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News Release

Exciting Chinese New Year Gala is Ultimately a Celebration of Elders

(TORONTO) Feasting and blessings together with an exquisite blend of East and West and the contemporary and the traditional brought in the Year of the Pig at the 2007 Dragon Ball charity gala at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. More than 1,500 Dragon Ball guests joined billions of revelers worldwide to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

In true Chinese tradition, the unforgettable evening started with a feast of culinary delights at the Grand Reception with more than 100,000 pieces of hors d'oeuvres, donated and prepared by some of Toronto's finest restaurants, which was followed by the Gala Dinner.

Further to the culinary delights, The Chinese Dance Workshop and the God of Fortune brought some ancient myths and traditions to life through elaborate costume and dance. Feature entertainer Michael Burgess delivered a fabulous live performance. The angelic-sounding St. Michael's Choir accompanied Mr. Burgess and performed a glorious solo. Juno award winning Michael Occhipinti performed with the Lester McLean Trio for dinner jazz and Grooveyard counted down to the New Year. The Live Auction was one of the evening's highlights that stirred great excitement. Among the numerous thrilling auction items, were a retail commercial condo at The Landmark shopping mall, a luxurious vacation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil courtesy of Tour East Holidays and a special dinner for ten at Lai Wah Heen, Metropolitan Hotel with the most famous Canadian in China, "Dashan", Canada's Olympic Attaché to the Beijing Olympics.

Award-winning designer Merrill Fung and her design team added a contemporary flavour to the traditional Tree of Fortune, Wheels of Prosperity and the Chinese New Year flower market. Fung was one of 307 volunteers helping make this spectacular fundraiser possible to raise over \$1 million net for seniors services.

At the 18th annual Dragon Ball awards were presented to longtime supporters and community leaders: the HSBC Bank Canada as the Corporate Community Champion and Mr. Purdy Crawford as the Golden Achievement Award recipient.

Since 1990, Dragon Ball has raised nearly \$14 million net to support the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, which last year served a record number of 15,000 people in the GTA with services ranging from community services to long term care at one of four Centres. For more information, please visit www.yeehong.com.

"It is very important to honour our parents and grandparents. Holidays such as the Lunar New Year remind us of this," said Pauline Tong, President, Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation. "While Dragon Ball brings friends and family together for a wonderful reunion, it is ultimately about our elders who now need our support. It is a time to give back and ensure the continuation of excellent seniors services and long term care."

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