



# COMPANY COMMENT

Honourable Company of Freemen of the  
City of London of North America  
www.freemenlondon.org

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## From the Master

Here we are, approaching Christmas already. I notice that cards, paper and decorations are in the stores already and it is only October. However, it is a pleasure to think back to the warm days of summer as I look out of the window and see the colours of autumn, a little muted as the rain is trickling down the windows. The days are certainly getting cooler and shorter.

We have been busy since the last edition of Company Comment. First of all, the evening with the Editorial Staff of The National Post, hosted by the Royal Bank and organized by Deputy Master, David Moorcroft. Second and most noteworthy, the informal reception for The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Savory and his wife, Fiona, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Martin, The Common Cryer and Serjeant-at-Arms to the Lord Mayor. At this informal reception, it was a great pleasure to meet our new British Consul General in Toronto, Nicholas Armour. I hope we will meet often in the coming years. However, I won't dwell on both these events as they are reported late in this issue.

In my last report, I mentioned my first sad duty was to send a letter of condolence to The Lord Mayor as a result of the terrorist attacks in London. His generous reply is printed in this edition of Company Comment.

What other future events are planned? First of all, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, a beer tasting will be held in The Green Room of the Performing Arts Lodge at 110 The Esplanade, Toronto. The beers will be provided by the Sleeman Brewing Company. As some of you may know, John Sleeman is a member of The Honourable Company. All profits from this event will be made as a donation to our Company's Charity.

The second event will take place in New York on December 3rd 2005 at 12:00 noon. This is a joint luncheon with the St. George's Society of New York. Details will be mailed in the near future. The cost will be \$85 US or \$105 Canadian.

Your Court has been busy. Much of the time is taken dealing with planning for events but more of that later. One achievement has been the design and approval of a Certificate of Membership. We have never provided new members anything other than a letter to notify them that they have been elected to the Honourable Company. Deputy Master David Moorcroft, assisted by several designers, submitted a design for a membership certificate to the Court at its last meeting. The design was approved and, from now on, all new members will receive it, duly signed when they receive their letter notifying them of their election to the Honourable Company. Eventually, all present members will also receive a Certificate commemorating their membership.

Your Court spends much of its time planning events but only on a few occasions has the Court formally asked the whole membership what they would like. As it was last done in the 1990's, now seems opportune time to repeat the exercise.

Over time, we have gathered some experience of the characteristics of successful events. All of our organization for events is done on a volunteer basis, usually by Court members, using their personal connections in the community. We keep costs at a reasonable level for three reasons. First, many events are held to swell our Charity Account. Usually, these events rely heavily on sponsorship, like the Beer Tasting in November.

Second, for other events, we try to strike a balance between costs and income so the losses are in an acceptable range. In this way members benefit from their quarterage payments. And third, we want as many members and guests to attend and have great value for their money

The Court makes all the necessary decisions before notices go out. These decisions are based on assumptions about what members might like and the level of attendance we are targeting. We know that beer, wine and spirit tastings are popular, but they are always dependant on sponsorship. Cultural events have had mixed successes. Concerts, theatre and formal dinners require bookings months ahead and we must always assess the risk that the event will appropriately be supported.

This brings me to my point – what do members like, is the demand there to ensure the participation, and is the price acceptable? I would like to know your opinion and this is your chance. Please let me know what kind of events you like and what you would support if they could be arranged. We know that traveling must be taken into account, as must both cost and opportunity. For our more remote members distance is usually a prohibitive factor. We have tried to run chapters in Halifax and Vancouver with limited success and we have initiated a Christmas event in New York with the St. George's Society there.

You can contact me with your thoughts and suggestions by E-mail at martin22@sympatico.ca, by fax at 416 488 8578, or by writing to me at 250 Heath Street West, #1205 Toronto, Ontario M5P 3L4

I regret that I must advise you that Court Member Geoffrey Wright has resigned from the Court. Geoffrey works for Xerox and has been transferred to their British office. Geoffrey has been tireless in his organization of Honourable Company events and will be sorely missed. Geoffrey tells me that he intends to apply for membership of a Livery Company in London. We hope that Geoffrey will also work to further strengthen our ties with Mansion House and the Livery Companies. We all wish Geoffrey and Renata all the best. They will certainly leave a hole here.

