



THE BEAR FACTS

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London Scottish Rite Learning Centre Newsletter



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The London Scottish Rite Learning Centre
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Retirement Announced

Ill. Bro. Matthew Todd, 33°, the Executive Director of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre Program, has announced his retirement. After serving as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Canada from 2009 to 2012, Matt readily accepted the role of Executive Director and has served in that capacity for the past ten years.

During his tenure, Matt oversaw the probationary period for, and the expansion to include, a satellite location, the strengthening of the existing centres, the addition of a ninth centre, the foray into virtual tutoring, and coping with the many issues brought on by the Covid pandemic. All the while, Matt continued in his role as a tutor with the Halifax Learning Centre. According to Matt, "This is the best volunteer job I've ever had."



Executive Director Matt Todd with London's former Director Margaret Cowan.

On behalf of the London Learning Centre, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Matt and we wish him good health and happy days in his retirement.

From one of our parents:

My daughter really likes coming even though it's like school after school hours.

Tutor Training Is Underway

The next round of tutor training got underway this month with five new tutors. The training represents a major commitment on the part of the tutors as evidenced by the list of requirements:

- Minimum 45 hours of coursework
- 100 hours of supervised practicum in one-on-one tutoring with at least two students
- One- or two-page book reports on five specified books
- Familiarity with the three main tutoring guides.

Training with this enthusiastic and eager group will continue over the next eight months. It goes without saying that commitment and dedication apply wholeheartedly to our tutors.



Three new tutor trainees

Eastern Star Donation



Worthy Matron Maxine King, Tutor Trainer Cathee Crinklaw and Worthy Patron Rob King from Victory Chapter No. 50 in Sarnia

Members of Victory Chapter No. 50 Eastern Star in Sarnia recently made a donation to the London Learning Centre. Worthy Matron Maxine King explained that she and her husband were familiar with the Learning Centre in Moncton, N.B. After moving to Sarnia and becoming Worthy Matron and Patron they decided to support the London Learning Centre, which they did by selling Krispy Kreme donuts. A very special thank you to the members of Victory Chapter and to Worthy Matron and Worthy patron for their generous support.

The London Scottish Rite Learning Centre is now accepting applications for our tutoring program for children with dyslexia (reading difficulties).

Application forms may be found on our website: www.lsrhc.ca

It is with much sadness....

Douglas R. Banks, 33°

27 February 1930 – 12 August 2022



Ill. Bro. Doug Banks, 33° was having a casual conversation with Ill. Bro. Bob Barnett, 33° one day when the topic of the experience of the Scottish Rite Southern Masonic Jurisdiction in the US came up. They were providing remediation for children with dyslexia. After further discussion, they decided to pursue the issue, engaged in a little research, and prepared a proposal for the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation. The SRCF authorized a pilot project which met with rapid success, and in 2003, the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centres for Children program was launched. Doug remained an active member of the Board of Directors even at the time of his passing.

Doug was born and raised in London, Ontario and received his B.A. from then University of Western Ontario and subsequently his B.Ed. from the University of Toronto. He had his specialist certificate in Geography and Guidance but was also certificated to teach math, science, history as well as elementary classes. Most of his career was spent at the secondary level but he also taught every grade from 4 to 13. He also taught at the Althouse College of Education.

During his career, Doug helped train volunteer teachers headed for Africa and he went to Guyana to train teachers there as well as to Malaysia as part of the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization. While there, he helped UNESCO Asia organize the first

Asian Science Olympics and Science Fair, the latter which was at his suggestion.

Doug served on several support organizations for educators including a term as president of the Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education. He was president of the Curriculum Forum for Ontario, chairman of the Education Committee of the Canadian Association of Geographers, and on the Board of the US National Council for Geographic Education. He also served as chairman of the Geography Discipline Committee of TVO and designed and consulted on an award-winning video series for TVO among many other local, national and international ventures.

Masonically, Doug was a third-generation member of St. John's Lodge No. 209a. He was instrumental in writing the previously unwritten Irish ritual requested by Grand Lodge. He was made an honorary member of St. Fin Barre's Lodge in Cork, Ireland and was elected to the Lodge of Research CC in Dublin, Ireland. In 1993, he was appointed Grand Steward of our Grand Lodge. He joined London Lodge of Perfection in 1976, London Sovereign Chapter Rose Croix in 1986 and Moore Sovereign Consistory in 1989. He was coroneted an Honorary Inspector-General, 33° in Halifax in 1994. He has also been an active member of the Royal Arch Masons and their various bodies as well as a member of Mocha Shrine.

