



Potentate's Message

Illustrious Sir Brian N. Davenport, Potentate

For me, one of the hardest duties I have as your Potentate is to write my message for the Papyrus. I try to make it exciting and informative and not boring to read. Since the last issue of the Papyrus (June 2008), things and events have been very exciting.

You all know, it is the Potentate who decides the date and place of the Spring Ceremonial. I could not have been prouder at the outcome of this year's Ceremonial in Brampton. The venues, by far, were the most elegant and beautiful that has been seen in many a year by Rameses. The weather could not have been better. It was no surprise that it did not rain in Brampton in 2008 as it did in the past. My Director General, Noble Doug Morris (I am sure that he wondered what he had gotten himself into, the costs, the timings and the frustrations) did an outstanding job. Noble Doug, his committees and the ladies committees are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. It certainly paid off.

The only downside of the Ceremonial weekend was the small number of on-lookers at the parade and the small number of new Candidates - 49. Nobles, we need more new Shriners to survive and stay healthy. Finding new members will always be a problem but you can do it, just try.

The 134th Annual Imperial Session was held in St. Louis, Missouri. It is now in the history book of the Shrine of North America and, as our Imperial Sir George Mitchell would say, 'it was a Feztastic week'.

Rameses hospitality room was a very popular place to meet and greet. I thank all those who worked in the room to make it a success. At the Welcome Dinner we had about 180 people and they said that the roast beef was so tender that you could cut it with a spoon! My special guest that evening and who we were honoured by their presence, was the Most Worshipful Sir Allan J. Petrisor, Grand Master of Canada in the Province of Ontario and his Lady Mary. (Noble Allan is a member of Mocca Shrine Centre).

The Imperial business sessions were long and tiring and my 'chair face' took quite a beating.

The parade was good and Rameses didn't take a back seat to any Temple. Many heard me speaking over the last six months or so, saying that I would like to see as many Canadian flags as possible in St. Louis. We had eighteen Canadian flags on parade. Thank you Nobles, it was wonderful to see. July 1st, Canada Day, was the parade date, scores of people applauded us and sang Happy Birthday Canada which caused many of us to have a lump in our throats.

I know that you should not single out any one group in case you offend anyone. However, a special mention goes to the Niagara Shrine Club and their Maid of the Mist - they brought along a special brand of Canadian beverage just for me. Another honourable mention goes to the Founders Unit and their Streetcar. It seems that since time immemorial, this Unit has always been at all of the Imperial Sessions (we won't mention that our Canadian Mountie ornaments disappeared for a while ha! ha!)

A very warm, heartfelt thank you from Lady Johanna and myself to all those who came, worked and paraded in St. Louis. Rameses will always be remembered as a class act. THANKS GUYS.

As an aside, the Divan has always found a favourite place to eat at the Imperials. Such was the case this year. Ill. Sir Bob McGregor took on this job with enthusiasm and the staff saved his regular seat for dining.

Now Shrine life is back to normal with circuses, golf, BBQs, visitations, corn roasts and fun gatherings. Lady Johanna and I looked forward to being with you and sharing your memories.



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