The Court and I were upset to hear of the riding accident of the wife of our Editor. Kay Leach, who is Master of the Ottawa Valley Hunt, broke 6 ribs when her horse fell on very greasy ground. We are, however, very pleased to hear that she is making an excellent recovery and has been mounted again a mere 4 weeks after her accident. We wish her a quick return to full strength.

Lastly, may I wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Martin Walmsley  
Master

## A Brief Outline - The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights



### Introduction

In this issue of Company Comment, we turn our attention to one of the oldest trades and professions in London, but one that only achieved the grant of Livery in 1782. Why would such a major profession and of such importance to the status of London as a global trading centre, not become and be recognized as a Guild in the City. Also why would the Company be granted its Livery “by prescription” while almost all others had to make application. The history of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights is certainly different from most of the other trade guilds of the City.



### History leading up to Royal Grant of Livery

The first known references to a shipwright were as early as 1297 but it is evident that craftsmen shipwrights precede the formal incorporation of craft guilds in 1199. The first reference to the existence of a Company of Shipwrights is in documents dated 1387.

Coming to that first perplexing question of the delay in the official incorporation, it transpires that this was probably because shipbuilding was excluded from activities that could be undertaken in the City due to the high risk of fire. With ships made principally of wood, but had many fastenings made from metals that required heating and pitch for sealing, it appears the City Fathers insisted that shipbuilding be undertaken further down the Thames. In the City, there has been a succession of fires of varying proportions, the biggest of which, The Great Fire, destroyed a majority of the city, so this fear of fire would have been very real throughout the history of the City.

As British global aspirations and international trade grew, especially trade from London, the need for ships to carry goods and to return with raw materials grew in lockstep. In these early days of British colonial expansion, the shipbuilding companies that employed shipwrights built both commercial and naval vessels, but as the industry expanded, naval construction was increasingly moved to harbours around the Solent.



### History of the Worshipful Company

As the power and influence of Britain expanded around the world, the place of shipwrights and of the shipbuilding and shipping companies became major economic powerhouses and with growing wealth, the prestige and social standing of shipyard owners and their shipwrights rose. As a result, not only did these people become Freemen of the City,

assuming senior office, but, without application, The Worshipful Company was formerly recognized by prescription and granted Livery. Again, unlike other Worshipful Companies, the Shipwrights have never applied for, nor received, a Royal Charter.

Like so many other unconventional aspects of its history, the Arms of the Company were adopted from the Company of Shipwrights of Redriff (or Redrith - now Rotherhithe). There had long been disputes between the “foreign” Shipwrights’ Company of the South Bank of the Thames and the City supported Free Shipwrights of London, who worked on the North Bank, about the legitimacy of the other. The south bank Shipwrights’ Company received a Royal Charter in 1612, but the Free Shipwrights never petitioned. After a long legal battle, with protagonists including City Aldermen for the Free Shipwrights and Mr. Samuel Pepys, the then Secretary to the Navy, for the south bank Shipwrights’ Company, the “foreign” Shipwrights’ Company was suppressed in 1684. The adoption by the Free Shipwrights of arms and supporters was “without authority” until 1921 when the Company petitioned the King for permission to continue to use the Arms only, while, at the same time, adding St. Paul’s Sword as a symbol of the City. The right to use the supporters was formerly granted by the College of Arms in 1982, at the time of the bicentenary of the Granting of the Shipwrights’ Company Livery.

The Company was originally made up of craftsmen shipwrights and their very existence in a well designated area would have led to the establishment of clubs, especially for those that owned their own yards. With the growing influence of Britain globally, the need for ships resulted in an extremely active and prosperous community down the Thames to the east of the City.

The shipyard owners soon broadened their interests, becoming ship owners. The Company soon permitted other ship owners to join and also grew by the inclusion of other maritime industry professionals, especially naval architects, maritime lawyers, insurance and banking and ships officers. As a result, today, the Shipwright’s Company prides itself on being the principal maritime Livery Company, even though the Guild of Master Mariners considers that it is the “cornerstone” Guild of the Marine Industry.



### **The Shipwrights Today**

The political influence of the Shipwrights Company today is clearly less than in the days when the City was becoming the centre of international trade and commerce built on the strength of the London shipping industry. However, it continues to be one of the larger Livery Companies, with nearly 500 Liverymen, all of whom come from a professional maritime background, and about 250 Freemen. Ladies in the Maritime professions have always been eligible for membership, and represent some 5% of the Membership.