In a similar conversation to that which started the Learning Centres, Doug was chatting with another Mason about the plight of older citizens to find affordable housing. This conversation prompted them to organize an apartment complex with rent geared-to-income. The outcome was the Mercer Wilson Centre with 86 apartments, 9 of which are for physically challenged people. Here again, Doug has remained active on the Board of Directors of the Centre.

A full list of Doug's accomplishments are too numerous to list on this page. Suffice it to say, where he saw a need, he stepped up, and carried out his task "for the cause of good". He will be sorely missed.

LEAVES ARE FALLING

Leaves are falling from the trees,
Leaves of orange and leaves of green.
Leaves are falling on my head,
Leaves of purple and leaves of red.
Leaves are falling on the ground,
Leaves of yellow and leaves of brown.
Rake them in a giant pile
Jump right in with a great big smile!



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New Learning Centre Director Needed

The London Scottish Rite Learning Centre is looking for an individual to be the Learning Centre Director. If that is you, or you know of someone who wants to help transform the lives of children with dyslexia, this can be a very fulfilling opportunity.

The Director will work with a volunteer Board of Directors, tutors, children, parents and volunteers to support and implement the Learning Centre's goals and objectives. The Learning Centre follows the Orton-Gillingham approach in the tutor program.

The Centre is open for tutoring Monday to Thursday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Director will be expected to be present in the Centre during these hours and other times as necessary.

It is expected that the successful candidate will have post-secondary education and/or experience ideally in the education sector. Additionally, the Director will complete the tutor certification in the Orton-Gillingham approach. The position carries with it an honourarium to be negotiated.

This is your opportunity to make a difference in our community and in the lives of our children. For more information, please contact Cathee Crinklaw at crcrinklaw.lsrhc@gmail.com.

The President's Report



It feels like summer just started and now it has come to an end all too soon. Fall is upon us and that means that school is back and the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre is open again. Our tutors have been busy getting the Centre ready to receive the children for face-to-face tutoring.

We are still searching for a new Centre Director. If you or you know of someone who would like to make a difference in the lives of children in our community, please contact me at sutherlandjames16@gmail.com or Cathee Crinklaw at ccrinklaw.lsrhc@gmail.com. As an interim measure our tutor trainer Cathy Crinklaw and two of our tutors will be filling in as the Centre Director in addition to their normal duties. We hope that this will be for a very short period of time, until we can recruit a new Centre Director.

In August the London Valley Scottish Rite Tournament returned after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. The funds raised by this golf tournament go to the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre. A big thank you to Duncan Fick and his team for organizing the return of this event. Needless to say, the tournament's two year absence put a dent in the funds raised for the operation of our Learning Centre.

You may have heard that our landlord, Mocha Shrine, has put the property up for sale. If there is a sale, we will work with the new owners regarding the operation of the Learning Centre. We will keep everyone informed as to what is happening with the property and the Learning Centre over the coming months.

Our Fall funding campaign will begin next month. I hope you will keep the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre in mind when making your charitable donation decisions.

James Sutherland

From one of our students:

The new place is great! Lots of room and lots of light! But can we have snacks again?



THE LONDON SCOTTISH RITE LEARNING CENTRE PROVIDES FREE TUTORING TO CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA



There is nothing more rewarding than working with a child who needs your help.

Tutor Training and all supplies provided

Candidates must have a Post Secondary Degree or Certificate

Teaching Experience an asset but not required

To find out more, contact

londonsrlc@gmail.com

FREEMASONS HELPING CHILDREN

www.lsrlc.ca



Your Support is Still Needed

If you would like to financially support the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre, knowing that your gift will have a lasting impact on children with dyslexia, there are several ways you can do this.

1. Make an **eTransfer** to secretarylsrlc@gmail.com. Ensure that you include your name and address in the message section so that we may thank you for your donation and send you a tax receipt.
2. Mail a **cheque**, payable to London Scottish Rite Learning Centre, to London Scottish Rite Learning Centre, 453 Dufferin Street, London, Ontario N6B 1Z7
3. Become a **Sustaining Donor** and pledge an amount of your choice each year over the next three years.

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All donations will be acknowledged and an official tax receipt for income tax purposes will be mailed to you. Please note, we do not trade, sell, rent or otherwise share our mailing list information. If you would like your donation to remain anonymous simply indicate so with your donation. If you require additional information, please contact the office at 519-434-5081.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

The Learning Centre continues to search for additional assistance.

We especially need volunteers who would be willing to donate three to four hours once or twice a month to greet the kids and their parents when they arrive at the Learning Centre, to act as observers of the tutorial sessions, to prepare snacks for the kids, to wipe down all surfaces before and after sessions.

If you are interested in helping, or know someone who might be interested, please contact the Learning Centre office at **519-646-2904**.