



COMPANY COMMENT

February 2001 IN THIS ISSUE

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Where to Find Us

Master:

Capt. G. Ray Gibson
28 McCulla Ave.
Brampton, ON L6V 1L7
Phone 905 451 0211

Deputy Master:

Neil Purcell
8 Carman Court
Barrie, ON L4N 5E8
Phone: 705 721 1769
Fax: 416 638 3476
E-mail: neilivia@home.com

Honorary Clerk:

Geoffrey Mayo
38 Avenue Road, Suite 813
Toronto, ON M5R 2G2
Phone: 416 928 9249
Fax: 416 928 9418
E-mail: gemayo@total.net

Honorary Treasurer:

John S. Smith
2262 Devon Rd.
Oakville, ON L6J 5N3
Phone 905 842 1073
Fax: (office) 416 974 4999
E-mail: john.smith@royalbank.com

Editor:

Peter Leach
Rocky Ridge Farm
4132 Appleton Side Rd., R.R. #3
Almonte, ON K0A 1A0
Phone: 613 257 1331
Fax: 613 257 8058
E-mail: pleach@cito.ca

From the Master, Capt Ray Gibson

As I consider the operation of our Honourable Company, I am very conscious of the fact that the Master serves for one year only and is the leader for that time of a team of Court Members and other volunteers. He can achieve nothing without the active support encouragement, support and work of this team. I am delighted to report back to you that the team you selected to support me at the last General Meeting is second to none.

At a recent Court Meeting at the home of Geoffrey Mayo, our Honorary Clerk, was a very positive experience for me with every task on our agenda being resolved. All the Wardens were present, save those out of the Country, and all contributed to the discussion and decisions. Even those away, had provided their comment to Geoffrey for inclusion in the decisions.

I, like so many of our members, am a member of several Boards of Directors. Some operate very well while others have problems. It is so encouraging to find such a positive attitude, and it is a pleasure to “ring the gong” for the dedication of the Freemen of the City of London. You Court assembles from all over southern Ontario, and being there is given the priority you would expect from Honorable people of the Honourable Company. In the winter, attendance continues, even with the challenges of inclement weather, to ensure that the affairs of the Company are looked after.

Some of you will know that Past Master Gerry Wooll, conceived the idea to produce Company Comment, and as in many similar organizations was instantly assigned to task of making it happen. He served as editor

for many years and set a high standard to help the Company communicate better across our far-flung membership. Some will, I am sure, know how strongly Gerry has served his community of Niagara-on-the-Lake. He has been their Lord Mayor, the only city in Canada to have the distinction of such an appointment. Being the first capital of Upper Canada, it was granted this status for its “First Officer”. The reason that I comment on this now, that to report that Gary Burrows, a long-time Member of the Honourable Company has recently received the honor of being elected the Lord Mayor. On behalf of the entire Company, I would like to congratulate Gary on this appointment. Many of you will recall that Gary hosted a very enjoyable dinner for the Lord Mayor of London in 1994 during one of the all too rare visits of the “CEO” of the City. He held this under a large marquee at his lovely home, which adjoins the Oban Inn.

Following my attendance at the reception and luncheon for the Lord Mayor of London, the Right Honourable Alderman Clive Martin, OBE, TD, DL on 18th October, I received a very positive letter from him thanking the Hon. Company for the support he received during his visit.

Robin Eve, Chief Commoner of the City, also wrote to thank us and included a copy of the very beautiful scroll that was produced for the special luncheon to celebrate the Centennial year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The original was made in satin with decoration in gold braid, and the event was held in the Guildhall on 27th June 2000.

I am most pleased to welcome a substantial number of new Members of the Hon. Company. Some have found us through our events, while other responded to the mentioning of the Company in “City View”. The short write-up about the Hon. Company listed our Clerk as a contact, and we have had several enquiries about joining us. It clearly pays to advertise in the right places.