With the change of the scale of ships, the global restructuring of the shipbuilding industry, and the redevelopment of the London Docks area, the focus of the Worshipful Company has moved away from the governance and professional standards enforcement of the shipbuilding trades to that of charity and education. Charity and education have always been two of the three major functions of the Worshipful Company. The Shipwrights Company main charitable and educational interests are focused on maritime related projects and activities. Grants are regularly made to the King George’s Fund for Sailors and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and young people are encouraged to participate in sailing experiences through sail training and Outward Bound Courses. The Company also supports activities such as the Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts, various sailing clubs and sailing for the disabled.

The Company’s Education Fund supports an annual competition for shipyard apprentices, the winner being awarded the Queen’s Silver Medal. The Company’s Bronze Medal and the Derek Kimber Medals are also awarded. The Fund also makes grants in support of education in maritime technology and doctoral studies in fields such as innovative ship design, to training in traditional wooden ship and boat building skills.

As is the case with all the Livery Companies, the Shipwrights have a comprehensive program of events for its members, some of which are also open to guests of Liverymen and Freemen. Livery Dinners are the highlight of these events and are held in January, March and April, and a Mansion House Banquet is held in October.

The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights has a close association with the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers. The Shipwrights hold a licence to use the Ironmongers’ Hall and they also rent office space from the Ironmongers. This relationship extends to the joint luncheon of Wardens and, on the day of the United Guilds’ Service in St. Paul’s Cathedral, there is a joint luncheon of Liverymen.



### **Shipwrights’ Hall**

As intimated in the previous paragraph, The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights has no Hall. In the Company’s archives there is mention of the Shipwrights’ Hall, but this was not in the City, being the Hall of the Company of Shipwrights of Redriff. However, this Hall was never part of the Company’s assets.

Since 1919, there have been a number of proposals for the construction of a Hall but none have come to fruition. The closest was shortly after the Second World War when a contract was let for a building on a site owned by the Company. However, the lack of construction resources and planning difficulty caused this contract to be abandoned.



**The Coat of Arms**

The Company started using the Arms of the Company of Shipwrights of Redriff when that Company died in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This adoption was not authorised by the College of Arms but the Company petitioned the King for permission to continue to

use the Arms, with the addition of St. Paul's Sword, in 1921. The right to use the supporters was granted in 1982 and the Company's Badge was approved in 1994.

The original Arms including the unique heraldic use of the Noah's Ark, was registered by the College of Arms in 1605.

The correct heraldic descriptions of the Arms, Crest, Supporter and Badge are:

**Arms (1920)**

Azure in a sea proper the Hull of a Ship Or and for difference, in Dexter chief point a Sword erect point upwards of the last, on a Chief Argent a Cross Gules charged with a Lion Passant guardant Or.

**Crest (1920)**

Upon a wreath of the Colours an Ark Sable resting upon a Mount Vert a Dove bearing an Olive Branch proper and for difference in the prow of the Ark a Sword as in the Arms.

**Supporters (1982)**

Dexter a Shipwright of circa 1782 having a Necktie Azure to his Shirt proper and resting his Dexter hand on a Shipwright's Axe head down also proper: and Sinister a Shipwright of circa 1782 having a Necktie Or to his Jacket Azure supporting under his Sinister Arm a caulking Mallet and holding in his Sinister hand a caulking Iron proper.

**Motto**

"Within the Ark Safe for Ever".

**The Badge (1994)**

On an Ark Sable a Dove bearing an Olive Branch proper on the prow of the Ark a Sword Erect point upwards Or.



**The Honourable Company's Connections**

The key connection between The Honourable Company and The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights is Liveryman Kenneth Wood.

Kenneth was the first King's Medallist of the Worshipful Company and went on to a notable and distinguished career.

He received the King's Medal from H.R.H. King George IV in October 1945 and was admitted to the Freedom of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights in 1950. He was an apprentice at Green and Silley, Wier Ship Repairers at the Royal Docks, London and, later, joined Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson. He joined the Hooghly Docking and Engineering Company in Calcutta in 1950 being rapidly promoted to Chief Naval Architect. With a quick change of continent, he joined Geo T. Davie and Sons Ltd in Lauzon Quebec in 1954 and moved up the ranks fast to become

President and CEO in 1961. Not to be tied down anywhere for long, he moved to Australia, built the M.V. Australian Trader which was launched by H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II in 1970 before he returned to Canada to make Halifax their permanent home.

