

SOCIAL NOTES

THE DAFFODIL BALL



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

One of the most amazing things about event architect Alison Silcoff, the founder/force of nature behind the internationally award winning Annual Daffodil Ball benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society, is that she, and her gifted team, never cease to well, amaze. Indeed, this year's edition — chaired by SNC-Lavalin president/CEO Robert G. Card, CIBC board chair Charles Sirois (with wife Susan McPeak Sirois), and Deloitte managing partner/chief executive Frank Vettese (with wife Cinzia) — was no different as Alison's committed crew crafted a singular event experience with a "Shanghai Silk" theme that still has guests buzzing days later. Wondering how it all went down? Don your silkiest sartorials and hop aboard the Social Notes "Orient Express." The Mysteries of the 22nd Annual Daff are about to be unveiled:

Majestic entrance: First on the agenda was a grand entrance for 680 into the lobby of historic Windsor Station, where red moon gates and a distinctive ruby and gold-hued traditional décor (conceived and executed for the eve by Toronto's Decor & More) served as a starting point for guests attired to the nines to pose for some pics while readying themselves for the glam fantasy ahead.

Stairway to heaven: China is renowned for its hospitality and this year's Daff was especially gracious, equipped with a gaggle of exquisitely turned out volunteer hostesses (in silk cheongsams) who stood stylishly on either side of the tasselled and bamboo-festooned stairwell to greet incoming guests with customary warmth and elegance. Mission accomplished.

Reception swish & sway: As always, champagne flowed during cocktails and "la belle schmooze" was better than ever. But no matter how riveting the socializing, guests couldn't help but be drawn to the Oriental Pearl (a towering 12 ft. new act from Vegas named after one of Shanghai's tallest skyscrapers) that sent collective jaws agog with its interactive bending and swaying at seemingly impossible vertiginous angles. Quite the Canadian debut indeed. Also noteworthy here was the ingenious "Great Wall" dividing cocktails and dining room, lit from within (lighting designer Nol van Genuchten and equipment providers Kloda Focus Group outdid themselves) and composed entirely of Chinese umbrellas.

A room fit for emperors and empresses: Asia's most refined nobility would indubitably have been at home (ahem palace) in the resplendent dining room awash in the most unexpected albeit pleasing lilac, turquoise and lime palette that touched every detail of the dazzling décor befitting the Bund, from the Chinese wall panels featuring famous Lotus blooms to the 80 giant silk lanterns suspended from the ceiling, to the striking centrepieces, where yes, signature daffodils were just as prominently displayed by floral designer Yves Chénier as the exotic orchids so reminiscent of blossoms in Shanghai's legendary Yuyuan Garden.

The pinnacle of fine dining: As for the dinner itself served flawlessly by wait staff garbed in authentic midnight blue silk tunics on stunning Chinese dishes (specially imported from China by Sofa To Go), it was a themed five-course



PHOENIX SO FAB Phoenix HuaYun Artistic Troop wows at the 2015 Daffodil Ball. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



LADY IN RED Abigail Fairest pays homage to Chinese red in a stunning curve hugger. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



UMBRELLA USIE Jean François Gervais in Sandro snaps an usie with Sandra Ferreira in front of the Great Wall. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



RED WHITE WOW Isabelle Lê in a silver lace and silk tunic and Daff doyenne Alison Silcoff in Ariane Carle pose before the Great Wall. ALLEN MCINNIS



ROCKING IT OUT Dermapure's Pascale Chouinard gets into the groove. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



U GO GIRL Cindy Wollenschlaeger takes it up a notch. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



LOVELY LAWYERS Married attorneys Natacha Lavoie in BCBG-MAXAZRIA and husband Matthieu Piché-Messier in DUBUC deliver a stylish verdict. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



VERY HIGH FIVE Committee member Shirley Quantz gets a festive high five from the Oriental Pearl at the Daffodil Ball benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



POWER PAIR Stingray Digital's Eric Boyko in Tom Ford and love Audrey Vallières in BCBGMAXAZRIA and Prada mix it up. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY

extravaganza by the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth's catering team that fused Cantonese and Szechuan flavours in a perfect way to put forth unforgettable culinary coups including a Yangtze lobster bok choy basket appetizer; main of imperial lacquered breast of duck and Peking pancakes; and mouth-watering dim sum styled confections for dessert. In a word: WOW. Once again, kudos to the team, with special nods to catering chief Armando Arruda and Chef Marc Lintanf.

