

Good Evening All;

On behalf of the Edmonton Paddling Centres Association let me thank everyone who helped to make our first Paul Kane 1847 Christmas (benefit) Dinner such a smashing success. When Co-Chair Karina and I took this project on we thought we might have a nice supper for a few dozen friends in the Clerk's Quarters and try to make a few hundred dollars for the paddling centre and learn something about such projects. We've learned a pile, we've learned how generous paddlers can be, and we vastly exceeded our expectations in terms of participation and funds earned. We had 78 paying participants plus four musicians and two bartenders, who ate a whack of good food, listened to some great music, sang, and danced. My initial calculations show we've raised over \$2500 for the EPCA and gear for our Rundle Park Paddling Centre. Funds were earned about equally between the meal and drinks, and the Silent Auction.

This week the EPCA will meet and start the process for a DIP grant application, apply some of the money in the bank... and begin to dream about new boats for the Rundle Park Paddling Centre... maybe some paddle boards... maybe some sit-upon kayaks. We'll see!

I have posted my best pictures from the evening at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lundmer/PaulKane1847ChristmasDinnerForEPCA#>

Enjoy! And if you have a photo or four that you think should join this collection... send them along and I'll add them.

If you have any thoughts about how to make this event better, bigger or more successful... please pass them along. I'll add all suggestions to our records for future planning. We will do this again... but not for three or four years... or at least I won't be doing this again sooner! I am thinking about another, different event for next season... If you'd like to help... do drop me a note!

Again... a very BIG thanks to everyone who participated! :-)

Mark

& all the EPCA directors

PS

Please pass this note onto your crew, if you're my contact for a group!

ML

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