Kenneth was honoured to attend the awarding of the 50<sup>th</sup> King's Medal in 1996, an award that was presented by H.R.H. Prince Philip. At this ceremony, Kenneth was accompanied by his Wife, Alice, his son Kenneth Jr. and his daughter Michele.

Kenneth is Clerk of The Honourable Company's East Coast Chapter and has been an enthusiastic Member since 1981.



**Information about the Company**

Information about The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights can be obtained by writing to the Clerk, Rear Admiral Derek Anthony. His E-mail address is: clerk@shipwrights.co.uk. The Company has an informative website which can be found at www.shipwrights.co.uk

This article was created from the website of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, leaflets and other information provided by Rear Admiral Derek Anthony, Clerk and information from Kenneth Wood, Shipwright.



**Upcoming Events**

**Beer Tasting**

Sponsor	The Sleeman Brewing Company
Location	Green Room, Performance Arts Lodge 110 The Esplanade, Toronto
Date and time	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2005, 6:00 pm
Dress	Informal
Cost	\$30.00

**Christmas Luncheon with St George's Society of New York**

Location	The Yale Club 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City
Date and time	3rd December 2004, 12:00 noon
Dress	Informal
Cost	\$85.00 US or \$105.00 Canadian

**Annual Dinner and AGM**

Location	The National Club, 303 Bay Street, Toronto
Date and Time	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2006, 6:00 pm for 7:00 pm
Carriages	11:00 pm
Dress	Black Tie with medals or a Dark Business Suit
Cost	TBA



## **Events Report**

### **Reception with the National Post at the Royal Bank**

The Editor Doug Kelly addressed the gathering of about 60 freemen and guests at a private reception on September 20 at the Royal Bank on the Reception Floor at the Royal Bank Plaza in Toronto. He explained how the National Post is growing, is working hard to become Canada's best newspaper, and is here for the long term. The Post's editor, who was accompanied by several of his reporters and columnists, including Sandra Rubin and Sonita Horvitch, spoke about the challenges of starting a new national newspaper in one of the most competitive newspaper cities in the world.

During a lively question period that followed his remarks, Mr. Kelly reassured his audience of the Post's editorial independence and its pro-business approach. In response to a question from Court Warden, Brian Greasley, about starting a Sunday edition of the National Post, Mr. Kelly responded that he would like to start making money on a six-day a week basis before contemplating a seventh day!

Deputy Master David Moorcroft, who hosted the event for the Royal Bank, thanked Mr. Kelly for his remarks, and the entire staff of the National Post for producing a quality newspaper. He pointed out that the National Post has a very strong readership base in Western Canada, and as more economic power shifts west over time with rising energy prices, the Post would become an increasingly influential voice.

The Company wishes to thank David and RBC Financial Group for providing a wonderful venue for this event.

**This report was contributed by Deputy Master David Moorcroft.**

### **Special Event of the Lord Mayor of London**

On October 15<sup>th</sup> 2005 your Master, Court and Past Master Geoffrey Mayo were pleased to host a reception for the Lord Mayor Alderman Michael Savory, the Lady Mayoress Fiona Savory, and Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Martin, the Common Cryer and Serjeant at Arms at the beautiful home of Geoffrey and Elaine Mayo in Toronto. The reception guests also included the newly appointed British Consul General in Toronto, Mr. Nicholas Armour, representatives from the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce, the Empire Club, the St. George's Society of Toronto including Jeannie Bulter their President and her husband George, together with many Past Masters and Members.

The Lord Mayor and his party had just completed meetings in Vancouver and Toronto and were returning to London immediately after the reception.

In his opening remarks, the Master, Dr. Martin Walmsley linked the triumph of winning the competition for the 2012

Olympic Games and the terror attacks on the London underground with his personal experiences of the terrors of living near London in 1940 and the joy of attending the London Olympics of 1948. "Just as in the 1940's, joy and hope will once again triumph over terror and fear".

The toast was to "the Lord Mayor, the Corporation of the City of London and the people of London".

