



# THE MAZOL CONNECTION

*Vol. 1 Iss. 3  
October 2018*





# The Mazol Connection

## Let's Have Fun

Under the leadership of Ill. Sir Paul Rose, we have launched our newest communication tool, entitled The Mazol Connection. This quarterly newsletter will contain articles about our Shrine family, heartwarming stories from our patients, news from our hospitals, and of course news and stories from our Clubs. In this regard, we are pleased to advise that your PR Committee is constantly developing new articles and we want to hear from you.

Let us share your news to the Nobility at large! Contact our news coordinator at [mazolnewscoordinator@nf.aibn.com](mailto:mazolnewscoordinator@nf.aibn.com) if you have a news story, announcement, fundraiser activity, or anything else.

## Introducing your Public Relations Committee for 2018

Ill. Sir Lorne Warren - Committee Chair

Noble Dave Reeves

Noble Tom Power

Noble Keith Boone

Lady Sharon Rose

Mr. Josh Bourden

... And we are here to spread the good news

---

Keep up-to-date with everything Mazol by visiting our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages. Make sure to 'Like' and 'Follow' us for all the latest news from Mazol Shriners, Shriners International, and Shriners Hospitals for Children.



[Mazol Shriners Website](#)



[Mazol Shriners Facebook](#)



[Mazol Shriners Instagram](#)





# Shriners RV Park Visitation

Labour Day Weekend at the Shriners RV Park continues to be a highlight of the Potentate's Visitation Calendar. This past September was no exception, as Illustrious Sir Paul and Lady Sharon were joined by Divan members and their Ladies in beautiful Eastport, Bonavista Bay.

Events kicked off on Friday night with a Meet and Greet at the Park's Recreation Centre attended by upwards to 100 Park patrons. On Saturday morning the Divan met with Kevin Butt and his Park Board for an update on the Park and the Board's plans for future development.

Midday Saturday was highlighted by the arrival of bicyclist Wayne Hounsell, who had rode from Gander to the Park to raise money for Mazol. Residents of the Park, Divan and Ladies gave Wayne a hearty welcome upon completing his 90 km trek. This year's ride saw over \$5000 raised for our charity. Mazol greatly appreciates this significant personal effort by Mr. Hounsell.

Saturday night was Concert time at the Eastport Community Centre, along with a sale of local art, handicrafts and food favourites. The Concert played to a full house in the Community Centre's Theatre, and was a most enjoyable evening for all those in attendance.

On Sunday morning the Divan attended the weekly Gospel Singalong in the Park's Recreation Centre. This year saw the first public performance of Mazol's Divan Choir. Following extensive practice into the early morning hours, our 12 member ensemble debuted their vocal talents in front of a standing room only audience. Post Singalong reviews were positive. Future performances by the choir can be booked through Karen Finn at Mazol's office in St. John's (LOL).

Again this year the Divan greatly enjoyed their Eastport Weekend and the hospitality extended them. Mazol especially appreciates the fundraising efforts of the Park and its patrons, thank-you so much.





# Summer Ceremonial 2018

Mazol's Summer Ceremonial was held in St. John's from July 27-29, 2018. This year's event proved to be a most enjoyable weekend for all who participated. We were very privileged to have had in attendance, Ms. Kelly Thorstad, Director of Nursing and Patient Care Services from our Montreal Shriners Hospital. She was joined by our counterparts from Karnak, Anah and Philae Temples.



The weekend actually started on Thursday night when our out-of-Province visitors joined Illustrious Sir Paul and Lady Sharon for dinner and walkabout in Downtown St. John's. Friday saw the traditional Meet & Greet at the Mazol Shrine Centre. The evening featured a Screech Inn performed by Nobles Dave Cooper and Keith Hickman of the Compass Shrine Club; as well as the presentation of Honourary Mazol Membership Certificates.



On Saturday morning Mazol held a Stated Meeting at Freemasons Hall which saw the introduction of our new video software system, Zoom. This system will enable all Clubs to now participate via video link in future meetings and events. That same morning, Lady Sharon hosted the Ladies Luncheon at Bally Haly Golf Club. It was very well attended, and enjoyed by all.

Saturday afternoon our counterparts toured beautiful Quidi Vidi Village and dropped into the Quidi Vidi Brewery for the afternoon concert and hospitality. That night saw the highlight of the weekend, an “Out of this World” banquet at the Johnson Geo Centre. The high point of the evening was the introduction of our patient Brandon Bowen. He spoke eloquently about his Shriners experience, and then proceeded to perform several local favourites on his accordion, which brought down the House and received a standing ovation from an emotional group of Nobles, Ladies and guests.

On Sunday, events wound down. Some of our visitors went Whale Watching in Bay Bulls, while others chose to partake in the George Street Weekend activities.

The Potentate and his Lady extend a big thank-you to our out-of-town guests and the many Nobles and Ladies of Mazol who helped make this a truly great Summer Ceremonial.







# Meet Brandon Bowen

Brandon is a young boy, just starting his teenage years at the tender age of 13. He has been a Shriner's Patient from St. John's, since he was four years old, and over the last nine years he has grown into a strong young man with a zest for life and musical talent to boot. The following is a description of Brandon's journey with the Shriner's, as told by Brandon himself, in a speech he gave at the Mazol Shrine Summer Ceremonial Banquet this past July...



Good evening everybody, I would like to thank the Shriners for having me as a special guest here tonight.

My name is Brandon Bowen and I'm 13 years old. Some people say that I am a miracle baby. When I was born, I was only 2 pounds and 4 ounces – just like a block of butter!! I was born 3 months premature and I spent 4 ½ months in the NICU before I got to go home with my Mom and Dad. I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy when I was 16 months old. With my disability, I mostly struggle with my gross motor skills, like walking.

