



## Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



## The Gauge of Providence

March 2026 Edition

District Editor Bro. Don Barton

## THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

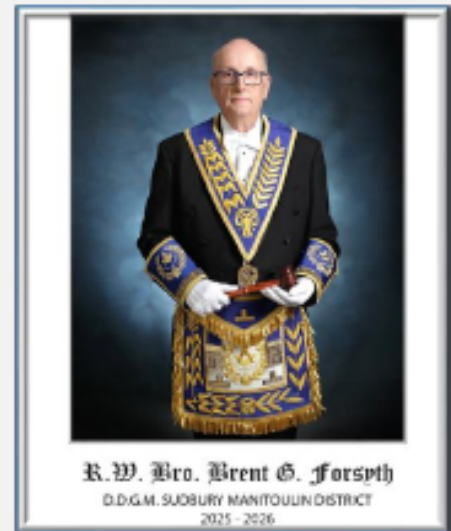
### *A Message from the District Deputy Grand Master*

“Old-tyme” winters are no longer just stories from another era. This year, across the country, Mother Nature has reminded us how those tales began. We’ve traded in the mild seasons of recent memory for deep snowbanks and biting sub-zero temperatures — the kind that prompt recollections of parents and grandparents walking miles to school, uphill both ways!

Yet while winter has come with renewed intensity, so too has the warmth of our Masonic spirit. Throughout the Sudbury–Manitoulin District, our Lodges have ensured that fellowship does not hibernate. Beyond regular meetings, they have created meaningful opportunities for Brethren, families, and friends to gather in camaraderie and good cheer — turning what could have been a season of isolation into one of connection. Since the beginning of the year alone, Lodges have hosted community dinners, evenings of fellowship, and family-friendly events welcoming those interested in learning more about Masonry. Fundraising initiatives and community outreach continue unabated — from clean-up drives and recycling programs to steadfast support of local causes. Many of our members are also active in other service organizations. Just last month, the local Legion newsletter featured several familiar Masonic faces supporting worthy initiatives, and the annual Lions Telethon in December — supported by Masons for decades — once again brought relief and hope to thousands of local families.

Our calendar has been full: successful Valentine’s celebrations, an Open House for prospective members, sausage runs, a well-attended Lodge of Instruction, a popular chili dinner, and the long-standing monthly community breakfast. The Java Club continues to offer a welcoming weekly gathering place. Looking ahead, plans are already in place for a virtual Masonic Education session on Membership, a Divine Service, a family barbecue, a New Masons’ Reception, and much more. Brethren, though the winds may howl and the snow may fall, the heart of Masonry in the Sudbury–Manitoulin District remains vibrant and warm. In every handshake, shared meal, and act of service, we are reminded that the true strength of our Craft is found not in the weather outside, but in the fellowship within.

*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."*

***Brother Ross King has passed to the Grand Lodge Above, a masonic funeral service was held on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026***

***Bro. John Davies Passed to the Grand Lodge Above, his funeral was held on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026***

## *Those in Ill and Distressed Circumstances*

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

*Mrs. Shelley (W. Bro. Dave) Kennedy  
recovering from a procedure at the  
hospital*

*Mrs. Jen (Bro. Stan) MacNabb  
continues her fight with Cancer*



**Ontario Masons**

## The Lodges

**Nickel Lodge No. 427 – Mr. Russ Seguin was initiated on February 4<sup>th</sup> at our regular meeting with our DDGM, visitors From City of Lakes and Friendship Lodges in attendance.**



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

Pictured are those who attended Bro. Seguin's initiation.

Pictured separately with Brother Seguin is our District Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Mike Wootton (sponsor), Nickel Lodge's Worshipful Master W. Bro. Jody Caldwell (also a sponsor) and W. Bro. Paguandas I.P.M.. Great to have you with us Bro. Seguin! – Submitted by R.W. Bro Fleming



**Espanola Lodge No. 527** – On February 6 the Masonic Lodge number 527 had a chilli supper at the Espanola complex centre from 5 to 7. It was a busy day the morning with preparation under the guidance of worshipful brother Jim Bailey, and his wife and a number of brothers and their wives making the day and easy prep day. The chilli cooked all day and I must admit that it was one of the best suppers that we've had in a long time. The supper was the conjugation with the Espanola winter carnival and with everything going on that day we were able to serve about 50 people.

We are looking forward to our next adventure.

Don't forget the

Masonic breakfast held the last Saturday and the first Saturday of every month.



**Friendship Lodge No. 691 - Friendship Lodge "Ladies Night" on Valentine's Day 2026** was a great success. The event has been run since 1977 with the exception of the covid years. 76 people attended, dinner was provided by the Eastern Star, music laughter and dancing continued through the night. Raffle prizes, door prizes were taken home by the lucky winners! Once again, the organizing committee put together a great evening – thanks to all who participated.



See you next year! – Submitted by  
R.W. John Mischczak



**Bethel Lodge No. 699 –**

Bethel Lodge welcome it's newest and now youngest member on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Bro. Carlos Bermudez, a sincere congratulations to you, and welcome! We wish you a long and prosperous journey in masonry. The meeting was well attended by members of Bethel, as well as visitors from other lodges.



## Doric Lodge No.455

This evening, we initiated our new member, Brother Robert Bruno into our Ancient Fraternity. Many memorable takeaways from the evening were a delicious repast before our meeting, made by the loving hands of W. Bro. Tom Morris and his lovely wife Sue. R. W. Bro. David Spencer, our Grand Chaplain delivered an excellent Masonic Education as well as assuming the chair in the

North for the evening; W. Bro. Tom Morris's impressive delivery of the JW Lecture followed by the Final Charge raised the bar for the rest of us brethren in how to deliver our work. Last but not least, our newly initiated brother; many attendees noted how astute and present he was - taking everything in as it was delivered. I am looking forward to witnessing his Masonic Journey into the future.

On Saturday, February 14th, the brethren enjoyed a scrumptious Valentine's Day dinner menu in a well attended intimate setting together with their spouses at the Anchor Inn Hotel in Little Current, Ontario. The evening was filled with fellowship and fun lasting loving memories. Looking forward to our next get-together !! Brother Wayne Malleau went all out and wore a traditional Masonic Scottish Kilt that was custom made for him. Well done, brother!



In closing, I am including a little speech, written and spoken at the February Repast before Lodge.

“Brethren—venerable in years and service—and you who stand at the threshold of our ancient and honourable fraternity:

Freemasonry has often been described as an allegory, and rightly so—not a tale told for amusement, but an adventure of the soul, clothed in symbols, enacted in steps, and illuminated by reflection. It is a journey not across lands, but inward, not toward conquest, but toward comprehension.

To you, my senior Brethren, who have borne the working tools far longer than most, you know this truth well: the challenges we face within the Craft—its disciplines, its obligations, its quiet demands for patience and humility—are but a pale rehearsal for the greater trials of life itself. The lodge does not exist to shelter us from the world, but to prepare us for it. Here we learn, in measured and deliberate ways, what life will later demand of us without warning or mercy: integrity under pressure, charity in disagreement, fortitude in loss, and fidelity when convenience tempts us otherwise.

And to you, soon-to-be Initiate, who stand poised at the outer door: understand this with clarity and courage. What lies before you is not an escape from life’s hardships, nor a guarantee against them. Freemasonry offers no armour against sorrow, no shortcut to wisdom, no exemption from human struggle. What it offers is far more demanding—and far more valuable.

It offers a mirror.

In that mirror, you will encounter yourself: your strengths refined, your weaknesses exposed, your intentions tested. The challenges you meet in the Craft may seem symbolic—and they are—but symbols have weight when they are carried honestly. The lessons you receive here are quiet, but they are persistent. They will follow you into your home, your labour, your moments of solitude, and your moments of decision.

Life, as you will learn, does not present its trials in orderly degrees. It does not pause to explain its lessons. It does not ensure fairness. But the Craft, in its wisdom, teaches you how to stand when life does these things—how to square your actions, how to level your judgments, how to circumscribe your passions, and how to keep your word when silence would be easier.

To the senior Brethren: your task is not merely to remember these truths, but to embody them—patiently, visibly, and without demand for recognition. For the new initiate will learn far more from who you are than from anything that is said to him.

