



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, Barbara Ann Scott and an impressive number of Ambassadors, Senators and members of Parliament.
- Now in its 13th year, the Ball will welcome 350 guests and will feast on a menu prepared by Westin Executive Chef Nelson Borges.
- For the first time, musicians from the acclaimed Toronto Grand Salon Orchestra will be performing for guests. Conductor and trumpet virtuoso, Robert Herriot, will also make his first appearance at the Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball.
- Musical entertainment this year also includes a performance by Lidia Baich considered one of the most extraordinary young violinists of the international concert scene today. She will be accompanied by virtuoso pianist Matthias Fletzberger of Austria who made a return to classical music after a 17-year absence last Fall.
- Again this year, 16 debutantes and 16 cavaliers will be performing two traditional Austrian dances: La Polonaise and Voices of Spring. Debutantes and cavaliers practice for months under the direction of Melissa Krulick and Dan Labelle from Fred Astaire Dance Studios.
- For 2009, the Ball will contribute profits to Champions for Children Foundation. Since its inception, the Ball has contributed over \$550,000 to charities.
- The Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball is one of only five internationally sanctioned by the government of Austria. It is organized by a volunteer committee. Austria's newest ambassador to Canada, Mag. Werner Brandstetter, is honorary patron of the event.