



## Potentate's Message

Illustrious Sir Brian N. Davenport, Potentate

Spring has finally sprung and it seems after this winter, it sure took its sweet time. As your Potentate, I had the honour and pleasure of installing most of the new executives of the 2008 Rameses Shrine Clubs.

This past winter was by far the worst for travel with road conditions as bad as I have experienced while on the Divan. The weather may have been snowy and cold but the friendship and hospitality I experienced during my travels was warm and cheerful as one could ever imagine. Hopefully, winter is now behind us, so let's move on.

I know everyone has heard over and over again that membership in the Shrine of North American is our main area of concern right now. Rameses is not immune to this problem with the loss of so many of your fellow Nobles over the past years. This year Rameses membership chairman, Noble Ivan Tees, tried something new with a lunch meeting at Rameses headquarters. The purpose, of course, was to stimulate more interest in Shrinedom. A few videos were shown (one bringing tears to the eyes of many) plus literature distributed, followed by a round of discussions. During this session we actually had three Master Masons fill out applications forms so this type of meeting does work and it should work in your Shrine Club as well. Just give Noble Ivan a call at 905-791-0921 (he's in the directory). Unfortunately, the down side of the day was the worst snow storm to hit the G.T.A. since 1938 so attendance was affected somewhat. Please try this format in your membership campaign as Rameses and your Club will benefit. After all, what do you have to lose? Thanks, Ivan.

Kawartha Shrine Club Brotherhood Evening was on February 20th. I, along with five other members of the Divan, attended their 25th Annual Banquet. We were joined in hospitality by the five Knights of Columbus Councils. Two of the distinguished dignitaries present were, The Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough, his excellency Father Nicola DeAngelis and General John DeChastelaine retired Chief of Staff of the Canadian Military and former Ambassador to the United States. The General was the guest speaker and his topic was his 12 years of trying to negotiate the arms withdrawal in Ireland.

I'm not sure but I may be the only Potentate to ever pin a Potentate's Pin on a Catholic Bishop and a Canadian General. I made them both honorary Shriners for 24 hours which delighted them both.

Nobles, this works for the Kawartha Shrine Club and maybe your Club could emulate it or do some other event evening to get the interest alive in your Club.

My Lady Johanna and I look forward to the coming season of events and to see you all again.

Don't forget the Brampton Ceremonial June 5-8 and the Imperial Session in St. Louis, Missouri. "Join the Fun".



## Join the Fun