



June 2020

## **Brethren:**

It seems a lifetime ago that we met in person in lodge and shook hands. I miss those times and hope that with patience we will be back to some form of lodge meeting soon. While completing my summary report to Grand Lodge, I reflected on the beginnings of my term and my pleasure and pride in being a member of our fraternity in this district. I recalled the fortitude and cheerful attitudes of our members while maintaining their lodges, ritual, and visiting under sometimes difficult circumstances each lodge and member face. Winter clothing drives, bursaries, etc. all things we as Masons and members of our committees do on a regular basis of which we often take for granted were planned and well executed.

But then things changed rapidly and some of our common concerns were shelved while we work through this latest situation. I have to say based on my observations, I am so much more proud to be a Freemason here than at any other time. I have witnessed such selfless and caring actions by our brethren that I am overwhelmed with the pride I have in all of you. From very active phone committees at many lodges, to City of Lakes distributing care packages to all members of the district. Continued generosity for charity at food banks and the district project among others. Many of you have taken up these tasks with one thing in mind. Safely assuring your brethren, widows and community are well and asking what you can do for others. I haven't heard of many requests for help but certainly many have offered to assist others. Thank you for reminding us all what a true Freemason is!

As all of you should have heard, the Grand Master has extended the terms of all Grand Lodge officers, and requested that the Masters and officers of each lodge hold their positions as well. For most of us this is a pleasure we can afford to maintain, while others may find it difficult due to health or other obligations but of the Masters I have spoken with, they are all willing to do what is necessary to keep the lodge stable and well supported. I thank you for accepting the extended terms and look forward to working with you again next year. We have also been given notice of the formal cancellation of the Annual Communication in July. Please take note that if you have hotel reservations, call to ensure they have been cancelled if you have used the Grand Lodge code to book and if not cancel them on your own.

Our newsletter editor has agreed to present a newsletter for each of the summer months to keep everyone abreast of the news that affects us. Thank you Robert!  
Be safe and take care, Fraternally,

**Robert J. Lipic**  
**District Deputy Grand Master 2019-20**  
**Sudbury Manitoulin District**





## District Chaplain's Observations

*R.W. Bro. Clair Bracken*  
District Chaplain

**It only takes about five seconds for us to develop our first impression.**

**It may be a person or an organization, but our minds are quick to decide. We seldom pause to consider that we may be wrong about our first impression. If our first impression is not accurate, it may take us awhile to realize it and modify our opinion.**

**We also tend to judge a group or organization by the actions of a member or a few members. Our first impression is that the entire group is firmly developed by those few members we encounter.**

**You never know when you are someone's first impression.**

**You may be someone's first impression of Masons.**

**Your lodge may be someone's first impression of Masonry.**

**Make someone's first impression a good one!**





***No Masonic, Concordant Body or Shrine  
in-person meetings are presently scheduled  
for June .***

***Some groups are holding virtual meetings via  
mediums such as Zoom***

***Please refer to your group for instructions***







## Did You Know?

**R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming**



GRAND LODGE OF  
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND SECRETARY

363 KING STREET WEST  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO  
L8P 1B4

Fax: 905-528-6979  
Tel: 905-528-8644  
Email: office@grandlodge.on.ca

### COVID-19 Update May 29 2020 Urgent Update

May 29, 2020

Brethren,

**Cancellation of the Annual Communication:**

It is with a great deal of regret that we announce the **formal cancellation of the Annual Communication** of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to be held July 13-16 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

**Cancellation of Rooms at the FRYH:**

The Hotel has advised that all reservations booked under the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada hotel block (**GRAN0720001**) will be automatically cancelled.

If your room booking was NOT made under the group reservation code, then you will have to contact the Hotel directly.

Further communication regarding plans for dealing with the fallout of the cancellation will be communicated as soon as they are known.

**Cancellation of Masonic Gatherings:**

The cancellation of all masonic meetings and events in the Province has now been extended until AT LEAST August 31 2020. Please follow any local governmental ordinance that extends this further.

