



Lindsay Blackett, Alberta minister of culture and community spirit, and his wife Jennifer.



Heather Slater, newly appointed artistic director at the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, fresh from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.



Longtime Banff Centre supporter Ann McCaig and Sheila O'Gorman-Smith, producer at Triumphant Productions in Toronto.



Heather Kirk of Immedia PR, and Malcolm Kirk, Calgary Herald publisher and executive vice-president of digital media, Postmedia Network.

>> 31st Banff Centre Midsummer Ball weekend

BANFF BLOWOUT



KELLY DOODY
CITY SCENE

Not since its opening more than 80 years ago has The Banff Centre hosted such a gathering of notable guests as it did over three days last weekend, from philanthropists and federal ministers, to CEOs, founders, builders, presidents and a prince.

While the institution's annual Midsummer Ball is a notoriously well-attended event by a notoriously well-heeled crowd — most of them Calgarians — this year's event took the usual fancy and turned it up a few notches.

In addition to being a major fundraiser for scholarships, grants and awards for some of the finest artists, dancers, actors and musicians in the world, this year's Midsummer Ball Weekend also marked the long-awaited opening of the state-of-the-art Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation.

"We have been looking forward to this day for a very long time," said Banff Centre president and CEO Mary Hofstetter. "Since January of 2005, in fact."

Named after its benefactor, local businessman James S. Kinnear — chairman and CEO of Pengrowth

Corporation and founder of Kinnear Financial Limited, the building is the new crown jewel and major learning facility of The Banff Centre campus. While the building itself was opened with much fanfare and a colourful speech from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, the adjoining Shaw Communications Inc. Outdoor Amphitheatre is not set to open until early next year.

It was all part of the \$137-million Banff Centre revitalization project, the result of an extremely successful capital fundraising campaign co-chaired by Douglas Black QC and Michael Norris, deputy chairman of RBC Capital Markets.

A highlight of the weekend was certainly the black tie Midsummer Ball on Saturday night in the new Kinnear Centre; a highlight of the Ball being the missing four-carat diamond from Ann McCaig's ring somewhere in the newly-opened Jack Diamond-designed building. While the diamond was eventually found, the building had officially been christened by not only the missing rock, but by its owner's late husband Bud McCaig had been one of his earliest supporters decades prior.

In addition to Prince Edward, a few of the weekend's notable guests included Donald Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of

Alberta; Jeanne Lougheed and former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed; Jim Kinnear, namesake of the new Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation; Jim Prentice, federal minister of the environment, and Karen Prentice; Dave Hancock, Alberta minister of education, and Janet Hancock; Ted Morton, Alberta minister of finance and enterprise, and Patricia Morton; Lindsay Blackett, minister of culture and community spirit, and Jennifer Blackett; Heather Klimchuk, minister of Service Alberta, and Wade Klimchuk; John Stutz, mayor of Banff; Grand Chief Charles Weaselhead; longtime Banff Centre supporters Sherrold and Pat Moore, Ann McCaig, Andrea Brussa, Diane Hobson; Banff Centre president and CEO Mary Hofstetter; Ken Anderson of J. Vair Anderson Jewellers; my favourite Canadian Tenor Clifton Murray, along with his harmonious pals Fraser Walters, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira; Jack Diamond, design mastermind behind the new Kinnear Centre; Donald Schmitt, architect and partner at Diamond + Schmitt; Christiane Germain from The Banff Centre board of governors and Le Germain Hotel group; Paul Douglas of PCL Construction; Heather and Murray Edwards; Tara and Ronald Mathison; Chris and Mary Fong and many, many more.

KDOODY@THEHERALD.CANWEST.COM



Joseph Lougheed, left, Linda Black QC, Vivian Kofias Lougheed and Doug Black QC, co-chairman of The Campaign for The Banff Centre.



Victor Micallef, left, and Remigio Pereira from The Canadian Tenors.



Above: Michael Norris, deputy chairman of RBC Capital Markets and co-chairman of The Campaign for The Banff Centre.



Right: Jack Diamond, architect and partner at Diamond + Schmitt and design mastermind behind the new Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation at The Banff Centre.



Donald Schmitt, left, architect and partner at Diamond + Schmitt, interior designer Nancy Hicks and Stephen Mahler, partner at Gibbs Gage Architects.



Fraser Walters, left, and Clifton Murray of the Canadian Tenors.



Hotel Le Germain Calgary general manager Chris Vachon and his wife Diane, owner of Survivor Bootcamps Calgary.



The Canadian Tenors Fraser Walters, left, Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira.



Banff Centre Midsummer Ball guests Leanne Malhiot, left, and Laurel Jones.



Former news anchor and Calgary's newest mayoral candidate Barb Higgins and her date Brad Moore.



Above: Prince Edward greets the Canadian Tenors — Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters. Left: Philanthropic Albertans Sherrold and Pat Moore.



Christiane Germain from The Banff Centre board of governors and Le Germain Hotel group, with her daughter Marie Pier Germain.



