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The Health Foundation and the Greek Community of Yorkton – Melville will present a Gala Evening in Greece as the 15th annual Gala Night

Yorkton July 21 – The 15th annual Gala of The Health Foundation will take place on Saturday, October 23 at St. Mary’s Cultural Centre in Yorkton. This year’s theme is “A Gala Evening in Greece”.

“We are very pleased to be partnering with the Greek community for our 15th Annual Gala Night. Our very first Gala was also a Gala Night in Greece, so this anniversary has a special significance for us,” said Diane Rusnak, Chair of the Gala Committee.

“Our very first Gala was a tremendous event, and its success was why we decided to continue with Gala and make it an annual event. This year Gala Night will feature an authentic Greek menu, dancers, fabulous decorations and an authentic Greek menu. As well, Mitch Hipsley is back to take complementary portraits of couples in our special studio, Sherring Gold Jewellers have once again donated a fabulous piece of jewellery for our auction, Bev Bielinski of All about Flowers is providing our table centrepieces, many businesses are donating to our Silent Auction, and of course the band Carnival will be back, to help our guests dance the night away,” continued Mrs. Rusnak.

“A Greek evening is about the food, the music and the people,” said John Stamatinos, Treasurer of the Yorkton - Melville Greek Community. “The menu will feature an authentic Greek menu that you could order in a restaurant in Athens. Our goal is to make the evening as authentic as possible. Some of the menu items will be dishes people haven’t had, that aren’t usually on menus in Greek restaurants. But they are all dishes that we know our guests will love,” said Mr. Stamatinos.

“We are pleased to have Morris Industries returning as our Presenting Sponsor. Morris Industries has been very supportive of our Gala Night, and we appreciate their continuing support,” said Diane Rusnak, Chair of the Gala Committee.

“The Greek theme will provide for a great menu and a different style of decorations than we usually have. We think our guests will be very happy with the ambiance the committee will create for Gala night,” continued Mrs. Rusnak.

“Of course the menu will once again be spectacular. We have roughed out a menu and will be conducting taste tests over the summer to make sure everything is perfect. A number of the Greek restaurant owners are helping to organize Gala this year, so you know the menu will be perfect,” said Mrs. Rusnak.

“Gala will be held on a Saturday; we switched to Saturday a few years ago and found it makes it easier for our guests to attend,” continued Mrs. Rusnak. It also means we can start a few things earlier, like the portraits that Mitch Hipsley of Photography by Mitch takes of each guest or couple who attends, without charge. That means the evening itself is free for enjoying cocktails, a wonderful meal and a great dance band.”

For our guests enjoyment we are bringing in a dance troupe of Greek youth from Regina to entertain and demonstrate some of the traditional Greek dances. It is possible that guests may find themselves on the dance floor participating in a demonstration.

Over the years, the gala events have purchased more than \$300,000 of important medical equipment for the region’s healthcare facilities. This year the proceeds will be used to purchase surgical equipment needed for the operating rooms in the Regional Health Centre in Yorkton.

“The proceeds that are raised from the Gala will allow the purchase of this urgently needed medical equipment that otherwise would not be purchased and available to improve patient healthcare. Our local business community generously supports the Gala through sponsorship and the donation of items for the silent auction, which is a vital element in raising the funds to buy the medical equipment”, said Mrs. Rusnak.

We know this year’s partnership with the Greek community will create a heightened interest in attending Gala, but we are going to have to limit seating to 350 people. Gala evening has sold out in past years and we need to limit the guests to properly plan for the evening. We suggest that those planning to attend should get their table organized and order their tickets now. Ticket order forms are available in person from The Health Foundation office at 41 Betts Avenue in Yorkton. Please call 786-0506 - or order from The Health Foundation website: www.thehealthfoundation.ca

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For further information, please contact Ross Fisher, Executive Director, at 786-0507

Pictures from this news conference will be available Thursday, July 22 from The Health Foundations website: www.thehealthfoundation.ca

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