


THE CRYPTIC NEWS



THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF ONTARIO



OCTOBER 2024



THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER, 2024

My fellow Companions, family and friends,

Today is a very special day in my masonic journey. I humbly accept the honour bestowed upon me as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Ontario. I follow in the steps of many Honourable Past Grand Masters, and I pledge to do my best to uphold and maintain the high standards set by my predecessors.

To M. Ill. Comp. Donald Emerick and his team of installing officers, thank you for all the work done this afternoon. I must also thank M. Ill. Comp. Emerick for first appointing me as the Grand Outer Guard and starting me on my path through the Cryptic Rite.

To my mentors, M. Ill. Comp's. David Walker and David Hardie, your guidance and support over the years has been most appreciated and has aided my progression to today. R. Ill. Comp. Phil Hebert sponsored me into masonry and has shared my journey through several masonic organizations.

To Most Ill. Comp. Prince Selvaraj, following you over the past few years, I have gained so much from your leadership and friendship. You have left a legacy that will be hard to follow.

To our Grand Deputy Master R. Ill. Comp. Sheldon V. Stannard: Congratulations on your promotion to the Office of Deputy Grand Master. We have become good friends and I look forward to many travels together.


To our newly elected Grand Principal Conductor of Work: R. Ill. Comp. Jerry Tsubouchi, Congratulations and welcome. The north will be well represented by your presence.

To the elected and appointed Grand Council Officers and Chairmen of the various Committees, my congratulations to you, and I look forward to working with all of you. Your continued support of your Councils will be essential to the future of our Order.

To the members of my home Council, Keystone No. 20, thank you for always supporting me in my journey in masonry. I will continue to assist you in any way I can.

To our Grand Recorder, R. Ill. Comp. Richard Algoood, nothing happens without your approval. You are to be commended for your commitment and dedication to the Royal and Select Masters of Ontario and I thank you.

To the visitors from our Sister Grand Jurisdictions and other Masonic bodies, thank you for your attendance and the support you have shown to this Grand Council over many years.



THE WAY FORWARD

Hopefully, our fraternity has turned the corner, and a new generation of men are coming to our doors looking for something that they are not finding elsewhere. Our Lodges and Chapters are seeing an increase in their membership and now is the time for us as Royal and Select Masters to let them know we exist and the importance of the Cryptic Rite in masonry.

RITUAL

The Report of the Condition of the Cryptic Rite continues to show that degree work conferred by Councils ranges from adequate to excellent. Open books are evident in a number of councils beyond that used by the prompter. We are facing challenges with older (seasoned) companions unable to memorize work any more and younger companions not taking up the challenge. In the words of a past Grand Master:

“Every companion must show his dedication and commitment, not just leave the more senior members to perform Ritual work, for in time they will be no more. Take an interest, apply dedication, take time to memorize work...” - R. Ill. Comp. Wm. D. Amendola, *Grand Deputy Master, 2011*.

EDUCATION

Over the past two years we have been gathering educational material from many of our Sister Jurisdictions to see how education is presented and how it can be adapted to ours. I will be directing the Education Committee to now provide a plan to implement a program for the Companions. In addition, I will also be to reinstituting the Cryptic Rite Bulletin to provide educational information and news to the membership on Council events.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

In 2009, there was a Long-Range Planning report that was submitted to the Grand Council. It covered several areas of main concern: Membership, Membership Retention, Assemblies, Communication, Enhancing Attendance and Tools. Although reports have been submitted every year, have we utilized any of the initiatives? What are we doing? I will be tasking the Long-Range Planning Committee to update these reports and to present a comprehensive way forward for our Order.

MEMBERSHIP

It is no secret that membership in the Cryptic Rite is continuing to decline due to deaths, demits and suspensions. We all know what the problems are, and many past Grand Masters have put forward ideas to reverse this trend. We are all Companions of the Royal Arch, and this is where we have to focus our efforts to engage and encourage new members. There are tools at our disposal which we can use to present information to our Chapters and Lodges. It is the responsibility of all of us to promote the Cryptic Rite and the excellence of our rituals, and the connection to the Hiram Legend.



YORK RITE

Since becoming a member of the Cryptic Rite and traveling to other jurisdictions, I have observed assemblies where meetings of several different masonic organizations met over three or four days. I have often wondered why the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason of Canada in the Province of Ontario and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario met in different months? In reviewing some of the old Proceedings, I came across this information. At an Emergent meeting held in Hamilton on July 15th, 1925, the following was written.

