



Sudbury - Manitoulin District Freemasons



A.F & A.M OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



February 2022

Volume 3
Issue 31



Sudbury Manitoulin District Newsletter

A.F & A.M OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



A Message from our DDGM

The Grand Master in the latest Covid update of January 28th has stated that Lodges may reopen in February. The opening must include all provincial health guidelines. Again, may open. The leadership of each lodge will determine the reopening date.

Once again the clothing drive headed by Nickel Lodge is looking to make a difference in peoples' lives. I commend the leadership and everyone who has contributed. Including the Algoma chapter of the Eastern Star. There was an article in Northern Life featuring Bro., Jason Brown, who manages Peavey Mart. W. Bro. L. Rudd and others, very well done.

Good news from the brethren of Doric Lodge in Little Current. The mould problem has been corrected. The building is ready to go.

Elections for the DDGM and the other Grand Lodge officers will be virtual again this year. There will be an election in each district. The term of each DDGM remains one year. Our district will have an election this spring. I would urge any Past Masters who are considering to run for DDGM to reserve a spot on the virtual course.

The three dates for the DDGM preparation course are Saturday Feb. 21st, Saturday March 5th and Saturday April 16. Preregistration is requested. At least a week in advance is recommended. The contact is R. W. Bro. Jeff Gatcke. His email: Jeff.gatcke@gmail.com.





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A Message from our DDGM

Looking ahead to March 22nd, there will be a virtual Strategic planning session, hosted by City of Lakes Lodge. The meeting will be lead by R. W. Bro. Jim Sercombe. We had planned an in person event some time ago. Now we are looking forward to this presentation virtually. In Bro Sercombe's words, "We speak on the importance of planning...Both strategic AND tactical. We are cheerleaders for lodges as we come out of the pandemic! I also touch on Grand Lodge's latest rendition of its strategic plan and VISION STATEMENT. I bet your brethren will like it when they hear it."

Brethren, continue to be safe.

Regards,

R. W. Bro. David Spencer

DDGM

Sudbury-Manitoulin



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Remarks from our District Chaplain

Brethren:

As lodges begin to fathom the possibility of meetings held in person, I submit for your consideration a prayer - the meaning and intention I believe are helpful no matter how quickly we may desire our lives return to a semblance of normal.

Dear Lord and Father of humankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways;
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
 In purer lives Thy service find,
 In deeper reverence, praise.
 Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
 Till all our strivings cease;
 Take from our souls the strain and stress,
 And let our ordered lives confess
 The beauty of Thy peace.
 Breathe through the heats of our desire
 Thy coolness and Thy balm;
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
 Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
 O still, small voice of calm.

So Mote It Be.

Fraternally,
 W. Bro. David Squarzolo





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Mentors Minute

Brethren, have you ever wondered what motivated you to become a Freemason.

Externally the answer may vary from man to man: my father was a good man and a Mason...I had a friend who was a good man and he was a Mason...some guys I worked with were good men and they were all Freemasons...I was curious about Masonry. These are some of the many external influences that motivated us, but even more fundamental to the process of becoming a Freemason was the internal motivation that directed us...and that internal motive is singular.



Without exception we are all Freemasons because this is what and where the “Great Architect of the UNIVERSE”...God...wants us to be. Never question or forget that fact! If you ever find yourself questioning this assertion, memorize the whole Book of the Work...it will prove the point.

T. G. A. O. T. U. prepared us in our hearts and directed us through our conscience to become good men and to become Freemasons.

When you became a Mason, when you learn work and deliver that work, when you serve in lodge it is because this is what the Great Architect of the Universe wants you to do.

(It was never the pay that drew us into the craft...the money is not that good, nor is it the prestige of wearing a tuxedo and apron at a meeting.)

Brethren, until we meet again in lodge stay safe and healthy and memorize...memorize...memorize.

W. Bro. Tailleur



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Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

No information to share.

Ill & Distressed

V.W. Bro. Bob Storie - *Nickel Lodge No. 427*

W. Bro. Chris Kemp - *Nickel Lodge No. 427*

Bro. Ted Taylor - *Doric Lodge No. 455*

W. Bro. Rod Junkala - *Espanola Lodge No. 527*

Bro. Gil Davies - *City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

V.W. Bro. Allan Farquharson - *City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

W. Bro. Norm Hore - *City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

R.W. Bro. Sam Khoury - *City of Lakes Lodge 536 & Friendship Lodge No. 691*



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Ill & Distressed

Bro. Raymond McCarthy - *City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

W. Bro. Harvey Wickenden - *City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

W. Bro. Norbert Hoffman - *City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

R.W. Bro. John McGill - *Bethel Lodge No. 699*

W. Bro. Gord Fraser - *Bethel Lodge No. 699*

Bro. Norm Lenart

And all Brethren who struggle through the hardship of the pandemic.