When I was about 2 years old, and trying to learn to walk, my legs used to do what is called “scissoring”, which means that they would cross over each other, and it made it very hard to walk. I tried some Botox treatments in my legs, which seemed to work at first to keep my legs from scissoring, but this would only last for a short period of time.

My Doctor spoke to my parents about contacting the Shriners hospital, and how we should see if there was something that they could do to help me fix my legs.

It was about 9 years ago when I travelled to Gander to meet with the team from Montreal to see if I would be a candidate for the Rhizotomy surgery. After meeting with the team from Montreal, they told me that I was a candidate to have this surgery. It wasn't long when my parents received a call from Montreal telling us that the surgery will take place in June. When I arrived, the Shriners met me with open arms.

As part of having the surgery, the staff at the hospital went over everything with me that was involved in the surgery, and all the different stages that would take place before and after the surgery. They were super, super nice. They made us feel like we were family.

After surgery, I spent 7 weeks doing intensive physiotherapy. I even got to ride around the hospital on a paddle bike, which was pretty awesome. The Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapist were very nice. They always made me smile and laugh, even on those bad days when I was in a lot of pain.

Every day after I was finished my physio, I loved going to the playroom. The staff in the playroom were so nice. They had some cool toys there to play with, which helped me forget about any pain that I was having.

They would have volunteers come in to help out. I got to meet one of the volunteers. He was a student going to a school close by. We had a blast hanging out in the playroom. I even let my Mom and Dad go on a date while I was hanging out with him. We became good friends. He would even come back to see me when I used to go back to Montreal for appointments.

I hope the hospital continues to have volunteers come in and hang out with the kids as this really helped me forget why I was really there, in the first place.

After the year from my Rhizotomy surgery, I was zooming around in my walker. I never had used my wheelchair very often. Unfortunately, I took a growing spurt and I started to have issues, which required multiple surgeries over



the past few years.

I'm really hoping someday to get back on my feet again. Who knows, with the technology always improving, and lots of research being done with the help of the Shriners – there could be a cure for Cerebral Palsy someday?

I would like to thank everyone here tonight for all your support, and it's people like you who help kids like me. Now I would like to share with you some of my musical talent – I can play the button accordion. I've been playing for almost 4 years. I've been busying playing in different festivals and charity events.

- Brandon Bowen

---

The following story was captured from the VOCM News site about Brandon. A thank you to VOCM.

## **Young Musician Rocks O'Reilly's Thanks To Accessible Stage**

A 13-year-old performer is thanking O'Reilly's for accommodating him this summer.

Brandon Bowen, who plays the accordion, has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He has been playing Irish-Newfoundland favourites at the popular downtown venue for most of the summer with the help of special ramps set up by O'Reilly's staff.

Brandon told Greg Smith on the VOCM Irish-Newfoundland Show it's been a dream come true.

He thanked Brenda O'Reilly and her staff for inviting him to play.

Brandon has always loved Irish-Newfoundland music, and says even as a young child, instead of watching cartoons, he would ask his dad to put on Ryan's Fancy. His dad, Gary Bowen, says they're appreciative of the support they've received.

He says Brenda called them and they asked if getting on stage would be an issue. He assured them it wouldn't be a problem.

**[Click here to listen to Brandon appearing on the Irish Newfoundland Show with Greg Smith!](#)**



There you have it. Why do Shriner's do what they do? It is because Shriner's patients, like Brandon, get to travel to any of the 22 hospitals under the banner of Shriner's International in North America, Mexico, and in Brandon's case, our Canadian Shriner's hospital in Montreal. They enter a very special world where they are at its centre and receive, at no cost to the family, the best medical treatment in the world given by Dr.'s and others, that along with their very special skills, do it with great love and compassion for each child. We as Shriner's see the results and we are inspired, time and time again, to help as many children as we can.

Prepared by Noble Keith Boone



## Another Fezeroo Sweepstakes Finished



The annual Fezeroo is now over and again this year Mazol is most appreciative for the support of our Nobles, Clubs and the general public. A special thanks goes out as well to the Hickman Automotive Group who continue to be a strong supporter of Mazol.

There is a personal sales initiative that was undertaken by a patient's family in Springdale that is deserving of special recognition and a huge thank you. Cameron Cull is a Shriner's patient whose family operates the Esso outlet and convenience store in Springdale. Over the past two months they have sold Fezeroo tickets totalling more than \$1300.00! Cameron's mother Charlene promoted ticket sales via Facebook and the response was terrific from the local community. We intend to recognize this fantastic initiative on behalf of the Cull family later this Fall.



# Harold W. Duffett Shriners RV Park

## The story behind the park.

- Noble Dave Reeves

The Harold W. Duffett Shriners RV Park (“The Park”) is in Eastport, on the beautiful “Road to the Beaches”. This area is a well-established Newfoundland and Labrador tourist area with two excellent sandy beaches and small fishing communities that are a photographer’s dream. The Park consists of 150 trailer sites, with a range of sites that can accommodate a full range of larger motor homes to the pop-up trailers. The Park can accommodate both seasonal and transient campers and it provides a good level of service for these RV travelers.



When compared to other Shrine temples, Mazol Temple in Newfoundland and Labrador, is in a unique position as it owns and operates an RV park. To fully understand the benefit of this park to the Mazol Temple, a brief history is given.

The Park, originally known as “Eastport Peninsula Sunshine Park”, was opened in 1972. In 1975, Noble Harold W. Duffett purchased The Park and with the help of his employees, opened The Park in June 1975 and operated from June 24th to the Labour Day weekend each year.

