



July 2021

**Brethren:**

First, join me in congratulating W. Bro. David Spencer as the DDGM Elect for the upcoming term in our district. I wish him the best in these difficult times and fully expect he will provide the membership and Grand Lodge with the quality support this district is known for.

At a recent Grand Lodge board of general purposes meeting, I was asked to speak, along with two of my colleagues, on the condition of Masonry in our district and my observations both good and bad. It allowed me to reflect on my two-year term as DDGM and the challenges we have faced as a fraternity. I have always been a proud Freemason and particularly a proud member of this district, so I am not surprised to have many positive comments to share regarding all of you. The not so positive side relates to the loss of one of our oldest and most storied lodges in Gore Bay and the concern for the lodges in small towns everywhere. With the cessation of fundraising opportunities the pandemic has caused, we cannot understate how important it is for all of us to continue to support the lodge itself while many of you go about making the world a better place with clothing drives, plasma donations, fundraising walks, PPE donations, charity support of all manner and phone committees buzzing more than ever. Without our beloved lodges, we drift further apart and may lose contact with each other at an accelerated rate. It has been noted throughout the history of modern Freemasonry that immediately after such catastrophic events our lodges see a resurgence in interest. Let us use this information to prepare for this potential boon by planning some creative public events such as F2F nights when safe to do so.



Many of you have worked tirelessly to advance the principles of Freemasonry no matter what the challenges, and we owe you a debt of gratitude for your efforts. Committee leads, chairmen, and members did have many fantastic plans, some of which were dashed by the shutdown, but the efforts were well thought out and would have been successful events had they occurred. Particular thanks to R.W. Bro. Robert Fleming as the newsletter lead, W. Bro. John Reynolds for web and computer services along with our District Chaplain W. Bro. David Squarzolo and W. Bro. Robert Tailleux as District Mentor Lead for their duties did not take a break, rather they kept us informed throughout the year, including summer breaks.



I would also like to thank our District Secretary, W. Bro. Ryan Lipic. He had some tough challenges for his extended term, one of which was keeping district communications moving and I often pressed him to do so at all hours of the day.

I thank all of you for continuing the tradition of support and cordial dealings within the lodges of the Sudbury Manitoulin District. I remain immensely proud to have been called to represent the brethren and will forever be grateful for this opportunity.

Fraternally,

**R.W. Bro. Robert J. Lipic**

District Deputy Grand Master

Sudbury Manitoulin District

2019 - 2021

## **IMPORTANT DATES IN THE COMING WEEKS ~ MARK THEM ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**July 12th to 18th 2021** - Electronic Registration for voting for Grand Lodge Officers. (Those registered for the first DDGM election do not need to register a second time. If you did not register in election 1, you must register to vote in election 2. Only eligible voters can register)

**July 19th -20th 2021** – Election of Grand Lodge officers and vote on proposed amendments. (Open to registered, Masters, Past Masters and Wardens)

**July 21st, 2021** - Annual Communication (Open to all Masons as observers. Meeting link to follow)

**July 22nd, 2021** – Board Meeting (Open to elected, appointed and honorary members of the Board and newly elected DDGM's)

***I wish all of you a wonderful July***



**REMARKS FROM OUR  
DISTRICT CHAPLAIN**

**W. Bro. David Squarzolo**



**Brethren:**

On the occasion of this Canada Day, an occasion that I have always enjoyed, I cannot help but be distracted by events particular to our country reported in the news. It would seem that decisions of the past are today impacting our present, whether it be unmarked or forgotten burials of children, or the searing heat creating a tinderbox out west.

Our country is a good place and one where thousands of people continue to make the decision to move here annually in the hopes of a better life. It is the place where my ancestors moved to as well where I now have all the blessings I suppose they would have wanted for me. To them and to the Great Architect, I am grateful.

Brethren, I bid you a safe and happy Canada Day.

May the Great Architect bless our Queen, our Country, and our Craft.

Fraternally,

**W. Bro. David Squarzolo**





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

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



## **ILL OR IN DISTRESSED CIRCUMSTANCES**

*Lodge Secretaries are asked to forward this information, by the end of the month, to our District Chaplain for inclusion into the current Newsletter.*

### **Ill or in Distressed Circumstances**

**W. Bro. Stephen Fleming  
Nickel Lodge No. 427**

**W. Bro Robert Shaw  
Friendship Lodge No. 691**

**W. Bro. Barry Tooley  
City of Lakes Lodge No. 536**

***All Brethren who struggle through the hardship of the pandemic.***



## From our District Deputy Grand Master-Elect

Let me begin by thanking W. Bro Rudd for putting his name forward to run as DDGM.

A sincere thank you to those who have elected me to this position of trust. The Trestle board is being filled as Brethren step up to serve on a district level

Your District Secretary is W. Bro. Alan Lloyd.

So many questions remain, as to our formal restart. Let us focus on the never changing Great Architect of the Universe.

