committed to solving the puzzles of the mind. Dyslexia and Alzheimer's research are certainly two of the more public facing ways we accomplish this, but those aren't the only pieces we're trying to place in the giant jigsaw of the human mind.

ost readers have likely heard of Parkinson's disease; which affects 1 in 200 Canadian seniors (over 100,000 patients in Canada currently are diagnosed, with 6,600 new cases each year being detected). Over four-million people worldwide suffer from this debilitating condition which slows down the muscles, and makes controlling them, and a person's speech, much more challenging. It is a terminal disease of the mind with no known cure; but there's a Toronto lab which hopes to change that, thanks in part to what we Masons place into those blue envelopes each year. If you aren't sure which envelopes I'm referring to, go ahead and give your magazine a shake and see what falls out.

Dr. Joel Watts, an Assistant Professor with the University of Toronto's Biochemistry department, has a hypothesis which if validated, will open the figurative door to effective treatments, by literally shutting the door on a very strange looking molecule called a prion. In simple terms, a prion is a protein that's shape has been squished. These odd shaped molecules are at the heart of other known puzzles such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or "Mad Cow Disease"), and even Alzheimer's. Watts' theory, which is being tested thanks to your contributions, is that the unique 3D shape of a prion forms a "wedge" that a disease can attach to. The wedge bumps into a healthy cell, and pries the cell open, which is when a nasty pathogen can slide in to infect the healthy cell. The prion will continue to bump into more cells, and even reproduce in the body, furthering the disease spread.

We don't need prion's in our bodies, but getting rid of them can be quite difficult; so what does Joel suggest? Sticking other molecules to them, so that the diseased cells can't hitch a ride on the "cell wedge"; like a modern day



trojan horse. "These antibodies would bind to the prion, and leave no room for dangerous pathogens to attach, essentially dulling the wedge", Joel explained to me. It sounds very high tech, and ultra modern; but the majority of Dr. Watts' techniques have been in existence for over 40 years, and he is pioneering the application for treating Parkinson's disease.

Joel's progress thus far has been outstanding, and he notes that without funding sources like the *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation*, he likely wouldn't have come this far. "Funds from charities help to fill in the gaps from Federal grants, especially for newer scientists who are still trying to make a name for themselves". He noted that one of the largest federal agencies for biomedical funding, the Canadian Institute for Health Research, only approves about 12–14% of the applications they receive, and researchers are left to "try and try again".

"The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation is funding research to understand the science behind the disease, as opposed to clinical trials; and appreciates newer ideas, from recent graduates. The focus is to unlock advances in the underlying science, as opposed to only offering a cure".

If you would like to see a talk presented by Dr. Watts on his research, visit the SRCF website at: srcf.ca/videos.

Brethren, with the season of giving upon us, I'd ask you to consider the impact your contributions can have for the Canadian scientists of today and tomorrow. The blue envelope in your issue of the *Clarion* is an opportunity to help us unlock the puzzles of the mind; by investing in its discovery by talented Canadians. There are options for single, or recurring donations, and every penny goes to further our National interests. If you find yourself able, please help us in supporting scientists like Dr. Watts in their quest for medical advancement.



#### DeMolay Ontario Provincial Conclave

III. Bro. Robert D. Brethour, 33° Deputy for Ontario

he 2019 Ontario Provincial Conclave of *De Molay* was held in Barrie in October. With members of *De Molay* and Advisors from around the Province and Internationally; numerous events were held including the Installation of Officers for the coming year. Congratulations to David Ticknor on his election as Provincial Master Counselor. The Installation Ceremonies were well attended by various *Masonic* bodies, including our *Supreme Council*, represented by Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, our *Sovereign Grand Commander*, who is pictured addressing those assembled.

In addition, R.W. Bro. Barry Burchill, Chairman of the Youth Initiatives Committee of *The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario*, was in attendance to present the awards from the *Grand Lodge* sponsored Youth Initiative Essay Contest. Pictured are Essay winners Emma Young and Jack Crawford receiving their awards. Emma is from the *Indigo Chapter of Rainbow Girls* in Barrie and Jack is from the *Barrie Chapter of De Molay*. Excellent work Emma and Jack, and congratulations to you both!

Finally, after 15 years as Executive Director of *De Molay Ontario*, Dad Ernie Loiselle handed over the reins to Dad Ian McGugan. Ernie will remain as Executive Director of *De Molay Canada*.