Entertainment: Not surprisingly, Alison and the gang had entertainment down too. Among the myriad highlights introduced in turn by emcee, media personality Virginie Coossa (attending with Claude Meunier), were performances by the Phoenix HuaYun Artistic Troop (who performed three dances from their repertoire at Place des Arts for the Chinese New Year); the out-of-the-box Veniamin's Human Slinky (proof that the vintage squiggler is alive and thriving);

and finally, several got-us-moving-and-grooving sets from celebrated Montreal dance band, Paul Chacra's 1945. **Spoiled sweet:** Forget fortune cookies (though they were supplied too with customized messages). Raffle prizes and SWAG at this Daff were NEXT-level. Top raffle giveaways (with a combined retail value of \$136,000) included business-class tickets to any global Air Canada destination, luxury stays at The Portman Ritz-Carlton,

Shanghai and Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong, and a paradisaical jaunt to a Parrot Cay, Turks & Caicos beach villa. Table gifts for social gals and gents were no less exceptional. Think custom crafted themed chopsticks with Swarovski crystals, courtesy of Montreal-based architecture firm lemay and still other goodies pour elle and lui from the swish likes of Christophe, Giorgio Armani, Balnea spa, Elite Laser, Dermapure, Beyond the Rack and Uber.

Glamorous evening well-dressed success

The Royals: Predictably, Canada's most notable were ON SCENE. Representing the celeb contingent were such luminaries as journalist Sophie Durocher and husband columnist Richard Martineau; media heavyweights Anne-Marie Withenshaw and Rebecca Makonnen; actress Guylaine Tremblay and husband Christian Lebel; producer/host Anne-Marie Losique and rock star real estate broker Martin Rouleau; superscribes Fabienne Larouche and husband Michel Trudeau; host/author Dominique Bertrand and husband, Scotia McLeod star Jacques Maurice; and my sublime tablemates, actress/personality Julie du Page and host turned author Marie-Claude Savard.

As for business, the power broker cup runneth over with the VIP likes of Bombardier president/CEO Alain Bellemare and love Kateri Da Silva; Rio Tinto tops Alfredo Barrios and wife Elena; CIBC president/CEO Victor Dodig and wife Maureen; Stingray Digital cofounder/president Eric Boyko and love Audrey Vallières; Telesystem president/CEO François-Charles Sirois and love Marie-Christine Lemerise; Zone3 president Michel Bissonnette and Charles de Gheldere; Gildan Activewear CFO/executive vice president Laurence Sellyn and wife Kathryn; Ferreira Café's Carlos Ferreira and daughter Sandra; Attraction Media principal Richard Speer and fiancé, Essence Workshop's Ruby Brown; the McCall MacBain Foundation's Alexandra McCall; National Bank managing director Mark Mulrone; and proud past chairs CAE president/CEO Marc Parent and wife Sylvie Lecours; Air Canada tops Calin Rovinescu and wife Elaine; Jacynthe Côté and daughter Gabrielle Dion; GardaWorld president/CEO Stéphan Crétier and wife Stéphanie Maillery; and Chris Clark.

Making the difference: Thanks to generous guests, donors and lead sponsors including The McCall MacBain Foundation, Aimia, Banque Nationale, CAE, CGI, CIBC, Deloitte, Norton Rose Fulbright, Power Corporation of Canada, Rio Tinto, SNC-Lavalin and the TD Bank Group, this year's ball raised an important and impressive 1.57 million for the Canadian Cancer Society and its commitment to "the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with the disease." Indeed, all three chairs underscored the significance of lending support to the cause with Charles Sirois speaking movingly of how wife Susan McPeak Sirois, a courageous cancer survivor, inspired him to take on the chairmanship of the ball.