Lodge Secretaries are asked to forward this information to our District Chaplain by the end of each month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



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Successful Cold Weather/Winter Clothing Appeal

Delivers Much Needed Donations to the Sudbury “Red Coats” - Community Outreach Organization

Recently, after a highly successful campaign, Nickel Lodge # 427 of Sudbury collected a tremendous amount of much needed essential cold weather/winter clothing attire along with blankets, and sleeping bags. Through the generosity members of Nickel Lodge and brethren of the Sudbury Manitoulin District, Order of the Eastern Star - Algoma 139, friends, and associates, a very full van load of essential items was delivered to the Sudbury Red Coats on Saturday 22nd January to replenish their stock of essential items in time for the coldest time of the winter...

A number of years ago the “Sudbury Red Coats” were formed by L'association des jeunes de la rue. A non-profit organization supported by volunteers and donations. They patrol the downtown areas - in their “Red Coats” in pairs reaching out to those in need...mostly at night... mostly when there is a cold weather alert. Winter is the most serious and demanding of times and the Red Coats hand out warm clothing, blankets, socks, parkas, gloves, scarves and other items to ensure that the most vulnerable and those in need receive some help and protection and harm reduction in the bitter cold. They provide hot refreshments where needed too. And the Red Coats offer an additional good measure personal, caring comfort by their kind words and concern.

Tiffany Taylor, the co-ordinator for the “Red Coats” was most grateful for the clothing and assured us all that the clothing and other items would be gratefully received from those in need. She was deeply appreciative of the generosity of all involved. She said that such actions are very uplifting for the “Red Coats” to know that there are such groups and individuals who recognize the needs and the plight of the homeless and most vulnerable people in our community...

If you wish to help Tiffany and her team of Sudbury Red Coats to continue their tremendous humanitarian work in our community please contact her (Tiffany Taylor) at: Association des Jeunes de la Rue: 307 Cedar St - Sudbury, ON - P3B 1M8 (Junction of Cedar St and Brady St)

Telephone: 705-669-1502 **Email:** info@jeunesdelarue.ca



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“RED COATS ON PATROL”

- Ready for another patrol.....

Tiffany Taylor is coordinator of outreach services for L'Association des jeunes de la rue. - The “Red Coats”



PEAVEY MART OF SUDBURY DONATES OVER 500 PAIRS OF WOOLLEN SOCKS AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL NICKEL LODGE COLD WEATHER/WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL.

On the left Bro. Jason Brown of Friendship Lodge and General Manager of Peavey Mart, Sudbury and W. Bro. Tom Morris, Worshipful Master of Nickel Lodge



Here, with bags of woollen socks are - from left to right W. Bro Tom Morris, Master of Nickel Lodge, Bro Greg Bloome, Assistant Secretary of Nickel Lodge and Tiffany Taylor, Coordinator of Outreach Services for the Sudbury Red Coats.



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Archival Moment - February 18th, 1942

Standing Into Danger

About the wrecking of the USS Pollux and the USS Truxtun in the North Atlantic.

Written by: Cassie Brown.

The American destroyers **Wilkes** and **Truxtun** and the supply ship **Pollux** were on their way to the **Argentia Naval Base** when they went off course and smashed on the rocks in Lawn Point and Chambers Cove on the Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland on **February 18, 1942**. The **Truxtun** and **Pollux** were a total loss. Two hundred and three officers and crew (**203**) lost their lives. Their life jackets which were not equipped with crotch straps slid off on impact with the water.

Residents of nearby **St. Lawrence and Lawn** managed to rescue 186 survivors. At this time the US Navy was segregated. Of the 46 survivors from the **USS Truxtun**, one was black. When **Lanier Phillips** was rescued by residents of St. Lawrence they treated him the same as they treated the white survivors. He woke up in a room surrounded by a group of white women who were bathing him – many of the rescued sailors had jumped into cold ocean waters covered with a layer of heavy black bunker oil, which then coated the men. All were in need of cleaning. Phillips noted that if he had woken up in his home state of Georgia, USA, naked and surrounded by white women, he would have been lynched (and the women branded and run out of town).

