

Montreal Estonian Society (MES)

Gala Dinner Dance - September 5, 2015

The drained and sweaty golfers from the MES 10th tournament on Friday rejuvenated themselves and donned their best on Saturday to enjoy a wonderful evening at the Oasis Golf Course and Auberge, near Lachute. The younger and older crowds, Estonians and non-, were well represented and mingled with each other to enjoy renewing distant friendships and to share a libation or two.

The organizers had arranged for a former Montrealer, Peeter Tammark, to travel from Vancouver to create a sumptuous banquet that had the attendees returning to re-sample the many delicious courses.

The talent and enthusiasm of the 17-member Preville Big Band proved to be the perfect catalyst to get the crowd on their feet and to continue dancing until the Gala's close. In addition to the band's excellent arrangements, two of the sax players, when not playing, encouraged the dancers by leading them in dance moves!

The Gala also had another purpose: to raise funds to help with Lättemäe's youth camp and in the upkeep of the grounds to allow local Estonians to enjoy the Laurentian outdoors. A silent auction was organized which included art work donated by several Montreal-based Estonians. The love of food and sport won out as the highest bids were for a 1995 Canadiens team autographed hockey stick and a beautifully illustrated cook book with an Estonian woven book mark.

At the end of the evening, the Gala attendees bid each other a fond farewell, some not to see each other until next year's golf tournament, but others who were, continued the celebrations at the Lättemäe open house the next morning.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to the organizers - Karl J. Raudsepp and the MES executive - for their tireless effort in organizing the weekend activities and in helping to raise money in support of Lättemäe and MES activities in Montreal.

Judy Tamm