



Annual Report

2022-2023

Friendship Dinner-Dance Coordinator's Report

Date held: Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Committee Meeting in advance: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:00 pm

Committee: two others were invited but neither responded.

Annmarie Haskell

Susan Cober

Lydia Côté

Connie Stanley, President [*Event Coordinator*]

Setup & décor:

Ticket Takers & Share the Wealth

Bruce Mills

Annmarie Haskell

Tom & Linda McKee

Gary Seymour

Lydia Côté

Paul & Phyllis Farrell

Bob Kerrison

Susan Cober

Claudette & Rollie Lapointe

Chris Regan

Mary Smith

Barb & Harry Morrison

Ken Campbell

Judy Oldenburg

Connie Stanley

Servers: Theresa & Chuck

Debra Kerrison

Coffee n' cake: Lydia & Harold Côté,

McAllister

Connie Stanley

Annmarie Haskell, Susan Cober, Judy

Thank Caterer: Rollie Lapointe

Ice: John Henry

Oldenburg

Photography: Rowland

Blessing: Dot Graham

Hetrick

Number of participants: 73. Ticket sales were programmed to commence January 23rd to afford 6 ticket sales dates and enough time to give Felice's Deli, the caterers our numbers. I submitted the number to Gaby at Felice's on February 9th. Connie knew in advance that Mamma was very sick and that probably only 'Gino' who had just undergone surgery on his hand, would deliver the food.

When they bought their tickets, Theresa & Chuck McAllister offered to help serve dinner because they had previously been at another OTOW event where Felice's catered and they knew the company was short staffed due to illness among other things. This was most appreciated; they would not accept free tickets either. Coincidentally, Gaby was serving the Jesters party in the Belleair Room, WAC that same night.

Location: EAC Auditorium

Narrative [e.g., Theme, highlights, winners, etc.]:

We never book events such as this on Thursdays due to the Club Blackout games.

The **Friendship** theme commemorated our Canadian – American relationship, camaraderie and friendship! There were some guests who reside outside of OTOW and Connie greeted them as well - inclusivity. This event was also held on Canada's Flag Day of which Connie explained the history; many seemed to be very appreciative.

Connie secured the DJ, Grant Hemond and Associates during the pandemic for all Dinner-Dance Events for 2021 and they granted a carry-over of all three contracts at the same price [\$395.] for 2023. We ended up with Jody Bower again - a DJ we've come to favour as he knows our crowd and makes very fitting music and dance selection appropriate to our crowd. He does keep the dance floor hopping!

Menu: The last Friendship Dinner-Dance was in 2020 for which President, Ian Hunter chose a roast beef dinner from Felice's which was very nice. Roast beef au jus or chicken piccata, rice pilaf, rosemary potatoes, garden salad with assorted dressings, dinner rolls, coffee and cake for

Annual Report

2022-2023

dessert was the menu. Again, two cakes from Costco were purchased by Sue Cober and she asked them to do décor complementing our red, white and blue colour scheme; the two: one white and one chocolate cakes were beautifully decorated and very much appreciated.

Cake cutting and lifting operation was relocated to the back corner counter area in the Outpost as per the experience with the Christmas Dinner-Dance and everyone enjoyed the servings. There were some leftover which we knew going into it. We knew we could leave them and the uncut cakes in the Outpost refrigerators which aren't locked overnight. We cut and set leftover cakes on our plates and set them out on the Information Table in the EAC Thursday morning and also John Henry took about 8 pieces down to the CSO personnel for the SCA staff lunches. We were thanked immensely by Nancy Rogers, SCA Events Manager for that kind gesture.

Also because Felice's delivers so much food, there were a lot of main course leftovers; Connie asked the SCA night staff if they could place it into a SCA refrigerator and enjoy overnight or staff the next day, which Darren did.

The new 100 Cup coffee urn worked out very well for Harold and SCA also installed a new sink for coffee urn filling! This new urn must always be stored inside the last cabinet!

Ticket Prices: Again, this was only second Dinner-Dance following the Christmas season and we still were uncertain as to what to expect; how many to anticipate, caterer's prices have increased, comparisons with other Clubs' ticket prices, etc. Even Felice's costs were \$5 more per person from the 2020 dinner. Again, we set our ticket prices at: \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members / guests.



Susan Cober volunteered to print tickets which ultimately cost only \$25 vs. having them printed at Prints2Go for \$95. Connie provided Sue with the event logo Doug Kates, OTOW News designed for us, for the tickets. That logo was used in advertising and promotion via slide on Summit Channel 901, as well.