Silver Creativity Circle supporter Diane Hobson, fashion designer Paul Hardy and Franca De Jong.



Katie and Dennis Plintz make the Midsummer Ball a family affair.



Banff Centre board member Jill Gardiner, left, supporter and sponsor David Riggs, Banff Centre president and CEO Mary Hofstetter, David Aisenstat, president and owner of The Keg, and Christina Kiesel.



Jim Prentice, federal minister of the environment, and Stephen Lougheed, chairman of Multiplied Media in Calgary.



Mary and Chris Fong. Mary is the chairwoman of the Banff Centre Midsummer Ball committee.



Jeff Kovitz QC, chairman of The Banff Centre board of governors, and his lovely date Emily Forrest.



Banff Midsummer Ball supporter Andrea Brussa and James S. Kinnear, namesake of the new Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation.



Asim Ghosh, CEO of Husky Energy, and his wife Sanjukta Ghosh.



Jeanne Lougheed and former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed.

citylife

Parties, Culture & Society



Renowned trumpet soloist Jens Lindemann with Rosalie Schwartz, Andrea Brussa and George Schwartz.



Philanthropists Naomi and John Lacey with Lois and Rob Green outside the newly opened Kinnear Centre.



Tibor and Livia Fekete with Barbara Klebanoff and Tony Settari.



Maureen Eberts and Muriel Kovitz, first female chancellor of the University of Calgary.

Banff Centre cuts a princely ribbon

Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation



JESSICA DEMELLO

The Banff Centre opened a new building on campus this week with a ceremony and fete fit for a king ... or at least a prince.

Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, was on hand to officially open the Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation. It is a three-storey, 21,000-square-foot building filled with art from the Banff Centre's permanent collection, and housing a total of 19 multi-function classrooms. The Kinnear Centre was also built to LEED Silver standards and includes materials from the building it replaces — Donald Cameron Hall.

Grand Chief of Treaty No.7 and Chief of the Kainawa Nation **Charles Weaselhead**, architect **Jack Diamond**, Canada's Minister of Environment **Jim Prentice**, Alberta's deputy premier **Doug Horner**, and **James Kinnear** himself were among those present for the opening ceremony.

Delivering on a promise of 'unorthodox ribbon cutting', Banff Centre president **Mary Hofstetter** introduced several performances throughout the ceremony. The first was Aeri-osa Dance, a Vancouver-based troupe trained at the Banff Centre. Wearing red jumpsuits and harnessed with thick rope to the roof of the new centre, the dancers slid down the sides of the new building and performed horizontally in the air, using the building's vertical surface as their stage. In one hand, they held long sheaths of white ribbon that trailed down the building to the ground. To

train for this classical/modern form of dance, they practise on the sides of mountains in the Rockies.

Between speeches there were other performances as well: World-renowned trumpeter **Jens Lindemann** led a dispersed brass group of trumpet, trombone, coronet and tuba players, who emerged from the woods and rooftops surrounding the outdoor stage where the ceremony was taking place, creating a cacophony of sound around the audience. And Canadian violinist **James Ehnes** performed the Spring concerto from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with the Banff Centre Festival Orchestra.

After the ceremony, a three-course lunch was served. It included gazpacho, sorbet with fresh berries and a choice of B.C. salmon or chicken breast with grilled Tinker Bell peppers, peach slices brûlée, toasted almonds and herb kressi emulsion.

Later in the evening, the annual Banff Ball took place inside the Kinnear Centre. CBC Radio's **Angela Knight** was the master of ceremonies. By then, the prince had retired, but the newly minted Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, **Donald Ethell**, was on hand. Although he took on the role in May, this marked a "coming out" of sorts for the LG.

There was another debut at the ball — that of Husky Oil's new president **Asim Ghosh**, who gave an eloquent speech reaffirming the support of his company for the Banff Centre. Ghosh, former CEO of Vodafone Essar, an international cellphone company, was appointed in May and took on the duties of former Husky president **John Lau** in June of this year. Lau and his wife were also present at the ball.

Before the band filled the dance floor, a four-course dinner was served. It included a bouillabaisse of salmon, mussels and shrimp, Alberta beef tenderloin and a chocolate almond pistachio cake for dessert.

For more from Jessica deMello, go to theampersand.ca and jessicademello.blogspot.com.

Weekend Post



Beth and Paul Bennett with John and Beth Brannan.



Stan and Lou Wong with Pengrowth Energy Trust founder Jim Kinnear, title sponsor of the new Banff Centre building.



Valerie Cooper, president, Art Gallery of Calgary, with Enbridge's D'Arcy Levesque and Donale Gandossi.



Brenda Mackie, chair of the governance committee for the Banff Centre, and patron of the arts Sherrold Moore.



Margaret Carleton; Fran Dubrowski and Dave Buente; Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit Lindsay Blackett, flanked by his wife, Jennifer (left), and Banff Centre board member Pat Moore; Michelle Kath and Jacqueline Nowak.

