

*Georgina Lodge #343 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C.  
Historian's Report 2005-2006*

The average attendance at lodge meetings was 31 of which 6 were members, 6 past masters, 9 officers and 10 visitors. As of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2006, there were 125 members on the roll. 7 brethren passed to the GLA during the year and there were 6 initiations, 4 passings, 2 raisings and 3 demits.

In January we had the pleasure of hosting a degree team from the Shrine, led by M.W.Bro.Ronald Groshaw and assembled in Georgina Lodge to initiate Mr. John Oross who is associated with the Shrine circus where fun and fantasy are the rule.

One of our recently affiliated members, V.W.Bro. Bob Webster, had for years acted as Santa Claus with all moneys received being donated to the district charity. This year, as he was unable due to ill health to act the part, Bro.Brian Oram Sr. stood in for him as Santa in a true spirit of brotherhood and presented a cheque to be given to the district charity.

There was no emergent meeting in February as we were continuing the tradition of attending the official visit of the DDGM to Birch Cliff lodge, sadly the last opportunity to do so as re-districting was to take effect in the Summer when Birch Cliff and Georgina were to join different districts. Our official visit later in the month was attended by members of two lodges with which we had long standing relationships, Richardson and Birch Cliff. A second degree was conferred and the DDGM, Rt.W.Bro.Alan Donovan professed himself satisfied with the work. The WM, W.Bro.Andrew Toth presented him with the traditional silver tray, a gift Georgina has been making to DDGMs for at least 50 years.

In March we had the pleasure of welcoming the United Empire Loyalists who had assembled a degree team to initiate one of their members, Mr. Mathew Warner into Georgina Lodge. As few of us knew much about the UEL, it was enlightening to listen to W.Bro. Robert McBride describe their organisation and its close relationship to the Craft. It was a special evening for another reason as well, the return to lodge of Bro.Frank Storimans. Our Secretary had been contacting members who had not been able to attend lodge for some time and had assisted Frank to do so on this particular evening. Frank was warmly welcomed into lodge by the WM.

Our emergent meeting in May saw our first attempt at a "Lodge of Discussion", a new concept being promoted by the GL Education Committee. The idea was to engage all the Masons present in a discussion of a selected topic, in this case, "Does Masonry make good men better?". The discussion was ably led by Bro.Neil Sinclair. Instead of a general open discussion each man was asked for his particular view on the topic and a wide variety of opinions were voiced, many of them very sincere and quite moving. Overall a fresh perspective was obtained on what it means to be a Mason. Later in the month the Past Masters assumed the chairs for the traditional past masters' night with W.Bro.Pat Piccione in the masters chair. A third degree was exemplified with Bro. Jacob Odibunmi as the candidate. W.Bro.Ian Filshill was presented the same evening with his 50 year pin by the WM., a signal accomplishment for any Mason. Ian described his early years as a Mason in Scotland and his years of pleasure as a member of Georgina lodge.

At the annual convocation of GL in July the Grand Master was pleased to appoint one of Georgina's members, Bro.Iain Mackenzie, to the position of Assistant Grand Chaplain and the WM. assisted by the secretary presented him with his regalia at the emergent meeting in September. The following month V.W.Bro.Iain Mackenzie was honoured as Georgina's "Mason of the Year" with the presentation of an inscribed plaque, and formally invested with his regalia by the Grand master. Iain's "Pillars" senior wardens group also presented him with a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion. A large number of relations, friends and visitors were present for the occasion and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Of course the biggest event of the year was the reduction in the number of Toronto districts from 7 to 5. This became effective at the annual convocation in July and our lodge together with Orient 339 joined the new Humber Valley district, to make up a total of 23 lodges - large compared to the 16 in our old district 3. It was sad in a way to be removed from so many of our friends in the old district and especially to terminate those traditions of visitation and assistance which had developed between our lodges over the years. Of course none of us are barred for continuing to visit these friends, but being in a new district means we have an obligation to get to know our new brothers in Humber Valley district better.

The final event of the year was the installation of our new Worshipful master W.Bro. Brian Oram Sr., and the investiture of a new slate of officers on November 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish them all a happy and productive year. A motion of appreciation to W.Bro. Andrew Toth for presiding over an excellent year was proposed by Rt.W.Bro. Ralph Lewis and was greeted with acclamation by the brethren.

Respectfully submitted,

Iain Bruce Mackenzie  
Historian