



Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



The Gauge of Providence

December 2025 Edition

District Editor Bro. Don Barton

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

A Message from the District Deputy Grand Master

It is that special time of year when our hearts turn toward the Christmas message of goodwill, compassion, and hope. As the lights brighten our communities and the spirit of giving fills the air, we offer our warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season and a prosperous year ahead. This is a season that reminds us of what truly matters—serving others, uplifting the weary, and standing together in unity and love.

Yet for Freemasons, these values are not confined to a single season. They are the guiding stars of our journey, lighting our path every day of the year. The ideals we embrace do not rest with the closing of the calendar but call us forward—unceasing, unwavering, and ever needed.

Charity, for the Freemason, is not an occasional act but a constant way of living. It is a 24/7, 365-day devotion to easing suffering, extending kindness, and restoring dignity wherever it is needed. The generous spirit celebrated in the image of Santa Claus and exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus is the same spirit that moves the Freemason to action in every corner of the globe.

Hope, too, is central to our calling. Each Mason strives to be a light when times grow dark—a source of courage, comfort, and encouragement in our homes, our communities, and among our brethren. In every challenge, we look for the glimmer of possibility and work to ensure that no one walks alone.

And the brotherhood so often celebrated during this season is the very heartbeat of Freemasonry. Every day, we endeavour to create bonds that transcend differences, offering respect, unity, and compassion to each person we encounter. In a world that can often feel divided, the Masonic fraternity seeks to build bridges where others might build walls.

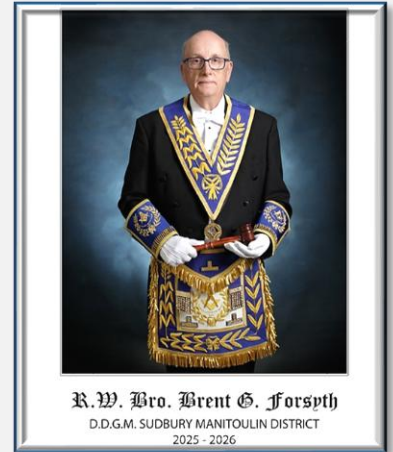
Our greetings to others are not merely seasonal niceties but heartfelt expressions of goodwill—prayers for health, happiness, purpose, and peace. We encourage one another to live lives defined by virtue, integrity, and honour, resisting the temptations of discord, selfishness, and greed.

While the world proclaims “Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men” during this season, the Freemason embraces this as a daily mission. We take up the timeless challenge of living these principles not just in December, but every day of the year ahead.

Brethren, let us remember: the virtues we pursue together—charity, hope, brotherly love—are what have made Freemasonry a beacon of light for centuries. And though we have come far, much work remains. Let us step into the coming year with renewed purpose, fortified by the lessons of this season and inspired to make a meaningful difference.

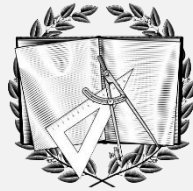
If you are not yet a member of this historic and transformative fraternity and would like to know more, we welcome you with open hearts.

May your Holiday Season be filled with joy, your Christmas with wonder, and your New Year with abundant blessings.



R.W. Brent G Forsyth, DDGM Sudbury-Manitoulin District





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.”

Bro. Robert Glen of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 passed on November 14th.

Bro. George Frost of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 has passed. More information will be shared when it becomes available

Those in Ill and Distressed Circumstances

Mrs. Jen MacNabb (wife of Stan MacNabb) continues her fight with cancer

Mrs. Gloria (V.W. Bro. Harold Saville) is recovering from a harmful fall and a pending operation (unrelated)

W. Bro. George Nichols recovering from minor surgery

Bro. Gary Bate continues dealing with several health issues



The Lodges

November in **Nickel Lodge No. 427** included an initiation and the organization and attendance of the District Brethren at the Sudbury Arena for Remembrance Day ceremonies. (pictures follow in *Happenings in the District*)

Mr. Mitchell Larocque was initiated on November 5th at our regular meeting. W. Bro. Larry Paguandas was pressed into service in the Worshipful Master's role as our Worshipful Master was underground dealing with work issues.

It was as if W. Bro. Paguandas had never left the chair as the work was very well executed.

At the Remembrance Day ceremonies 17 Brethren from the District, representing 5 Lodges, were on parade, including our District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Brent Forsyth.

Pictured are those who were in attendance at Bro. Larocque's initiation



On November 11th **Doric Lodge No. 455** opened its doors to the public for a warm evening of fellowship and remembrance. Guests enjoyed a delicious supper in the dining hall, graciously catered by the wonderful Cheryl Adams. In addition to the brethren of the Sudbury–Manitoulin District, we were joined by visiting brethren from Elliot Lake and Blind River.

The lodge was honoured by the presence of numerous members of the Royal Canadian Legion, including Zone Commander Gary MacPherson, as well as an array of first responders. NEMI Mayor Al MacNevin and several local councillors were also in attendance, along with members of the Order of the Eastern Star, the local United Church Minister and many friends and neighbours from the community.



Following the repast, everyone gathered upstairs to witness the inaugural presentation of the Empty Chair Ceremony—a moving and dignified tribute especially fitting for Remembrance Day.