Wishing you and yours very enjoyable summer.

Regards,

***W. Bro. David Spencer***

**DDGM elect**

**Sudbury-Manitoulin**







## Did You Know?

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Robert South



Having been installed as the Worshipful Master of Espanola Lodge No. 527 in June of 1988, I attended my first “Annual Communication” of our Grand Lodge with R.W. Bro. Warren O. Mulack and R. W. Bro. Donald E. Belfry (D.D.G.M. 1992-1993).

Registration for voting involved attending in a large room where each delegate was to introduce himself and to produce a valid Lodge dues card. There were over 45 Districts at the time. There were two Brethren at each sign in location looking after two Districts. Having been certified as a delegate, we were issued our applicable ballots. Worshipful Masters, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens and Past Masters were intitled to one vote each. Some may have as many as four votes, if they were “carrying the proxy” for their Lodge. You were then required to cast your vote(s) for electing seven members to the Board of General Purposes. You could only vote for seven. No more. No less. You were also to vote for certain Grand Lodge Officers. The following year, different Grand Lodge officers would be elected. This election process alternated each year. You were required to vote for these officers and Board Members before you left the room. This process was held on Tuesday and up until 3:00 PM on Wednesday.

The retiring D.D.G.M. held a District Meeting at Grand Lodge, on Wednesday afternoon, from 4:00 PM to 4:50 PM in a designated room. Ten minutes later, another District would hold their meeting in that same room, from 5:00 PM to 5:50 PM. During the meeting, the new D.D.G.M. was to be elected and other business was to be completed by the retiring D.D.G.M. The following year, the District which had held their meeting at 4:00 PM would be holding their meeting at 5:00 PM.



Many of the Brethren would travel to Toronto to attend Grand Lodge on the Wednesday for the purpose of voting at the District Meeting. As they had to “Register” to vote by 3:00 PM, they now had an opportunity to socialize. Brethren, travelling from Sudbury usually were leaving at 7:00 AM on Wednesday, while those members travelling from Gore Bay, Little Current, Espanola or Capreol would have to leave home, much earlier. After the District Meeting, arrival back home was very late in the evening or possibly early the next morning. Some of the Brethren who might be eligible to vote at Grand Lodge, either for the elected Grand Lodge Officers or Board Members and the D.D.G.M., were unable to attend in Toronto and participate due to work or family commitments. In Masonry, “Public and Private Avocations come first”.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> 1993, I had the good fortune of being elected D.D.G.M. of Sudbury-Manitoulin District.

My Masonic relationships expanded and I would learn that the District Deputy Grand Master, in other Districts had been decided upon, well before the 4:00 PM or the 5:00 PM District Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in July. Some Districts have a rotation system and some have a progressive system of various Committee Chairmanships before becoming D.D.G.M. In some districts, this progression may involve four or five years. As soon as you step out that District Meeting, the newly elected D.D.G.M. is expected to know everything. Several years ago, computerization was expanded to include the registration system. Instead of the twenty-plus brethren, and relief brethren, there were only about four or five persons with lap-tops to determine and distribute the ballots. Apparently, Grand Lodge paid for the meals for those twenty plus brethren who performed the ballot distribution duties. Costs were reduced for this purpose.

At the Board of General Purposes Meeting in July of 1994, discussion rose with regard to the election of the D.D.G.M. within the individual districts. I mentioned, that this was contrary to The Constitution. The President of the Board; Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Durward I. Greenwood responded by stating that an amendment could be made to The Constitution. With this instruction in mind, I prepared an amendment to Section 51. At the District Meeting in November, I presented my proposed amendment. I would only present it to Grand Lodge, if it was supported by the members in our District. The members didn't support it.





During the Masonic Year of 1998-1999, another Brother expressed his thoughts about travelling to Toronto to elect the D.D.G.M. At a special District Meeting held in the Espanola Lodge Room. I presented my proposed amendment to Section 51 again. It was not supported.

Due to the on-going problems caused by COVID 19, on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021; communication was circulated from the “Email Distribution Committee” of our Grand Lodge with regard to the “2021 Grand Lodge Voting”. This included the announcement made by the Grand Master and briefly outlined in the February Communique, that we will be conducting electronic elections and voting in 2021. Further details were provided in this original correspondence and other emails provided additional instructions.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, an email was distributed from the Grand Lodge Office, providing a “link” for Electronic Voting Registration for the Office of District Deputy Grand Master. In order to vote, every eligible voter MUST register between June 12, 2021 9:00AM EST and June 17, 2021 4:00PM EST. Upon clicking on the “link” and completing and submitting the form with your “Grand Lodge Certificate Number, Last name, Lodge Number and providing your email address”, an email reply was received indicating that you were registered and it provided you with a “verification code”.

At 9:01 AM on Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>, an email was sent to each registered delegate that Voting for the D.D.G.M. was open. This emailed form provided the list of eligible candidates and that the voting deadline was June 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM EST.

