



Bill Brooks' Calgary

>> Message of Hope Gala Dinner

Hopes high after million-dollar event

The Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre's (AARC's) 14th Annual Message of Hope Gala Benefit Dinner held recently at the Telus Convention Centre was one for the record books.

More than 1,000 people attended the fundraiser and succeeded in raising more than \$1 million for AARC.

In the past 19 years, AARC has graduated 464 teens along with more than 1,600 family members. Highlights of the evening were numerous including: emcee Dave Kelly, who did a superb job hosting the event in a talk show format; AARC graduates Andrew M., Greg M. and AARC graduate parent Diane C. who shared their journey of crisis, despair and ultimately hope; honorary speaker Rick Hansen, Chief of Police (and Rick, should you ever decide to run for political office, you've got my vote! Your candid views on drugs and crime were spot on); hundreds of AARC graduates taking to the stage to thunderous applause; and superb live auction items as varied as a VIP experience at Churchill Downs in Kentucky to a cage dive adventure for four to get up close and personal with great white sharks.

Who was not at the event would make a much shorter list as a veritable who's who in the community attended including: Remington Developments' Randy Remington with his wife Donna and their son Ryan (kudos to Remington on its role again this year as exclusive title sponsor); AARC board chair Ann McCaig with her daughter Jane, husband Rich Waller and their daughter Emma Waller; AARC executive director Dean Vause and his wife Joanne; National Bank's Mike Kennedy and his wife Cynthia Moore; hockey legend Mike Vernon and his wife Jane; renowned orthopedic surgeon and executive director of Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute Dr. Cy Frank with Helene Levesque; Remington Developments' Cody Clayton and Jamie Cooper; WestJet Airlines board chair Clive Beddoe and his wife Ruth; AARC board member Jan Brenneman and her husband Ron, former executive vice-chairman, Suncor Energy; Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation president and CEO Saifa Koonar with her husband Jerry; Gai's Tracy Thomson and Avni Soma; McCaig Institute's Dr. Dianne Mosher; Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute's Deborah Marshall; Dr. William Cochrane and his wife Phyllis; philanthropist and media celeb W. Brett Wilson; Foundry Communication's Zahra Al-harazi; and Bobby Libin with his daughters Eda and Nora.



From left, Mike Kennedy, National Bank and his wife Cynthia Moore with Jane and Mike Vernon, former goaltender for the Calgary Flames.



Dr. Cy Frank, executive director of the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, and Helen Levesque.



From left, Jane McCaig Waller, Emma Waller, Rich Waller and AARC board chairman Ann McCaig.



From left, Remington Developments' Cody Clayton, Randy Remington, Ryan Remington and Jamie Cooper.



WestJet chairman Clive Beddoe and wife Ruth.



From left, Jerry Kooner, Saifa Koonar, president and CEO Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, Gai's Tracy Thomson and Avni Soma



Ron and Jan Brenneman, an AARC board member.



Sahra Al-harazi and W. Brett Wilson.



AARC executive director Dean Vause and his wife Joanne.



From left, Deborah Marshall, Phyllis Cochrane and Dr. Dianne Mosher.



From left, Eda Libin, Bobby Libin and Nora Libin