Many Mazol Shriners enjoyed The Park, led by Ill. Sir Ed Janes, Potentate in 1985, who had business interests on the Eastport Peninsula, as owner of the P. Janes and Sons fish plant at Salvage.

In 1979, Ill. Sir Janes wanted his Shriner RV friends to be able to have a longer season in The Park, from the May 24th weekend to the Thanksgiving weekend. This resulted in an agreement with Noble Harold Duffett for the Mazol RV Unit (“The RV Unit”) to operate The Park for \$1.00 per year. Later, this led to, in 1983, a formal lease agreement for 10 years, with a renewal for another 10 years, between Noble Harold Duffett’s Holding Company and the Mazol Temple Holding Corporation for the similar charge of \$1.00 per year.

The RV Unit continued to operate The Park during the lease period. With the end of the 20-year lease approaching, Ill. Sir John H Brake, Potentate for 2006, held discussions with Noble Harold Duffett about the future of The Park. It was decided by the Duffett Family that the time had arrived, and The Park’s ownership was gifted to the Mazol Shriners Charitable Trust Inc. (“The Trust”).

In 2006, under the new ownership of Mazol Shriners, The Park continued to be operated as a commercial operation. Mazol Shriners set up The Trust, as directed by Noble Harold Duffett in the transfer agreement. While The Trust had direct responsibility for the oversight of The Park, it delegated the day to day operation to The RV Unit. Also, in 2007, the name of The Park was changed to the Harold W. Duffett Shriners RV Park to recognize the generous gift from its benefactor.

In 2006, The Park was thirty-four (34) years old and contained much of the original infrastructure. During the time that The RV Unit managed The Park under the lease, many projects were successfully completed. An excerpt from a July 2009 Business Plan, authored by Ill Sir John Brake, chair of The Trust, gave a description of these upgrades. As far as can be determined, this 2009 Business Plan was completed when applying for funds from ACOA to expand The Park. The excerpt reads as follows;



“upgrading of the electrical system; the construction and furnishing of a modern kitchen in the recreation center; a new games room for children, erected and maintained; mini golf and shuffle board units installed; a new playground area developed; a fire pit constructed; the walking trail upgraded and new bridges erected; the artesian well system overhauled and new pumps and tanks installed; the front office was extended and wash rooms provided; number two cabin was completed and furnished; the recreation building had plumbing installed together with new sound system, a new ceiling and a new floor; all the trailer sites were improved and others constructed.”

Also, in this 2009 Business Plan, the following statement occurred.

“The purpose of Mazol Shriners leasing the Park in the beginning and subsequently acquiring ownership, was twofold, firstly to provide a home base and RV meeting place for the Shriners Family and secondly to generate funds for the Shriners Patient Transportation Fund. Over the years, the park has certainly established itself as a home base for the Shriners Families RV Unit and has expanded beyond the Shriners Families to serve all RV users and the general public. It has contributed approximately \$200,000 to the Shriners Patient Transportation Fund during that time. Future budgeted surplus funds will be contributed to the Patient Transportation Fund in accordance with the overall objectives of the “not for profit organization”.



Over the 20 years history as a Shriners Park, the Park has undergone many upgrades, as RV Shrine Unit members worked hard to enhance the beauty and standards of the facility. The RV Committee for the park have now recommended a major upgrading of the park's facilities to include upgrading washrooms and laundry facilities, electrical services and water and sewage services, as well as upgrading existing, un-serviced sites to a suitable standard for seasonal camping."

The application for a loan to ACOA was successful and along with an investment from Mazol Shriners Patient Transportation Fund ("PTF"), The Park was able to construct 37 new larger fully serviced sites in 2009-10.

Since 2006, in addition to the major upgrade of 37 larger fully serviced sites referenced above, there have been other significant upgrades and improvements to The Park, which have been financed from operations. Most notable of these: develop a further 12 larger fully serviced sites; upgraded water pumping station; upgrade several older 30 amp sites to 50 amp; purchase a small backhoe; complete a major upgrade of the original electricity supply to The Park; purchase and use of a computerized reservation system; upgrading of the recreation building; installation of a Wi-Fi system for patron access to the internet; upgrading of website; installation of a new shuffleboard; purchase new chairs and tables for the recreation hall and many other smaller projects.



As stated above, in 2006, The Trust commenced overall responsible for the Park. The first Chair of The Trust was Ill. Sir John Brake and he has continued to be the Chair until the present. Other members of The Trust Board have been: The Divan of the day; Noble Harold Duffett, a lifetime member; and other Nobles, as appointed by the Divan of the day, who have knowledge in managing an RV park.

Since 2008, the asset value of The Park has been significantly increased, and in 2018 the ACOA loan (interest free) along with the investment from the PTF (plus interest) were fully repaid. The Park has received many donations from other Mazol Shrine Clubs, especially the Gander Shrine Club who gave donations for a new comfort station and laundry building and refurbishing funds for the recreation center and office. Individuals also gave donations and there have been many fund-raising events for the PTF held in the Park and surrounding communities. Yearly park revenues have significantly increased while operating costs have decreased. In addition, The Park has supported the surrounding communities by purchasing what supplies and services it can, locally. Most recently, The Park has started to work more closely with the local tourist association to attract more tourists to the area.

