



September 2020



### **Brethren:**

What should be the exciting beginning of another Masonic year with lodges gathering after a well deserved summer break and preparing for degree work, installations, official visits and generally catching up with each others summer stories, we are instead stuck in this cycle of “a bit longer brethren” hold. During this time it is most important to stay positive and dispose of the idea that the measures put in place do not help. They do! This is evidenced with the improvements we in our jurisdiction are seeing albeit slowly. Continue to reach out to your brethren and take part in the many online GP’s and wellness checks made available by your WM and Secretaries. I have had several at the Grand Lodge level and find

them an effective and enjoyable way to connect with everyone. One area which we cannot substitute is our time honoured practice of conducting Masonic Services and the extra burden on loved ones and brethren when visiting an ill brother or family member. This is one of the most difficult things to deal with and during these times a call to those affected can mean much more when they are alone and frustrated than it would under normal circumstances. Take the time to reach out to those with recently passed or ill connections and make sure they know they are not alone, that we, along with the GAOTU will always be there with an ear, and eventually a hug, handshake or comforting words.

Realistically, there may be several more months before we meet in lodge, and I remind you that keeping up with your memory work or perhaps considering a course or two from the College of Freemasonry, or a general studies option at most post secondary institutions would be a fun and engaging experience. You will interact with other like minded people and expand your knowledge beyond the teachings of our book. Reach out to your secretary for the college courses available at very reasonable rates, or your local college or university for their offerings in Distant or Continuing Education.

The new trestle board will be made available shortly, with only minor changes. One of note is the District Chaplain. R.W. Bro. Clair Bracken has stepped aside after a year of spiritual guidance and kind words and we all thank you for everything you have done. Taking his place will be W. Bro. David Squarzolo. Thank you David for accepting this very important posting. Your way with words, commitment to the Craft and the GAOTU will be a pleasure to experience this coming year.

Take care Brethren,

**Robert J. Lipic**

**District Deputy Grand Master 2019-20**  
**Sudbury Manitoulin District**



**REMARKS FROM OUR  
DISTRICT CHAPLAIN**



**W. Bro. David Squarzolo  
District Chaplain**

**Brethren,**

Let me begin by stating how honoured I am to have been chosen by our D.D.G.M. as your incoming District Chaplain. I know that I have some large shoes to fill.

We continue to endure changes to our ways of living as we wait for this trial to be ended or for a way of living to emerge that might satisfy our need to be cautious yet sustain us in our desire for friendship and social contact with family and friends. For some, our collective situation has been an inconvenience, but for others it continues to be a true hardship. I invite all of the brethren to think of the brothers you may have sat next to in lodge or were part of a special Masonic milestone.

Have you heard from them lately?

Have you reached out to them to let them know they are important and thought of by others?

Loneliness is a by-product of our modern ways of living and our encouragement by our governments to stay home might protect us physically but does little for us emotionally. The bonds of Masonry are strong but must continue to be remembered and nurtured.

The days grow shorter but our memories need not suffer the same fate. Let us not forget our three great tenets which are brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Sincerely and fraternally,

**W. Bro. David Squarzolo**





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

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

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



## Mentor's Minute

*W. Bro. Robert Tailleur*

**Mentor / Education Lead**



**They say that the pen is mightier than the sword. Why is that?**

**On reflection, the sword, whether used defensively or offensively is intended to kill an opponent or force his submission. The sword has a singular purpose. (They don't make good letter openers.)**

**The pen can also be used as a weapon when the words scripted are written to hurt but more often the pen is used to motivate, entertain and educate. A cursory review of the words we deliver in lodge will prove this point: the Book of the Work is motivational, educational and depending on its delivery can be entertaining.**

**Because of the penned words in the Book of the Work, Masonry has been able to survive every war fought with the sword and shield, rifle and bayonet (a baby sword), global pandemics and plagues. As long as there are good men who are able to read the penned word Masonry will survive and thrive...we will survive the challenges of our time.**

