

Healthy Turnout

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL, THE GAZETTE OCTOBER 4, 2009



Cirque sprite delights at Heart Institute ball.

Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette

With heart, for heart: Heart disease is the country's No. 1 killer. So thank goodness for extraordinary events like the Montreal Heart Institute Foundation's 9th Annual Grand Bal des Vins-Coeurs. Power-chaired by Stéphane Achard, senior vice-president and general manager of Mouvement Desjardins Group; Luc Beauregard, executive chairperson of Res Publica; Pierre Boivin, president of the Canadiens, and Norman Steinberg, chairperson of Ogilvy Renault, the evening raised a remarkable \$1.3 million toward treatment and a cure. For your Sunday infotainment, the deets divine:

Comme toujours, this year's gala, presented with lead sponsor/founding partner, Société des alcools du Québec, initiated the fall social season with its signature élan as more than 850 mmmovers and shhhakers (seismic stress on move&shake!) descended upon Windsor Station for cocktails dehors. Which were better than ever. The weather co-operated (balmy with a capital B), canapés and champagne flutes were just right, fashions fierce and the company, très agréable. Spirited and memorable on that front: Norman Hébert, Jr., SAQ board chairperson/committee chairperson, accompanied by dazzling wife Diane Dunlop; too hot for this column Claudia Barila; perfect power pair with flair Amelia and Lino Saputo Jr.; Solange Dugas, So This Season in aubergine DVF (caught strolling through 'tails with lawyer love Lucien Bouchard); the honourable (and dashing) E. Leo Kolber, who attended with stylish honey Roni Gandell; Transcontinental dream team Isabelle Marcoux and François Olivier; resident royals Aline 'n' former PM Jean Chrétien; and of course their Chanel-chic daughter France Chrétien Desmarais, past MHIF chairperson and grand bal champion who continues to lend immeasurable support alongside power-hub André Desmarais.

Now, while many of us (truth be told) might have preferred to linger a tad longer with our flutes under the stars, we were suddenly "beat" back to reality by the rhythmically inclined Samajam drummers who led us, en musical masse, into the Salle des Pas Perdus for encore festivities.

Make that encore et encore! Highlights included: a wildly beautiful performance by partners at the

Cirque du Soleil; exquisite epicurean delights by famed chef Alain Pignard and his team at the Fairmont Queen E. (their perfect complement - SAQ sommelier Jessica Harnois's impeccable selections); lotsa good boogie, and, of course, the much-anticipated tribute to the ball's treasured honouree, Cirque du Soleil president/CEO Daniel Lamarre, who attended the evening with a coterie of friends and family, including love Emmanuelle Dupéré, a vision in bodcon Alaia and Birks bling, directing daughter Josiane (who masterminded the brilliant tribute film to her dad) and spectacular son Sébastien, who was born with congenital heart disease and is a continuing inspiration to his dad. The longstanding and incredibly generous supporter of the MHI was awarded the prestigious Médaille d'honneur.

"I am proud to be associated with the MHI, a model of excellence in healthcare in Quebec," Lamarre said.

Clearly, an evening with heart, for heart.

One wow walk: Now, before we stiletto on, do note that yet another vital organization, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec, also just raised sizeable funds in the name of heart health (close to \$50,000) at its recent Walk for Heart. And, as co-spokesperson alongside So You Think You Can Dance Canada winner Nico Archambault, your social gal has the inside scoop. Those busloads of female fans? All Nico's.

Mo' mentionables: Enthusiastic shout-outs are also in order today to: the amazing peeps behind this year's Centaur gala, which raised an impressive \$100,000; the fab folks at Ride for Wishes, who helped generate invaluable funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Quebec; Gildan Activewear and their devoted partners at Dans la rue, who presented the best De la rue aux étoiles gourmet street-food fest honouring the organization's 20th anniversary; and finally, the inspiring powergirlz (you know who you are!) recently honoured for their respective (and collective) fabulousity at the YWCA Montreal's Women of Distinction Awards fundraising gala.

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Montrealers support ball and walk for heart health - GRAND ENTRANCE Daniel Lamarre, Cirque du Soleil president/CEO, with love Emmanuelle Dupéré.

Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette





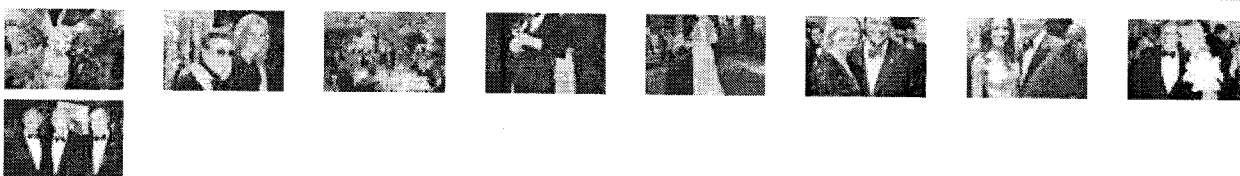
DECOR LIKE NO OTHER Volunteers masterminded some seriously Cirque-worthy surroundings.

Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS THE GAZETTE, The Gazette



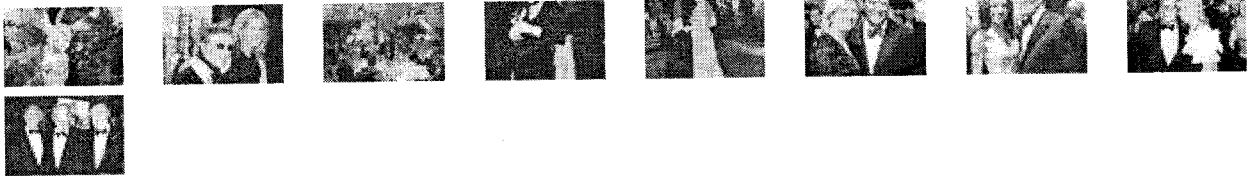


HOT CUFF AND STUFF! Michèle Sieben strikes perfect sartorial note in slinky noir sheath offset by a glittering cuff.
Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette





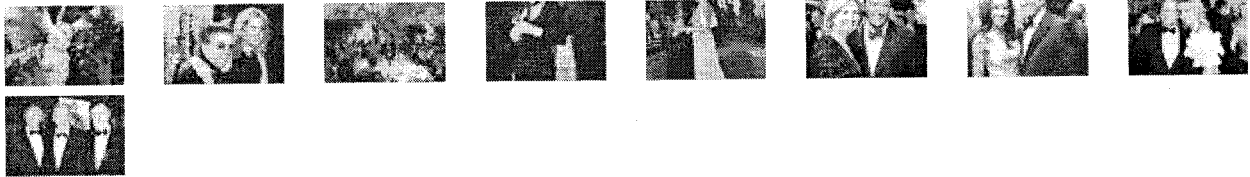
GOOD TRAINING ! Anny Vallieres tops the night's best dressed list in apricot ruffled Andy Th -Anh.
Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette





THE BEAUTY OF BANKING! L. Jacques Ménard, topman at BMO Nesbitt Burns, in signature red bow tie, with elegant wife Marie-José.

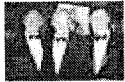
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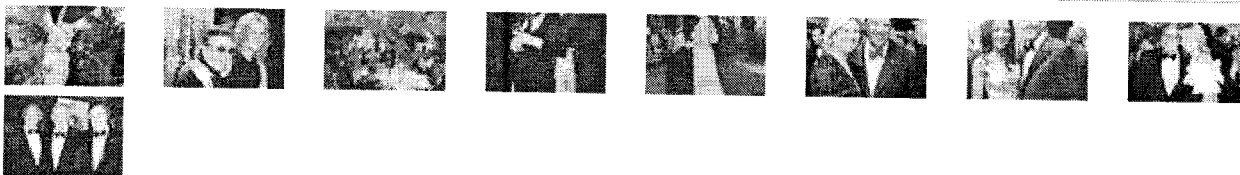
STEPPING UP THE GLAM Claudine Blondin cozies up to hub Stephen Bronfman.

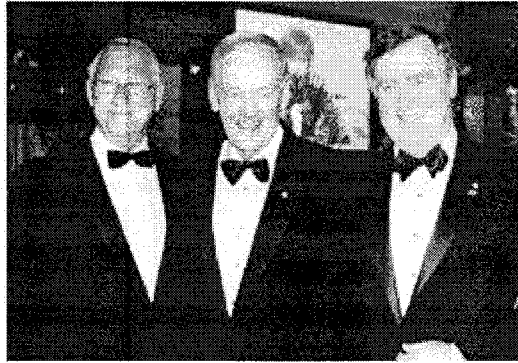
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TUX LUXE Cité du Cinéma's Movie Mel (Hoppenheim) shares a magical moment with his Rosie.
Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette





POLITICO PIC PARADISE! Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay (left) shares a laugh with former PM Jean Chrétien and former Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard.

Photograph by: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette

