

Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



September 2026 Edition

Editor: R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming



Ontario Masons

From our District Deputy Grand Master

One District – One Brotherhood

One of the greatest strengths of our District is not found in the number of Lodges we have, nor in the buildings where we meet. Our greatest strength is found in those we call Brother.

It is easy to think of our Lodges as separate organizations, each with its own traditions and identity. While those differences are something to celebrate, they should never become barriers that keep us apart. The moment we were initiated into Freemasonry, we became members of something much greater than our own Mother Lodge. We became part of a worldwide Brotherhood founded upon friendship and brotherly love.



As District Deputy Grand Master, one of my greatest hopes for the coming year is that we continue to strengthen the bonds between our Lodges. Every time we travel to visit another Lodge, we bring more than just another face in the room. We bring fellowship, and the reminder that none of us labour alone.

When one Lodge celebrates a success, it benefits our entire District. When another face's challenges, those challenges belong to all of us. We should never think in terms of "their Lodge" and "our Lodge." There is only *our District*, and together we will continue to make it stronger.

The future of Masonry will not be built by individual Lodges working in isolation. It will be built by Brethren who know one another, support one another, and are willing to travel district roads to extend the hand of fellowship. If each of us makes the effort to visit just one more Lodge this year, to meet one new Brother, or to offer encouragement where it is needed, the effects will ripple throughout our District.

Our ritual reminds us that we meet on the level. There is no better place to strengthening our Brotherhood than by standing together, visiting together, and remembering that, regardless of the Lodge room in which we gather, we are all travelling the same Masonic journey.

I look forward to walking that journey with each of you during the coming year.

Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic

**District Deputy Grand Master
Sudbury-Manitoulin District**

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

W. Bro. Jim Bailey of Espanola Lodge No. 527 – 10 August 2026

**"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."**



Those Who Are Ill or in Distressed Circumstances

R.W. Bro. Roy Eaton of Doric Lodge No. 455 is back in the hospital

V.W. Bro. Jim Ramsay of Espanola Lodge No. 527 is recovering from a fall

W. Bro. Kip Hawley of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 is dealing with ankle and foot issues. Hospitalized for 12 days – now at home

W. Bro. Wally Moore of Doric Lodge No. 455 has an infection causing severe coughing



The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

Nickel Lodge held their Lodge BBQ and managed to raise funds to donate to the District Charity.



Their September meeting is the Installation of the Worshipful Master-Elect and the Investiture of the Officers for the ensuing Masonic year. There is a social hour at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30. Please contact the Lodge secretary if you're planning to attend the meal. (secretary427@gmail.com)



Doric Lodge No. 455

The main focus at the September meeting will be the investiture of our Grand Steward, V.W. Bro. James Woods.

Espanola Lodge No. 527

Espanola has changed their meeting to Tuesday September 1st to enable them to attend Nickel Lodge's regular meeting. The work of the evening is the Investiture of the Officers not invested at their Installation earlier this year.

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

The Lodge is planning an initiation for Mr. Derek Dagostino at their regular meeting in September.

Friendship Lodge No. 691

The Annual Golf Tournament was held Saturday August 8th. See "Around the District" for more detail.

Bethel Lodge No. 699

On Thursday Friday, September 11th the Lodge will have their annual visit from the Sturgeon Falls Masonic Lodge No. 447 for the annual Steak Fry, and welcoming them on their fraternal visit to Bethel Lodge.

Social 5:00 pm – Meal 6:00pm – Meeting

7:30 at the cost of \$30. As per the chef, W.Bro. Trevor Sykes.

Dress code is appropriate casual, shoes, no shorts, jeans.

The Concordant Bodies

York Rite



Sir Knight Tom Newburn – 50 Years a Knights Templar

R.Em. Kt. Robert J. Lipic, Provincial Grand Prior

At the Java Club meeting on Tuesday August 25th, Sir Knight Tom Newburn was recognized as being a member of Mavar Preceptory No.65 for 50 Years. Tom was unable to attend the last Regular meeting of Mavar and as an alternative, what better way than to recognize him at the Java Guild among friends and brethren. An impressive milestone and we wish Tom many more years as a Knight Templar.



