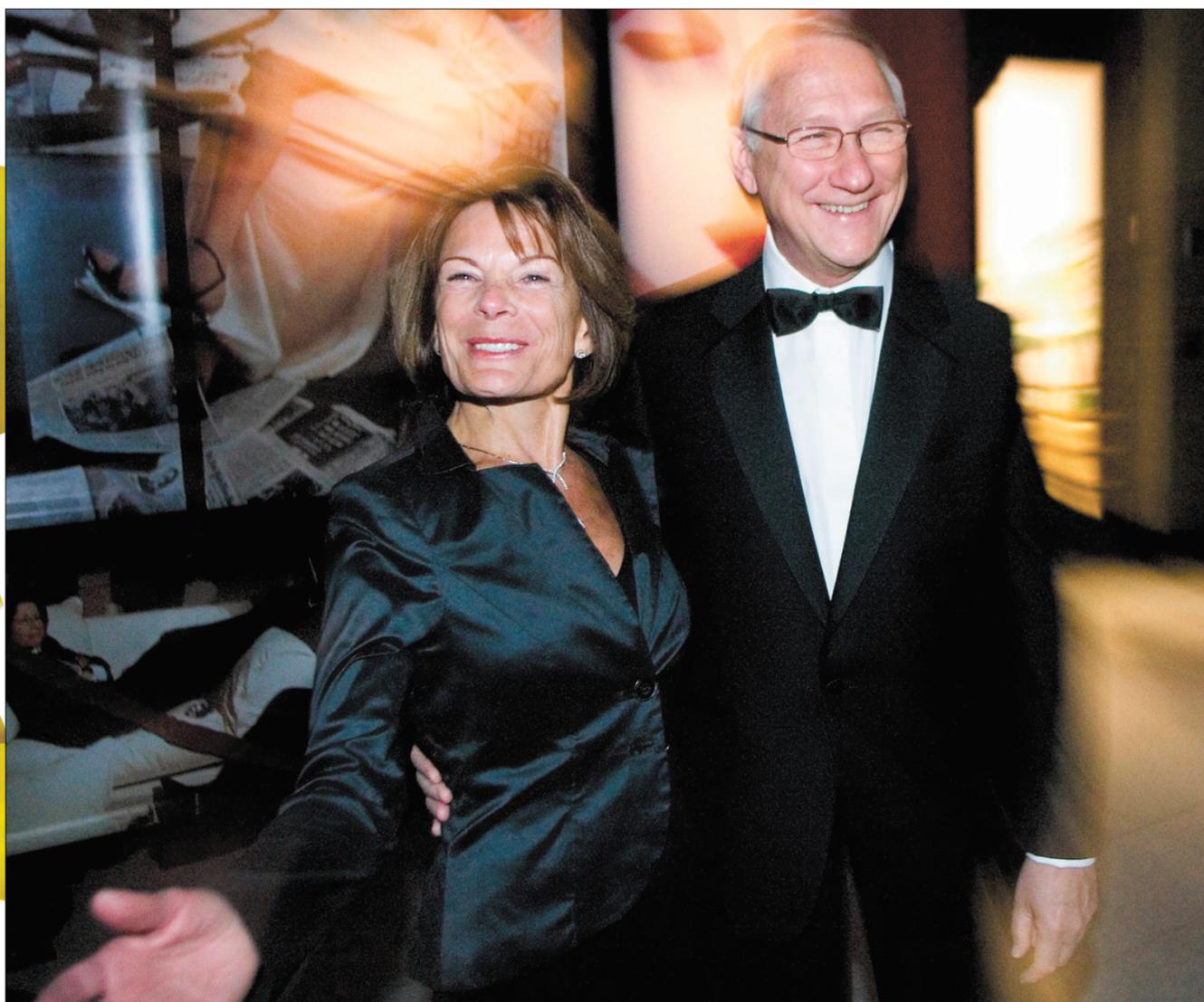


ARTS & LIFE

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Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay and wife Suzanne Tailleir Tremblay attend the Daffodil Ball.

