

## WHAT'S HAPPENING: A meeting of two Richmond mayors

Sunday, Oct 07, 2007 - 12:03 AM

The two Richmond mayors sat on a sofa, talking quietly. Our mayor wore his trademark cowboy boots. The mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames wore his 18-carat gold chain of office.

"How do we get one of these [the chain of office] for you?" Pettus LeCompte jokingly asked Mayor L. Douglas Wilder. "I've been asking for one," Wilder replied.

The mayors, Wilder and Councillor Marc Cranfield-Adams from the U.K., got reacquainted Sept. 27 at the home of Ellen and Pettus LeCompte. The mayoral friendship began in May when Cranfield-Adams spoke at the opening ceremony of Richmond Region 2007's 400th-anniversary celebration.

The LeComptes hosted a reception at their Westover Road home to benefit the two charities of which Cranfield-Adams is a patron. About 50 guests each paid \$25 to go toward Stepping On Out, which helps young adults with learning disabilities develop business skills, and Diabetes UK (Richmond and Twickenham Voluntary Group).

Cranfield-Adams is diabetic, and several guests from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation attended, including executive Director Nancy Castrina and board members Eva Clarke, Lauri Savage, Becky Jessee and Jayne Shearer.

Upper Mattaponi Chief Ken Adams, Maymont Executive Director Norman Burns, St. John's Church Rector Bruce Gray and his wife, Katherine, and David Ryder, chairman of Gay Pride Virginia, were among the guests who had met Cranfield-Adams in May.

-- Susan Boisseau