

# citylife

## A BIG GALA FOR LITTLE PATIENTS

POGO's annual affair remains one of the city's premier fundraisers



AMORYN ENGEL

There's nothing like a fancy gala to usher in spring (which needs all the ushering we can muster!) and the Liberty Grand once again set the stage for Odyssey, presented by the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario. Gowns in jewel tones were clearly de rigueur and guests were in the mood to do some serious fundraising on this Saturday night.

The cause couldn't be more worthy: POGO champions childhood cancer care, ensuring that young patients get the best possible treatment through their entire journey and that their families get financial support.

Cocktails were served and the noise level hit a feverish pitch as gala patrons made the rounds. The dinner program started with the amazingly entertaining Mike Chalut of Proud FM, who was the evening's MC and host of POGO's exciting live auction, featuring exclusive items such as a limited edition "drum shell package" designed by Tragically Hip drummer Johnny Fay, and a stay at a Montego Bay villa that sleeps 12, has an ocean view and is staffed with a chauffeur and private chef.

One of the highlights of the night was hearing from Kari Wise, sister to Olivia Wise, who became known for her cover of Katy Perry's "Roar" just months before she passed away of a brain tumour last November. If you haven't seen it, you really must seek it out on YouTube. "Throughout this journey, my sister never lost her lust for life or her compassion for others," Wise said. "She lived her life with grace and an invincible spirit. And it is that spirit that inspired our family to start a foundation in her name to support charities like POGO, an organization that has made a tangible difference in our lives and the lives of so many other families."

Bright lights lending support included gala co-chair Andrea FitzGerald and her husband John FitzGerald; co-chair Laila Deluce and her husband Rob Deluce; honorary chair Melinn Godfrey and her husband Rob Godfrey; honorary chair Deena Pantalone; and John Sullivan, president and CEO of Cadillac Fairview and chair of the POGO Cabinet.

A whopping \$565,000 was raised with help of sponsors including TD; Cadillac Fairview; IFDS; PCL; Norton Rose Fulbright, CBRE and the Slaughter Family Foundation.

Weekend Post

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PHOTOS BY LU CHAU



POGO gala committee member Kendra Doersan and Jen Scaec.

Tom Westin, founding partner of Grayson Matthews, and Amy Westin.

POGO keynote speakers Kaily Wise and Kari Winemaker.

POGO Honorary Chair Melinn Godfrey and Robert Godfrey.

POGO Gala co-chair Laila Deluce and Michael Deluce, executive VP and chief commercial officer of Porter Airlines.

POGO Board President Dr. Ronald Barr and Susan Knight.

Andrea FitzGerald, POGO co-chair and partner at Cassels Brock with John FitzGerald, CEO of The Intertain Group Ltd.

Lori Siddons and Dr. Gordon Cheung.

Paul Shaver, vice president, artist marketing at Universal Music Canada, and Pamela Shaver.

Anchor Anne Mroczkowski, POGO MC Mike Chalut, Patti Goldberg and Terrance Freeman.

Joe DeSario, CAO at International Financial Data Services, and his wife Pina.

Young cancer patient Sara Jean Forwell and her parents Derrick and Amy.

Eric Weisz, managing director at Effort Trust Company, and wife Leah.



Lina Ismail Jane Brass and POGO silent auction chair Leah Lambrakis-Brass.

Jenny and Randy Frisch, COO, Uberflip.

Dr. Mark Greenberg, senior advisor, policy and clinical affairs at POGO.

Justine Deluce, with Peter McLeman.

John Sullivan, chair of the POGO cabinet and president & CEO at Cadillac Fairview with his wife Shannon Langton.

Glenn Dixon, co-host Daytime Toronto, and Suzanne Rogers.

Laurel and Ari Sussman, CEO, Continental Gold.

Ian and Desiree Furlong.

Karen and Dr. David Malkin, POGO medical director.

Brittney Kuczynski and David Fawcett.

Jason Pantalone, director of land acquisitions and development at National Homes, and his wife Julia.