As in my previous column, I would like to repeat my strong encouragement to you, the Members of this Company to consider the possibility of your business associates, colleagues and friends as potential Members. It is remarkable how many times a new Member becomes a strong supporter when brought into Membership by a committed colleague. This urging is not only for those around Toronto, but in cities across this great continent where you have the enthusiasm to build a functioning chapter of Freemen. We have such Chapters in the areas around Halifax and Vancouver, and would like to encourage more of these.

I would also like to encourage you to become more active in the events of the Hon. Company. Your fellow Freemen would enjoy your company and you would meet a lot of interesting people.

New Members

Neville Worsnok and Jo Phenix

It is seldom that we have a husband and wife team becoming Members of the Honourable Company. However, this is the case with Neville and Jo. They may best be described as an “arts and education couple”. Jo is internationally known as an author and educator, spending a considerable part of her time lecturing around the globe. Neville is a highly respected actor and playwright. As we go to press, he is performing in Cape Town, South Africa and in March will be heading to Hong Kong for a part in another play. Both Neville and Jo are active Rotarians and both have served as Club Presidents. They are also very active in several charities. They were proposed by Ray Gibson as affiliate Members and will be seeking the Freedom shortly

Don Duthie

Don is a strong supporter of “things British”. He was actively involved in bringing the Royal Air Force to perform at the Canadian International Air Show. He has also served as a Director of the Canadian National Exhibition. Now semi-retired, he holds the rank of major in the RCAF and gives freely of his spare time to running the Air Cadets Training Programs. Again, Ray Gibson was responsible for Don’s recruitment.

Barkat Khan

Having spent many of his early years in London, Barkat Khan has fond memories of England. Originally a successful Chartered Accountant and company manager, some 20 years ago, he formed his own company to make sports uniforms. It was a very successful move and he makes most of the uniforms for hockey teams – especially for the NHL. Barkat is an active Rotarian and works with a number of local charities and seniors groups. He is a Ray Gibson recruit to the Honourable Company.

Peter Matthews

Peter is the immediate Past President of the Royal St. George’s Society of Halifax. He is a great supporter of things British as his long commitment to the Royal St. George’s Society shows. He was introduced to the Honourable Company by Commander Michael Goble R.N. (retired), who was invited to talk to the Society about the Honourable Company. With the connection established, the maritime link with Ken Wood, and his attendance to the East Coast Dinner in Halifax, his decision to apply for membership was a gratifying outcome. We welcome a new and enthusiastic member to our East Coast community and hope that he can synchronize occasional visits to Toronto to coincide with some of our other events there. Ken Wood proposed Peter for membership.

The Worshipful Company of Engineers

In this issue, we are taking a look at one of the most recent London Livery Companies, number 94. This is a Company that has an active roll in the professional activities of its members.

Our connection

This is the Worshipful Company of our Honorary Clerk, Geoffrey Mayo. Geoffrey is a successful professional engineer, has been a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers for fifty years and was elected a Fellow in 1967. Geoffrey started his professional career as a lecturer and taught electronics in the late 50's. He went on to teach computer engineering and programming in the 60's. His research interest in computer aided design led to the creation of a small electronics company which was to grow, in the following twenty five years to an International Group of which he was Technical Director and Chairman.

In 1981, Geoffrey and his family moved to Canada for five years while the company was establishing operations in Oakville and Chicago. After retiring in 1995, Geoffrey and his wife, Elaine, decided to move back to Toronto where they still had many friends and a daughter who is a Doctor in Oakville with two grandchildren. Geoffrey continues to be active as a liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Engineers as well as in the Honourable Company of Freemen.

