

THE BULLETIN

One of our gentle Fraternity's fundamental requirements is the belief in a Supreme Being.

December is synonymous with Christmas, and conjures up picture postcard images of snow-encased landscapes, colourful lights, warm glowing fires, Christmas Eve services and children taut with anticipation.

Moreover, while these images may be true for a great deal of us, December holds special significance for faiths other than Christianity and sees observances that include:

Hanukkah - *Jewish* Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight candle Menorah is lighted

Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) - *Buddhist* celebration of the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment

Zarathosht Diso - *Zoroastrian* anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathushtra.

As a *Christian*, I extend sincere Christmas greetings from Fern and I to Your Family and wishes for a rewarding and successful New Year.

As your *Brother* I say:

ماله س , *Mir, Rauha, Paix, Frieden*, מולש ,
Pace, Pokój, мир, світу

Rob Fleming
Program Director

Peace



This Issue:

- 🍁 Our 50,000th kit issued
- 🍁 From a Cop's Eyes
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Our 50,000th Kit Issued



Jocelyn (left in light top) with Dad, Mom and sister Anastasia

W. Bro. George Sider, MASON Ch.I.P. Chairman for Niagara B District, organized another child identification clinic, held at the fire hall in Port Robinson on October 10th. It proved to be a milestone evening as the District processed its 500th child and also the 50,000th kit in Ontario. This distinction came to Jocelyn, the daughter of Don of King Edward VII lodge. Eighteen volunteers were present from seven of the eleven District Lodges.



From a Cop's Eyes

You've heard the saying "Once a cop, always a cop," and that's so true. How do you show up day in and day out, always wearing the uniform and the badge, learn the millions of details we have to know in this incredibly demanding career, do the job of several officers by being there for nearly everything and everyone, and then suddenly turn it all off one day just because you're 60 or 65 years old? It's nearly impossible. You can't just turn this all off. You will continue to see the world from a cop's eye.

Most of us come into this job with our hearts in the right place. We sincerely enjoy public service. Not just putting the bad guys in jail, but also helping to feed war veterans, return lost children into the arms of their grateful parents, and comfort seniors who call because they are afraid of the bumps in the night that come with living alone. Doing this kind of work gets to you, in a good way. Not to say that it's never irritating checking up on people who are paranoid or even mentally ill. But mostly these types of calls give us a serious reason for waking up in the morning. Checking up on people like this is about as meaningful as life can be, outside of taking care of our own families. Cops get use to being needed, and take great pleasure in making a difference in people's lives.

I don't care if you are a new rookie or a seasoned cop, the worst call you can receive is when a child goes missing. I've sat with parents who've reported their child missing. I've sat with parents whose child ended up not making it through this. It is not a pleasant feeling.

When a child goes missing, our first step is to interview the parents of the child who I can only describe them as beyond hysterical. Trying to obtain a more detailed description of what their child looked like but their uncontrollable sobbing can make this impossible. Even when calmed slightly, some parents could not provide any detail of their child, or even a recent photo. The more time that passes in these types of cases typically the worse the ending is going to be. But when you locate a child, the feeling of jubilation is indescribable as parent is reunited with child.

MASONICH.I.P. ONTARIO is based on one created by the Masons of North America. Parents allow Masons to gather a dental impression, a DNA cheek swab, digital still photos, digital fingerprints and a video interview compiled into a kit that is given to the parent. If a child becomes missing, the parent can immediately have all the important information about their child ready in an Amber Alert compatible format, so authorities can help find them.

If child goes missing, the first thing, and the only thing, a parent need to worry about, is calling 911. Getting the police involved as soon as possible, supplying them with as much information as you can in a timely manner is critical. And that is what it's all about.

R. W. Bro. Donald Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

AROUND THE JURISDICTION

