



Rough Ashlars – Ottawa 2 District – June 2011 Report

Mandate:

"The Rough Ashlar Committee, working with Lodges in District 2 (with participation from District 1) aims to augment and amplify a positive experience to recently-made Masons; as members in a Craft Lodge as well as within the broader scope of our Fraternity in this modern era."

The inaugural meeting was held on January 29th at Walkley Road in conjunction with the Friend-to-friend and Mentors workshop which was coordinated by W. Bro. Dario Mancuso, Ottawa 1 District. We worked together to maximize the opportunity for the brethren, their sponsors and mentors to attend together. Over 25 "newer" Masons attended, with a few of the MM attending the workshop. In Lodge Room 2, we had three small presentations. W. Bro. Graeme Jamieson talked about the various avenues of participation within the Lodge, the District, and beyond; W. Bro. Shawn Woods elaborated on the "Social" side of masonry, locally and internationally; and we all explored the expectations and conceptions that our newest members express, and how we can better facilitate their active participation in the Craft. Spouses asked some thoughtful questions about the Craft and appreciated the opportunity to gain some insight into the practices, symbolism and furnishings of the room. RW Bro John Forster was there to assist with some of the more "difficult" questions; and RW Bro. Paul Todd also contributed to our discussions. While we continued our discussions in the Lodge room, the Ladies (spouses) met for their small group session upstairs, which was led by a Mason's wife. They do appreciate being "in the loop", and would welcome opportunities to participate; especially in Charitable events. All met upstairs for lunch following the Workshops, with thanks to our District for underwriting most of that.

Since then, one of our newest MM, with the assistance of several "experienced" Past Masters and this committee, is developing a series of small Seminars geared at newer masons, and after GL Seminars of the same nature this July, we hope to integrate this enthusiastic Master Mason's interests with those presented at Grand Lodge. The RAs seem eager for such; especially if coupled with an enjoyable social.

The second event, the Car Rally, is being held on June 18th, with approximately 25-30 participants expected to enjoy a day of fun & fellowship; followed by an exquisite Dinner. We endeavour not to lose anyone!

I have also asked the members of the PMMWA Association to consider "sponsoring" the Rough Ashlars. With a wealth of knowledge at their disposal, newer Masons should certainly be able to access Advisors, Mentors, and facilitators. It certainly fits within the scope of the Association and the aims of our Assemblies.

Lastly, we recommend that this Committee continue, and ask for the co-operation of all Lodges and sponsors to "communicate" with our newer brethren; whether by post, e-mail, telephone to keep them up to date and as active as possible within their Lodges & Districts in particular, as well as the Craft in general.

*Respectfully submitted, June 3rd, 2011 by W. Bro. Charles Singh (Ionic Lodge),
W. Bro. Shawn Woods (Chaudiere Lodge); W. Bro. Graham Jamieson (Renfrew Lodge)
and W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah (St Andrews Lodge)
Rough Ashlar Convenors 2010-2011*