

OIWSBA Celebrates 29th Annual Awards Dinner

TORONTO, Feb. 11, 2008 /CNW/ - The Ontario Imported Wine-Spirit-Beer Association (OIWSBA) held its 29th annual Awards Dinner last Friday evening, honouring parties who have helped over the past year to enhance Ontario consumers' knowledge of and appreciation for imported beverage alcohol products. South Africa was the host country of this year's gala Dinner, held at the National Club. Guests from across the industry enjoyed thematic gourmet cuisine prepared by Executive Chef James Stewart, paired with premium products from South Africa.

After dinner, the following individuals were recognized by OIWSBA:

- OIWSBA Achievement Award - Wine writer Tony Aspler in recognition of his contributions to the industry over the past 30+ years;
- OIWSBA Hospitality Award - David Aisenstat (President and CEO, Keg Restaurants Limited), in recognition of his firm's success in enhancing the profile and appeal of imported beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace;
- OIWSBA Industry Partnership Award - Greg Dunlop (Category Manager, New World Wines, LCBO Vintages), in recognition of his partnering with OIWSBA Members to enhance the appeal and enjoyment of imported beverage alcohol products;
- Jack Ackroyd Memorial Scholarship Award - honouring top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust students Jacqueline Brisley, Paul Giroux, Tamara Jakes, Dianna Quinn, Carol Racicot and Alina Trefry (Intermediate Certificate) and Yang Lu (Advanced Certificate);
- Brian Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship Award - honouring top-achieving Wine & Spirit Education Trust student Elsa Macdonald (Diploma program); and
- Tony Aspler Blind Tasting Award - Eugene Mlynczyk (Vincor Canada).

"We are very pleased to recognize the contributions that these award recipients have made in raising the profile of imported beverage alcohol products in the Ontario marketplace," said Christopher Churchill, President of OIWSBA (and President, Churchill Cellars Ltd.). "They have helped to enhance Ontario consumers' increasing enjoyment of premium products from around the globe."

Established in 1958, the Ontario Imported Wine-Spirit-Beer Association (OIWSBA) is the provincial trade association representing manufacturers, agents, importers, marketing groups and distributors of imported beverage alcohol products in Ontario. Membership also includes a number of international trade offices.

OIWSBA members represent more than 90 per cent of all imported beverage alcohol products sold in Ontario. Imported beverage alcohol products continue to

contribute significantly to the LCBO's record transfers to the Government and taxpayers of Ontario. In fiscal 2005-06, imported beverage alcohol products accounted for more than 57 per cent of LCBO net sales on a value basis (\$2.09 billion on LCBO net sales of \$3.6 billion) and almost 55 per cent of LCBO net sales on a volume basis (212.7 million litres on LCBO net sales of 388.7 million litres). OIWSBA members are Ontario-owned businesses that provide employment to more than 1,700 people across the province. Profits from the sale of imported beverage alcohol products are used to support capital projects and social programs right across Ontario. In addition, the sale of these products supports significant secondary employment in many related industries.

For further information:

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