

Glasgow, an institution dating from 1605. Ian had arranged a tour of the facility for me prior to me attending a Lodge meeting there that evening. I was given a very informative tour of the building, one of only two institutions in the City of Glasgow that is still meeting in its original location. The Deacon Convener is such an important position within the City that he has a seat on Glasgow City Council with no voice nor vote.

The Trades House and Lodge were literally only steps away from my hotel in Central Glasgow. The work of the evening was a Mark Master Mason degree under the direction of the RWM Rory Kennedy. It is the second time I have seen this in Scotland. It was followed by a full-blown Burns Supper. Of note to my fellow Scots. The grand piano in the Lodge room was once the property of famous Scots comedian Ricky Fulton.

Tuesday was our last Masonic meeting. In the morning I went a bus tour of the City of Glasgow. Very informative and what a beautiful City. I stopped off at the People's Palace Museum, which is devoted to the life of the common man in Glasgow over the past 100 years. And what about Templeton's Carpet Factory. Long and interesting story on this building. All to do with fighting City Hall, and winning.

Late Tuesday afternoon the gang got back from Larkhall and London. I really feared that the London group was going to miss the event of the evening as they had not yet arrived back in Glasgow by mid-afternoon. They were delayed by train problems. Finally everyone arrived and off we set for Lodge Scotia to perform our second exemplification. This time Graham Tait who was visiting his father joined us. We switched our team slightly with Graham now doing the General Charge and the working tools were added in the second for Peter Scarr. To say that we were amazed by our reception would be an understatement. There were 107 masons in attendance to see us perform, including the Depute Grand Master, Anthony R. Warnock and other Officers from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow.

We performed our work in an exemplary manner and were soundly "stamped" by those present. We answered a number of questions about our ritual,

the state of Masonry, our fee structure, etc., etc. What particularly amazed those present was that we had to answer a number of questions and recite our obligations before being moved on to the next degree. They have nothing like that in parts of Scotland.

One note of interest. Graham Tait found out just prior to leaving for Lodge that his grandfather had been initiated into Lodge Scotia in 1920. I'm sure that made the evening all the more memorable for him. Junior Deacon "Jamie" was our willing (unwilling?) candidate throughout the proceedings.

Before the Lodge closed, all our group were presented with a Lodge tie and I received a Lodge ashtray as well. All round it was a great night and one we will all fondly remember. And so it was on to our last day on Wednesday. We set off to do some touristy things. First we went to Stirling and started out by climbing the Wallace Monument. It is very steep climb to the top of the hill, so a small bus is laid on for the old farts like us.

Then it was off the short drive to Stirling Castle, the one-time Royal Seat of Scotland. It is in the final stages of restoration. The Great Hall and the Chapel Royal are finished. The Royal Apartments (at a cost of £12 million) are almost complete. Plus a team of artists is re-creating the wonderful silk tapestries that hang in the Chapel Royal. The Castle is also home to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Another short drive took us to Dunblane, site of a horrible massacre of primary school children a few years ago. Many of us were close to tears when we saw the memorial to them in Dunblane Cathedral.

And so it was back to Glasgow for our final night in Scotland. I spent it at a soccer game between my team the "Hearts" (Heart of Midlothian FC) and Celtic. I was one of the 44,000 in attendance. Unfortunately, my team lost 2-0.

Next morning, John picked us up at our hotel, loaded our luggage and took us to the airport for our flight home to Canada.

It was a great trip. To those who decided not to join us – you missed a wonderful time. Some are even talking of making the trip again some time. Next time, don't miss it!

such a man, for Bro. Ed McKay is a person who demonstrates the true spirit of masonry everyday both in the lodge and through his presence in the greater community.

While working in Chicago in 1965, Ed joined his mother lodge Riverside Lodge

No. 862. After moving back to Hamilton he affiliated with Hillcrest Lodge No. 594 in 1976 and St. Andrew's Lodge No. 62 in Caledonia shortly thereafter. His is Chaplain in both lodges and regularly attends practices and meetings at both lodges. Ed is very well known throughout Hamilton District "B" supporting the District Deputy Grand Master by being part of the "District Team". Ed has acted as the "District Ambassador of Goodwill" for the past two years. This is a position that was especially created with Ed in mind.



Bro. Edward McKay

At Grace United Church in Caledonia, Ed and his wife Shirley are regular attendees. He is very supportive of his Grandson's hockey attending virtually every game. In addition he also delivers prescriptions for a local pharmacy in his spare time. Most widows and sick and shut in folks know him as a kindly man.

He received the Robert J. McKibbin award in 2005 from the Moore Sovereign Consistory and a Meritorious Service Award from Hillcrest Lodge No. 594 in January 2008.

On November 24, 2009 Grand Lodge awarded him the William Mercer Wilson Medal. The Grand Master came, the Deputy Grand Master came, the District Deputy Grand Master came and so did over 100 of his brethren, all in celebration of Ed's accomplishments. But, it wasn't just Masons that came, Ed's wife, family and friends came to make the evening complete. The building was bursting at the seams and we were not sure that we would be able to seat everyone. Throughout the evening Ed continued to exhibit that cheerful demeanor that everyone has come to recognize, and in the end expressed that it is the love and support of his wife Shirley that allows him to participate in Masonry the way he does.

So if you get the chance to meet Bro. Ed McKay, introduce yourself and see what it truly means to be a MASON.

William Mercer Wilson Medal Recipient

Brethren, In the Ceremony of Installation, part of the Final Charge portrays the ideal of a Freemason. For those of us in Caledonia, we are fortunate to have