



Facts about the Ball

- The Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball was co-founded by David Wallace and then Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem in 1996, while having tea. That year, 300 guests attended the first Ball. Many notable guests have attended the Ball, including former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Rt. Hon. Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, General Rick Hillier and too many Ambassadors and Senators to name.
- Now in its 12th year, the Ball will welcome 427 guests and will honor Barbara Ann Scott's 60th anniversary since winning Canada's first gold medal in figure skating in 1948's St Moritz (Switzerland) Olympics.
- This year, there will be 15 debutantes and 15 cavaliers performing two traditional Austrian dances: La Polonaise and the Landler. Debutantes and cavaliers practice for months under the direction of Melissa Krulick and Dan Labelle from Fred Astaire Dance Studios.
- The Ball contributes all profits to Champions for Children Foundation and Thirteen Strings Orchestra. Since its inception, the Ball has contributed over \$500,000 to both organizations.
- The Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball is one of only five officially sanctioned Viennese balls outside of Austria. It is organized by a volunteer committee under the patronage of the Austrian Ambassador. Current Ambassador Otto Ditz will be celebrating his fifth Viennese Winter Ball in 2008.