

B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team
of the Lodge Resources Committee

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Something New For Lodge Members

One of the goals of the B2B Team of the Lodge Resources Committee and this publication is to keep the readers abreast of new information that can bring added value to the members of your lodge. Just recently a new brochure was posted on the home page of the Grand Lodge website. It is entitled "The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family to Freemasonry." This brochure can be used as welcoming card for all members of a Mason's family. It is one more tool that can be used to impress upon new members that we are glad that they have joined our worldwide family. It is another way of reinforcing that "First Impression" they had of this great Fraternity. The contents of the brochure are outlined below:

The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family to Freemasonry!

The Masonic
Family Welcomes
Your Family to
Freemasonry!



A man in your family has
become a Mason.
Congratulations!
You are now connected to a
worldwide brotherhood which
takes as it's creed:

*Friendship, Morality and
Brotherly Love.*

We welcome your family to
our Masonic family.

There is much to know about Masonry. It is our sincerest hope that Masonry will become a true family affair for you and yours. There are many opportunities for family involvement, not only in the Lodge but in groups designed for the Ladies and Youth, charitable activities in the Community and much, much more.

We hope this brochure whets your appetite to enjoy the Masonic experience with your family to the fullest.

What is the purpose of Masonry?

The main purpose of Masonry is to take good men and assist them in becoming better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. Masonry does this by keeping them exposed to moral and ethical teachings and by consistently asking them to consider important character building issues. One of most important concerns is what each Mason gives back to his community. Masonry's cornerstone is charity. Approximately two million dollars a day is given to charity by all Masonic organizations combined. In short, by improving ourselves we are placed in a better position to help others.

Should the Mason in your family becomes ill or hospitalized, please take a moment to call the Secretary or Master of his Lodge.

You will be amazed at the support he and the family will receive. Taking care of Brother Masons and their families is a labour of love for a Mason.

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Submit your request to the B2B Team Leader

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The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family – cont'd.

Masons help in good times too!

Inquire about scholarships for college bound teens, housing and care for senior family members, and Masonic Youth Camps for children. There are many ways in which Masons live out their way of life. It is up to each Masonic Family to choose its own way to contribute.

How can your Family be involved in Masonry?

Some of the countless ways that your family can be involved in the Masonic family include:

- Attending Lodge sponsored functions such as public programs, parties, dinners, tours and civic programs.
- Working with the Lodge at its various charitable events such as fund drives, bike rodeos, child identification programs, blood drives, drug and alcohol prevention programs, telethons, and private charitable work such as visiting the sick and tending to the needs of widows.
- Becoming familiar with the full family of Masonry which includes Eastern Star, Amaranth and Daughters of the Nile for women, dimly for teenage boys, Constellation of Junior Stars, Rainbow and Triangle for teenage girls. All of these groups provide the wholesome environment which springs from Masonry.

We welcome you with our hearts!

Any Questions?

Should you have any further questions please ask your Masonic Member. If he cannot provide an answer, please do not hesitate to contact the Master or Secretary of his Lodge directly (it is a good idea to have their numbers available).

What Masonry is and is not



The Square and Compasses, Masonry's most popular symbol, signifying integrity and virtue.

Freemasonry is:

The oldest, largest and most charitable men's fraternal organization in the world. Spiritual, not religious in nature, requiring every member to profess a belief in a Supreme Being of his choice.

Family oriented with many programs and groups to involve the entire family.

An opportunity for a man to improve himself. Rich in history, tradition and patriotism.

Sensitive to the needs of each community where it exists.

Open to men of good character regardless of race, creed or religion.

Freemasonry is NOT:

A secret society. Any information about Masons can be found at a well stocked bookstore or local library. Masonic buildings are clearly marked and listed in the phonebook. Members wear Masonic jewellery. The only secret about Masonry is that there are no real secrets!

A Mason is proud of his membership! Family values are critical to the Mason. Membership should never interfere with family life.

The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family – cont'd.

A Very Brief Look at Masonic History

No one knows just how old Freemasonry is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Most scholars believe Masonry rose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the majestic castles and cathedrals of the Middle Ages. In 1717 a formal organization was created in England when four Lodges in London joined in forming England's Grand Lodge. Freemasonry in America was initiated by our early settlers and was supported by men such as Washington, Franklin, Hancock, Revere and DeWitt Clinton. As a matter of fact, most of Washington's military staff were Masons. The Grand Lodge of the State of New York was chartered in 1781.

We urge your family to read Masonic history; it is a vital part of our proud heritage.

The Mason in your family has joined a renowned philanthropic brotherhood which has 1.7 million members in North America and 3.2 million members world wide. There are very few places in the entire world that could not offer your family Masonic friendship or assistance if the need arose.

The Degree System of Masonry

Your family member will be going through a unique experience in the modern world as he participates in our three degrees leading up to his achieving full membership as a Master Mason. Ancient in origin, each degree teaches an important lesson through the use of symbols. There is never any 'hazing' in a Masonic Degree. The Degrees are dignified and when understood can add great value to the Mason's daily life. All Masons wear aprons at their meetings to symbolize the historic link between our current Brotherhood and the builders of old.

Masonic Meetings

All Lodges meet on a regular stated basis which allows your family to plan events. Masons receive more of the benefits of Masonry by attending meetings, so long as that attendance does not harm the family in any way. We hope that your family will support and encourage your Mason's attendance and that the whole family will take every opportunity to participate with him.

Rusty Mason Update Sussex Lodge No. 5 – St. Lawrence District

In the January 2009 edition of the B2B FaciliFacts we brought to the story of a "Rusty Mason" event held in Sussex Lodge No. 5 in Brockville. This was an event that provided to be extremely successful and worthwhile from the stand point of reviving the interest in the brethren involved. Earlier this month the Worshipful Master of Sussex Lodge, VWBro. Sonny Clark, contacted the B2B Team with a further update that clearly illustrates the power of personal contact.

The Worshipful Master reported that one of the Rusty Masons who was Initiated in 1960 and passed to the Second Degree in 1961, was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in February 2009. He now wonders why he waited so long.

He also reported that two other Rusty Masons, from that original event, who were Initiated in 1996, will be Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason this March.

Truly a remarkable story – "Making A Difference" one Mason at a time!!

Congratulations Sussex Lodge No. 5

Something Worth Repeating!

This is a short story about the true meaning of Freemasonry and the fellowship that comes from being a member. It is taken from the February 2009 edition of the "Harmony News" which is a newsletter published by Harmony Lodge No. 579, Windsor District. We thank them for their permission to re-print this tale in the B2B FaciliFacts.

A Warm Masonic Tale

It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up:

"I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody Stand up, and gather in circle around the campfire."

They did that. "Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him." they did that, too. "Now, what do you see looking ahead?"

"The face of a brother through the flames."

"What do you feel in front of you?"

"The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night."

"What do you feel at your side?"

"The warm hand of a brother."

"OK. Now drop the hands, and turn around."

They do so. "Now what do you see, looking ahead?" "Complete darkness."

"What do you feel, looking ahead?"

"A sense of loneliness, of being alienated."

"What do you feel at your side?"

"Nothing at all."

"What do you feel on your backside?"

"The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man.

"In our gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you."

Author Unknown