Sudbury-Manitoulin District Newsletter

Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Canada

in the Province of Ontario



The Gauge

November 2026 Edition

Editor: R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming



Ontario Masons

From our District Deputy Grand Master

The Lodge We Leave Behind



Brethren,

One of the great privileges of Freemasonry is that we become part of something much larger than ourselves. Our Lodges were here long before we arrived, built upon the dedication, hard work, and vision of Brethren who came before us. They gave their time, shared their knowledge, and made sacrifices to ensure that the Craft would continue to flourish.

But have we ever stopped to consider what kind of Lodge we will leave behind?

It's an interesting question, and one I believe deserves some thought.

We often measure the success of our Lodges by attendance, the number of candidates we initiate, or how well we perform our ritual. While these are certainly important, I believe the true measure of a Lodge's strength lies in something deeper: the quality of the Brethren we develop and the sense of belonging we create.

Are we encouraging our newer members to become involved? Are we giving them opportunities to learn, to contribute, and eventually to lead? More importantly, are we making them feel that their ideas and enthusiasm are welcome?

Every experienced Mason was once a new Brother, uncertain of his place and perhaps a little intimidated by the traditions surrounding him. Somewhere along the way, someone offered encouragement, shared a little wisdom, or simply said, "You can do this."

Those small moments can make an enormous difference.

As we progress through Masonry, our responsibilities change. There comes a time when our greatest contribution may no longer be the

office we hold or the ritual we deliver, but the confidence we help build in those who will follow us.

That doesn't mean stepping aside and becoming uninvolved. Quite the opposite. It means remaining engaged, offering guidance when needed, and having the wisdom to allow others the opportunity to grow, even if they occasionally make mistakes.

After all, isn't that how most of us learned?

The future of our Lodges will not be determined solely by the number of members we attract, but by how well we nurture those already among us.

Someday, another generation of Brethren will sit in the chairs we occupy today. They will face challenges we cannot yet imagine, just as we have faced challenges different from those of our predecessors.

Our responsibility is not to leave them a Lodge that never changes, but one that is strong enough to embrace change while remaining faithful to the principles upon which it was founded.

That, Brethren, is a legacy worth leaving.

R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic

District Deputy Grand Master
Sudbury-Manitoulin District

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

W. Bro. Patrick Kidd *of city of Lakes Lodge No. 536*

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 27 September 2026

W. Bro. Con Walker *of Friendship Lodge No. 691*

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 01 October 2026

V.W. Bro. Don Falkingham *of Espanola Lodge No. 527*

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 07 October 2026

Bro. Don Porter of Espanola Lodge No. 527

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 30 October 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

Bro. Beaumont Nelson *of Nickel Lodge No. 427 recovering from major surgery and grieving the sudden loss of his Brother*

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

Bro. Gary Bate *of City of Lakes Lodge No. 536 in treatment for cancer*

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

Sudbury Manitoulin District Divine Service

The Sudbury Manitoulin District Divine Service was held on October 18, 2026, at Copper Cliff United Church in Copper Cliff, Ontario. The regular congregation was joined by eighteen Masonic brethren, many who were accompanied by family members.

The presence of family members added to the warm and welcoming atmosphere to the service. The sermon was delivered by Right Worshipful Brother David I. Spencer, who provided an inspiring message reflecting on the selected scripture. The worship service featured two scripture readings, Matthew 22:15-22 and Psalm 96, which were read by Right Worshipful Brother J. David Innes.

The gathering provided an opportunity for worship, fellowship, and spiritual reflection. The brethren after the service, enjoyed meeting and mingling amongst each other, as well as with members of the church's regular congregation.

The Sudbury Manitoulin District Freemasons extended their appreciation to Copper Cliff United Church for hosting the service and to all who attended and helped make the event a success.
Details of a District Divine Service for the Masonic year 2026/2027 planned for Espanola will be forthcoming.

V.W. Bro. Raymond Barlow

District Chaplain











on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month….

Freemasons in the Sudbury Manitoulin District will be on parade at the Sudbury Arena and will lay a wreath.

If you would like to participate, be at the front door of the arena at 9:30 a.m. in a dark suit and tie and with your regalia.



Mike's Moment

Masonic Poetry



W. Bro. Mike Terry

Freemasonry has a long tradition of being represented in poetry. Some of these poems present Masonic work allegorically and some literally. Famous writers who represented Freemasonry include Rudyard Kipling and Robbie Burns. The following poem was written by Brother George B. Staff and is taken from the Masonic Staff.

A BROTHER'S HAND

When you're feeling all downhearted,
And life's hard to understand,
Say, it's fine to feel the pressure
Of a Brother's friendly hand.

Just to know he sympathizes,
Though he doesn't say a word,
How it starts your courage climbing,
As your heart is touched and stirred.

With an arm across your shoulders,
And a grip you love to find,
How it makes you feel the bounding
Of the hearts of humankind.

It is just a little token
Of an ever-growing band,
For there's faith and hope and courage
In a Brother's friendly hand.

The Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

At the 1573rd regular meeting of Nickel Lodge Mr. Justin Armand Sivazlian was initiated into the Mysteries and Priivledges of Ancient Freemasonry. Sponsors W. Bro. Purdy and the Worshipful Master and our D.D.G.M. are shown in the adjoining photo.





Those who were in attendance are pictured above

Doric Lodge No. 455

The regular meeting of Doric Lodge No. 455, held on October 13th, was conducted in harmony, with warm wishes extended to our Secretary, R.W. Bro. Roy Eaton, who was unable to attend that evening.

Following the Thanksgiving weekend, the evening provided an opportunity to express gratitude and fellowship among the Brethren. Several important items of Lodge business were also addressed.

The meeting concluded in peace and harmony.



Espanola Lodge No. 527

At Espanola's regular meeting in October the Lodge decided to modify their dress code.

Smart casual can be worn with the exception of:

- Conferring degrees
- Installation
- Official Visit



W Bro Rusty Joncas, Past Master of Penewobikong Lodge No. 487, spoke about several measures their lodge took coming out of COVID to make themselves more visible in the community in an attempt to attract new members.

As a result, they don't currently have any Past Masters in their Chairs.

A Question & Answer session followed.

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

On October 20th City of Lakes Lodge conducted a Fellowcraft Degree for Bro. Jason Gaudet.



Right: Bro. Gaudet with sponsor W. Bro. Don Gravelle and V.W. Bro. Doug Ashick, Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

Below: Good attendance for the evening, including our D.D.G.M..



Friendship Lodge No. 691

Friendship Lodge's October 14th meeting welcomed three newly affiliated Brethren. The evening started with a hearty repast, and Masonic education. W. Bro. Roger Kitching discussed the Masonic widows pin and our obligations to the widows. R.W. Bro. L. Clair Bracken reviewed Masonic values and history of Masonry in the district. The DDGM, R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic discussed the immovable tools and personal development.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable evening directed by W. Bro. Bernie Villeneuve during the WM's holiday absence

Below are the attendees including the newly affiliated members; R.W. Bro. Rob Fleming, W. Bro. Larry Paguandas and W. Bro. Jody Caldwell.



Bethel Lodge No. 699

R.W. Bro. Ryan Lipic's Official Visit to Bethel Lodge was preceded by a repast.

"On Friday, October 9th, I had the pleasure of making my first Official Visit of the Masonic year to Bethel Lodge. The Brethren extended a warm and sincere welcome, and I would like to thank the Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of Bethel Lodge for their hospitality and for making my first Official Visit such an enjoyable occasion.

During the Good of the Order, I shared a short piece of Masonic education exploring the passages of Scripture to which the Volume of the Sacred Law is opened in each of the three degrees, and the significance and symbolism of those passages in relation to the lessons we are taught as Freemasons. It was an opportunity to reflect on some of the deeper meanings found within our ritual and a reminder that even the most familiar aspects of our ceremonies can offer something new when we take the time to explore them."



The Concordant Bodies





October saw the change of command in the Valley of Sudbury.

