

**GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

Hamilton B District

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“What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future.”— Agnes M. Pahren

Greetings to Hamilton B District,

Well, 2020 has certainly been an interesting year. However, as individuals and collectively, we have overcome or adapted to the challenges presented. The pandemic has emphasized our need to emotionally connect with the people in our lives, especially when we can't physically be together. Lodges have rekindled phone trees, increased communication and adapted to virtual technology in order to hold GP and to “socially” get together. Well done.

Challenging times often make people reflect on the importance of the people in their lives and the gratitude for those who helped them get through the year. Consider taking some time over the festive season to connect with those who provided you that spot of light in your time of darkness. It will mean a great deal to them.

I have had the pleasure of joining in on a number of virtual lodge meetings. It has been encouraging to see so many brethren adapt to this technology. I must say, when I see someone during a virtual meeting, or hear their voice over the phone, I often think of the time I met them personally at a lodge meeting, festive board or reception. It's experiences such as these that strengthen our bonds and fuel hope for a stronger and vibrant fraternity.

I thank the District Secretary and other members of the District Team, as well as my Advisors, for remaining in place for a second term. I truly appreciate all that they do within the district and their respective lodges. The role of a DDGM would be daunting without the assistance and advice of such dedicated and experienced brethren.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very blessed Holy Day Season and a wonderful New Year.
May your holidays be full of love, peace, and happiness - and may it continue into 2021.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Michael R. Martin

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Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and "Honey, where is my face mask?"