



Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



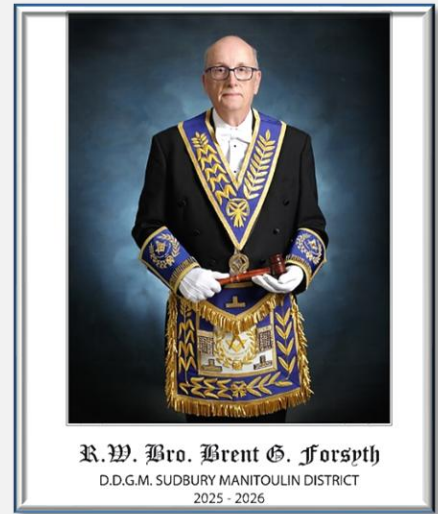
The Gauge of Providence

July 2026 Edition

Editor: R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming

From the District Deputy Grand Master

Freemasonry is an organization that has an historical impact in the development and growth of many countries over the past several centuries and continues to influence and assist with improving the individual, the community and family. It is not a religion. It is not a political movement. Presently there are over twenty thousand Masons in the province of Ontario and over five million worldwide. They all work to improve the condition of society and welcome brothers of the fraternity wherever they may find themselves. To explain I use the following quote to enlighten and encourage.



Freemasonry primarily offers a lifelong framework for character development, personal growth, and a global support system. Rather than material wealth, the fraternity emphasizes building integrity, connecting with a diverse brotherhood, and serving the community.

The most significant benefits it has to offer are broken down below:

1. Character Development & Moral Framework

- **Self-Improvement:** The ultimate goal is to "make good men better." Members reflect on their personal conduct and learn how to choose the right path, even when it's difficult.
- **Symbolism & Philosophy:** You are taught lessons in morality, equality, and kindness through ancient allegories and traditional tools (such as the square and compass).
- **Stress Relief:** Lodge meetings strictly prohibit discussions on commercial ventures and religion, providing a sanctuary where you can step away from daily life stresses to focus purely on self-reflection.



2. Lifelong Brotherhood & Trust

- **Diverse Connections:** You meet and bond with quality men from all walks of life—people you might never interact with in your day-to-day routine.
- **Support System:** Members forge a strong baseline of trust and mutual assistance. Whether you are moving to a new city or going through personal hardships, you have a built-in network of brothers to rely on.
- **Fellowship:** Beyond formal ceremonies, lodges host dinners, events, and casual hangouts, fostering a deep sense of belonging.

3. Service & Community Contribution

- **Charitable Giving:** Freemasonry is heavily dedicated to giving back. Members donate their surplus time, skills, and funds to local and global charities, hospitals, and disaster relief.
- **Making an Impact:** It provides a tangible way to participate in something larger than yourself and leave a positive mark on society.

4. Leadership & Personal Skills

- **Leadership Roles:** Through the progressive "officer line" of the lodge, members take on increasing responsibilities, offering a low-pressure environment to develop public speaking, management, and leadership skills.

What you get out of it depends entirely on what you put into it. The fraternity relies on active participation, and the true rewards are earned through the time and dedication you invest in your lodge and your fellow members.

If you are interested in Freemasonry within the Sudbury-Manitoulin district you can reach out via email to ddgm@smmasons.com or in the province to office@grandlodge.on.ca. We look forward to hearing from you.