None of the above, either during the leasing or ownership, would have been possible without the hard and dedicated work and assistance of Mazol Shriners. In the earlier days, the number of Nobles directly involved in the RV Park were probably more than forty, while today it is down to seven. During these periods, there was always a Board of Directors in place which guided the growth of the Park. Current President, Noble Kevin Butt, previous President, Ill. Sir Bert Avery, and all the previous Presidents have all helped guide The Park to where it is today, and they are to be commended. Until 2018, The Park was managed by Shriners. Noble Peter Seaward and Lady Dorothy managed during most of the leasing and part of the ownership period. Then more recently, Noble David Cook managed The Park for the remainder of the ownership period up to 2018. These Nobles and Lady are to be also commended for their hard and dedicated work. In 2018, as stated above, a change was made by selecting a non-shrine affiliated husband and wife team, Wayne and Paula Cross of Eastport. We are sure that with their guidance, The Park will have another successful year.

The Park Ladies Auxiliary has also played an intricate role in the ongoing success of The Park. Their constant support along with their fundraising activities has successfully resulted in the addition of most of the recreation assets in The Park.



The Park is currently at a bit of a crossroad. The upgraded sections of The Park are modern and offers good amenities to its patrons. However, there remains upgrading requirements for half of the original section of The Park. Another concern is the demographics of its customer base. In general, the customer base is one of an aging population with few young families and their kids. Along with this, the RV industry is currently going through a challenging time. If The Park is to maintain or increase its customer base, new recreational facilities will have to be installed to attract a younger clientele. Also, the RV Park will have to become more aggressive in its marketing activities. Some steps are underway, but more will have to be done.



Overall, the story of The Park is a great success story. It is a testament to what can be achieved when a group of dedicated people, the Nobles and Ladies of Mazol Shrine, strive towards a common goal. In this case, the common goal is to raise money through the commercial operation of The Park for the care and treatment of Newfoundland and Labrador Shrine Kids. As was stated above, significant funds were given to the PTF when it was leased. Since becoming the owners of the RV Park, much money had to be invested in upgrading and expansion. With The Park now being debt free, starting in 2017 and each successive year, money can again flow to the PTF, even after the necessary money for operations, modest upgrading and marketing is accounted for.

Finally, it should be recognised that our seasonal patrons are taking an active role in organizing activities in the park, such as; music, shuffle board, quilting, darts and cards as well as a bike ride. During the year, they also organize Pot Luck Dinners and dances. They have also been very successful in raising funds for the PTF.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in the great success story of the Harold W. Duffett Shriners RV Park. [Drop by our website](#) and better still, if you are in the Eastport area drop by for a visit.

- Noble Dave Reeves







# NSA 2018 - Rutland, Vermont

NSA 2018 took place this year over the September 14th weekend in Rutland, Vermont. The NSA is the annual showcase event of the Temples in the Northeast Shrine Association. This year's NSA was hosted by Cairo Shriners and brought over 400 Nobles and their Ladies together for a weekend of fun, entertainment and hospitality. Mazol's delegation was led by Illustrious Sir Paul Rose, along with Chief Rabban Robert Barrett, Recorder Bill Smith, Illustrious Sir Doug Beattie, as well as NSA 2019 Chair Lorne Warren and Secretary Bill Radford.

Friday was registration day for all attendees, and that evening featured the annual NSA Counterparts Dinner. Saturday morning the Ladies travelled to a traditional Vermont country store which was followed by a luncheon at a well known local restaurant. The same morning the Nobles were joined by four Imperial Divan members for the NSA AGM. During the proceedings Mazol promoted its hosting of NSA 2019 in Corner Brook. It was a great presentation delivered by Nobles Barrett and Warren, which created significant interest within the room and which continued to be evident throughout other events that weekend.



On Saturday afternoon it was time for the Shriners Parade. The Parade saw contingents from across the NSA displaying some of their finest motorized parade equipment, musical talent, clowns and Temple Floats. The Parade through Downtown Rutland was enthusiastically welcomed by local residents amid temperatures reaching the low 30's.

That night the NSA Annual Dinner was highlighted by the installation of Mazol's Chief Rabban Robert Barrett as the NSA President for 2019. Congratulations Robert!

It is also noteworthy for Mazol members, that Bill Radford of the Compass Club was installed as President of the Northeast Jesters Association during a special luncheon on Friday. Congratulations Bill!

It was a great weekend for Mazol and we hope that the "buzz" around next year's NSA will translate into a highly successful event for our Temple.







# NSA 2018 Parade in Pictures







# Some Thoughts on Being a Shriner and Ensuring Ongoing Success

- Noble Keith Boone

As Shriners, we know that our prime objective is to continually raise, day after day, year after year, hopefully forever, the monies needed to support our own local Mazol Temple Patient Travel Fund and our Canadian Hospital in Montreal. We are able to do this because our hearts and willpower are constantly reinvigorated by the children we serve and the smiling results on their faces when their bodies are blessed with the very special care they receive from the many hospitals under the banner of Shriners International.

Like every organization that draws many types of personalities, with many types of skills and life experiences, we don't always agree with everything that goes on within the workings of our organization under the umbrella of the Mazol Temple and the guidance of our Illustrious Potentate and Divan. Why is this?

When I started my first year at Memorial University (MUN) in 1968, I wanted to get a high enough average grade, for all my courses, that would qualify me for entering the first graduate Engineering program at MUN which began in the fall of 1969. I chose English Literature and Political Science as two of my courses thinking they would be easier than the other courses I had to take like, Physics, Chemistry and Math. They were not easier of course but they taught me a few things. My English teacher was non-other than Ted Russell himself. He took me into the world of Hamlet and Macbeth as if I was there standing beside the characters. He was the best teacher in university I ever had, and to this day I think about the things he spoke of that makes for a good life. He was that kind of person. But I digress. My Political Science teacher was a Mr. Bartlett and one of the students asked him for his definition of Politics. He said that the best he could come up with as a definition was, "People in Conflict". The Webster's Dictionary defines it as "The science or art of political government". I was struck by Mr. Bartlett's definition then and have thought about it throughout my life. "People in conflict". For me the definition says, all human beings are in conflict throughout their lives, therefore we are all politicians in one way or another. It is as natural for you and me to be political as it is for the sun to shine. It is part of who we are at our fundamental core. Therefore, it should come as no surprise when we look at our world, and see that it is truly, a world in conflict. Conflict, and the management of it, and I emphasize "Management", has allowed the human race to grow to the tremendous human population and the many mind-boggling achievements we just take for granted in our everyday world.

