Gala co-chair Christie King and Holt's general manager Gary Balaski at the Holt Renfrew fashion gala to benefit Arts Umbrella.

Gala-goers (l-r) Betty Chong, Evelyn Sum, Alice Lam and Ivy Chong at the World Red Cross celebrity soiree in Yaletown.

B.C. Lions free safety Tad Crawford was flanked by (l-r) Lindsay Thom and gala co-chairs Linda Low and Anita Leung at the World Red Cross celebrity soiree.

An expectant Tamara Taggart of CTV, here with husband and 54-40 musician Dave Genn, emceed the 12th annual Big Sisters Spring Lunch.

Big Sisters executive director Shannon Newman-Bennett (left) and director of operations Lisa Cloutier tout Big Sisters and Study Buddy tutors.

Realtor Alexis Palkowski and Grape Juice co-chairs Sarah McNeill and Cheryl Nakamoto tasted wine at the Big Sisters benefit at the Opus Hotel.

Fred Lee's *Urban Landscape*

THE DEVASTATING CYCLONE in Myanmar this week and the widespread flooding in New Brunswick have again drawn attention to the efforts of the Red Cross. The Lower Mainland office marked World Red Cross Day with its inaugural World Red Cross celebrity soiree. Gala-goers walked down the red carpet and enjoyed a memorable evening with some of the city's top celebs. Attendees checked out the fabulous live and silent auction and sampled the culinary canapés and fine wine courtesy of event sponsor Blue Water Café. The event, held in the restaurant's glamourous and oh-so-exclusive floor to ceiling wine room, attracted stars from television, film and sports, including Ty Olsson (*Men in Trees*), Ryan Robins (*The Guard*), Alisen Down (from the upcoming feature *The Day the Earth Stood Still* with Keanu Reeves and Cathy Bates), Valerie Tian (*Juno*); Emmanuel Sandhu (Olympic figure skater), Ben Ayres (*jPod*), Tad Crawford (B.C. Lions) and Mike Killeen (CTV) who emceed the wine and food grazing.

Creamy creme de la creme! Holt Renfrew's fundraising gala raised a stylish $500,000 for Arts Umbrella, Canada's centre for arts education for young people ages 2 to 19. A thousand fashionistas descended on the designer store for the fabulous fashion fete. The store's atrium was transformed into a moving catwalk, featuring the Fall 2008 Diane von Furstenberg collection. Chaired by Christie King and Jamie Pitblado, the wall-to-wall, well-dressed, well-to-do crowd exchanged air kisses, sipped on wine (courtesy of Red Rooster Winery) and sampled innovative canapés compliments of Opus Hotel, while enjoying sneak-preview performances of the upcoming show Corteo from Cirque du Soleil. Two-hundred-and-fifty fashion die-hards paid $1000 a ticket to dine with the legendary designer and cutter prior to the show. Celebs spotted at the fashion extravaganza included actor Steven Seagal, musician k-os, supermodel Petra Nemkova, actor Dave Cubitt, *Entertainment Tonight Canada's* Erin Cebula and Canucks Markus Naslund, Willie Mitchell and Trevor Linden.

Oenophiles—people who appreciate wine—gathered at Yaletown's Opus Hotel for the second annual Grape Juice wine auction benefiting Big Sisters of B.C. Lower Mainland. Fronted by gala chairs Sarah McNeill and Cheryl Nakamoto, several hundred grape enthusiasts mixed and mingled, sipped and sampled everything-wine; from the finest B.C. wines to renowned international vintners. Organizers raised $28,000 from the wine wingding to support Big and Little Sister matches. Earlier in the week, the ladies noshed at the 12th Annual Big Sisters Spring Lunch presented by Scotiabank. The event, emceed by CTV's Tamara Taggart, featured a three-course repast and fundraiser celebrating friendship and mentorship. A cool $37,000 was raised from the lunch luau to assist the organization in uniting some of the 120 girls waiting to be matched with a Big Sister or Study Buddy tutor.

Have an event, opening or just plain gossip you'd like to share or something cool, hot or trendy you'd like to show off? Email me at yvrflee@hotmail.com Fred's weekly funcast 'Stepping Out' can be heard every Monday morning on CBC Radio One's The Early Edition AM690.

Blue Water Café's Shelley McArthur feted musician and Olympian Emmanuel Sandhu at the Red Cross get-together in Yaletown.

Entertainment Tonight Canada's Erin Cebula was in heaven surrounded by fabulous fashion and hunky men at the Holt Renfrew Arts Umbrella benefit.