PHOTOS: PHIL CARPENTER THE GAZETTE

STARRY NIGHT

With its glamorous Hollywood theme and Montreal's own set of dazzling stars, the **Daffodil Ball** was a spectacular fundraiser

Welcome to Jonquillewood (like Hollywood, but much, much better): Time again, Montreal, to recap one of the belles of 'em all – the 14th edition of the internationally acclaimed Daffodil Ball. Produced, as always, by terrifically talented **Alison Silcoff** (who wore Harlow-inspired platinum Vera Wang and attended with fave benchman **Judge Joel**), Canada's largest cancer-related fundraising gala was the season's see-and-steal-the-scene society spectacular. For your Sunday pleasure, the Oscar golden highlights:

The (jet) set: Designer extraordinaire **Dick Walsh** gets credit for the exemplary execution of this year's Hollywood-themed ambience at Windsor Station. His glittering inspi-



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

ration (Dick recently relocated to L.A.) sent him leap years ahead of even Oprah's event-master Colin Cowie. Walsh-wow touches included hoards of ego-boosting "snappazzzi," the most brilliant Windsor Gallery showcasing Hollywood royalty, 10,000 electric twinkling stars partout and table settings befitting Tinseltown's most coveted ticket – the Governors Ball. Each table was

swathed in reams of Celebrations' custom gold lamé and topped by breathtaking daffodoliers that incorporated 40,000 blooms).

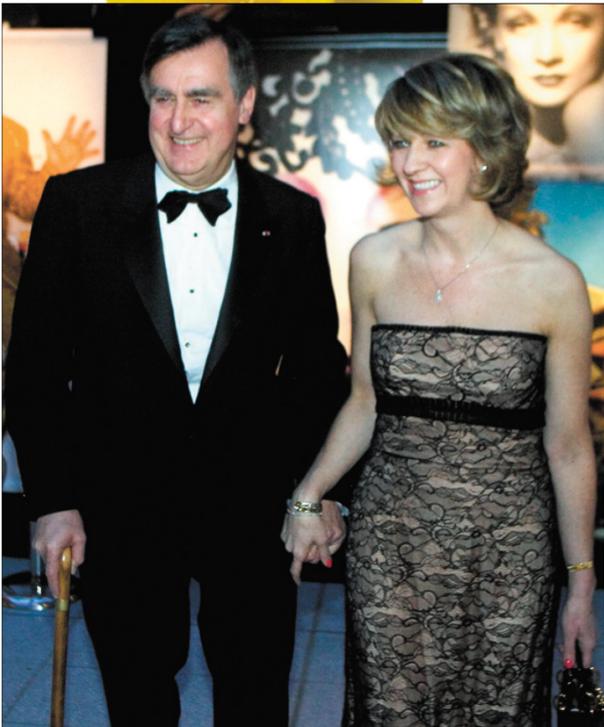
Fare worthy of Wolfgang (as in Puck): The strict pre-ball dieting had motivation beyond putting Cameron Diaz's post-Timberlake abs to shame (though goddesses like **Bea Pungartnik** did just that!) Once on daff-ground, all foods (no matter how colossally caloric) were fair game. Cocktails offered a sophisticated take on American classics (i.e. mini-burgers) while dinner (also prepared by the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth) maintained gourmet momentum with Spago-spectac dishes including melt-in-your-mouth "John Wayne" surf & turf. (FYI: The evening's wines, generously sponsored by **Richard Renaud** and wife **Carolyn**,

were equally mesmeric).

"Oscar" awesome entertainment: For those of you captivated by trendy swivellers like Shakira, the hip-spin bar was permanently raised by Les Goldsingers (who routinely perform for European glitterati like Prince Albert). Also high on the amusement scale? Perennially perfect 1945.

680 were red-carpet ready: Impeccably co-chaired by Hydro-Québec president/CEO **Thierry Vandal** (with **Isabelle Phoenix**), Garda president/CEO **Stéphan Crétier** (with wife **Stephany Maillery**) and Toronto-based Dundee Wealth Management president/CEO **Ned Goodman** (with wife **Anita**), Jonquillewood easily outdid its West Coast competition.

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Lucien Bouchard and Solange Dugas.



Justin Trudeau and Estelle Blais-Grégoire.



David Fugère and Lucie Laurier.

"We have to do shows that 10-15 million people will see. That's enormous. The challenge is to please all tastes." Cirque du Soleil boss Guy Laliberté

CHAUD SHOW



GAËTAN L. CHARLEBOIS

Dancer is startling, but starkly beautiful

More proof of the Solitudes: We were watching La fosse aux lionnes, as we are wont to do with our G&T&T (gin and tonic and Triscuit), when suddenly there was a morbidly obese woman dancing naked on the screen. Though we are used to francophone TV not being like the Ol' Ceeb, it is a little startling to see at 4 in the afternoon, and even more so when followed by more naked dancing women and men. All this to say that Dave St-Pierre, the upstart choreographer, was being interviewed. And before you shriek and flash off an angry email, the dancing obese woman was oddly beautiful and that, friends, was M. St-Pierre's point.

