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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Swanson's Jewellers donates exquisite \$1,700 diamond pendant as raffle prize to third annual Mayor's Gala**

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Swanson's Jewellers has donated a white gold pendant featuring a round, brilliant-cut Canadian solitaire diamond to the third annual Mayor's Gala.

The Gala, which raises funds to support the work of the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation, will be held Friday, January 13, 7:30 to 11 p.m. in the Stratford Festival Theatre Lobby.

"The Mayor's Gala already enjoys incredible support from the entire community," says Gala Chair Leanne Perreault. "Businesses offer generous sponsorships, restaurants and food producers donate all the food and wine, local manufacturers and retailers donate amazing gifts to the silent auction, and our entertainers and organizers give countless hours of their time."

"This year the Gala's theme is 'fire and ice,' and when we decided to add a raffle to the program, we naturally thought of diamonds and approached Swanson's for a prize. They've been extraordinarily generous, donating the entire cost of a beautiful pendant one lucky winner will take away the night of the Gala," adds Ms. Perreault.

In addition to the raffle, the Gala features a high-quality silent auction, fine wines and hors d'oeuvres and entertainment from the Latin-inspired musical quartet *El Sabor*, featuring Alfredo Caxaj and Michael Wood. Stratford Shakespeare Festival artists Marion Adler and Scott Wentworth will emcee, while Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson hosts.

Like sister organizations across the country, the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation raises and administers endowed funds for the purpose of generating income, which is then returned to the community through grants to local charities. The Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation holds over \$1 million in community endowments and has granted over \$160,000 to local charities since 2004.

The Gala's presenting sponsor is RBC, who made a major gift of \$10,000 to the event in mid-November. Benefactor-level sponsors are Culliton Brothers Limited, Ideal Supply, Erie Meat Products Ltd., and Toronto-based legal firm Aird & Berlis LLP.

Gala tickets (\$90) have been on sale for several weeks and are already half sold – many as Christmas gifts to lucky recipients. They are available online at [spccf.ca](http://spccf.ca), or by calling Ticket-e-boo at 519-957-2640.

Raffle tickets for the diamond pendant will be available at the gala for \$20 each or 3 for \$50.

- 30 -

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