What has this got to do with you and me as Freemasons and Shriners you may ask? It has everything to do with our success as Shriners of the Mazol Temple. As Freemasons we have signed up to a philosophy and an objective that many men in the world will never come to understand, practice or act upon, the "Brotherhood of Man". To achieve this objective requires that each Mason vow to practice and uphold a minimum standard of conduct in all of our affairs, not only with each other, but with every human being on the face of the earth. A huge part of the success of Freemasonry is that we have been shown the secrets of how to manage the potential natural conflict that defines us as human beings, take that knowledge to the outside world, and by doing so we each play our role in making a better world.

In our journey to become Master Masons we learned many things about the web of life. In the beginning, the darkness of ignorance is replaced with the light of knowledge, and leading to wisdom in a life lived well, finally preparing each of us for the latest stage of life. Certain principles and obligations were impressed on our minds:

- The three tenets of our craft, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.
- We are to prize honour and virtue above the merely external advantages of rank and fortune.
- We should never attend a lodge meeting where there is a brother with whom we are at variance, or against whom we entertain animosity. If so we are expected to invite him to withdraw, in order that we may settle our differences amicably. If this is happily effected, then we may both enter lodge with that love and harmony which should at all times characterize Freemasons. If unfortunately, our differences be of such a nature as to not be easily resolved, then it is better that one or both, retire from the lodge, then let the harmony of the lodge be disrupted.
- We should exercise that virtue that justly denominates a Freemasons heart, which is charity.
- We shall maintain a Master Mason's honour and carefully preserve it as our own. We shall neither injure him ourselves nor knowingly suffer him to be injured by others, if within our power to prevent it, but on the contrary, we shall boldly repel the slanderer of his good name.

In conclusion my fellow Nobles, we will only continue to be successful as Shriners and our great cause, if we remember and practice the obligations we took to become Master Masons and the great lessons we have been taught, from the wisdom of the ages, and the Volume of the Sacred Law, as to how to manage human conflict. Please remember your teachings and who we are, and what we stand for, at all of your club meetings, and the special times we have together when we meet with our dedicated Mazol Temple Divan members and their Ladies, who unselfishly work many, many hours of their precious time for all of us and our cause. Each of us plays a vital role in maintaining Harmony and Peace in all of our affairs. Each and every one of us has to place and turn his key to open the door of success. Just one key unturned can close and keep that door closed forever. This is why we have to support and strengthen each other, for the journey is long and arduous, without that support. I bid you Peace.

Noble Keith Boone



# Meet a Shriner Noble Ralph Miller

## Introduce Yourself

My Name is Noble Ralph Miller.

My home town is now Gander NL (grew up in Portugal Cove, NL moved to Gander 1971 to teach at the Community College. Retired from there in 1991). I am a member of the Gander Shrine Club and holds the position of Patient Co-ordinator and Mazol Shriners holding the position of Patient Chairman.

In 1983 I joined Airways Masonic Lodge in Gander with the prime intention of becoming a Shriner. I became a Shriner at the summer Ceremonial of 1985 in Gander, NL (Dr. Gerald Hewitt from Gander was the Potentate). I took on the position of Gander Club Patient Co-ordinator in the late 90s and became Mazol Patient Chairman in 2006?



## Why did you become a Shriner?

I had heard a lot about the wonderful work that Shriners did for children with Orthopaedic & Burn conditions. Joining Shriners for me was a way in which I could payback for help I received which has given me the opportunity to enjoy some of the good things in my life. Now as Mazol Patient Chairman, I always feel empathy for the young patients I have the honour & privilege to work with.

Payback for me goes back to my childhood when I was a young boy around 11 years old and was stricken with what was believed to be "Spinal Tuberculoses". With that diagnosis I received the devastating news, I was to spend the rest of my life in a wheel chair. However, I was fortunate enough that through the training and dedication of a nurse, she happened to notice there was something different about my case. She summoned the Orthopedic Surgeon who made a more extensive examination and realized that it was not "Spinal Tuberculoses" but it was "Spinal Cord Trauma" due to inflammatory arthritics of the lower spine. After several months in hospital with physiotherapy and medication and physiotherapy at home as well, I was able to return to school to finish my sixth grade.

For me, during the past 12 years as Mazol Patient Chairman as well as Gander Club Patient coordinator, I feel so blessed & fortunate to meet the many young "Heroes", who have become



our patients. I've met and made friends with grateful parents and caregivers who face the world every day with such a positive outlook and the children's smiles despite their pain all because Shriners were able to help.

For each Clinic held at JPM, the great feeling of hope for the children begins when I pick up Dr. Francois Fassier at the airport, which I've done for every clinic held. In coordinating & assisting at the Outreach Clinic, I am so proud that I can in some small way give a little back and possibly a lot forward to the young people who strive daily to be all they can be.



