



COLOURFUL CREW: Committee members Cédric Meyer, Giuliana Maglione-Presti, Bitá Cattelan, Geeta Suchak, Denis Lalonde, Paul Lepage, Richard Voyer, Julie du Page, Alison Silcoff, Nathalie Schwartz Décarie, Isabelle L  and Elodie Meyer take it over the top at the Daffodil Ball. (Absent from photo: Louisa Mehailia and Nicole Magnan.) PHOTOS: KAREL CHLADEK

DAFFODIL DELIGHTS WITH PICASSO THEME

Colourful party raises \$1.3 million for Cancer Society



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

It's that time again, Social Gals and Gents. Daffodil Ball fever has taken flight and we have all the dazzling details from the recent Picasso-themed 2019 edition, artfully chaired by Intelera's Paul Lepage and Soprema's Richard Voyer.

Let's paint the party every perfect shade of primary and make the greatest artist of the 20th century proud ...

STROKES OF DECOR GENIUS:

Imaginations like those belonging to event producers Alison Silcoff and Isabelle L  (of Alison Silcoff Events) went wild with all the creative potential, masterminding myriad touches at Windsor Station that guests are still talking about.

Super-memorables included the grand-entrance staircase festooned with a triple-layered cubist topiary of daffodils; a Picasso human canvas "in studio" wearing a stunning gown by Quebec designer Xavier Laruelle that was hand-painted by Mireille Champagne; a massive asymmetrical mobile suspended from the ceiling in the cocktail atrium composed of multiple cubes emblazoned with iconic Picasso images; and the central structure hanging in the main dining room crafted from 155- by 64-foot fishing net awash in a cacophony of vibrant LED lights that was beyond spellbinding (especially after a few flutes of bubbly).

More decor magic beckoned tableside with special cubist table shapes, specifically constructed for the ball by who else but the gurus at Location Gervais, now part of the Celebrations empire (marking its 100th anniversary). Tabletops were equally stupefying, as three centrepiece designs varying in height and integrating iconic Picasso pics — along with a profusion of trademark daffodils — were juxtaposed beautifully with the bold-hued cloths in cobalt and red and custom chargers with colourful Picasso faces.

Kudos — and then some — to the brilliant suppliers that brought it all to life: Total Events (decor and technical design), Location Gervais (rental equipment), Yves Ch nier (centrepieces and floral arrangements), eXtension concepts (stretch fabric shapes) and Sc ne Scapin (staging and drapes).

NEVER A DULL MOMENT: As always, the eve — MCed by beloved actress, radio host and author Julie du Page — was peppered with pops of great entertainment.

At the entrance, there was internationally revered digital art pioneer Jeremy Sutton, who created a Picasso-style oeuvre projected on screens with inter-



PICASSO PERFECTION: A Picasso theme brings vibrancy and whimsy to the Daffodil Ball at Windsor Station.



RED x FUCHSIA = WOW: Martine Tremblay and Julie du Page, in ROMEO by Guillaume Poupart, dial up the incandescent style.

active brush strokes added by guests.

Next, dinner came alive with Picasso-inspired performances by Les Cubistes (dancers who know a thing or two about incorporating lit-up cubes) and headliner Benise, an Emmy-winning American guitarist whose boundary-pushing nuevo flamenco style, combining dance and theatre, had the audience at first strum.

Finally, epic dance band Paul Chacra's 1945 took to the stage, inspiring some serious cardio till closing.

TOO GORGEOUS TO EAT: You know you're in for a distinctive foodie experience when the ball committee manages to fly in a top chef from French Polynesia,

gargantuanly talented Marc Lintanf, to work hand in hand with the incomparable Armando Arruda and his team at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth.

Of course, the results were astoundingly impressive, featuring such winners as an exquisitely deconstructed gazpacho, braised octopus Romanesco, seafood paella with lobster, shrimp, black cod and mussels, and gilded cube with orange confit.

All dishes could have been mistaken for works of art and were accompanied by fine wines from Domodimonti and LBV.