In reply, the Lord Mayor enlarged on the theme of joy, terror and hope, and dwelled on the many ways that the City is positioned to face the future.

Past Master John Smith, who had been responsible for liaison with The Mansion House for the event, then presented the Lord Mayor with a book about Canada. In return, the Lord Mayor presented to the Master a book on the City of London.

As a special guest of the Master, Ms. Jeanne Lamon, the Music Director of Toronto's Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, then presented recordings made by the Orchestra to The Lady Mayoress and our hostess, Elaine Mayo. Tafelmusik has played in London on several occasions and is much appreciated by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

After two hours of relaxed conviviality, the Lord Mayor and his party left for the airport.

We hope it won't be long before we will be graced again with the presence of a future Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor has a quite remarkable involvement in the activities of the Livery Company's of the City. He is Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers and of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and a Member of the Guild of Freemen. He has a stellar career in London's financial services industry rising up the senior ranks of HSBC and being appointed Chairman of Stockbroking Services of HSBC Personal Banking in 2002. Like so many recent Lord Mayors he is traveling extensively during his term in office promoting the City and especially its global financial services leadership.

**This report was provided by the Master, Dr. Martin Walmsley with additions from the biographical information of the Lord Mayor listed on the City of London website.**



## **Court Resignation**

The Court is disappointed to have to report the resignation of Geoffrey Wright, due to his imminent transfer within Xerox to the City of London



**New Members**

*Stanley and Susan Jessup*

Stan was born in Bancroft, Ontario and moved to Barrie in 1963 where he joined the police force. After 37 years of service, he retired from police service, but remained active with the formation of his own company, Quick Serve Document Service Inc., serving court and legal documents necessary in the process of the law.

Susan was born in Wales and came to Canada with her family as a child. Qualified as a nurse, she is currently a resource nurse in the birthing unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie

Stan and Susan have two adult children. One is currently studying at a teachers training college in Scotland while the other has recently graduated as a Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton University.

*Geoffrey and Sheila Berg*

Geoffrey was born and raised in London, England. After completing his education, he joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1963 and has served in Bucharest, Helsinki, Madrid, Mexico City, New York and finally Toronto. His jobs in London included five years on the South Africa desk at the end of the apartheid era, and early in his career he was on temporary duty in Costa Rica where he met his wife, Sheila, who was then working at the Canadian Embassy in San Jose. Geoffrey recently retired from the Diplomatic Service and intends to spend some of his retirement in Canada at his Canadian home in Burlington, Ontario and the balance at his English home in Weybridge.

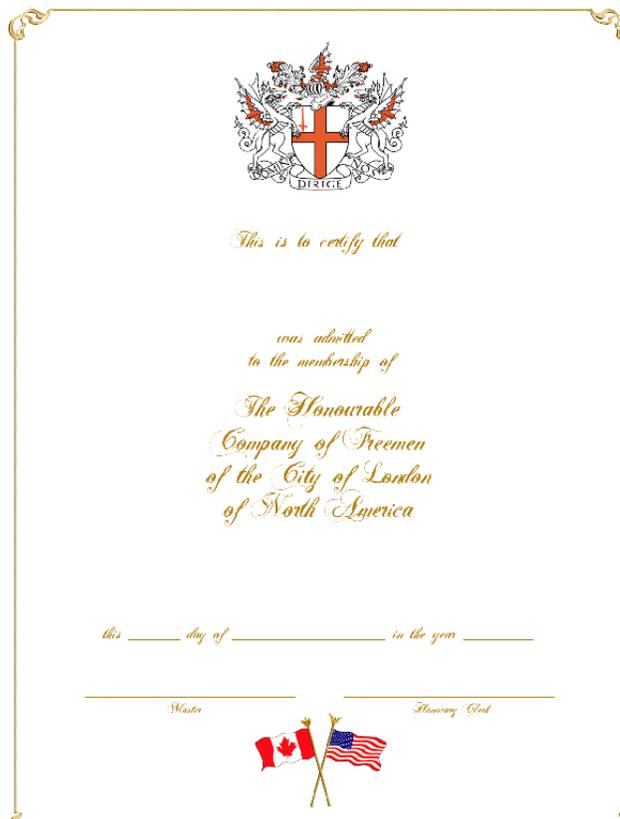
Sheila was born in Ontario and her family has strong links in the Hamilton/Burlington areas. She worked with the Department of External Affairs (now Foreign Affairs Canada) for five years before meeting and marrying Geoffrey. As it was no longer practical for her to serve in the Department, she resigned and then taught piano and English as a second language both privately and in schools. Her studies in music continued and in 2004 at the Royal Festival Hall in London, she received an Honours BA in Humanities with Music from the British Open University. She had studied entirely by distance learning – quite an achievement.

