



POWER PARTIES

SCENE AND HEARD

The events that matter most to the country's power brokers—and those who long to be near them

By Julie Smyth



Hope Live

This Ottawa gala, at the Great Canadian Theatre Company, raises money for Fertile Future, which educates young people diagnosed with cancer on fertility preservation. This year's event featured Randy Bachman, Serena Ryder, Gord Downie, Rick Mercer and food by local star chef Stephen Beckta

Gold Medal Plates

Held in 11 cities across Canada, top chefs compete and guests enjoy the best local food and wine, all for a good cause—Canadian Olympians. This year's event in Ottawa was held at the National Arts Centre, with Jim Cuddy and Spirit of the West performing.





Politics and the Pen

Held in the grand ballroom of Chateau Laurier, this annual gala organized by the Writers' Trust of Canada brings together Ottawa's authors and politicians. This year's party was hosted by John Baird and Mark Carney; guests included everyone from Rick Mercer to Conrad Black.



Bliss Ball

Drawing the Bay Street crowd and even American celebrities, this hot gala raises funds for SickKids Hospital. *X-Factor's* Mario Lopez emceed, actor Chris Noth offered up a weekend getaway for auction and dinner was prepared by Mark McEwan.



Schmancy

With its cutesy name, this Calgary fundraiser calls itself the non-gala gala. Held at the Glenbow Museum, the sell-out event attracts the arts crowd and raises money for the not-for-profit museum, the largest in Western Canada.



National Arts Centre Gala

Lauren Harper is the honorary chair of this gala event, which raises money for the National Youth and Education Trust. This year's guests included Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair and Cognos founder Michael Potter.