



Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



The Gauge of Providence

April 2026 Edition

District Editor Bro. Don Barton

The District at a Glance

A message from the District Deputy Grand Master

Patriotism is often defined simply as devotion to one's country—but in truth, it is far more than a definition. It is a force. It is a conviction shaped by history, sacrifice, and shared purpose. It unites people, strengthens nations, and inspires generations to build something greater than themselves.

And when we, as Freemasons, reflect upon that spirit, we recognize something familiar.

For what is Freemasonry, if not a higher form of that same devotion? Not to a flag or a border, but to principles—to truth, to integrity, to brotherly love. A devotion not bound by geography, but by character.

For over 300 years, our fraternity has stood. Through misunderstanding, through criticism, through the shifting tides of history—Freemasonry has endured. Why? Because it is built not upon fleeting ideas, but upon timeless truths. Because, time and again, good men have risen—men of vision, strength, and unwavering integrity—to defend what is right and to preserve what is good.

But brethren, the greatest test of any institution does not come from without—it comes from within.

It is easy to stand united against an external challenge. It is far more difficult to preserve harmony when division seeks to take root among us. When voices of discord arise, when self-interest overshadows shared purpose, when words are spoken without the tempering hand of brotherly love—then our true character is revealed.

And so we must ask ourselves: Who are we?

Are we merely members of an organization—or are we stewards of a living tradition?

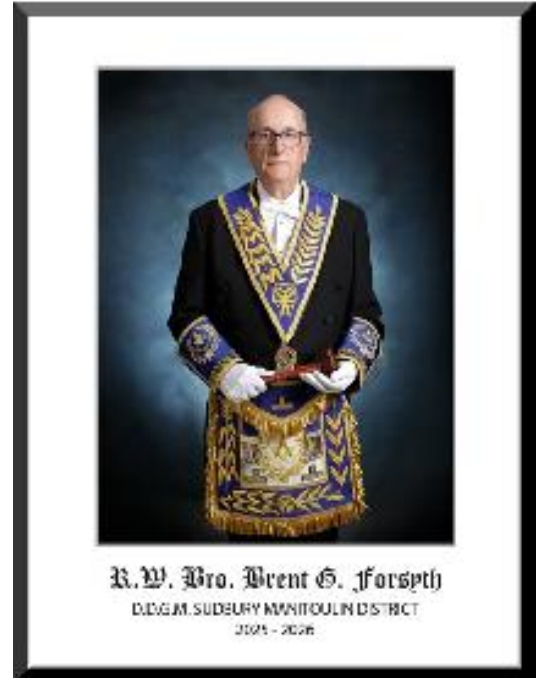
Freemasonry does not demand perfection—but it does demand effort. It calls upon us to reflect, to improve, to strive. Its lessons are not shouted—they are revealed, quietly and persistently, through symbol, allegory, and example.

The skirret reminds us to walk a straight and unwavering path.

The plumb rule calls us to uprightness, guided by humility.

The square teaches us to act with fairness and virtue in all that we do.

These are not just tools of the Craft—they are tools for life.



And so, brethren, the challenge before us is not complicated—but it is profound.

We must live these teachings.

Not only within the walls of the Lodge, but beyond them. Not only in times of harmony, but especially in moments of tension. We must be the calm voice when others raise theirs. The steady hand when others falter. The example when others lose their way.

We must be mentors to those who may not yet understand, offering guidance before judgment, patience before criticism. For sometimes, a brother does not seek to divide—he simply needs to be reminded of what unites us.

This is our duty.

To protect the harmony of the Lodge.

To uphold the dignity of the Craft.

To strengthen the bonds that make us Brothers.

Let us stand—not in opposition to one another—but shoulder to shoulder, united in purpose.

Let us lead—not with authority alone—but with integrity, humility, and compassion.

Let us remember that when we meet upon the level, all distinctions fall away. We are equal—not because we are the same, but because we share a common commitment to something greater than ourselves.

This place—this Lodge—is more than a room. It is a beacon. A refuge. A living testament to what men can achieve when guided by light instead of shadow.

So stand tall, brethren.