After the delegate had voted, an email was received indicating that your vote had been submitted.

Shortly after the close of balloting, the D.D.G.M. / District Secretary circulated an email announcing the name of the D.D.G.M. – elect.

Imagine that. We elected our District Deputy Grand Master within the District, not in Toronto.





## **Mentor's Minute**

***W. Bro. Robert Tailleir***

**Mentor / Education Lead**

In the last newsletter I mentioned that sharing a common perspective on things enables us, as Masons individually and collectively, to endure challenges and be resilient but it also allows us to maintain a sound moral compass regardless the circumstances.

The reason for this can be discerned from the very first question we ask a prospective member: Do you believe in the existence of a supreme being? An affirmative answer to this one question implies that there is a foundation...a common perspective if you will, that can enable us to build happy, wholesome moral relationships...enduring relationships that last a lifetime.

As you/me/we learn the work and take it to heart we begin to align our personal perspectives with that of the Supreme Being to whom we must all submit.

God, the Supreme Being, the Great Architect...call him what you will, loves Freemasonry and Freemasons because despite any shortcomings, we make valiant efforts to live by His precepts and see things from His perspective. If you want proof of this...memorize the Book of the Work...it's all in there.

Stay well and stay healthy.

***W. Bro. Tailleir***





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>**

***Ontario Freemasons Facebook Group***

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioMasons/about>**

***Canadian Freemasons Facebook Group***

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2231516772>**





## ***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 etc. etc. etc.??***



***Submitted by W. Bro. Lionel Rudd***

**ESPANOLA – There many individuals in our communities who quietly go about making significant contributions that are of great benefit to our communities and society as a whole All to make this, a better World.**

**One such person hails from Whitefish Falls (a beautiful community midway between Espanola and Little Current). This dedicated individual is Grant Moffatt who was recently given some well earned recognition from Right Worshipful Robert (Rob) Lipic, District Deputy Grand Master of the Sudbury-Manitoulin District Freemasons, who present him with a certificate of recognition as he approaches a significant milestone of 100 blood donations. He is currently at 96 donations.**

**Very Worshipful Brother Grant Moffatt of Espanola Masonic Lodge has been a loyal and dedicated blood donor for well over 30 years. To achieve such a goal and milestone Mr. Moffatt would have had to diligently donate the limit of 3 donations per year for over 30 years! Of late he has stepped up to donate PLASMA in the new Canadian Blood Services Centre in Sudbury where he now has been driving every two weeks to donate PLASMA. Unlike whole blood plasma can be taken far more frequently as the body regains Plasma very quickly.**

**And besides donating blood and now plasma Very Worshipful Brother Moffatt is the Espanola Masonic Lodge Blood Donors Chairman. A role he plays to encourage others to follow in his footsteps.**

**“This was quite a surprise,” admitted Very Worshipful Brother Moffatt. “I was told that I had to go to the Masonic Hall to sign something!” District Deputy Grand Master Robert Lipic commented that charity and giving are Freemasons are the cornerstone of the organization and members throughout the District practice charity in many forms within the community. Very Worshipful Brother Moffatt is terrific example of such charity.**

**Worshipful Brother Brad Bracken, Master of Espanola Masonic lodge said: “We are proud of Grant’s service and dedication – I would encourage everyone to contact the Canadian Blood Service via their website <https://www.blood.ca/en> to find out more – you have it in you!”.**





*Photo Courtesy of V.W. Bro. Gord Fraser of Little Current*

**Very Worshipful Brother Grant Moffatt of Espanola Masonic Lodge (centre) receiving an Achievement Award for over 30 years of blood donations, from Right Worshipful Brother Robert Lipic, District Deputy Grand Master of the Sudbury – Manitoulin District Freemasons (left) and Worshipful Brother Brad Bracken, Master of Espanola Masonic Lodge (right)**







Hello Everyone,

I want to thank you all for your participation in this year's Vidalia Onion campaign.

So many of you went out there and promoted and sold these onions along with the Shriner name with your spirit of goodwill and fun. Thank you for that and we'll see you next year.

I want to express a special thank you to Noble Harvey and the Nobles that helped out with the distribution at the warehouse and brought onions and equipment back to the club. Those 50 lb bags are a good workout.

Noble Peter Salvas  
Vidalia Campaign Chairman





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

***This is my final Newsletter submission. I wanted to get the Newsletter going again with the view of handing it off once established. My thanks to R.W. Bro. Lipic for this opportunity.***

***Thank you to all the contributors throughout these issues. I hope we kept the flame of Freemasonry a little brighter during this pandemic.***

***Our DDGM Elect has found a new editor and I am pleased to be cohosting August's edition with Bro. Matthew Daoust.***

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

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

***Submissions for **August** should be sent to:***

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

***I endeavour to publish at the first of each month.***

***Thank you for letting me into your computer, take care and I hope to greet you in Lodge in the very near future.***



## *Found on Facebook*





**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