



*Shriners
Do It
Best*

Potentate's Message

Illustrious Sir Bryan W. Lawson, Potentate

Time passes very quickly when one is busy and it is hard to believe that by the time we arrive at the Spring Ceremonial in Collingwood that almost half of my year as Potentate has already passed.

During the past couple of months I have had the honour of attending a number of Shrine functions to represent Rameses Shriners. There were a couple of functions in Florida to honour the Canadian Shriners put on by Araba Temple, and another by the Harnando Shrine Club of Egypt Temple. These were very well organized events arranged by Noble Russ Dean and Noble Bob Whiteford both members of Rameses Shriners and both are Temple Ambassadors. As you can see, Rameses is well represented at both of these Temples.

A special event that I was able to attend as a guest was the Silver Plaque presentation at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal. The High Priestess and members of Bokhara Court No. 22, including Lady Ingrid and accompanied by their Grand High Priestess had gathered for this special presentation. This was to mark the very large donation which had been presented by their Court.

There has also been a number of Potentate's Balls which I have attended, each with its own special memories. In addition to the traveling outside of the Rameses jurisdiction, there have been a large number of visits to our Clubs for many different events.

This year's Potentate's Ball was a great success. This is to be credited to our Chief Rabban, Noble Jim McKinney and his Lady Linda who organized the event. The meal, music, and the complete program were all first class. It also could not have been so successful without the help of all the members of the Elected and Appointed Divan who worked so hard to see that everything was just right. Lastly, Lady Ingrid and I would also thank all the Nobles and their Ladies for attending and making this a special night that we will always remember.

The Petro-Canada Project is now over and unfortunately we did not succeed in proving to Petro-Canada it should continue for the 5 additional years. For many reasons I am sure, the cards were not used, and we fell very short of the required number of litres to continue the program. The project ended on the last day of April and sadly instead of the possible large financial returns to the Shriners across Canada, it will hardly cover the expenses of producing the cards and promoting the program. However the good news is your Divan is looking into other fundraisers which could be adopted latter this year.

This year, the Potentate's trip will be to Portugal from October 22 to November 1. This should be a great trip to many historic sites and the weather in Portugal at that time of year is supposed to be just about perfect. There will be a second trip presentation at 3100 Keele Street on June 27th at 1 p.m. I would encourage anyone who is interested to attend. Please refer to the Papyrus for all the details or call the Shrine Office to have a brochure mailed to you. Anyone who is planning to go should book right away as there is a limited number of seats available and it will be first come first served.

Best wishes for safe and happy travels, and remember, Shriners do it Best.

