

MEDIA RELEASE



Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery • 25 Caroline Street North • Waterloo ON N2L 2Y5 • 519.746.1882

The Clay & Glass Gala: The Best Party in Town

WATERLOO (ONTARIO) CANADA • February 5, 2015: The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is pleased to announce that tickets are now available for The Clay & Glass Gala to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 7:30 pm. The event is the Gallery's annual fundraiser, and is the best party in town.

Excitement for the Gala is building, especially now that Lisa LaFlamme, Chief Anchor & Senior Editor of CTV National News and Bryan Larkin, Chief of the Waterloo Regional Police, have been named Honorary Gala Co-Chairs. "On March 21st, I'm expecting a packed house at the always entertaining Clay & Glass Gala," said Chief Bryan Larkin. "I hope to bring as much creativity and excitement to the role of Honorary Co-Chair as the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery brings to Waterloo Region."

Chief Larkin has arranged a unique auction item for the Gala: a Ride-Along with the Waterloo Regional Police. This item will be part of the live auction at the event and will be auctioned off by the Chief himself.

In addition to the live auction, the Gala Committee is putting together a silent auction of art and fabulous prizes for guests to bid on at the event. Contributing artists to-date include Ann Roberts, Christopher Reid Flock (the winner of the 2014 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics) and Hilde Lambrechts, whose work is featured in the current exhibition, *Exquisite Woods*. A number of upscale entertainment packages will also be available including tickets to the National Ballet or to a Toronto Maple Leafs home game.

A work donated by Laura Donefer has been selected for a sealed-bid auction. *Carnival Amulet Basket*, a blown and lamp-worked glass sculpture with glass beads, is valued at \$5,800. Donefer is one of Canada's most respected glass artists and has had her work featured in many exhibitions at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery. While guests will be able to bid on Donefer's work at the Gala, those who are unable to attend will have a chance to email their bids to the Gallery in the weeks leading up to the event. More information about this work and instructions on how to bid can be found on the Gallery's website at: www.theclayandglass.ca/gala/sealed-bid2015.

Guests at the Gala will also have the chance to get creative and participate in a glass fusing activity with Laurie Spieker of Grand River Glassworks or a bead activity with Heather Caton of Bluefrog Creations. The Tim Louis Trio will entertain guests with classic and contemporary favourites. The ever-popular Balloon Pop activity will be bigger than ever with lots of great prizes to be won.

The Gallery is pleased to announce that a number of new and returning sponsors will be supporting the Gala: Miller Thomson Lawyers and Victoria Star Motors at the Gold level; KPMG LLP and Scotiabank at Silver; and Chicopee Craftsmen at Bronze. Other Sponsors include: Coreworx Inc., Buzz Media Productions and Bill Poole & Louise Dzuryk.

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The Clay & Glass Gala will be held at the Gallery at 25 Caroline Street North in Waterloo. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased from the Gallery Shop, in person or by phone at 519-746-1882 ext. 222, or they can be purchased online at theclayandglassgala.eventbrite.ca. The proceeds from the event support the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery's operations and programming. For more details and to see images of the silent auction items, visit the Gallery website at www.theclayandglass.ca/gala

About Lisa LaFlamme: As Chief Anchor and Senior Editor of CTV NATIONAL NEWS WITH LISA LAFLAMME since 2011, Lisa LaFlamme leads the country's #1 newscast. An accomplished journalist, LaFlamme has quickly cemented her role as the face of news in Canada, winning highest honours at the 2014 Canadian Screen Awards, with recognition for both Best National News Anchor and Best National Newscast. In addition, LaFlamme won the prestigious 2014 Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTDNA) Bert Canning Award for Best Network Television Newscast, marking the third consecutive year of capturing this distinction since becoming Anchor.

About Bryan Larkin: Bryan was appointed as the 7th Chief of Police of the Waterloo Regional Police Service on August 31, 2014 by the Waterloo Regional Police Services Board. He is responsible for providing executive leadership to Waterloo Regional Police Service while fostering relationships with community stakeholders, partners and all citizens. Bryan is a strong believer of community volunteerism and is proud to support many causes including the United Way, Ontario Special Olympics, and Coast to Coast Cancer Foundation. He is pleased to have been selected as Honorary Chair for The Clay & Glass Gala this year. In 2013, Bryan was recognized for his longstanding commitment to community volunteerism and for his leadership within the OACP when he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Contact:

Katherine Ronzio

katherine@canadianclayandglass.ca

519-746-1882 ext.235

With an emphasis on supporting the work of Canadian ceramic and glass artists, the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery presents exhibitions that challenge ideas and perceptions of the definitions of art, craft and design today. The Gallery's public programs offer multiple pathways for engagement with contemporary artworks and art-making practices. The Gallery Shop is recognized on its own merits as a fine craft gallery, showing the best of Canadian ceramic and glass work. Housing a collection of historical and contemporary Canadian ceramic, glass and enamel art, the Gallery is proud to conserve and promote an active component of Canada's rich cultural heritage.

The Gallery is located at 25 Caroline Street North in Waterloo, Ontario. It is open Monday to Friday, 11 am to 6 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm, and Sundays 1 to 5 pm. **Admission is always free.**