“NO M’AM, THAT’S THE COLOUR OF MY SKIN”

One of the women helping with the rescue had never before seen an African American and was puzzled that the crude oil seemed to have soaked his skin to the point of colouring it. She was determined to scrub it off, and Phillips had to tell her that, ***no m’am, that’s the colour of my skin.*** Phillips later found himself sitting at the family table, using the same china cups and plates that the family used, and was dazed (and appalled) to find himself in one of the family beds, looked after by the lady of house who didn’t seem to be afraid of being in the same room with a black man. He said he didn’t sleep all night, it terrified him.

This experience in St. Lawrence galvanized the Navy Mess Attendant to fight racial discrimination within the US Navy. He later became the Navy’s first black sonar technician.



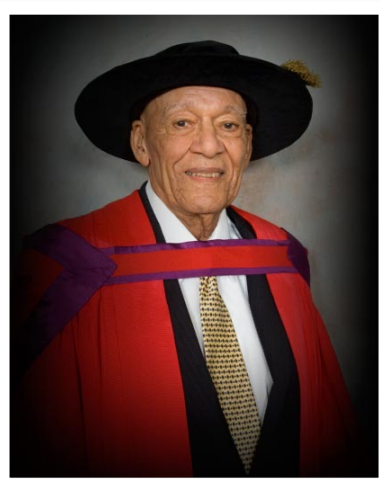
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Archival Moment - February 18th, 1942

This experience in St. Lawrence galvanized the Navy Mess Attendant to fight racial discrimination within the US Navy. He later became the Navy's first black sonar technician. After completing a 20 year career in the navy, Lanier Phillips joined the exploration team of Jacques Cousteau. He helped find and uncover a sunken atomic bomb, became active in the civil rights movement, and now travels' speaking to young men and women in the U.S.military about the destructiveness of bigotry and racism.



Dr. Lanier Philips received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree May 31, 2008 from Memorial University of Newfoundland. The university cited what it called '*his resistance to and capacity to rise above repression*'. In 2011, Phillips was given honorary membership into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador for his work in civil rights in the U.S. Phillips died on March 12, 2012, at the Armed Forces

Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Recommended Archival Collection: At the Rooms Provincial Archives read MG 956.187, A letter from Joseph Manning, Lawn to Gerard Ryan, Corbin: a description of Manning's experiences during the rescue of seamen from the USS Pollux and USS Truxton.

Recommended Reading: *Oil and Water*, a play by Robert Chafe is based on the true account of shipwrecked African American sailor / veteran Lanier W. Phillips and his experiences in St Lawrence, Newfoundland. (Text above taken from the play list of Oil and Water)

Recommended Reading: *Standing Into Danger* by Cassie Brown Flanker Press Ltd, St. John's, NL



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Did you know?

THE SOCIETY OF BLUE FRIARS (MASONIC AUTHORS)

By: Wallace McLeod

"The Society of Blue Friars" was formed in 1932, explicitly "to recognize Masonic Authors." It is probably the smallest, and certainly one of the oddest, concordant bodies in Masonry. It has no fixed ritual or ceremonies, no dues or fees, and very few records. The name was chosen, presumably, because "Friar" is related to the French word for "Brother," and is therefore appropriate for a Masonic group; but it would also call to mind the monks of the Middle Ages, the ones who wrote most of the books in those days. The regulations (at least in their present form) state that "One new Friar shall be appointed each year," but that "additional Friars may be appointed to fill vacancies caused by demise or resignation when the total membership is not over twenty."

Since 1944 the Society has met once a year (except for 1945), in a session that is open to all Masonic Brethren. The "Consistory" takes place in Washington, D.C., in February, as part of the annual Masonic weekend that is sponsored by the Allied Masonic Degrees. At the annual meeting, the new Friar is proclaimed, and is expected to deliver a research paper. In earlier times, the papers were sometimes printed in the Miscellanea of the Allied Masonic Degrees. In recent years they have appeared in The Philaethes magazine. Possibly the collected Blue Friar Lectures may be published at some time in the future

The Society has a short list of regulations. They tell us that there are three officers. The presiding officer is the Grand Abbot, who retains his office as long as he wishes, or as long as he lives. He appoints the Deputy Grand Abbot (who is his designated successor), and the Secretary-General. The Grand Abbot may receive nominations for new Friars, but the final decision as to who shall be selected rests entirely with him. There are neither dues nor fees. And the regulations can be changed only at the pleasure of the Grand Abbot.





