



Potentate's Message

Illustrious Sir Brian N. Davenport, Potentate

Wow! Would you believe it? My year as your Potentate is half over as of June 2008. Lady Johanna and I are having a great time meeting old and new friends within Shrinedom, visiting the different Rameses Shrine Clubs and greeting our Quebec and American friends at their Potentate Ball. All this, while supporting our hospitals and promoting Rameses. Isn't life wonderful?

A huge thank you to Noble Ray Causton, Chief Rabban, his Lady Maureen and their dedicated committee for a fantastic 2008 Rameses Potentate's Ball on April 26th. I know that our office staff and Gino put in many extra hours too. Thank you. Another big thank you to Noble Brian Poole, Special Aide, his Lady Anne and their committee for a fabulous Hospitality Room. Yummy shrimps, Baby Bel cheese and Lady Johanna's favourite ... caramel popcorn. Oh what a feast! Everything was kept a secret and I was told to keep my nose out of the Ball preparations, decorations and planning. They wanted to surprise me.

I wasn't allowed up to the Shrine Centre or the Hospitality Room on the Saturday morning. Lady Johanna and I did just that. When we entered the Ball Room and saw the decorations with the gigantic Canadian flag behind the head table, it left a lump in our throats. The decorations were awesome; the 400 guests greeted us so very warmly, as did the Town Crier (Ill. Sir Ronald Growshaw PP); the Pipe Band; our very own Drum Corps as well as a serenade by Noble Bob Jones, Oshawa S.C.

Of course, our three beautiful daughters, Tara, Kerri and Robyn and their spouses Ian, Wade and Fraser, our eldest grandchild Nicolas Del Piero, who was smartly dressed in his Army Cadet uniform, and our extended family and friends helped us to celebrate a most memorable evening. Thank you very much for joining us.

There were two very pleasant duties that I had the honour of doing.

Firstly, the Botox Clinic in Sudbury. There, with the assistance of your Elected Divan, I presented a cheque in the amount of \$51,000 on your behalf.

The Sudbury Shrine Club reported that our little patients re-enacted a Shrine Parade. They wore little make-shift fezes while some beat their drums and others clapped their symbols as they paraded in their small walkers with big smiles from ear to ear. Doesn't that just bring joy to your heart and tears to your eyes? Secondly, I attended the May 2008 Hospital Board meeting at the Canadian Unit in Montreal and presented them with another cheque for \$100,000 for our Canadian hospital. Nobles, keep up the good work, no Shrine Centre works as hard as Rameses. Thank you.

Lady Johanna and I wish everyone, Nobles and Ladies, a safe and happy summer and we will see you again in St. Louis (June 29 - July 3, 2008).



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