Décor: As mentioned, the colour theme was red, white and blue; as a committee, we elected not to overpower the auditorium with any American nor Canadian flags and memorabilia as we felt it would take away from the Friendship theme. Instead, we ordered a package of 12 three, red, white and blue tablecloths [4 each] from Amazon.com. There were enough for the dining tables and cut enough for the five entry tables and, also two for the dessert/coffee bar at the outpost. There was a leftover red & white striped table cloth in the cabinet from a previous Friendship dinner-dance that we used on the DJ table.

Lydia purchased red, white and blue cocktail plates and serviettes for dessert and coffee. We still had enough forks on hand in the locker as well as Styrofoam coffee cups, stir stix, sugar packets, sweeteners, etc.

Again, we also placed the ceremonial flag on the stage and clipped it and the US flag together which was very nice for central décor and complimentary to the Friendship theme. The two Canadian wreaths were tied onto the two stage stair rails and Club Dinner-Dance banner attached on the front stairway glass rail. These are standard but I always report them for newbies.

Connie used the logo on the Volunteer Table Thank-you cards so guests could read/see who the volunteers were. The tables were numbered using the Club Red and white numbered maple leaves which were made years ago by the Woodshop! The

The two red felt Maple leaves were pinned to the stage skirt along with three handmade stars and stripes decorations: one with red and white stripes flowing in breeze; one blue and 1 white star centred with the new Club banner also designed by Doug Kates, OTOW News. These were a new subtle addition made by Connie and it was suggested we could make more of these for subsequent Friendship Parties if future committees wanted. John Henry offered thin board material for this purpose and Connie still has the paint. Tracing the star shape is easy and the Woodshop can cut them stars again as they did this year.



We used the red maple leaf, blue star and silver star metallic sprays that Gil Small suggested for the Christmas party on the dinner tables along with the candied shot glasses and tea light candles per two per table and three at the longer ten people table with an added card table.

Door Prizes: Lydia still had some leftover items which made great door prizes. Of those items were 38 shot glasses for which Lydia and Sue found either valentine type or flavoured candies. There were enough for 3 glasses with candy per table. The committee decided that the winners at each table would be the three who had the closest birthdays to: Flag Day [February 15th]; Canada Day [July 1st] or Independence Day [July 4th]!

Lydia wrapped each with cellophane and tied red, white and blue ribbons on them.

Anmarie Haskell's beautiful handmade Afghan was also donated and drawn; it had a lot of prominent red, white and blue colours so it was very appropriate for the theme and colours. One couple who were leaving at 8 pm asked Connie if she could also watch their tickets for door prizes and they were ultimately the winners [names on the reverse, etc.]. Connie left two voicemails following the event and they never came to pick-up the prize so it was re-drawn at the Spring Fling!

Photography: The Club's new Friendship Flag was used as a backdrop for the photo booth and setup with removable *Command* hooks centered between the Mounties in the Largo Room. Connie set out a sign-up sheet so people could 'register' with Rowland in order to receive their photos afterward.

The committee agreed with Connie's suggestion of doing a red, white and blue balloon arch which were also purchased from Amazon. Mary Smith and Debra Kerrison set up this décor which was a highlight in the auditorium's entry and, also was used for many photos including the Past Presidents.



Pictured here are Past Presidents still residing at On Top of the World - Rear L to R: Andy McEvoy 2012-13 [London, ON]; Tom McKee 2009-10 [Clearwater, FL]; John Wigle 2002-03 [Alliston, ON]; Laurie Fischer 2018-19 [Winnipeg, MB];

Front L to R: Connie Stanley 2020-2023 [Frankford, ON]; Carmen Dixon 1993-94 [Scarborough, ON]; Rollie Lapointe 2010-11 [Ottawa, ON] and Harry Morrison 2007-08 [Kimberley, BC]. Unfortunately, Wendy Colquhoun did not participate.



Annual Report

2022-2023

This photo and story were included with the news about the Lawn Bowls Doubles [photo] and the Golf Tournament story [with photo] in the March OTOW Newspaper.

Connie organized volunteers for setup, tear down, Door Greeters [ticket takers] Share the Wealth tickets, the Arch setup, coffee station [Harold, Lydia and Susan], etc. and managed the publicity of the event.

Albeit, there were only 73 participants, we had one more attendee compared with the Christmas Dinner-Dance.

The door prizes were great and very appreciated. There were many Share the Wealth cash prizes of thirty dollars each, drawn.

Rowland Hetrick did a fabulous job of taking photos and he sent a link of those out individually to the emails on the sign-up sheet and also gave them to Connie [as Publicity Manager] used them accordingly on the Club's Facebook page, website, OTOW News, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Stanley, President and
Friendship Dinner-Dance Event Coordinator
OTOW Canadian Club
1 April 2023
