

Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

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



October 2026 Edition

Editor: R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming



Ontario Masons

From our District Deputy Grand Master

What Makes a Lodge Worth Coming Back To?

One of the things I have spoken about often this year is the importance of visiting and supporting our Lodges. We all want to see strong attendance at our meetings, more visitors travelling throughout the district, and Brethren becoming more involved in the Craft. But perhaps there is another side to that conversation. Instead of simply asking why a brother hasn't been coming to Lodge, maybe we should occasionally ask ourselves a different question:



What are we giving him to come back for?

I don't believe there is one simple answer. For some brethren, it is the ritual. There is something special about watching a degree performed well and seeing the lessons of Masonry passed from one generation of Masons to the next. For others, it is Masonic education—the opportunity to leave a meeting having learned something they didn't know when they arrived. For a newer Mason, it may simply be the feeling that he belongs. That someone remembers his name, asks how he is doing, encourages him to participate, and makes him feel that his presence matters. And for many of us, perhaps the greatest reason is much simpler.

Friendship. Some of my favourite Masonic memories haven't necessarily happened during a meeting. They have happened before Lodge, after Lodge, over a meal, during a visit to another Lodge, or simply sitting around a table talking and laughing with brethren at a Masonic event. Those moments matter.

Learning From What Is Working.

As I have had the opportunity to visit Lodges throughout our District, one of the things that has impressed me is seeing the different ways our Lodges are working to engage their members and strengthen attendance. There are Lodges trying new ideas. Some are putting greater emphasis on fellowship. Others are providing interesting Masonic education, encouraging newer members to take meaningful roles, organizing activities outside regular meetings, or simply doing an excellent job of making visitors and newer Brethren feel welcome. These efforts deserve to be recognized. We sometimes spend a great deal of time discussing the challenges facing Masonry—declining attendance, membership retention, and how we attract and engage the next generation. Those are important conversations, but we should also remember to celebrate what is working. There are good things happening within our District.

When a Lodge finds something that brings Brethren together, the rest of us should take notice. Not every idea will work in every Lodge, nor should every Lodge look exactly the same. But we can learn from one another. If one Lodge has found a successful way to engage its newer members, share it. If another has developed an event that brings members back to Lodge, tell us about it. If something has improved fellowship, education, visitation or participation, let's celebrate it—and perhaps give another Lodge the opportunity to build upon that idea. One of the great advantages of being part of a District is that none of our Lodges has to solve these challenges alone.

When one Lodge succeeds, there is something the entire District can learn from.

Of course, there will always be business that needs to be conducted. Minutes need to be read, bills need to be paid, motions need to be considered, and the necessary work of the Lodge must be done. But if our meetings become only about conducting business, we risk forgetting why many of us joined in the first place. We came looking for something more. We came looking for fellowship, knowledge, personal growth, purpose and friendship. So perhaps the challenge for each of our Lodges isn't simply to increase attendance. Perhaps it is to create an experience worth attending. A Lodge where visitors are genuinely welcomed. A Lodge where new members are encouraged to participate. A Lodge where experienced Brethren share what they have learned. A Lodge where good ritual and Masonic education still matter. And, most importantly, a Lodge where a Brother walking through the door knows that people are genuinely happy to see him. Because sometimes the difference between a Brother attending once and becoming actively involved for the next twenty years can be something as simple as someone walking across the room, shaking his hand and saying: "It's good to see you. I'm glad you came." It's often the smallest gestures that make the greatest difference—to make every Brother feel that he belongs.

R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic

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



Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

none reported

"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

Bro. Mike Wootton of Nickel Lodge No. 427 is recovering from hip surgery

R.W. Bro. Eaton of Doric Lodge No. 455 continues his recovery

W. Bro. H. Holmes of Doric Lodge No. 455 is experiencing poor health

W. Bro. Kip Hawley of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 recovering from an operation on his foot

W. Bro. David Squarzolo of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 has experienced a death in his Family



Mentor's Minute

The big picture of mentoring is the sharing of knowledge or experience to assist in the growth and development of someone else. Ultimately that can be condensed into relationship building.

From the day we are born into this world until the day we ascend to the Grand Lodge Above, we are being mentored...by our parents, by our siblings, by our friends and teachers, and sometimes life itself mentors us on things we should do and things we should not do...and on the same journey we are mentoring others.

A cornerstone of Freemasonry is mentoring; taking a good man and making him a better man. We cannot make him a better man but by mentoring him we can give him the knowledge and understandings that he can use to make himself a better man.

In this sense we are all mentors and we are all being mentored. It is in these relationships of being mentored and being a mentor that we experience the "brotherly love" we all desire.

Stay well.



W. Bro. Tailleux
District Mentor



The District Deputy Grand Master's Reception

Right Worshipful Brother Ryan Lipic's reception was held on Friday September 25th.