The Honourable Company has been most generously hosted on numerous occasion at the official residence on the Consul General in Toronto during Geoffrey’s and Sheila’s posting here, and it has been a great pleasure for so many of the Members of the Honourable Company to get to know them so well even before they joined. They have both been regular attendees at our Annual Dinners in Toronto and we hope to see a lot more of them even though they are planning to split their time between Canada and England.



**Membership Certificate**

In the Master’s Column you will have read about the new Membership Certificate. For those who would like to know what it will look like when they receive theirs, here is a reduced version.





## Other News

### Letter from the Lord Mayor of London

Following the letter of support by the Master to the Lord Mayor of London, the Master has received a letter of thanks for the Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Savory. The text of this letter is provided here for your information:

“Dear Master

On behalf of the Corporation and the City of London, I would like to thank you most warmly for your kind words of sympathy and comfort following the indiscriminate attacks in London on 7<sup>th</sup> July. All our hearts go out to those suffering as a result of these dreadful events.

The calm and disciplined reaction of the emergency services and many others who worked together to deal with the tragedy has been widely recognized and praised. The support that has been shown from around the country and the world has greatly encouraged Londoners in their resolve to carry on their lives as normal. For its part, the City of London remains in business undaunted. We are most grateful to you for your contribution to that by sending us your message of support.

Yours sincerely

Michael Savory.

### Master's Operation

The Court and all the Members of the Honourable Company wish the Master well in his recovery from an operation to replace his right knee in very early November. Many people have passed their best wishes to the Master directly and hope to see him dashing around without pain in the very near future.



## Thanks

The editor would like to thank all the correspondents who provided material for this and other issues. Without these contributions, this newsletter would not have the content that helps in satisfying the Members of the Honourable Company. The editor would also like to thank Neil Purcell for proofreading the Newsletter and picking up the numerous mistakes before it goes to press.



## Company Website

The Honourable Company refers members and friends to the Company Website, which carries information about the Company and its activities. Our calendar of events and this newsletter, together with membership information, our history and other useful links are provided for your convenience. This is also the place where you can find photographs of Company events.

In addition, the Membership Form for the Honourable Company can be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format under “How to become a Member”.

The site address is [www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org). We welcome your comments and your ideas for the addition of useful information.



## Information on the Livery Companies and Guilds

The easiest way of finding out about the City Livery Companies, City Companies without Livery and City Guilds is to visit their websites. With 90 of 106 Livery Companies, 3 of 4 City Companies without Livery and all three Guilds having websites, this is now much easier. The easiest way to find these sites is via the City of London site at:

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure\\_heritage/livery/linklist.htm](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/livery/linklist.htm). Not all of the site addresses are self evident, some being under the “.co.uk” subgroup and others under the “.org.uk” and “.com” address subgroup. In addition, the website of the Guild of Freemen is [www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk](http://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk).



**Communications with your  
Company**

Honorary Clerk

Most matters concerning the Honourable Company (except financial and membership) should be addressed to the Honorary Clerk:

Ms. Sylvia Davis  
10 Walkers Avenue, Suite 118  
Toronto ON M4V 1G2  
☎: 416 922 7345  
✉: tregarne@netcom.ca

Honorary Treasurer

Quarterage payments and any financial questions should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer. **Please note that phone numbers and the email for Dr. Charles have changed.**

Dr. Michael E. Charles  
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☎: 416 978 8605  
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Membership Secretary

For membership, the main point of contact with the Honourable Company is through the Membership Secretary. A lot of information about membership is also available on the Honourable Company's website:

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

The Membership Secretary is also responsible for the processing and validation of Freedom applications that are supported by the Honourable Company.

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Honorary London Clerk

The Master anticipates that the new Honorary London Clerk will assume his responsibilities soon. His contact information is provided here.

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