Retro Diva fashion show helps Women In Need Society

It was Charlie's Angels complete with pistol pointing poses and the signature hair flip, Marilyn Monroe, Boy George, a Bond girl and even Prince. It was all about Divas and it met every benchmark for a fabulous evening. It…was the Retro Diva Fashion Show presented by Vintage and Vogue in support of the South Okanagan Women in Need Society.

With tears of laughter and cheers bouncing from our seats, us girls reminisced about our youth wearing jumpsuits, dancing under disco balls and "Summer Nights". Vintage and Vogue is known for its highly stylized shows that celebrate the art of fashion but Retro Diva took on a whole new perspective. Under the direction of Michelle Younie, it was funky and energetic as models took on the persona of the music, fashions and era they represented. Michelle and her sister Jessica joined a cast of 16 models and, following in their mom Kerry's footsteps, created the extravaganza that was Retro Diva.

The purpose of the fundraiser was to set the stage for SOWINS' up coming Women Front and Center Gala which will have a retro theme this year.

Maimie DeSilva, a director on the board of SOWINS, said "The event raised the funds we (SOWINS) were looking for and gave us the exposure for our upcoming annual event, the Women Front and Centre Gala which is a dinner and dance that celebrates womens' achievements through an award ceremony. This year, the awards committee chose a retro theme for the event so it seemed appropriate to partner with Vintage and Vogue. Retro Diva was a fabulous success and we were so pleased to host and work with Vintage and Vogue."

As usual, Kerry and her family are already planning their next venture so stay tuned and if I can pass along one piece of advice it would be to get your tickets early!

The Vintage and Vogue shows always sell out and you don't want to be disappointed.

Dallas Worthington, manager of the Barking Parrott, summed it up well when he said, "What a great way to spend a Thursday night in January here in Penticton!"

Clear Images Photography

From left, Amberlee Erdmann, Amy Wall, Kaley Mack and Diane Fox model at the Retro Diva Fashion Show.

A Fresh Perspective for 2012

Decorations are tucked away for another year, pledges and promises are made after a toast of champagne and sealed with a kiss, and 2012 is a clean slate. We spend so much energy building up to the onslaught and celebration of the holiday season. We ring in the New Year and then start all over again.

As I arrived home last night to a much subdued living room, I recognized the opportunity to reshape the space with a new and fresh perspective. It seems to me that same scenario is true for our community, too. Businesses and consumers alike bustle their way through the season attempting to eek out the best opportunity for everyone, families schedule and entertain until the appetizers become boring and we yearn for meat loaf, and we all build up to count down! Then January arrives and it's almost like taking a new breath. We stop long enough to really enjoy the coffee and think through the next few hours, days or weeks. The list always continues, but ringing in a new year somehow gives us extra permission, perceived or otherwise, to reshape our place and our space.

We are truly blessed to live in a community that thrives on its uniqueness and vibrancy. We've heard from many downtown businesses that enjoyed one of the best Christmas shopping seasons ever, in spite of the ever-publicized economic situation. As a community, we all work towards shaping this place, each in our own way, whether we're divided by an age demographic or priority beliefs. As a community, we are a team and it's the participation and involvement of each member that supports the dream. And as a community, we have opportunity to build on a foundation of experience, talent and leadership creating the history of choice. We ring in another year and so, breathe new life into 2012, with great anticipation of experiences yet to come, lists yet to be written and an opportunity to build with a fresh perspective.

So what's left…maybe it's to resolve to be the best we can be; the "We can do better" philosophy. Whether that's at work or home, in our community participation or church involvement, building for better schools or striving for a vibrant arts community, working harder or working smarter…it's all a choice. I've decided to choose to make 2012 the best example of what's possible. In spite of economy or politics, we all have opportunity to affect the world around us through our voices and our involvement. Instead of closed door policies, let's choose to get involved and build together. Instead of holding firm to the past, let's choose to welcome new ideas, explore new opportunities and create new partnerships. And finally, instead of blame and pessimism, let's work at understanding differences and resolve to look forward, with great anticipation, to a year yet to be written.

—Barb Haynes