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Maritime Moments

You could almost catch a whiff of Atlantic salt-spray air at the 13th annual Evening in the Maritimes, which raised \$115,000 for Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa, a United Way agency that matches volunteers with people living with disabilities.

Nearly 700 people gathered Wednesday at the Congress Centre to enjoy a seafood feast and kick up their heels -- high heels in the case of McMillan graphic designer Jacquie Young, who wowed everyone with her jig on the dance floor.

The honorary chairman was Bell Security Solutions president Gary Cameron while Jost Kaufmann Seafood, owned by brothers Eric, Steve and Mike Beveridge, was title sponsor.

The Whalesbone's Joshua Bishop demonstrated his shucking prowess by cracking open some 1,200 oyster shells at the seafood bar.

Come dinner, guests enjoyed a five-course meal that included fish chowder, mussels in a white wine sauce and fresh lobster.

The event attracted grandma-to-be Penny Collenette, who was diagnosed with double scoliosis at age 13 and spent a year in a body cast.

"After I was able to walk again I decided, if I ever had a chance, I would do what I could to help people with disabilities," said Ms. Collenette, who has served as honorary chair/co-chair a number of times.

Also present were Global Public Affairs president/CEO Randy Pettipas, emcee Kurt Stoodley of A-Channel (donning a red foam lobster hat), Citizen Advocacy executive director Brian Tardif, gala chairwoman Wendy Duross, a human resources manager for Novotel Ottawa, and board president Dianne Pritchard of Just Imagine Home and Garden Decor.

Guests also had the chance to bid on auction items and win a balloon raffle prize, like the getaway trip for two to Halifax that former politician Sheila Copps lucked out on.



The Evening in the Maritimes fundraiser drew lots of people, and the odd crustacean, raising \$115,000 for Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa. Guests included

TOP: Wendy Duross and Gary Cameron;

ABOVE: From left, Steve and Eric Beveridge, and;

RIGHT: Kurt Stoodley and Dianne Pritchard.



PHOTOS BY KIER GILMOUR, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN