



DENNIS CLARK / GETTY IMAGES

Lord Piers Wedgwood is related to Charles Darwin. Did you know that? Now you do.

The evolutionary tale of Lord Wedgwood's family tree

HE'S NO CROCK POT



SHINAN GOVANI
Scene

It's the survival of the ceramics!

So it was when **Lord Piers Wedgwood**, the might-as-well-be Lord of Crockery — who titters just like a Lord, and looks like Harry Potter's second-great-uncle — mentioned in Toronto this week that he and his family have mingled blood more than once with those slacker Darwins.

"Us Darwins and Wedgwoods intermarried a few times," he told a small group that gathered for a lunch-hour soiree in the home of the British consul general on Dunvegan Road. "I always say it explains why we Darwins and Wedgwoods have such long arms."

At this point, some chuckled, while the Lord chuckled the most.

After the formal shenanigans were done, I cornered the man who goes by Piers. Explain to me again, I said, this connection between the First Family of Heirloom China and **Charles Darwin**, the giver of the theory of evolution. He gladly obliged, swilling his white wine

as generations of Brits danced before us. Long story short: old Charles was a product of a Wedgwood and a Darwin, although there were several other instances of inter-pooling. He tried to explain it to me, but to be honest, it was all as complex as the intricate methods used to produce Wedgwood china. And, goodness, one might have an easier time following the plot lines of TV's *Lost*!

One interesting side note: it was Wedgwood money, presumably, that helped fund Charles' vocation as a natural historian, which led to the theory of evolution! Try and remember that next time you're digging into a fine soup bowl, will ya?

Charm just oozed out of the visiting Brit, I should tell you. A flag-waver he is for what is to him a family legacy. He was here in Canada to help wave that flag some more on the occasion of Wedgwood's 250th anniversary — certainly older than Canada! — and he told us that **Queen Charlotte** "made," so to speak, the original potter-genius, **Joseph Wedgwood**, when she began using his tea set in 1765. The rest was a royal and far-flung history.

In modern terms, Queen Charlotte was to Joseph Wedgwood what **Elizabeth Hurley** was, perhaps, to The House of Versace. (You remember that famous safety dress of Liz's, don't you?)

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SCENE! HEARD!

■ The not-ugly **Bradley Cooper** — star of *Wedding Crashers*, He's *Just Not That Into You* and the all-new *The Hangover* — lunched the other day inside *Twenty Two* in the Windsor Arms Hotel.

■ Expect **Greta Constantine** designers **Kirk Pickersgill** and **Stephen Wong** at tonight's splashy Audi dealership party — in tow with a model wearing a vest from their *Seat Belt* collection.



MEANWHILE, I SEE, I HEAR:

That the word around town is that last week's *Butterfly Ball* is now, apparently, the new *Innovator's Ball* which was the new *Power Ball* which promises, at last, this year to be the a new-old *Power Ball*.

Held last week — and who can keep up with the snakes-and-ladder-y of society funders? — the *Butterfly* went off unhitchingly, and drew a smart, younger-set crowd. Leading the charge, and upping the fashion stakes, was co-chair **Victoria Webster**, who dazzled in *Lanvin*, which itself gave off the hues of something leaving the chrysalis. The *Four Seasons* gala, held to benefit *BOOST* (for Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention) was additionally co-chaired by arty beauty **Jane Halverson Vendittelli**.

The night featured a whole whack of social gotta-gets, who even — get this! — actually get down. The DJ, **Michael Smith**, helped. In from Los Angeles, he's known for setting the groove at parties hosted by *Vanity Fair*, and does the music for all the trendy **André Balazs** hotel properties.

Out and about, we noticed, on this night was darling **Cleophee Eaton**, who is booked, we see, for another fundraiser tonight — the one she's co-chairing! The annual arty affair known as *Power Ball*! And so goes on — and on — the fundraiser choo-choo.

Shinan Govani, National Post