Members of the Community Services Standing Committee:

The Hamilton Historical Board having met on April 12, 2005 presents Report No. 05-003(HHB) and respectfully recommends:

(a) that the wording for the R.A.F. plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix “A”, be approved.

(b) that the wording for the Canada’s First Grand Lodge plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix “B”, be approved.

Financial / Staffing / Legal Implications:

(a) Funding for the manufacture, installation and dedication of one commemorative plaque per year resides in the Manager of Culture’s budget allocation.

(b) The manufacture and dedication of the Canada’s First Grand Lodge plaque will be paid for by the Masons of Hamilton Districts A, B, and C. Funds for the installation of this plaque are available in the Manager of Culture’s Plaquing account.

Background:


It is a fitting tribute to all Veterans and particularly those of the RAF as well as providing greater visibility for the Commemorative Plaque programme in the rural communities of the City of Hamilton.

The attached wording was approved by the Hamilton Historical Board at their meeting on 12 April 2005.

The plaque will be installed in the Remembrance Garden. The Garden began in the year 2000 and is maintained by St. Paul’s Glanford Anglican Church congregation. The dedication ceremony is planned for approximately 11:30am, Sunday, September 25, 2005 after the annual
service of remembrance held at St. Paul’s. This service has been a church tradition since the war’s end in 1945. Two veterans, currently residing in England, from the No. 33 Air Navigation School at Mount Hope will be attending the ceremony.

(b) The Grand Lodge of Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2005. The Masons of Hamilton Districts A, B, and C asked the Joint Plaquing Sub-committee at its meeting on 2 November 2004 to facilitate the manufacture and installation of a plaque commemorating this anniversary with a plaque describing Canada’s First Grand Lodge in Hamilton.

The attached wording was approved by the Hamilton Historical Board at their meeting on 12 April 2005.

The plaque will be installed at the offices of the Grand Lodge of Canada, 364 King St. West. The dedication ceremony is planned for Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Walter Peace, Chair
Hamilton Historical Board
THEY SLIPPED THE SURLY BONDS OF EARTH

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (B.C.A.T.P.) was inaugurated in 1939 at the onset of the Second World War to provide air training for Commonwealth airmen, safely removed from active war zones. The Canadian Government sponsored this war-winning plan which produced approximately 140,000 airmen and 45,000 ground crew.

Six of the one hundred and seven Canadian B.C.A.T.P airfields were located in this part of Ontario. No. 33 Air Navigation School at Mount Hope was established in 1941 in addition to No. 10 Elementary Flying School and No. 1 Air Wireless School. Between November 1941 and December 1943, sixteen R.A.F. servicemen in the Air Navigation School died while in training here and all but two were buried in St. Paul's Glanford Anglican Church Cemetery. A service of remembrance has been held annually for these men who lie far from home. In 2000, a Remembrance Garden was planted by the congregation and dedicated to the memory of these R.A.F. members.

Hamilton Historical Board 2005

165 Words
Final April 5, 2005

References:
Glanford Recollections and Reflections, published 1985
St. Paul’s Glanford Church History, published 2001
St. Paul’s Glanford church records
Hamilton Spectator files, 1941-1945
CANADA’S FIRST GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONs
(A.F. & A.M.)

Sir Allan Napier MacNab, Provincial Grand Master under patent from Scotland, was also appointed Provincial Grand Master for Upper Canada under patent from England in 1844. Due to much dissatisfaction with the Grand Lodge of England, a protest meeting was held in Hamilton in 1855 with representatives from forty-one regularly warranted lodges in attendance.

On October 10th, 1855 in the Masonic Hall at the N.E. corner of John and Main Street, Hamilton, the independent Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada was duly constituted. By the following July, Judge William Mercer Wilson, the Grand Master, presided over thirty affiliated lodges, containing 1179 members. The virtually moribund Provincial Grand Lodge, presided over by MacNab under authority from England, decided to exert its independence and became known as the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada.

On July 14, 1858, at its Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of Canada absorbed the Ancient Grand Lodge, dissolving the latter. Within three years, 155 lodges held warrants. By 1905, the fiftieth year of Masonry as an independent organization in Ontario, 390 lodges and 35,000 members were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. As it enters its sesqui-centennial year there are 611 lodges and 58,000 members. Its modern headquarters at 363 King Street West, Hamilton, stands adjacent to the Masonic Centre.

Donated by the Masons of Hamilton Districts A, B, and C, October 2005.
Hamilton Historical Board 2005

257 Words
Final April 25, 2005