

## Prospecting for gold



**By Noble Dave Gillies**

NIAGARA SHRINE CLUB

**T**he Shrine degree team wrapped up another year with its 36th degree since 2002. Membership needs a boost and these Nobles work hard looking for nuggets in the Blue Lodge to show them the fun we have in Shrinedom.

Our elections went off without a hitch under the watchful eye of our favourite Recorder; no chaff, spoiled ballots, or recounts. Thanks to the rules on electioneering, we had no long lists of promises to break unlike every day politics; "It seems everyone has photographic memory; some just do not have the film."

Welcome to our new team; they are now looking to put in a productive year of recruitment, fundraising and cohesive fellowship. Give them a big hand.

This means literally, should you have any ideas on promoting membership, fundraising, or improving the general well being of our Club, speak up!

The Maid is now up in dry dock for the winter season so flag waving must be done by our landlubber members.

She finished her sail past in a total of six Santa Claus Parades in a couple of weeks. The clown truck acted as an icebreaker at her bow along with some of our Clowns as lookouts. Several parades occurred on the same day; hopefully no little ones saw any of the Santas' together having a coffee break.

Big news, "Christmas dinner meeting goes buffet style!"

After years of hard work by Nobles on your behalf, your executive has opted out for a catered Christmas dinner.

I'm sure that these unselfish guys will enjoy sitting down with you and along with their ladies for a change.

Remember, our Tri Installation is on February 6th.

President elect Andy wants to make sure you have your tickets for this star studded, highlight event. Once again the dinner, installation and fezzing will be held at the Skylon with a view of the falls as a backdrop. If history is repeated the event will be a sold out first class affair. Put on your best bib and tucker; arm yourself with your beautiful lady and come out to welcome the tri-clubs' new officers.

A lot of lucky members are packed, waiting to head south or may have left already. Soon our meetings will have plenty of open seats waiting for you to fill with prospective members. There is an interest out there, you just have to find it. Remember; "move a Mason for membership at your next monthly meeting."

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

## Oakville Shrine Club Oktoberfest meeting inspires lederhosen

**By Noble Doug McGregor**

OAKVILLE SHRINE CLUB

**O**ktoberfest arrived at our October meeting when Nobles Boe Hiadysh and Guy LaPlante arrived dressed in traditional German lederhosen to set the tone of this evening.

Our dinner consisted of German sausage, sauerkraut, black forest cake and of course German beer ensuring that our Nobles had a wonderful meal which continued with a thought provoking speaker.

Our speaker was John Ilika, a Correctional Officer from Maplehurst Correctional Complex, who is the Gang Awareness Liaison Officer. His speech commenced outline details of this particular correctional complex, which houses those criminals who are sentenced to two years less one day.

He pointed out that on any given day 200 offenders are transported to make an appearance in court. Our speaker indicated that at all times there are nine gang groups in this institution and they all have their own symbols (i.e. Bloods, Crips, Nations, Hells Angels etc.) He described some of the symbols or tattoos together with graffiti that we might see and not recognize as a gang symbol. He pointed out that those "Play Stations" children are now playing are desensitizing them in so far as shooting etc. Following his talk he accepted questions.

Also in attendance was Noble Terry Fulton who is allowing his name to stand for the position of Oriental Guide. Terry mentioned that the year he was Circus Chairman he appreciated the assistance of the Oakville Shrine Club at the circus events as we were always there.

Once again our President reminded the Nobles that our Christmas products are in at the same price as last year, remember the up-coming Christmas Party and the Oakville Santa Claus parade will see our new motor cycles in action.

The evening was closed with our Noble Terry Lamping speaking on behalf of our Potentate.