

## TOP STORY

Friday, November 4, 2005



Breast-cancer fundraiser: Sara Whynot (right) looks over Janice McIntosh's "Titz on Ritz" outfit while stamping tickets at last night's Titz 'n' Glitz gala fundraiser at Pier 21 in Halifax. Since it began in 1995, the annual women-only costume party has raised more than \$500,000 for breast-cancer sufferers in financial need. (Photo: Mike Dembeck)

## HFX DAILY

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### Titz 'n' Glitz 10 years old

By Heather Sawers  
The Daily News

FUNDRAISING – Ten years ago, Margo Kerr invited 75 friends to a breast-cancer fundraiser in her Halifax home. They ate, drank, danced and raised \$1,500. Kerr called it Titz 'n' Glitz.

On Nov. 3, women will gather at Pier 21 for the 10th annual Titz 'n' Glitz. They will wear bras outside their clothing. They will eat, drink, dance and have a fabulous girls' night out, all while raising money for breast-cancer survivors.

"It's escalated from 75 women to 1,000 women," says Titz 'n' Glitz chairwoman Christina Fisher. "It's a roller-coaster evening of emotion."

The event will include a posh silent auction, with items ranging from haircuts and pedicures to artwork and diamond jewellery. A raffle will offer theatre tickets, spa treatments, \$1,000 cash, and more.

Guests are encouraged to dress in fun, creative outfits for a chance to win a coveted Udder Award. With categories such as Breast Friends, Trailer Park Girls, and Holiday Hooters, the costumes are sure to be titillating.

Norene Smiley has attended six Titz 'n' Glitz events and says her favourite part of the gala is getting all dressed up.

"I always go with a big group of friends, and we dress in the same kind of costume," Smiley says. "We've dressed up as Heidi, Egyptians, Viking women, and fairy godmothers. It's an awful lot of fun."

Ladies can also go into a private area to paint their breast and press it on a canvas. At the end of the evening, the breast-printed canvas is auctioned off. Fisher says the abstract work of art always goes for several thousand dollars. Attendees can also make a print of their breast to take home as a souvenir. The Press-a-Breast area will actually be the men's washroom, since Titz 'n' Glitz has a strict no-boys-allowed policy.

"Girls are much freer and open when men aren't around," Fisher explains. "Titz 'n' Glitz started out with women, and it's run by women. We certainly don't exclude men in terms of the funding, but this is meant to be a girls' night out."

Titz 'n' Glitz has raised more than \$500,000 in its history. Unlike most cancer fundraisers, not a single penny goes toward research. Everything goes to Halifax on the Front Line, which assists those diagnosed with breast cancer in need of short-time financial assistance. The funding, accessible through Nova Scotia's nine district health authorities, helps patients cover child care, and pay for drugs not covered by insurance or MSI.

Titz 'n' Glitz began in Halifax, but people in cities across Canada fell in love with the sassy name and women-only concept and started hosting their own events. Fisher says all sorts of women will be attending the gala: those who have beaten breast cancer, those who are battling it, and those who simply want to support the survivors while having a good time.

"There's hardly anyone anymore who doesn't know someone with breast cancer," says Smiley.

"I like the feeling of community. Women of all ages are supporting the cause and having a lot of fun."

Tickets are \$50, cash only. They will be on sale at C100 (2900 Agricola St.) today from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.; remaining tickets will be sold tomorrow between 9 a.m. and noon.