



Philae Shriners

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Leader of Shriners International, Imperial Potentate Gary J. Bergenske, to visit Charlottetown and Halifax announces Philae Shriners



Imperial Potentate Gary J. Bergenske, the top ranking Shriner in the world, will be visiting Charlottetown and Halifax from Thursday, September 07 to Saturday, September 09 as part of his international tour. During his visit, in celebration of Canada 150, he will be meeting with the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, the Honorable H. Frank Lewis, as well as other dignitaries from both Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. This will be the first official visit Mr. Bergenske makes to Canada after becoming Imperial Potentate on July 13.

As Imperial Potentate, he serves as President of the Board of Directors of Shriners International, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shriners Hospitals for Children® and a member of the Board of Trustees of Shriners Hospitals for Children. Shriners Hospitals for Children has an annual operating budget of over 700 million dollars per year. The Imperial Potentate has a big vision for the fraternity and Shriners Hospitals and has set an outstanding goal for Shriners International this year – to grow membership by 12,000 by July 2018. Shriners throughout the system will be helping with this mission, including the Philae Shriners of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

“We’re volunteers. We perform and do our work for no pay,” Bergenske said when asked why Shriners do what they do. “Our pay is the reward of trying to do something good that makes a difference, and to support our philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children.”

“As a fraternal organization, we make good men better,” he said. “All Shriners are Masons first. Many people now know us from the many ads we run on TV. The opportunity to give back and be part of something bigger than yourself is extraordinary.”

At the end of his tour of the provinces, there will be a banquet held at the Westin Hotel in Halifax on Saturday, September 09 at 6:30 pm that is open to the public. For more information on tickets and reservations, please visit www.philae-shriners.com. To learn more about Imperial Sir Gary, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCgGN0bYSyk>.

Media Inquires

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About Philae Shriners

Philae Shriners are members of Shriners International, a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. There are nearly two hundred Shrine Temples (chapters) in seven countries and thousands of clubs around the world. Philae Shriners come from across Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to participate in various social and community events raising awareness and funds for Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

The fraternity is open to men of integrity from all walks of life who are members of the Masonic Fraternity. In 1922, Shriners International founded the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a health system of 22 facilities dedicated to providing pediatric medical care specializing in burns, orthopaedic conditions, spinal cord injuries; and cleft lip and palate regardless of the patient's race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of the patient or family to pay. These amazing services are all carried out while at the same time providing world-class research and educational opportunities for medical professionals.

Philae Shrine represents Shriners in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island with fifteen shrine centres and over eight hundred members. Members participate in parades and community events each year. The Shriners of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are proud of the new children's hospital in Montreal at a cost of over \$130 million. This includes over one million dollars from Philae Shriners and supporters in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Interested persons, masons, and nobles can learn more by visiting <http://www.philae-shriners.com>.

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