

2009 BC Restaurant Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

For Immediate Release

Vancouver, February 9, 2009 On March 30, 2009, 800 members of British Columbia's culinary scene will gather in the new Vancouver Convention Centre West, to celebrate their finest at the 5th annual [BC Restaurant Hall of Fame](#) induction gala.

"Over the last five years we have seen the most excellent of BC's hospitality industry leaders inducted into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame. Each year, I have the honour of congratulating the new inductees; those conversations confirm the respect of the induction, the passion for the industry, and the pride in our chosen profession," said Bing Smith, Founder and Past Chair of the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame."

Inductees in the four categories (Active, Industry, Pioneer and Friend of the Industry) are:

Active Restaurateur Category

Celebrating exceptional restaurateurs currently active in the BC restaurant industry.

David Aisenstat – [The Keg Steakhouse & Bar](#), [The Shore Club Vancouver](#), Ki, [Hy's Whistler](#)

Geoffrey Howes– [The Salmon House & Coho Lounge](#), [Aqua Riva](#), [Horizons Restaurant](#)

Pioneer Category

Pioneers of the BC restaurant industry either retired or deceased.

George Frankel– [Bridges Restaurant](#), Founding Partner

Bruno Patassini– [Westin Bayshore, Vancouver](#) Catering Manager

Primo Villanueva– Primo's Mexican Grill, Founder

Friend of the Industry Category

An individual who has provided exceptional support to the restaurant industry – either a supplier, restaurant reporter, or politician who has consistently supported BC's restaurant industry.

Sid Cross– Co-Founder– [The Chef's Table Society of BC](#); [Western Living Magazine Contributing Editor](#)

Jamie Maw– [Vancouver Magazine](#) Founder; Co-Founder– [The Chef's Table Society of BC](#)

Industry Award

Individual–retired, deceased or active– who is or has been a chef, server, manager, bartender and who has demonstrated exceptional professionalism working in the restaurant industry. These individuals are recognized for making their restaurant a special experience for customers.

Back of House

Scott Jaeger– [The Pear Tree Restaurant](#)

Thomas Haas– [Thomas Haas](#)

Front of House

Darren Gates– [Joe Fortes Seafood & Chop House](#), [GoldFish Pacific Kitchen](#)

Jean Turcotte– [The Cannery Seafood Restaurant](#)

Special Lifetime Achievement Award – Duncan Holmes, Journalist

"Now in its 5th year, the inductees into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame continue to be impressive. The 12 individuals being inducted in 2009 once again represent the very best of those who have made a significant difference to the BC Restaurant industry." says John Harper, Chair of the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association

Bing Smith goes on to say: "The 70 inductees over the last five years represent a very small percentage of our foremost culinary lights. We are all proud to be part of the group that have lead the thriving BC Restaurant Industry to where it is today, and are eager to open our restaurant, hotel and hospitality doors to the world in 2010"

The Hall of Fame inductees will be honoured on March 30, 2009 at an extraordinary event featuring a Champagne reception, multi course dinner and dessert reception prepared by BCRHOF nominee chef Blair Rasmussen and paired with the best of BC wines. Who better to christen the brand new Vancouver Convention Centre West than 800 of BC's finest hospitality leaders!

Tickets for the March 30, 2009 gala (\$200) are now available for purchase [online](#) or by phone: 604-628-9547 www.bcrfa.com

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Background Information

About the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame

Together, Bing Smith and Don Monsour, Executive Directors of [BCRFA](#) at the time, took their vision from conception to reality. The BC Restaurant Hall of Fame was conceived in 2004 and the first groups of inductees were honoured in March of 2005. This is the first, and remains the only, Restaurant Hall of Fame in Canada. The BC Restaurant Hall of Fame was established to recognize the individuals in the restaurant industry who have made significant contributions to the BC restaurant scene; making it the finest in Canada.

Our active inductees are designing our future. Our friends of the industry assist us in making our present time a success and supporting us to our future successes. The incredible changes in the BC dining scene were made possible by the vision, creativity and unbelievable hard work of the individuals recognized through induction into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame.

The inaugural group of sixteen inductees was led by Erwin Doebeli and Umberto Menghi and included legends such as Nat Bailey, Hy Aisenstat, George Tidball, Bruno Marti and Harry McWatters. In 2008 some of the inductees that joined this illustrious group included David Hawksworth, Anthony Gismondi, and a special lifetime achievement award to the late James Barber

More:

All past and present BCRHOF Inductees at A Glance 2005 – 2009

Active Restaurateur Category

Celebrating exceptional restaurateurs currently active in the BC restaurant industry.

