



Press Release
February 9, 2008

Exciting Chinese New Year Gala is a Celebration of Family, Friends and Seniors

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(TORONTO) Feasting and blessings with an exquisite blend of Eastern tradition with Western contemporary flair, brought revelers together to celebrate the **Year of the Rat** at the **2008 Dragon Ball** charity gala at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

In true Chinese tradition, the unforgettable evening started with a feast of culinary delights at the **Grand Reception** with more than **15,000 pieces of hors d'oeuvres**, donated and prepared by Toronto's finest restaurants, which was then 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.

Erin Davis, 98.1 CHFI's morning host was the evening's MC. Feature entertainer **Cynthia Dale** delivered a fabulous live performance. Juno award winning **Michael Occhipinti** performed with the **Lester McLean Trio** for dinner jazz and **Grooveyard** got people onto the dance floor grooving to the beat.

The **Live Auction** was one of the evening's highlights and stirred great excitement. The successful lucky bidders walked away with: a **15-Day Best of China and Yangtze River Cruise** donated by Tour East Holidays (Canada) Inc. and Air Canada, valued at \$15,000; an **11-Night Western Mediterranean & Morocco Cruise** donated by Cruise Holidays of Bayview Hills, Unionville, Ucrusing Vacations valued at \$12,000; and a **priceless evening out at the Living Arts Centre with Mayor Hazel McCallion**.

Awards were presented at the 19th annual Dragon Ball to longtime supporters and community leaders: Ellen's Food Group Inc. as the **Corporate Community Champion** and Mr. Tony Comper as the **Golden Achievement Award** recipient.



A Benefit Gala for Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care
Presented by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation



Yee Hong Community
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頤康基金會

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

“Dragon Ball has become the biggest Chinese New Year charity gala in North America raising \$1 million in one night. Thanks to the efforts of the community, corporate partners and more than 300 volunteers who have donated thousands upon thousands of hours to make it happen.” Pauline Tong, President of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation said.

Since 1990, Dragon Ball has raised more than \$15 million net to support the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, which serves 15,000 people in the GTA with services ranging from community services to long term care at our four Centres.

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