




The 28th DRAGON BALL
Saturday January 28, 2017

Press Release

Yee Hong's Dragon Ball to honour Joe Clark

TORONTO, ON, Jan 28, 2017 – The 28th Dragon Ball, a Chinese New Year fundraising gala hosted by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, was held tonight (Saturday) at the Allstream Centre. This highly anticipated event in Toronto is the first major "Canada 150" event in the New Year of the Rooster, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The gala was attended by over 1,000 guests, including political, business and community leaders. John McCallum, the proposed Ambassador to China and MP for Markham Thornhill; Ms Jane Philpott, Minister of Health and MP for Markham Stouffville; Patrick Brown, leader of the Ontario PC Caucus, Arnold Chan, MP for Scarborough Agincourt; Shaun Chen, MP for Scarborough North; Xue Bing, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto and John Tory, Mayor of Toronto are among the VIPs.

The Foundation presented the "Global Humanitarian and Leadership Award" to former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, who led the Canadian Government to help thousands of Vietnamese refugees immigrated to Canada during the boat people crisis in 1979-80.

Dr Joseph Wong, Yee Hong Founder and the Chair of the Foundation said, "Yee Hong's value is about compassion, duty and service, and today we honour those values with the Global Humanitarian and Leadership Award to Mr. Clark. He has set a remarkable example for all Canadians to follow, in public service and his work around the world on governance, democracy and peace."

Mr Clark's contributions to human rights and international relations continue to influence today's global governance. He has advocated for a quicker acceptance of Syrian refugees so that they can start their new lives in Canada.

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Scott Delaney, one of the 28th Dragon Ball organizing committee co-chairs, said, “Just as Joe Clark never stopped pursuing the things that meant so much to him, Yee Hong will not stop providing the outstanding programs and services for its seniors – unless we allow it to happen. That is why it is so important for us to keep supporting Yee Hong, and it's why I continue to support Yee Hong.”

Dragon Ball was launched in 1990 to raise funds for building the first Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care. Today, there are four Yee Hong Centres for Geriatric Care across the Greater Toronto Area, operating 805 long-term care beds.

Kenny Wan, the other co-chair of the 28th Dragon Ball said the continuity of support is crucial to ensuring Yee Hong's long term success, “I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all sponsors and guests, as many of them have also returned year after year to help Yee Hong provide the quality care that they have become known for. I am proud to have supported Yee Hong for many years, and I look forward to supporting this great organization for many years to come.”

The organizer surprised the guests with a flash mob performance during the Grand Reception. Dancers from Georgia's Dance and Art Cultural Centre and Sunny Tang Performance Troupe showcased their talent and brought unexpected joy to the party.

The gala each year raises approximately \$1 million through corporate sponsorships, gala ticket sales, auctions, and raffle ticket sales. This year, the raffle grand prize is a brand new Audi A3.

Known for its unique culinary experience, the gala offered an array of food and drinks options. Some popular food items from last year, such as Japanese cheesecakes from Uncle Tetsu, sushi from Katsura, appetizers from Carmen's Steakhouse, pastries from Bake Code, and specialty tea from Chatime, were once again served at the Dragon Ball.

Jade Palace, Emperor Fine Chinese Cuisine, Royale Fine Dining, Yu Guo Yan and Simmer Huang were among the new food vendors at the pre-dinner reception and mid night buffet.

The silent auction feature close to 250 exceptional items, it was filled with luxury jewelry including an exquisite vintage necklace by notable Canadian jeweler Alan Anderson; a \$19,000 sapphire and diamond ring specially designed by the owner of Royal de Versailles; and other fine jewelry and watches from Pierre Laurent and Carrera y Carrera. An electronic bidding system was used during the gala, so guests could bid easily on the tablets provided.

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The Dragon Ball live auction once again created exciting moments at the Gala. A pair of Business Class round-trip tickets to anywhere Air Canada flies to and the “Treasures of Peru” package tour offered by Tour East and Delta Air Lines were the most popular items.

After dinner, Anna Amy Ho performed an aerial accompanied by violin music. The dancer and actress shared her childhood tragedy with the audience hoping they would treasure the moments they have with their loved ones. She witnessed her abusive stepfather kill her mother and grandmother before taking his own life. Despite experiencing past trauma, she was able to overcome the challenges and now become a crisis counselor, providing support to the victims of tragedy.

The feature performance of the night was the mini concert by Mississauga-born rising singer Michael Ciufu, together with two other young tenors Romulo Delgado and Salvatore Gambino. They performed “You Raise Me Up”, “O Surdato Nammurato”, “Grande Amore (Il Volo)”, “Mattinata” and “O sole mio” and other classics at the Dragon Ball.

Leading sponsors for Dragon Ball 2017 include BMO Financial Group, Tridel, Manulife and Audi Uptown.

“Dragon” sponsors include Official Airline Partner Air Canada, MediSystem Pharmacy, Tour East Holidays, TD Bank, and the official hotel partner Westin Prince Hotel.

Other sponsors include Bonnie and Daniel Wan, CxT Architects Inc., Kenny Wan Chartered Accountant, HSBC, Pierre Laurent, RBC Royal Bank, Delta Air Lines, Royal de Versailles and OMEGA, Carrera y Carrera, Forward Signs, Best Deal Graphics and Printing, and Prime Advertising, and the event is supported by Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto.

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