

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

Hamilton B District

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July 27th, 2020

Greetings Brethren,

I hope you and your families are well. This new “normal” has created much uncertainty for each of us – both medically and economically. Nonetheless, each of you continue to forge ahead to ensure your households are functioning; your livelihoods can endure change; and your communities can sustain the future.

The members and officers of the lodges within our district have undertaken similar steps of viability. The District and Lodges have been utilizing virtual meeting platforms for social gatherings; delivering Masonic education; and to conduct business meetings. Brethren are sending out emails to encourage planning for the future, or to simply “check in”. The old school “phone trees” are being utilized to stay in touch with brethren that may find it difficult to connect with today’s technology. Whatever medium your lodge is utilizing it really doesn’t matter. The truth is, YOU are taking the time to reach out and communicate with each other; to provide a conduit for discussion; to ease the stresses related to the uncertainty of this pandemic; and to offer assist to those in need. In doing so, you have been mindful of the fraternal bond we have developed and nurtured over the centuries. Thank you to the many brethren who have been integral in facilitating or spear heading these fraternal opportunities, and to those who have whole heartedly supported them in their Masonic endeavours.

Thank you to ALL the essential workers during this troublesome period of time. These women and men have been working long hours in uncertain environments to ensure we have access to the necessities and competent health care. For many in our fraternity, social contact is not a safe option. For their own, or family member’s health, they remain vigilant and sequestered to a safe environment. We truly appreciate the efforts of those providing for our shut-ins.

We all hope that a vaccine can be created, tested and safely administered to every Canadian that wishes it. Until such time, continue to remain vigilante. Let’s try to curb this thing medical experts call the “second wave”, by adhering to provincial and municipal health regulations. A reminder that the cancellation of all Masonic meetings has now been extended until at least August 31st, 2020. Depending on when we can safely convene in our lodge rooms, I ask that each of you continue to communicate with your brethren, checking on their wellbeing. If someone is in need, reach out to your Lodge Benevolence Chairman.

Due to the uncertainty of when we can actually “physically” meet, the Fall District Meeting will be held by way of a virtual platform on **Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 @ 7:30 p.m.** Details on how to join the meeting will be distributed closer to the date.

Enjoy the summer months with your family and friends. Until we resume our labours, I ask that you continue to be kind to each other; be safe; and be well.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Mike