



Supporting Partners

For Immediate Release

January 10, 2008 (Vancouver, BC) – The BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) releases the names of the 2008 inductees to the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame today. On Monday, April 7, 2008, members of British Columbia's culinary scene will gather to celebrate their finest at the 4th annual B.C. Restaurant Hall of Fame induction gala, featuring a five course dinner paired with BC wines, at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"The BC Restaurant Hall of Fame stories touch all of us," said BC Restaurant Hall of Fame Founder, Bing Smith. "I am humbled and proud to be part of this entity; a keeper of the past stories, which creates our future. It was Muriel Love who sent me a letter and memorabilia from Loves Café five years ago that provided the inspiration to make the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame a reality. This year Bert Love is being inducted".

"The newest inductees once again show the incredible depth of talent that is prevalent in the BC hospitality industry," said Richard Floody, Chair, BCRFA. "These prominent individuals have kept British Columbia at the top, with regards to culinary experiences."

The 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award goes to James Barber, "the Urban Peasant", who was a huge factor in communicating this expertise to the public and will be missed by everyone who knew him. Joining James are twelve other exceptional individuals who are truly deserving of a place in the Hall of Fame.

Heidi Romich Schoustal, Chair of the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame says "Once again, the 2008 Inductees are an illustrious, diverse group of individuals who, through their dedication, passion and professionalism have contributed so much to our industry and have helped the culinary scene of BC be one of the best in the world. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations," she continues, "and thank this year's Inductees into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame."

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

Active (tie)

Celebrating exceptional restaurateurs currently active in the BC restaurant industry.

- Michel Jacob, Le Crocodile www.lecrocodilerestaurant.com
- Sinclair Philip, Sooke Harbour House www.sookeharbourhouse.com
- Vikram Vij, Vij's and Rangoli www.vijs.ca

Industry Award

Individual – retired, deceased or active who is or has been a chef, server, manager or bartender, 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

- Bernard Casavant, Chef Bernard's, The Sonora Room www.bovwine.ca
- David Hawksworth, Chef/Proprietor, The Restaurant at the Hotel Georgia (Opening 2009)

Front of House

- John Blakeley, Pastis
- Brent Hayman, Raincity Grill

Pioneer (tie)

Pioneers of the BC restaurant industry, either retired or deceased

- Diamond Almas, Seven Seas Floating Seafood Restaurant
- Bert Love, Love's Café
- Tommy O'Bryan, O'Doul's/Tommy O's

Friend of the Industry

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, publisher/editor www.gismondionwine.com
- Mark Hills, Hills Foods www.hillsfoods.com

Lifetime Achievement

- James Barber, writer, host of TV cooking series, The Urban Peasant www.james-barber.com

"The BC Restaurant Hall of Fame Inductees show BC what a close-knit family our industry is." said Smith. "For example, Michel Jacob, who is celebrating 25 years in business at Le Crocodile, had a first job with Umberto; John Blakeley, another 2008 Inductee, was the head waiter for seven years, and Rob Feenie trained under Michel."

The Restaurant Hall of Fame celebrates and promotes excellence in BC's culinary traditions; pays tribute to the outstanding individuals, past and present, who have shaped this vibrant industry. Inductees were chosen by a panel of 75 judges made up of industry leaders from throughout the province.

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For more information, please contact:

Bing Smith
Founder
BC Restaurant Hall of Fame
604- 329-9307
BSmith@vitalityinc.com

Sharron Tulk
Director of Marketing
BCRFA
604-669-2239
stulk@bcrfa.com

Dawn Donahue
Gala Producer
BC Restaurant Hall of Fame
604-861-0728
dawn@gogolfevents.com



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