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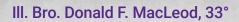
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#### Deputy's Award - Town Day Care



he Valley of Sydney, Deputy's Award for 2019, has been presented to Town Day Care of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

The presentation was made by Ill. Bro. Paul E. Frank, 33°, Deputy for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, to Margaret Burke, Director and Sally MacLeod, Board Chair. Also representing the Valley were Donald MacLeod, Secretary/Registrar and James Kerr, Master of Ceremonies, *Cape Breton Lodge of Perfection*.

The mandate of Town Day Care is to provide quality intellectual, emotional, nutritional, language and social development appropriate to each child. It promotes the participation of all children in all aspects of the programs. Building an inclusive childhood program can be a challenge and it requires support from staff, families, professionals and the community. A child with any disability challenge, whether it is Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum disorder and global developmental delays, just to name a few; is first and foremost a child. Every parent wants a happy and memorable childhood where their



child can be all that they can be. The day care supports an inclusive environment which promotes patience and cooperation, and it provides an opportunity for the development of tolerance and lasting friendships.

The Director and Chair thanked the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation for our contribution to their organization.

# Deputy's Award - University of Alberta

Ill. Bro. Loren W. Kline, 33° Deputy for Alberta and Northwest Territories

he Deputy's Bursary cheque is presented by Ill. Bro. Loren W. Kline, 33°, Deputy for Alberta and Northwest Territories, to Dr. Simonetta Sipione of the University of Alberta, Department of Pharmacology.

Dr. Sipione studies the molecular mechanisms underlying brain cell death in Huntington's disease, an inherited neurodegenerative disorder. The mechanism of this cell death may also be involved in other neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.





# Deputy's Award - Five Counties Children's Centre

Ill. Bro. Brian W. Gilkinson, 33° Deputy for Ontario

n May 3, 2019 Ill. Bro. Brian Gilkinson, 33°, Deputy for Ontario attended the Five Counties Children's Centre, Lindsay location and presented bursary cheques to two deserving recipients Ms. Morgan Piggott and Ms. Kierstan Bertrand.

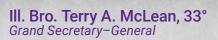
Ms. Morgan Piggott is a student in Speech Language Pathology. She has extensive volunteer experience with the Centre. She was present with her brother, who has followed her example in volunteering in the Lindsay location, and Ms. Amanda Connolly, the staff member who supervised her most recent placement with Five Counties.

Ms. Kiersten Bertrand is presently completing her studies as a Communication Disorder Assistant. She commenced her studies in Speech Language Pathology at the University of Western Ontario this fall. Her father,



Mr. Andre Bertrand, was on hand to accept her bursary on her behalf as she was in Kingston and unable to attend the presentation. Ms. Bertrand also has significant volunteer experience within the *Centre*.

#### One, Two, Three, Drink it Up!



in Prosit (Good Cheer) with Sovereign Grand Commander Dave Glattly, 33° of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (centre), Sovereign Grand Commander Rob Whitmore, 33° (right) and Grand Secretary—General Terry McLean, 33° at the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Biennial Session in Milwaukee.

Also donning the "We The North" T-shirts to boast about the NBA champs in Milwaukee.

Standing up with our beer mugs and swaying along to the tune, toast with everyone and chug! ■



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#### Supreme Council: Now a Biennial Event



III. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33° Lieutenant Grand Commander

Due to a motion introduced and passed in Montreal 2017, full sessions of our Supreme Council are now held on even numbered years with Executive sessions occurring via teleconference on odd numbered years. This experimental process will be looked at again in the next few years to determine its effectiveness in conducting the affairs of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada.

he 145th Annual Session; the first Executive Session via teleconference, was held on September 11th, 2019. Thanks to our Chief Operating Officer Ill. Bro. Steve Warren, 33°, the conference call was established and the Adobe Connect System was put in place ensuring all Activel Past Active members of Supreme Council had the ability to ask questions, provide input and be able to vote when called upon. It was appreciated that all found a quiet location in their homes or offices to conduct the affairs of the Rite.

Prior to the beginning of the Executive session, the annual meeting of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation under the chairmanship of President Ill. Bro. Gareth Taylor, 33° was conducted. At 12:30 pm (EDT), Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. Bro. Robert Whitmore, 33° declared the Executive Session to order in accordance with Article 5 (c) of the Statutes and Regulations. The regular business and presentation of committee reports was conducted in a timely and efficient manner. Among the highlights; the following Officers were nominated: Deputy for Quebec Ill. Bro. Opkar S. Sandhu, 33° and Grand Captain of the Guard Ill. Bro. Duncan S. Skinner, 33°. Travel arrangements will be made in the near future to facilitate the investiture ceremonies under the direction of the Sovereign Grand Commander. The Special Awards Committee brought forward the names of two brethren to receive the prestigious John Ross Matheson Award. The nominations of Eric Charles Magill (Valley of North

Bay) and Neville Gordon Sheppard (Valley of St. John's) were duly approved to receive their awards in their local Valleys.