In recognizing patients from many areas in NL was having to travel to either St. John's or Montreal were being stressed. In 2003 it was decided maybe a central location was needed to have an Outreach Clinic from Montreal Shriners hospital. I was able to arrange consultation between Mazol Patient Chairman and the administration JPM hospital, Gander. From that an agreement was reached with no difficulty to begin the process. I was glad to have played a role towards making this happen. In the spring of 2004 the first clinic was held with Dr. Francois Fassier, his clinical assistant and Shriner representation present and has continued since. That was a proud time for me with the hope many NL children needing the help we could possibly provide would be seen and taken care of. Since then, to date over 300 patients has been seen by Dr. Fassier and his clinical assistants. This has been resulted in much less stress and anxiety to the many patients and families in NL.

### What is your proudest moment of being a Shriner?

There are so many that there's no special one that I can say stands out above others. From 2004 – present time being involved with the Outreach Clinic there has been many proud moments on my journey as a Shriner. Time spent with patients and families, many looking for hope and support to make life better for the children has been satisfying, fulfilling and gratifying.

- One of the first patients I assisted was a young boy about 2 years old. When I first met him and his mother he was crawling on the floor, could not walk. I was told by his mother he had a brace on his leg but she had been advised he would never be able to walk without one. His parents had little hope for anything more so one more try was to contact "Shriners", He was immediately accepted as a Shrine patient this was followed with many surgeries at Shriners

Hospital, Montreal. After 12 years or more being cared for by the wonderful Shriners doctors he visited the Outreach Clinic in Gander and was again seen by Dr. Fassier. After a short time along with his mom seeing Dr. Fassier he left the examining room, took his brace and threw it down the corridor saying Give this to somebody who needs it, "I don't need it any more". That was a moment I'll never forget feeling so proud I was able to travel this journey with him and see the positive results that came from it.

- Another story of a young boy's parents who came to me wondering if there was anything that could be done for their son who was born with no external ears. He was having a lot of difficulty socially, especially in school. I was able to connect them with a Shriners Hospital who did some marvelous work by arranging for cosmetic techniques and the use of implants. This greatly improved not only his hearing but his self esteem and increased his social well being and confidence.
- Some patients have come to us unable to communicate and in a wheelchair. One patient (teens now) is now able to walk very well on his own and is able to express himself much better. Recently, visiting the Outreach Clinic, walked up to me with arms outstretched for a big hug. Now that's a time when I felt very proud to be a Shriner.
- A mother contacted me about her little girl who had brittle bone disease (Osteogenesis imperfecta). She was very stressed about the child as the child had just gone through some surgery and in the process her pelvis was fractured. Needless to say myself and my wife took this to heart and every effort was made to see if Shriners could help. After many visits and specialized treatments and procedures at Montreal Shriners hospital she was able to carry on with a much better and more normal active life. This is only one of the many with this condition who have been able to access the help of Shriners.
- Others not connected to the Outreach Clinic has been related to a couple of cases re spinal cord injury. From that I was able to make contact to set the wheels in motion resulting in the patients being transported to one of our Spinal Cord specialty hospitals. I have received messages of the amazing help and treatment the patients along with the families received there. Personal thanks came from a young patient who spent some time receiving care. This again made me proud to be a Shriner helping those who were in desperate need.





There are many, many more stories from my experiences with Shrine patients and the Outreach Clinic. I have heard many stories of misdiagnosis, prolonged treatments, etc. with parents feeling of confusion and helplessness for their children. Shriners became their road to hope and help for a better life for the children – our children. In many of the visits with families who are seeking our help I have been assisted by my wife. This lends to a better atmosphere for the family being able to relate vs just a Shriner. It's the family/team approach.

The parents' stories tell of the many caring and specialized staff at Shriners hospitals with many positive results and stories. They have the highest praise for the Shriners doctors and medical supports at all Shriners hospitals. Yes, I am proud to be a Shriner!

### A Footnote:

Being present at the dedication & opening of the New Shriners Children's Hospital in Montreal in 2015 and to realize this was through the work of the many Shriners was a very notable time for me. No doubt, this was going to provide a top notch service to our patients who would be treated there.

Also, in January of 2018 during the Public Installation ceremony of Ill Sir Paul Rose and his Divan I was honoured to be the recipient of an Emeritus Award for my 10 years of continued service as Mazol Patient Chair.

Shrinedom has been a very rewarding experience for me. This is realized when people come to me and say how much they appreciate the work we Shriners do. They tell the wonderful stories of children who have been helped by the Shriners Hospitals in Canada & the US, they tell you of how much a difference we make for struggling families with young children who have disabling childhood diseases/conditions and of how they depend on us to help them cope with this every day. They tell you of how things might have been better for some people if Shriners had been around many years gone by. I know exactly what they mean!

Noble Ralph Miller  
Mazol Patient Chairman.



# 144th Shriners International Imperial Session

## - Noble Brian Peckford

The 2018 Imperial Session of Shriners International (Imperial) was held at Daytona Beach, FL from Friday, July 13 to Thursday, July 19, 2018. Opportunity often comes disguised as another's misfortune, the means that saw Lady Cheryl's and my attendance to the Imperial. Ill Sir Paul was prevented from flying due to medical reasons and I had the pleasure of attending in his absence. Many Nobles don't realize Shriners International (SI) send (and when I say send I mean cover the expenses to travel to the Imperial) representatives from all temples, the number of registered delegates permitted to attend is based on the number of Nobles in the temple, Mazol is permitted to send two delegates and their ladies. Mazol's delegates, in addition to Lady Cheryl and I included the Chief Rabban Robert Barrett and Lady Zana. The Oriental Guide Robert Tucker and Lady Sandi attended at their own expense, albeit they stayed with Lady Cheryl and I and that certainly added to the positive experience we shared.

