

St. John's Masonic Lodge

Location: Turnberry St., Brussels, Ontario

Year begun: 1872

ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 284 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Canada on July 11, 1872. Among the few old documents still in the possession of the Lodge is a receipt issued that same day for \$30 in payment for the Charter. The original charter members were seven men who were members of the Forest Lodge in Wroxeter, but lived nearer to, or in, Ainleyville. W.J.R. Holmes, who was a local physician and surgeon, was appointed by Grand Lodge as the first Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge.

The Masonic Lodge Chapel on Orchard Lane was built in 1991 by St. John's Masonic Lodge.



The first meetings of the Lodge were held above a store owned by Mr. Dolson which stood where the municipal building now stands. It

was next to where the present Lodge building, opened in 1986, is now. On April 17, 1878, fire destroyed the Lodge room; most of the furniture and records were lost. The Lodge took up new rooms in the Holmes Block in 1879. Some time later, they moved across the street to 495 Turnberry St., where rooms were renovated and new furniture bought in 1884. Most of this furniture is still used by the Lodge today.

St. John's Masonic Lodge flourished, growing to a membership of 55 by 1878. In 1920, 19 new members were inducted, this being a record for any year. Records show that in 1932, 355 men had joined the Lodge over the years since its inception in 1872. The membership in 1932 stood at 124. However, Masonic Lodges across the province have seen a decline in membership over the years. Today, the membership of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 284 stands at 48.