“Section 8 to be deleted and substituted with...***That the Grand Council shall hold its Annual Assembly at the same time and place as the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada, the hour and place of meeting to be named by the Grand Master.***”

I am not sure when or why that changed to what we have now where Grand Chapter meets in April and Grand Council meets in May. I will be forming an Ad-Hoc committee to arrange a meeting of the leaders of the York Rite bodies to see if there is a way we can work together and help each other progress into the future.

CRYPTIC RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Cryptic Rite Charitable Foundation is a shining example of what a small organization can do. Our Foundation assets are well over \$500,000 and it is a tribute to all of the Companions. This year we will be donating \$35,000 to Dr. McLaurin to aid in her research into Alzheimer's. I encourage all Councils and Companions to continue to support the Foundation so that we can provide Dr. McLaurin with the funds needed to continue her research.

Instead of buying trinkets and other handouts this year, I am taking that money and donating it the Halton Distress Centre which you will hear more about tonight.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Visitation is an integral part of masonry, and I will be visiting every Council in our Jurisdiction as well as some of our Sister Jurisdiction during my term of office. I will have the Grand Recorder send out my trestle board in the coming weeks. My first Official Visit will be to Salem Council No. 9, in Hamilton, on Monday May 27th. If you are able, please join us.

Finally, I would like to thank my son Marcus, family and friends for being here today to witness this achievement. Especially, I would like to thank my wife Mona, who without her support over the years, none of this would have been possible. She is my rock and a loving partner and I look forward to us spending many more years together.

Before we leave today, may the Supreme Architect of the Universe keep you safe until we meet again.

Fraternally,

Howard F. Adams

M. Ill. Grand Master

THE GRAND DEPUTY MASTER'S MESSAGE



Hello all my Companions!! Here is a little information about your Grand Deputy Master, Sheldon Victor Stannard.

I was born in Brantford Ontario, April 2, 1960, and yes, I missed April Fools' Day by a couple hours. The Carsons, my mother's family, emigrated from Ireland and landed in Grey County in 1840. My dad (who was also a cryptic Rite Mason) was born in Dublin, Ireland, the best of both worlds. My father was a WW2 veteran and I had 2 Uncles at Vimy Ridge and a great Aunt that served during WW1 with many more to follow in the forces (both our Armed forces and our Police forces). We have always


been a family of service, and Carol's family is no different as she is German Canadian, and her grandfather served and perished in WW2.

Faith is very important to both Carol and I and she felt it would be important that I mention that we have my grandmother's (from Scotland) family Bible. The Halliday's came from Scotland to Grey County and their most prized position was the family bible from 1734, always in our family. Today it still is one of our family's prized possessions and whenever it has been possible, I have been obligated on it many times.

My wife and I are hardworking and home loving people. Carol and I have not taken a proper vacation of more than a few days in over 30 years. When we do it's usually a few days to a masonic function or at home to do the next project. I believe that all masons should be well rounded and be involved in their communities. We have two daughters and three grandchildren, and we have 2 rescue Weimaraner dogs. We have both been involved with the Ontario Weimaraner Rescue and Assistance, Carol having sat on the board in the past. It is non-profit, we used to have a kennel as well, but I can tell you there is no love like that of a rescue dog.

I went To Paris District High School and then continued my education at Mohawk College. After graduating I went on to work as a Production Planner but ended up working in the paint Industry, which I love! I have traveled our country with work and many states in the United States. I am a level-2 coatings inspector and currently a sales representative, covering our Province, from Wawa to Ottawa to Windsor and all places in between. I do work long hours and have a very strong Irish work ethic and work 50 to 60 hours weekly (Carol says I work more like 60 to 70 hours). I have also been a member of the Brantford Home Builders Association and The London Home Builders Association holding positions with the London Home builders as well. In the past I was very active in my church and was a lay reader at one time. Also, I have held political positions, having been a board member on a riding association, an advisory committee to my local MPP, and I'm very active during election campaigns.

