

Tidbits from PDAC Convention 2010

Brian Sylvester

Eleven-thousand beer bottles.

That's how many bottles workers collected at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel after Monday night festivities during the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto.

Irene Butterworth, senior convention and catering manager at the hotel, suspected there were even more bottles following the party in the Canadian Room on Tuesday night but did not have an immediate number available.

She noted that the hotel had made its largest ever drink order just before the convention.

People at the PDAC convention work hard but also play hard. Historically, prospectors would come to Toronto after a winter of prospecting to report their findings to anxious investors, to find more grubstaking backers, and to wait until the end of spring breakup before returning to work their claims.

After long winter months of isolation and without creature comforts, they were also ready to paint the town red.

Times have changed, of course, but the tradition of doing business during the day and partying the night away lingers on.

Here are some more convention tidbits:

- Total attendance at the convention was 21,660. This was a record, exceeding the existing record of 20,168 in 2008.
- 1,000 companies were represented in either the Trade Show or the Investors Exchange.
- Some 200 media were registered for the convention.
- Toronto Mayor David Miller was on hand to welcome delegates to the convention and to Toronto at the Mineral Outlook luncheon on Monday.
- Sponsors supported the convention to the tune of over \$1 million.
- \$16,000 worth of food was consumed in about 16 minutes during the Welcome Reception in the Canadian Room at the Fairmont Royal York on Sunday night. That's \$1,000 per minute!
- 822 guests were in attendance to laud the seven recipients of this year's PDAC awards winners on Monday.
- 630 attended this year's Red Hot Gala on Wednesday.
- A combined total of more than 630 bottles of wine was consumed during the Awards and Gala nights.
- The Olympic medals photo booth and silent auction during the gala raised about \$18,000 for the PDAC's Mining Matters program.

- 63, 40-inch high candelabras were rented for the gala.
- The National Film Board of Canada was filming different parts of the convention for a documentary film about the history of mining and the PDAC's influence on the sector.
- Members of the PDAC staff meet for brunch on the 19th floor of the Fairmont Royal York on Thursday to celebrate a job well done.