



March 5, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drinks Ontario 39th Annual Awards Gala honours industry's best and brightest

TORONTO – At its annual Awards Gala held on Friday, March 2, 2018, Drinks Ontario and its members honoured individuals in the industry who have helped enhance consumers' knowledge of and appreciation for beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace.

We are proud to recognize award winners in the following categories:

2017 LCBO Retail Employee of the Year – Tony Papaelias, Event Coordinator, Summerhill LCBO

Sponsored by Noble Estates, this award is presented to an LCBO Retail Employee who has shown leadership, sales and merchandising acuity, and has a passion for sharing product knowledge with customers.

2017 LCBO Retail Management Employee of the Year – George Simos, LCBO Store Manager, Queen's Quay, Toronto

Sponsored by Dionysus Wines & Spirits, this award recognizes an LCBO retail management employee for his or her commitment to fairness, collaboration with the trade and creativity in bringing LCBO promotions to life.

2017 Industry Partnership Award – Carolyn O'Grady-Gold, LCBO Vice President Merchandising

This Award is given in recognition of this party's successful efforts in working closely with Drinks Ontario Members to enhance the appeal and enjoyment of beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace.

2017 Drinks Ontario Hospitality Award – Peter Boyd, Scaramouche

Sponsored by Breakthru Beverage Canada and The Vine Agency, this award (now in its 22nd year), is given in recognition of this party's successful efforts in enhancing the profile of and appeal of beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace.

2017 Drinks Ontario Achievement Award – Jim Clark, Colio Estate Wines

This Award, now in its 22nd year, is given in recognition of this party's past contributions to the industry and success over the past year in enhancing the profile of beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace.

Jack Ackroyd Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by HHD Imports):
Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 2.
2017 Recipient – Amanda Mustard

Jack Ackroyd Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by Arterra Wines Canada):
Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 3.
2017 Recipient – Vladimir Turetsky

David A. Churchill Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by VINEXX):
Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 4, Unit 1
2017 Recipient – Chris Robertson

Brian Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by Kirkwood Diamond Canada):
Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 4
2017 Recipient – Amanda Davis

Tony Aspler Blind Tasting Award:
Awarded to the winner of Tony's annual blind tasting at The Fine Wine Reserve
2017 Recipient – Joanna Steele, Lifford Wines & Spirits

"Every year, we gather together to honour the best and brightest that our industry has to offer, as chosen by the trade," said Andrew von Teichman, Drinks Ontario President. "This year's award winners – and all nominees – are to be congratulated for their efforts in enhancing the profile of beverage alcohol products in Ontario. They are ambassadors for positive trade relations and superb customer service standards. Thank you to our Award sponsors and congratulations to the nominees in all Awards categories."

Drinks Ontario is the provincial trade association representing agents, suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors of beverage alcohol products. Established in 1958, the association seeks to foster positive business relations with trade, government, social responsibility and public interest groups and aims to enhance general education around the responsible use of beverage alcohol products.

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