



## **EDMONTON'S CULINARY SCENE HEATS UP: CITY'S BEST CHEFS COMPETE AT GOLD MEDAL PLATES EVENT TO SUPPORT CANADIAN OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETES**

November 1, 2007

The temperature may be dropping but Edmonton's culinary scene is about to heat up as the city's best chefs compete at the Gold Medal Plates culinary competition, one of this year's most exciting charitable gala events to support Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The sold out event will be held Tuesday, November 20 at the Shaw Conference Centre, 9797 Jasper Avenue NW. The winning chef will then represent Edmonton at the Canadian Culinary Championships to be held in Toronto in February 2008 over an intense three-day national competition that brings together the winning chefs from each of the participating seven cities.

Gold Medal Plates pairs competing chefs with an Olympic or Paralympic athlete to create their ultimate dish in a challenge of timing, quality and best wine pairing. Each chef's dish will be rated by a panel of judges, as the attending guests enjoy the creations, which will be paired with exceptional wines.

"Edmonton is a hotbed of Canadian excellence in both the culinary arts and athletics," says Dr. Robert Westbury who co-chairs the Edmonton fundraiser with Douglas Goss. "Gold Medal Plates celebrates this excellence in an exciting evening that brings these elements together in support of our Olympic dream and the athletes who follow it. This event sold out in record time which should tell other Canadian cities that Edmonton is ready to compete."

The following chefs have been selected by Edmonton's top food and wine critics and will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals:

**Paul Campbell** - Café de Ville  
**David Cruz** - Sage  
**Blair Lebsack** - Madisons Grill  
**Kevin Lendrum** - Il Portico Ristorante  
**Shonn Oborowsky** - Characters Fine Dining  
**Frank Olson** - Red Ox Inn  
**Darcy Radies** - The Blue Pear  
**Simon Smotkowicz** - Shaw Conference Centre  
**Tim Wood** - The Eco Café  
**Judy Wu** - Wild Tangerine Cucina Domestia

Edmonton's 2006 winner, Michael Brown of the Westin Edmonton, will be inducted into the Gold Medal Plates Hall of Fame.

There will be an incredible roster of Olympians and Paralympians whose skill and agility will be put to the test as they play the role of sous chef to Edmonton's finest chefs. Some of the 25+ expected athletes currently confirmed are:

Barb Armbrust – Rowing	Olympic Silver medallist
Tim Berrett – Athletics	Olympian
Tara Berrett – Field Hockey	Olympian
Judy Diduck – Ice Hockey	Olympic Silver medallist
Cheryl Gibson – Swimming	Olympic Silver medallist
Lori-Ann Muenzer – Cycling	Olympic Gold medallist
Ross Norton – Basketball	Paralympic Double Gold medallist
Karen Percy Lowe – Alpine	Olympic Bronze medallist
Georgette Reed – Athletics	Olympian
Paul Rosen – Sledge Hockey	Paralympic Gold medallist
Kyle Shewfelt – Gymnastics	Olympic Gold medallist
Simon Whitfield – Triathlon	Olympic Gold medallist

Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy, a self-proclaimed foodie, will perform some of his greatest songs for the capacity crowd of 600 and the event will be hosted by CBC personality Mark Connelly.

Guests will also enjoy silent and live auctions; two of the most sought-after prizes available include a four-day cycling and rare wine tour of the Napa Valley hosted by Olympic Gold medallist in triathlon, Simon Whitfield, and a week-long cooking and cycling adventure in Provence, France, with Olympic Gold medallist in cycling, Lori-Ann Muenzer. In addition, Whitfield will cap the evening with a motivational presentation that best exemplifies the goal and spirit of Gold Medal Plates.

"Being a part of Gold Medal Plates all across this country is very special," says **Catriona Le May Doan**, Olympic double Gold and Bronze medallist in speed skating and featured speaker in 2006. "I have seen the passion and enthusiasm that all Canadians have toward helping our future Olympians and Paralympians reach their goals. These dinners are about fundraising, but also about the awareness of how much pride our athletes put into spending a good part of their lives training to be a part of the Olympic and Paralympic movement. We celebrated excellence in sport and in the culinary field and I believe that every guest left at the end of the evening knowing that Canada is truly a country that celebrates excellence."

Since its inception, Gold Medal Plates has donated more than \$1.5 million to support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes and has elevated the profile of Canadian cuisine and wine.

For a complete listing of competing chefs and their respective restaurants in each city visit [goldmedalplates.com](http://goldmedalplates.com).

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