The Imperial is certainly not a holiday, most days begin by 6am with breakfast, business sessions and other events throughout the day, usually concluding late in the evening. But that being said, there were networking opportunities, the massive parade, patient stories, Imperial Divan interactions, patient ambassador appearances, and other events that made the time fly, and rejuvenated your energy levels as well as reinforce why we do what we do.

The business sessions saw many resolutions debated, many involved the restructuring of the hospitals. Shriners Hospital for Children (SHC) could easily from a practical side, operate from one current location, however this is definitely not the direction SI is proceeding. We have hospitals that have less than one inpatient per day, yet it costs \$millions to operate, so obviously changes have to be made. One chart shown illustrated the shift from inpatient visits to outpatient. In 1968 there were over 350,00 inpatient visits, just over 50,000 outpatient visits, in 2017 the exact opposite was true, approximately 350,000 outpatient visits compared to just over 50,000 inpatient visits. This is the future and we are becoming a product of our own success. Much of the shift is directly related to the tremendous research program by SHC, and how technology have greatly reduced the need for extended inpatient stays.



Another enlightening discussion was regarding SI's marketing campaigns. On many occasions I have heard of the massive expenses by SI towards activities such golf tournaments, NASCAR, and football. SI commissioned the international firm Nielsen to compare the net cost of marketing to total value. The SI College Classic has a \$0.06 net expense for each \$1 earned, NASCAR is \$0.16 net per \$1 earned, East West Shrine Game \$0.26, and SI marketing in general \$0.48 net expense for each \$1 value earned. SI held 32 football games in 2017, net proceeds were \$667,957 (\$487,422 towards SHC, \$180,535 PTF), 67 golf tournaments were held in 2017 with net proceeds of \$914,275 (\$729,825 SHC, \$184,450 PTF), as well as other events such as El Zaribah Bowling (Phoenix) - \$103,398 , Zamora Horse Show (Birmingham) - \$48,178, Morocco Rodeo (Jacksonville) - \$38,762 , Melha Poker Run (Springfield) \$22,952 , and Acca Walk for Love (Richmond) - \$20,903.

It was a nice touch to see the SHC NASCAR, and to meet driver Noble David Ragan.

Another very successful marketing campaign undertaken by SI was "Adventures with Alec" former SHC Patient Ambassador. This campaign yielded \$246,904 total value.



As is discussed at every Mazol meeting, so too was membership discussed at length. There were many new temples approved, all from areas like Bolivia. SI membership statistics 2017 included: creations 6,569, affiliations 966, restorations 2,451, demits 2,199, deaths 9,175, suspensions 9,741, exp/resignations 358, for a net loss of 11,500, which is 1,183 less than 2016, but everyone should recognize while it is an improvement from 2016 it is nothing to be proud of, Shriners International still lost 1,183 Nobles.

Jim Cain of Nashville, Tennessee, was elected Imperial Potentate. Imperial Sir gave a very empowering, yet very humble acceptance speech, Jim is what Shriners is all about! Mark Hartz was elected as the new kid on the block – the Imperial Outer Guard. The election of the Imperial Divan wasn't without controversy, in fact the speeches, those who rose on personal privileges, certainly added to the flavour of the Imperial. Two past Imperial Potentates ran for elected office, one being Imperial Recorder but both were unsuccessful.



Other highlights of Imperial included the Ladies Luncheon with special guest Kechi, who also performed several selections at the church service. Pictured here is the Mazol delegation with this famous Shriner patient and America's Got Talent Finalist.

Another highlight was the parade, which saw two hours of continuous entertainment by various temples, and it was loved by everyone, Shriners, Imperial Officers and the public, but most of all the children present were ecstatic.





But the entertainment highlight of the Imperial Session was the evening of entertainment provided by the Oak Ridge Boys! An amazing concert, attended by all Nobles and the Imperial Divan. Even more moving was when the Oak Ridge Boys called all the SHC patients on stage while they performed.

The most famous Oak Ridge Boy, William L. Golden became a Shriner after the concert! Seen here is Imperial Sir Gary Bergenske and incoming Imperial Potentate Jim Cain.

Another lifelong memory was meeting the National Patient Ambassadors for SHC Lily and Riley.

This is what we are about, no actually this is what we should be about, this should be why we exist as Nobles. The Imperial Session 2018 was a tremendous experience, it allows delegates to have a say regarding how the Iowa and Colorado Corporations function, how SI and SHC run, but most of all it reenergizes everyone present and I highly encourage all Nobles to experience it at least once in your Shrine life. This is just a mere snapshot of Imperial, much more detail can be found online at Shriners Village or Shriners Facebook pages.

- Noble Brian Peckford





## Junior Miss NL Donates to Mazol Shriners

A very unique fundraising project was undertaken in September by contestants in the Junior Miss Newfoundland and Labrador Competition. This year contestants chose Mazol Shriners as the beneficiary of their fundraising activities. From Every Corner of our Province, St. John's to Labrador, contestants engaged in several weeks of personal fundraising activities, all with the goal of contributing to Mazol's Patient Transportation Fund. On the evening of September 16th, at the crowning of Miss Junior NL, it was announced that a total of \$9,823.75 had been raised and would be donated to Mazol Shriners.

Sarah Pitcher of Winterton was the winner of Mazol Shriner's Youth Leadership Award in recognition of her efforts in raising \$2010.40. Members of the Trinity Conception Shrine Club were in attendance for the presentation. Mazol is indeed most grateful for being chosen as the charity of choice for 2018.







