



Education Monthly

March 2013

Last month we had a Monday holiday in Ontario and several other (but not all) Provinces. In Ontario it is now called Family Day but originally it was going to be FLAG DAY. A pity, as we are proud of our flag and especially so given the part played in its adoption by one of Ontario's most distinguished Masons. So I thought it fitting that we recognize this with the following essay created by M.W.Bro Daniels.

John Forster

A Masonic Minute -- submitted by M.W.Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels. P.G.M

The Canadian Maple Leaf Flag

The Canadian Maple Leaf Flag was adopted by Parliament on December 16, 1964, officially proclaimed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and inaugurated on February 15, 1965. The adoption of the distinctive design emerged from much debate, led by the Leader of the Opposition, the Right Honourable Bro. John George Diefenbaker. Our distinguished Brother, the Honourable John Ross Matheson, at the time the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson, by adroit negotiations with the opposing parties, was instrumental in the final resolution of the debate. Bro. Matheson is also responsible for the creation of the Order of Canada.

Bro. Matheson was initiated in Queen's Lodge No. 578, Kingston in 1940 on the night before he was deployed with his regiment for active service in World War Two. He is the recipient of the William Mercer Wilson Medal for Meritorious Service, a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of the Royal Order of Scotland. On November 13, 2010, Bro. Matheson was presented with the Long Service Award – 70 Years a Freemason in a ceremony attended by the Speaker of the House, Members of both the Federal Parliament and the Ontario Legislature, together with a host of friends and family.

The words from the Sacred Writings in the Book of Revelation, "*The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations*" were quoted to describe the distinctive design of the Maple Leaf Flag. In a speech given to the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Bro. Matheson said: "*Our symbolism must need affirm spiritual values. It conveys a message of noble expectations for humanity, of our Masonic hope for an even 'better country.'* Each of us, like the Flag, represents Canada. This nation can be no worthier than what we imagine and will it to be."

When M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby was the Director of the R.C.M.P. Degree Team, this Charge to the Flag was given as part of the ceremony:

I present our Flag, our symbol of Unity and Sovereignty,

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Between bars of red on a field of white,
It blazons forth in its full Autumnal glory.

The Canadian Maple Leaf

Whose points represent the Provinces and Territories,
Which comprise our great Dominion.

To Freemasons –

The red symbolizes the dauntless courage of our forefathers, which we strive to emulate,

The white, that blameless purity of life and conduct to which we aspire,

And the points, the eleven knightly virtues, of which Patriotism is the greatest, and to which we are ever dedicated,

And finally, it inspires in us a reverence to Him, to whom we fervently pray

God Save the Queen, and heaven bless **The Maple Leaf Forever**.

Masonic Education Conferences 2013

I'm pleased to announce that, after the success of our education conference in Ottawa last June, there are to be 3 such conferences held this year in Ottawa, Thunder Bay and London respectively. Further details will be forthcoming in next month's Education Monthly but the dates of these conferences are :--

OTTAWA Saturday May 25th a full day conference at the Ottawa Masonic Centre. There will be a keynote speaker and presentations by brethren with time for questions and discussion.

THUNDER BAY. Saturday June 1st. Location TBA. A morning conference in conjunction with the Grand Master's visit to Thunder Bay.

LONDON. Saturday Sept 7th. London Masonic Hall. A full day conference.

Finally, if you haven't already registered for the **Annual Sankey lecture** Please do so now. Prof. Joy Porter University of Hull U.K. will be speaking on "Native American Freemasonry: Joseph Brant to the 21st Century"

Sunday, March 24, 2013, 3 p.m. at **Brock University Thistle Auditorium, Room Th325, 500 Glenridge Ave. St. Catharine's, Ontario.** In lieu of charging for admission, a [tax deductible] contribution is requested to:

Masonic Foundation of Ontario, Brock University Partnership - Project Number 2937

<http://www.sankeylectures.ca>

All of these monthly newsletters and much else are available on the Grand Lodge web site. From my correspondence I find that many people are unable to access this. And others as yet have not tried. The information that is available on the web site is growing steadily and will continue to do so. Instructions for accessing the web site members' section are below. Please use your web site often. It is becoming a very important mode of communication.

Web Site Member Area Access: <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/> >> Login

Username: your 6 digit Grand Lodge Certificate number [from your actual Certificate, Lodge Secretary, or Email webmaster@grandlodge.on.ca]

Password: Initial password = your 6 digit Grand Lodge Certificate number. [change on first access and provide your Email address, to be used if you ever require a password reset]

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