**If you question any of these assertions then I call on you to take out the Book of the Work and read the words penned therein. You will find them to be inspired, motivational and educating.**

**I look forward to sitting and serving with you in lodge.**

**Stay safe and stay healthy.**

***W. Bro. Tailleur***





## Did You Know?



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](mailto:office@grandlodge.on.ca)



## COVID-19 Update September 03, 2020 Temple Corporations

September 03, 2020

Brethren,

As mentioned previously, all decisions that are being made by Grand Lodge regarding the COVID-19 situation are under constant review and subject to change as things change. We may not always get it correct on the first try. In addition, I must reiterate that we continue to hold the health and safety of all our Masonic membership as paramount.

Last week we issued a directive regarding the usage of Masonic facilities under the direction of Temple Corporations. Grand Lodge has always recognized that Temple Corporations being separate legal entities are not governed by our Constitution and policies. The message last week was not intended to alter that relationship, but was issued solely with the health and safety of our members in mind.

We have since received a number of suggestions and concerns, particularly related to the ability of the Temple Corporations to generate revenue from their operations. We have also monitored the developments as to the enforcement of local health regulations connected to the pandemic as they relate to the reopening of some businesses, restaurants, community spaces, etc.

Therefore we have made a change to the policy related to the rental of Masonic facilities by Temple Corporations under whose authority those spaces fall.

**Effective immediately, Temple Corporations may continue to rent or lease their facilities (with the exception of Craft Lodge rooms) to outside groups provided that the Temple Corporation and the renter/lessee observe all local and provincial health regulations.**

**Those outside groups include any Masonic or non-Masonic bodies NOT bound by the Constitution and directives of Grand Lodge.**

Note that the **cancellation of all Masonic meetings and events in the Province continues to be extended until AT LEAST October 31 2020.** Masonic meetings includes, but is not limited to, Regular and Emergent Lodge meetings, Lodge Committee Meetings, Lodge Committee of General Purposes meetings and Masonic Memorial Services.

We again refer you to the Ontario government document regarding guidance in the safe re-opening of workplace. The document can be found at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/develop-your-covid-19-workplace-safety-plan>



If there are specific events that you are unsure about, please contact us in advance for guidance. Please note that this policy will continue to be reviewed as the pandemic situation evolves.

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***

***Brethren, this is the spot reserved for pictures and commentaries on what's happening in the District.***

***Why not send a picture of you and, if you'd like, friends or Family at a BBQ, on the beach, out camping, etc. etc. etc.??***