Stand firm in your principles.

Stand united in your purpose.

Stand as examples of what Freemasonry was, is, and must always be.

And in doing so, we will not only preserve this great fraternity—we will inspire it, strengthen it, and carry it forward for generations yet to come.



THOSE PASSED TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE

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



Brother John Harris 'Jack' Legge of Nickel Lodge No. 427

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on Saturday February 14th, 2026.
He was 47 years a Freemason.

R.W. Bro. Keith Quinn of Granite Lodge No. 352 & Kempenfeldt Lodge No. 673

Brother of V.W. Bro. Wayne Quinn of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536
Passed to the GLA on Saturday, March 7th, 2026

Mrs. Eileen James

Wife of Bro. Wayne James of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 passed away March 31st, 2026
after a long struggle with cancer.

THOSE IN ILL OR DISTRESSED CIRCUMSTANCES

Bro. Gary Bate of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536
Continuing chemo etc.

W. Bro. Eric Benedict of Nickel Lodge No. 427
Recovering at the HSN cardiac rehabilitation centre from his fourth stroke

W. Bro. Chris Kemp of Nickel Lodge No. 427
At the hospice

Mrs. Jen (Bro. Stan) MacNabb of Nickel Lodge No. 427
Carrying on the fight against cancer

V.W. Bro. Alan Hill of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536
Health issues causing hospitalization – now at home

V.W. Bro. Wayne Quinn of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536
On the loss of his Brother

The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

R.W. Bro. Brent Forsyth's Official Visit began with the Festive Board in the Banquet Hall, with very good attendance from the District Brethren.

The work of the evening was the proving of the Master Mason degree by Bro. Scott Humphrey and a recognition and celebration of 50 years in the Craft for R.W. Bro. Robert South. R.W. Bro. South's Family was in attendance for the ceremony.

R.W. Bro. Forsyth gave a brief talk regarding the honour and privilege of being a Freemason. He asked the Brethren to look around the Lodge room saying, "What do you see?". He implored us to see beyond the visible. We are the living body of the Lodge. It is more than what you see...it is what you feel when we are together, or when we meet each other outside of the Lodge.

Pictures in the Banquet Hall are of the buffet table, head table and general pictures of the room



Nickel Lodge No. 427

Pictures in Lodge are of the South Family, five Nickel Lodge Entered Apprentices, all of the District Worshipful Masters, V.W. Bro. Jim Ramsay, Grand Steward, and our DDGM and those in attendance at the Official Visit



Nickel Lodge No. 427

Nickel Lodge Cambrian College Bursary

W. Bro. Larry Paguandas and Bro. Beaumont Nelson attended the Cambrian College Bursary presentations and on behalf of the members of Nickel Lodge presented our bursaries.

Pictured are the recipients Iris Hsu (left in the picture) and Babatunde Ayoola flanked by our Nickel Lodge Brethren.



When our Worshipful Master had the Lodge booked for a practice, then found that we

weren't ready to proceed with the degree..... enter our Entered Apprentice Nick Wilson who utilized the Nickel Lodge WhatsApp *Practices* Chat group to reach out for mentoring... and the Brethren took notice.

Three more Entered Apprentices and three senior Brethren responded, and the result was an enjoyable few hours at the Lodge going over the degree and other information.

The group thanked Nick for the spark that motivated the unscheduled

mentoring session.

Pictured (l – r) are:

Bro. Adam Lindo, Bro. Greg Blomme, Bro. Quinton Fournier, Bro. Nick Wilson, W. Bro. Bill Keenan Bro. Pat Walsh and W. Bro. Larry Paguandas



Doric Lodge No. 455

R.W. Bro. Peter Gordon delivered a thoughtful and well-crafted piece of Masonic education on the Entered Apprentice Mason's Apron—both enlightening and grounding in its symbolism. For those who wish to revisit his work, it is featured in the April edition of the Ontario Mason's Magazine.

As for the evening itself—true to form and with all due solemnity—we proceeded through the order of business with such electrifying precision and enthusiasm that the brethren were, quite understandably, barely able to contain themselves. One might even say the air was thick with... restrained excitement.

All in all, a night of light, knowledge, and just the right measure of well-tempered Masonic "energy."



Espanola Lodge No. 527

A Respective from 30+ Years Ago

This would be my submission for the edition of the District Newsletter this month. Although the request was for successes and/or pitfalls during my year as Worshipful Master, specific ones have largely faded with the passage of time. However, this article, although rather dated will give provide a glimpse of the past with respect to Espanola Lodge No. 527.

I was installed on June 22, 1994 and Worshipful Brother Marvin Streich was the Installing Master for my installation ceremony for the ensuing Masonic year, with 52 Brethren in attendance. It was an especially memorable occasion for me as my father, Very Worshipful Brother Al Hodgins (since deceased) of Powassan Lodge No. 443, installed me in the chair of King Solomon that evening. I had a near-full slate of Officers in the chairs, of varying experience which provided a great knowledge base during my term. The lodge had about 120 members at that time, with an average attendance of about 24 at our regular meetings.

I don't recall that Masonic Education was a formal topic then, as it is now, however the Education component was. Our Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Robert South (PDDGM 1993), provided a video on The Mentors programme. Of course, it required us to obtain a TV and VCR to watch it, but it was well received by the Brethren. All was not lost though as later that year, the DDGM of the period, Right Worshipful Brother Ron Zinkie introduced us to a video on the Friend-To-Friend programme. I suspect the F2F was new that year as it had a steady presence during my term what with promoting and presenting the programme.

We completed amendments to our lodge by-laws that year, which included a section to establish a Centennial Fund. This fund was used to accumulate funds in preparation for the expenses the lodge forecasted for our future centennial in 2015. As I write, that centennial is a distant memory now, the fund was a great asset and has since been repealed in subsequent by-law revisions.

Several noteworthy items came up during the year such as the District Levy remaining at \$2.75 per member and a few discussions on the idea of selecting a District Deputy Grand Master-elect at the district level prior to attending Grand Lodge Communications. The Annual Curling Funspiel and dinner was a great function as always and we made a small profit. This money was used to fund a bursary that the lodge sponsored at the local high school every year. There was other financial activity at the lodge as well during my year which supported our charities and went towards building positive balances in our accounts. Many Brethren volunteered in a project to repaint the anteroom of the lodge, which was badly in need of a refresh. The end state resulted in many positive compliments. A highlight of the year was hosting a luncheon at the lodge on April 29th, for the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother C. Edwin Drew during his Northeastern Tour.

Unfortunately, there were no initiations during my year, however it provided ample opportunity for several Brethren to complete their degree work, which had been overdue.

R.W. Bro. David Hodgins,
Espanola Lodge No. 527

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536



Pictured are the attendees at the March meeting for the election of Officers

V.W. Bro. Douglas Ashick is the Master Elect

The Installation and Investiture Ceremony is slated for Tuesday April 21st, 2026

The Concordant Bodies



Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada

Sudbury & District
LODGE OF PERFECTION
Valley of Sudbury

The Valley of Sudbury hosted our Deputy for Ontario, Ill. Bro. Robert Brethour, 33°, during his Official Visit to the Valley.

Pictured are those attending at that meeting, including, from left to right in the front row, Ill. Bro. Barry Tooley, 33°, our 2026 Reunion Honouree, Ill. Bro. Clive Stephenson, 33°, active member of Supreme Council, Ill. Bro. Greg Newson, 32°, Senior Grand Warden, Ill. Bro. Larry Paguandas, 32°, Thrice Puissant Grand Master, Ill. Bro. Robert Brethour, 33°, Deputy for Ontario, and Ill. Bro. Brent Forsyth, 32°, Junior Grand Warden.

A Supreme Council video depicting the 8th Degree was shown to the members as part of the evening's events.

Ill. Bro. Brethour, 33°, delivered a dissertation on "Attainable Goals", illuminating what can be achieved by working together. Topics he referenced included:

- Fiscal Responsibility

- Ritual (duty to excellence in delivery)

- Education (2015 education and enlightenment committee formed)

- Membership (increased interest being observed)

- Membership Engagement (friendship, fellowship and fun)

A light repast was enjoyed afterwards in the Banquet Hall.