Proud and inspired: Of course, society officials including national president/CEO Pamela Fralick and Quebec Division chair Pierre Lafrenière were thrilled with the success of the eve, as were steadfast committee members, well represented at the event by Holt Renfrew's Normand Ciarlo (with husband David Lapierre), L'Oréal's Isabelle Randez, Nathalie Schwartz Décarie (with husband Cirque du Soleil's Charles Décarie), SNC-Lavalin's Erik J. Ryan (with wife Paule Beaudry), Ritz-Carlton Montreal's Anina Belle Giannini and Katia Piccolino (with husband Rosario Campanella), Figi Elman (with husband Stuart M.), Belle Grivakis (with husband Ernie), Maria Grivakis (with husband Derek Curtis), Shirley Quantz, Jeannie Saunders, Nicole Magnan (with husband Claude) and Yun Wang (with husband lemay's Daniel Arbour).

For more exclusive pics and scoop from the Daff and a bouquet of others, petal to diaryofasocialgal.com For direct access: jenn@diaryofasocialgal.com

This column is dedicated to the memory of a very special human being and dear friend gone too soon: Shawn Leib, who enriched many lives, including mine, with his kindness, friendship, intelligence and humour. May he rest in peace.



Next Level decor: The Shanghai Silk theme wows at the Annual Daffodil Ball benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Black tie beauties: Scotia McLeod star Jacques Maurice in Canali and wife host and author Dominique Bertrand in DUY and Chaumet bling strike a pose. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Daddy-daughter divine: Restaurateur Carlos Ferreira in Prada and daughter Sandra in Maje enjoy quality time. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Stylish on the stairs: Married superscribes Fabienne Larouche and Michel Trudeau stop and smile at the 2015 Daffodil Ball. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Dressed and tressed: Carbonleo's Murielle Zagury in Hervé Leger and Kevlar's Philippe Morin in Tom Ford dial up the style. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



One hot table: Tablemates Alain Bellemare, Kateri Da Silva, Stéphan Crétier, Stéphanie Maillery, Calin Rovinescu, Elaine Sylvie Lecours, Marc Parent, Debra Josephson, Letko Brosseau, and Peter Letko pose for the glamcam at the Annual Daffodil Ball. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Shanghai dream team: Committee members Maria Grivakis, Anina Belle Giannini, Yun Wang, Shirley Quantz, Katia Piccolino, Jeannie Saunders, Alison Silcoff, Normand Ciarlo, Isabelle Lè, Isabelle Randez, Figi Elman, Nathalie Schwartz Décarie, Belle Grivakis, and Nicole Magnan. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Mogul moment: Québecor CEO Pierre Dion and Geneviève Primard support the Daffodil Ball. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Media belles: Marie-Claude Savard in Anomal Couture, Virginie Coossa in Catherine Malandrino and Julie du Page in BCBGMaxazria and Bleu comme le ciel bring it. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



The thinker: Rockstar real estate broker Martin Rouleau sports a classy Waxman tux. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



True blue: Model Lea Girard Nadeau enjoys cocktails with BF Harry Grivakis at the ball. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



The luxe set: La Maison Ogilvy's Steeve Lapiere, Samantha Cutler, Christofle's Roberto Reino, and Ricardo Bonilla. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Meaningful evening: Cancer survivor Susan McPeak Sirois and husband co-chair Charles Sirois support the 2015 Daffodil Ball. ALLEN MCINNIS



Basking in the glow: Canadian Cancer Society Quebec Division chair Pierre Laffrenière, Deloitte chief executive Frank Vettesse, Canadian Cancer Society national CEO Pamela Fralick, SNC-Lavalin CEO Robert G. Card and CIBC board chair Charles Sirois. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY



Cheek to chic: Ruby Brown in DUY and fiancé Richard Speer in John Varvatos steal a snuggly. KAREL CHLADEK PHOTOGRAPHY