



Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



The Gauge of Providence

February 2026 Edition

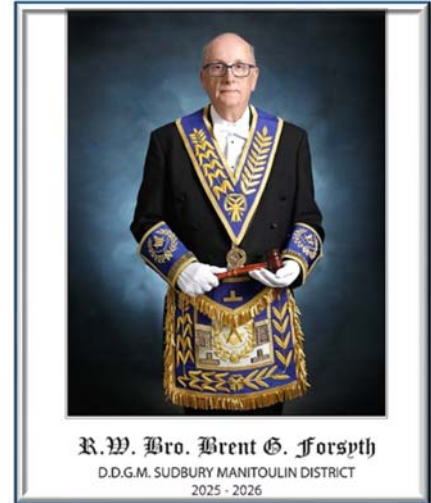
District Editor Bro. Don Barton

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

A Message from the District Deputy Grand Master

“In today’s world...” is the beginning of a statement with so many meanings, most negative or cynical of the state of global civilization. Society tends to see a dark cloud over us all with little hope or the encouragement of the benefits and blessings that this life offers. Many are looking for something that offers those treasures we all hold dear for our journey with humanity.

There are many options available that claim to be a quick fix but leave you flat. There are some that require large sums of money that will leave you feeling alone and betrayed. There are also some that will guide you down a path to nowhere. “What’s required is a deeper renewal of moral formation and mentorship—one that draws from older wells of wisdom.”



□ “Well, if I am a man, a man I must become.” Rudyard Kipling “Freemasonry then provides a moral framework, a multigenerational community, and a clear expectation that men live by their values. These are not performative affiliations or empty social clubs. Ancient Free and Accepted Freemason are rooted in service, duty, humility, and care. In these spaces, mentorship is not a nice-to-have; it is central. Leadership is not assigned, but earned.” S Abrahms A Freemasons Lodge offers strong role models—figures who can both challenge and guide their brothers through critical transitions in life. The brotherhood within Freemasonry is not about affirmation alone—it’s about accountability. There are always others around to provide guidance, offer perspective, and provide community; men are never alone without somewhere to turn. What unites these efforts is a common belief: that brotherhood, rightly formed, is not about exclusion or dominance. It’s about shared purpose, mutual responsibility, and the moral cultivation of men.

□ What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us, what we have done for others and the world remains, and is immortal. Albert Pyke In Freemasonry you work together, always in search of the truth, but in the realm of care and accountability as a brother to all. You find early on that you are working to enhance that moral direction that we all seek in our lives, but now with the help, the mentoring and growth of your brothers and friends, all equal, you are growing and able to withstand the challenges of the modern world. Ancient Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest fraternity in the world and for over three centuries have served their communities and indeed the world through the efforts of men of character and substance.

□ If you can meet success or failure and treat them both as imposters, then you are a balanced man, my son. Rudyard Kipling Please let us know if you are interested or have any questions about Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

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.”

Glenda Hodder – Wife of R.W. John Hodder

Bro. Edward “Ted” Lumley of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

W. Bro Rod Junkala

Bro. Alan Barnard

Those in Ill and Distressed Circumstances

W. Bro Dave Kemp has been admitted to the hospice after a long battle with cancer

Mrs. Gloria Saville continues to recover from surgery

Mrs. Jen MacNabb Continues her fight against cancer

Brother Brian Howe’s mother has passed away



Ontario Masons

The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427 – Mr. Heath Norton was initiated on January 7th at our regular meeting with our DDGM, visitors From City of Lakes and Friendship Lodges and W. Bro. Robert Tailleir, the Worshipful Master of Bethel Lodge in attendance.

The Worshipful Master welcomed all and thanked them for coming to our Lodge meeting.

Pictured are those who attended Bro. Norton's initiation, and our District Deputy Grand Master and Nickel Lodge's Worshipful Master are also shown with our Brother Norton. Welcome aboard!