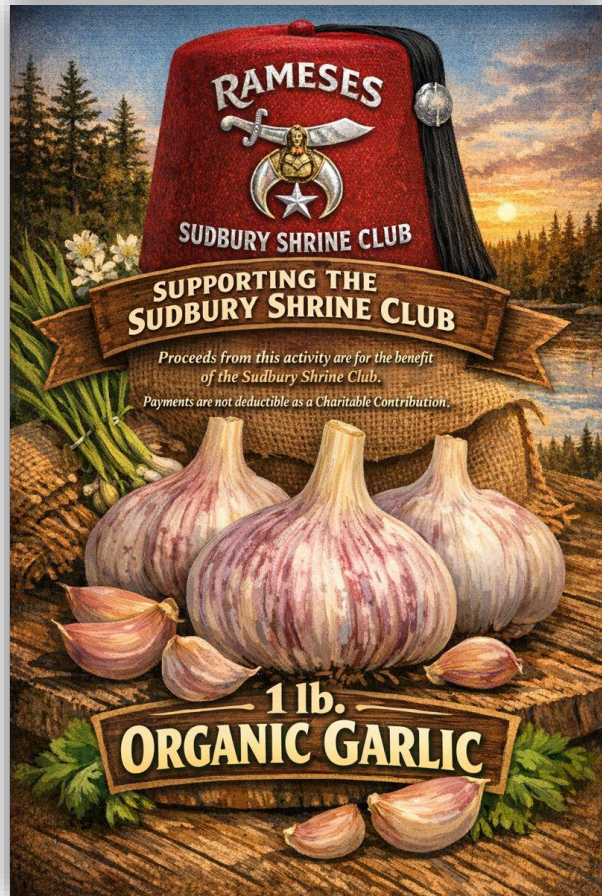
Sir Knight Tom Newburn, third from left, with R. Em. Kt. Robert J. Lipic, The Provincial Grand Prior, far left, R. Em. Kt. Stan Fenton KCT, Presiding Preceptor, center, and members of Mavar Preceptory, receives recognition for his 50 Year milestone.

On a related topic, at the Annual Assembly of Sovereign Great Priory, held in Mississauga on August 21st and 22nd, R.Em. Kt. Robert J. Lipic was invested as the Provincial Grand Prior of Algoma District for a 2-year Term. Congratulations to R.Em. Kt. Lipic on his investiture. At the same Assembly our very own M.Em. Kt. Clive D. Stephenson GCT ended his 2-year term as Supreme Grand Master of Sovereign Great Priory. M.Em. Kt. Stephenson tells us he is looking forward to a change of pace and other challenges, but certainly less travelling, as Sovereign Great Priory is a Canada-wide body.



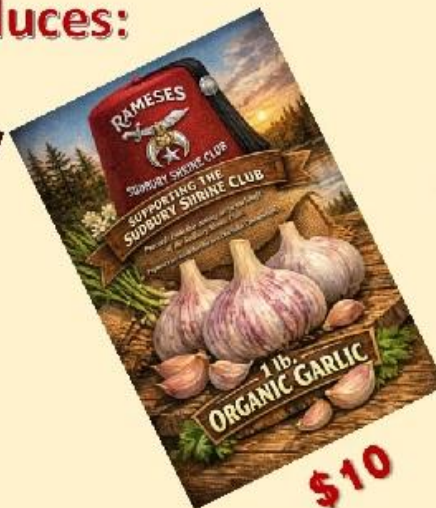
R.Em. Kt. Robert Lipic on left with M.Em. Kt. Stephenson taken following the end of the Investiture Ceremonies. Interesting to note that R.Em. Kt. Lipic is smiling while M.Em. Kt. Stephenson looks relieved.

Sudbury Shrine Club



The Sudbury Shrine Club introduces:

To order email
Sudburyshrineonions@gmail.com



coming
this
Fall

Around the District



Friendship Lodge's long standing annual golf tournament held this year at the Forest Ridge Golf Club in Chelmsford was a successful and an enjoyable afternoon despite a short weather break.

The Winning team was Trevor Bracken, Dave Herbert, Steve Curich, Jamie Philips

Editor's note:

We have no idea why R.W. Bro. Lipic is in the photo or how he managed such fantastic hair!





Note:
The article below is
from [Sudbury.com](https://www.sudbury.com)

The Sudbury-Manitoulin Masons recently donated a total of \$10,200 to the Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin, North Bay & Districts. Back row, from left, are Keith Varey, Rick Mauti, Alan Hill, Rob Fleming, Jim Woods, Sam Khouri and Peter Gordon. In front, from left, are Shannon Ketchabaw, Ryan Lipic and Brent Forsyth

Area Masonic lodges recently donated a total of \$10,200 to the Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin, North Bay & Districts.

The funds will support local programs and services for those living with dementia and their loved ones. They include First Link® Care Navigation, support groups, Adult Day Programs, respite services, dementia education and community outreach. To mark the occasion, Masons members were on site for a tour, and had the opportunity to see firsthand the work being done and what is made possible through community partnership and support.

Among the Masonic lodges involved in the donation were Nickel Lodge, Doric Lodge, Espanola Lodge, City of Lakes Lodge, Friendship Lodge and Bethel Lodge. Alzheimer Society executive director Shannon Ketchabaw said the organization was "deeply grateful" for the Masons' "generous \$10,200 donation."

"Their support is especially meaningful because they truly see the impact of our work in the community. As they so powerfully put it, we have 'boots on the ground,' working every day to help people living with dementia live as well as possible at home, while ensuring their care partners receive the guidance, respite and support they need.

"Their continued partnership helps ensure that no family in our community has to face dementia alone."

The District Charity

Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin North Bay & Districts

R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic is continuing this project for the 2026 – 27 period

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

The DDGM Project Number will be forthcoming.

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

V.W. Bro. Keith Varey has graciously agreed to continue in his capacity as the Masonic Foundation Representative

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Alzheimer Society
ONTARIO

**Sudbury
Manitoulin,
North Bay & Districts**

