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Titz 'n Glitz, Whitehorse, Yukon

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On Saturday, October 5, 2002 the Fireside Room at the Yukon Inn took on a new persona as it prepared for the event of the year! Decorated in fall fashion, the room was transformed with beautiful yet lively décor. As 7:00 pm approached, the line up at the door lengthened and the excitement grew. When the doors finally opened, women of all ages, sizes and shapes dressed in their finest womanly costumes paraded into the room, and alas, Titz 'n Glitz was born in Whitehorse!

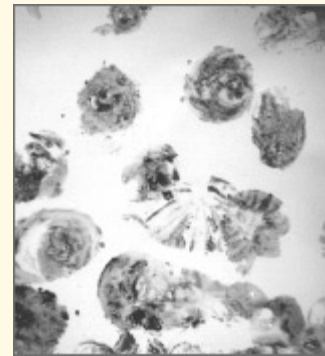
Report from the Men's Bathroom

I began sloughing off grey slime in the scalding heat of the shower, reaching down several times throughout the process to remove my pseudo skin from the drain. As my mermaid persona melted away I could finally reflect upon the evening of October 5, the inaugural TITZ 'N GLITZ.

My main involvement in the event was organizing the "press a breast" activity, to be operated by we of the "press" gang in the men's bathroom. I am deeply indebted to Meschell, Philomena and Nancy who helped out in that overheated bathroom.

To ensure some semblance of privacy we kept the door closed, which also seemed to raise the intrigue of the activity. Women were curious and although some came in only to take a look, most decided to give it a try. There was everything from the self-conscious peelers to the brazen who ripped off their tops with glee. Some women decided to stay that way for the evening - a wonderful safe expression of womanhood and camaraderie. The daubs of bright paint soon resulted in a myriad of colourful breast impressions on the canvas. It evolved into a beautiful piece, reflecting the lives and history of so many women and so many stories. I met women with one, two and no breasts in that bathroom and the spirits were high with the sense of freedom. In the end it was just a lot of fun and definitely something that most women have never indulged in before.

When I did venture out into the world beyond the men's toilet, I saw women enjoying themselves in all corners. Many I had never seen before, nibbling on snacks, milling about with their friends, checking out the silent auction items, enjoying the entertainment and generally taking in the evening.



Breast impressions in paint

Most of the women I saw had come in costume, everything from the demure to the outrageous. Truly - there is nothing quite like a costume party and when you add the T&G theme, well - some women went "all out" so to speak.

The highlight for me was watching the belly dancers. This traditional style of belly dancing, unlike the cabaret style, is done by women for the enjoyment of women. Judging by the comments I've received, they were a huge hit with everyone. I just want to know how much work it takes to get stomach muscles like that!

The evening took on a sobering note with the candlelight ceremony. The symbolism was striking as every ninth women who formed a circle around the entire room, were called up to light candles. It was indeed chance that some women who have had breast cancer were among the selected.

After all, that is what T&G was all about--celebrating those who are living with breast cancer, honouring and remembering those who have not survived. It was about recognizing the strength of women and the community that exists here and working towards building more resources and support for one another.

I think we did well in starting the ball rolling with close to \$ 10,000.00 being raise. Money raised during the event will be used for the Breast Cancer Navigator Program and towards breast health awareness. We learned a lot and next year it can only be better.