In our spare time we are both country people living in the city, I am a John Deere guy all the way. We have some tractors and enjoy going to tractor shows and plow days. Also, on top of that, I am a gear head - we have a couple of toys that we also take to car shows, and as a Shriner in parades. One of those "toys" is the same car that another one of our Grand Masters (M. Ill. Comp. George Gifford) has. We are



very busy when I think about it. Carol and I were also quite active past members of Corvettes of Western Ontario.

As for my masonic career it is also been one of service. I have been a mason since 1983 – I find it hard to believe it's over 41 years and going! I have had many family members as masons, at least 3 generations that I know of. My mother lodge, Ozias Lodge No. 508, is my first love in masonry and I continue as its WM till next month, which I believe will make it around 13 years (not in a row) as WM. In all 41 years I have always been an officer in my mother lodge. I belong to 4 craft lodges, Ozias Lodge No. 508, Heritage Lodge No. 730, Ashlar Lodge No. 610 and Point Pelee Lodge No. 627. I am still a very active officer in many, many other bodies.

I hope this has given you a little insight into your Deputy Grand Master, above all I am a simple country boy who has been lucky enough to have many honours and more important has been able to meet great companions and been able to spend time with many of you.

Through masonry we have been very lucky to make the best friends, Carol and I feel blessed for that honour.

Carol and I also thank each of you for your support and friendship over the years and we hope that once more that we will be able to hold the Enoch Council Cryptic Rite Garden party at our home. My uncle, Comp. Rennie Taylor (Meritorious Service Award Winner 2015, and Recorder of the year in 2013), who is my hero and mentor is suffering with Alzheimer's. Please think about our charity and keep those donations coming in. I want to challenge each of you to donate to our foundation this year. Please help us gain new members!

Finally, as our late Comp. William R. Pellow (Past Grand Master, Member of Enoch Council No. 10) used to say "We may not have it altogether but together we have it all."



THE GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK'S MESSAGE



My name is Jerry Tsubouchi, and I was born and raised in Fort William, Ontario (Thunder Bay, as of 1970). I am 60 years of age and have been retired for the last 4 years. I'm happily married to my wife Paula and recently celebrated my 34th wedding anniversary. We have two adult daughters, Tegan and Nissa. I also have two "fur daughters," Piper a golden retriever and Phoebe a Golden Retriever/Bernese Mountain Dog cross.

I enjoy most sports but mainly focus on my golf game at this time of my life – however no pro-tour card for me yet!

I am a graduate of Lakehead University with a B.A, majoring in Psychology. I had planned on post graduate school but my priorities changed when I married. "Plan B" was my application to the local municipal Police Department where I was selected to join the Thunder Bay Police Service in 1991. I served there in various departments until my retirement in 2020.

My Masonic journey began, November 2009 and I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in January of 2010. I am very active in Craft Masonry, being the current past Grand Registrar for the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. I am also active in the York Rite, holding the rank of Past Grand Registrar for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Currently I am the Grand Principal Conductor of Work for Royal & Select Masters of Ontario.

I am also a member of Rhodes Preceptory No. 23, Sleeping Giant York Rite College No. 155, Holy Bay Conclave No. 19, Zohar Council No.19, Northern Priory No. 84, Elam Council No. 5 (Order of the High Priesthood of Ontario) and Shuniah Chapter No. 84.

I am looking forward to the next 6 years of my journey in Cryptic Masonry as I progress to the Chair of the Grand Master. I enjoy talking and debating with the members of the Craft! There is no such creature as a "dumb question," so please do not hesitate to ask me! If you do not know the answer, then how can the question be dumb! Everyone's opinion is worth listening to as no one can see the question and answer from all possible perspectives. I will consider all points of view before I make any decision.

I look forward to serving all the Members of the Cryptic Rite and please do not hesitate to call text email if you have any questions and or concerns.

THE GRAND CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BY R. ILL. COMP. SHELDON KOFKY

Royal and select Masters or Cryptic Rite. It is one of the most beautiful and meaningful degrees in all Freemasonry. The degrees complete a story, a Masonic "allegory" (a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or spiritual one). "Our progress is an allegory of the spiritual journey."

Royal and Select Masters, is very philosophical and teaches its ideals by allegory in the degrees. This belief is moralistic and spiritual. A requirement for membership in R&SM is a declared belief in God and eternal life. R&SM never attempts to alter any one's beliefs. It demonstrates stories that will strengthen those beliefs. R&SM offers no doctrine or plan of redemption. However, it does offer a moral plan to use in your everyday activities. Leaving each member to look to his religion for deliverance into the next world.