R.W. Brent G. Forsyth,
District Deputy Grand Master
Sudbury-Manitoulin District



Ontario Masons

Sudbury- Manitoulin A.F. & A.M.
Necrology - 2025-2026

Nickel Lodge No. 427

Bro. Allan Bernard - December 2, 2025

Bro. John Legge - Feb 14, 2026

W. Bro. Eric Benedict -February 14, 2026

W. Bro. Chris Kemp - May 15, 2026

Doric Lodge No. 455

W. Bro. Grenville Green - June 29, 2025

Espanola Lodge No. 527

W. Bro. Gerry Tuffy - August 15, 2025

W. Bro. Rodd Junkala - January 13, 2026

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

W. Bro. Arthur McGinn - October 11, 2025

Bro. Robert Glen - November 19, 2025

Bro. George Frost - December 12, 2025

Bro. Edward Lumley - January 1, 2026

Bro. John Davies - February 3, 2026

Bro. Peter Duncan Ramsay – May 25, 2026

Bro. George Joyce – June 10, 2026

Friendship Lodge No. 691

Bro. James O'Neill - January 27, 2026

W. Bro. Ross King - February 10, 2026

Bethel Lodge No. 699

W. Bro. Robert Akkanen - July 14, 2025

Bro. Serge Trottier - June 1, 2025



*We cherish their
memory in our hearts*



Ontario Masons



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. George Joyce of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 passed away June 10th

Those Who Are Ill or in Distressed Circumstances

V.W. Bro. Alan Hill of City of Lakes Lodge in the hospital (being discharged)

Bro. Michael Wootton of Nickel Lodge No. 427 dealing with hip issues and recovering from carpal tunnel surgery



Ontario Masons

The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

The June regular meeting of Nickel Lodge saw the customary ceremony and moment of silence observed for **W. Bro. Chris Kemp**, who passed to the Grand Lodge Above on May 15th.

The business of the evening was the election of Officers.

Officers Elect:

Worshipful Master:	Bro. John Leonard	Senior Warden:	Bro. Paul Ladd
Junior Warden:	Bro. Johnathon Leveque	Chaplain:	R.W. Bro. J. David Innes
Treasurer:	V.W. Bro. Greg Newson	Secretary:	R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming
Asst. Secretary:	Bro. Mike Lalonde	Tyler:	W. Bro. Rod Purdy

Pictured below are those who were in attendance.



Doric Lodge No. 455

At the June meeting, W. Bro. Rick Mauti was installed as Worshipful Master with a full slate of officers invested for the coming Masonic year.

A number of guests were on hand to participate in both the installation and the strawberry social which followed.

Doric Lodge is looking forward to another great year.



Ontario Masons

Espanola Lodge No. 527

The last meeting before summer call-off for the District was held at Espanola Lodge on June 24th. It was followed by the traditional strawberries and ice cream treat.

The serious work preceding the strawberry social was the Installation of the Worshipful Master – Elect and the Investiture of the Officers for the ensuing Masonic year.

V.W. Bro. John Moody was installed as Worshipful Master under the tutelage of R.W. Bro. Peter Gordon.

A very enjoyable evening!



Ontario Masons

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536



At the June 16th regular meeting of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536, Bro. Michael Lumley was presented with his 25-year pin.

Grand Chaplain R.W. Bro. David Spencer provided Masonic Education and gave an engaging lecture on how the contributions of every Mason may differ from one another but are no less important.



Friendship Lodge No. 691

Installation of the Master-Elect and the Investiture of the Officers was the work at Friendship Lodge's regular meeting in June.

R.W. Bro. Robert Lipic was installed in the Chair of King Solomon in a ceremony conducted by his Brother (and his brother) V.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic.



Those attending the ceremony.



Ontario Masons

Sudbury-Manitoulin District A.F. & A.M. would like to announce and congratulate V.W. Bro. Ryan T. Lipic on being elected District Deputy Grand Master for this district, representing the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. He will be installed at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on July 16th at Richmond Hill for the 2026-27 Masonic year.

V.W. Bro. Lipic is twice Past Master (2015, 2023-25) of Friendship Lodge No 691, He was invested a Grand Steward in 2022. Ryan is currently a member of York Rite where he is a member of Tuscan Chapter no. 95 and Mavar Preceptory No. 65. Scottish Rite as a member of Sudbury Valley Lodge of Perfection, North Bay Rose Croix, Barrie Consistory and served as TPGM in 2018.



W. Bro. Roger Kitching has agreed to serve as the District Secretary for 2026-27. He is a Past Master of Friendship Lodge No 691 (2012). Roger is well known throughout the district, being a member of York Rite with Tuscan Chapter No.95 and is a Honourary Inspector General. 33° of the Scottish Rite, Sudbury and District Lodge of Perfection.

