

SPRING FASHION

Fashion benefit for cancer research

By Paula Henriques
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Sonia-Michelle De Souza has organized a fashion show and auction at Rosewood Bistro and Wine Bar on April 1 with all net proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society.

When her grandmother lost her battle with cancer one year ago, De Souza decided to use a fashion show as a fundraiser to help others with cancer.

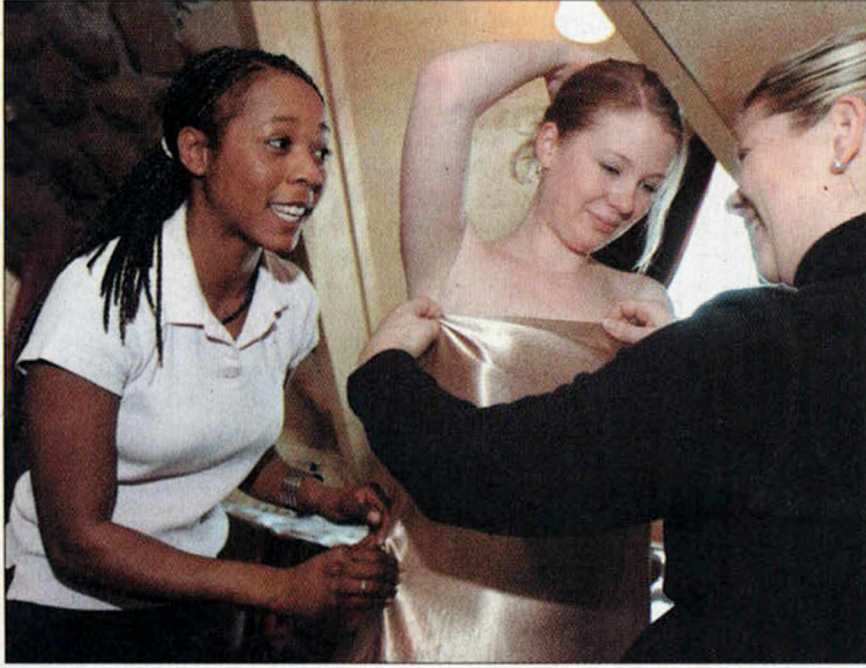
She said her grandmother's motivation and vision for a successful future for her granddaughter helped accrue the determination needed to organize such an overwhelming event.

"This whole event is in honour of my grandmother. She was the most amazing person. She always saw the good in people. She had a heart of gold," said De Souza.

Using her marketing skills, and her design and vision for the fundraiser, she attended fashion shows, made contacts and eventually approached an upcoming Canadian designer, Kerry Stevenson, to create the pieces for the runway.

When searching for a venue, De Souza visited Rosewood Bistro in Mississauga and instantly liked the atmosphere.

"I fell in love with the scenery. They have high ceilings, a good open space, and a gorgeous library wine display bar.



Oakville Beaver retail advertising sales representative Sonia-Michelle De Souza prepares a model, with help from designer Kerry Stevenson, for a dress rehearsal for a Canadian Cancer Society fashion show benefit at the Rosewood Bistro in Mississauga.

And they were playing jazz which I love because I have an old soul when it comes to music. It was perfect for the type of event I was envisioning," she says.

The event is on April 1. Doors open at 6 p.m. with cocktails. Tickets cost \$65 and include a fashion show and fine cuisine. Live and silent auction items

include weekend getaways, original paintings and gift baskets.

Rosewood Bistro is located at 1900 Dundas St. W.

To purchase tickets call Sonia-Michelle at 905-616-2196 or by e-mail at smdevents@yahoo.ca.

The naked breast in art and fashion

The truth about wearing bras

ADVERTORIAL

From the earliest civilization, the breast has been a tremendously potent image of womankind. Through war and peace, fashion, religion, art and literature, it has been revered, praised, lusted after, reviled and exploited. A powerful representation of beauty, the breast remains a compelling symbol of a woman's femininity.

In many cultures today, it is not unusual to hide the breast, but the naked breast has appeared regularly throughout history. It is not always possible to decide whether this was a feature of formal or ceremonial dress, or whether the breast was specifically displayed in order to attract the attention of others within the society.

For example, in ancient Egypt, the breast was commonly displayed. Many pictures of women dressed for formal occasions show that they often wore garments of extremely fine linen so every feature of the upper body was clearly meant to be visible.

In Napoleon's time, women wore loose dresses made of diaphanous fabrics through which breasts were clearly visible - characterizing the Empire look.

In Victorian times, female semi-nudity was quite acceptable in art. The Victorian fashionable woman herself, despite our

notion of that being one of sexual repression, would have displayed acres of bosom in her formal evening wear.

To create certain looks through the century, women wore different undergarments from short bodices to flatten their breast in the 13th century, to the corsets of the 16th to the 19th centuries and up to the early first bras in the 1920s.

It is thought the word brassiere first appeared in American Vogue in 1907 and was first used in Britain in 1916 in the British magazine. The Queen said that: "French and American women wear them and so must we: a modest will insist on a Brassiere to support the figure and give it the proper up-to-date shape."

Today's bra is an everyday part of every woman's wardrobe. Wearing a bra is one of the best things women can do for her breast. A bra that's been chosen with care and fits well can make her more comfortable, enhance appearance, and in the long term, will help keep breasts from sagging.

When is the right time to start wearing a bra? Depending on their sensitivity to estrogen, a girl's breasts can grow quite big in a short time producing silvery stretch marks on the skin and stretching suspensory ligaments that will ultimately

result in sagging. As soon as there is any weight in the breasts, it's time to start wearing a bra. An adolescent sports enthusiast, therefore, needs support even earlier than less active young women.

Most women don't seek expert advice when buying a bra, and go on buying the same size bra for years, without considering whether it still fits. As a result, the bra rarely fits well or gives support where it's needed.

It is estimated that about 80% of women are wearing the wrong size bra. This is a great pity, because an ill-fitting bra not only feels uncomfortable when you are wearing it, but it can also cause aches and pains in the long run.

What's more, even the most expensive designer clothes won't look good if you're wearing a lumpy, poorly fitting bra underneath. Get a new bra and have it fitted properly at a specialty lingerie shop and even your old T-shirt will look better.

You can get great bra fitting service at Goodnight Goodmorning on Bronte Rd., south of Lakeshore Rd., voted best lingerie store in Oakville for 2001 and 2002.

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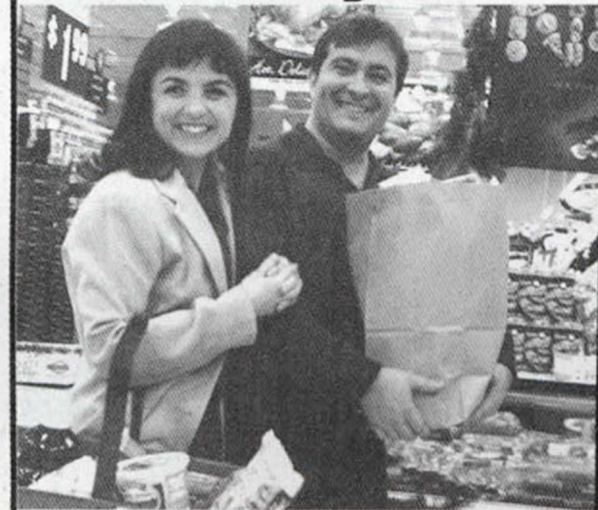


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