

Cruise for a Cause: September 11, 2003

It was a perfect evening for a cruise on the lake. The sun was bright in a clear blue sky and the lake was calm.

As our guests arrived (many a little earlier than expected!) they were treated to oysters on the pier donated by Fish Bones Oyster Bar & Grill and shucked on the spot by the owner, Michael Jasnich.

On boarding they were able to sample hors d'oeuvres prepared by Julia's Ristorante and a selection of Henry of Pelham wines, tirelessly served throughout the evening by Ted McIntosh who seemed to have brought the entire vineyard with him from St. Catharines!



The rear part of the lower deck had been cleared to accommodate our friends in wheelchairs, and as one of them put it "Close to the grub". A unique feature of "cruising" is the way in which it encourages people to mingle. Our guests were rolling and strolling the decks, happily introducing themselves to perfect strangers and chatting with them long before we finally sailed off into the sunset (literally!) with Captain Eric Rogers at the helm and 251 guests on board.

During the evening, draws were made for many excellent deck prizes kindly donated by local businesses and friends of CharterAbility. The bartenders on all three decks were kept busy as were the chefs who served up an excellent Roast Beef au Jus, which they prepared on board, and the DJ who managed to find music to suit everyone. The entire crew who worked tirelessly throughout the evening definitely earned their vote of thanks, particularly Megan Ivens who managed to be everywhere at once attending to our needs and organizing everything.

After dinner, guests were treated to the sight of a full harvest moon as The Wayward Princess journeyed back to Oakville harbour. Before docking we had some more treats for our guests - pastries from the Black Forest Pastry Shop and coffee, courtesy of Tim Horton's.

Besides raising \$10,000 in seed funding for the initiative, the cruise increased awareness in the community and attracted some of its potential municipal and corporate partners as well as organizations serving the needs of people with disabilities. We would like to thank all our guests who contributed so enthusiastically and generously to making the evening a success. We hope to see you all again on our dinner cruise on **Thursday, May 27, 2004** out of Port Credit.

And a special thanks to our sponsors who made the evening possible through their generous donations:

Abilities Foundation	Fred Astaire Dance Studios	Morrison House
Alibi Media Group	Halton Home Healthcare	Nautical Adventures
Bertin Stables	Hard Rock Contractors	Oakville Fish N Chips
Betty Ann MacIntosh	Henry of Pelham	Prime Time Sports Bar
Black Forest Pastry Shop	Irish Classics	Queen's Head
Bookers Book Store	Julia Ristorante	Rude Native Bistro
CHWO/AM740	Lakeview Golf Course	Seasons Restaurant
City Core Golf	Mail Boxes Etc.	Sleeman Brewing & Malting Company
Colborne Street Cafe	McCutcheon's Camera	Snug Harbour Restaurant
Debra Cantrel	Michael's Back Door	TDL Group
Denningers	Mini Chinese	Trattoria Timone
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