**The Sudbury Shrine Club
introduces:**

To order email
Sudburyshrineonions@gmail.com



\$17



\$10

coming
this
Fall

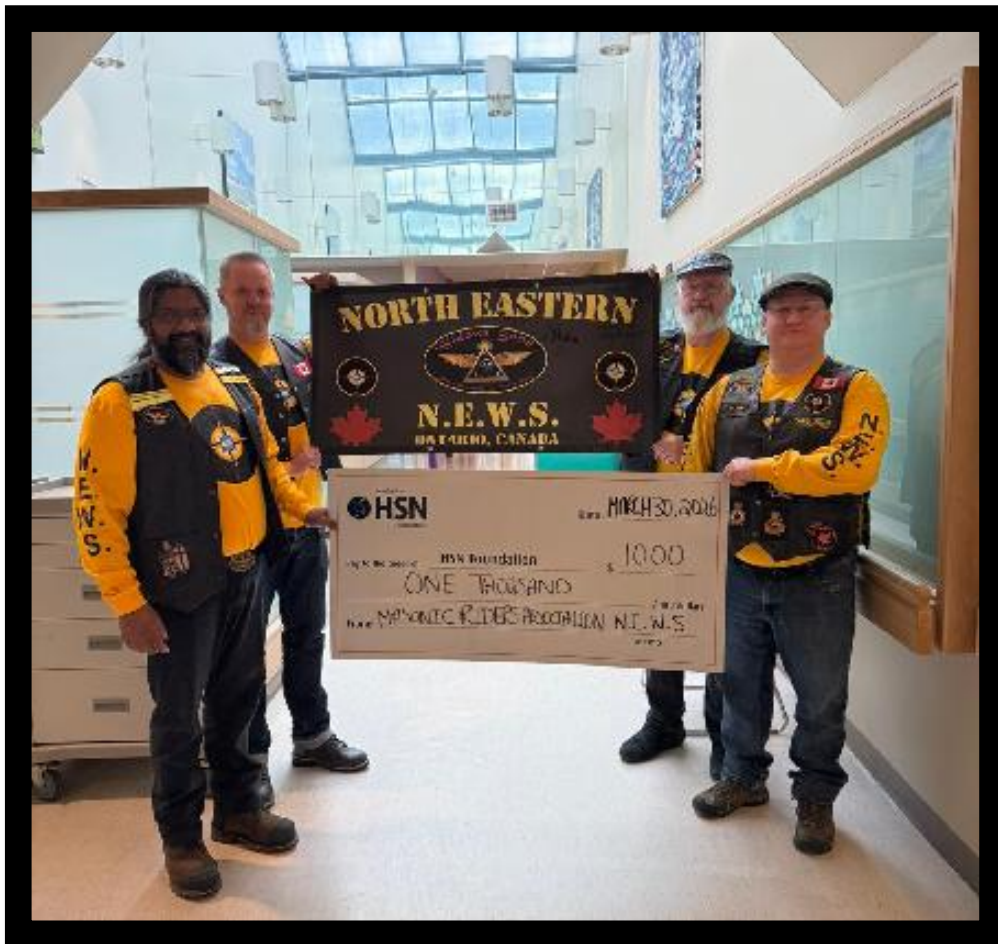
**As noted in the above poster, you can place your
order for the Fall at the Gmail address provided**



The Widows Sons is a worldwide association of Masons that enjoy riding motorcycles. The Widows Sons Ontario members are Master Masons who must belong to the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

The N.E.W.S. Chapter, though based in Sudbury, has members in the Soo, Elliot Lake, Chapleau, Webbwood and the Manitoulin. Funds are raised through ride fees assessed during our planned Chapter rides.

Representatives of the North Eastern Widows Sons Chapter donated to their designated charity, Northeast Cancer Centre, on Monday March 30th.



Pictured from L to R are Brothers; 'Pathfinder' Paguandas, 'Scooter' Keenan, 'Chops' Fleming and 'Blinky' Leonard, our President.



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

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**