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MISSISSIPPI LODGE NEWSLETTER

January 18th, 2022

Submitted by: W. Bro. Stuart Marshall & Bro. Rob Savarie

January 18, 2022

MISSISSIPPI LODGE NEWSLETTER

I came across something interesting in late December that you may also find interesting. I'm sure that you are aware of statues and symbols being removed in the United States, primarily in the South, that glorified and commemorated the Civil War and its leaders. In Richmond, a statue of General Robert E. Lee, sitting on his horse (named Traveller, I seem to recall) was removed. When workers started to dismantle the pedestal, they found two boxes, one near the top and one in the cornerstone.

Contemporary news articles of the late 1800's spoke of a capsule (sometimes referred to as the Lee capsule) buried in the pedestal's cornerstone. Officials opened the box found first, but quickly determined that it was not the capsule they expected, and hoped, to find. They now believe that the pedestal workers placed the first box, found with a few artifacts, because they were unable to contribute to the Lee capsule.

However, as they continued dismantling the pedestal, they found another box in an alcove in the cornerstone. And, this box matched the description of the capsule they were hoping to find. It was a copper box measuring 13.5 inches X 13.5 inches X 7.5 inches weighing 36 pounds.

It was opened on December 28, 2021 in a podcast. The box contents were wet, but not soup, so care had to be taken when removing the contents to avoid unnecessary damage. I found it interesting when the conservators started removing Civil War memorabilia, but I became particularly interested when they started to find masonic items.

Before discussing the box contents, it is appropriate to provide some historical context. From some newspaper articles at the time, I found that Bro. William B. Isaacs, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, "called for Richmond related objects to be placed in the Lee capsule". From all accounts, William B. Isaacs, was a prominent Richmond citizen and a well-known mason. As an aside, I also found from the Proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Virginia, on Thursday, December 11, 1862, that the M.E. Grand Secretary



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appointed William B. Isaacs Deputy Grand Master. The capsule was built by Capt. J.E. Phillips, one of the engineers hired to excavate the site for the statue's pedestal. It is unknown if Capt. Phillips was a mason.

In total, thirty-seven residents, organizations and business contributed about 60 objects to the capsule. They were collected by Bro. William B. Isaacs who placed them in the capsule. The Richmond Dispatch dated October 26, 1889, itemized the contents of the capsule.

As could be expected, there were numerous Civil War memorabilia, including minie balls, confederate currency, and a minie ball embedded in a piece of wood allegedly from the Battle of Fredericksburg. One of the more interesting items was a newspaper, Harper's Weekly, from 1865 donated by a school principal, Patti Callis Leake, showing a figure grieving over President Abraham Lincoln lying in a coffin following his assassination. This is noteworthy because President Lincoln's widow had requested that no photographs be taken, and that photographs already taken be destroyed.

The original list of items placed in the Lee capsule had mentioned a photograph of President Lincoln lying in the coffin. Kate Ridway, lead conservator, was looking for a photograph because of its historical significance, but the only picture found was in the aforementioned newspaper. It is unknown how Harper's Weekly managed to not only get a photograph but to print it as well.

Of particular interest to masons was the following contributors and items:

William B. Isaacs: copies of Charters issued by Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and Grand Commandary of Virginia to its subordinates (on parchment).

Grand Lodge of Virginia: Grand Lodge of Virginia, 4th edition of Grand Lodge text book, copy of text book Grand Chapter of Virginia and Digest copy Grand Constitution of Grand Encampment United States Knights Templar and proceedings 1886.

Note: I saw what appeared to be two books wrapped in paper with a note to the Post Master stating that if the books were not delivered, to return them to William B. Isaacs. Not sure of the reasoning for that request



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considering that the books were being placed in a capsule and placed in a cornerstone.

Copy of Proceedings, 1886, Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and Grand Commandary of Virginia.

Programme of exercises observed on the occasion of laying of Lee monument cornerstone.

Reprints of proceedings of Grand Lodge of Virginia from 1822 to 1877 containing steel engravings of all Grand Masters during that period, and also engravings of Dr. John Dove and Hon. R.E. Withers.

W.H. Sands: a programme for the Ancient Order Nobles of Mystic Shrines laying cornerstone of Lee monument.

J.H. Capers: Roll of officers and members of Richmond Commandary, No. 2; individual card of Edward W. Price, General Commander, New Jersey; programme of the Ancient Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone.

J.W. Talley: Confederate battle flag and a square and compass carved from the tree that grew over General Stonewall Jackson's original grave.

Note: Pieces of the tree (after it fell) were highly prized. A lot of people apparently carved canes from the wood.

Grand Master William F. Drinkard took charge of the cornerstone and "in due and ancient form" proceeded to lay the cornerstone. The laying of the statue's cornerstone and the placing of the capsule was a well-attended event, although it had to end early because of heavy rain. Allegedly, some Civil War veterans said that they had followed General Lee in heavier rain, and they were prepared to do so again.