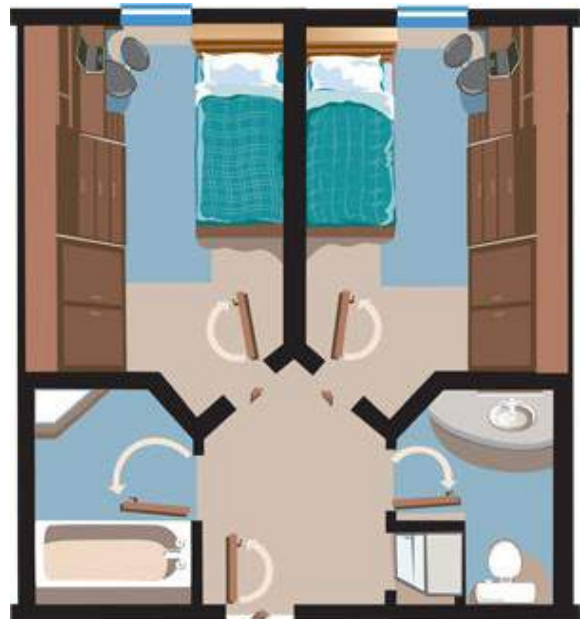
# NSA 2019 Report

- Ill. Sir Lorne Warren, PP

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Nobles of Mazol for your tremendous support (over 80%) shown at the Stated Meeting held on August 23rd. The entire NSA2019 Committee are very humbled and appreciative of the support and are fully committed to hosting the BEST Northeast Fall Field Days ever! By the time you get this, our website (nsa2019.com) will be up and in full operation. Keep checking back to the **NSA 2019 website** as new items will be added as we get additional information. **This website** will be the major communication tool that the committee will use to get information to all Mazol Nobles as well as the Nobles of the visiting Temples.

Accommodation arrangements are finalized with three options being available. Registration must be made through the Mazol Office at 709-364-1591, (Fax) 709-364-5715 or [shrine@nf.aibn.com](mailto:shrine@nf.aibn.com). Please see website for further information including costs and registration forms. We have worked to ensure that there are a range of prices to accommodate everyone.

1. Grenfell College Chalets/Residences
2. Greenwood Inn
3. Glymill Inn
4. Prince Edward RV Park



**SCHEDULING** has been completed and we feel that the schedule, which can be found on the website, will provide an opportunity for everyone to partake in a wide variety events. A special Ladies Tour has been arranged to feature a trip up the Northern Peninsula to Cow Head and return with a lunch being provided in Cow Head. Crystal Harbour Tours are offering a “Shriners Only” 2-hour tour of the Bay of Islands complete with a bar and entertainment. The Boot Shrine Club has kindly offered to perform the “Bootleggers’ Degree” to all willing participants followed by a traditional Newfoundland & Labrador “Screech-In”. Saturday evening there will be a Gala Newfoundland Kitchen Party held at the Corner Brook Civic Centre, featuring traditional Newfoundland & Labrador fare, presentation of awards followed by a live band that will be playing a vast assortment of music well into the night.

**INTEREST** is running very high. Several Nobles and their Ladies of Mazol attended the Northeast Shrine Association Fall Field Days in Rutland, Vermont. We were all approached by Nobles and their Ladies who had a lot of questions which we answered to the best of our ability. The really surprising fact was that they all seemed very committed to attend next year in Corner Brook and take advantage to make it an extended holiday. There is even a bit of competition from the Imperial Officers as they all expressed a desire to attend and see Newfoundland & Labrador.

**THE MID-WINTER MEETING** (March 7-10, 2019) are all set to go. This is a wonderful opportunity for Mazol Nobles to attend this meeting as there will be several Imperial Officers in attendance bringing us the latest information about our Hospital System and our Fraternity. It really is something to consider if it fits your schedule. The registration form is only for those of our visitors that will be staying and dining at the Greenwood hotel. There is no cost for anyone else.

We look forward to continuing to share new and exciting NSA events in the coming months.

Ill. Sir Lorne Warren, PP  
Chair  
NSA 2019



## Director of Ceremonies Gets Hitched. Director of Membership Gets Partner for Life.

Noble Brandon Pike and his Lady Krista tied the knot on August 18th. Their Dinner Program featured the unique and light-hearted “A Kiss for a Cause”, which raised funds for the Shriners PTF via contributions from wedding guests. As they embark on a life of experiences and adventure together, on behalf of the Nobles and Ladies of Mazol Shriners of Newfoundland and Labrador, we would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!



## Shriners Creed

Shriners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling diseases, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family. We respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relations will be trustworthy and our spirits forgiving of each other.

As brothers we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together we will support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we and our communities will be the better because of our fraternity and its principles.

As Shriners we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shriners Hospitals to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its “temples of mercy” with spirit, time, talent and means.





# Notes from the Editor's Desk

Nobles,

It is my pleasure to serve as the Editor of the Mazol Connection. As your Editor it will be my responsibility to bring your stories to the nobility across the province so that everyone knows what is happening in the Temple, and in your home clubs.

If you have anything that is happening in your clubs, please do not hesitate to forward it to me by sending it to [mazolnewscoordinator@nf.aibn.com](mailto:mazolnewscoordinator@nf.aibn.com).

I look forward to the coming year and sharing the good news of the temple and our Potentate Ill. Sir Paul Rose, Lady Sharon, and the Divan.

Fraternally Yours

Noble Tom Power  
Mazol PR Committee

---

Keep up-to-date with everything Mazol by visiting our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages. Make sure to 'Like' and 'Follow' us for all the latest news from Mazol Shriners, Shriners International, and Shriners Hospitals for Children.



[Mazol Shriners Website](#)



[Mazol Shriners Facebook](#)



[Mazol Shriners Instagram](#)