As the brotherhood unite together in all our undertakings across the Sudbury-Manitoulin District we look forward to a great year with the leadership and Masonic examples these Brother's provide.



Ontario Masons

New Mason & Family Lunch



Trivia!

For the Entered Apprentice:

How do you know yourself to be a Mason?

What is Freemasonry?

For the Fellow Craft:

How were Fellow Craft paid their wages?

On what were you received?

For the Master Mason:

How many steps are there to the alter?

How were you prepared to receive your third degree?

For Past Masters:

Where did he stagger after being cut off by the first two?

Who was stopped from kneeling when he approached Solomon?

We had a great time...

On June 14th Belrock greeted the families of some of our newest Mason's in the District, from Sudbury and Manitoulin.

It was definitely different hearing, and seeing, young voices all through the rooms and hallways of our beloved centre! Sometimes it was a little chaotic, sometimes a little formal, but for the most part it was great afternoon that all those who attended found interesting, entertaining, and filling!

The agenda started with a buffet style lunch, served in the banquet room, which included hotdogs and pulled pork sandwiches with all the fixings available! Lunch was followed by some presentations made by our concordant bodies; including Eastern Star and the Shrine. A tour of the entire building was then conducted which ended in the lodge room.

At one point some of the kids took over the lodge room, and one of the youngest Masters took his place in the East, surrounded by all his top-level confidants! It was very nice to see and leaves us hopeful for our future as well.

During question period in the Lodge room it was very interesting to hear the questions the kids themselves had about the room. It proved that, although the formality of the event may have been a little long for them, they actually paid attention and were very observant of the things they were being exposed too. We may definitely be blessed with some applications in the future!

It was a great event and was well attended. We hope that our newest Masons and their families enjoyed meeting everyone as much as we enjoyed meeting them!

... and filled our stomachs!



Ontario Masons



“What do those stars represent?”

We asked the kids if they had any questions and this is what they said...

Sudbury – Manitoulin District Trivia:

Who was the first lodge to be consecrated in the District?

Do you remember what the original name of our district was?

What was the name of our only 'Daylight' lodge?

Can you name the lodges that occupy and run from the Belrock building? (how many have you visited?)

Do you know the names of the lodges that do not meet at Belrock in the district? (have you visited them?)

Can you name the DDGM that was at your initiation? (give him a call, I am sure he would love to hear from you!)

During the Q&A in the lodge room the adults were too shy to ask any questions, but the kids had several that our District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Brent Forsyth, had to take a moment to answer himself!

Curious by nature, the kids seemed very curious about the following; can you answer their questions?

- 1) *What do the stars above the senior warden's chair represent?*
- 2) *What is the meaning behind the colours of the mosaic pavement in front of the altar?*
- 3) *Why are there pillars surrounding the altar at the centre of the building?*

As you can see, they were very curious and quite specific with what they wanted to know!

Before the tour began W.M. Peggy South spoke about the Order of the Eastern Star and how it, like Masonry, gives the opportunity for women, and men, to get together with shared spiritual values, to practice charity, promote fraternal, and build character. W.Bro. David Squarzolo spoke to the purpose of the Shrine which fosters a brotherhood of men committed to fun, fellowship, and family, while supporting their official philanthropic endeavours. Then R.W. Bro. Clair Bracken took us on a journey through

Masonry in the Sudbury Manitoulin District with all the lodges that have opened, amalgamated and gone dark as well as how the building at Belrock came into existence.

Everyone then toured the entire building, from the library downstairs to the lodge room on the main floor. It was entertaining to hear the voices, laughter and chatter throughout the entire building at that time.

The tour culminated in the lodge room where the District Deputy explained the chairs and talked about our fraternity. It was a wonderful afternoon, and we thank all the hands that went into making a great event!