Ill. Bro Greg Newson, 32°, was installed as the Thrice Puissant Grand Master of the Sudbury and District Lodge of Perfection.

The ceremony was conducted by Ill. Bro. Robert South, 32°, the Thrice Puissant Grand Master's Uncle-in-Law.

Our T.P.G.M'S better half (Susan) provided a delightful repast, assisted by Mrs. Peggy South.





Scottish Rite

Sudbury & District Lodge of Perfection

Porchetta Dinner & Bingo Fun draiser

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

CASH BAR

DOOR PRIZES!

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

Scottish Rite

Members of the Sudbury and District Lodge of Perfection tuned in to the webinar broadcast ***"From I to We"*** on Thursday October 29th. Fifteen members of the Valley attended the session at Belrock, with many more logging in from home and at other locations around the District, Province, Country and the Northern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite.





Around the District

…you can file this under ***"Better Late than Never****…."*

Bro. Mike Lalonde showcased his 1966 drop top Thunderbird earlier this year at the Sudbury Classic Cruiser's 33rd Annual Car Show in the Copper Cliff Park on August 2nd.




BOWLING
Event
PLAZA BOWL
NICKEL LODGE
hosting the
SUDBURY MANITOULIN DISTRICT
BOWLING NIGHT
Saturday
NOVEMBER 14TH
2PM - 4PM
PLAZA BOWL • SUDBURY
BRING THE FAMILY!
RSVP | bill@bigmojo.net


SUDBURY MANITOULIN DISTRICT
Christmas Party
HOSTED BY
NICKEL LODGE No. 427
G
DECEMBER 5TH, 2026
STARTING AT 4PM
DINNER AT 6PM
$50 EACH
$100 PER COUPLE
CHRISTMAS
ORNAMENT EXCHANGE
$20 MAX.
MCTV
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

Introducing SafeID – the re-branding of MASONICh.I.P.

At the request of our Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland, the Masonichip Foundation Board embarked on a rebranding initiative.

We have expanded our program from a child-based focus, to include the elderly, those suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia and those with autism.



This additional focus will require slight adjustments in our event procedures, and will be outlined in an updated procedures manual.

We reached out to the Freemasons of our jurisdiction for suggestions, including having a suggestion box at our booth at our Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

A young Fellowcraft spoke to us at our booth and his original ideas were worked and reworked, discussed and eventually approved by the Board of Directors and M.W. Bro. Ireland.

A new name, logo and website were created, and the new website is freshly up and running.

The web address is: safeidontario.ca

As was done in the past, the website will be populated with upcoming events and information surrounding the event.

Now it's up to you to book events and re-energize the effort.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Rob Fleming
President
Masonichip Foundation of Ontario

SafeID Event

The Onaping Falls Golden Age Club did a wonderful job hosting a SafeID event on Saturday October 17th. The Club members were very helpful and accommodating. They have a beautiful facility.

Kits were completed for eight (8) children, six (6) adults and one person with dementia.

There was good participation from Brethren and spouses during the event.

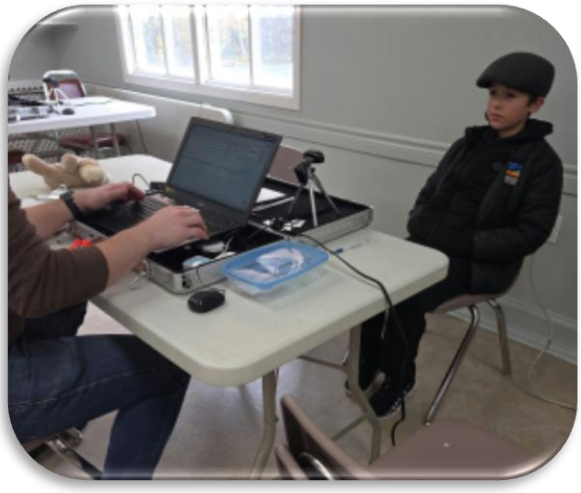
***Note**: as per our procedures, photo permission forms were completed for the public participants shown.*





SafeID
Ontario Masons





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 is 2637

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

THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO
A.D. 1964