LOOK AT HUE! What a vibrant play of impression-making good fashion. There was Bitá Cattelan in MAR by Maria Karimi; Jo lle Racine and pal Dr. Annie Lapointe in Greta Constantine; Julie du Page in ROMEO by Guillaume Poupart; Barbara Stutman in Issey Miyake and hand-painted Louboutins; Alison Silcoff in Monique Lhuillier and Kaufmann de Suisse bling; and so many more.

A CORNUCOPIA OF GOOD GIFTS: Event raffles in our fair city often go big, but this was next level, with 11 luxury prizes valued at a whopping \$126,550.

To-die-fors included an aquatint etching signed by Pablo Picasso himself and four business-class tickets to any Air Canada scheduled destination in the world.

As for the goodie bags, pamper was the MO, with top-tier treats and services generously donated by Finezza, Medispa Mont-Royal, Balnea r serve thermale, Guerlain, MissFresh, Yoga Vieux Montr al, MFleurs and D cor Conseil Am nagement.

A POWER MAGNET: You got the memo, Social Gals and Gents. The 2019 Daff attracted a crowd so powerful and boldface-worthy that we had no choice but to supersize the column to accommodate them (and still we're just scratching the surface).

On the vedette front, there were such luminous luminaries as: MC, actress/media goddess Julie du Page, attending with husband, Andrew Lapierre; super-songstresses Andr e Watters and Ima; media personalities Virginie Coossa, Karima Brikh, Joanne Vrakas (with husband, artist Andr e Monet) and Natasha Hall (with husband, David Moloney); fashion designer Xavier Laruelle with Dean Anderson; actor Ludvine Reding and father, S bastien Reding; television personality and former politician Mario Dumont with wife, Marie-Claude Barrette; and former professional hockey player Dave Morissette with Nancy Lemire.

Several top-tiers were spotted from the political arena as well, including former premier and first lady of Quebec, the ever-fabulous Jean Charest and Mich le Dionne; as well as past justice minister/AG turned media mogul Martin Cauchon with wife, Dorine Perron.

And then there was that power-flow of power-players, the gift that kept on giving, Quebec Inc. on super-steroids, topped by past chairs: CIBC's Victor G. Dodig with Maureen Dodig; Rio Tinto's Alfredo A. Barrios with wife, Elena; Cascades' Mario Plourde with wife, Marie Letarte; Cogeco's Louis Audet with wife, Jocelyne Francoeur-Audet; CAE's Marc Parent with wife, Isabelle B gin; Norton Rose Fulbright Canada's Norman M. Steinberg with wife, Ren e Kessler; and Domenic Pilla with Louise DeSerres.

Nope, still going. We're just getting warmed up. Also making their mark on the Daff (forgive us for not including full-on titles or nicknames, in the name of good space-saving): Scotiabank's Brian J. Porter (a.k.a. the 2020 ball co-chair) with Megan Porter; Bombardier's Alain Bellemare with Marie-Jos e Simard; Couche-Tard's Alain Bouchard with Sandra Chartrand; Qu becor's

Pierre Karl P ladeau with Pascale Bourbeau; TD's Brian Levitt with Portia Leggat; Lowe's Sylvain Prud'homme with Claire Chevrier; RCGT's Emilio B. Imbriglio with Lyne Tourigny; Cascades' Alain Lemaire with wife, Mariette; Vid otron's new tops Jean-Fran ois Pruneau with Ibtis Saadi; Manuvie's Richard Payette with Louise Poitras; Groupe St-Hubert's Pierre Rivard with Joane Demers; Ritz-Carlton Montreal's Andrew Torriani with wife, Arlene; TC Transcontinental's Isabelle Marcoux; McKesson Canada's Paula Keys with Pierre Lapointe; Boralex's Patrick Lemaire with Judy Kerwin; RBC's Nadine Renaud-Tinker with husband, Keith Tinker; RBC's Tony Loffreda with wife Angelina Loffreda; F1 Grand Prix's Fran ois Dumontier with wife, Charlaire Villeneuve; PricewaterhouseCoopers' Nicolas Marcoux; Cornelia Nihon with Laurence Moquette; Bourse de Montr al's Luc Fortin with Jo lle Racine; and Frank J. Motter with wife, Linda Shaw.

