

ENTERTAINMENT

Become Fred and Ginger at the Top Hat Gala

Studio 49 is hosting the Second Annual Top Hat Gala on Saturday, April 8, at Glencairn Golf Club.

A few years ago, Debbie Glover of Studio 49 recognized the need for supporting "forgotten charities" and she and her gala committee chose Halton Community Living as the beneficiary of the first Top Hat Gala. The gala was proclaimed a success by all who attended and the money raised was put to good use by helping to open a drop-in centre for mentally challenged adults over 30 years of age.

Inspired by the success of the first gala they have committed to a repeat performance. This year three very valuable organizations, Child Find Ontario, Habitat for Humanity Halton and Community Living North Halton will benefit. All are active in Halton and work in conjunction with the community, offering practical support and encouragement when necessary.

"We are indeed honoured to call them neighbours and fortunate to be able to be of assistance to them," said Glover in a press release.

Child Find is the oldest, largest and most comprehensive missing children's agency in Canada. It is a not-for-profit organization that has been helping to find missing children and educating the public for 20 years. Volunteers work hard to make a difference by conducting street-proofing workshops and information-sharing presentations with parent groups, service organizations, clubs, professionals, caregivers, educators, etc. They finger-

print over 12,000 children a year and provide the parents with "Kid Check Safety Passports" to record pertinent information, fingerprints and photos. They distribute pamphlets, flyers, Green Ribbons of Hope, and booklets. They "tag" children going into the Rogers Centre for Toronto Blue Jays' home games with stickers showing their seat numbers. They take part in Teen Run-Away prevention programs and they work behind the scenes in office administration.

Child Find receives no funding from the government. The support from the Top Hat Gala will be put toward Education and Research/Recovery Programs that take aim at the prevention and reduction of missing children.

Habitat for Humanity Halton works in partnership with businesses, churches and community people from all walks of life, to serve those in need of decent, affordable housing.

Habitat for Humanity makes it possible for people who never dreamed of owning their own homes to not only own one but to play a major hands-on role in the construction. Houses are built through volunteer labour and donated or cost-reduced materials. Funds are raised to offset expenses of materials, services and land when they are not donated.

Any support that Habitat for Humanity receives from this gala will be earmarked for a house being built on Dayfoot Drive for a Georgetown family, starting in April 2006.

For the past 50 years, Community Living North Halton has provided services and support for people with developmental disabilities. Its goal is best described in the mission statement: "To provide support and services to individuals with developmental disabilities and to enhance their personal growth and inclusion in the community in order to achieve our vision of "an inclusive community where everyone belongs."

Community Living North Halton's Drop-In Centre was the beneficiary of Top Hat Gala 2004. The centre provides evenings of games, crafts, conversation, music baking, etc., and is open to everyone over 30 who has developmental disability.

This annual gala is promising to be one of the premiere must-attend events. Ladies, it's the perfect time to get yourself a new "frock," and gentlemen, an opportune time to dust off your dancing shoes and show off your soft-shoe shuffle as you sashay your beautiful partner around the dance floor.

When the doors open at 5:30 p.m. you will be escorted to your table to meet your friends, mingle, peruse the many fantastic items in our silent auction, and enjoy a beverage or two from the host bar. A gourmet dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a live auction, a fashion show, a 50/50 draw, entertainment, prizes, dancing at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for only \$100 a person; call Kathy, 905-878-1197; Marjorie, 905-878-7189 or JoJo, 905-872-5656.



By Mike Harris

Putting is one of the easiest parts of your golf game to practice in the Winter.

Putting is also the most overlooked part of most amateurs golf game. On average, golfers hit 30-35% of their shots in a single round with the putter, but often spend only 5-10% of their practice time on the putting green.

The winter is a great opportunity to improve your touch around the green by practicing putting at your leisure.

When practicing try to practice for speed only rather than by "making" putts. Most 3 putt greens are caused by missing the first putt by distance rather than by direction. For example, I have never seen an amateur golfer miss a 10 foot putt by 3 feet or more in the wrong direction, but quite often in fact have I seen 10 foot putts missed long or short by more than 3 feet.

For practicing putting for speed, I recommend putting a dime on the floor, and trying to stop the ball on or near the dime from different distances. The speed of the putting surface is not that critical, although I don't recommend putting on hardwood or shag carpeting. I am sure there is a surface in your home that would be suitable!



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