After the ceremony concluded, our public guests were courteously escorted out, and the lodge proceeded with the conferral of the Third Degree upon Brother Jordan Stephens.

The evening was one of solemn reflection, community fellowship, and Masonic labour—an occasion that will be fondly remembered by all who attended.



All photos are courtesy of Brother Dick McIvor.



Ontario Masons

Espanola Lodge No. 527

W. Bro. Tom Sturdy of Espanola Lodge laid a wreath on behalf of the Brethren of Espanola Lodge at the ceremonies in Massey on Remembrance Day.

*“They shall grow not old
as we that are left grow
old.....”*



City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

*Approved at the November 2025 Regular Meeting of
City of Lakes Lodge No. 536*



- That City of Lakes Lodge meet on the **third Tuesday** of every month (calling off in July and August), with the exception of December, which shall remain as the second Tuesday.
- That our election night occurs at our February meeting and our Installation of Officers at our regular meeting on the third Tuesday in March.
- That our Official Visit takes place on the third Tuesday in January.

Please note that while City of Lakes Lodge awaits final approval of these changes from Grand Lodge, we will be requesting dispensation from Grand Lodge on a monthly basis to reflect the modified meeting schedule until these by-law changes have been approved.



No correspondence was received this month from Friendship Lodge



Ontario Masons

The Concordant Bodies

York Rite

Tuscan Chapter No. 95 attendees are pictured below.



Proud recipients of the Royal Arch Degree;
Dan Middaugh, Jordan Jensen and Don Barton



Ontario Masons

**The Sudbury & District Lodge of Perfection
invites you to**



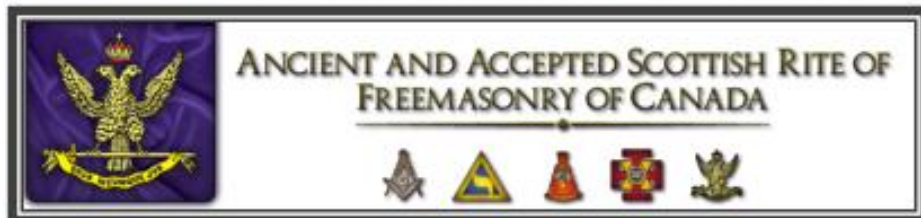
Master Mason's Night 2026

*Light repast
following the
presentation*



*Smart
Casual
Dress*

Date to be determined – stay tuned



Questions?

Contact Ill. Bro. Clive Stephenson 33° - Grand Secretary
clivedeb@vianet.ca (249) 360-6070



Ontario Masons



Order of the Eastern Star
Algoma Chapter No. 139
Catering for 2025 -2026

The following information was provided by R.W. Bro. Robert South:

The contact person for the catering service is Mrs. Peggy South.

Mrs. South may be contacted either by the email address or one of the telephone numbers listed below:

Email: robert-peggy.south@sympatico.ca

Land Line: 705-523-0606

Cell: 705-677-4979

The Algoma Caterers need to know the number of people attending your event
– **seven days in advance.**

A crew needs to be assembled as well as the groceries purchased and then prepared.

Should you wish to have tablecloths for your event, that will be your responsibility



No correspondence was received this month from the Cryptic Rite or the Sudbury Shrine Club



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 on your donation.

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

At the Remembrance Day ceremonies 17 Brethren from the District, representing 5 Lodges, were on parade, including our District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Brent Forsyth.

Pictured are those who were in attendance at the Remembrance Day ceremonies including a view of the wreath laying with our D.D.G.M., the Worshipful Master of Nickel Lodge W. Bro. Jody Caldwell and Warrant Officer Bro. Ghislain Cotton, Standards WO of the Canadian Forces Training and Development Center at CFB Borden, a member of Nickel Lodge.



Ontario Masons



Ontario Masons

NICKEL LODGE NO.427

WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL

2025-2026



Ontario Masons

THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF WINTER CLOTHING THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED THIS TIME OF YEAR.

PLEASE, DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, TAKE SOME TIME TO GATHER SURPLUS OR UNUSED ITEMS TO DONATE. ASK CO-WORKERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE!

WE ARE COLLECTING MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S WINTER CLOTHING.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THIS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CLOTHING DRIVE!

PLEASE DROP OFF ALL DONATIONS IN THE LOWER COAT ROOM OF THE MASONIC BELROCK CENTER WHERE THEY WILL BE PICKED UP.

FOR ASSISTANCE TRANSFERRING LARGER DONATIONS, PLEASE CALL GREG BLOMME (705-822-2836).

WE WILL BE COLLECTING DONATIONS UNTIL JANUARY 18TH AND WILL BE DONATING THEM TO AN APPROPRIATE AGENCY BY END OF JANUARY.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATIONS!



Ontario Masons



DORIC LODGE NO. 455

G.R.C. A. F. & A. M.

of the

Sudbury-Manitoulin District Masons

present our

ROBBIE BURNS DINNER

January 24th, 2026

Social @ 5:30 PM / Dinner @ 6:00 PM

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 177**

15 Vankoughnet St. E., Little Current

Tickets: \$ 75.00 per couple / \$ 40.00 each

tickets available at: kvarey@vianet.ca

e-transfer to cormil@vianet.ca

PLEASE RESERVE IN ADVANCE; NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR.



Ontario Masons