



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2011

Welcoming Year of the Rabbit at 22nd annual Dragon Ball

(TORONTO) – The annual Dragon Ball is set to entertain more than a thousand guests at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre this Saturday, January 29th. Highlights of this much anticipated event were previewed at today’s press conference, held at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC).

“The JCCC is delighted to host today’s press conference for two very good reasons,” explained Sid Ikeda, who is on both the JCCC Board and Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation Board of Directors. “In addition to the suckling pig, raw bar, dim sum and Kobe beef sushi, the Grand Reception will also thrill our guests with a live demonstration by one of Toronto’s top chef Masaki Hashimoto. Perhaps more important, money raised through this gala enables Yee Hong to continue its dignified care for seniors of all ethnic backgrounds, including Japanese Canadians.”

As North America’s largest Chinese New Year celebration, the Dragon Ball offers practically three meals - the Grand Reception, Gala Dinner and Midnight Buffet. More than a dozen restaurants and culinary masters are joining forces to produce some of the best cuisines not commonly seen in a gala setting.

“The mandate for the organizing committee from the onset is to provide our sponsors and patron a first class experience – from food, décor, auction and entertainment. Excitement and laughter is what we expect to see,” said Randy VanDerStarren, the gala’s co-chair.

Fun and laughter indeed filled the room this morning as Randy and Sid tried to learn how to make the traditional New Year fried dumplings from Mrs. Won, an 85-year-old resident from Yee Hong Garden Terrace, Yee Hong’s senior housing.

While food at the Dragon Ball is a major attraction, there are many exciting elements throughout the evening. The live and silent auctions feature close to 200 items, including a 12-day Israel / Petra Tour and paintings from one of China’s most decorated artists, Xu Zhou, whose work have been on display at China’s Congressional Hall and the UN headquarters. The Grand Raffle offers five great prizes including a 2011 Lexus CT200 h.

Hosted by Breakfast Television’s Kevin Frankish and Dina Pugliese, the 2011 Dragon Ball promises to be fun and exciting. The performers will be a great mix of young and old, with skills and discipline from both the Eastern and Western cultures.

In addition to being a fantastic Chinese New Year celebration, Michael Yap, Vice President of Yee Hong Foundation, reminded everyone the importance of this gala. “We can’t lose sight of the fact that proceeds from the gala will support much needed programs and services for seniors across the GTA.”



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Farsad Kiani
John Tory

Co-Chairs:

Randy VanDerStarren
Dr. Joseph Y. K. Wong

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Yee Hong is currently serving 15,000 seniors and their families through its 805 long-term care beds, senior housing, community-based programs, medical and rehab services. Many of the programs and its current standard of service delivery are not funded by the government.

According to Mrs. Won: "Being part of the Yee Hong family means you must be ready to live life to the fullest. As we get older, we should live with more – dignity, health and, most important, laughter!"

Some tickets are still available – \$400 for a regular ticket and \$550 for a patron ticket. For more information, please visit www.yeehongdragonball.org or call 46.321.0777.

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