



Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

*Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Canada
in the Province of Ontario*



The Gauge of Providence

October 2025 Edition

District Editor Bro. Don Barton

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

A Message from the District Deputy Grand Master

I want you to know that the DDGM Reception held this past September was truly an evening to remember. It was a shining example of the strength and spirit of Freemasonry in the Sudbury-Manitoulin District. I continue to be impressed by the quality of Masonry found here—something made possible only through the dedication and personal contributions of Brethren like you.

You have much to be proud of. At the same time, I know the pursuit of excellence that defines this District will keep complacency at bay and continue to inspire growth and achievement with each passing year.

I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Advisory Committee for their outstanding efforts in planning, organizing, directing, and overseeing such a well-attended and well-executed event. Your leadership was evident in every detail.

As the Masonic year unfolds, we look ahead to a number of opportunities that will encourage fellowship, visitation, and continued learning. Each lodge has plans for degree work, events, and more—and I encourage you to take full advantage of these moments. They not only enrich us individually, but strengthen the Fraternity we so proudly serve.

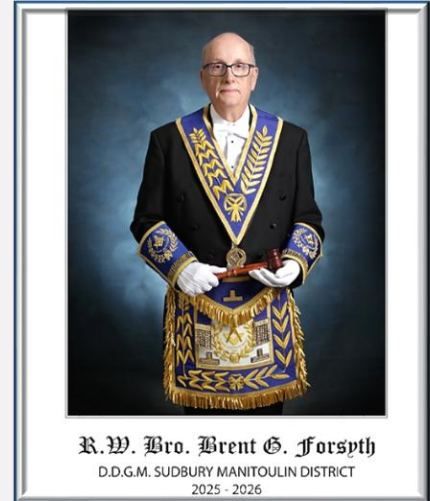
In a recent reading about Sir Sandford Fleming—an Ontario Mason, engineer, inventor, and the visionary behind the global time zone system—the author noted that “Sir Sandford Fleming credits his Masonic associations for supporting and encouraging his many accomplishments.” Whether our personal missions are great or small, this reminds us that the foundation of success is often laid in the values we share and the support we give one another.

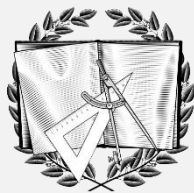
So let us move forward together—focused, inspired, and united. Let us continue our journey, and encourage one another through another remarkable year of Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

R.W. Brent G Forsyth

DDGM – Sudbury-Manitoulin





Those Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

“O Lord, support us all the day of this troublous life; until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of this is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last. Amen.”

No correspondence has been received of passed brethren. May all of the brethren continue to live fruitful, healthy, and happy lives.

Those in Ill and Distressed Circumstances

Bro. Wayne Golden of Bethel Lodge spent several days in the Sudbury Hospital due to multiple medical issues; he has been released. It is asked that you send your regards and well wishes to him.



The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427 –
Conducted a passing of Brother
John Jacobs on September 3rd.
A sincere congratulations to
you brother! Your progress
through the science is marked
through your passion of the
craft, as well as the bonds of
fellowship that have been made
along the way.



Espanola Lodge No. 527 –
Conducted an investiture
of the new Grand
Steward, V.W. Bro. Jim
Ramsey on Wednesday,
September 3rd.
Congratulations on this
new role. Without a doubt
you will represent our
district and Grand Lodge
well!



City of Lakes Lodge No. 536– On Tuesday, September 9th, on his one year anniversary as a mason, Bro. Chad Gillis was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Many congratulations to you brother. This is but the beginning of your journey, may you enjoy the road it takes you down.



Doric Lodge No. 455 – met on Tuesday September 9th also raised a brother to the sublime degree of Master Mason. May the exploration of the Craft lead you down the path of enlightenment.



Ontario Masons

Friendship Lodge No. 691 – met on Wednesday September 10th. The work of the evening was the investiture of the Grand Steward V.W. Bro. Dan Rowe. Undoubtedly another fine representative of our district and Grand Lodge. Congratulations brother!



Bethel Lodge No. 699 – On Friday, September 12th, Bethel Lodge hosted its reciprocal Barbeque with Surgeon Falls Lodge. The meeting was casual dress, and delicious cowboy steaks were served!



Ontario Masons

The Concordant Bodies

York Rite

Tuscan Chapter No. 95 – Bro. Don Barton was received as a Most Excellent Master on the 18th of September 2025.



Mavar Preceptory No. 65 – In May, Mavar Preceptory had an official visit from the Supreme Grand Master M.Em. Kt. Clive D. Stephenson G.C.T. There was a well-attended reception in honour of his presence along with presentations being made in the lodge room.

No correspondence was received this month from the Sudbury Lodge of Perfection, or the Cryptic Rite.



The Order of the Eastern Star

On Saturday, September 27th, Algoma Chapter of the Eastern Star hosted a public instillation of their new Worthy Matron. The meeting was well attended by Eastern Star members, masons, and non members. Many well wishes to the Worthy Matron and Patron.



The Sudbury Shrine Club



Sudbury Shriners and members of Bokara Court – Sudbury pay a visit to the Shiner's Hospital for Children.

