

A Toast To The New Year!

by Wilma Simmons

Every year we look forward to the New Year's Eve dance, and this year's dance organized by TEGSA did not disappoint! The Peter and Paul Banquet Hall was elegantly decorated. The crystal chandeliers, beautifully draped cream and gold draperies and neatly covered tables and chairs made us feel like we had just walked into a fancy ballroom. We were warmly welcomed by the president, Austin Pinto and Master of Ceremonies, Trevor D'Sylva. As we were ushered to our table we couldn't help but notice the joviality that was prevalent among the 350 guests. People were smiling, laughing, chatting, and of course dancing to the excellent music by Clifford and The DreamKatchers. Pretty soon we were joining in the festivities as we mingled, caught up with old friends, and danced with our favourite partners.

Dressed in our finest, we all sipped complimentary wine and snacked on shrimp samosas, smoked salmon, chicken brochette, to name a few of the tasty appetizers. Thereafter, we were treated to a delicious dinner of Butternut Squash Soup, Roast Top Sirloin and Escalope of Salmon. This was artistically presented with Au Gratin Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables. As the waiters served us tea and coffee we enjoyed a delicious chocolate mousse cake, drizzled with Raspberry and mango sauce. To make sure that everyone's sweet tooth was catered to, there was also a midnight snack of fresh fruit, pastries and cakes.

As mentioned before, our talented and much loved Master of Ceremonies was none other than Trevor D'Sylva, the treasurer of TEGSA. At various times throughout the night, Trevor called out lucky numbers for prizes that were donated by members of the TEGSA community. Sadly, our table was not one of the lucky recipients! Trevor did an excellent job keeping us entertained throughout the evening, with his one line jokes and reflections.

Clifford and The Dreamkatchers played songs from every era and did a fabulous job catering to the crowd. Taking only short breaks, they had everyone on their feet line dancing, twisting, waltzing or jiving the old year away. As we danced and sang "Roll out the Barrel," the New Year crept upon us. Waving our Glow sticks and blowing noise makers, we counted down to midnight. We linked arms and nostalgically sang, "Auld Lang Syne." Sipping champagne, we hugged loved ones and wished each other well in 2018. At 1a.m. the band played their final song. We reluctantly left to go home. What a wonderful night it had been!

While we partied and enjoyed the festivities, we were humbled by the time, effort and dedication displayed by committee members and their spouses. Perhaps it is fitting, as we start this New Year, to thank the members of the TEGSA executive who give so much of themselves to help us celebrate, not only at dances but at other fun activities throughout the year. We truly appreciate all that you do for the community.

Happy New Year to all!