Based on the above it will not be necessary to send out any cancellation notices via the Grand Lodge Events Digest for specific events occurring prior to August 31.

Fraternally, Garry

D. Garry Dowling,  
Grand Secretary



For your browsing pleasure....

**Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario Website**

**<https://grandlodge.on.ca>**

***Sudbury – Manitoulin District Website***

**<http://www.smmasons.com>**

***Sudbury – Manitoulin District Blog***

**<http://sudburymanitoulinmasons.blogspot.com>**

***Nickel Lodge Website***

**<http://www.nickellodge.ca>**

***Sudbury Shrine Club Blog***

**<http://sudburyshriners.blogspot.com>**





## The District & Beyond



President: Noble John Miszczak

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nobles and Ladies,

June is here and we are now entering the third month of the COVID 19 isolation + lockdown in Ontario. The provincial government has started opening up some of the non – essential businesses during the Victoria Day weekend with plans to continue the process through June. We do not yet know when and under what conditions we will be able to start up the Club again – but I am certain we will embrace the opportunity to provide flexible and safe solutions to our membership and philanthropy.

Just to bring you up to speed, in May, the club got together every Wednesday for a Zoom drop in, each of which were well attended. Special guests included Illustrious Sir William Sweet and Lady Barbara, Noble Rameses Hillbilly Club President Reddy Sampath (running for Oriental Guide in 2021) and Lady Nancy. News conveyed during those video sessions included cancellation of the May and June regular events, tentatively moving the Potentate's Ball to the evening of the Fall Ceremonial (Nov. 14), cancellation of the Potentate's British Isles Cruise by Princess Cruise Line and cancellation of most of the parades on Manitoulin Island. Also, there was a



great representation from our Club at Illustrious Potentate Bill Sweet's 75 birthday Zoom gathering. In addition, our members identified a number of lockdown activities that they were undertaking which included – home wine tasting (put a different bottle of wine in each room and travel between rooms appropriately), gardening after snow removal, driving around, making face masks, singing Happy Birthday, wishing Happy Anniversary to each other and developing new communication skills through video conferencing. And, the Shrine Club Executive has been video conferencing every two weeks to maintain facility operation and evaluate opportunities.

In the future, the new norm will definitely require changing our operating protocols for the safety of our membership and friends. The long term future (after development of a vaccine) of our club is certain; the short term future (12-18 months) is filled with financial uncertainty and social risk with the requirement to find facility and business solutions to social distancing and hygiene to maintain our social interactions and activities. I believe our membership has the ability to overcome these issues. I will keep you apprised of future decisions and events as they occur. I look forward and hope that we will have a robust fun filled plan for our Centennial year regardless of what we have to do.

Please stay healthy and safe and embrace the opportunity for defining a new future for the Shrine and our club.

John Miszczak

President.



#### INTERNET or PHONE SCAM INFORMATION

If you're the recipient of internet fraud or a telephone scam, whether you complied with the request or not, it can be reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre using the attached link. The main page of this site also makes for good reading to learn what scams are going around now, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic.

To report an actual, or attempted fraud/scan, open the link, then click on the Report Fraud tab. Follow the instructions to report by phone or online.

You can submit a report even if you're not a victim as the Centre compiles files on the information they receive which supports their ongoing investigations. The information that you supply might just be the piece of the puzzle they've been looking for. And yes, they are able to shut down some of these scammers. Like the couple in Brampton who were arrested in February and numerous arrests in India last fall.

<https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>

Please share this information as you see fit.

Dave Hodgins.





## Staying cyber safe during COVID-19

Staying cyber safe is always important, but right now it's important to be even more vigilant. Unfortunately, reports of fraud and cyber scams designed to take advantage of Canadians' COVID-19 concerns are on the rise.

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind our members about best practices and how you can protect yourself from cyber and phone scams designed to trick you into providing personal information they can then use.



Right now, caution is your best defense. If you aren't sure if something is legitimate, it's safest to assume that it isn't. Be particularly wary of any calls or emails pressing you to take action or provide personal information.

