



The 28th DRAGON BALL

Saturday January 28, 2017

News Release (For Immediate Release)

December 12, 2016

28th Dragon Ball to celebrate "Canada 150"

TORONTO, ON – [Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation](#) today (Monday) kicked off the 28th Dragon Ball, its signature fundraising gala, at the Media Launch at the Westin Prince Hotel.

This high-profile Chinese New Year celebration will be held early next year on Saturday, January 28, at Allstream Centre, Exhibition Place. It will also be the first major "Canada 150" event in the New Year of the Rooster, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The gala is expected to be attended by over 1,000 guests, including political, business and community leaders. Dr Joseph Wong, Yee Hong Founder and Foundation Chair, said, "Entering into its 28th year, Dragon Ball has become not only a signature event of Yee Hong, it is also an annual celebration that many of us in the Chinese community look forward to. A big thank-you to our donors, sponsors and volunteers who've contributed and participated at the Dragon Ball year after year."

The funds raised will support Yee Hong's high quality, culturally-appropriate care for seniors of different ethnic backgrounds in the Greater Toronto Area. Yee Hong helps seniors lead dignified, independent and fulfilling lives through the four long-term care homes in Scarborough, Markham and Mississauga, senior housing and a range of community programs and services, fulfilling 200,000 service requests every year.

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**Yee Hong Community
Wellness Foundation**

頤康基金會



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Saturday January 28, 2017

The Foundation will take this occasion to present the “Global Humanitarian and Leadership Award” to former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, who led the Canadian Government to recognize the plight of the Vietnamese refugees and accepted thousands of them when he was the Prime Minister in 1979.

Scott Delaney, one of the 28th Dragon Ball organizing committee co-chairs, said at the Launch, “This award is to recognize his continued contribution to the country. Recently he has advocated Canadian officials to overcome obstacles to speed up the acceptance of Syrian refugees so that they could have a new home in Canada.” He added that Joe Clark was also among the great leaders and politicians of Canada since the Confederation.

The Dragon Ball will feature the Toronto premiere of the “Wa” ethnic folk dance in the opening. Performed by the professional dancers of the Little Pear Garden Dance Company, the dance is inspired by the “Wa” minority from the rugged mountains of Yunnan Province in southwestern China. Their dance is famous for rigorous hair-swaying and accompanying drumming.

Kenny Wan, the other co-chairs of the 28th Dragon Ball, said that the event will embrace many “wow” factors. “It is my great honour to be co-chairing the Dragon Ball. From the grand reception to entertainment, live auction to silent auction, the coming Dragon Ball will bring a new experience to our guests and I guarantee it is going to be an unforgettable night.”

Mississauga-born rising singer Michael Ciufu will perform with two other young tenors Romulo Delgado and Salvatore Gambino right after the sumptuous dinner. The three tenors have performed individually and together as a group in various concerts and operas across North America, Europe, and Asia.

(more)





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Saturday January 28, 2017

His most recent operatic performances include the role of “Alfredo” in La Traviata in celebration of Giuseppe Verdi’s 200th birthday in Fidenza, Italy, and “Gernando” in the Canadian Premier of Rossini’s opera Armida with Opera in Concert in Toronto.

They will be singing “You Raise Me Up”, “O Surdato Nammurato”, “Grande Amore (Il Volo)”, “Mattinata” and “O sole mio” and other classics at the Dragon Ball.

Today’s Media Launch was hosted by Stephen Siu, President of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, and Miss Shay Galor, TV host and actress. Shay will also be taking up the role as a Master of Ceremonies at Dragon Ball 2017 with Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton.

Dragon Ball will offer guests a wide variety of food and drink choices at the pre-dinner reception and midnight buffet. Some popular food items from last year, such as Japanese cheesecakes from Uncle Tetsu, sushi from Katsura, pastries from Bake Code, and specialty tea from Chatime, will be once again being served at the 2017 Dragon Ball.

Guests will also find many new food items at the grand reception such as stylish dim sum from Jade Palace and Emperor Fine Chinese Cuisine, crab cakes from Carmen’s Steakhouse, congee from Royale Fine Dining, dessert from Yu Guo Yan, and more.

Dragon Ball 2017 will feature a live auction offering guests the exclusive opportunity to bid for unique items and experiences, such as a pair of Air Canada Business Class round-trip tickets to anywhere in the world; the “Treasures of Peru” package tour offered by Tour East, etc.

(more)





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The silent auction will feature close to 200 exceptional items, including a one-of-a-kind 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 jewelries and watches from luxury brands such as Pierre Laurent and Carrera y Carrera.

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

“Dragon” sponsors include Air Canada, MediSystem Pharmacy, Tour East Holidays, TD Bank, and 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, Carrera y Carrera, Forward Signs, Best Deal Graphics and Printing, and Prime Advertising, etc.

Dragon Ball benefactor tickets are priced at \$600 each; supporter tickets are priced at \$480. Please visit www.yeehongdragonball.org for further information.

- 30 -

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