A newspaper article mentioned that an engraved inscription states that, "This cornerstone was laid with masonic ceremonies on the 27th day of October, 1887 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A. F. and A. Masons". This may have been a plaque attached to the cornerstone because when the copper box was inspected prior to opening, it was noted that there was no inscription to be found.



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MISSISSIPPI LODGE NEWSLETTER

It must have been an impressive ceremony because General Robert E. Lee was highly regarded, even by former Union soldiers.

As a final observation, some refer to the box as a time capsule, but as Kate Ridway noted it did not have a definite date when it was expected to be opened. If the statue and its pedestal had not been removed, the box would have remained in the cornerstone indefinitely. Perhaps a more accurate term would be "cornerstone box".

Hope you enjoyed reading this article as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Stuart Marshall
Worshipful Master
Mississippi Lodge No. 147



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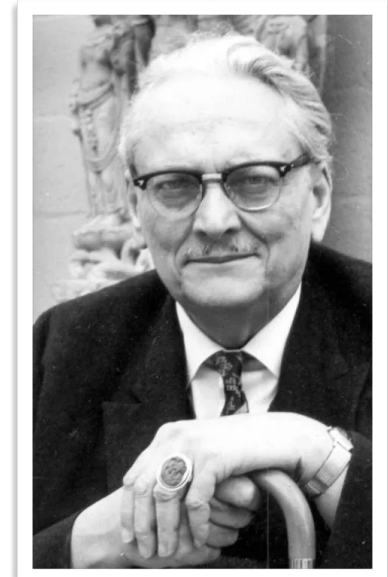
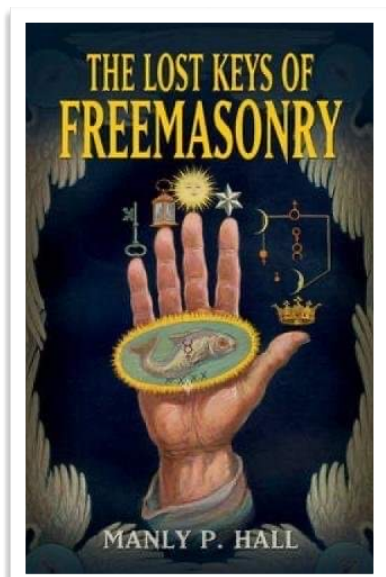
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About the Author & Masonic Book Recommendation

First published in 1923, *"The Lost Keys of Freemasonry"* or *"The Legend of Hiram Abiff,"* by **Manly P. Hall** is an illuminating and informative explanation of Freemasonry symbolism and ritual.

Hall was born in 1901 in Ontario, Canada and moved to California in 1919 and was immediately drawn into studying Christian mysticism, esoteric arts, world religions, and Greek philosophers. He began publishing numerous books on Freemasonry and mysticism in the 1920's though he himself did not become a Mason until 1954. Hall achieved fame with the publication of his book *"The Secret Teachings of All Ages"* in 1928. He became a celebrated author, lecturer, astrologer, and mystic. In **"The Lost Keys of Freemasonry,"** (one of his first works) Hall delves deeply into the complex symbolism of the ancient order and explains the degrees in the fascinating and secretive organization. Hall examines the various symbols and their deeper mystical meanings and its connection to ancient traditions and spiritual beliefs. This guide, a fascinating insight into this ancient order, is helpful to new and experienced Freemasons alike.





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Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Strategic Planning Meeting - March 22nd

(Instructions on how to join the meeting, and the agenda will be circulated in advance)

At this time, no other concordant body or shrine in-person meetings are presently scheduled.





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Sudbury Manitoulin District Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

Meetings: The first Wednesday every month from September-June

Doric Lodge No. 455

Meetings: Second Tuesday every month from September - June

Espanola Lodge No. 527

Meetings: The first Wednesday every month from September-June

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

Meetings: Second Tuesday every month from September-June

Friendship Lodge No. 691

Meetings: Second Wednesday every month from September-June

Bethel Lodge No. 699

Meetings: Second Friday every month from September-June





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Masonic Resources

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>





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Words of Wisdom from a Brother Freemason:

“Masonry is a university, teaching the liberal arts and sciences of the soul to all who will attend to its words.”

- Manly P. Hall



Interested in contributing to the newsletter?

I endeavour to publish the newsletter on the first of each month.

Please forward submissions to: mattdaoust@hotmail.com

Thank you to this months contributors!



Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to Meet Again!