



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

November 15, 2007

It's been nearly 20 years since Calgary shone while hosting the Olympic Winter Games but this month things are 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 event will be held Thursday, November 15 at the Hyatt Regency, 700 Centre Street South. The winning chef will then represent Calgary 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.

"Calgary has long been a supporter of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes," says Rick Grafton, co-chair of the Gold Medal Plates Calgary event. "Gold Medal Plates celebrates Canadian excellence in cuisine, wine and athletic achievement in an exciting evening that brings all of these elements together. I look forward to showing our athletes and chefs the spirit of Calgary."

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

Alain Chabot - Il Sogno
Shaun Desaulniers - Belgo
John Donovan - Divino
Chris Grafton - Murrieta's
Brad Horen - Catch Restaurant & Oyster Bar
Andrew Keen - Tribune
Duncan Ly - Hotel Arts
Scott Pohorelic - River Café
Paul Rogalski - Rouge
Andrew Richardson - Blink Restaurant and Supper Club

Calgary's 2006 gold medal winner Michael Lyon will be a guest judge and 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 Calgary's finest chefs. Some of the 25+ expected athletes currently confirmed are:

Simon Whitfield - Triathlon	Olympic Gold medallist
Jeff Pain – Skeleton	Olympic Silver medallist
Mellisa Hollingsworth – Skeleton	Olympic Bronze medallist
Adam van Koeverden – Canoe/Kayak	Olympic Gold and Bronze medallist
Kyle Shewfelt – Gymnastics	Olympic Gold medallist
Chandra Crawford – Cross Country Skiing	Olympic Gold medalist
Danielle Goyette – Ice Hockey medallist	Olympic Double Gold and Silver
Mike Brown – Swimming	Olympian
Susan Auch – Speed Skating	Olympic Double Silver medallist
Curtis Myden – Swimming	Olympic Triple Bronze medallist
Tom Ponting – Swimming	Olympic Double Silver and Bronze medallist
Kristin Normand – Synchronized Swimming	Olympic Bronze medallist
Roger Jackson – Rowing	Olympic Gold medallist
Earl Connor – Athletics	Paralympic Gold and Silver medallist
Diane Jones Konihowski – Athletics	Olympian
Shannon Rempel – Curling	Olympic Silver 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 Hockey Analyst and former NHL star Kelly Hrudey.

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. To enquire about corporate tables and event tickets for the Calgary event please contact Tracy Taubert at 403-247-0369 or at shindigz@shaw.ca

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