The Shriners hospital for children was visited by W Bro Charles Searle and Lady Marion, R W Bro John Mischczak and Lady Joan, and W Bro Stan Fenton and Lady Ruby. All the brethren are Sudbury Shriners and the Lady's are members of Bokara Court - Sudbury. All enjoyed a very interesting tour and viewing of the facility and left with an appreciation of donation dollars well spent!



Ontario Masons

The District Charity

Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin North Bay & Districts

Dementia is currently in the top ten leading causes of death worldwide with a “hidden pandemic growing – a rise in dementia cases. It will take a concerted effort on various fronts to tackle dementia effectively. But we cannot underestimate the importance of science and health communication and investing in dementia research.

Please donate today, make your donations to the Masonic Foundation of Ontario

Indicate the DDGM Project Number 2552.

All monies received by the Masonic Foundation of Ontario go directly to Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin North Bay & Districts.

Donations can be made by cheque or e-transfer at donations@tmfo.ca

For more information contact the Masonic Foundation Representative

V.W. Bro. Keith Varey

(705) 207-9797

kvarey@vianet.ca

Alzheimer Society
ONTARIO

**Sudbury
Manitoulin,
North Bay & Districts**



Ontario Masons

Happenings in the District

An update has been received from our last DDGM's District Charity.

The district successfully raised \$4900 in order to support funding for prostate cancer. Health

Sciences North attached the following message: Supporting HSN Foundation helps advance cancer treatment at Health

Sciences North. The Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre is ranked a top cancer centre in Ontario. Your

contribution provides life-saving care, vital equipment, and world-class research that directly impacts prostate cancer patients and families across Northeastern Ontario.

Thank you R.W. Bro. John Mischczak for choosing this charity for the year, as well as your dedication to the Craft.





The Advisory Committee hosted The District Deputy Grand Master's official dinner in Belrock Temple. The meeting was extraordinarily well attended, and the head table were led in with bagpipes. We welcome our newest District Deputy Grand Master and wish him good health and success in his ensuing year.



Ontario Masons



Friday, October 3, 2025

**NORTHERN LIGHTS CRAFTERS
INFORMATION & CELEBRATION
EVENING**

**Have fun with us, while together we
help our Shriner Children**

Hooray!! Some of the Ladies of the Sudbury Shrine Club have formed a unit of the Ladies of the Oriental Shrine of North America, Bokhara Court, No. 22. We are proud and happy to wear our White Fezzes in support of our philanthropy for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal, as well as local charities we wish to assist.

We invite you to attend our first event on Friday, October 3 at 5 p.m. at the Sudbury Shrine Club. Please invite any ladies you may know who are looking to help our Shriner children have access to the latest and much needed medical equipment at our Canadian Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal.

Please bring your spouse or partner as their support is much appreciated and welcomed. Our evening includes dinner. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 23.



Please RSVP to:

Lady Joan Campbell @ (705) 507-2913 or at

**LEARN ABOUT THE NEW
NORTHERN ONTARIO LADY
SHRINERS UNIT**

**LET'S HAVE SOME SORORAL FUN
WHILE FUNDRAISING FOR
EQUIPMENT FOR THE SHRINERS
HOSPITAL IN MONTREAL**





join us

EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2025 @ 7:00PM

DORIC LODGE - 22 CAMPBELL ST. WEST, LITTLE CURRENT

RSVP



DINNER SERVED @ 6:00PM

RSVP BY NOV 7TH - LIMITED SEATING

DRESS: FORMAL



Ontario Masons



please join us at our

Divine Service

FOR THE SUDBURY-MANITOULIN DISTRICT

A . F & A . M .

sunday, october 5th, 2025

little current united church

5 robinson street,
little current, on
10 AM

 Ontario Masons

A Message from the Editor

Brethren,

I must express my continued delight as the District Editor. I also want to apologize for the inconvenience of the September Edition taking so long to come out, it is a learning experience, and much like the Craft itself, one can only improve.

The District Deputy Grand Master has expressed two interests that I will be implementing into the newsletter. The first of which, is any previous W.M. or current W.M. who wishes to share their success stories, or their pitfalls. Whether this was seeing a great increase in membership under your guidance, an increase in lodge participation, or a successful charity event, we want to hear from you, and what made you so successful. A pitfall is simply the other side of the coin of success, it is often a harsh teacher, however, failures and mistakes can be made often, you only need to succeed once. With that being said, any brother who wishes to share any mistakes he has made along the way is encouraged to also write a letter regarding this. I will be creating a schedule this month and emailing it to the lodge secretaries. It is asked that for your selected month, one W.M. will write a one paged piece following the aforementioned successes or pitfalls.

Similar to this point, the DDGM also wishes for chairmen of the district to write a piece once a month. I will also create a separate schedule for each member. This is your opportunity to present to the district the good works you have accomplished, as well as show the communities we are involved in who were truly are. I look forward to hearing all of your stories. Thank you.

Yours sincerely, and fraternally,

Bro. Don Barton, Bethel Lodge #699



Ontario Masons