THE REAL DEAL: While it is admittedly easy to lose oneself in the legendary magic and glam of the Daff (see above!), the event is ultimately in the service of one of the most important missions on the planet: to help find a cure for cancer, enhance the quality of life of people living with the dreaded disease and prevent its onset.

Thanks to generous patrons and leading event partners including Cascades, CIBC, Cogeco, Lowe's Canada, National Bank, Power Corporation, Scotiabank and Soprema, there is now an additional — and impressive — \$1.3 million for the Canadian Cancer Society to put toward its noble goals.

To say that society top brass like Denis Lalonde were thrilled would be an enormous understatement.

That's it, dolls. For more: diaryofasocialgal.com



CHAIR CHAT: Co-chairmen Paul Lepage and Richard Voyer take time to chat.

ALLEN MCINNIS



LOVE IS IN THE AIR: Telesystem vice-president of operations Paolo Cattelan and wife Bitia Cattelan get in the groove.

KAREL CHLADEK



YOU GO, GIRL! Linda Shaw shows off some serious moves.

KAREL CHLADEK



A STUDIO WELCOME: Media personalities Karima Brikh and Virginie Coossa strike a pose in the "welcome studio" at the Daffodil Ball.

AUSTIN SCHARGORODSKI



GEARING UP: F1 Grand Prix du Canada chief and Octane topman François Dumontier and wife Charline Villeneuve vroom into cocktails at the Daffodil Ball.

KAREL CHLADEK



DYNAMIC DUO: The fabulous Jean Charest, former premier of Quebec, and equally fabulous wife, former first lady Michèle Dionne, bring their signature magic and charisma to the Daffodil Ball.

KAREL CHLADEK



SOCIAL GAL SOIRÉE: Beloved vedettes Ima and Andrée Watters lend support.

KAREL CHLADEK



JUST FOR DANCE: Committee member Nathalie Schwartz Décarie and husband Charles Décarie, new head of Groupe Juste pour rire, hit the dance floor.

KAREL CHLADEK



DEMURE DAZZLERS: Guerlain's Genevieve Ringuet and Marie-Christine Sirois glam it up.

KAREL CHLADEK



QUALITY QUARTET: Artist André Monet and wife Joanne Vrakas of BT Montreal with Presti's Giuliana Maglione-Presti, in PRFKT by Europa, and husband Paolo Presti, in Pellegrino Castronovo.

KAREL CHLADEK



STYLING BIG: Bourse de Montréal's Luc Fortin, wife Joëlle Racine (in Greta Constantine) and friends Dr. Annie Lapointe (also in Greta!) and husband Laurent Terrasse style their way into the Daffodil Ball at Windsor Station.

KAREL CHLADEK



COSY COUPLE: Marie-Josée Simard (in a stunning strapless lace confection) and love, Bombardier's dashing Alain Bellemare.

KAREL CHLADEK



WELL, HELLO THERE! Ritz-Carlton Montreal's Andrew Torriani and wife Arlene are snapped with Pascale Bourbeau and Québecor's Pierre Karl Péladeau.

KAREL CHLADEK



PRETTY POWER PAIR: Isabelle Bégin, abloom in rose, poses for the glamcam with husband, CAE's Marc Parent.

KAREL CHLADEK



CAN YOU FEEL THE PASSION? Emmy-winning headliner Benise's boundary-pushing nuevo flamenco style entrances at the Daffodil Ball.

AUSTIN SCHARGORODSKI



WITH THESE GAL: Montreal's Julia Dawi, Jenn Campbell and Ibtisam Saadi embrace the ball's Picasso-inspired Spanish theme.

KAREL CHLADEK