



# COMPANY COMMENT

The Honourable Company of Freemen of the  
City of London of North America

[www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org)

## March 2002

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### From the Master

There is an old saying that time goes by quickly when you are having fun. There is a similar saying about being busy. Both are definitely true. Already more than nine months of my year as Master have gone by. It has been an interesting and rewarding time. Being involved in running the affairs of the Honourable Company is an honour and presents never ending opportunities to be with some very special people and to participate in many interesting and meaningful activities.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of people on the Court who all appreciate the responsibilities and the rewards of being of service to the Honourable Company. I recommend to each of you that you consider ways you could become involved and contact a member of the Court to offer your services.

Since the last issue of the Company Comment we have seen a number of positive developments. We held a very successful Burns Night Charity Scotch Tasting Event on January 23rd at Grand Touring Automobiles in the Jaguar showroom. The turnout was excellent with 75 in attendance and resulted in a significant amount being raised for our Freemen of London Educational Charity. Glenfiddich sponsored this event and we are very grateful to them and to Grand Touring Automobiles for their support.

It is a decision of the Court not to arrange an event every month (we usually have 8 or 9 a year), but to encourage our members to attend and support events of the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the St. George's Society of Toronto. Both are held frequently and can be found through our web site Events page. Both of these organizations share our values, aims and goals, provide valuable services to the community and



### The Queen Mother

4<sup>th</sup> August 1900 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2002

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Throughout the last Century, she has been an ardent supporter of the history, heritage and traditions of England and, in particular, of those of the City of London. She has been a regular attendee of Livery and City Ceremonial Events although she has not been able to remain active in the last years of her long and most respected and revered life. I am sure that all Freemen will join the Court in offering our sincerest condolences to the Queen, all the Members of the Royal Family, the Queen Mother's staff and her close friends, and to all British people. Her loss will be felt deeply and for a long time, but her legacy will live forever in the hearts and minds of all people. Many of these legacies are already part of the culture and traditions of Great Britain and especially of the City of London.

hold many interesting and worthwhile events. Take a look at what they have to offer. You will be glad you did.

Our recruitment efforts are paying off and I am pleased to report we have 12 new members since October including some ladies and younger members who I think will play an important role in our future.

We have also had 10 members apply for the Freedom of the City of London with 2 approved and 8 in process. We offer congratulations to Josephine Phenix and Neville Worsnop who attended the Chamberlain's Court on February 27th for the Freedom Ceremony. I encourage all of our members who are not yet Freemen to contact me and obtain the Application for the Freedom form. The process is relatively simple and straightforward. We will be pleased to handle all the necessary details on your behalf in conjunction with our London Clerk Godfrey Jacobs. Once approved you will be asked to attend the Chamberlain's Court at the Guild Hall in London for the Freedom Ceremony. This is a very meaningful event for the recipients and may be attended by relatives and friends.

On a very special personal note, I am pleased to advise that I am now a Liveryman of the Painter-Stainers. I have been a Freeman of the Painter-Stainers since November 2000 and this was the next and final step in the process of my becoming a Painter-Stainer. I traveled to London for the ceremony that took place on February 19th at Painters' Hall. Upon becoming a Liveryman, one of the candidates is designated to make a short speech thanking the Master, Wardens and Members of the Court. I was fortunate enough to be chosen for this honour. It made this whole special occasion even more special for me. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon at Painters' Hall to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

I stayed for the week with my very good friend Godfrey Jacobs who introduced me to all this a few years ago, invited me to get involved and sponsored me all along the way. Tony Kemp (Past Master 1981) was also in England at the same time and came by, had dinner and stayed the night before returning to Toronto. Godfrey is a Past Master of the Honourable Company (1985), Past Master of the Painter-Stainers (1996) and he has recently re-assumed the duties as our London Clerk. I greatly appreciate the support and friendship Godfrey has shown to me and to the Honourable Company over many years.

During my visit to London Godfrey and I attended the Chamberlain's Court to facilitate the processing of members' applications and I was very warmly received by Lorraine Phillip, our principal contact at that Court. Over the years, we have established excellent contacts and relationships with the Chamberlain's Court, the Guild of Freemen, the City Livery Club, and a number of the Guilds and Livery Companies to better promote our mutual interests. Let me know if you are going to London. I may be able to be of assistance in making your trip even more successful and enjoyable.

Our next event is a Wine and Cheese Reception at the home of Hugh Oddie our Deputy Master on April 9th. Come and meet

the Court and have an enjoyable evening with fellow members and guests.

I remind you all to mark your calendars for Friday May 10th for our Annual General Meeting Dinner at the Albany Club when the new Master and Court will be installed. This is our premier event of the year and I ask all of you to attend and bring guests.

As signs of spring appear with the promise of rebirth, hope and new life, Livia and I wish you all love, joy and peace.