It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that "with the recommendation of the Deputy(s) of the involved Valley(s), to allow a candidate to receive his initial degree in a Lodge of Perfection or a Chapter of Rose Croix or a Consistory in a Valley other than the Valley to which he made application" Art. 22 (f) xiii. And in such a case the candidate shall become a member of the Valley to which he made application and shall be liable for the payment of dues in accordance with the By-laws of that Valley...portion of Art. 82 (a) Before the conclusion of the session, the Sovereign Grand Commander provided those present on the call with his Allocution. Ill. Bro. Whitmore summarized his first year in office highlighting his many visits throughout Canada and the USA, the excellent ritual work he had witnessed, the dedication to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and the strong participation by our members across the nation. He thanked all members of the Supreme Council, those participating in the various committees and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation for their strong presence and assistance in all our endeavours. Among his pleasant duties, he approved the creation of the 150th Anniversary lapel pin by the Valley of Hamilton, and presided over the conferral of the 33rd degree on Ill. Bro. Richard Pemberton.



The next Full Annual Session hosted by the Valley of Hamilton will be held September 16 to 19, 2020. During that time we expect to welcome 94 candidates to receive the degree of Honorary Inspector-General 33°.



# Valley of Vernon - Official Visit

III. Bro. Steven W. Chung, 32°

n May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, the Valley of Vernon had the pleasure of welcoming our Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°. He was joined by our Deputy Ill. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, 33°, Ill. Bro. John Teleske, 33° and Ill. Bro. Karl E. Springer, 33°.

Hidden well in the second row right behind the Sovereign Grand Commander was our Thrice Puissant Grand Master – Gary Pratt our Most Wise Sovereign, Richard Trippel and our Commander-in-Chief, Robert Bagg.

Following the meeting was an awesome festive board and a great social time was had by all. ■



#### An Important Visit in Montreal

III. Bro. Jacques G. Ruelland, 33°

n October 28, 2019, the Montreal Valley was honoured to receive the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33° on his Official Visit. On this occasion, he invested Ill. Bro. Opkar S. Sandhu, 33° in his capacity as Deputy of the Supreme Council for the Province of Quebec. He then attended a 5th Degree, masterfully performed by the team of our Anglophone Brethren from the Valley.







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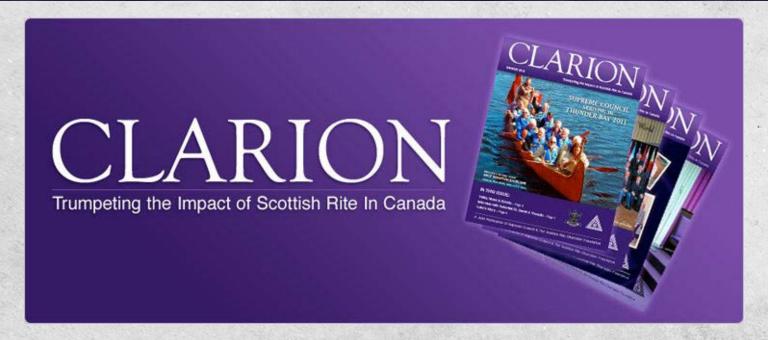


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#### Clarion Article Submission Guidelines



Te love to hear from the Membership across Canada about their events, stories, and unique perspectives on the role of Scottish Rite Masons in their valley. We promise to try and balance content from coast to coast, and between the activities for the Scottish Rite in general, and those for the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation. We can't promise we'll showcase every article we receive between our limited pages, but we'll try our best, and what is surplus, is provided to the hardworking team behind The Communique to use as they see fit.

Some things we ask for with each article submitted:

- 1. Pictures should be at least 800 x 600 pixels in size, and attached separately from other documents (not embedded). All pictures should have captions indicating who is who, and where.
- 2. If you didn't author the article, please reach out to the person who did, and confirm we have their permission to use their work.
- 3. Please ensure that any *Mason* mentioned or pictured has their full name, rank and position included. This also applies to the author of the article and should include the author's Valley.
- 4. The **DEADLINE** to ensure your article appears in the *Clarion* for that year, is Thanksgiving Day. Submissions can be sent to <u>clarion@supreme33.ca</u>.
- 5. If any our of members know of a business, or agency who would like to be promoted in our national magazine, we'd love to hear from them/you. Message us at clarionads@supreme33.ca.



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