Below are pictures from that evening courtesy of our District Photographer W. Bro. Dick M^cIvor.



Our D.D.G.M. with representatives from the District Lodges at the Head Table

'Slàinte mhath' !



The usual suspects





***Good support for
our D.D.G.M.***



The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

Nickel Lodge's Annual Installation of the Worshipful Master Elect and the Investiture of Officers was held on their regular meeting in September. The Worshipful Master and his Lady (Celena) provided a wonderful meal prior to the meeting.

Pictured are the Officers for this Masonic year and some of the fifty-three Brethren in attendance.



SUDBURY MANITOULIN DISTRICT

Christmas Party

HOSTED BY
NICKEL LODGE No. 427



DECEMBER 5TH, 2026

**STARTING AT 4PM
DINNER AT 6PM**



**\$50 EACH
\$100 PER COUPLE**



**CHRISTMAS
ORNAMENT EXCHANGE
\$20 MAX.**



**LIVE BROADCAST OF
THE MCTV LIONS
CHRISTMAS TELETHON**
*Watch our brethren
man the phones.*



CASH BAR



**MUSIC AND
ENTERTAINMENT**

Belrock Masonic Center

845 Regent St, Greater Sudbury, ON P3E 2A7

Get tickets from John at:

johnleonard705@gmail.com

or any Nickel Lodge officer.

GOOD FOOD • GREAT COMPANY • ENTERTAINMENT



Doric Lodge No. 455

The September 14th, 2026 Regular Meeting of Doric Lodge No. 455 was an especially memorable and eventful evening for our Lodge.

One of the evening's most significant moments was the official investiture of V.W. Bro. Jim Woods as Grand Steward, an appointment that brought considerable pride to the brethren of Doric Lodge. V.W. Bro. Jim Woods was also invested as our Inner Guard, continuing his service to Doric Lodge while taking on his new responsibilities at the Grand Lodge level.

We were honoured by the presence of R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic, attending his first fraternal visit to Doric Lodge No. 455 in his capacity as District Deputy Grand Master. We were also pleased to welcome R.W. Bro. Dan Graham, Member of the Board of General Purposes – Grand Lodge Chairman of Mentoring Committee (South), whose presence added further significance to this special evening.

Most importantly, V.W. Bro. Jim Woods was surrounded by his family as he received this recognition. Their presence made the occasion particularly meaningful and provided the brethren with an opportunity to share in a moment that was both personal and deeply significant.

For the members of Doric Lodge No. 455, it was an emotional yet immensely proud evening. To witness one of our own brethren, take on greater responsibility and service within the Craft serves as a reminder that the strength of Freemasonry is found not only in the offices we hold, but in the dedication, friendship, and service of the brethren who fill them.

Doric Lodge No. 455 extends its sincere congratulations to V.W. Bro. Jim Woods and wishes him every success in his duties as Grand Steward. We are proud to call him our Brother and look forward to supporting him in the year ahead.

***From the East of Doric Lodge No. 455, congratulations,
Jim—and well deserved.***

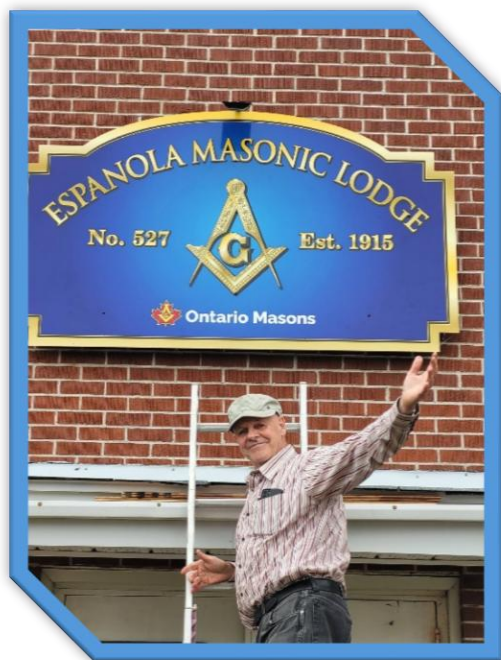


Espanola Lodge No. 527

Espanola's regular meeting saw the Investiture of those Officers who were not invested at the June Installation and Investiture ceremony.

The Lodge has procured and installed a new sign for the building.

Many hands were involved along the way, but the efforts of W Bro. Tom Sturdy and Bro. Leonard Landry to finally secure it to the building brought this process to a close.



City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

On September 15, 2026, City of Lakes Lodge hosted an Initiation for Mr. Derek Dagostino. Bro. Dagostino is the son-in-law of Bro. Glenn Fuller and grandson-in-law of W. Bro. Bill Fuller. Those attending the Initiation are pictured below.



City of Lakes Lodge will be conducting a Fellowcraft Degree on October 20 with Bro. Jason Gaudet.