### **City Event Privileges - The Special Arrangements between the Honourable Company and the Guild of Freemen**

It has always been the wish of the Honourable Company to build and retain strong relationships with the City of London. One aspect of this is to create opportunities for our members to participate in City events when they visit London. Starting with the initiative of Amber Armitage, developed by Ron Lister and concluded by Peter Leach, the Honourable Company has in place such an arrangement with the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. This allows Guild Members to attend events of the Honourable Company, and for members of the Honourable Company to attend selected events of the Guild of Freemen. To make such arrangements, a Member must approach their respective Clerk and the Clerks will exchange confirmations. The Member must apply as far in advance of the event date as possible, and no later than 2 weeks before the event registration closing date. Payment to the hosting organization must be complete by the registration closing date. This is particularly important for members of the Honourable Company applying for attendance at Guild events as these are very well attended and usually have extensive waiting lists.

With the appointment of Brigadier Michael I. Keun as the new Clerk of the Guild of Freemen, we have reconfirmed the arrangements with the Guild and they have been reaffirmed in a unanimous vote of the Court of the Guild. Brigadier Keun replaces Colonel Derek Ivy as Clerk who was a great friend of the Honourable Company, and helped a number of our members become members of the Guild. We wish Colonel Ivy a happy and relaxing retirement, and Brigadier Keun much success in his new position. We are also indebted to John Harvey, Past Master (1981/82) and Honorary Editor of 'The Freeman' magazine for his energy in negotiating the arrangements with the Guild.

The Guild of Freemen is in the process of establishing a website so that there is easy access to information about the Guild and their events. The site should be operational by the summer on [www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk](http://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk). Until, it is operational, information on Guild events can be obtained from the Master, Neil Purcell or the editor of this publication, Peter Leach (Past master).

### **The Guild of Freemen of the City of London**

The Guild of Freemen is not a Livery Company and is not therefore included in the order of precedence. The membership

is less restrictive than the Livery Companies and the Guild, today, has more than 4000 members.

Many of the Members of the Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America are also members of the Guild of Freemen and those who have received the Freedom of the City, but are not Liverymen of one of the Companies, often join the Guild to strengthen their association with the City

### History

The Freedom of the City of London was, in earlier times, an essential prerequisite for all who carried on business within the 'square mile'. The privileges attached to the Freedom were therefore eagerly sought, and the duties and obligations of the Freedom were faithfully observed.

Not only did citizens practicing specific crafts and trades tend to gather together in their own areas of the City, but they also developed their own Guilds and Livery Companies founded on the triple bases of commerce, benevolence and religion. They provided mutual aid and protection for their members, caring for the old and infirm, burying of their dead, providing 'public' education for their children, helping widows and bringing up orphans. Through apprenticeship schemes, product control and in other ways, they ensured qualitative standards that enhanced their own reputations protecting the interests of clients and customers.

The involvement of Freemen in the development of London's government can be traced back to Saxon times – in fact to the Saxon folkmoot – and to the 'great concourse' of the early Norman kings. As London grew, its population, trade and craft industries expanded to such an extent that it was no longer possible for all Freemen to be directly involved in the evolving structure of local government. The direct involvement of Freemen in the government of London gave way to indirect management through the Masters and Wardens of their Guilds.

It remains necessary to this day for Liverymen to be Freemen of the City and, until 2000, it was the Freemen who annually elected the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. Electoral law continues to change considerably. Possibly the greatest change occurred over the last few years. In 2000, the entire electoral mechanism for the City officials was changed. Due to the heavy business focus of the City, companies actively involved in trade and commerce with offices located in the city were permitted to vote, with the number of votes granted being factored in relationship to employment levels. This places the City on the front edge of local electoral innovation.

The proud history of the City of London is such that large numbers of men and women rightly continue to regard it as a privilege to be admitted to the Freedom; further, their charitable involvements have been maintained in many different ways by the great variety of City institutions.

Amid all the processes of change, it was decided during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to turn back the pages of history so that people could once again seek the Freedom without first having to be accepted for admission into the Livery of a City Company. This development led in 1908 to the formation of the Guild of

Freemen so that Freemen of the City of London could associate together. Over the years, a large number of Liverymen have also chosen to seek membership in the Guild of Freemen, so that it is today uniquely representative of all who enjoy the Freedom.

### Social Activities

It has become traditional for each Lord Mayor to honour the Guild of Freemen by becoming its Patron during his or her year of Office. One of the major events of the year is the Banquet that the Guild holds at the Guildhall just before Christmas. The many links between the City and Parliament are marked by the Guild's annual dinner held at the House of Commons. An annual service is held in St. Paul's Cathedral and Guild members have the opportunity of participating in a variety of social functions, including receptions held in the historic halls of many of the City Livery Companies.