Our degrees demonstrate the story of the knowledge, loss and recovery of the Word. The Word stands for man's search for life's purpose and the nature of GOD. Masonry, in the Lodge, teaches of the loss of the Word and hope for its recovery. Royal Arch teaches its recovery. R&SM completes this story by teaching of the Word's initial salvation.

R. Ill Comp. Sheldon Kofsky
Grand Chaplain



NEWS & EVENTS

Saturday, 19 October, 2024

Annual Field Day in Thornhill, ON. The day's events start at 0900hrs!!

THE GRAND MASTER'S OFFICIAL VISITS

Tuesday, 22 October

Zabud No. 15, Belleville – 1930hrs

Monday, 28 October

Hiram No. 24, Peterborough - Dinner 1830hrs, Meeting - 1930hrs

Thursday, 24 October to Sunday, 27 October

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts

Wednesday, 13 November

Huron Council No. 25, Stratford, Meeting - 1930hrs

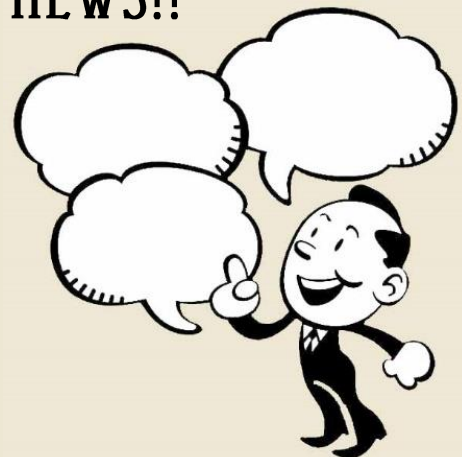
Saturday, 16 November

Alpha Council No. 23, Sudbury, Meeting - 1300hrs

Monday, 18 November

Conestoga Council No. 17, Waterloo, Meeting – 1930hrs

**REMEMBER TO ADVERTISE YOUR FUTURE
NEWS AND EVENTS
WITH
THE CRYPTIC NEWS!!**



GRAND COUNCIL FIELD DAY

Saturday October 19th 2024

SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE

October, 2024

TO RECORDERS, THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS and DRAMA DIRECTORS:

This notice is to inform you that The Grand Council Field Day for the Super Excellent Master Degree, hosted by **Adoniram Council No.2** will be held at **Thornhill Masonic Temple**, 30 Elgin Street, Thornhill on Saturday October 19th 2024.

The Committee on the Field Day invites your Council to participate in the Drama portion of the Degree as listed below. As the Field Day is a Grand Council function, hosted by Adoniram Council, we feel that it would be complimentary to the Grand Council if your Council would participate in the Drama Portion.

NOTE:

It would be extremely helpful could you please submit a list of your Council's participants, what scene, lecture and character they are portraying as soon as possible to the Grand Council's Degree Director, T. Ill. Comp. Michael K. Morris 416 931-2954 and/or the Grand Recorder 416-284-8919.

Proposed Itinerary.

09:30am	Rehearsal for Officers forming Square, Circle and Triangle
10:00 a.m.	Opening Adoniram Council and conduct necessary business.
10:15 a.m.	Receiving Visitors and Grand Council Officers.
10:30 a.m.	Close Adoniram Council
10:35 a.m. Approx.	Open Super Excellent Masters Council.
	Ritual and Historical Lectures by the Grand Council Officers
11:45 a.m.	Call from Labour to Refreshment for Lunch (\$15.00)
12:30 p.m.	Call from Refreshment to labour

DRAMA PORTION

	Scene 1:	Companions of District "B"
	Scene 2:	Companions of District "C"
	Scene 3:	TBA
	Scene 4:	Shealtiel Council No.21
2:45 p.m.	Final portion of Degree, Final Charge and closing remarks.	
3:00 p.m.	Council of Super Excellent Masters closed by Grand Council Officers.	

(All times approximate.)

NOTE: If the First section of the SEM Degree is completed prior to 11:45 we will commence with lunch earlier and if lunch is completed prior to 12:30 we will commence the Drama portion earlier





*Ill. Comp. Mike A. Boese, B.A.(Hons.), M.A.(War Studies)
PCW, Gedaliah Council No. 16
Editor-in-Chief*