



## Potentate's Message

### Illustrious Sir Brian N. Davenport, Potentate

**N**obles, we are now deep into the Fall Season and it is Election and Installation time for your Divan. This means long dark nights driving to Clubs and Units and it also means a new chapter for Rameses, with your Divan and new Club and Unit Presidents and Executives. Some of you will already have completed your elections and I trust that all went well. For those Units and Clubs that have not yet completed their Elections, I certainly hope that everyone turns out to vote and show their support for the 2009 leadership.

Effective September 2008, the "No Call" legislation came into effect. Therefore, Rameses must conform to this new law and we are doing just that. The Circus, which is our number one fundraiser, was very successful with the telemarketing this year. Many, many, thanks to all those Nobles and Ladies who supported Rameses at the Circus. It could not have been done without you!

However, our Number Three fundraiser, the Varsity Football Game, was poorly attended by our Nobles and Ladies. It was not supported with the same enthusiasm as was displayed at our Circuses, nor were there very many red Fezes visible amongst the crowd. These young folks are the very ones we need to impress and entertain the feasibility of becoming Masons and ultimately, Shriners. The University of Toronto Staff were very accommodating and they did everything we asked of them. In view of our low attendance numbers, I wonder how long this football tradition will last. Nobles, let us show more support in the future (that is, if there is a future for this fundraiser). I personally thank those Nobles and Ladies who did attend.

The last weekend of September saw your Elected Divan and their Ladies attend the Fall Session of the New York Ontario Shrine Association (NYOSA) in Geneva, N.Y. Unfortunately, the weather (rain) did not cooperate and the parade through the town was cancelled. Very sad, as a lot of hard work and planning goes into such an event. I do not want to put a negative spin on NYOSA but the business portion was, in my opinion, a waste of time. As always, your Rameses Divan was in full force however, the other New York Shrine Centres had very little representation and in some cases, there was no representation from their Divan at all! Personally, I have trouble justifying Rameses time commitment and the cost involved. Yes, when my fellow NYOSA member read this, my name will be mud but these are my thoughts and not necessarily those of the upcoming Divan. Truly, I wish the new NYOSA Executive the very best for the future, which I hope will be rewarding.

Life is constantly throwing us a curve ball as the young patients in our hospitals already know. However, with the unconditional support from family and friends and the commitment of Shrinedom, our children meet their challenges and work through them. We have been thrown a curve ball too. STS International Tours Inc. (California USA) the company that organized our trip to Spain closed their doors effective August 15, 2008. This means that fifty three (53) of us will not be going to Spain, nor are we being refunded our monies which we pre-paid. Our travelers have organized a committee, filed an Incident Report with the Peel Police Fraud Squad, Ontario as well as with the San Diego Sheriff Department in California, USA. Lady Johanna and I are devastated to say the least about what has happened. Unfortunately several other Shriners Centres find themselves in the same position as us and my heartfelt sympathies go to out to them as well. With the unconditional support that Lady Johanna and I have been receiving from our fellow Shriners, I'm sure we can work through these tough times together.

Lady Johanna and I wish everyone the very best of health and happiness for the balance of 2008. God bless to all.



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