



Athletic supporters Natalie Balfour and Nate McNally sport Lululemon's breathable, anti-stink sportswear.



The Red Cross's Alice Lam (right) joined chair Linda Low at the Red Carpet soiree.



Amanda Tapping picked up a Leo for her lead performance in *Sanctuary*.



Fred UNLEASHED

Members of the Dutch royal family were guests of honour at the Vancouver Art Gallery's latest show. Their Highnesses Princess Marilène and Prince Maurits van Oranje-Nassau, van Vollenhoven formally opened the much-anticipated *Vermeer, Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art* exhibition at the Dutch Masters Ball. The most significant collection of 17th-century Dutch art ever presented in Canada, the showcase of 128 works, including masterpieces from the Rijksmuseum, features paintings by celebrated masters such as Hals, Rembrandt and Vermeer as well as a remarkable selection of drawings and decorative arts created in The Netherlands during a time known as the Golden Age. Three hundred well-heeled guests—business and community leaders, art enthusiasts, collectors and philanthropists—shelled out \$600 a ticket to \$16,000 a table for the opportunity to brush with greatness. VAG Director Kathleen Bartels fronted and Keg Restaurant Group CEO David Aisenstat sponsored the exhibition and party with the royals. Celebrations began with a champagne reception and official opening ceremony by the very handsome Hollywood-looking royal couple. Following the curtain raising, attendees viewed the extensive collection before making their way outside to the lavishly decorated marquee tent for the dinner and auction. After a special toast to the royal couple, attendees enjoyed a royal repast prepared by Dutch Michelin star chef Robert Kranenburg and the musical styling of Vancouver's own Dal Richards. Proceeds from the gala-gala-do will support exhibitions and programming at the VAG.

President Walter Daroshin and producer Sonny Wong

fronted B.C. Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation's 11th annual Leo Awards, which celebrates Hollywood North's best in local film and television. Five hundred gathered at the Westin Bayshore Hotel for the paparazzilined red carpet parade of industry peeps, leading men and starlets. Winners in 70 categories were announced over two nights. Sci-fi productions were the big winners. *Stargate Atlantis* hauled in a leading nine statues including Best TV Series for its fifth and final season. Former *Stargate SG-1* leading lady Amanda Tapping picked up a Leo for her lead performance in the new dramatic television series *Sanctuary*. The gothic-themed primetime series also earned wins for actors Gabrielle Rose and Ryan Robbins. Tyler Labine received lead role kudos for the paranormal series *Reaper*. Benjamin Arthur and Eve Harlow earned television best supporting accolades for *Less than Kind* and *The Guard* respectively.

Marking 100 years of community service, the Lower Mainland's Canadian Red Cross launched its centennial year at its second annual Red Cross Red Carpet soiree held at Blue Water Cafe. Linda Low and Anita Cheng chaired, and CTV sports broadcaster Jason Pirus emceed the energetic blood bash. A capacity crowd of 300 enjoyed delicious canapés from executive chef Frank Pabst, fine wine from Mission Hill and entertainment courtesy of improv troupe Dangerous Portion, while bidding on a myriad of fabulous silent auction items. The room was packed with urban philanthropists, artists and local leaders. They included restaurant proprietor Jack Evrensel, Red Cross's Alice Lam, Hill and Knowlton VP Joy Jennison and Legacies

Now marketing director Susan Archibald who celebrated her 50th birthday at the event. A record \$15,000 was raised to support local Red Cross programs.

While mounting a courageous fight against lung cancer, Giovanni Bastone was inspired by the kids he met in hospital who were also battling various types of the disease. Before he passed away, it was his wish that his family focus efforts on finding a cure for childhood cancer. In his memory, loved ones presented the sixth annual Moonlight Masquerade Ball. Foundation president Deb Nicols chaired, Zack Spencer emceed and yours truly played auctioneer at the East Side soiree. Four hundred raucous supporters gathered at the Italian Cultural Centre for the magical night of dining, dancing and fundraising. Over \$55,000 was collected to fund childhood cancer research at B.C. Children's Hospital.

San Jose Shark star centre "Jumbo" Joe Thornton won't be the only NHLer sporting Lululemon undies. Since his secret broke during a recent *Hockey Night in Canada* broadcast, it seems everyone wants in on the athletic supporter. League supplier Bauer has purchased gift certificates from the local yoga-wear company for every NHL player. So expect star-sightings at your neighbourhood Lululemon outlet. Maybe spot Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin or Vancouver's own Willie "Bill Pickle" Mitchell picking up the company's Silverescent tee—a breathable, anti-bacterial, anti-stink T-shirt—or the store's popular chafe-resistant support briefs.

Email Fred at yurflee@hotmail.com Fred's weekly fun-cast *Stepping Out* can be heard every Monday morning on CBC Radio One's *The Early Edition* AM690 and 88.1FM.



Princess Marilène and Prince Maurits (right) joined The Keg's David Aisenstat (left) and Mayor Gregor Robertson at the Dutch Masters Ball.



(l-r) Chair Deb Nicols and Giovanni Bastone Foundation director Teresa Vaccaro and Scotiabank's Michelle Cobb helped raise funds for cancer research.



Best guest performance nominee Brendan Fletcher (left) and best supporting actor winner Benjamin Arthur looked dapper at the Leo Awards.