Doric Lodge No. 455 – January's meeting was low

key, yet eventful. We had a successful ballot for our new candidate being initiated into our Fraternity at our February regular meeting. We also were blessed to have a visitor, new to the island, W. Bro. Todd Ramsey from North Star Lodge No. 322 in Owen Sound, ON. Recently relocated to Little Current, ON.



W. Bro. Rick Mauti was on work assignment in Wawa, ON and was unable to attend the scheduled regular meeting.



Fortunately, R. W. Bro. Peter Gordon was able to step up into the East without issue along with the seasoned brethren filling the appropriate seats for the evening.

Whilst in Wawa, ON, W. Bro. Rick Mauti and W. Bro. Larry Paguandas visited Woodland Lodge No. 680 on their regular meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Weeks prior to this fraternal visit, W Bro. Rick Mauti reached out to Woodland Lodge's current secretary, *W. Bro. Troy Dereski*, asking for permission to attend lodge. The evening was short, yet entertaining; with both W. Bro. Larry Paguandas, representing Nickel Lodge No. 427 and W. Bro. Rick Mauti, representing Doric Lodge No. 455 respectively; providing a sense of heartfelt Fraternity to our most northwesterly Brethren in the Algoma East District. – Submitted by W.Bro. Rick Mauti.



City of Lakes No. 536 – Bro. David Saint Georges was initiated into the secrets and



privileges of ancient free masonry. It was also their official visit. Submitted by Dick McIvor



Friendship Lodge No. 691 -
"665th Regular meeting of
Friendship Lodge -
reciprocal visit from Nickel
Lodge No. 427 who initiated
Bro. Thomas Bagley into the
mysteries and privileges of
Freemasonry on Dec. 10,
2025." – Submitted by R.W.
Bro. John Mischczak. Article
was meant to be published in
the January edition of the
newsletter.



**Friendship
Lodge No 691 –**
January 14, 2026
Regular Meeting
– Initiation of
Bro. Cesar Wills
Enamorado with
the DDGM – R.
W. Bro. Brent
Forsyth
attending.



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Bethel Lodge No. 699 –
Bethel Lodge hosted it's
instillation of the newly
elected Worshipful Master
Robert Tailleur!
Congratulations! The
meeting was well attended by
both members and visitors.



*Worshipful Brother Sykes of Bethel Lodge
was in distress of losing the chair of Senior
Warden*



Ontario Masons

The Concordant Bodies

Scottish Rite



At the biennial Installation and Investiture ceremony in January, Ill. Bro. Ron Findlater, 33° was installed as the Commander and Chief of the Moore Sovereign Consistory. This event was the first time that the Valley of Hamilton conducted all three bodies, Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix and Consistory installations on the same day.

Despite the weather it was a good turnout and brotherhood was in excellent standing.

Pictured below are the Officers (seated), Valley Representatives (standing) and members who participated in the ceremony.

The Consistory appointed Ill. Bro. Rob Fleming, 33° as the representative for the Sudbury and North Bay Valleys.



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The Scottish Rite, Sudbury Lodge of Perfection regular meeting, featuring the Grand Orator, Ill Bro. Alan Hill, address to the Brethren.



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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

Standing on the platform heading to 2026

What an extraordinary privilege it is to be a member of the Sudbury–Manitoulin District of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The qualities our Brotherhood embodies—a focus on family, meeting on the level, strengthening our bonds, remembering our community, and pursuing self-improvement—continue to inspire and set a powerful example for all who encounter our Craft.

This year, we have welcomed approximately 20 new members. That growth is encouraging on its own, but even more exciting are the opportunities it brings:

opportunities to strengthen our lodges, deepen our fellowship, and expand the positive influence of Masonry in our communities. It is clear that men, both young and old, are seeking meaningful ways to improve themselves, and they are turning to the world's oldest fraternity to help guide that journey.

