

Mocha Shriners raise almost \$463,000 at Kincardine convention

Darryl Coote
Reporter

Local Shriners took over Kincardine June 3-4, 2016, for their annual Spring Ceremonial when they honour fellow Shrine-Masons who have passed during the year, inaugurate new members and raise money for their Montreal children's hospital.

Throughout the entire weekend the iconic fez hats could be seen all over the town as an estimated 450 Shriners from 21 clubs in southwestern Ontario attended the weekend festival, which officially began Friday night with fish fry and a performance by the MacKenzie Blues Band.

However, the event truly kicked off with its opening ceremony Saturday morning at the Davidson Centre where 40 new Shrine-

Masons were initiated. The big event of the opening ceremony was the procession of Shrine-Masons that formed before the stage handing cheques, one at a time, to Potentate Brian Dayman.

A total \$462,958 was raised for the Shriners-Hospital Canada in Montreal with some of it going towards the club's operating expenses.

Dayman said he was thrilled with the amount raised.

"I feel great about it," he told The News following the announcement. "That's just super. It makes me very proud to be with these guys and ladies. The ladies do a lot of work to, and I'm very proud of them all."

The piece de resistance of any Shriners' event is their parade. Saturday afternoon, downtown Kincardine's Queen St. was closed and the

Shriners put on a spectacle for the hundreds gathered.

All the iconic Shrine staples were present from grown men piloting tiny vehicles to a marching bands dressed in culturally insensitive Middle Eastern-inspired clothing.

Even the Ecto-1 "Ghostbusters" and the cop car from the "Blues Brothers" made an appearance.

The weekend, said Dayman of the South Bruce Mocha Shriners chapter, is all about brotherhood, friendship and having a good time.

"Friendship's the biggest thing," he said about the weekend's purpose. "Come out and have a good time, enjoy one another and get to know more people and have a good time."

Though when the weekend ends it's time to get back to work, he said, and raise more money for next year.



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The stage from the opening ceremonies of the Mocha Shriners Spring Ceremonial on June 4, 2016 at the Kincardine Davidson Centre.



A Shiner waves from a Niagara 'Maid of the Mist' float made up like the ship.



The Aylmer Shrine Club's Ghostbusters 'Ecto 1' car was a popular sight.



Shrine-Mason members wave from old cars to the hundreds gathered along Queen St. Saturday afternoon for the parade.



Costumed drummer take part in the ceremony.



An estimated 450 Mocha Shriners descended upon Kincardine the weekend of June 3-4, 2016.



Costumed Shriners march down Queen Street during the Shriners iconic parade celebrations.



A Shiner dressed in a unique costume marches down the street.