This article was prepared and submitted by W. Bro. Larry Paguandas



Ontario Masons

FRIENDSHIP LODGE



GOLF *Tournament*

Saturday, **AUGUST 8TH, 2026**


FOREST RIDGE
GOLF COURSE



9 HOLES OF GOLF



WITH CART



DINNER



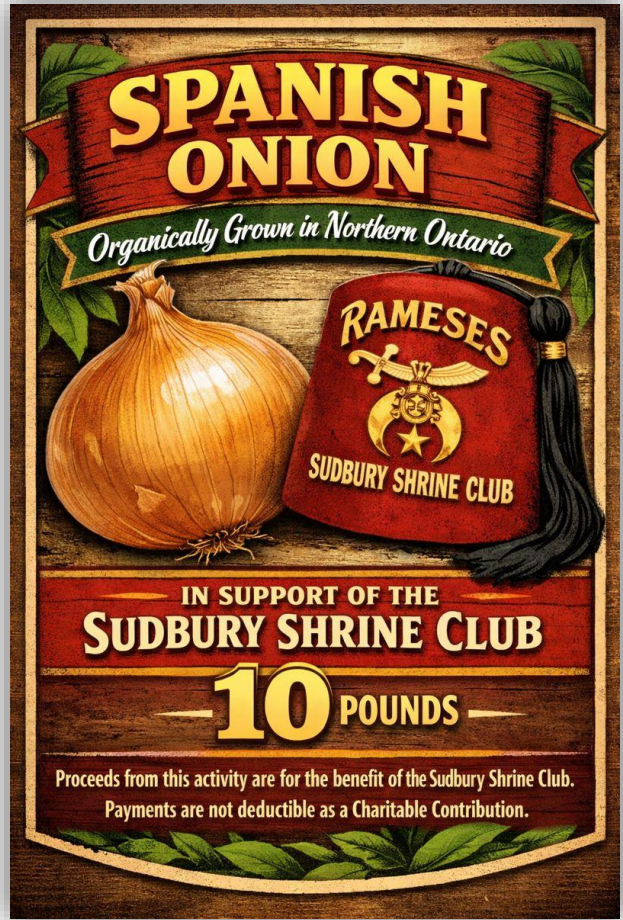
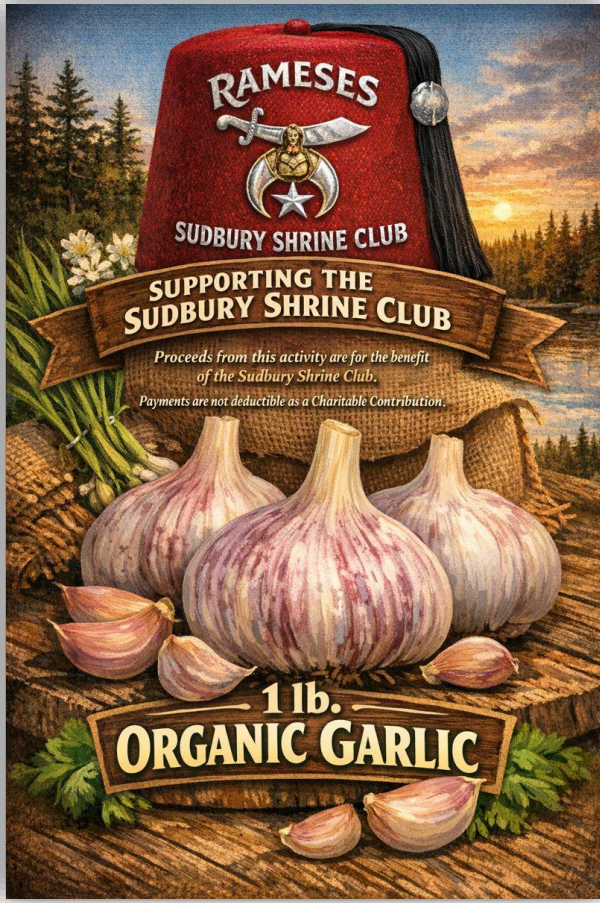
\$90

