



Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



The Gauge of Providence

January 2026 Edition

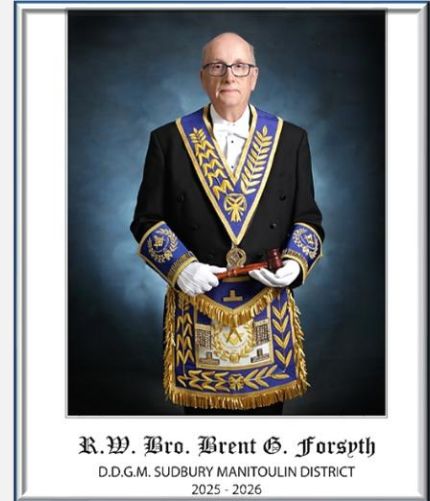
District Editor Bro. Don Barton

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

A Message from the District Deputy Grand Master

As we gather with the hope and excitement that a new year always brings, have you set the goals that so often inspire us at this time? Will you challenge yourself to learn a new piece of ritual? Are you planning to visit other lodges throughout the district?

Perhaps you intend to mentor a new candidate, or even approach someone you know to be a good person and a strong potential Mason. These are just a few of the aspirations that have shaped our success this past year. The momentum we have built together will carry us confidently into the new year with renewed resolve to strengthen and grow our fraternity. We are blessed with a remarkable group of Masons in this district—Brothers who work together, encourage one another, plan with purpose, and look forward to all that the Craft promises.



R.W. Bro. Brent G. Forsyth
D.D.G.M. SUDBURY MANITOULIN DISTRICT
2025 - 2026

As we stand on the threshold of 2026 and anticipate another meaningful Masonic year, let us pause with gratitude for the fellowship, brotherly love, and growth that defined 2025. Among the many highlights, we remember:

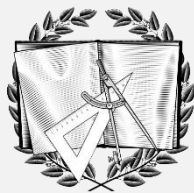
- The Grand Master's visit to our district in May
- Bethel Lodge's "Bean Cook Off" and the support raised in April
- Nickel Lodge's *Tough Times Dinner* and their contribution to the Poppy Fund in October
- Doric Lodge being designated a Cornerstone Lodge, presented by the Grand Master in May
- The participation of many brothers in Remembrance Day ceremonies across the district in November
- Strong district support for the Lion's Telethon in December
- The District divine Service with excellent attendance in October
- The Car Show, Fish Fry, and breakfasts at Espanola Lodge
- The Friendship Golf Tournament in August
- The centenarian celebration for Art McGinn by City of Lakes in August

And now in the New Year we look forward to so many more opportunities including: **Lodge of Instruction** hosted by Bethel on February 28th, **District Family BBQ** on June 27th hosted at Belrock, **District Divine Service** happening in Spring, **District Workshop** with a guest speaker date is to be determined.

Wishing each of you a year filled with health, happiness, and prosperous Masonic meetings.

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.”

No correspondence has been received of passed brethren.

Those in Ill and Distressed Circumstances

W. Bro. Chris Kemp *is in the Hospice*

Mrs. Jen MacNabb *(Bro. Stan MacNabb) is struggling with the previously mentioned cancer situation*

Mrs. Gloria Saville *(V.W. Bro Harold) recovering from an operation*

Mrs. Susan Newson *(V.W. Bro. Greg) is recovering from surgery*

W.Bro. Paguandas *is suffering from severe back pain*



Ontario Masons

The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427 – Mr. Quinton Fournier was initiated on December 8th at our regular meeting. This was the first reciprocal visit of Friendship Lodge No. 691 since the pandemic. The Officers of Friendship Lodge under the guidance of (V.) W. Bro. Ryan Lipic conducted the degree. The meeting night was changed from Wednesday to Monday to accommodate visiting Espanola Lodge No. 527's Official Visit of our DDGM on Wednesday.



Doric Lodge No. 455 – ended the 2025 calendar year on a quiet yet strong note. Enjoying a light repast before our meeting decorated with Christmas ornaments, mini trees and plenty of sweets - the brethren had an opportunity to share memories of good times this past year so far. Looking forward to 2026 with shared optimism and revitalized enthusiasm.



We are looking forward to our Robbie Burns event on January 24th at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #177 in Little Current! The Worshipful Master and the brethren of Doric Lodge wish all brethren across the Sudbury-Manitoulin District a Happy and prosperous New Year.



Bethel Lodge No. 699 – Had its election night on the 9th of December. W. Bro Robert Taillieur was elected as the continuing W.M. of Bethel Lodge. A sincere congratulations, as well as sympathy is extended to you W. Bro Taillieur. Bethel Lodge will also be hosting the 2026 lodge of instruction. Please see Happenings in the District section for more information. (No pictures provided for this month).