- Bud Kanke — Joe Fortes (2006)
- David Aisenstat — The Keg, The Shore Club, Ki, Hy's Whistler (2009)
- Erwin Doebeli — The William Tell (2005)
- Geoffrey Howes — Salmon House / Aqua Riva / Horizons (2009)
- Jack Evrensel — TopTable Group (2007)
- John Bishop — Bishop's (2006)
- Michel Jacob — Le Crocodile (2008)
- Sinclair Philip — Sooke Harbour House (2008)
- The Fuller family — Bus / Stan / Jeff / Stewart (2007)
- Umberto Menghi — Umberto's (2005)
- Vikram Vij — Vij's & Rangoli (2008)

Pioneer Category

Pioneers of the BC restaurant industry either retired or deceased.

- Bert Love — Love's Café (2008)
- Bruno Patassini — Westin Bayshore, Vancouver Catering Manager (2009)
- Chick Chamberlain — Tomahawk BBQ (2006)
- Diamond Almas — Seven Seas (2008)
- Frank & Eva Iaci — Iaci's (2005)
- Frank Baker — The Attic (2005)
- George Frankel — Bridges Restaurant (2009)
- George Tidball — Keg Restaurants (2005)
- Glenn Anderson — Kettle of Fish (2007)
- Hy Aisenstat — HY's Steakhouse (2005)
- Jean Claude Ramond — Smoking Dog (2006)
- Jeff Mooney — A&W Restaurants (2006)
- Jeffrey & Peter Barnett — Elephant & Castle (2007)
- Joe Troll — Troll's Restaurant (2005)
- Joel Thibault — Joel's Whistler (2006)
- Louis Stervinou — Devonshire Seafood House and Ondines (2005)
- Mario Corsi — Park Royal Hotel and Corsi Trattoria (2005)
- Mike McLaughlin — Old House Restaurant, Comox (2005)
- Nat Bailey — White Spot (2005)
- Peter Szasz — Szasz Restaurant (2005)
- Peter Toigo — White Spot (2006)
- Primo Villanueva — Primo's Mexican Grill (2009)
- Pulos Family (Andy, Lee, & Peter) — Spaghetti Factory (2007)
- Tommy O'Bryan — O'Doul's/Tommy O's (2008)

Industry Award

Individual—retired, deceased or active—who is or has been a chef, server, manager, bartender and who has demonstrated exceptional professionalism working in the restaurant industry. These individuals will be recognized for making their restaurant a special experience for customers.

Back of House Category

- Bernard Casavant — Bernards, Sonora Room at Burrowing Owl (2008)
- Bruno Marti — Chef/Owner, La Belle Auberge (2005)
- David Hawksworth — Chef/Proprietor, The Restaurant at the Hotel Georgia (2008)
- Hidekazu Tojo — Tojo's (2006)
- Karen Barnaby — The Fish House (2006)
- Pierre Dubrulle — Dubrulle Culinary School / La Gavroche School (2007)
- Rob Feenie — Lumière (2006)
- Robert Clark — C Restaurant and Nu Restaurant (2007)
- Rod Butters — Fresco Restaurant (2007)
- Scott Jaeger — The Pear Tree (2009)
- Thomas Haas — Thomas Haas (2009)

Front of House Category

- Ann Bentley — General Manager, Aqua Riva (2005)
- Bobby Copiak — Il Giardino (2007)
- Brent Hayman — Raincity Grill (2008)
- Darren Gates — Joe Fortes & Gold Fish (2009)
- Francesco Alongi — Don Francesco's (2006)
- Jean Turcotte — The Cannery (2009)
- Robert "Frenchy" Gagne — Joe Fortes (2007)
- John Blakeley — Pastis (2008)
- Ruy Paes Braga — Four Season Hotel (2006)

Friend of the Industry Award

An individual who has provided exceptional support to the restaurant industry — either a supplier, restaurant reporter, or politician who has consistently supported BC's restaurant industry.

- Anthony Gismondi — Wine critic, writer, broadcaster and speaker (2008)
- Anthony von Mandl — Mission Hill Wine (2006)
- Don Bellamy — BCRFA and City of Vancouver Councilor (2007)
- Hans Konings — Konings Wholesale (2007)
- Harry McWatters — Sumac Ridge Winery (2005)
- Jamie Maw — Vancouver Magazine (2009)
- Jurgen Gothe — CBC Radio / Georgia Straight (2006)
- Mark Hills — Hills Food (2008)
- Peter Whittall — Neptune Food Service (2005)
- Sid Cross — Co-Founder The Chefs' Table Society of BC (2009)

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Bing Smith — Vitality Foodservice Canada Inc. (2007)
- Duncan Holmes — Freelance Journalist (2009)
- James Barber — Writer, host of TV cooking series, The Urban Peasant (2008)