



February 8, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

37th annual awards gala honours industry's best and brightest

TORONTO – At its annual Awards Gala held on Friday, February 5, 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:

2015 Drinks Ontario Achievement Award:

This Award, now in its 20th 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.

Robert Ketchin, Marketing Manager for New Zealand Wine Growers in Canada

2014 recipient – Rick Slomka, Wines of California

2015 Drinks Ontario Industry Partnership Award:

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.

Nick Nanos, LCBO Logistics

2014 recipient – Jackie McAskill, VINTAGES Category Manager, New World Wines & Spirits

2015 Drinks Ontario Hospitality Award (Sponsored by B&W Wines and The Vine Agency):

This Award, now in its 20th 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.

Lorie O'Sullivan, TOCA, Ritz-Carlton, Toronto

2014 recipient – Anne Martin, MLSE

****NEW** 2015 LCBO Retail Employee of the Year (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.

Victor Borja-Sheen, Product Consultant

Trish Botta, Customer Service Representative

****NEW** 2015 LCBO Store Manager of the Year (Sponsored by Dionysus Wines & Spirits):**

This award recognizes an LCBO store manager for his or her commitment to fairness, collaboration with the trade and creativity in bringing LCBO promotions to life.

Reg Garner (Summerhill LCBO)

Dave Holland (Newmarket LCBO)

Jack Ackroyd Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by PMA Canada)

Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 2.

2015 Recipient - Vincenzo Ferrulli

Jack Ackroyd Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by Constellation Brands Inc.)

Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 3.

2015 Recipient – Jordan Lesich

David A. Churchill Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by VINEXX)

Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 4, Unit 1

2015 Recipient – Erin Salmon

Brian Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship Award (Sponsored by Kirkwood Diamond Canada)

Honours the top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student in Level 4

2015 Recipient – Ross Wise

Tony Aspler Blind Tasting Award

Awarded to the winner of Tony's annual blind tasting at The Fine Wine Reserve.

2015 Recipient - Joanna Steele, Lifford Wine & Spirits

“We congratulate our Award recipients for helping to enhance the profile of beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace. Drinks Ontario is pleased to recognize their many contributions to the industry,” said Chris Churchill, Drinks Ontario President (and President, Churchill Cellars Ltd.).

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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