



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OIMP Red Carpet Awards Gala 2017
The Academy Awards of the Ontario meat industry!

GUELPH, ON - October 23, 2017 - Ontario Independent Meat Processors came together for our Meat Industry Expo 2017 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls this past weekend. Eighty-two exhibitors showcased their products and services to well over 400 attendees over the course of two days.

The OIMP Red Carpet Awards Gala closed the Expo Saturday night with an impressive 245 guests attending. Together we celebrated our members, Ontario Finest Meat Competition™ award-winners, and the Ontario's Finest Butcher award recipient.

Cory Van Groningen was recognized for his contributions as OIMP President 2013-2017. Florence Meats received their 10-year membership plaque followed by Hay's Custom Cutting, Handtmann Canada, Wiberg, Hoffman's Meats, and Newmarket Meat Packers for 25 years of loyal OIMP membership.

Since the awards' inception in 1995, OIMP has presented only 10 prestigious Lifetime Member Awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to industry. Joe Abate of Abate Packers, Arthur, celebrating 50 years in business in 2017, made number 11.

Handtmann Canada was presented the Associate Member Recognition Award (AMRA) as voted upon by OIMP membership. Accepting the award on behalf of Handtmann was Rafal Rusiniak and Cameron Murphy.

Forty-four awards were presented in the 2017 Ontario Finest Meat Competition™ crossing 14 categories with placing for Silver, Gold, and Platinum in each. The Ron Osborne Award of Excellence was presented for a third time to VG Meats for the most points accumulated in the competition. The Diamond Award was presented to Halenda's for producing the item with the top score across all products, Double Smoked Bacon.

Damian Goriup from Florence Meats, Oakville, took home the title of Ontario's Finest Butcher. Facing off in the final round that afternoon on the trade show floor against Brent Herrington from Herrington's Quality Butchers, and Nicholas Matusiak from Halenda's, all finalists received two Cornish hens, leg of lamb, and a beef top sirloin butt, to prepare several incredible-looking display ready items in the short half hour they were given. Both the judge's score and the attendee's votes determined it was Damian that would carry the honour.

Between the live and silent auctions, OIMP raised an unprecedented \$23,265 to be used toward the continuation of programs and services offered by OIMP to its members. OIMP would like to thank those that donated and bid on items, as well as our generous supporters.

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About OIMP

Ontario Independent Meat Processors (OIMP) is the representative voice of the independent meat and poultry processor in Ontario, working closely with agricultural and commodity organizations and various levels of government since 1980. The association's membership includes meat and poultry processors, retailers and wholesalers; industry suppliers, and not-for-profit organizations that support OIMP's objectives.

Ontario's meat and poultry sector represents 21% (\$8.8 billion) of Ontario's \$42 billion food and beverage processing industry revenue.

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