



This year, “Floating of the Ark”, the 2023 mid-summer social event for Britannia Bay Lodge No. 12, Royal Ark Mariners, was held on Sunday, July 23, a beautiful warm sunny afternoon, at the Ottawa home of Thrice Illustrious Companion Khalil Ibrahim. Members present included M. Ill. Comp. Prince Selvaraj, R. Ill. Comp. Sam Kalinowsky, V. Ill. Companions Les Richardson and Michel Vigeant, T. Ill. Companions Khalil Ibrahim and Andrew Ciastek, Ill. Companions Robert Dupel and Max Anglade, and Comp. Mike Boese. A number of friends and ladies also attended.

It can be truthfully reported that although the water was “dark and deep”, the Ark, supported by a small 2x12 wood plank, set sail through a “thunderous storm” of joyful laughter with a full load of animals; and, all reached the mountain top safely. Afterwards, a bountiful Lebanese feast, that included fattouch and tabbouleh salads, hummus, sfihah meat pies, sabanekeh spinach pies, Lebanese makanek sausages, kafta meat skewers, chicken shish taouk, French fries and Lebanese coffee was provided by our hosts, along with a generous flow of Arak, and some other very old amber liquids, the descendants of other heritages. Gedeliah Council is truly blessed to have the generous support of Khalil and his wife, Micheline, for this social endeavour. Their backyard, pool and screened-in sunroom are exceptionally well-suited for this event, and their home-cooked Lebanese food is superb. On this day, we were also blessed with the presence of M. Ill. Comp. Prince Selvaraj who had driven from his home in Scarborough just to be with us.

The highlight of the afternoon occurred when Most Worshipful Brother Robert Dupel, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, presented Right Worshipful Brother Sam Kalinowsky with the A.J.B. Milborne Medal. This is a rarely given Grand Lodge of Quebec Medal awarded at the discretion of the Grand Master to Masons from other Jurisdictions who have made outstanding contributions to Freemasonry, either in their own or other Masonic jurisdictions. It had been planned to make this presentation at this year’s Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, but because of illness, R.W. Bro Kalinowsky could not get to Montreal for that event.

With thanks to Micheline, more than 40 pictures and a video of the Floating Ark were taken over the afternoon. A few of the photos may be seen here.