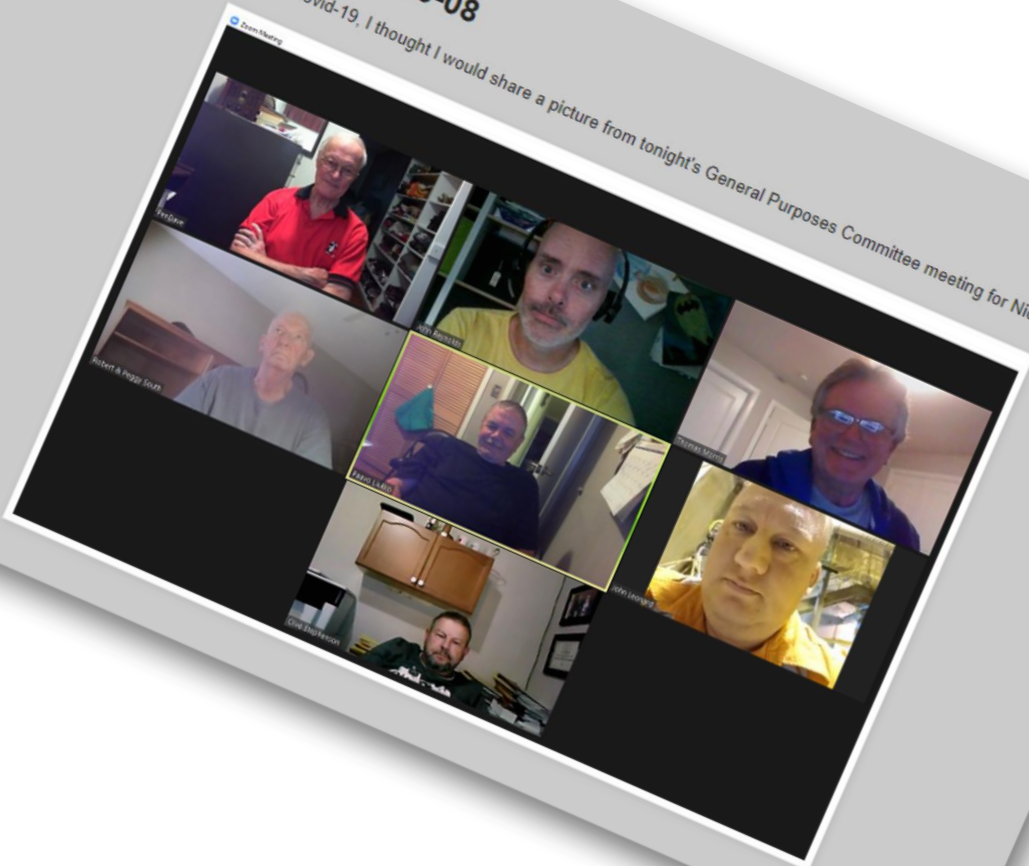




Wednesday, 19 August 2020

## Nickel General Purposes 2020-08

While we are rather locked down due to covid-19, I thought I would share a picture from tonight's General Purposes Committee meeting for Nickel Lodge brethren.





## *Sudbury and District Lodge of Perfection*

Brethren:

It has been a while since my last message. It seems like a lifetime ago and indeed with that in mind there have been many changes to our lifestyles, some will be irreversible. We may never look upon this planet with the same reverence as perhaps we once had and there will be generations in our wake that will never know the world as we have.

Masonry of course hasn't been left unscathed and I'm not about to delve into the many areas that have been affected. Rather I would like to think of the positives and especially those brethren who have continued to keep communication flowing and those brethren who have taken up the cause with virtual meetings and keeping in touch with the brethren in various ways.

At time of this writing, all in-person lodge meetings are postponed and it is unknown exactly when we will be returning to lodge. Not to mention the guidelines associated with that return. Obviously, the concerns with health and wellness are far reaching and scientists are still researching the long-term health effects of this particular disease/virus. Those with underlying medical conditions have to be especially diligent when it comes to interacting with others. Frankly this makes me nervous. With the onset of the Flu season, how will our meeting affect us? Where will this put us in masonry in the long term? I'm not optimistic with the coming winter I'm afraid, but will certainly hope for the best in the longer term. One thing for sure brethren that I'm trying to do is to keep an open mind. We WILL have meetings, we WILL resume our labours, because through it all, we are masons.

Take care Brethren, of yourselves and your family.

Ill. Bro. Tom King 32°

TPGM, Sudbury and District Lodge of Perfection





**SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
VALLEY LIAISON COMMITTEE  
September 2020**



The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation website ([www.srcf.ca](http://www.srcf.ca)) has several videos of some of the people who have been supported by the Foundation discussing their particular research. One of those videos is of Dr. Pushpal Desarkar, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and the Lead Physician-Scientist of Adult Neurodevelopmental Services at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. His research is entitled "Assessing and Stabilizing Neuroplasticity in Autism Spectrum Disorder."

Autism Spectrum Disorder is currently the most common neurodevelopmental disorder affecting approximately 1 in 68 children in Canada and approximately 70,000 adults in Ontario alone. The cause is still unknown and there is no identified cure.

The working definition of neuroplasticity is: "the ability of neurons to alter and re-organize their anatomical and functional connectivity in response to emotional inputs, learning, memory formation and injuries." In other words, the brain is constantly altering and re-organizing its various connections. An example provided by Dr. Desarkar is that of memory. The fact that we are able to retain information after reading a book is an indication that the brain is able to modify itself to retain that detail even after the stimulus that caused it is removed. (He does not state, but one is left to wonder, if the increasing difficulty to memorize our ritual as we age is a function of decreasing plasticity.)