Power points: La Presse published its annual list of those who are The Man in Quebec culture and the top four are, indeed, men, with the fifth position shared between Céline and — who else? — her man. Second is Gilbert Rozon, *Juste pour rire/Just For Laughs* kingpin, who will be opening comedy festivals around the world, including one in — cue ominous music here — Toronto. Top Dog is Guy Laliberté, Cirque du Soleil boss, who explains why we haven't bothered to see a Cirque show in five years: "At the end of the line, we have to do shows that 10-15 million people will see. That's enormous. The challenge is to please all tastes." Cirque du Big Mac.

Join the club: Huntingdon Mayor Stéphane Gendron has joined the less-than-select club of the once powerful (Jean-René Dufort, Pierre Mailloux, Gilles Proulx). Having lost most of his media gigs after a number of controversial statements, he has now been disbarred temporarily and fined. A little kvelling about the fates of all these men is likely, but perhaps not permitted. They did not become popular in a vacuum, and we should wonder about culture and our own insatiable thirsts for sleaze. Or — hell! — maybe we should just have another G&T&T and enjoy how good the mud we're rolling in feels in those hard to reach places.

Parting shot: Tout le monde en parle finished its season but not without incorrigible host Guy A. Lepage getting in one last bada-bing! In the last minutes, when the guests' products are plugged, Lepage read off the list of plugs for Joann Villeneuve, mother of racer Jacques and widow of Gilles, there to talk about the book *La Saga Villeneuve*. Lepage also mentioned her son's CD, *Private Paradise*, which is still in stores. "But you're not going to buy it!" he said to Mme Villeneuve, "you have it already!" Joann: "I already bought it!" Lepage: "So you're the one!"

Quick takes: Ex-Rad-Can journalo Christine St-Pierre is now minister of culture. Well, that's because culture can be anything, can't it? (Or, sometimes, nothing at all.) ... Denys Arcand off to Cannes with *L'Âge des ténébres*: For us his *Invasions barbares* was just like an evening with friends. (However, with our friends we're drunk, so the experience is almost enjoyable.)

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Co-chairs Stéphan Crétier (left), Ned Goodman and Thierry Vandal at the 14th edition of the Daffodil Ball.

PHOTOS: PHIL CARPENTER THE GAZETTE

DAFFODIL Guests, fashion, food — everything was in bloom

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Meet the "players" (as Robert Altman would say): Past Daffodil "directors" — caught having almost as much fun as Borat during his Academy Awards speech — were past ball chairs including TD Canada Trust co-chair **Bernard Dorval** (with wife **Francine**), and CAE president/CEO **Robert E. Brown** (with wife **Sherri**), sporting a to-die-for fuchsia organza Jackie Rogers power-piece).

The Industry (actually every industry's!) "deal-makers" — **Carol** and **Ogilvy Renault's Yves Fortier**; new duo **Solange Dugas** and **Lucien Bouchard**; National Bank president/CEO **Louis Vachon** with **Chantal Carrier**; Interinvest president/CEO **Hans Black** with retro-glam wife **Janet**; **Suzanne Legge** and Power Financial president/CEO **Jeffrey Orr**; **Jamie** and Air Canada president/CEO **Monty Brewer**; **Gretchen** with Alcan president/CEO **Dick Evans**; glowing new-lweds **Danielle Gervais** and Swiss International Air Lines GM Canada, **Olivier Schlegel**; Abitibi president/CEO **John Weaver** with wife **DeLores**; **François Olivier** with Transcontinental vice-chair **Isabelle Marcoux** (think Hollywood wow women like **Sherri Lansing**); **Marie-Anne Tawil Vennat** and husband **Michel Vennat**; power committee members **Suzanne** and **Hans Fluehler**; Dundee Corporation chair **Sonny Gordon**; and debonair dean of

McGill medicine **Richard Levin** with wife **Jane**.

