

city life

BONNIE FETES

Looking back on 2012's best galas



AMORYN ENGEL

GALLERY HOP

Most eclectic
This year the cheekily themed Smart Art fete saw patrons donning heavy framed black specs that had everyone looking quite smart, indeed. It was another sold-out affair that kicked off this three-part experience that included Toronto's most anticipated art party of the season, a free day of gallery tours and talks around Toronto, and the launch of the new fall issue of *Canadian Art*.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

Pomp and circumstance plus
What felt like thousands of guests all came together at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa to celebrate our own great bright lights. It was a list of Canadian talent so outstanding, that they were celebrated for two nights in a row: the first at Rideau Hall where they would receive their medals from the Governor General and the second at a tribute at the NAC with all the pomp and circumstance Ottawa has to offer.

GEORGE CHRISTY LUNCHEON

Most coveted invite
Always the gentleman, Mr. Christy welcomed TIFF makers, such as John and Myrna Daniels, Diane Bald and Michael Budman, who arrived en famille, Norman Jewison and Lynne St. David and so on and so forth. It goes without saying that actor Ewan McGregor stole the show — he's even more gorgeous and charming in person.

SPARKLE

A rollicking good time
New-gen glitter girls came out in droves to support Sparkle, a gala fundraiser of Ronald McDonald House Toronto. Patrons took the theme "Sparkle" to heart as they pulled out all the stops with couture gowns and over-the-top jewellery to match. Over \$1-million net was raised, a record for RMHT.

BARRY AND MELISSA AVRICH'S DINNER FOR STRATFORD

Scrumptious food, delicious company!
An intimate group of theatre lovers and influencers were invited to Barriar's Steak House to celebrate Stratford's newest artistic director, Anton Cimolino. Melissa Manly and husband Barry Avrich, a noted producer himself, hosted, and the meal was done to perfection by chef Jose Iribarren.

ROYAL DE VERSAILLES RE-DO

A sparkling good time!
Gail Burnett and Irit Shay held court recently at their treasure trove, Royal de Versailles, on Toronto's mink mile. The party was held to celebrate the major modernization of the flagship store, and the space radiated sophistication and glamour, as did the guests who arrived in style. And those leggy models!

AMBER WHITE PARTY

Naughty Naughty nights!
It is an incredible feat that with each year, Amber's White Party gets better with age — not unlike the hot spot's owner, Toufik Sarwa. The soiree, now in its eighth year, saw party pistol: dressing in all-white attire to support this year's theme, Hamptons Chic.

OPERANATION 9: SWEET REVENGE

Music to my ears!
Pulling up to the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts is always such a pleasure. You could almost feel that energy building from University Avenue as the festivities got underway for Operanation 9: Sweet Revenge, a must-do "junior" benefit in support of the Ensemble Studio, Canada's foremost training program for young opera professionals.

BUTTERFLY BALL

Beautiful backdrop!
Breath-takingly beautiful ladies spread their wings for the 15th annual Butterfly Ball, this year held under a setting sun at the Evergreen Brickworks. More than 300 guests took in the magical setting at this gala, which raises much needed funds for Boost Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention.

LAUREN BUSH LAUREN PARTY

Alexandra Weston shines
Alexandra Weston invited an intimate group of ladies to the Holt Renfrew Café to fete Lauren Bush Lauren — resident stunner, model, do-gooder and co-founder of FEED — who was in town to kick off the sales of the Tory Burch designed FEED tote bags made exclusively for the upscale retailer.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RITZ-CARLTON MONTREAL

Partying in the grandest of style
There's nothing like an elegant black-tie gala where the guests dress to impress. Such was the case at the Ritz-Carlton Montreal as the Torriani family hosted a pull-out-all-the-stops gala to celebrate the hotel's 100th anniversary. This gorgeous fete was one hot ticket and perhaps the party of the year. Part of the reason may have been that the guests of honour were Their Serene Highnesses Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene of Monaco.

TEDDY BEAR AFFAIR

Best reboot
More than 1000 guests came out to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to celebrate the 26th Annual Teddy Bear Affair, in support of the Children's Aid Foundation. The theme was Paris in the 1920s and that set the stage for a night of "Les Années Folles." A huge shout-out goes to Joe Canavan for a job well done. Watch out for big things in 2013.

THE CURVE BALL

A home run!
The Jays Care Foundation hit a home run with its premier fundraising extravaganza, The Curve Ball. Denim and diamonds (both baseball and bling) were a must for this heavy-hitting party where guests got to dine on the field at the Rogers Centre. What a thrill for fans and patrons alike to get up close and personal with Jays players, coaches, management and special alumni.

THE 100TH GREY CUP CELEBRATION

A city on fire!
It was a huge milestone as the Grey Cup celebrated 100 years with the mother of all celebrations held in Toronto. One of the highlights of the Grey Cup weekend was the Commissioners Brunch, hosted by commissioner Mark Cohon.

HELLO! CANADA TIFF PARTY

Always a great scene!
Now known as the party to see and be seen at, it was a mad crush at the Ritz-Carlton Toronto as celebrities galore made their arrivals. Hundreds of stargazers stood in cue on Wellington Street to take a snap of Hollywood hunks such as Ed Burns, Ian Somerhalder and Adrian Grenier, just to mention a few of the very hot highlights.

GRAND CRU CULINARY WINE FESTIVAL

A Party with smarts
An absolute delight for the senses saw some of Toronto's top philanthropists open their doors for this annual extravaganza, leaving patrons more than satiated. This festival brings together an exceptional group of philanthropists, business leaders, prominent wine estates, lauded chefs and esteemed University Health Network scientists.

TRUE PATRIOT LOVE

Celebrating heroes
Close to 2,000 business leaders, do-gooders and military brass came together to celebrate, honour and support our troops. I can't think of any better place to be on the eve before Remembrance Day.

Weekend Post
@amoryn



Sarah Richardson and Alexander Younger at Sparkle

Dennis Kavelman and Karen Fonn at Sparkle

Adrienne Kirby and Anne Ullman at Gallery Hop

Geddy Lee, Neil Peart and Alex Lifeson of Rush at the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards

Barry Avrich and Melissa Manly at their dinner for Stratford

Melissa Grelo and Toufik Sarwa at the Amber White Party

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and CFL commissioner Mark Cohon at the 100th Grey Cup's Commissioner's Brunch

Melinda and Loretta Rogers at the Curve Ball

Gail Burnett and Irit Shay at the Royal de Versailles fete

Todd and Ellen Halpern at the Grand Cru Culinary Wine Festival

The leggy models at the Royal de Versailles Gala



Governor General David Johnston and Shaun Francis at True Patriot Love

Chief of Defence Staff Tom Watson, Kelly Watson and Michael Burns at True Patriot Love

Alexander Neef, Amy Burstyn Fritz, Anne Maggiano and Jeffrey Remedios at Operation 9

Jennen Phelan and Lindsay Perry Strasler at the Butterfly Ball

Lauren Bush Lauren and Alexandra Weston at their Holt Renfrew event

Anthony Carone, Max Kerman and Michael DeAngelis of Arkells at Operation 9

Alison Eastwood and Miss Universe Canada Sahar Biniaz at the Hello!Canada TIFF Party

Ewan McGregor and George Christy at the George Christy Party

Their Serene Highnesses Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene of Monaco at the Ritz-Carlton Montreal's 100th anniversary

Galen and the Honourable Hilary M. Weston at the Ritz-Carlton Montreal's 100th anniversary