And to you, candidate: if you proceed, do so not as a spectator, but as a participant in your own becoming. Enter with humility, remain with diligence, and walk forward with courage. The allegory will unfold slowly, sometimes uncomfortably, often beautifully—but only to the extent that you are willing to live it.

Freemasonry is an adventure, yes—but not one of drama or display. It is the steady, lifelong adventure of shaping a better man in a world that will constantly test whether such a thing is possible.

May those who have walked this path long continue to light the way.

And may you, who are about to take your first step, walk it with purpose, patience, and honour.”

***Worshipful Brother Rick Mauti*** **Worshipful Master**

**NICKEL LODGE NO.427**  
**WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL**  
**2025-2026**



**In the photo:**

David Williams, left, of The Go-Give Project, collects winter clothing from Bro. Greg Blomme, co-ordinator for the Nickel Masonic Lodge Cold Weather Winter Clothing campaign.

Courtesy of: John Lappa/Sudbury Star/Postmedia Network

PHOTO BY JOHN LAPPA /John Lappa/Sudbury Star

The Concordant Bodies

**Attention Sovereign Princes**

**If you are planning to apply to the Consistory this year  
the following dates will be of interest to you for the  
Spring Reunions:**

**Moore Sovereign Consistory (Hamilton)**

**March 20<sup>th</sup> is the last date for applications**

**Barrie Consistory**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> is the last date for applications**

**Contact a member of the Consistory you are applying  
to for an application form or for more information.**



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](mailto:donations@tmfo.ca)

For more information contact the Masonic Foundation Representative

V.W. Bro. Keith Varey

(705) 207-9797

[kvarey@vianet.ca](mailto:kvarey@vianet.ca)

**Alzheimer Society**  
ONTARIO

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**Sudbury  
Manitoulin,  
North Bay & Districts**

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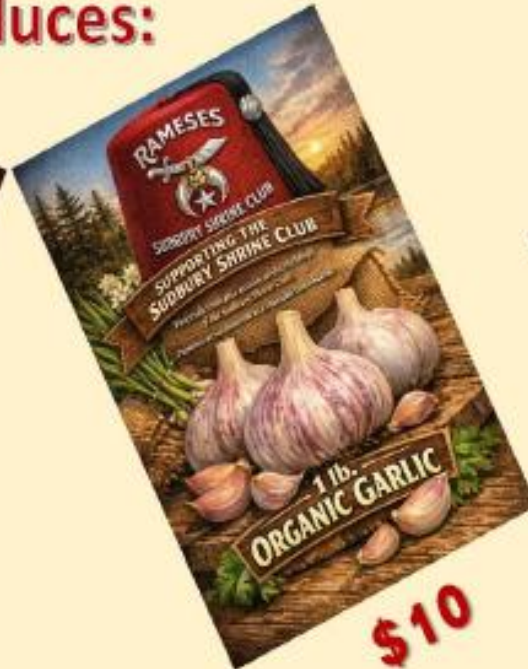


Ontario Masons

*Happenings in the District*

**The Sudbury Shrine Club  
introduces:**

To order email  
sudburyshriners@gmail.com



coming  
this  
Fall

*Brethren, please note that the District Trestle Board has been updated. Please check your email for correspondence received from you Lodge Secretary.*



Ontario Masons



# A&ASR



## ITALIAN SAUSAGE

First run of 2026

**ORDER SOON**

Order cut-off date is **Thursday March 12th**

Production date is Thursday March 19th

Pick your sausages up fresh on the day they are made from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

5lb. for \$35... mild, medium, hot, and porchetta

Place your order with Rob Lipic or Ray Barlow.

Rob's email is: [rob.home123@gmail.com](mailto:rob.home123@gmail.com)

Ray's email is: [rbarlow691@gmail.com](mailto:rbarlow691@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support!

E-Transfers accepted @ [rob.home123@gmail.com](mailto:rob.home123@gmail.com)



Ontario Masons



SUDBURY-MANITOULIN  
DISTRICT  
DIVINE SERVICE

*May 24th, 2026*  
10:30 AM

COPPER CLIFF UNITED CHURCH  
26 PARK STREET, COPPER CLIFF ON, POM 1N0  
LIGHT LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

# 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**



# 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**

**ID WILL BE SENT OUT PRIOR TO  
THE MEETING ON MARCH 23**