"Star Stylists": Of course, the 2007 designer cup runneth over: **Nathalie Bissonnette**, eye-candy in emerald green **Loris Azzaro** (boasting strategic keyholes, reminiscent of J.Lo, circa Oscar 2000); speaking of plunges, **Louise Courey Nadeau** (with masterstyle hub **André**) took one in a noir Kors halter; Astral president/CEO **Ian Greenberg** with wife **Linda** (he in classic George Clooney-esque Armani, she in sleeker-than-Jackie-O. **Jacques Auré**); Di-Caprio-cool **Andy Habib** with Chanel Canada's **Anny Kazanjian** (hi-octane in a hi-style Chanel minifrock); and **Diane Vachon**, blinging it all into pretty perspective in so many Elizabeth Taylor-esque Birks diamonds, she came with the ultimate accessory — a hunky bodyguard!

"Celebrity politicians" including Public Works Minister **Michael Fortier** with **Michelle Setlakwe**; beaming dad2be **Justin Trudeau** with beaming mom-in-law **Estelle Blais-Grégoire**; Minister of Economic Development **Raymond Bachand** and wife **Micheline Brazeau-Bachand**; Quebec Immigration Minister **Yolande James**; and Mayor **Gérald Tremblay** with wife **Suzanne Tailleux Tremblay** (Breakfast at Tiffany's-beautiful in a cerulean taffeta Zenobia dinner suit)

"Glam Globetrotteurs": There were many imports including magnificent MD/TV celeb **Marla Shapiro** (va va wow in a body-loving Vera column), who jetted in from T.O. with daughter

Amanda Berger; and fellow Torontonian, **Gluskin Sheff** chairman/CEO **Gerald Sheff** with gorgeous Miyake-mod wife **Shanitha Kachen**.

"Jonquillewood vedettes": Star sightings included emcee **Sophie Durocher** (with husband **Richard Martineau**), who was unspeakably chic in a couture Minicucci confection inspired by a Streisand gown (currently for sale on antiquesdresses.com); actress **Lucie Laurier**, irresistibly feminine in a one-shouldered Gucci cocktail, Miu Miu mules and rock-star cool Cavalli cuff; and Rock Détente's **Dominique Bertrand**, spellbinding in strapless St.John, paired with exquisite emeralds (a gift from honey **Jacques Maurice**).

Publisher's picks: And now for a special feature courtesy of Gazette publisher **Alan Allnutt** (007-perfect in Zegna):

■ Best dressed she: **Stephany Maillery**, stunning in a snug-in-all-the-right-places Dolce & Gabbana sheath and environmentally friendly recycled fur by **Harricana**.

■ Best dressed he: Canadiens president **Pierre Boivin** (with wife **Lucie**) whose edgy yellow bowtie scored scads of sartorial goals.

■ Most entertaining guest: the ever-charming Pucci-clad **Penny Echenberg** (with husband **Gordon**)

■ Favourite hors d'oeuvre: the oysters Rockefeller

■ Favourite performers: the talented and taut female Goldsingers (a sentiment shared by the room's 340 other

mortal men, including one admirer who exclaimed, "Where did they find so many gorgeous women who can sing?")

Razzle dazzle raffle: As is tradition, the Daffodil's young Johansson-hot volunteers (including radiant **Marie-Josée Vincelli**) sold a flurry of tickets for prizes valued at \$153,740. The crème de packages, South Pacific, boasted six Utopian nights at Bora Bora's St. Regis Resort. Lucky winners were **Linda** and Pfizer U.S. leading exec **Jean-Michel Halfon** (and no, they won't be taking the kids).

Swagacious: When the world's best fashion word that starts with C (Chanel, of course) distributes goodies for ladies, they could only be fabulous. And the bottles of Chanel No. 5 (the only thing Marilyn wore to bed) were très fabulous. As were the Italian-crafted wallets for the men, kindly sponsored by Birks.

A cause for applause: Clearly, Jonquillewood smacked of spectacular and everyone had a grand time. But what was ultimately most inspiring was the monumentally impressive \$2.2 million raised for the Canadian Cancer Society (represented by **Gilles Pineau** and **Suzanne Dubois**). The evening that celebrated survivors (60 per cent of Canadians diagnosed today will survive as opposed to 33 per cent in 1960) was testimony to the miracles we've created thus far and the progress on the horizon. A toast to Jonquillewood!

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Amanda Berger and mother Marla Shapiro.



Richard Martineau and Sophie Durocher.



Alison and Joel Silcoff.