Neuroplasticity could be considered to follow a continuum, or the traditional bell curve, with the optimal levels in the middle. At one end the plasticity would be missing or greatly deficient, known as hypoplasticity while the other end, with excessive plasticity, would be hyperplasticity. An example of these extremes might be the child who is totally unaffected by pain on the one hand or who is so sensitive to touch that he or she cannot bear to be touched or cuddled.

Research in this field has included four main areas, the last two of which are Dr. Desarkar's primary focus:

- genetic, which looks at things that may have gone wrong in gene development;
- structural neuroimaging, for example, early atypical brain enlargement;
- valproic acid model used with animals; and,
- transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

Transcranial magnetic stimulation uses magnetic fields to stimulate or inhibit electrical impulses in specific areas of the brain, very select designated spots as opposed to drugs which impact all areas of the brain, including those that don't need to be impacted and that result in side effects. TMS is seen to be effective, easily tolerated and safe.

The goal of this research is first, to show that the brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder has aberrant hyperplasticity and secondly, to determine if that hyperplasticity can be stabilized using TMS. The hope is that children born with aberrant hyperplasticity can be stabilized and the effects countered or reduced using TMS in order to attain the optimal level of plasticity. Preliminary results with a very small sample size are promising on both goals. If successful, this will pave the way for a reversal of the pathology and lead to a "robust improvement in autism".

Be sure to check out this video and the other research summaries included on the Foundation's website ([www.srcf.ca](http://www.srcf.ca)) and make your donation to the Foundation in support of Solving the Puzzles of the Mind.

Ron Findlater, 33°  
Valley Liaison Committee Chairman



## North Bay Chapter of Rose Croix

Greetings all brethren and Ill. Sirs,

On behalf of myself and the officers of the Valley of North Bay Chapter of Rose Croix I would like to express greetings and wishes of good health to all and family.

This has been a one in a lifetime year for our Valley and Chapter and hope is for this upsetting setback to be solved in the near future. Unfortunately all meetings of the Scottish Rite have been cancelled and there will be no elections or Rose Croix Reunion to be held this year. The Most Wise Sovereign and Officers have accepted the responsibility of serving another year and I apologize for this upsetting need to keep all of our members safe and healthy.

The Executive will continue to have on line meetings and keep the business part of the Chapter operating as smoothly as possible. Indeed we did have such a meeting in August and presented the new Bylaw structure to the attendees who approved the document and once we can have a regular meeting the membership will be informed and a vote can be held to bring us into this century as the last bylaws were dated 1989.

I encourage the membership to review their acting roles in the many degrees, and if you can, have a look towards taking over a role from those who are aging and have been doing so for many years. We are also short of Degree Directors and need some new blood to step forward.

As members of an honourable fraternity it is our duty keep the Chapter healthy in functioning on into the future years as a viable entity and to keep the vision of our founders alive so future generations can enjoy the fellowship and friendship of our Valley of North Bay.

Please keep in touch with me and if you are in need or just want to chat and discuss get touch with me by phone, email or a text at my information below. Also please let the Secretary/Registrar know of any changes to your contact info and also keep your family in the loop if there becomes a change in health or address.

Fraternally,

***Rene P. Carlson, 33°***

**M.W.Sovereign**

**Valley of North Bay, AASR Scottish Rite, Chapter of Rose Croix**

**PO Box 59**

**Warren, ON P0H 2N0**

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**[rene\\_carlson@msn.com](mailto:rene_carlson@msn.com)**





## *Meanwhile...back at Belrock....*





***He just loves to paint!!!***



***.... and he loves to build!***



**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 Miszczak  
Masonic Foundation Representative  
for information.  
cell (705) 507-6969  
email [jm.miszczak@hotmail.ca](mailto:jm.miszczak@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.***





***Keep the Faith Brethren!***