

Canadian Slovak Professional and Business Association had their 45th Annual Scholarship Ball on Saturday, November the 6th 2009 in the congress center Le Crystal, on 5285 Henri Bourassa Blvd. in St. Laurent. This Ball was attended by 210 with honored guest the Slovak ambassador in Canada Judr. Milan Kollár with his wife. This annual ball is a celebration with a nice supper, music and dancing and is a favorite climax of the Slovak Montreal social calendar.

The evening started with the festive arrival and formal introduction of the eleven students who were nominated this year for a scholarship award totaling \$11,800. The total number of students who have received scholarships to date now stands at 381, and the total amount of money awarded at \$228,600.

Two young emcees, Miss Nicole Seben and Mr. Mik Arendáš opened the formal scholarship ceremony. They introduced every recipient to all the guests in Slovak, English and in French. Dr Brody with Ms Elaine Russel gave special thanks to Mr. Steven Simkovits for many years of financing the highest scholarship award.

Then the following scholarships and awards were given out:

1. the \$900 Canadian Slovak Business and Professional Association award was granted to Miss Courtney Brody, Miss Liliane Hudec, Miss Olivia Vandzura, Mr. David Kozma and Mr. Christopher Noga, presented by the chairperson of the Ball Ms. Judy Mrenice;
2. the \$1,000 Slovak League in Montreal award was granted to student from Dawson College and an active member of many Slovak cultural groups Miss Terezia Buksar, presented by Mrs. Marta Fuska;
3. the \$1,000 Kocisko family award was granted to an outstanding student from André Grasset College Mr. Michal Šeben, presented by Mr. Joseph Kocisko;

4. the \$1,100 La Maison Slovaque award was granted to an outstanding student from Dawson College Miss Laura Michalovič, presented by the honorable Mme. Eva Petras;
5. the \$1,000 John Mrenice (in memoriam) award was granted to the best student in a business program, from Vanier College, Mr. Filip Sjarov, presented by a daughter of the deceased, Ms. Janet Mrenice;
6. the \$1,100 Slovak Government award was granted to the best student from Concordia University Miss Brenda Raftlova, presented by the ambassador of the Slovak Republik in Canada Judr. Milan Kollár;
7. the \$1,200 Velan family award was granted to the overall best student, Miss Emília Michalovič from John Abbott College, presented by Mr. Karel Velan and Mr. Tom Velan.
8. the \$1,000 special prize for his heroic deed of saving a human life was awarded to Mr. Alex Hrycyk by Ms. Elaine Russel and Mr. Steven Simkovits.

After a short intermission, the chairperson of the Ball Ms. Judy Mrenice thanked all the organizers of the Ball and the conveners who contributed the most to the overall success of the ball – Mrs. Danielle Arendas, Mrs. Bea Janura, Mrs. Jamie Jasko, the honorable Mme. Eva Petras, Mrs. Rene Vandzura and Mrs. Sona Brody, and presented each with a token of appreciation. After that she also thanked all those who contributed to the scholarship fund, and to all those who put an ad into the program booklet, both of which help us to maintain the high quality and a reasonably low ticket price. Miss Mrenice then expressed her special thanks to Dr Josef Brody for his years of services to the Association.

The music at the dance continued until two o'clock in the morning, at which time we all went home in a very good mood, and with farewells and "see you again" next year at the 46th Annual Scholarship Ball. This next Ball will take place the first Saturday in November, *i.e.*, the 5th of November 2011 in the same place, centre Le Crystal. We suggest that students interested in applying for scholarships this year regularly check the www.slovakmontreal.com (CSPBA section) site, where forms and details for new applications will be posted (towards the end of August).