Here are some tips to help you protect yourself from cyber and phone scams.

### Browsing for COVID-19 information online

With COVID-19 news being top of mind for many Canadians, some cyber scammers have created malicious sites posing as COVID-19 information sites. This is why it's important to only visit sites from known sources, such as government sites and health authorities or reputable news sites.

**Tip:** Never click on links from unknown sources, and only use your search browser to search for the information you are looking for.

### When using personal or work email accounts, shopping, or communicating online

If an email seems suspicious or doesn't feel right, err on the side of caution. Here are some clues that may indicate a scam:

- Emails creating a tremendous sense of urgency (i.e., emails trying to get you to act NOW).
- Someone asking for information they should already know, such as bank account, SIN number, or your birthday.
- Requests for your password.
- Something that seems too good to be true (such as randomly winning a prize or giveaway or incredible deals on household supplies).
- An email from a friend, family member, or acquaintance that doesn't seem right, because of words or phrases that they wouldn't normally use.

- If the email from a close acquaintance seems legitimate, verify it by calling, texting, or emailing them at a different email address if you have one. Using a different channel to authenticate the email will establish whether it is legitimate or if their email account may be compromised.

### Helpful tips when you're online

- Avoid clicking on links or opening attachments in suspicious emails. If you receive an email from a sender that appears to be less than reputable, delete the email immediately.
- Don't use the same password for multiple online accounts. Using different passwords that are sufficiently robust is the best way to ensure all of your accounts are safe.
- Only connect to trusted sources of internet or Wi-Fi that are protected with a password you know to be secure.
- Always remember to fully logout of sites with sensitive personal information, like email and personal banking sites.

### Phone Scams

Phone and cell phone scams are also on the rise, so it's important to be particularly cautious right now. One of the best things you can do to protect yourself is to only answer calls from people you know. However, in this day and age some fraudsters are able to clone numbers to make it look like it's coming from a person or organization you trust. Your best course of action, particularly for organizations, is to let the call go to voicemail.

If an organization leaves you a voicemail asking you to call back with personal information or threatens to cut off services, it's likely a scam. Your best bet is to contact the organization directly through their customer service number to inquire about the message you received. This is especially important for anyone close to you that is applying for financial assistance from the government due to COVID-19.

If you do answer the call, it's best not to provide any personal information on the call. Even if you believe the call is legitimate, your best bet at protecting yourself is to call the company back directly through their customer service number (do not call a number the individual provides to you).

**Helpful resources:** For more information, check out Public Safety Canada's website. To report a scam or fraud, visit Consumer Protection Ontario, or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



**THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF  
ONTARIO**

**R. W. Bro. R. J Lipic's  
2019 – 2020 District Charity  
is the Neo Kids Foundation  
located at Health Sciences  
North serving the Region**

Please contact W. Bro. John Mischczak  
Masonic Foundation Representative  
for information.  
cell (705) 507-6969  
email [jm.mischczak@hotmail.ca](mailto:jm.mischczak@hotmail.ca).



**Sudbury and Manitoulin  
District  
DDGM Charity 2019-2020  
No. 2679**

**WHY DONATE**

Your donations to NEO Kids Foundation directly contribute to existing programs and services currently provided by NEO Kids. Your donation will also help us in achieving our ultimate goal, of building a bigger home to accommodate the growing needs for the children in Northeastern Ontario.

Children are not small adults. Just like them, their health care needs are unique. Your donation will help to purchase vital pieces of equipment, conduct life-changing research and increase awareness for children's health needs.

**For Masons giving to a cause.**

**We request your donation to this  
worthy charity supporting our  
DDGM.**

Please make cheques payable to:  
"The Masonic Foundation of Ontario"  
Memo section: DDGM Project No. 2679



## ***Editor's Note:***

***Article submissions, pictures and ideas for content are always welcomed.***

***Please submit your article in Word format if possible.***

***Submissions should be sent to:***

**[robfanfleming@sympatico.ca](mailto:robfanfleming@sympatico.ca)**

***Thank you.***