With more than 300 years of history, we stand on a foundation of tradition, integrity, and reputation—one we can all be proud of. As we cross the threshold into a new year, let us remain steadfast in the timeless Masonic themes of self-improvement, brotherhood, and the building of character. Let us move forward with optimism, committed to squaring our actions, seeking light, practicing charity, and living our Masonic principles each day.

Let us embrace the coming year not only as a continuation of our journey but as an invitation to rise higher, to uplift one another, and to radiate the values that set our Brotherhood apart. Each new day offers a chance to build a legacy of compassion, wisdom, and unity that echoes through generations. May our actions inspire hope and illuminate the path for all who seek truth and personal growth.

May the Great Architect of the Universe guide our steps and fill our lodges with light, charity, and the enduring strength of our Brotherhood.

Wishing everyone a joyful, prosperous, and enlightening New Year!



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FRIENDSHIP LODGE

presents our

Annual
Valentine's
Ladies Night
&

Saturday, February 14th, 2026

A Night of Love, Friendship & Fun!

\$35 Per Person

Cocktails: 5:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM

RSVP to Rob Lipic – Rob.home123@gmail.com

Ryan Lipic – ryan.lipic@gmail.com

**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



MASONIC EDUCATION



VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

**MONDAY,
MARCH 23, 2026
AT 7:45 PM**

**ALL MASONS INVITED.
PROVINCE-WIDE DISTRIBUTION.**



PRESENTED BY:
BRO. DANNY MYERS,
GRAND LODGE OF MICHIGAN

MEETING ID: 864 5963 4850



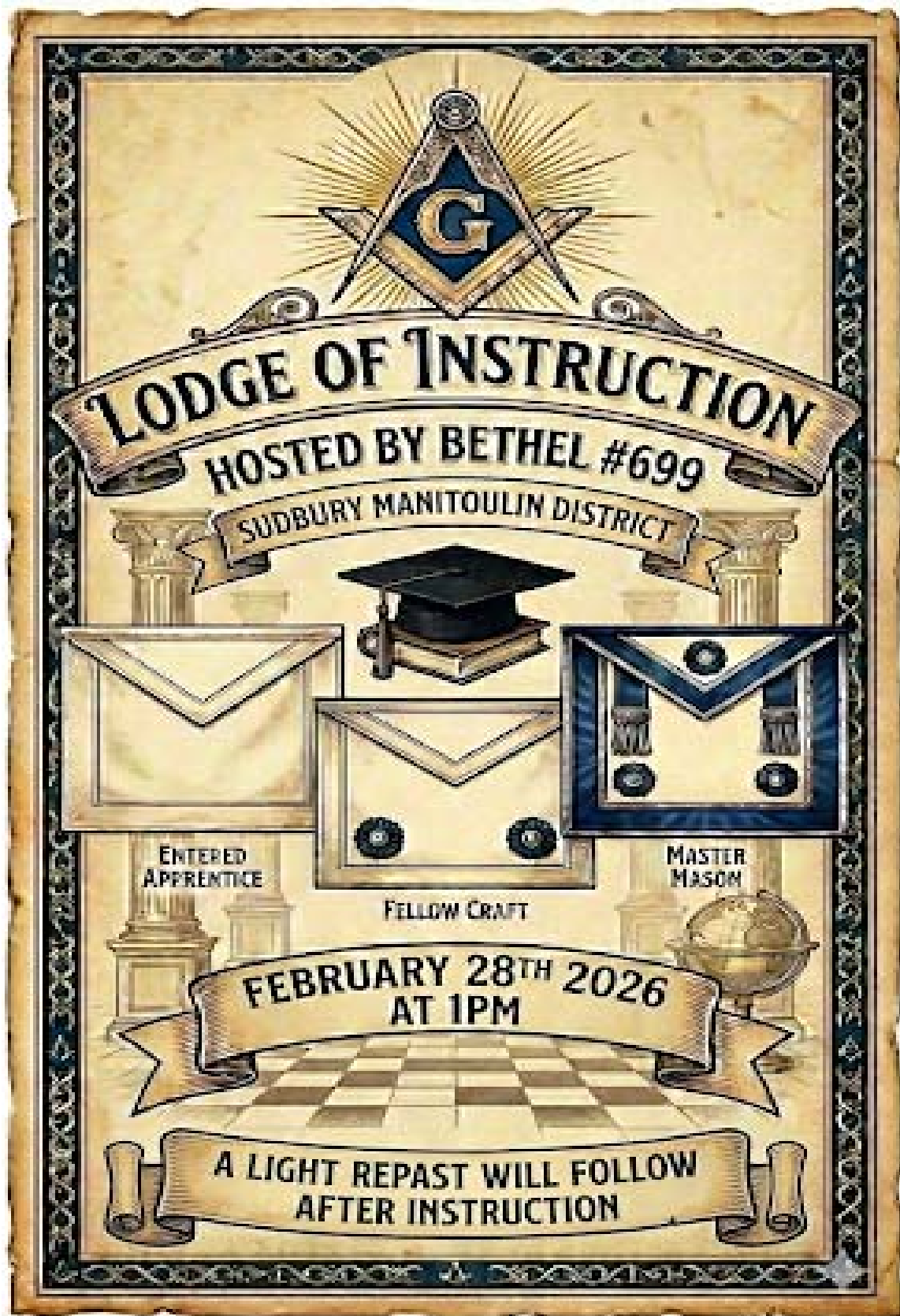
SLIDE INTO THE IDES OF MARCH WITH SOME SIDES!