Company History

Being formed and receiving its letters patent in 1983, the historical record is short but well recorded. Sir Peter Gadsden GBE, AC, FR Eng and a former Lord Mayor of the City of London, together with several eminent engineers who were also Freemen and members of other Livery Companies, joined together with the vision of establishing a Livery Company for Engineers. This crystallized very quickly, with the main objective of "affording the means of professional and social intercourse and mutual information between its members, those who practice engineering and those who benefit therefrom, so as to promote the development and advancement of the science, art and practice of engineering in the City of London and elsewhere." The formation of the Worshipful Company was supported by the Fellowship (now the Royal Academy) of Engineering and the Company of Engineers was formed on 29th June 1983.

The petition for the granting of Letters Patent for the creation of a Livery Company to be called 'The Worshipful Company of Engineers' was submitted to the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen of the City on 5th July. In a record time, the Grant of the Livery as the 94th Livery Company was

approved on 13th September and the Letters Patent were presented to the Founding Master by the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Sir Anthony Joliffe GBE at the Mansion House on 1st November 1983. The incredible speed with which the formation was completed was clearly due to the skill and connections of the Founders to the City community and it was only possible when the new Company represents an substantial economic sector that is not otherwise represented in the City. The Engineers had both of these attributes.

Organization

The Liverymen of the Worshipful Company must be fellows of a Chartered Engineering Institution and the membership encompasses all of the principal disciplines of the Engineering profession. The Company is involved in and supports the development and advancement of the science, art and practice of engineering for the benefit of the public, and assists in the exchange of information between its Members, those who practice engineering and those that benefit from its practice.

The Company has about 300 Members; a number that the City Aldermen have agreed can increase to 350. These individuals are expected to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. As is the case with all Freemen of the City, they have the right to vote for the election of the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor.

The Court consists of up to 30 Assistants from whom the Court elect the Master and three Wardens, and it is usual that there is a progression from Junior Warden to Master over a 4 year period. The Clerk and Beadle are appointed to serve the Company and the Court, and are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Company.

Activities

Through its charitable Trust fund, the Company gives a number of awards and prizes to encourage excellence amongst qualified engineers and those training to become Chartered, and Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Technicians

This article was edited form information collected from the Worshipful Company of Engineers website www.engineerscompany.org.uk and from Geoffrey Mayo, Engineer and Freeman, and our Honorary Clerk.

Publicity for the Honourable Company

The existence and activities of the Honourable Company were included in an article in "LiveryLive", a new supplement to "CityView". The following is the article:

"North American Livery

The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America traces its origins to May 1979 when an inaugural Banquet was held in Toronto. The Principal objective of the Company was to continue to observe the guiding ethos of the Livery: provide moral leadership by setting standards of excellence in trade and probity in public life. Such qualities always need encouragement wither in mediaeval London or the New World.

In 1980, the Lord Mayor of London sent his blessing for the enterprise, its existence was reported to the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and the Honourable Company received permission to use the Coat of Arms of the City of London on its letterhead.

The Company aims to hold a minimum of three social functions a year. At formal dinners, the ceremony of the Loving Cup is performed. In addition, groups of members living on the east and west coasts occasionally hold separate meetings.

The Company has formed a charitable foundation with the aim of providing support to worthy causes that identify with the Company's objectives such as supporting students pursuing a specific trade or research."

As a result of this article, a number of Freemen have contacted the Company to find out more about our activities and we hope that they will join the Company to participate and to attract other people who would benefit from membership.

Want to keep in touch with the City?

While we thought that all Freemen would receive the quarterly City of London Magazine "CITYVIEW", this does not appear to be the case. This magazine has been expanded with a substantial co-published magazine on the Livery Companies called "LIVERYLIVE". If you do not receive this colorful and informative twin magazine but would like to, write to the Public Relations Office, Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ. For those that are hooked on the web or want to get the very latest information on the City visit the Corporation's website: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk. Currently 34 Livery Companies have websites linked from the City's site (link <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/history/origins/livery>) and most of these are very informative.

Pictures of the Honourable Company

We regret that there are no photographs of Company Members or our events this month. If you have photographs, please forward them, digitally if you can, to the editor, with a short explanation and identity of all the people shown. Ed