Friendship Lodge No. 691

R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic's first visit as D.D.G.M. to his mother lodge was at the September 2026 regular meeting. There was an affiliation of four Freemasons at the meeting. W. Bro. L. Paguandas, center, was one of the four Brethren who affiliated. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.



Bethel Lodge No. 699

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

The Concordant Bodies

Royal Arch Masons

Right Excellent Companion Walter Trafford, Grand Second Principal, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario, made his official visit and presentation to Companion Merv Lees with the Distinguished Service Award and certificate.





A new chapter for the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, as he concludes his service as Sovereign Grand Commander and assumes the role of Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander.

We also congratulate Ill. Bro. Thomas A. Wills, 33°, on becoming Sovereign Grand Commander, and wish him every success as he begins his leadership of our Supreme Council.



Scottish Rite



Pictured above are members of the North Bay and Sudbury Valleys at the Sovereign Grand Commander's Dinner in Hamilton. Ill Bro.'s Ryan Lipic, Bruce Burns, Rob Lipic and Mike Chorkawy (absent) were coroneted Honourary Inspectors General, 33°

Sudbury & District Lodge of Perfection

Porchetta Dinner & Bingo Fun draiser

Saturday November 7th 2026
Belrock Masonic Centre
Dress – Smart casual

DOOR PRIZES!

CASH BAR

CASH PRIZES

3-card hand \$20
Good for all 12 games
Bingo starts at 3:30
Seating assigned in advance

Porchetta Dinner Tickets - \$35 per person
Dinner at 6

Rob Lipic	705-562-6617	rob.home123@gmail.com
Greg Newson	705-561-0964	gregnewson9@gmail.com
Gary Cayen	705-688-8498	garycayen@gmail.com
Rob Fleming	705-682-4775	secretary427@gmail.com
Brent Forsyth	(1) 905-563-1626	brentgf77@gmail.com
Sudbury Lodge of Perfection email		slopsudbury@gmail.com

Fun Raiser

Sudbury Shrine Club

After a short delay in the delivery of the onions and garlic, members of the Sudbury Shrine Club were at the Belrock upper parking lot to attend to the distribution of the product.

Thanks goes out to both Manitoulin Transport and NATT for their assistance in delivery and storage of the product!



Pictured below is a presentation of the Sudbury Shriners Hundred-Million-Dollar Club certificate to the owners of the Northern Way Lodge on Lake Esnagi by Sudbury Shrine Club President Dick Stewart and Vice President David Marshall chair of the recycling committee.



The Northern Way Lodge supports our recycling program by sending their many beer cans down to Sudbury by train from their Lodge North of Wawa.

The money raised by the recycling program supports the travel fund for the Montreal Shriners Orthopedic Hospital for Children.



Around the District

N.E.W.S. Chapter — 7th Annual Fall Colours Tour

September 25–27, 2026 • Manitoulin Island, Ontario

The North Eastern (N.E.W.S.) Chapter of the Ontario Widows Sons Masonic Riding Association held its 7th Annual Fall Colours Tour on September 25–27, bringing together more than 40 Masons, Widows Sons and their



Ladies for a weekend of motorcycles, autumn colours, fellowship and charity.

With 18 members, the N.E.W.S. Chapter is one of more than 25 Widows Sons Masonic Riding Association chapters across Ontario. Riders joined us from across Northeastern Ontario, as well as from as far away as Ottawa, Owen Sound and Waterloo.

At the heart of the weekend was our commitment to riding for a cause. The Widows Sons raise funds for charitable organizations, with one of our main beneficiaries being the Health Sciences North Foundation, supporting the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre.

The weekend's riding took us throughout beautiful Manitoulin Island. Highlights included a visit to Doric Lodge No. 455 in Little Current, Bridal Veil Falls in Kagawong, and lunch at Watersedge Pub and Restaurant in Gore Bay. Many riders continued on to Meldrum Bay for photographs and refreshments at the Olde General Store.



Accommodations were provided by Hutchinson's Cottages and Campground in Sandfield and Maple Grove Cottages in Mindemoya, where the fellowship continued long after the motorcycles were parked.

With great weather, beautiful roads, spectacular fall colours, charity, laughter and brotherhood, it was truly a weekend to remember.

A sincere thank-you goes to everyone who travelled to Manitoulin Island and helped make the 7th Annual Fall Colours Tour such a success. Most importantly, thank you for continuing the tradition of riding for a reason.

Ride safe, Brothers and Ladies — and we'll see you on the road!

John 'Blinky' Leonard

President

N.E.W.S. Chapter

Ontario Widows Sons Masonic Riding Association



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

**P.O. Box 462
Little Current, ON
P0P 1K0
(705)207-9797
kvarey@vianet.ca**

Alzheimer Society
ONTARIO

**Sudbury
Manitoulin,
North Bay & Districts**