SHOTGUN START AT 1:00 PM - RAIN OR SHINE

PLEASE CONTACT ROB LIPIC
rob.home123@gmail.com for tickets



Ontario Masons

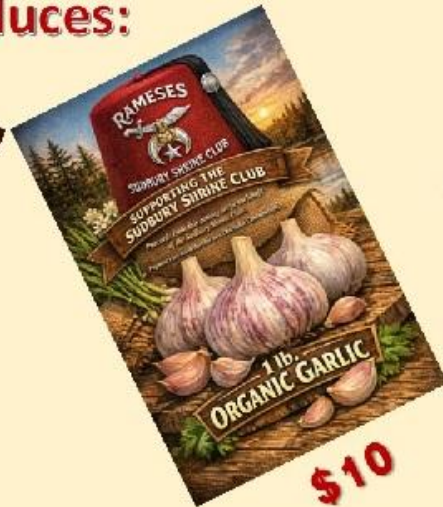


The Sudbury Shrine Club introduces:

To order email
Sudburyshrineonions@gmail.com



\$17



\$10

coming
 this
 Fall



Ontario Masons

In other News.....

LEGION DECORATION DAY

LEST WE FORGET



On **SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH**, we will be taking part in the annual Decoration Day ceremony starting at **1 P.M.**



at the Manitoulin District Cenotaph located at **MONUMENT CORNER IN SPRING BAY.**



If it rains, it will be held in **MINDEMOYA COMMUNITY ARENA.**



ALL CADETS SHOULD BE ON SITE NO LATER THAN 12:45, WEARING YOUR **FULL DRESS UNIFORM MINUS YOUR TUNIC.**

SO ONLY THE WHITE SHIRT.

- ✓ Make sure you have your white top
- ✓ No lanyard
- ✓ Don't need a tie
- ✓ Your pants
- ✓ And of course, your boots

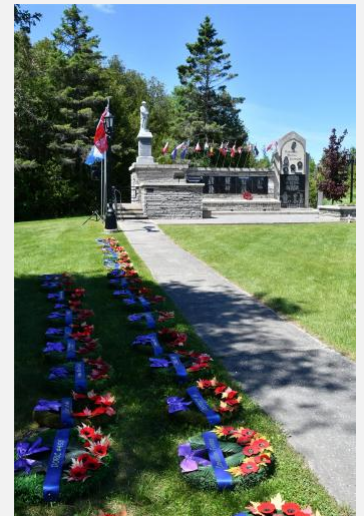


WE WILL BE HELPING WITH
THE LAYING OF THE WREATHS.

★ LEGION BRANCH 177 ★



Ontario Masons



Ontario Masons



Doric Lodge hosted an event in coordination with the Manitoulin Community Safety Day event held in the Community Centre in Little Current.

Although the weather was dreary, the enthusiasm of all the participants at the event compensated for the lack of sunshine.

Pictured following are event locations and set-up room.

A yellow poster with a black and white diagonal striped border on the left side. The text "MARK YOUR CALENDARS!" is written vertically in white on the stripes. The main title "The 1st Annual Manitoulin Island Community Safety Day" is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below the title is a red alarm bell icon. A black rounded rectangle contains the event details in white text. At the bottom, contact information is provided in black text.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 1st Annual Manitoulin Island Community Safety Day

When: Saturday, June 6, 2026
Where: NEMI Recreation Centre (Curling Club Side)
Hours: 10 am - 4 pm

Join us for this fun, family-friendly event.
Meet first responders and the many other organizations
that help keep our Island communities safe.

FREE ADMISSION
(food bank donations greatly appreciated)
Displays! Demos! Truck Zone!

- Police • Paramedic Services • Fire Department Apparatus
- Search and Rescue • Health and Wellness
- Emergency Preparedness • And Much More!

For further information, please contact:
Kevin Spikes 705-968-0580, kevin@manitoulin.com
Lisa Hallaert, Town of NEMI 705-862-2538, lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca



Ontario Masons



Ontario Masons



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

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