

Dom Lipa Luncheon Gathers Families Together

The annual fall Dom Lipa luncheon brings together all generations in a warm and welcoming environment. On November 4, 2018, over 360 people of all ages came to enjoy a delicious Slovenian meal prepared by chef Marija Soršak and her team. Thank you for helping to raise almost \$9,300 after expenses through ticket, bake, craft and raffle sales to help our senior's home. We were happily surprised and grateful that donors also brought cheques to the luncheon to add over \$11,000 to our proceeds. Thank you all!

Our aim is to help build and support the community around Dom Lipa and Slovenians. Coming together at the luncheon helps to increase awareness of the work we do to benefit seniors at Dom Lipa. Fundraising supplements programming activities and the environment for seniors. Families of Dom Lipa residents talk about the improvements they see in their loved ones once they come to the home: they begin eating regularly; have medications fine-tuned; become involved in activities; and create new friendships. In addition, donations are necessary to maintain the aging building. This year the telephone system was replaced and elevator repairs were needed. Currently we are adding sprinklers to all parts of the building.

During the luncheon we thanked a few donors who made substantial donations in recent years: g. Stanko and ga. Jožica Sajnovič, g. Milan Vrčkovnic; ga. Miriam Ferkul and ga. Jacqueline Small in memory of their father g. Frank Osredkar.

In addition to enjoying good food and conversation with family and friends, guests appreciated a chance to stock up on hand made crafts or baked goods for the upcoming holiday season. The Seniors Club members meet regularly during the year to create knitted and other handicrafts. This industrious group includes Žinka Pahulje, Marija Lavriša, Marija Grobin, Milka Galič, Karlina Lesar and Joži Purkart and always welcomes new members. The bake sale was a resounding success due to the many delicious baked goods donated by the employees of Dom Lipa and community members, and also due to the commendable organization by Kristy Turk and Jolanta Linde.

A bouquet of flowers was presented to ga. Cveta Arhar-Stojko in recognition of her many years of volunteering on behalf of Dom Lipa. She has been involved since 1975 in many aspects of the home including Seniors Club activities and fundraising for the walkathon.

A special moment occurred when a surprise guest took the microphone. Former mayor Hazel McCallion and long-time friend of the Slovenian community reminded us that Slovenians are valued as dedicated, hardworking citizens who have contributed greatly to Canadian society.

Thank you also to our many dedicated supporters including Moya Financial; Silver Fox Pharmacy; the Parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; Ridley Funeral Home. Special thanks to raffle prize contributors especially to Pauline Klemenčič for contributing a pair of tickets to a Raptors game and Ed and Ina Erčulj for a beautiful gift basket. Many volunteers and board members help to make this event successful: to plan, advertise, set-up, run craft and bake sale tables, cook, serve and clean-up. Thank you to all!