Calgary's People

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Fundraiser one to remember

The recent Banff Centre Midsummer Ball Weekend was the most successful in the event's 31-year history.

Record dollars raised (more than \$750,000). Record number of guests (SRO). And even the attendance of a prince made for an unforgettable experience.

From the moment guests arrived to golf at the Fairmont Banff Springs on the Friday morning until the Sunday morning President's Brunch held at the home of Banff Centre president and CEO Mary Hofstetter and her husband David Riggs, the weekend was full-on fabulous!

For many, the highlight was Saturday morning's official opening of the Kinnear Centre for Creativity & Innovation — named after one of our most generous citizens, James S. Kinnear of Kinnear Financial fame. Attended by none other than HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and a bevy of politicians (or is that a pride of politicians? gaggle? herd perhaps?), the program featured remarks from such notables as Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and even the Prince himself. Performances by Aeriosa Dance, international trumpet virtuoso Jens Lindemann and James Ehnes rounded out the ceremony beautifully.

A celebration lunch followed by Kinnear Centre tours and a mad dash to get ready for Saturday evening's ball rounded out the day.

Next up was a champagne reception and the unveiling by HRH The Prince Edward of a commissioned sculpture



BILL BROOKS

by Brian Jungen entitled *The ghosts on top of my head*.

A brief performance by The Canadian Tenors (fans will get the opportunity to see the Tenors perform with the CPO and Tommy Banks in Calgary at the Jack Singer Sept 21) and then it was indoors to The Kinnear Centre for the ball itself.

Among the guests in attendance were: Lt. Governor of Alberta Donald Ethell and his wife Linda; Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit Lindsay Blackett and his wife Jennifer; Alberta Minister of Education Dave Hancock and his wife Janet; chairman of the Banff Centre Board of Governors Jeff Kovitz Q.C. with Emily Forrest and his understandably proud mom Muriel Kovitz; Canadian Natural Resources vice chairman John Langille and his wife Sheila; Malley Associates president Murray Malley and his wife Jaqueline; vice chairman, RBC Capital Markets Bill Sembo and his wife Toshimi; ARC Resources presi-



HY BELZBERG



JENNY BELZBERG

dent and COO Myron Stadnyk and his wife Jennifer; KERN Partners' Jeff van Steenberg and his wife Kim; Andrea Brussa; Bird Construction board chair Paul Charette; Dr. Chen Fong and his wife Alice Chan; famed architect Jack Diamond of Diamond and Schmitt Architects whose firm created the stunning new buildings at the Banff



The Banff Centre Midsummer Call welcomed, front row from left: Sarah Black, Linda Black, Doug Black, Prince Edward, Brian Jungen. Back row from left: Donald S. Ethell, Linda M. Ethell, Mary Hofstetter, Jeff Kovitz.

Centre with his wife Gillian; Peter and Jeanne Lougheed (and here, I must comment on what a beautiful touch it was to re-dedicate the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Building — which opened Nov. 1988-back to the Lougheeds); ConocoPhillips Canada president Joe Marushack and his wife Darlene; New York Rangers Hockey Club president and GM Glen Sather and his wife Ann; Husky Energy president and CEO Asim Ghosh and his wife Sanjukta; Canadian Museum of Human Rights chair Arni Thorsteinson and Susan Glass; Gordon and Robyn Ritchie; Tri-

umphant Productions' Sheila O'Gorman-Smith; the stunning Ann McCaig; Harold Milavsky and Gail Sanders; David Aisenstat, president and CEO, The Keg Restaurants and Christina Kiesel; NAL Resources' Andrew Wiswell; Shaw Communications' Julie Shaw; N. Murray Edwards and his wife Heather; uber fashion designer Paul Hardy with Jigsaw Organization's Diane Hobson; mayoralty candidate Barb Higgins with Sage Investment Advisors' Brad Moore; Hy and Jenny Belzberg; deputy chairman, RBC Capital Markets Michael Norris and his wife Janet; Fra-



JEANNE AND PETER LOUGHEED

ser Milner Casgrain vice chair Doug Black Q.C. with Linda and Sarah Black (kudos to Norris and Black on co-chairing the enormously successful \$137 million Banff Centre revitalization project); Jones Day partner Christopher Hilbert and his wife Claudia; and J. Vair Anderson's Ken Anderson. But perhaps the most important 'guests' of the entire weekend were the tireless Banff Ball com-

mittee volunteers. So take a well deserved bow: chair, Mary Fong; Judy Paterson; Deborah McBride Wilson; Nancy Wiswell; Vivian Kolas Lougheed; Barbara Ashley; Debra Law; Pat Moore; Rosalie Schwarz and Debra Wong. Only problem ladies? How are you going to top it next year? No doubt, you'll find a way.



Clearly, these ladies were the belles of the ball. From left: Judy Paterson, Deborah McBride Wilson, Nancy Wiswell, Vivian Kolas Lougheed, Barbara Ashley, Mary Fong, Debra Law, Pat Moore, Rosalie Schwarz and Debra Wong