Ontario Masons

The Concordant Bodies

Scottish Rite

The Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection will be hosting a Master Masons night with a to be determined date. Please see Happenings in the District for more information.



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

Save the Date

Bethel Lodge is Hosting a Lodge of Instruction

February 28th, 2026 at 13:00

This year's Lodge of Instruction will be covering various topics with multiple speakers, with an overarching theme of relationships within Masonry.

The Speakers of the Evening:

R.W. Bro Rob Fleming – Covering Mentorship

R.W. Bro Brother C. Singh – Membership Retention

Bro. Don Barton – Ritual

R.W. Bro Brent Forsyth – Visitation

R.W. Bro D. Spencer - Spirituality

All brethren are encouraged to come to this event and invite brothers from this district and beyond. We look forward to seeing you there.

A light repass will follow the presentation.



Ontario Masons



Our District Deputy Grand Master paid a visit to Niagara Lodge No. 2 to attend the instillation of it's newest Worshipful Master. This is the oldest lodge in Ontario, and this instillation was attended by the Grand Master Jamie R. Ireland, as well as several other District Deputy Grand Masters. What a wonderful occasion!



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

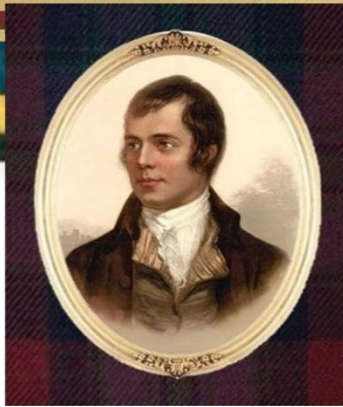
*The Algoma Caterers need to know the number of people attending your event – **seven days in advance.***

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



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.

RSVP



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 ANGUS MORRIS (705-207-4507).

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL GREG BLOMME (705-822-2836).

WE WILL BE COLLECTING DONATIONS UNTIL JANUARY 16TH AND WILL BE DONATING THEM TO AN APPROPRIATE AGENCY BY END OF JANUARY.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND
M.W. BRO. GEORGE CONTAXAKIS, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC
ARE PLEASED TO INVITE ALL MASONS AND THEIR LADIES TO UNITE IN MASONRY



Ontario Masons

M.W. BRO. JAMIE R. IRELAND
Grand Master



M.W. BRO. GEORGE CONTAXAKIS
Grand Master

The Grand Masters Gala

Click Here for
Tickets
\$130.00 EACH

MEN
FORMAL ATTIRE
LADIES
COCKTAIL DRESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026

DEV Hotel and Conference Centre
1950 MONTREAL ROAD, CORNWALL, ON

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHARITIES OF THE GRAND MASTER'S

SOCIAL: 5:30PM | BUFFET: 7:00PM



CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR STAY

FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE : (613) 936-5800
GROUP CODE : 126062
BOOK EARLY, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 28, 2026

TRADITIONAL ROOM WITH 1 QUEEN BED \$139.00-\$152.25
DELUXE SUITE WITH 2 QUEEN BEDS \$159.00-\$185.50
SUPERIOR KING \$169.00-\$208.75

RATES PER NIGHT INCLUDES BREAKFAST, TAXES FEES



**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

A Message from the District Editor

Brethren,

I, firstly, would like to thank W. Bro Rob Fleming for his assistance in completing last month's newsletter. I was out of the country and was rendered unable to complete the newsletter while I was away. With that said, I would also like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year. Echoing the sentiments of this month's DDGM message, we as a district have accomplished so much. All of you should be proud of what you have accomplished last year, and hold your heads up a little higher knowing that our fraternity and our communities have been made significantly better by your efforts.

With the beginning of the new year many of us may have made New Year's resolutions, these are more masonic than you might think. Masonry is a science that focuses on the constant progression of man, and making personal goals, whether they be that of health, spirit, finance, or family are important. The brethren should also remember that we are not perfect, and at times we may fall into old habits that we are trying to overcome, what is important to remember is that we never stop trying to accomplish our goals. Remember, there is no "next year" to try, there is only today, and if only one brick can be laid today, then that is still one brick closer to perfection.

I am very thankful for all the wonderful people in masonry and in my personal life in this last year, and the many opportunities masonry has provided to me including this position as your District Editor. It is truly humbling, and I am very eager to see what this upcoming year holds for all of us. I hope that this year is filled with many blessings of health, happiness, and prosperity. May the Great Architect of the Universe light your path!

Yours sincerely and fraternally,
Brother Don Barton, District Editor
Sudbury-Manitoulin District



Ontario Masons