

# across the WEST

## British Columbia

### Hospitality Helps Its Own

The B.C. hospitality industry came together to help its own by raising more than \$110,000 at the recent *B.C. Hospitality Foundation's (BCHF) Founders Dinner* for hospitality workers without a financial safety net in times of critical need. The sold-out dinner, which officially launched the newly formed foundation, drew 270 persons to the *Pan Pacific Vancouver Hotel* for a gastronomic experience that showcased the pinnacle of what B.C. has to offer in chefs, food and wine. The B.C. Hospitality Foundation Founders Dinner culinary "dream team" was led by Pan Pacific Vancouver executive chef, *Daryle Nagata* and included *Ben Genaille* of



Founders presenting cheque to Michael J. Willingham.

Northern B.C.; *Dennis Green* of Green Table and go2; *Rob Feenie*, independent; *Lisa Aheir* of Sobo; and *Greg Hook* of Chocolate Arts. More than \$80,000 was raised through an auction of big-ticket items. These included a "Day in the Life with Rob Feenie", featuring an exclusive tour of his favourite hot spots and a dinner for six at the successful bidder's home, which sold for \$12,000; three collectors' bottles of Meritage exclusively created for the Founders Dinner by the *Great Estates of the Okanagan*, which went for \$1,000 each; a journey on the Rocky Mountaineer Vacations (Gold Leaf), which sold for \$14,000; a trip for two to the *Clayoquot Wilderness Resort's Bedwell River Outpost*, which sold for \$13,000; a two-night stay at the *Aerie Resort & Spa's* private and exclusive mountain-top villa, which sold for \$10,000; and a four-night Northern Heli-skiing adventure including a gourmet dinner for two, which sold for \$9,000.

This is the second event for the B.C. Hospitality Foundation, quietly formed last year to help *Michael J. Willingham*, a Vancouver Island wine agent pay for costly surgery and rehabilitation following a serious stroke.



### Days Inns - Canada Honours Outstanding Hotels in Western Canada

*Days Inns - Canada* recently presented awards to its top hotels at its annual conference in Vancouver. The prominent Awards of Recognition and Chairman's Awards for Quality are presented annually to the leading Days Inns across Canada. Of the 32 awards presented, 16 were handed out to hotels in Western Canada.

#### Awards of Recognition Western Canada recipients included:

- 2007 Property of the Year, 79 rooms and under: Days Inn - Vancouver Airport, British Columbia
- 2007 Property of the Year, 80 rooms and over: Days Inn - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- 2007 Best Sales Efforts of the Year, 80 rooms and over: Days Inn & Conference Centre - Penticton, BC
- 2007 Best Marketing Efforts of the Year, 79 rooms and under: Days Inn - Swift Current, Saskatchewan
- 2007 Highest TripRewards Enrolments: Days Inn - Regina, Saskatchewan
- 2007 Renovation / Expansion of the Year, 79 rooms and under: Days Inn - Edmonton, Alberta
- 2007 Renovation / Expansion of the Year, 80 rooms and under: Days Inn - Lethbridge, Alberta
- 2007 Humanitarian Award: Days Inn - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- 2007 Platinum Service Award for Excellence in Positive Guest Experience: Louise Brookes, Front Desk Supervisor, Days Inn - Vancouver Airport, British Columbia
- 2007 Platinum Service Award for Excellence in Positive Guest Experience: Amanda Hurrell, Front Desk Agent, Days Inn - Lethbridge, Alberta

Also noteworthy are the Chairman's Awards for Quality, which recognizes Days Inn properties that have received the highest quality assurance evaluation scores in the chain.

- Days Inn & Conference Centre - Penticton, B.C. (General Manager Joe Morelli)
- Days Inn - Calgary Airport, Alberta (General Manager Helena Borges)
- Days Inn - Medicine Hat, Alberta (General Manager Leslie Squires)
- Days Inn - Red Deer, Alberta (General Manager Natalie Cherry)
- Days Inn - Regina, Saskatchewan (General Manager Julie Levesque)
- Days Inn - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (General Managers Cheryl Smith & Grant Smith)

### Bellstar Seeks New Site in Oliver

*Bellstar Developments Inc.*, an affiliate of *Bellstar Hotels & Resorts Ltd*, has notified the Mayor of the Town of Oliver that the company will not be moving forward with the purchase of the Centennial RV Park. In November 2007, Bellstar acquired 100 per cent interest in the Oliver Wine Village project, which was initially

planned for the 3.63-acre riverfront development in downtown Oliver. Now, the group has notified the town that they will not proceed with the purchase of the Centennial RV Park lands that was to site the facility. However, Bellstar remains committed to

developing a wine-themed resort in the town of Oliver, but wants to find a site that does not prove to be problematic for the long-term sustainability of the project.

Capitalizing on the \$2 billion culinary and agri-tourism industry within British Columbia, Bellstar and the town of Oliver have their sights on an authentically themed resort that celebrates the culture and heritage of the South Okanagan, along



with the region's relationship to food, wine and agriculture. The plans call for a mixed-use development, consisting of a four-star hotel with conference facilities, spa and restaurant, as well as a wine interpretive and culinary arts centre.