BETHEL LODGE NO. 699 IS
HOSTING A DISTRICT COOK-OFF.



**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, BRING
YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!**

MARCH 15TH, STARTS AT 1PM
THE BELROCK MASONIC CENTER



Ontario Masons



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R.W. Bro. David Spencer, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, along with travelling companions W. Bro. David Carscallen of Bethel Lodge No. 699 and R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming of Nickel Lodge No. 427 visited Dymont Lodge No. 442 on Thursday January 8th.

They were wonderfully received by the Brethren of the beautifully maintained Lodge. The panelling (veneer) in the lodge room was donated by a



member. The wood was cut by a rotary ‘peeling’ of the birch log then reassembling the wood onto the walls of the Lodge room in the order it was cut.

The three travellers agreed that the room was not only beautiful, but worthwhile to visit on its merits alone, let alone the warmth of the Brethren that received them.

R.W. Bro. Spencer was received and accorded the Grand Honours appropriately.

After regular business was concluded, W. Bro. Carscallen and R.W. Bro. Fleming brought fraternal greetings to the Brethren of Dymont Lodge from their respect Lodges.

R.W. Bro. Spencer was granted permission to speak on the level and held the Brethren’s attention with a very well constructed and delivered talk regarding the importance of the chisel and what further meaning it can hold for use as Freemasons. The message of ‘doing the work – getting the job started and perhaps completed’ was heard loud and clear.

The evening was concluded with a delicious repast, sending the travellers on their way refreshed and content.

The picture shows the members present that evening as well as R.W. Bro. Spencer and W. Bro. Carscallen. Somebody had to take the picture. Not pictured (behind the camera) is R.W. Bro. Fleming.



Ontario Masons

Espanola Lodge will be hosting a Chilli Cookoff in conjunction with Espanola Township winter festival on the 9th of February

The Sudbury Shrine Club



Shrine Hospitals are world renowned for their burn clinics.... But prevention is always preferred over treatment.

The link below provides additional tips and information regarding burn prevention.

<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/patient-information/patient-services-and-resources/burn-awareness>



Ontario Masons

Congratulations!



On January 29th, W.M. Rick Mauti, Doric Lodge No 455, presented Bro Dave Ham with a certificate and pin, celebrating 60 years a Mason. I had the privilege of attending.



Ontario Masons