

SOCIAL NOTES

Sports meets style meets art



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

SPORTING SOCIAL: Confession time: as much as I'd like to be that spicy gal in the spirit of Sporty Spice who is a) an all-out sportster, great at and game to try any and all types of sports, and b) totally on top of the rules of every major sport, alas, she is not me, but a mere fantasy construct of what is clearly a very active imaJENNation.

That said, I remain a loyal Habs fan (aware of most of the rules of play, TC) and, by virtue of having covered the social scene for over a decade now, am rather familiar with the social/philanthropic events in the ville that boast a spirited sports vibe.

Which brings us to today's lead event: the 14th annual Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast, chaired with passion and perseverance by business execs/sports enthusiasts Michael Wagen (Delmar superstar) and Bram Naimer (Union chief).

Always a hot ticket on the social circuit, the event is beloved for its merging of sports legends and good brunch nosh. This year's edition was MCed by journalist Mike Cohen and broadcaster Charles-André Marchand, was held once again at the Gelber Conference Centre and attracted a stellar crowd.

Topping the VIP list were such business and sports luminaries as guest of honour, prominent lawyer and philanthropist Morden (Cookie) Lazarus, who attended festivities with proud wife Jodi and myriad other beaming family members; famous brothers Jean-Philippe (JP) Darche and Mathieu Darche, recognized as Sports Personalities of the Year; Baseball Hall of Fame member Tim Raines, recipient of the 2018 Montreal Expos Legend Award; and attention-getting sports talk show host Mitch Melnick, honoured with the Larry Fredericks Media Award.

While a fabulous time was had by all, the crowning glory of the breakfast was the winning tally of over \$325,000 – funds instrumental to the Seniors in Crisis program, which delivers much-needed assistance to seniors in the community.

STYLISH SOCIAL: And now for the stylish morsel in today's roundup! Gaggles of the city's fashion insiders and tastemakers recently donned their most expressive sartorial to patronize the ninth Fashion Preview at Agora Hydro-Québec. Overseen by visionary Emanuela Loli, the three-night fashion extravaganza celebrating and promoting local design talent in expert fashion (excuse pun) wowed fashion lovers and buyers alike, with stunning ready-to-wear runway shows as well as an array of sophisticated installations. As for the fun social side, it delivered in spades, too. Course it did.

ARTISTIC SOCIAL: Finally, before we bid adieu today, a nod is in order to a new and innovative series of events on the Montreal social scene called Les Bébés Gâtés. Masterminded by creative directors Rafi and Sév Astor, the branded pop-up events are a new adventure in art appreciation and acquisition, whereby guests have the opportunity to peruse and experience cool art (paintings and installations) in a vibrant social setting with a like-minded creative crew.



BIG SMILES, BIG DAY: Event co-chair Bram Naimer, guest of honour Morden (Cookie) Lazarus, foundation executive director Cathy Simons, foundation president Philip Abbey and event co-chair Michael Wagen wear proud smiles to the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast. **BENJAMIN GORDON**



ONE PROUD FAMILY: Guest of honour Morden (Cookie) Lazarus and wife Jodi, centre, surrounded by proud family members at the annual breakfast. **BENJAMIN GORDON**



GOOD BROMANCE: Past honoree/uber-mogul Mitch Garber, Larry Fredericks Media Award recipient Mitch Melnick of TSN 690, Morden (Cookie) Lazarus and Sports Personalities of the Year Jean-Philippe and Mathieu Darche share in the magic of the event. **BENJAMIN GORDON**



FORCE OF FASHION: Debbie Zakaib, mmode executive director and all-around amazing human, lends support to the Fashion Preview. **FASHION PREVIEW**



BRIGHT AND ENGAGING: The amazing work of Labrona added much to the recent Les Bébés Gâtés pop-up art social extravaganza at the Atwater Cocktail Club. **NATE GAFFNEY**



CATWALK COMES ALIVE: Gaggles of Montreal fashion insiders, influencers and buyers like Lolitta Dandoy, in front of models, flock to the Fashion Preview. **FASHION PREVIEW**



AWARD-WINNING MOMENT: Larry Fredericks Media Award recipient Mitch Melnick presents the big trophy to Montreal Expos Legend Award recipient Tim Raines, helped along by Morden (Cookie) Lazarus and Le Journal de Montréal's Rodger Brulotte at the Sports Celebrity Breakfast. **AMIR EL KYR**



PODIUM PERFECTION: The CBC's Andie Bennett joins event vice-chair/MC Mike Cohen, Larry Fredericks Media Award recipient Mitch Melnick and Montreal Canadiens alum Chris Nilan at the podium at the Sports Celebrity Breakfast. **BENJAMIN GORDON**

Their most recent offering unfolded at the ever-trending Atwater Cocktail Club and magneted a record number of attendees. Boasting a unique It's a Jungle Out There! theme, the third edition featured the work of Labrona (represented by the Skeptic Dog Gallery) and

explored the consequences of greed in an amazing and affecting manner. Even cooler: a percentage of all sales supported the awesome Art for Healing Foundation.

For more social spectacular of the sporty, stylish and artistic varieties, see diaryofsocialgal.com.



IN THE ART JUNGLE: Les Bébés Gâtés founders/creative directors Rafi Astor, left, and Sév Astor, right, join a patron for fries and fab at the Atwater Cocktail Club. **NATE GAFFNEY**



KOOL KREW: Insert Identity's Olivia-Bianca Vojtech, left, and Kenza Mounir, right, with Rafi Astor. **NATE GAFFNEY**