### Charitable Activities

True to the earliest traditions associated with the Freedom, the Guild of Freemen maintains and administers a number of charities established to assist members in distressed circumstances as well as widows and children of deceased members. Pupils of the City of London Freemen's School and of Christ's Hospital benefit from various educational grants and prizes. Every year, the Benevolent Committee gives careful consideration to applications from charities other than those directly administered by the Guild.

### Gender Equality

Freedom is not a prerogative of men alone. A Royal Commission was set up in 1880, known as the City of London Livery Companies Commission and its report confirmed that nearly all the ancient returns of the Livery Companies bore references to Sisters. They concluded that women were equally eligible for membership. Men and women alike are eligible for membership of the Guild.

### City Ceremonies – The Ceremony of the Loving Cup

As our members know, the City is steeped in tradition. Many of these are still practiced but their history is less well known. In the next few issues of Company Comment, we will recite some traditions and, to the best of the knowledge of our contributors, outline their history.

The tradition that is most often experienced by Freemen is the Ceremony of the Loving Cup. According to Chambers' 'Book of Days', the ceremony is said to date back from before the Norman Conquest in 1066 in the reign of King Edward the Martyr. At that time, it was customary at the drinking parties of our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, to pass round a large cup from which each drank, in turn, to the company present. Standing to take the drink with both hands clasping the cup, the body of the drinker was exposed. Without defence to a blow, the occasion was often seized upon by an enemy to commit murder. History recites that Elfrida, seeking revenge on King Edward, commanded that the King be stabbed while drinking from the communal cup at Corfe Castle.

To prevent people from becoming so vulnerable, a plan was adopted that forms the basis for the traditional ceremony. When one of the company stood to drink, he required the companions who sat next to him or two others of the party to be his 'pledge'. If they consented, both stood, one removing the lid, holding it high in the right hand to prevent treachery and accepting the toast of the drinker, while the other stood, sword drawn, at the drinker's back to defend him.

Today the ceremony remains very similar except for the 'drawing of the sword'. The cup is usually sterling silver or silver gilt, but fine cut glass and pewter are delightful alternatives used by some Livery Companies. It is usually filled with a spiced wine, termed 'sack' although other mixtures are used. The cup passes round the table to each guest drinking to his or her neighbour. The Master commences the ceremony by bidding the entire company a hearty welcome and drinking a toast to the guest on his right hand. In rising for this toast, the person on his left hand also rises, turning away from the Master to defend his back. The Master and the guest to his right, bow to each other and the guest removes the cover, raising it high in his right hand. The Master drinks and wipes the rim of the cup with the napkin provided. The guest replaces the cover and the two bow again to each other. The guest then turns to his or her neighbour, who has risen at the second bow, and repeats the procedure. Meanwhile the Master assumes the role of protecting the back of the person drinking, having relieved his protector of their 'pledge'.

In the circumstance that a guest does not wish to drink, they should raise the Cup in greeting to their neighbour.

### **Know London and your Livery Companies**

#### The City of London

Most of you will be well aware of the scale of the economic activities of the City of London. However, you may not be fully up to date on the key statistics. Here are a few to bring up in conversation with business colleagues, friends and associates, which illustrate the financial impact of the City.

Foreign Exchange transacted per day	\$637B US
Foreign Exchange Futures (on LFFE)	\$330B US
Funds under management in 1999	\$2,555B US
Gross insurance premiums received	\$14B US
Percentage of all Eurobonds placed	75%
Foreign Banks with London Branches	481
Foreign Companies listed on LSE in 2000	499
Fortune 500 Companies with London offices	75%

#### The Corporation of the City

The Corporation of the City is responsible for providing the infrastructure on which all of this economic activity is based. In addition, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest agency to fund the Arts in the UK, and it runs the Port Health Authority.

#### The Livery Companies

The 103 London Livery Companies have the following attributes:

Total Number of Liverymen in 2001	23,900
Companies with halls	38 (plus one under construction)

Companies with active trade links	85
Armed forces units supported	150
Churches Supported	63
Charity giving/expenditures	£38.1M
Almshouse supported/run	41
Schools and educational establishments supported	124
Financial support to education	£5.5M

#### More Information

You can find lots of information about the City, the Corporation and the Livery Companies from their respective web-sites

The Corporation: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

The Livery List:

[http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure\\_heritage/livery/index.htm](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/livery/index.htm)

Events ReportTafelmusik Concert

22nd February 2002

For all those who know Tafelmusik, and have had the opportunity to attend one of their concerts, these are a true experience that no other baroque orchestra in the world can match. This Concert, “**The Glory of Mozart**”, was attended by a few members with tickets obtained by Dr. Martin Walmsley and was truly a world-class experience. At the end of a spectacular evening, the orchestra was, once again, rewarded with a standing ovation. We are very fortunate to have someone that has worked so closely with Tafelmusik in the past that we can occasionally get a few tickets to concerts that would otherwise be impossible to acquire. We hope that we can continue to help a few members attend these spectacular concerts.

Burns Night

The Company’s Burns Night event at the showrooms of Grand Touring Automobiles in Toronto was a night to remember for those who enjoy the very best of British Cars, Scotch Whisky and great finger-foods. Freeman and their guests had the opportunity to sit in some of the finest cars in the world, manufactured by the very best in British Engineering - Rolls Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin, and Jaguar. Fortunately for Grand Touring Automobiles and unfortunately for everyone else in attendance, there were no keys around, as some might have liked to take one or more of the cars for a spin. It is not known if any of the members or guests went back later to drive or to buy one of the cars!

The whiskies were Glenfiddich and Balvenie single malts, and Ian Bain, the local representative for these products, was present to give a briefing on their finest attributes and histories.

The food was provided by “Yorkshire Pudding”, and was greatly enjoyed by the 75 people present. In addition to everyone having a great time, there are additional advantages to the Honourable Company. We raised a substantial amount of money for the Charity of the Honourable Company, and recruited a number of new Members to swell our ranks.

Upcoming events

The Hon. Company’s upcoming events represent the increasing range of activities that the Court and members are planning. Specific invitations will be sent with registration and payment information closer to the time. However, please get these dates into your diaries.

New Members meet the Master & Court 9<sup>th</sup> April 2002  
134 Wells Street Cheese and Wine; Informal  
Toronto, ON Reception 6.30 pm  
M5R 1P4  
Phone 416 536 2994

Company Annual Meeting and Dinner 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002  
The Albany Club Black Tie  
91 King Street East Reception 6.30 pm  
Toronto, ON Dinner 7.30 pm  
Speaker: **Jeanne Lamont, Leader and Artistic Director of Tafelmusik**

Summer Picnic/Brunch 23 June 2002  
Toronto Board of Trade Country Club Informal  
Woodbridge, ON 11.30 am for 12 noon

New Members

It is with great pleasure that the Court announces the slate of new Members. This is the largest group we have welcomed in the last few years and they will contribute strongly to the Company as their commitment grows. Many of them have been attracted as a result of their participation in the events of the Honourable Company, and especially the Charity events that we have introduced over the last couple of years. It is especially gratifying when we have the opportunity to welcome the next generation of the family of one of our long-time and most energetic supporters. You will see that David Stevens, the son of Arthur Stevens, has joined the Honourable Company. Together with Alfred, the Stevens family will continue their strong family connection with the Company.

The new Members are:

<i>David Barrett</i>	<i>Agnes Christopoulos</i>
<i>Paul Darlaston</i>	<i>Jonathan Fitzgerald</i>
<i>Peter How</i>	<i>Jill LeClair</i>
<i>William McConnell</i>	<i>Robert McIntyre</i>
<i>Renata Moras</i>	<i>Paul Phillips</i>
<i>David Stevens</i>	<i>Geoffrey Wright</i>

## **Company Website**

The Honourable Company refers it members and friends to its Website, which carries information about the Company and its activities. Included is our calendar of events and a Discussion Board if you want to ask questions about the site. However, if you need a fast response, we recommend that you contact a member of the Court directly by phone or e-mail.

The site address is [www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org). We welcome your comments and your ideas for the addition of useful information, and hope that we can generate a valuable dialogue between Freemen, especially amongst our members, through this site. Use the "Freemen Discussion Board" for such a dialogue so your peers can contribute.

## **Communications with your Company**

The main point of contact with the Honourable Company is through the Honorary Clerk, and through our website:

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

### Local Representatives:

East Coast Chapter:  
Kenneth E. Wood  
589 Young Avenue  
Halifax NS B3H 2V6  
Phone: 902 425 8013 Fax: 902 425 8013

### West Coast Chapter:

This position is currently unfilled. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact the Master for information.

### London Clerk

The Company is represented in London by our London Clerk, Godfrey Jacobs. . Godfrey has been an enthusiastic and fervent supporter of the Hon. Co. since its inception as well as being one of the leading lights of the Livery Companies and the Freedom. The efforts of those that support us in London go unrecognized too frequently.

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England  
Phone 011 44 208 332 2245  
Fax 011 44 208 332 2246

## **CityView and LiveryLive - Keep in touch with the City?**

As a reminder, all Freemen can get the quarterly City of London Magazine "CITYVIEW" and its insert for Freemen "LIVERYLIVE". If you do not receive these colorful and

informative twin magazines and would like to, write to the Public Relations Office, Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ.

Alternatively, for those who 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](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk).

Currently 58 Livery Companies have websites linked from the City's site and there is one site for the Honourable Company of Management Consultants that is awaiting letters patent for its Livery Status.

[http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure\\_heritage/livery/linklist.htm](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/livery/linklist.htm)